

TASK 1

Write the correct form of the verb given in brackets in the spaces provided on your answer sheet.

My father and mother should 1 ^{have stayed} (stay) in New York where they met and married and where I 2 ^{was} (be) born. Instead they 3 ^{returned} (return) to Ireland when I was four, my brother, Malachy, three, and my sister, Margaret, dead and gone.

When I look back on my childhood I 4 ^{wonder} (wonder) how I survived at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood 5 ^{was} (be) the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood.

People everywhere brag about the troubles of their early years, but nothing can compare with the Irish version. I don't think I 6 ^{will forget} (forget) the terrible things I 7 ^{had to} (have to) go through as a child. And above all - we were wet all the time. The rain 8 ^{dampened} (dampen) the city from February to December. I 9 ^{caught} (catch) my first cold when we returned to Ireland. I remember I 10 ^{was never} (never be) ill before that. From October to April the walls of Limerick glistened with the damp. Clothes 11 ^{dried} (dry): woolen coats 12 ^{had} (house) living things, sometimes sprouted mysterious vegetations.

My mother, the former Angela Sheehan, 13 ^{grew up} (grow up) in a Limerick slum. She never saw her father, who 14 ^{had run off} (run off) to Australia weeks before her birth. My father, Malachy McCourt, was born on a farm in Toome. He 15 ^{had fought} (fight) with the Old IRA and for some desperate act he wound up a fugitive with a price on his head. Because of the price on the head he 16 ^{was forced} (force) to leave Ireland. It 17 ^{must have been} (must be) very painful for him, because he started drinking in America.

When my children ask me 18 ^{to tell} (tell) them stories about my childhood, they can't understand why I always 19 ^{say} (say) no. It is simply because there 20 ^{isn't} (not be) anything that I want to remember.

TASK 2

For each of the sentences below, write a new sentence as similar as possible in meaning to the original sentence but using the word given. The word must not be changed in any way.

1. The hairdresser cut Ann's hair. **HAD**
He had to cut her hair. / She had her hair cut.
2. You need to calm down or you'll fail the exam. **UNLESS**
Unless you calm down, you'll fail the exam.
3. Why didn't you let me know you were coming? **SHOULD**
You should have let me know you were coming.
4. How much do these apples weigh? **WHAT**
What do these apples weigh?
5. My father doesn't tolerate swearing. **PUT**
My father does not put up with swearing.
6. You'd better see a doctor. **WERE**
7. They expect he will pass his driving test. **EXPECTED**
It is expected for him to pass the exam.
8. I didn't buy a new car because I didn't have enough money. **WOULD**
I would buy a new car if I had enough money.
9. Computers do not interest me. **INTERESTED**
I'm not interested in computers.
10. He is too poor to buy a house. **RICH**
He isn't rich enough to buy a house.

TASK 3

WORD FORMATION

Write the correct form of the words in capital letters in the spaces provided on the answer sheet

1. The doctors have completed the operation.
SUCCESS
2. He looked like a American businessman.
RESPECT
3. For years they have been trying to solve their problems.
MARRIAGE
4. Petitions bearing nearly half a million finally brought a change. SIGN
5. with best qualifications certainly have best chances.
APPLY
6. These trees may grow to about 100 metres in
HIGH
7. Some of the advertisements were highly
OFFEND
8. Every day we witness changes in the climate due to of the atmosphere by industrial waste. POLLUTE
9. She could speak both languages with great
FLUENT
10. What has gone wrong with the system during the last ten years. ECONOMY

TASK 4

Read through the article, then write the missing words on the answer sheet. There is only ONE word missing in each gap.

