

ADVANCED COLLOCATION EXERCISES – PART ONE

1 Put one suitable word in each space.

Unlikely as it may seem, there has now been expert confirmation that wild pumas and lynxes are (1) at large in parts of Britain, rather than being the figments (2) _____ some wild imaginations. Previous sightings (3) _____ such large cats had been put down (4) _____ exaggeration. (5) _____ all, the argument went, some people are prone (6) _____ seeing flying saucers and Loch Ness monsters, particularly when (7) _____ the influence of one drink too many. Some newspapers were suspected (8) _____ having made (9) _____ stories such as that of the Beast of Exmoor, an animal which is responsible (10) _____ the deaths of hundreds of sheep over the past ten years. But experts have now come (11) _____ with proof that such stories were (12) _____ earnest after all. The animals are (13) _____ all likelihood pets which have escaped (14) _____ small zoos, or been abandoned (15) _____ their owners. Because the keeping (16) _____ such animals is severely restricted (17) _____ the terms of the Dangerous Wild Animals Act of 1976, owners of unlicensed animals might not report an escape (18) _____ fear of prosecution. Britain's only surviving native species, the wild cat, is confined (19) _____ Scotland. After examining hair samples, experts now say that the Beast of Exmoor in the South of England is (20) _____ doubt a puma or lynx, both of which are normally native to the Middle East and Asia.

2 Put one suitable word in each space.

- a) EXAMPLE: My cousin George is obsessed with keeping fit.
- b) Many frozen foods are deficient _____ vitamins.
- c) They say that there is an exception _____ every rule.
- d) It was very good _____ Sue to drive us to the airport.
- e) Breaking his leg put Peter's football career _____ jeopardy.
- f) The same rule applies, irrespective _____ how much you have paid.
- g) With total disregard _____ her own safety, Ann jumped in to rescue the dog.
- h) I'm afraid you are not eligible _____ a pension until you are 65.

4 Put one suitable word in each space.

- a) EXAMPLE: It looks as if the front door lock has been tampered with.
- b) The people were protesting _____ the closure of two local factories.
- c) We are very _____ to you for pointing out the mistake.
- d) The hotel _____ me £14 for phone calls I had not made.
- e) I'd just like to consult my father before I _____ myself to a decision.
- f) The new television channel tries to _____ for all tastes.
- g) I couldn't _____ from laughing at the President's remark.
- h) I think that you would both _____ from a few days holiday.

5 Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given. Do not change the word given.

a) A bus and a lorry collided on the motorway.

between

EXAMPLE: There was a collision on the motorway between a bus and a lorry.

b) Don't make me suffer because of your problems!

on

Don't take _____ just because you've got problems!

c) Sally persuaded me not to sell my car.

of

Sally talked _____ my car.

A true story is the basis of the novel.

on

The novel _____ a true story.

e) They said the accident was Mary's fault.

blamed

They _____ Mary.

f) Joe gets on very well with his mother-in-law.

terms

Joe _____ with his mother-in-law.

g) There is nothing strange about this.

out

There is nothing _____ about this.

h) Ellen has been unemployed for six months.

out

i) Ellen has been _____ for six months.

6 Put one suitable word in each space.

a) It's safe to hide here. We won't give you _____

b) My mum told me _____ for coming home late from school.

c) Sorry I'm late. Something cropped _____ at the office.

d) You can rely on her. She won't let you _____

- e) Nick was taken to court but he got _____
- f) It was surprising how quickly that fashion caught _____
- g) Don't worry. I'll sort it _____
- h) I don't really hit it _____ with my new boss.
- i) Don't eat that sausage. I think it's gone
- j) She'll come round when the anaesthetic wears _____

7 Complete the following extracts with a word or phrase that is a more formal version of the informal words in brackets. Then, say what type of text e.g. newspaper, letter etc. each extract comes from.

a) The three publishers who (1) rejected (turned down) this fantastic first novel must be kicking themselves. John Carter's Capital City is a wonderful read and all the more amazing when one considers the author is just 23. What Carter may lack in experience he more than (2) _____ (makes up for) in sheer enthusiasm. Read it and I promise you won't feel (3) _____ (let down).

b) I (1) _____ (setup) my own business, 'Sarah Castle Photography Ltd,' two years ago, after (2) _____ my post (stepping down) as a TV camera person. I now (3) _____ (do mostly) native pictures.

c) Dear Mr. and Mrs. Sinclair,

I do apologise, but I am unable to come to your daughter's wedding on 21 May. Unfortunately, it (1) _____ (happens at the same time as) a holiday I've already booked. When I booked it, I was (2) _____ (thought) that the wedding was to (3) _____ (happen) in July.

d) Dear Mr. Smith,

This is to remind all employers that Tax Rule 13d has been (1) _____ (done away with), so you are now (2) _____ (don't have to) declare any earnings for your company relating to 'ancient debts'. This term shall be deemed to refer to money owed to you from seven years ago or more. We would also (3) _____ to (point out to you) the fact that column 3 on page 6 of your tax declaration can now be left blank.

8 Using the notes as a guide, complete the letter. Use one or two words in each space. The words you need DO NOT OCCUR IN THE NOTES.

NOTES

To: Anne

From: PY

We've had a letter from a Mr Scott, complaining about a rather violent scene which upset his children, on one of our programmes, 'Murphy's Run'. Could you write to him? Point out that:

The programme is a joint production with Talent Productions. It observed Channel 2 regulations. All programmes, no matter where they come from, are checked 3 months before they're shown.

The TV Standards Authority often checks children's programmes, and were happy with the scene Mr Scott didn't like.

Unlike similar programmes on other channels, it's very suitable viewing. We always try to show clearly the difference between good and bad on it.

Dear Mr. Scott,

With (1) reference/regard to your letter of 3 May, we deeply regret the distress caused to your children by the violent scene on episode 53 of 'Murphy's Run', a Channel 2 programme produced in (2) _____ Talent Productions Ltd. However, the programme did (3) _____ with Channel 2 regulations.

Each programme is carefully checked for unsuitable material three months in (4) _____ its scheduled broadcast time. This (5) _____ to all Channel 2 programmes (6) _____ of their origin and type. There is also a watchdog body, the TV Standards Authority, which monitors children's programmes on a (7) _____. They too were happy with the scene you (8) _____ to.

The programme in question is, in (9) _____ similar programmes on private channels, entirely suitable for children, and takes great care to (10) _____ between good and bad, and between moral and immoral. In conclusion, we are happy that the scene was acceptable, and we hope that you will continue to allow your children to watch the programme.

Yours sincerely,

Ann Orbison