



Exercise 1a

- Using the following verbs from Stage 17, fill in the gaps in the sentences provided. Remember that words may need to be changed for the sentence to be grammatically correct.

to sap
to thrive
to mingle
to flaunt

to dabble
to envisage
to browse
to linger

to ad-lib
to console

- Q1.** Under his agent's advice, Kevin with as many people as he could at the charity event - as a budding actor, he knew it wasn't *what* you knew, but *who*.
- Q2.** "Can I help you with anything?" asked the shop assistant.

"No thanks, I'm just " I replied. I hate how shop assistants breathe down your neck.
- Q3.** Tina was a nervous wreck after her father died. We tried her, but we knew their relationship had been very close, and it would take a long time for her to get over it.
- Q4.** After a difficult month or two at nursery, the teacher was pleased to report that Daniel was there. He no longer whined for his mother as soon as the front doors closed, and he was fast improving in social skills.
- Q5.** Rita is a famous novelist, but she does in poetry when the mood strikes.
- Q6.** His gaze on her for just that moment too long, and she found herself hoping he would come over to her, wishing to know the man behind those beautiful brown eyes.
- Q7.** "This intensive training course has really all my energy. I just don't feel up to doing anything!"



Exercise 1b

- Q8.** After forgetting all of his jokes, the comedian to his audience. He was pleased to see they were still amused, and seemed to be having a good time. The powers of improvisation were still his.
- Q9.** My mother always advised me that even if I had got it, I certainly shouldn't it. "Nobody ever wants to hear others bragging." was her advice.
- Q10.** The boss hadn't so many problems occurring in such a short piece of time. The company was bankrupt, they couldn't pay the workers, and there was no way to recuperate the money. They were forced to close.



Exercise 2

- Give a **definition** of the following idioms from Stage 17. Some may have more than one - you only have to choose one definition.

Q1. To scrape the barrel

Q2. To make a beeline for something/someone

Q3. To tar people with the same brush

Q4. To make a song and dance about something

Q5. To turn over a new leaf

Q6. To give someone a taste of their own medicine

Q7. A dark horse

Q8. To show someone the ropes



Exercise 3

- Fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

Thank you for giving up your time today. I'm sorry to deprive you all **Q1.**
an evening with your families.

Q2. to the end of last year, the company's finances were in turmoil.
Nobody envisaged this happening after we had **Q3.** on a new policy
of cashing in **Q4.** the Government's decision to devalue the pound.
At times, we were really scraping the barrel for new ideas and it was true that a rift had
begun to appear between the directors of the company.

After bowing to much **Q5.** pressure, in January we decided to
turn over a new leaf **Q6.** curbing our necessary expenses. We
needed to head off almost certain bankruptcy, as our creditors were whingeing about not
Q7. paid.

Now, I can happily say the company is flourishing again. Business is **Q8.**
especially **Q9.** Europe, giving us a great opportunity **Q10.**
invest seriously, and not just dabble, in new and exciting products.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you for taking the time and effort to save this
business.



Exercise 4a

- Read the text and fill in the gaps using words and phrases from Stage 17. Remember some things may need to be changed in order for the sentence to be grammatically correct.

It isn't easy being a teenager. **Q1.**, there are definitely things I could have done to make my life easier, but when you're going through adolescence, you don't see anything other than your own angst at times. I remember my older brother at 14 - **Q2.**, arrogant, and argumentative - and I remember thinking "that will never happen to me!" How wrong I was! Arrogance wasn't a **Q3.** of mine, but moodiness certainly became one. I was shocked to find I wanted to spend so much time at home alone - I'd always been really close to my family. But it just seemed that they didn't want me to grow up. I **Q4.** flying off the handle at the slightest irritation, which meant my parents didn't really know what to do around me.

My brother was 18 by that time, and was **Q5.** to have been offered a place at Cambridge University, so my parents spent most of their time planning his future and obsessing over his life. I realise now that going to university takes a lot of work and support, but at the time I felt that it was pushing me away from my family and creating a **Q6.** between us.

