

Tips - Open Cloze - Vocabulary (Parts of speech)

- Read the passage like a reading comprehension exercise. You have to understand it.
- Look at the words around the blank.
- Decide on the **part of speech** of the blank (see below).
- Think about which word would fit the meaning.
- Look for clues further down in the passage (you can often find the word).
- Pay attention to grammar (see each part of speech below).

Verbs	
Function:	Describe actions, link ideas
Examples:	is/am/are, jumped, she, assured, lingered
Clues:	A <i>noun</i> before or after the blank. No <i>verb</i> in the sentence.
Grammar reminders:	What tense do you need? Check the subject-verb agreement. (The food are > is delicious).

Nouns	
Function:	Name people, places, things, animals, abstract ideas
Examples:	John, post office, happiness, movement
Clues:	The words <i>a</i> , <i>the</i> before, a <i>verb</i> after the blank
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the plural form?

Adjectives	
Function:	Tell us more about nouns
Examples:	angry, surprised, stolen, moving
Clues:	a <i>noun</i> after the blank or a noun and a linking verb (be) before the noun.
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the 'ed' form or the 'ing' form? E.g. The situation was worried > worrying.

Adverbs

Function:	Tell us more about verbs or adjectives (where, when, how)
Examples:	very, noisily, happily, yesterday, there
Clues:	an adjective after the blank, a verb before the blank
Grammar reminders:	Have you spelt the word correctly?

Prepositions

Function:	Link verbs, nouns and adjectives with nouns, show position, phrasal verbs
Examples:	in, on, under, like, regarding, despite
Clues:	part of a phrasal verb, a noun after the blank
Grammar reminders:	Think about whether there is movement (e.g. in, to)

Conjunctions

Function:	Link ideas, clauses and sentences
Examples:	and, but, because, therefore
Clues:	verbs in a sentence, the blank is the first word of the sentence, punctuation (look for commas), sense
Grammar reminders:	Make sure the sentence makes sense.

Pronouns

Function:	Use instead of nouns or noun phrases
Examples:	he, she, they, him, her, this, that, these, which, who
Clues:	Repeated ideas, relative clauses
Grammar reminders:	Do you need the subject form (he) or the object form (him)?

Interjections

Function:	Used to show surprise or to stress something
Examples:	Ouch!
Clues:	Exclamation mark.

Exercise 3 - questions

Complete each blank using ONE word.

Firefighters

Dave wants to be a fireman when he grows
_____. There is a fire station near his home, and
he likes to watch the fire engines go in and out of
_____. Sometimes on his way home from school
he goes inside to have a _____ while he waits for
his dad to finish _____.



Dave's dad is a fireman. "It's not _____ being a fireman," Dave's
dad always tells him. "Firemen must wear special _____ so that
they don't catch fire. They also wear big black _____ to protect
their feet, a helmet and gloves." Their clothes keep them safe
_____ very heavy.

Dave thinks the most interesting thing about a fireman's uniform is the yellow
stripes. These give out light _____ that the firefighters can
see each _____ when it is dark or there is a lot of
_____ from the fire and it is hard to
see. He _____ to become a brave
fireman one day just like his dad.

Thinking Skills

Why do firefighters
need to be brave?

Exercise 3 - answers

Complete each blank using ONE word.

Firefighters

Dave wants to be a fireman when he grows up. There is a fire station near his home, and he likes to watch the fire engines go in and out of it. Sometimes on his way home from school he goes inside to have a look while he waits for his dad to finish working/work.



Dave's dad is a fireman. "It's not easy being a fireman," Dave's dad always tells him. "Firemen must wear special clothes/clothing so that they don't catch fire. They also wear big black boots to protect their feet, a helmet and gloves." Their clothes keep them safe but are very heavy.

Dave thinks the most interesting thing about a fireman's uniform is the yellow stripes. The stripes glow out in the dark so that the firefighters can see each other when it is dark or there is a lot of smoke from the fire and it is hard to see. He hopes to become a brave fireman one day just like his dad.

Thinking Skills

Why do firefighters need to be brave?