

## Oxford Word List A2

Gap-Fill Exercises | Book 10 | Units 41–44

41

### Crime & Investigation

*How crimes are committed, investigated and understood*

#### WORDBOX

crime	danger	dark	dead
fear	fight	ghost	kill
murder	mystery	reporter	weapon

★ One word does not fit any gap.

The detective novel has been one of the most consistently popular literary forms for over a century. Its appeal is not \_\_\_\_\_ (1) violence or \_\_\_\_\_ (2) for its own sake, but the satisfaction of watching a mind work — identifying patterns, eliminating possibilities, and arriving at a solution that, in hindsight, seems inevitable.

A good detective story puts the reader in \_\_\_\_\_ (3) from the first page. The killer is still out there. The motive is not yet clear. Every character is a suspect, and even the most ordinary detail — a single \_\_\_\_\_ (4), a door left unlocked, a name spoken in passing — might turn out to be the key to everything.

The setting is crucial. A story that takes place on a rainy night in an old house, where a single candle casts long shadows across the walls, feels very different from one set in bright daylight. \_\_\_\_\_ (5) is a mood as much as an absence of light — a signal that things are not what they appear.

Many detective stories involve a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (7): something that cannot be fully explained. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) seen in a locked room. A footprint with no owner. A voice heard by several witnesses but belonging to no one who was present. The best writers construct these puzzles carefully, planting every clue in plain sight.

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (8) investigating such a case must work quickly, before evidence disappears and memories fade. Interviewing witnesses, cross-referencing accounts, and looking for the \_\_\_\_\_ (9) — rather than the obvious — lead: these are the real skills of investigation, whether in fiction or in real police work.

At the heart of any investigation is a question about human nature: why do people \_\_\_\_\_ (10) those they once loved? What drives someone to \_\_\_\_\_ (11) with their closest friend over money, trust, or pride? Understanding what people fear most deeply often reveals what they will do when they believe no one is watching.

## WORDBOX

award	cartoon	celebrity	classical
comedy	fashion	jazz	music
spirit	stage	star	title

★ One word does not fit any gap.

Entertainment has always been central to human life. Long before cinema, television, or radio existed, people gathered to watch stories performed on a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (1). They paid to see acrobats, singers, and storytellers who combined skill and timing to produce something that felt, however briefly, like magic.

Every generation produces its own cultural \_\_\_\_\_ (2)s — figures who come to represent their era as much as any politician or scientist. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (4) today may be famous for almost anything: acting, sport, cooking, or simply for being well known. The word itself has changed meaning considerably in the age of social media.

The history of popular \_\_\_\_\_ (3) in the twentieth century is largely the history of borrowed and blended traditions. \_\_\_\_\_ (5) emerged from African-American communities in New Orleans, absorbed European harmony, and eventually influenced almost every genre that followed. \_\_\_\_\_ (6) composers, meanwhile, were incorporating folk melodies and rhythms from across the continent.

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (7) allows animators to tell stories — serious or absurd — without the constraints of the physical world. From its origins in newspaper strips, this form has grown into a multi-billion-dollar industry producing films, series, and merchandise that reach audiences of every age.

A good \_\_\_\_\_ (9) does more than make people laugh. The best comedians and comic writers hold a mirror up to society — using absurdity and irony to expose contradictions that a more serious argument might fail to land. The \_\_\_\_\_ (8) of satire depends on people recognising themselves in what they see.

A strong \_\_\_\_\_ (10) sets the tone of a film, novel, or song, signals the genre, and stays in the memory long after the work itself has been forgotten. For performers, the look and feel of what they wear — their \_\_\_\_\_ (11) choices — performs a similar function: communicating identity before a single word is spoken.

## WORDBOX

abroad	adventure	airline	castle
chance	flight	gate	hotel
island	palace	suitcase	tour

★ One word does not fit any gap.

Every long journey begins with the same sequence of small anxieties: did you pack everything, is your \_\_\_\_\_ (1) the right weight, will the \_\_\_\_\_ (2) be on time? By the time you reach the departure \_\_\_\_\_ (3), most of these worries have dissolved into something closer to excitement.

Travelling \_\_\_\_\_ (4) for the first time is a particular kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (5). The unfamiliarity of a different language, a different currency, and a different set of social rules forces you to pay attention in a way that routine daily life rarely demands. You notice more. You remember more.

