

Collocations

This refers to groups of words which go together. See the Words and Phrases section for work on these.

Problems with plurals

Some words which end in -s are singular:

the news a means

In adjectival phrases involving numbers, nouns are singular:

a three-mile walk a ten-year-old child

Activities

1

Put *one* word in each space.

Practice in this unit is with texts which have single words missing. See Units 28 and 29 for other kinds of practice. Note that the activities are not simply a test of the points made in this unit.

Starting your (1) business could be the way to achieving financial independence, or (2) could just as well land you in debt for the rest of your life. That, at (3), is the view of Charles and Brenda Leggat, a Scottish couple, who last week saw (4) fish farm business put into the hands of the receiver. 'We started the business in 1985 when (5) was being encouraged by the banks to borrow money. (6) the time we were sure that we could make (7) into a going concern,' said Charles Leggat, a farmer from (8) Highlands, 'and the banks lent us more or less (9) we asked for. Their people analysed the proposals we put (10), and they agreed that it would be a highly profitable business.' Sure (11), within five years the Leggats were exporting trout and salmon products to hotels (12) over Europe, and employed over fifty staff. But with the advent (13) the recession, they began to lose ground as orders dried up. 'The awful thing (14), ' said Brenda Leggat, 'that now the business has been valued by the banks at a fraction of its true worth. If they had left us to work our way out of our difficulties I am sure that we could have gone back into profit. (15) it is, we have been left (16) a livelihood, and the banks have not recovered (17) they lent us.' The Leggats both felt that their banks had not treated (18) fairly. 'They were falling over (19) to lend us the money, but they have done very little to keep the business going, and fifty local people (20) work.' A spokesman for the main bank concerned, the National Caledonian, refused to comment.

2

Put *one* word in each space.

Recently there have been doubts about the proper functioning of the English legal system, after several well-publicised cases in (1) police evidence was eventually shown to be suspect, but (2) after the wrongful conviction of the accused. In several of (3) cases, the crimes involved acts of terrorism, and the police were (4) considerable pressure to discover (5) had been responsible. Although this in no way excuses the actions of police officers (6) may have falsified evidence, or

suppressed evidence which worked against their case, (7) underlines the ways (8) which publicity in the press and on television exercises an enormous influence, (9) the supposed guarantees under the law designed to prevent a jury from becoming unduly influenced. The specific details of a criminal case are not discussed in the press before a case reaches the courts, and the names of those involved (10) often withheld. (11), as many recent murder trials make clear, the press all too often reaches its (12) verdict to suit its taste for sensationalism and members of the police might be accused of enlisting the aid of the press by 'leaking' details of a prosecution. Unfortunately, far too (13) press reports of court cases examine the evidence (14) the defence in the same spirit as (15) for the prosecution. And a verdict of guilty simply seems to confirm that all those details of defence evidence are (16) 'true'. (17) is also the assumption that if a case has reached the courts, then the police have sufficient evidence, and that therefore the establishing of a guilty verdict is just a (18) of course. Ironically, there is (19) a well-established tradition of investigative journalism which is devoted to setting right miscarriages of justice, and in (20) such investigations carried out by newspapers and television programmes have led to the overturning of convictions, often when innocent parties have spent ten years or more behind bars.

3

Put *one* word in each space.

Very few popular spectator sports today remain amateur in (1) sense. In the past, even in cases (2) payments to players or athletes was forbidden, many sports tolerated (3) became known as 'shamateurism'. This (4) that payments were made in the (5) of expenses, or in some extreme cases, simply made illegally. More (6) sport has become, in effect, a branch of the entertainment and advertising industry, and the top performers in sports (7) as golf, tennis, football and track athletics can expect to become very rich. (8) in itself worries some people. Where is the old Olympic ideal, they say, and hasn't the urge to win been transformed into mere greed for money? But (9) fact is that sport has become more and more professional in the wider sense, (10) only requiring total dedication from aspiring champions, (11) also requiring expensive facilities, training and medical advice. (12) is just no longer possible (13) combine a career in sport with a career elsewhere. And besides, many would argue that top champions deserve large prizes. After all, (14) shouldn't they be adequately rewarded for reaching the top of their profession? Perhaps most criticism is levelled (15) two abuses: (16) taking of performance-enhancing drugs, and the sheer lack of entertainment in many team games, (17) the need to win has effectively stifled all sense of flair. Both, (18) a sense, are forms of cheating, and both are difficult to define. (19) every banned substance, there is another legal one which can also be said to be a 'drug'; and where is the dividing line (20) negative tactics and clever strategy?

4

Put *one* word in each space.

5

Put *one* word in each space.