

Boğaziçi University

Writing and Academic Support Center (WASC)

Oxford Phrasal Academic Lexicon (OPAL)

Instructions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct OPAL phrase in the blank. One phrase in each word bank is a distractor and is not needed. Answers are given at the end of this worksheet.

Section A — Drawing Attention to Something

Word bank:

*the significance of | it is important to remember that | it should be noted that | it is necessary to
| take into account | it is worth noting that | it is important to note that*

1. _____ the sample was drawn exclusively from urban areas, which may limit generalisability.
2. Any analysis of migration must _____ both push and pull factors.
3. _____ this finding lies in its implications for public health policy.
4. _____ consider multiple variables when interpreting regression outputs.
5. _____ not all participants completed every stage of the study.
6. _____ the two datasets were collected using different instruments.

Section B — Explaining & Defining

Word bank:

the reason for this is that | regarded as | can be thought of as | in other words | refers to | can be described in terms of | is defined as

1. Sustainability _____ the ability to meet present needs without compromising future generations.
2. The term 'discourse' _____ language in use within a specific social context.
3. This approach is widely _____ a significant advance in the field.
4. The model's predictive accuracy can _____ its sensitivity and specificity scores.
5. Participant attrition was high; _____ the study required considerable time commitment.
6. The intervention was not effective for all groups; _____, its benefits were unevenly distributed.

Section C — Aims, Roles & Functions

Word bank:

is based on | for the purpose of | has the potential to | responsible for | in order to | plays an important role in | the aim of this study

1. _____ is to examine the factors influencing academic achievement in secondary schools.
2. Social capital _____ shaping community resilience.
3. The framework _____ the assumption that behaviour is primarily context-driven.
4. Data were anonymised _____ protecting participant confidentiality.
5. The prefrontal cortex is _____ executive functions such as planning and decision-making.
6. Participants were recruited _____ achieving a representative sample.

Section D — Adding Information

Word bank:

an integral part of | as a whole | a combination of | in addition | not only ... but also | and so on | as well as

1. The curriculum covers reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, _____.
2. The policy was _____ economically damaging, but socially divisive.
3. _____ quantitative data, the study collected in-depth interview material.
4. Peer feedback is _____ the assessment process in this course.
5. _____, participants completed a background questionnaire prior to the interview.
6. Success depended on _____ individual effort and institutional support.

Section E — Referring to Time

Word bank:

over a period of | at the same time | in the past | prior to | in the future | in recent years | over time

1. _____, there has been a marked increase in research on mental health in the workplace.
2. Attitudes towards remote working have shifted _____.
3. _____ the intervention, all participants underwent a baseline assessment.
4. The data were collected _____ six months, from January to June 2023.
5. Costs rose sharply; _____, quality of service declined.
6. It is hoped that _____ longitudinal studies will clarify these findings.

Section F — Referring to the Text

Word bank:

will be discussed in more detail | the following | in the course of | in this study | in the previous section | as follows | the latter

1. The structure of the paper is _____: first, the theoretical framework is outlined...
2. Two approaches were considered: quantitative and qualitative. _____ was ultimately adopted.
3. As outlined _____, the data were coded using a thematic analysis approach.
4. _____, we examined the lived experiences of 24 first-generation university students.
5. The limitations of this methodology _____ in Chapter 5.
6. _____ factors were identified as significant: age, gender and socioeconomic status.

Answer Key

Section A — Drawing Attention to Something

1. It is important to note that
2. take into account
3. The significance of
4. It is necessary to
5. It should be noted that
6. It is worth noting that

✗ Distractor: it is important to remember that

Section B — Explaining & Defining

1. is defined as
2. refers to
3. regarded as
4. can be described in terms of
5. the reason for this is that
6. in other words

✗ Distractor: can be thought of as

Section C — Aims, Roles & Functions

1. The aim of this study
2. plays an important role in
3. is based on
4. for the purpose of
5. responsible for
6. in order to

✗ Distractor: has the potential to

Section D — Adding Information

1. and so on
2. not only ... but also
3. As well as
4. an integral part of
5. In addition
6. a combination of

✗ Distractor: as a whole

Section E — Referring to Time

1. In recent years

2. over time
3. Prior to
4. over a period of
5. at the same time
6. in the future

X Distractor: in the past

Section F — Referring to the Text

1. as follows
2. The latter
3. in the previous section
4. In this study
5. will be discussed in more detail
6. The following

X Distractor: in the course of