



6A

## Skills Practice: Sentence Grammar

Some tasks in the IELTS exam require us to match two halves of a sentence or to complete a sentence by filling in a gap with words from the text.

Often we can work out the answer by thinking about the sense or meaning of the words, but if we know what kind of words are needed to continue or complete a sentence (noun, verb, adjective, adverb etc.) we can help ourselves by limiting the number of options.

For example, look at the following sentence. Which option (a, b or c) can complete it?

"I really want \_\_\_\_\_."

- a) an ??????      b) because ??????      c) at ??????

Of course, the answer is (a) because it's the only grammatically possible option. So, without even thinking about the meaning of words, we're able to choose the correct answer just by thinking about the grammar.



suggested time  
unlimited

# TASK

Look at sentences **1 – 8** and decide which words or phrases (**a, b, c**) can possibly finish the sentence in a grammatically correct way and which are not. Number 1 has been done as an example.

**NB** There can be more than one correct answer!

Take as much time as you need.

- |                                   |                                     |                                     |                          |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Most of the office workers ... |                                     | 5. Why ...                          |                          |
| a) ... is finished at 5 o'clock.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | a) ... you didn't call me?          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) ... finishes at 5 o'clock.     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | b) ... is she so happy?             | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) ... finished at 5 o'clock.     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | c) ... not tell her?                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. There are a lot of ...         |                                     | 6. I usually get up ...             |                          |
| a) ... water on the floor.        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | a) ... at 7 o'clock.                | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) ... people in the room.        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b) ... early.                       | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) ... things to do.              | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c) ... morning.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I wondered where ...           |                                     | 7. We never go swimming despite ... |                          |
| a) ... they had gone.             | <input type="checkbox"/>            | a) ... we live by the sea.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) ... did they go.               | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b) ... living by the sea.           | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) ... were they.                 | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c) ... to live by the sea.          | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. What do you suggest ...        |                                     | 8. I came here ...                  |                          |
| a) ... us to do.                  | <input type="checkbox"/>            | a) ... by bus.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| b) ... doing.                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | b) ... quickly.                     | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| c) ... we do.                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | c) ... on Tuesday.                  | <input type="checkbox"/> |