I had always been a good student at school, but I found myself becoming increasingly **Q7.** The only thing which interested me was art. I locked myself in my room for hours at a time and drew, sketched and painted to my heart's content.

One day, I showed the pictures to my parents. They were amazed - they didn't know about this talent of mine, and through it, our **Q8.** was re-established.



Exercise 4b

They clamoured to see more work - they asked me how school was and, more importantly, how I was as a person. With their interest in me back, my own at school was sparked again.

I **Q9.** everything and wrote it off as a **Q10.**
..... along the road.

With dedication, hard work, and the full support of everyone around me, I devoted myself to the world of art and am now studying at a top London design school. Everybody has their problems - I hope, like me, they can use them to their advantage!



Exercise 5

- Look at the following definitions and decide which word or phrase from Stage 17 matches the definition. Write the word or phrase in the gap provided.

Q1. Initial problems.

.....

Q2. Slightly hungry.

.....

Q3. Careless, too casual.

.....

Q4. To not be good enough, to be unsatisfactory.

.....

Q5. Chaos, disorder or confusion.

.....

Q6. Deeply involved in an argument.

.....

Q7. Severe, very depressing.

.....

Q8. In theory.

.....

Q9. To complain in an annoying way.

.....

Q10. To take advantage of a situation, to exploit.

.....



Exercise 6

■ Choose the correct word from the options given.

- Q1.** Breaking even was (**resented** / **deemed** / **alleged** / **endeared**) to be impossible this year, but my gut reaction was that we were always going to make it.
- Q2.** Phoebe was paralytic by the time the clock struck twelve on New Year's Eve, and from then on everything was a total (**blip** / **slip** / **blur** / **lie**).
- Q3.** The lads have such good (**banter** / **outbursts** / **fun** / **chat**) at work. I almost feel like I'm not at the office!
- Q4.** Pete (**got a bee in his bonnet** / **cashed in** / **made a beeline for**) the buffet - being vegetarian, all the things he could eat got taken first and he knew he'd have less choice.
- Q5.** I'd be very careful around Stuart. I've a feeling he's something of a (**bolshy** / **whinger** / **dark horse**).
- Q6.** Keith's (**outbursts** / **embarks** / **dabbles** / **thrives**) in gambling began to take their toll on his marriage. His wife couldn't stand being home alone when she knew he was at the casino. Luckily, he packed it in before becoming too (**envisaged** / **embroiled** / **sceptical**).
- Q7.** On paper, the idea was (**plausible** / **sloppy** / **endearing**), but in the end it turned out to be a total disaster.
- Q8.** Lots of people complain that there are too many nowadays (**thriving** / **sponging off** / **growing on**) the state.
- Q9.** I was very surprised by his sudden (**gut reaction** / **consolation** / **outburst**) today as he's normally a very calm, laid-back person.
- Q10.** The plans for the park opening were (**staved off** / **shattered** / **hampered**) because of the weekend downpours. It barely stopped raining for one second!



Exercise 7

■ Match the words given below with their definition.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| Q1. Someone who appears to enjoy struggling or getting into trouble. | a) To lift a finger. |
| Q2. To become gradually more pleasing/likeable to someone. | b) Sceptical. |
| Q3. To have no defence at all to an alleged crime or accusation. | c) Bolshy. |
| Q4. To make an effort to help someone. | d) Allege. |
| Q5. To control or restrain. | e) A glutton for punishment. |
| Q6. Confrontational, always answering back. | f) To not have a leg to stand on. |
| Q7. Wanting to have a baby. | g) Broody. |
| Q8. To feel bitter about someone or a situation. | h) To grow on someone. |
| Q9. To accuse without proof. | i) Resent. |
| Q10. Non-trusting. | j) To curb. |



