Contextual Gap Fill ☐ - ANSWER KEY

English in Context 7 | SOLUTIONS

The Mystery of the Abandoned Village

Deep in the Scottish Highlands lies a village that **(1) has** been abandoned for over fifty years. **(2) No** one quite knows why the inhabitants left so suddenly, but there are several theories. **(3) According** to local legend, a terrible storm struck the area in 1970, **(4) leaving / rendering** many of the buildings uninhabitable. However, historians argue that the real reason was economic – young people were moving **(5) to** the cities in search **(6) of** better opportunities.

Today, the village has become a popular destination **(7) for** tourists and photographers. **(8) Despite** the fact that access is difficult, hundreds of visitors make the journey every year. The ruined cottages, **(9) whose** roofs have long since collapsed, create an eerie but beautiful atmosphere. **(10) When / While** standing among the ruins, it's hard not to wonder what life **(11) must / would** have been like for those who once called this place home.

Environmentalists are now concerned **(12) about** the impact of tourism on the fragile ecosystem. They have suggested **(13) that** visitor numbers should be limited, **(14) which** has sparked debate among locals who rely **(15) on** tourism for income. The future of the village remains uncertain, but one thing is clear: its haunting beauty continues to captivate **(16) those / all** who venture there.

☐ **Grammar & Vocabulary Notes:**

(1) has – Present Perfect: "has been abandoned" (passive, duration)
(2) No – "No one" = nobody
(3) According – Fixed phrase: "according to"
(4) leaving / rendering – Participle clause showing result
(5) to – "move TO a place"
(6) of – Fixed phrase: "in search of"
(7) for – "destination FOR tourists"
(8) Despite – Concession: "despite the fact that"
(9) whose – Possessive relative pronoun (the cottages' roofs)
(10) When / While – Time conjunction
(11) must / would – Modal of speculation about the past
(12) about – "concerned ABOUT something"
(13) that – Noun clause after "suggested"
(14) which – Non-defining relative clause (refers to whole previous idea)

(15) on – "rely ON something"
(16) those / all – Pronoun referring to people