

7 Vocabulary 1 Similarities and differences

A Read the sentences. Choose the best option (a, b or c) to complete the second sentence so it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1 Annual working hours in Chile have changed significantly since 1950, from an average of 2,500 to around 1,900.

The working hours per year in Chile are _____ now from what they were in 1950.

- a slightly lower b strikingly different c roughly the same

2 In 2019, 5.1% of the global population said they worked mainly from home, compared to 28% in 2020.

There was a _____ in the percentage of people working from home in 2020 compared to 2019.

- a dramatic increase b subtle change c notable decrease

3 In 2017, 43% of businesses in the US hired freelancers to work on projects, while in 2018 this grew to 48%.

The number of freelancers working on projects for companies in the US saw a(n) _____ growth from 2017 to 2018.

- a approximate b subtle c dramatic

4 In India, the average annual salary over the last few years has increased by around 10%.

The average annual salary in India is _____ now than a few years ago.

- a radically different b marginally lower c broadly the same

5 The average commute in both Japan and Switzerland takes around 49–65 minutes.

People in both Japan and Switzerland, on average, take (a) _____ amount of time to travel to work.

- a subtle b strikingly different c roughly the same

B Work in pairs. Discuss the questions and explain the reasons for your answers.

- 1 Do you think the annual working hours in your country have changed much since the 1950s? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Do you think there will be more people working from home in the future, or roughly the same number as now? Why?
- 3 Do you think there will be a notable increase in freelancing in the future? Why? / Why not?
- 4 Do you think the average wage in your country has seen a dramatic increase in recent years, or remained broadly the same?
- 5 Is the commute in your country radically different from the commute in Japan and Switzerland? How?

C Write a paragraph about a changing situation from your own country, city or your own experience related to work or study. Choose one of the prompts or your own idea. When you finish, share your paragraph with a partner.

- Common jobs / courses to study
- Commuting time
- The average salary / cost of study
- Ways of finding work
- Working hours / studying hours

A Complete the article with the correct form of these words and phrases.

be a born	be a first-rate	be an accomplished	be deeply committed to	be driven	be persistent
have a flair for	have a natural talent for	have drive	have innate talent	is in the genes	not be cut out for

A natural born talent, or dedication and drive?

There has been much discussion about whether you can be born with a talent, or whether it can be developed if you ¹_____, self-motivation, discipline and are ²_____ and never give up.

This discussion once centred around Gunder Hägg, a Swedish middle-distance runner who became one of the greatest athletes of his time.

Gunder Hägg was born in 1918 to a family of woodcutters in a remote and mountainous area of Sweden. Sports ³_____, as Gunder's father was a keen skier and taught his son to ski from a very young age. Despite entering and winning many skiing competitions and clearly demonstrating ⁴_____ the sport, Gunder soon started to realize he ⁵_____ for skiing and instead found that he much preferred running. He started racing down the slopes without skis at a pace his father had never seen before. After noticing his son ⁶_____ running, he designed a track through the woods of 1,500 metres long and timed his son running around it. Gunder had run faster than the world record. His dad instantly knew his son ⁷_____ runner.

Soon after, Gunder began training every day, at all hours. He ⁸_____ running. His talent was noticed by a coach, who pushed Gunder towards ⁹_____ athlete. Eventually, Gunder broke multiple world records of distances from 1,500 to 5,000 metres. He ¹⁰_____ runner.

So, why has there been much discussion about whether Gunder Hägg ¹¹_____ or whether he simply learned to be one of the world's best runners? Many years later, Gunder's father revealed that he had altered the time that it took his son to run the wooded track and he had, in fact, taken one minute off the actual time Gunder took to run it. He admitted exaggerating the time so that Gunder ¹²_____ to become the best he could be at running, which ultimately, ended up making him a world champion.

B Work in pairs. Discuss the questions with a partner.

- 1 Do you think Gunder's dad did the right thing by exaggerating his time? Why? / Why not?
- 2 Do you think Gunder had a natural talent, or do you think his commitment helped him become an accomplished athlete? Why?
- 3 What would you say you're a natural at? Why?
- 4 Have you ever been deeply committed to something and had the drive to achieve it?
- 5 Sports were in Gunder's genes. What ability or skill would you say is in yours?

C Write two of your own questions about talent and abilities using these phrases. Take turns to ask and answer the questions with a partner.

be a first-rate

have a flair for

be persistent

have innate talent

be driven

A Read the text about three national parks. Write the missing article *the* in the correct places in the text.



Three national parks you must visit

Over the past few years, I've visited some of the most stunning and lush national parks around the world, on a mission to experience the stunning nature and wildlife our planet has to offer. Here's my top ten list of must-visit national parks.

1 Rocky Mountain National Park, US

This national park is home to Rockies – a mountain range with the highest point at 4,346 m above sea level and Colorado Rockies forest. It is one of the most visited parks in the United States, with 4.5 million visitors each year. Here you can experience Ouzel Falls, a 40-foot cascading waterfall, sunset views overlooking picturesque valleys and Colorado river and witness wild bears, elk and deer in their natural habitats.