Exercise 1

- Using the following verbs from Stage 17, fill in the gaps in the sentences provided. Remember that words may need to be changed for the sentence to be grammatically correct.

to sap	to mingle	to dabble	to browse	to ad-lib
to thrive	to flaunt	to envisage	to linger	to console

- A1.** Under his agent's advice, Kevin **mingled** with as many people as he could at the charity event - as a budding actor, he knew it wasn't *what* you knew, but *who*.
- A2.** "Can I help you with anything?" asked the shop assistant.
"No thanks, I'm just **browsing**," I replied. I hate how shop assistants breathe down your neck.
- A3.** Tina was a nervous wreck after her father died. We tried **to console** her, but we knew their relationship had been very close, and it would take a long time for her to get over it.
- A4.** After a difficult month or two at nursery, the teacher was pleased to report that Daniel was **thriving** there. He no longer whined for his mother as soon as the front doors closed, and he was fast improving in social skills.
- A5.** Rita is a famous novelist, but she does **dabble** in poetry when the mood strikes.
- A6.** His gaze **lingered** on her for just that moment too long, and she found herself hoping he would come over to her, wishing to know the man behind those beautiful brown eyes.
- A7.** "This intensive training course has really **sapped** all my energy. I just don't feel up to doing anything!"
- A8.** After forgetting all of his jokes, the comedian **ad-libbed** to his audience. He was pleased to see they were still amused, and seemed to be having a good time. The powers of improvisation were still his.
- A9.** My mother always advised me that even if I had got it, I certainly shouldn't **flaunt** it. "Nobody ever wants to hear others bragging," was her advice.
- A10.** The boss hadn't **envisaged** so many problems occurring in such a short piece of time. The company was bankrupt, they couldn't pay the workers, and there was no way to recuperate the money. They were forced to close.



Exercise 2

- Give a **definition** of the following idioms from Stage 17. Some may have more than one - you only have to choose one definition.

A1. To scrape the barrel.

Use something/someone you do not want to use because nothing else is available.

A2. To make a beeline for something/someone.

To go to somewhere quickly, to hurry towards somewhere or someone.

A3. To tar people with the same brush.

To claim a group of people all have the same faults.

A4. To make a song and dance about something.

To complain/make a fuss about something.

A5. To turn over a new leaf.

To change one's character or behaviour for the better.

A6. To give someone a taste of their own medicine.

To take revenge on someone.

A7. A dark horse.

A person who no-one really knows, but later is seen to be different/a person who exceeds expectations in a competition or election.

A8. To show someone the ropes.

To show someone how to do something.

Exercise 3

- Fill in the gaps in the following sentences.

Thank you for giving up your time today. I'm sorry to deprive you all **A1. of** an evening with your families.

A2. Up to the end of last year, the company's finances were in turmoil. Nobody envisaged this happening after we had **A3. embarked** on a new policy of cashing in **A4. on** the Government's decision to devalue the pound. At times, we were really scraping the barrel for new ideas and it was true that a rift had begun to appear between the directors of the company.

After bowing to much **A5. peer** pressure, in January we decided to turn over a new leaf **A6. by** curbing our necessary expenses. We needed to head off almost certain bankruptcy, as our creditors were whingeing about not **A7. being** paid.

Now, I can happily say the company is flourishing again. Business is **A8. thriving**, especially **A9. in** Europe, giving us a great opportunity **A10. to** invest seriously, and not just dabble, in new and exciting products.

I'd like to thank each and every one of you for taking the time and effort to save this business.



Exercise 4

- Read the text and fill in the gaps using words and phrases from Stage 17. Remember some things may need to be changed in order for the sentence to be grammatically correct.

