



A Level English Language Bridging Activities

Useful activities to bridge the gap from
GCSE to A Level.

Task 1 – Synonyms

Find as many synonyms as you can for the adjectives in the left hand column but sequence them according to their register with the least formal on the left and the most formal on the right.

GREAT	
SCARED	
CALM	
SIMPLE	
UNSURE	

Task 2 – Idioms

The following English idioms all have a Preposition – Noun – Preposition sequence. You must choose the appropriate prepositions from the list and place them on either side of the noun. Cross them off as you use them. Then put each idiom into a sentence.

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1. _____ exchange _____
2. _____ cahoots _____
3. _____ virtue _____
4. _____ the sake _____
5. _____ behalf _____
6. _____ the advice _____
7. _____ need _____
8. _____ basis _____
9. _____ charge _____
10. _____ odds _____
11. _____ honour _____
12. _____ accordance _____
13. _____ place _____
14. _____ return _____
15. _____ the exception _____

Task 4 – Nouns

1. In the following lists of words, three belong to the same part of speech, state which part of speech the odd one belongs to.
 - a. elegant, beautiful, sweetness, bright
 - b. servant, messenger, serve, porter

- c. addition, subtract, multiplication, division
- d. shrub, creeper, grow, tree
- e. really, Raleigh, rally, alley
- f. he, him, his, them
- g. compulsory, obligatory, stationary, stationery
- h. contrary, wary, fairy, chary
- i. arithmetic, geometry, pathetic, rheumatism
- j. danger, anger, enrage, infuriate

2. Give the nouns that express the ideas of the following verbs eg. depart = departure.

depart	receive	succeed	compel
resign	arrive	reject	fail
resist	try	believe	merry
deceive	pursue	expect	

Task 5 – Adjectives

1. Fill in each blank with the most suitable adjective from the list.

resolute	mischievous	discernible	indulgent
mournful	impermissible	pampered	lavish
avaricious	propitious	anonymous	exorbitant

- a. The owl hoots in the night.
- b. He was a lad to tease the cat.
- c. The castle became through the mist.
- d. It is hardly amoment to ask your father to lend you some money when he has just been robbed.
- e. Themother foolishly gave in to her child.
- f. A use of sugar during the war was quite
- g. Owing to the rent demanded by an landlord, we had to decline the offer of the house.
- h. He showed a desire to discover the writer of the letter.

2. Arrange the following adjectives in order of intensity.

- a. best, good, better
- b. astonishing, disturbing, stunning
- c. likeable, adorable, tolerable, lovable
- d. disquieting, terrifying, alarming, frightening
- e. corpulent, well-covered, fat, plump
- f. bright, vivid, brilliant, glossy, light
- g. dark, dim, obscure, gloomy, pitchy

Task 6 – Adverbs

1. State whether the italicised word is an adverb of time, place, manner or degree.

- a. The actress moved *gracefully* across the stage.
- b. I will meet you *outside*.
- c. He advanced towards me *immediately*, informing me that he had seen me *before*.
- d. I am *very* glad to have made the acquaintance of this *exceedingly* charming person.
- e. *Finally* he crossed the road and disappeared quite suddenly.
- f. The boat drew *almost* alongside and then turned *completely* round.
- g. He leaned *forward* and spoke *rather* sharply to the *extraordinarily* unmannerly child.
- h. I have told you *twice*, but will repeat *again* that Julian played *best* but Terry *most* consistently.

2. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of place.

- a. I will work ____; you can work ____.
- b. Confronted with an impenetrable jungle, they turned ____.
- c. As he could not climb over the chair he crawled ____.
- d. ____ stands the ancient castle, grey and mossy.
- e. ____ were these adventurers leading their followers?

3. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of manner.

- a. A log fire burnt ____ in the grate.
- b. Jack slept ____ on the hearth rug.
- c. ____ the escaped convict crawled along the wall.

- d. ____ the conjurer whisked away the handkerchief.
- e. The wind in the trees whispered ____ through the night.

4. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of time.

- a. We shall be broadcasting a full account ____.
- b. ____ listen to me.
- c. A stranger ____ rushed in and brusquely addressed us.
- d. He was thirteen years old ____.
- e. ____ the sound of sweet music was heard.

5. Fill in the blank with a suitable adverb of degree.

- a. Next day the tempest roared still ____ angrily.
- b. The child lay ____ snugly among the bracken.
- c. The patient was ____ helpless with pain.
- d. I have walked ____ far today; my feet are sorely blistered.
- e. Her French is ____ good; she is placed thirteenth on the Form list.