

**G R A M M A R**

**Complete the text with the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Write the correct form in the space provided.**

**Living in London as an Expat**

London is one of the most visited cities in the world. But not only tourists love it. People from all over the world (1).....(move) to and built a new life in London.

I grew up in a small town in the south of England, where life was quiet and predictable. For years, I (2).....(imagine) what it would be like to live in a big city, surrounded by culture and opportunities. In 2005, I (3).....(make) the move to London, and I have never once looked back. At first, everything (4).....(feel) overwhelming – the crowds, the noise, the speed at which people seemed to live. I remember walking through the streets and wondering if I (5).....(make) the right decision.

Over time, things started to change. I (6).....(begin) to discover hidden corners of the city, places that tourists rarely visit. I have always loved exploring, so London quickly (7).....(become) my playground. I have met people from all over the world, and some of them (8).....(become) lifelong friends. Recently, I (9).....(work) on a project with colleagues from five different countries, which is something I could never (10).....(imagine) back in my hometown.

Of course, life here is not perfect. London is expensive, and sometimes I miss the simplicity of my old life. But the opportunities I (11).....(find) here outweigh the challenges. Last week, I (12).....(attend) a networking event in the city centre, and it reminded me how much I (13).....(grow) since I first arrived. Before moving here, I had never visited London, and now I know it better than most tourists ever will.

Looking ahead, I (14).....(plan) to stay for at least five more years. I have just finished reading a book about British culture, and it made me appreciate how much I (15).....(learn) since 2005. Sometimes I secretly hope to return to a quieter place one day, but for now, London feels like home.

Adapted from <https://www.spendlifetraveling.com/ask-an-expat-living-in-london-england/>,

18/12/2025

**Total points: ...../15 pts**

**VOCABULARY**

Read the article below. Use the words given in CAPITALS to form words that fits in each space. Write your answers in the spaces provided.

**Essential Info for Visiting London**

London is one of the world's most iconic cities, blending centuries of ...<sup>1</sup>... tradition with cutting-edge modernity. Its ...<sup>2</sup>... calendar is packed year-round, offering everything from theatre premieres to food festivals. Spring is an ...<sup>3</sup>... celebrated season: parks burst into colour, and outdoor events create a ...<sup>4</sup>... atmosphere. Summer brings long days and tourist peaks, while autumn remains ...<sup>5</sup>... temperate, perfect for exploring the city's neighbourhoods.

The capital's ...<sup>6</sup>... reflects its layered past. From medieval towers to masterpieces of the Victorian era and sleek glass skyscrapers, London showcases a striking mix of styles. Markets, galleries, and riverside walks provide endless opportunities for ...<sup>7</sup>... .

Getting around is relatively ...<sup>8</sup>... thanks to an extensive transport network. The Underground connects most areas ...<sup>9</sup>..., while express trains link major airports to the city centres. ...<sup>10</sup>... has improved ...<sup>11</sup>... in recent years, with more stations offering step-free access and clear information for every ...<sup>12</sup>... .

Food lovers will find London a true paradise. The city's ...<sup>13</sup>... scene is colourful and ...<sup>14</sup>... diverse, ranging from traditional pubs to Michelin-starred restaurants. Global influences shape menus, reflecting London's status as an ...<sup>15</sup>... hub. Street markets serve dishes from every corner of the world, adding to the city's vibrant culinary identity. These places reveal a side of the city that feels personal and ...<sup>16</sup>..., far from the usual tourist routes. Visiting these places can transform a simple visit into a journey of cultural ...<sup>17</sup>... .

Despite its reputation as an expensive place to visit, a trip to the capital needn't break the bank! You can visit London on a budget if you know where to go and how to save money on everything from transport and food to ...<sup>18</sup>... and theatre tickets. Discover a wealth of free things to do in London, cheap attractions, low-cost London transport options, and ...<sup>19</sup>... restaurants. Plan ahead to make the most of your time and turn every moment into an experience of pure ...<sup>20</sup>... .