It isn't easy being a teenager. **A1. In hindsight**, there are definitely things I could have done to make my life easier, but when you're going through adolescence, you don't see anything other than your own angst at times. I remember my older brother at 14 - **A2. broody**, arrogant, and argumentative - and I remember thinking "that will never happen to me!" How wrong I was! Arrogance wasn't a **A3. trait** of mine, but moodiness certainly became one. I was shocked to find I wanted to spend so much time at home alone - I'd always been really close to my family. But it just seemed that they didn't want me to grow up. I **A4. was prone to** flying off the handle at the slightest irritation, which meant my parents didn't really know what to do around me.

My brother was 18 by that time, and was **A5. chuffed** to have been offered a place at Cambridge University, so my parents spent most of their time planning his future and obsessing over his life. I realise now that going to university takes a lot of work and support, but at the time I felt that it was pushing me away from my family and creating a **A6. rift** between us.

I had always been a good student at school, but I found myself becoming increasingly **A7. apathetic**. The only thing which interested me was art. I locked myself in my room for hours at a time and drew, sketched and painted to my heart's content.

One day, I showed the pictures to my parents. They were amazed - they didn't know about this talent of mine, and through it, our **A8. bond** was re-established. They clamoured to see more work - they asked me how school was and, more importantly, how I was as a person. With their interest in me back, my own at school was sparked again. I **A9. put** everything **behind me** and wrote it off as a **A10. blip** along the road.

With dedication, hard work, and the full support of everyone around me, I devoted myself to the world of art and am now studying at a top London design school. Everybody has their problems - I hope, like me, they can use them to their advantage!



Exercise 5

- Look at the following definitions and decide which word or phrase from Stage 17 matches the definition. Write the word or phrase in the gap provided.

A1. Initial problems.

Teething problems.

A2. Slightly hungry.

Peckish.

A3. Careless, too casual.

Sloppy.

A4. To not be good enough, to be unsatisfactory.

To leave a lot to be desired.

A5. Chaos, disorder or confusion.

Turmoil.

A6. Deeply involved in an argument.

Embroided.

A7. Severe, very depressing.

Grim.

A8. In theory.

On paper.

A9. To complain in an annoying way.

Whinge.

A10. To take advantage of a situation, to exploit.

To cash in on something.



Exercise 6

■ Choose the correct word from the options given.

- A1. Breaking even was **deemed** to be impossible this year, but my gut reaction was that we were always going to make it.
- A2. Phoebe was paralytic by the time the clock struck twelve on New Year's Eve, and from then on everything was a total **blur**.
- A3. The lads have such good **banter** at work. I almost feel like I'm not at the office!
- A4. Pete **made a beeline for** the buffet - being vegetarian, all the things he could eat got taken first and he knew he'd have less choice.
- A5. I'd be very careful around Stuart. I've a feeling he's something of a **dark horse**.
- A6. Keith's **dabbles** in gambling began to take their toll on his marriage. His wife couldn't stand being home alone when she knew he was at the casino. Luckily, he packed it in before becoming too **embroiled**.
- A7. On paper, the idea was **plausible**, but in the end it turned out to be a total disaster.
- A8. Lots of people complain that there are too many nowadays **sponging off** the state.
- A9. I was very surprised by his sudden **outburst** today as he's normally a very calm, laid-back person.
- A10. The plans for the park opening were **hampered** because of the weekend downpours. It barely stopped raining for one second!



Exercise 7

■ Match the words given below with their definition.

A1. Someone who appears to enjoy struggling or getting into trouble.

e) **A glutton for punishment.**

A2. To become gradually more pleasing/likeable to someone.

h) **To grow on someone.**

A3. To have no defence at all to an alleged crime or accusation.

f) **To not have a leg to stand on.**

A4. To make an effort to help someone.

a) **To lift a finger.**

A5. To control or restrain.

j) **To curb.**

A6. Confrontational, always answering back.

c) **Bolshy.**

A7. Wanting to have a baby.

g) **Broody.**

A8. To feel bitter about someone or a situation.

i) **Resent.**

A9. To accuse without proof.

d) **Allege.**

A10. Non-trusting.

b) **Sceptical.**