

## Oxford Word List A2

Gap-Fill Exercises | Book 9 | Units 37–40

37

### Technology & Innovation

*How modern devices and networks are changing daily life*

#### WORDBOX

electric	electrical	electricity	electronic
laptop	model	option	platform
programme	record	recording	virus

★ One word does not fit any gap.

Not long ago, a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (1) engineer who wanted to share work with a colleague in another country had only a few options: post a physical document, send a fax, or make a phone call. Today, a single \_\_\_\_\_ (2) and an internet connection can replace all three — and do much more besides.

The shift from mechanical to \_\_\_\_\_ (3) power transformed the world once before, when factories replaced horses and steam. Now we are living through a second transformation: the move from \_\_\_\_\_ (5) devices — televisions, radios, cameras — to digital ones that are connected, programmable, and constantly updated.

The supply of \_\_\_\_\_ (4) to homes and businesses is so fundamental that people rarely think about it unless it disappears. A power cut of just a few hours reveals how completely modern life depends on a continuous flow of energy to keep screens lit, food cold, and communications open.

Every major technology company operates at least one online \_\_\_\_\_ (7) — a digital space where users, sellers, and content creators meet. Choosing the right \_\_\_\_\_ (6) for a given task has become a significant decision, whether you are a student looking for study tools or a business reaching new customers.

Most software companies release a new \_\_\_\_\_ (8) of their product every year, adding features and fixing problems identified in earlier versions. These updates are announced with careful marketing, and users are encouraged to upgrade as soon as the new version becomes available.

Every time you store data online, there is a small risk that a malicious \_\_\_\_\_ (9) could compromise your files or steal personal information. Making a secure \_\_\_\_\_ (11) of important work — and keeping a local \_\_\_\_\_ (10) on an external drive — remains the most reliable way to protect yourself.

## WORDBOX

earth	fall	flower	force
fruit	gentle	gold	island
lake	land	plant	stone

★ One word does not fit any gap.

Autumn is the season when leaves \_\_\_\_\_ (1) from the trees, animals prepare for winter, and the quality of light changes in a way that many people find more beautiful than any other time of year. The \_\_\_\_\_ (2) itself seems to slow down, as if taking a breath before the cold arrives.

Water is one of the great shaping \_\_\_\_\_ (3)s of the natural world. Over millions of years, rivers carve valleys into rock, waves reshape coastlines, and rain dissolves even the hardest \_\_\_\_\_ (4) into smooth, rounded shapes. Nothing in nature is truly permanent.

A single \_\_\_\_\_ (5) contains extraordinary complexity. Its colour attracts specific insects, its scent signals the presence of nectar, and its structure guides pollinators to exactly the right spot. The relationship between a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (6) and the creatures that visit it is one of the most finely balanced in nature.

Every tree begins as a seed — a tiny package of \_\_\_\_\_ (7) and instruction wrapped in a hard shell. Given the right conditions of warmth, moisture, and light, it will push a root into the \_\_\_\_\_ (8) and send a shoot towards the sky, growing slowly into something that may outlive the person who planted it.

Ancient peoples used \_\_\_\_\_ (9) to represent wealth and permanence precisely because it does not rust, tarnish, or decay. Found deep in the \_\_\_\_\_ (8), often on a remote \_\_\_\_\_ (10) or in a mountain river, its rarity made it precious long before paper money existed.

A still \_\_\_\_\_ (11) can appear completely undisturbed on a calm day — a perfect mirror reflecting the sky and trees above. But beneath the surface, it is full of life: fish, insects, bacteria, and microscopic plants, all locked into a web of dependence that a single pollution event can destroy in days.

## WORDBOX

ankle	fever	illness	pain
physical	pill	skin	sleep
slight	strength	thin	tired

★ One word does not fit any gap.

The human body sends clear signals when something is wrong. A high \_\_\_\_\_ (1) is one of the most recognisable — the body raising its internal temperature to fight infection. A twisted \_\_\_\_\_ (2) swells quickly and becomes too tender to stand on. These responses are not malfunctions; they are the body's own defence system working as it should.

