Use of English C1 – Worksheet 1

Name: Class: Date: Score: / 34

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Exercise 1: Open cloze

Read the text about boredom and write ONE word in each gap.

Example: Boredom has been studied ___ decades. → for

1. For most of us, boredom is something to be avoided _____ all costs.
2. Yet a growing number of psychologists argue that, far _____ being a waste of time, it can actually be good for us.
3. When the mind has nothing to focus _____, it begins to wander.
4. _____ is during these moments of mental drifting that many people come up with their best ideas.
5. In one study, participants who had spent fifteen minutes copying numbers from a phone book performed better on a creativity task _____ those who had not.
6. This suggests that, _____ than reaching for our phones whenever we feel restless, we should allow ourselves to be bored.
7. _____ though this may sound simple, it is surprisingly difficult in practice.
8. Many of us have become so used to constant stimulation _____ even a few minutes of silence feels uncomfortable.
9. Not _____ do our devices distract us, but they also deprive us of the chance to think freely.
10. _____ matter how uncomfortable it feels at first, a little boredom may be exactly what your brain needs.

Exercise 2: Word formation

Use the word in capitals to form a word that fits the gap.

Example: Her ___ to the project was impressive. (COMMIT) → commitment

11. The new policy has been met with widespread _____ from local residents, who have organised several protests. (APPROVE)
12. Despite months of research, the results were _____, so further tests are needed. (CONCLUDE)
13. The family's old letters have little financial value, but to them they are _____. (PRICE)
14. The minister claimed that the newspaper article was a deliberate _____ of her views. (REPRESENT)

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15. His _____ to admit his mistakes eventually cost him the trust of his colleagues. (WILLING)
16. Scientists have warned that the damage to the coral reef may be _____, meaning it will never fully recover. (REVERSE)
17. Applicants must demonstrate a high level of _____ in at least two languages. (PROFICIENT)
18. The _____ of the old factory into luxury flats took nearly three years. (CONVERT)

Exercise 3: Key word transformations

Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first, using the word in capitals without changing it. Use between two and five words, including the word given (contractions count as two words). Write the full second sentence.

Example: I last saw Maria three years ago. (SEEN) → I ___ three years. → I haven't seen Maria for three years.

19. I'm sure Daniel didn't forget your birthday on purpose. (HAVE) → Daniel _____ your birthday on purpose.

20. It was wrong of you to shout at the waiter. (SHOULD) → You _____ at the waiter.

21. As soon as she arrived, it started raining. (SOONER) → No _____ than it started raining.

22. People say that the castle was built in the twelfth century. (SAID) → The castle _____ built in the twelfth century.

23. I regret not taking the job in Lisbon. (WISH) → I _____ the job in Lisbon.

24. I'd prefer you not to tell anyone about this. (RATHER) → I'd _____ anyone about this.

25. There's no point in calling him; he never answers his phone. (WORTH) → It _____ him; he never answers his phone.

26. The film was so boring that I fell asleep. (SUCH) → It _____ that I fell asleep.

Exercise 4: Collocations and fixed phrases

Write ONE word in each gap to complete the collocation or fixed phrase.

Example: Could you ___ me a favour and post this letter? → do

27. The new manager quickly _____ a good impression on the staff.
28. It goes without _____ that we will pay for any damage.

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29. There were a few small problems, but _____ and large the event was a success.

30. She was in two _____ about whether to accept the offer.

31. When planning the park, we need to _____ into account the needs of older residents.

32. The new regulations will come into _____ next January.

33. The project is still in its early _____, so it's hard to predict the outcome.

34. The proposal was rejected _____ the grounds that it was too expensive.

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Answer key – Use of English C1 – Worksheet 1

Exercise 1: Open cloze

1. **at**
   'At all costs' is a fixed phrase meaning 'whatever happens'.
2. **from**
   'Far from' + -ing means 'the opposite of'.
3. **on**
   The verb 'focus' is followed by the preposition 'on'.
4. **It**
   This is a cleft sentence: 'It is ... that ...' gives emphasis.
5. **than**
   The comparative 'better' is followed by 'than'.
6. **rather**
   'Rather than' + -ing means 'instead of'.
7. **Even**
   'Even though' introduces a contrast.
8. **that**
   The structure 'so ... that' expresses a result.
9. **only**
   'Not only' at the start of a clause is followed by inversion and pairs with 'but also'.
10. **No**
    'No matter how' means 'however'.

Exercise 2: Word formation

11. **disapproval**
    The protests show a negative meaning, so you need the prefix 'dis-' and the noun suffix '-al'.
12. **inconclusive**
    You need a negative adjective: 'in-' + 'conclusive'.
13. **priceless**
    'Priceless' means so valuable that no price could be put on it.
14. **misrepresentation**
    The prefix 'mis-' means 'wrongly', and '-ation' forms the noun.
15. **unwillingness**
    The context is negative, so you need 'un-' and the noun suffix '-ness'.
16. **irreversible**
    'Irreversible' is a negative adjective meaning 'cannot be undone'.
17. **proficiency**
    The gap needs a noun after 'level of', and the noun of 'proficient' is 'proficiency'.
18. **conversion**
    'Conversion' is the noun formed from 'convert'.

Exercise 3: Key word transformations

19. **Daniel can't have forgotten your birthday on purpose.**
    Both 'can't have' and 'couldn't have' + past participle (forgotten) express certainty that something did not happen in the past, matching 'I'm sure Daniel didn't'.
20. **You shouldn't have shouted at the waiter.**
    'Shouldn't have' + past participle criticises a past action.
21. **No sooner had she arrived than it started raining.**
    'No sooner' at the start of a sentence takes inversion with the past perfect, followed by 'than'.
22. **The castle is said to have been built in the twelfth century.**
    With the passive reporting structure, use 'is said to have been' + past participle for a past action.
23. **I wish I had taken the job in Lisbon.**
    Use 'wish' + past perfect to express regret about the past.
24. **I'd rather you didn't tell anyone about this.**
    'Would rather' + subject + past simple expresses a preference about someone else's actions.
25. **It's not worth calling him; he never answers his phone.**
    'It isn't worth' (or 'It's not worth') + -ing form means there is no point in doing something, so 'It isn't worth calling him' matches 'There's no point in calling him'.
26. **It was such a boring film that I fell asleep.**
    'Such a' + adjective + noun + 'that' expresses a result.

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Exercise 4: Collocations and fixed phrases

27. **made**
    The usual collocation is 'make an impression on someone'.
28. **saying**
    'It goes without saying' means that something is obvious.
29. **by**
    'By and large' means 'generally' or 'on the whole'.
30. **minds**
    'Be in two minds' means to be unable to decide.
31. **take**
    The fixed phrase is 'take something into account'.
32. **force**
    'Come into force' or 'come into effect' means that a law starts to apply.
33. **stages**
    'In its early stages' means at the beginning of a process.
34. **on**
    The fixed phrase is 'on the grounds that', meaning 'for the reason that'.

Notes for teachers: Set Exercise 1 as a timed reading task. Ask learners to read the whole text before filling any gaps, then compare answers in pairs and justify each choice. In the key word transformations, learners often go over the word limit, change the key word, or forget that contractions count as two words. Insist that they check all three. As a follow-up, ask learners to write their own transformation items using structures from Exercise 3 and swap them with a partner.

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