Adapted from <https://www.visitlondon.com/things-to-do/visiting-london-for-the-first-time/london-faqs>, 18/12/2025

HISTORY	1.....	SIGNIFY	11.....
CULTURE	2.....	TRAVEL	12.....
SPECIAL	3.....	DINE	13.....
LIVE	4.....	WONDER	14.....
PLEASE	5.....	NATION	15.....
ARCHITECT	6.....	INSPIRE	16.....
DISCOVER	7.....	EXPLORE	17.....
STRAIGHT	8.....	ACCOMMODATE	18.....
EFFICIENT	9.....	AFFORD	19.....
ACCESS	10.....	ENJOY	20.....

**Total points: ...../10 pts**

## READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text and complete the task. There are 10 phrases (A-L) missing from the article. Decide which of the phrases (A-L) best fits into each of the numbered gap in the text. There are two extra phrases.

## Owl Academy by Tamarin Butcher

Delilah watched, smiling, as this year's fresh students (1)\_\_\_\_. Once all six children were in the room, the door suddenly closed with a small slam. Catherine and Isabella, names Delilah knew from the files she (2)\_\_\_\_ in the weeks before the start of the semester, looked around suspiciously but quickly decided that the noise was not dangerous. After all, they didn't know that the door (3)\_\_\_\_\_.

The Owl Academy was a unique, elite school for a select group of students, but Delilah doubted anyone except Lilly and perhaps Ian (4)\_\_\_\_. Ian's father was very rich and was possibly one of the many wealthy individuals who had heard of the school and tried to (5)\_\_\_\_. He was certainly the type to try this way of making his child's life easier.

However, no one could buy their way into Owl Academy. There was no application process, entrance exams, or open days. Students were selected from across the country and (6)\_\_\_\_. Few refused, although there had been some from time to time. Very few invitations were sent each year to places where they lived. This year, all six invitations (7)\_\_\_\_\_.

No one knew what exactly the school taught or what its methods were. The only thing that those in the know were certain of was that the school (8)\_\_\_\_ in this process. Every child who had ever gone there had grown to be highly successful in whatever field they chose.

Delilah had been teaching the first-year students longer than anyone could understand. She (9)\_\_\_\_ that there was little to be gained from making things easy. By accepting the invitation to attend, their lives (10)\_\_\_\_, and the sooner they realised that, the better. Throw them in the deep water, and be there to help them find their way to the surface. That was the way she operated.

Adapted from: <https://blog.reedsy.com/short-story/eplwdn/#comments>, 18/12/2025

A buy their child a place

G had heard of it before

B was both excited and terrified

H had learned in that time

C had closed by itself

I had studied carefully

D had changed forever

J invited to attend

E had been accepted

K filed into her classroom

F was very successful

L rushing for the exit

**Total points: ...../10 pts**

**LISTENING COMPREHENSION**

Listen carefully and circle the correct answer. You will score five points.

**1. What does Carl say helped him continue running as a child?**

- A. He felt motivated by the success of his classmates.
- B. His parents gave him confidence to keep trying.
- C. He enjoyed the challenge of improving his speed.
- D. He was promised a place in the school's running team.

**2. What does Carl say helped shape his attitude and values as a child?**

- A. The competitive atmosphere at school.
- B. The strong bond and routines within his family.
- C. The advice he received from older teammates.
- D. The pressure to meet his parents' expectations.

**3. How did Carl react to his father's final message?**

- A. He began to see his achievements as something meaningful.
- B. He decided to change his training routine completely.
- C. He started to focus more on winning than on personal growth.
- D. He felt pressure to live up to his father's expectations.

**4. What did Carl try to do mentally before the start of a race?**

- A. Focus on the cheering crowd to boost his energy.
- B. Think about past races to avoid repeating mistakes.
- C. Empty his mind and wait for the signal to begin.
- D. Visualise the finish line to stay motivated.

**5. What message does Carl share with young athletes?**

- A. Success depends on having the right people around you.
- B. You should follow others who have already succeeded.
- C. You will become what you decide to work towards.
- D. It's important to win as many medals as possible.

**Total points    /5 pts**

Autor: Mgr. Jakub Hriňák, PhD.

Recenzentka: PaedDr. Anna Brisudová

Korektor: Joshua M. Ruggiero

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