2 Torres del Paine National Park, Chile

Andes is among one of the world's longest mountain ranges, running from Venezuela all the way to southern tip of Chile, where you can find the Torres del Paine National Park. It's most famous for its three distinctive peaks, which form the shape of a 'W' and reach over 9,000 feet. If you're lucky, you may get to see guanaco, which is a native animal to South America and closely related to llama.

3 Ichkeul Lake and National Park, Tunisia

Ichkeul Lake and National Park is located in north of Tunisia, in Middle East, near the shore of Mediterranean Sea. Park is made up of a 511-metre-high mountain, expansive plains and lake itself, which is a major stopover point for hundreds of migrating birds who come to feed and nest there. Lake is the last remaining freshwater lake in a group of lakes that used to extend across north of Africa.

B Compare your answers with a partner. Then discuss the questions.

- 1 Have you ever been to a national park? What were some of its natural features?
- 2 Which of the national parks in Exercise A would you most like to visit? Why?
- 3 Do you know of any other national parks? Where?

C Write a short paragraph about a place in nature you have visited or know about. When you finish, share your paragraph with a partner and check their use of *the*. Make any changes if necessary.

A Read the pairs of sentences. Decide which of the words in bold have the same pronunciation (S) and which have a different pronunciation (D). Then check your answers with a partner.

- 1 a Are we **allowed** to give a presentation at the conference?
b You should say your answers **aloud**. _____
- 2 a You caused such a **scene** at that meeting!
b Had you **seen** her in person before today? _____
- 3 a Her speech really brought a **tear** to my eye.
b Try not to **tear** the letter when you open the envelope, please. _____
- 4 a It was a misunderstanding. I thought she said to meet her at **eight** not seven!
b I already **ate** before I came to meet you, so I'm not hungry. _____
- 5 a I love the accents of those women who **present** the morning news.
b I got such a lovely **present** from my grandma for my graduation. _____
- 6 a Did you know around 96% of Egypt's total area is **desert**?
b We should get some **dessert** after dinner. It's been a stressful day and we deserve a treat! _____
- 7 a The lesson is starting in a **minute**, sit down please.
b You should go over the contract in **minute** detail before you sign it. _____
- 8 a It's important for all the employees that we make sure **their** voices are heard.
b I need to go into the office early today, so I'll just meet you **there**. _____

B Read the text. Identify the errors and write the corrections. Then check your answers in pairs.

I was knew in the class at the English language school I'd just started studying at. I didn't no anyone, and everyone else had bin there for a few weeks before me, so I was already feeling like I wanted to go home after just a few days. Things changed the minute I got paired with a girl called Bella from Greece, and I knew my time their was about to get better. She was telling me tails about her family and the beautiful island she was from and she really made me forget I was in a knew country where I didn't really understand anything. I was even more glad to know her when we left school late together one night and we court someone trying to steel my bike. If I was alone, I would've been really frightened, but she kept me calm and even managed to shout at the thief who ran away in a panic!

C Work in pairs. Practise a short dialogue using one of the prompts. Include as many homophones and homographs as you can.

- One of you is the new person in class. Have a conversation to get to know each other and to make the new student feel comfortable.
- One of you has just given a present to your partner. Discuss what it's for.
- One of you must speak aloud in front of a large group of people. Make sure your partner feels calm and relaxed.

D Work with another pair. Take turns to present your dialogues. Write down the homophones and homographs you hear.

A Read the conversation. Complete the sentences with the verbs in the continuous aspect.

A: Thanks for coming to interview for the position of Head Chef today. Maybe you can start by telling me a bit about yourself.

B: Well, when I first started in this industry, I ¹ _____ (work) in a family-run restaurant as a waiter. Then I became really intrigued by what was going on in the kitchen, so I started learning how to cook. Now I ² _____ (work) as a chef for the past ten years and for nine of those I was in that very same place I started out!

A: That's great! So why did you leave there? Nine years is a long time.

B: Yes, well, it ³ _____ (get) to the point where I just needed a new challenge. I ⁴ _____ (cook) the same food for a long time and working with the same people day in, day out, who, don't get me wrong, were lovely! But I needed a fresh start. So I launched a small business and I ⁵ _____ (sell) food from a van at different events. I ⁶ _____ (love) it until I realized I actually preferred something more permanent.

A: I understand. So why do you want to work for us?

B: Well, I ⁷ _____ (eat) in your restaurants for a long time, so I'm definitely a fan of your food!

A: That's a good start.

B: And I ⁸ _____ (look) to develop my skills with a well-established brand such as yours.

A: Excellent. We're always happy to nurture talent. Now what would you say some of your strengths and weaknesses are?

B Match the uses of the continuous aspect in A (1–8) with the descriptions (a–e). Some of the descriptions can be matched with more than one use. Compare your answers with a partner.

a to show an action continuing for some time or to distinguish a shorter action from a longer one _____

b to show something that starts at an earlier point and continues until a later one _____

c to talk about trends, and temporary or changing things _____

d to describe a repeated action, especially if the speaker finds it surprising or annoying _____

e used with a state verb _____

C Work in pairs. Write your answer to the final question as if you were the interviewee. Use the continuous aspect where possible.