**C1.3**
**UNIT 8**

**Exercise 1**

For questions 1–10, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

**The True Cost of Shopping**

When people decide to buy a product, they often focus exclusively on its price rather than considering whether it represents good value for money. However, choosing the cheapest option is not always the most (1) _____ solution, particularly when the item is likely to break after a short period of use.

Retailers frequently advertise special offers to attract customers. A (2) _____ may encourage shoppers to make an immediate purchase, even if they had not originally intended to buy anything. Nevertheless, consumers should check whether the advertised reduction is genuine or whether the product is available elsewhere at a lower (3) _____.

In recent years, the rising (4) _____ has forced many families to reconsider their spending habits. Housing, food and transport have become increasingly expensive, leaving people with less money for leisure activities. Consequently, some consumers are choosing second-hand products, while others are looking for ways to (5) _____ the cost of their regular purchases.

Buying a house presents a different challenge. Sellers usually advertise an (6) _____, but this does not necessarily reflect the final amount a buyer will have to pay. Negotiation is often possible, particularly when a property has been on the market for a long time.

Some people are willing to (7) _____ for luxury goods because they believe that expensive products are always superior. Others argue that certain designer items are simply too (8) _____ and offer little additional value. Yet there are things that money cannot buy: the memories created with family and friends, for instance, are often considered (9) _____.

Before hiring a professional to carry out repairs, it is advisable to request a (10) _____ so that the expected cost is clear before any work begins. Careful planning can prevent unpleasant surprises and help consumers make better financial decisions.

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | A | cost-effective | B | pricey | C | priceless | D | promotional |
| 2 | A | sale price | B | asking price | C | promotional price | D | price range |
| 3 | A | quote | B | sale price | C | cost of living | D | asking price |
| 4 | A | price range | B | cost of living | C | sale price | D | asking price |
| 5 | A | drive down | B | pay through the nose | C | pay the price | D | costa an arm and a leg |
| 6 | A | asking price | B | promotional price | C | sale price | D | price range |
| 7 | A | pay the rise | B | pay through the nose | C | drive a price down | D | at all costs |
| 8 | A | priceless | B | cost effective | C | pricey | D | promotional |
| 9 | A | cost-effective | B | priceless | C | pricey | D | sale price |
| 10 | A | quote | B | asking price | C | price range | D | promotional price |

**Exercise 2**

For questions 1–8, read the text below. Use the word given in capitals at the end of some of the lines to form a word that fits in the gap in the same line. Write your answers in **CAPITAL LETTERS.**

A successful economy depends on the relationship between supply and demand. When demand increases, companies may need to find reliable (1) _____ who can provide the goods they require. (**SUPPLY**)

Some customers are relatively (2) _____ and are satisfied with basic products that meet their needs. (**DEMAND)**

In some communities, people still practice (3) _____, exchanging goods and services instead of using money. (**BARTER)**

However, in some countries, public resources are managed (4) _____, resulting in poor services and inefficient public spending. During a recession, businesses often struggle to remain profitable, and the economic situation can become increasingly difficult. (**DEFICIENT)**

A prolonged economic downturn may have a (5) _____ effect on employment and living standards.**(DEPRESSION**) For this reason, careful (6) _____ planning is essential for governments and businesses alike.**(FINANCE**)

Another major concern is (7) _____,(**INFLATE)** which reduces the purchasing power of money as prices rise.In a(n) (8) _____ economy, private individuals and companies own most businesses, whereas a socialist system places greater emphasis on collective ownership. (**CAPITAL).**

**Exercise 3**

For questions 1–10, read the text below and think of the word which best fits each gap. Use only one word in each gap.

**The Importance of Lifelong Learning**

Many people believe that education ends when they leave school or university, but this is far (0) **FROM** the truth. In a rapidly changing world, learning new skills is essential for anyone who wishes to remain competitive in the workplace. One of the main reasons (1) _____ adults decide to continue studying is that their professional responsibilities may change over time. They need to know (2) _____ skills are currently in demand and how these can be acquired efficiently.

Although online courses offer considerable flexibility, learners must be disciplined enough to organize their time effectively. Without a clear plan, they may find it difficult to keep (3) _____ with their studies, particularly when they have other commitments.

Students who expect immediate results may become discouraged if they fail to achieve (4) _____ they had hoped for. Instead, they should focus on gradual improvement and celebrate small successes.

Teachers can help students develop confidence by giving them opportunities to practice independently. Rather than providing every answer, they should encourage learners to work things (5) _____ for themselves.

Technology can make education more accessible, but it cannot replace the effort required to learn. Students who rely too heavily on automated tools may find that they have not developed the skills necessary to solve problems on their (6) _____.

Finally, anyone who wishes to succeed in lifelong learning must be willing to adapt. New opportunities may arise unexpectedly, and those who are prepared to take advantage (7) _____ them are often better placed to progress.

With enough determination, learners can gradually acquire the knowledge they need. They may also find (8) _____ studying alongside others makes the process more enjoyable. By exchanging ideas, learners gain different perspectives and become more aware of their own strengths and weaknesses.

Ultimately, lifelong learning is not simply a way to improve employment prospects; it is also an opportunity to broaden one's horizons. This is why education should be regarded not as a destination, (9) _____ as a continuous journey.