

B2.3 UNIT 4

EXERCISE 1 Complete the dialog with the missing idiom:

- common ground
- parted company
- beg to differ
- agree to disagree

Manager: The best way is to implement my plan for longer working hours. It will increase our productivity levels, which will be positive for everybody.

John: I _____. I think the staff will get very tired, and that will reduce productivity.

M: Then, let's just _____. There's a world of difference between expecting people to work twelve hours a day and asking them to occasionally work ten hours, which is all I'm asking.

J: Ten hours and a half actually.

M: Now you're just splitting hairs.

J: Well, you're not on _____ with your staff on this one. They say that paying people more would be a far better way to increase productivity.

M: Hey, I'm not exactly a lone voice. Kate, you approved of my plan yesterday.

K: Yes, well, now I'm not sure I share your opinion any more.

M: Well, I'm sorry we _____ on this issue. I know it's a difficult decision to make. Tom, what do you think?

B) *Correct the mistakes in these idioms:*

1. I think we should go home now.

I'm totally in the same page with you on that one.

2. This project is a total disaster, isn't it?

Yes, I split your opinion. We will have to start again from the beginning.

3. I think John is arrogant and rude.

Well, let's just beg to disagree. He's had a rough time, but he is a good person.

4. I think we were wrong to fire him just because he was late a few times.

I agree to differ. I have to run a company and I need people I can count on.

EXERCISE 2 Complete the gaps with a modal perfect

1. Dean _____ gone to his village. I saw him two hours ago at the library.
2. Nobody answered the phone at the clinic. It _____ closed early.
3. I _____ studied more for my history exam. I don't think I'll pass!
4. Your sister looks really happy this morning. She _____ passed her driving test.
5. I didn't know you went for drinks after work. You _____ told me!
6. I can't believe John is not here. He is always the first one to arrive. He _____ caught the wrong train.
7. I can't believe Jim hasn't arrived yet. He _____ caught the correct train.
8. Don't tell me that you had a headache last night. You _____ been ill – Jack said you were out partying all night.

Choose the correct answer for each question.

1. If I had gone to the sales, I'm sure I have bought something.
 - a) might
 - b) should
 - c) would
2. Claire was very upset you didn't go to her birthday party. You have gone.
 - a) might
 - b) should
 - c) would
3. The lights are out. They have gone to sleep.
 - a) might
 - b) should
 - c) would
4. We have invited Dave to the party if we had known he was in town.
 - a) might
 - b) should
 - c) would
5. You have come to the pub on Saturday. We had a great time.
 - a) might
 - b) should

- c) would
6. She have changed her mind. I'm not sure. (to change)
- a) might
b) should
c) would
7. You have spent so much money on CDs. You'll have problems getting to the end of the month now.
- a) might
b) should
c) shouldn't
8. She told me she have emailed you if you had given her your address.
- a) might
b) should
c) would

EXERCISE 3

Read the following essay:

A) Many people seem to believe that today's teenagers are spoiled in comparison with their grandparents or parents, but I don't think this is the case at all.

B) The fact that in the past there weren't many educational opportunities cannot be denied and, what's more, teaching methods weren't so advanced then. However, today's young people must achieve far more. They are expected to study for exams, and sign up for extracurricular activities which can be based on sports, music and other arts, reinforcement of a particular subject etc.

C) My grandfather often tells me how tough times were in the past. For instance, he found himself in the situation of having to abandon his studies and start work when he was fifteen, in order to help his family, and his story is not an original one. On the other hand, he knew he could always find a job, as opposed to young people nowadays, who study hard and pass exams, but still can't find a job (at least not one related to their field of interest) because the unemployment rate is so high.

D) Of course there are numerous advantages related to having unlimited access to Internet, which previous generations did not have. On the one hand, we have the whole world at our fingertips; we are able to access any type of information in a matter of seconds and not spend hours in a library researching for a school project, listen to music and watch movies. However, it is fair to say that it has also created a society without warmth. In fact, teenagers spend so long online that they never enjoy spending time with friends and family anymore.

E) In conclusion, while life is easier today in many ways, personally I believe that each generation has its own difficulties and that young people today have their fair share of problems and worries.

1. Match the following notes with the paragraph:

- a) Conclusion and personal opinion
- b) Second main point
- c) Introduction
- d) First main point
- e) Third main point (own idea)

2. What linking words and phrases does the writer use:

- a) To give an example
- b) To draw a conclusion
- c) To introduce a point
- d) To refer to an opposite opinion
- e) To give a personal opinion
- f) To add more information

3. Complete the essay with the missing words:

Obesity is a serious global problem nowadays, particularly _____ young people. In my opinion, excessive alcohol consumption, a diet based _____ fast food and a lack _____ adequate education in schools is _____ blame for this situation. So what can be _____ about it?

Alcohol consumption _____ the West has _____ increasing alarmingly . This is an important reason why people _____ been getting fatter, and a simple solution for this problem is to cut down _____ the amount of alcohol consumed.

However, addiction _____ fast food is also a _____ problem. It is _____ popular that it has become an addiction and is a major cause of young people getting fatter. Parents need to control their children's intake _____ fast food.

Furthermore, the schools have not done _____ job well. Kids don't understand the connection _____ excessive drinking, fast food and _____ obese. Schools need to introduce special lessons _____ good diet and healthy living.

In conclusion, I think parents and schools need _____ do a better job explaining the relationship between drinking alcohol, eating _____ much fast food and becoming obese. _____ adequate education is made available, this problem can be solved _____ the future.