WHEN YOU MURDER YOUR TAMAGOTCHI

Adapted and abridged from an article in COMPANY magazine, December 1997

Cute cyber pet or needy, hateful beast? Julia Gaynor explores the myth: I've just come out of a two-week relationship with a Tamagotchi - you know, the "virtual pets" that have been banned (1) _____ classrooms. I didn't buy it myself. Honest. My boyfriend, who I call my "virtual boyfriend" (2) _____ we live in different countries, gave it to me. He thought it could be cute for me to have a matching virtual pet. I would never have "hatched" my egg - really - but those are the sacrifices we (3) _____ for long-distance romance. And in spite of the fact I consider myself a mature, well-adjusted girl, I became severely hooked. Tamagotchis were created in Japan for city kids (4) _____ aren't allowed to have real pets. I (5) _____ my Tamagotchi "Pill". The instructions told me that I had to feed Pill, play with Pill, clean Pill's virtual diarrhoea, give Pill medicine when he got sick and discipline him when he misbehaved. If I kept Pill happy, he would blossom into a cute, cyber bunny or little duck. If I neglected him, he would grow (6) _____ an unattractive alien. Pill was such a lovely infant. He responded so (7) _____. He grew when I fed him, smiled when I played with him, and rarely needed scolding. I never knew how easy it could be (8) _____ love a piece of plastic. At first, it was almost fun, a bit of a joke. You have to carry it around with you in order to deal with it or it will "die". Death, even virtual death, has always scared me, so I popped Pill into my purse and took him (9) _____ - including work. Soon I became completely paranoid he would die. They all die young and you never know when they'll go to. We had a few death scares. Once, when I went to check on Pill (10) _____ a long meeting, his screen had gone black. I was sure I'd killed him. I (11) _____ as though I'd locked my own child in a car on a hot summer day and suffocated him. But it turned out his light button had been accidentally turned off. My panic was so real. I (12) _____ have known then I was hooked.

When he was young, Pill slept from a civilized 8 p.m. to 8 a.m., so my social (14) _____ wasn't shattered. But after a few days, he stayed (15) _____ later and later and, by this time, I was fully devoted, so everything started to crumble. My boyfriend Anthony suffered serious neglect - and I didn't care. Heartlessly, when Pill beeped, I played with him, not Anthony. Anthony even tried beeping. This was a cry for help and I did nothing (16) _____ it.

You are going to read an article about a man's memories from his childhood. For the questions which follow, choose the answer (A, B, C or D) which you think fits best according to the text.

Father was in the army all through the war – the First War, I mean – so, up to the age of five, I never saw much of him, and what I saw did not worry me. Sometimes I woke and there was a big figure looking down at me. Sometimes in the early morning I heard the closing of the front door and the sound of boots walking down the lane. These were Father's entrances and exits.

In fact, I rather liked his visits, though it was an uncomfortable squeeze between Mother and him when I got into the big bed in the early morning. He smoked, which gave him a pleasant sort of smell. Watching him shave was fascinating. Each time he went away, he left lots of souvenirs – model tanks, knives, cap badges and all sorts of military equipment which he put in a long box on top of the wardrobe as he felt that they could be handy sometime. When he was not there, Mother let me get a chair and search through his treasures. She did not seem to think so highly of them as he did.

The war was the most peaceful period of my life. Every morning I awoke as soon as it was light and felt myself to be like the sun, ready to shine and rejoice. Life never seemed so simple and clear and full of possibilities as then. I got up, went into Mother's room and climbed into the big bed. She woke and I began to tell her of my schemes. I talked but then fell asleep and woke again only when I heard her below in the kitchen, making the breakfast.

I often wondered what Mother and I should do all day, what present I would get for Christmas and what I should do to brighten up the home. There was that little matter of the baby, for instance. Mother and I could never agree about that. Ours was the only house in the street without a new baby, and Mother said we could not afford one until Father came back from the war as they were very expensive. That showed how simple she was. The Geneys who lived nearby had a baby, and everybody knew that they had hardly any money at all. Admittedly it was probably a cheap baby, and Mother wanted something really good, but I felt this did not really matter. The Geney's baby would have been fine for us.

- 1 Until the age of five, the writer
 - A did not worry his father.
 - B never saw his father.
 - C often annoyed his father.
 - D saw his father occasionally.
- 2 Why did he find it uncomfortable being in the big bed when his father was home?
 - A His mother squeezed him.
 - B The bed did not have enough room for three.
 - C He was not used to being in it so early.
 - D His father smelt of smoke.
- 3 The writer's father kept his souvenirs because he thought
 - A they could be put inside the wardrobe.
 - B they were very valuable.
 - C Mother did not seem to value them.
 - D they might be useful.
- 4 When the writer woke up, he felt that
 - A life was good.
 - B he was simple.
 - C life was possible.
 - D he was funny.
- 5 What happened as soon as the writer got into his mother's bed?
 - A She went to make breakfast.
 - B He told her all his plans.
 - C She asked him about his schemes.
 - D He went to sleep.
- 6 The writer's mother said they could not have a baby because
 - A there was a war on.
 - B there were too many babies in the street.
 - C they cost a lot of money.
 - D Father was not at home.
- 7 Why did the writer think that his mother would not have wanted the Geney's baby?
 - A It was probably not of very good quality.
 - B The price would have been too high.
 - C The Geneys were too poor.
 - D She probably thought it was too good for her.