Chronic \_\_\_\_\_ (4) — long-term conditions that do not resolve within a few weeks — account for a growing proportion of healthcare costs in most countries. Unlike a sudden injury, they are often invisible from the outside: a person can look perfectly well while managing significant daily \_\_\_\_\_ (3) that others cannot see.

The body's largest organ is the \_\_\_\_\_ (5), and yet it is one of the most neglected. It regulates temperature, prevents infection, and provides a continuous barrier between the internal body and the external world. Damage to it — through burns, wounds, or long-term exposure to harmful substances — can have serious consequences.

Regular \_\_\_\_\_ (6) activity is one of the most reliable predictors of long-term health. It does not need to be intense: even a daily walk builds cardiovascular \_\_\_\_\_ (7) and reduces the risk of a wide range of conditions. The key is consistency rather than occasional bursts of effort.

Modern life makes it remarkably easy to become \_\_\_\_\_ (9) without realising it. Poor \_\_\_\_\_ (11) is perhaps the most common cause — people who consistently get less than seven hours a night perform less well cognitively, recover more slowly from illness, and are more prone to emotional difficulties.

Even a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (8) increase in daily movement — taking the stairs instead of the lift, walking to a nearby shop instead of driving — has measurable health benefits over time. People who are very \_\_\_\_\_ (10), particularly those who have very little muscle mass, face higher risks during illness and surgery and recover more slowly.

## WORDBOX

ability	education	intelligence	learning
limit	practice	skill	smart
straight	strict	student	task

★ One word does not fit any gap.

For most of human history, formal \_\_\_\_\_ (1) was available only to a small minority. Access to reading, mathematics, and the accumulated knowledge of previous generations depended on wealth, birth, or proximity to a church or court. The idea that every child deserves the \_\_\_\_\_ (2) to develop their potential is, historically speaking, a very recent one.

What we call \_\_\_\_\_ (4) is one of the most contested concepts in psychology. Early researchers believed it was a single, fixed quantity that you were born with and could not change. More recent work suggests it is far more \_\_\_\_\_ (3)-dependent — that exposure, effort, and environment play a larger role than genetics alone.

A(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (5) who struggles in one subject may excel in another. A person can be exceptionally \_\_\_\_\_ (6) at analysing data yet find it difficult to communicate those findings clearly. Recognising that different people have different strengths — and that no single profile equals success — is one of the most important shifts in modern education.

Every \_\_\_\_\_ (8) has a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (7) that can be improved with deliberate \_\_\_\_\_ (9). This does not mean that anyone can become a concert pianist or a professional athlete — biological differences are real. But research consistently shows that most people significantly underestimate what they are capable of with sustained, structured effort.

Teachers who are \_\_\_\_\_ (11) — who set high expectations and enforce them consistently — often produce better long-term outcomes than those who are more relaxed. This does not mean harsh or unkind; it means clear, fair, and unwilling to accept less than a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) answer when a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ (10) answer is achievable.

# ANSWER KEY

## Exercise 37 — Technology & Innovation

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- |               |                |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. electrical | 2. laptop      |
| 3. electric   | 4. electricity |
| 5. electronic | 6. option      |
| 7. platform   | 8. programme   |
| 9. virus      | 10. recording  |
| 11. record    |                |

◆ *Distractor: model*

## Exercise 38 — Nature & The Physical World

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- |           |            |
|-----------|------------|
| 1. fall   | 2. earth   |
| 3. force  | 4. stone   |
| 5. flower | 6. plant   |
| 7. fruit  | 8. land    |
| 9. gold   | 10. island |
| 11. lake  |            |

◆ *Distractor: gentle*

## Exercise 39 — Health & The Body

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- |             |             |
|-------------|-------------|
| 1. fever    | 2. ankle    |
| 3. pain     | 4. illness  |
| 5. skin     | 6. physical |
| 7. strength | 8. tired    |
| 9. sleep    | 10. thin    |
| 11. slight  |             |

◆ *Distractor: pill*

## Exercise 40 — Education & Ability

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- |              |                 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| 1. education | 2. ability      |
| 3. learning  | 4. intelligence |
| 5. student   | 6. smart        |
| 7. limit     | 8. skill        |

9. practice

10. straight

11. strict

◆ *Distractor: task*