The modern \_\_\_\_\_ (2) industry has made it possible for ordinary people to travel distances that would once have taken months on a ship. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (7) that covers ten thousand kilometres in under twelve hours is so routine now that we rarely pause to consider how extraordinary this is.

A city's architecture tells its history. A medieval \_\_\_\_\_ (6) sitting on a hilltop was built to intimidate and defend; a royal \_\_\_\_\_ (8) in the city centre was designed to impress. Walking through both on the same afternoon, you move between centuries as easily as passing through a door.

Many tourists prefer a guided \_\_\_\_\_ (9) because it removes the anxiety of planning and ensures they see the highlights efficiently. But the best travel experiences often happen by \_\_\_\_\_ (10) — the café found by turning down a wrong street, the festival stumbled upon on the last day of the trip.

Wherever you stay — a grand \_\_\_\_\_ (11) with a concierge and a rooftop pool, or a small guesthouse run by a family — the accommodation you choose shapes your experience of a place as much as any museum or monument. A room with a view over a city waking up in the morning is, for many travellers, worth more than any guided tour.

## WORDBOX

awful	brilliant	certain	clever
glad	honest	hopeful	laughter
lucky	proud	sharp	willing

★ One word does not fit any gap.

People tend to overestimate how much their character is fixed and underestimate how much it is shaped by context. Someone who is \_\_\_\_\_ (1) to take risks in one environment — travelling alone, speaking up in a meeting — may become cautious and quiet in another. This is not weakness; it is adaptability.

Being \_\_\_\_\_ (2) is often described as a virtue, but the relationship between intelligence and good judgment is more complicated than it seems. A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) mind can construct a convincing argument for almost any position. The more important quality is knowing when to question your own conclusions.

Most successful people can name at least one moment when they felt \_\_\_\_\_ (4) — when circumstances aligned in a way that opened a door they hadn't expected. But luck alone rarely explains lasting achievement; what separates people is whether they recognise the \_\_\_\_\_ (5) moment and act on it.

There is a particular kind of \_\_\_\_\_ (6) intelligence that is hard to teach: the ability to see the amusing side of a situation that others find merely \_\_\_\_\_ (7). People who can generate \_\_\_\_\_ (9) in a difficult moment are often the ones others most want to work with — not because they trivialise problems, but because they defuse them.

Being \_\_\_\_\_ (8) of someone you care about — watching them succeed at something genuinely difficult — is one of the most uncomplicated good feelings available to us. Unlike ambition or competitiveness, it costs nothing and diminishes no one.

Starting a new project with a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) attitude is not the same as being naive. The \_\_\_\_\_ (10) person acknowledges difficulties clearly while remaining

\_\_\_\_\_ (11) they can be overcome. This combination — clear-eyed about obstacles, \_\_\_\_\_ (11) that effort will pay off — is what most people mean when they describe someone as having a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (3) mind and a strong character.

# ANSWER KEY

## Exercise 41 — Crime & Investigation

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- |            |             |
|------------|-------------|
| 1. dead    | 2. murder   |
| 3. danger  | 4. weapon   |
| 5. dark    | 6. ghost    |
| 7. mystery | 8. reporter |
| 9. kill    | 10. fight   |
| 11. fear   |             |

◆ *Distractor: crime*

## Exercise 42 — Media & Entertainment

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- |             |              |
|-------------|--------------|
| 1. stage    | 2. star      |
| 3. music    | 4. celebrity |
| 5. jazz     | 6. classical |
| 7. cartoon  | 8. spirit    |
| 9. comedy   | 10. title    |
| 11. fashion |              |

◆ *Distractor: award*

## Exercise 43 — Travel & Adventure

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|--------------|------------|
| 1. suitcase  | 2. airline |
| 3. gate      | 4. abroad  |
| 5. adventure | 6. castle  |
| 7. flight    | 8. palace  |
| 9. tour      | 10. chance |
| 11. hotel    |            |

◆ *Distractor: island*

## Exercise 44 — Personal Character & Emotions

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|------------|--------------|
| 1. willing | 2. clever    |
| 3. sharp   | 4. lucky     |
| 5. certain | 6. brilliant |
| 7. awful   | 8. proud     |

9. laughter

10. hopeful

11. glad

◆ *Distractor: honest*