

Cloze Test

~ English · Competitive Exams ~



What is it?

A **cloze test** is a short passage with some words **removed and numbered**. For each blank you choose the option that fits the **grammar**, the **meaning** and the **natural collocation** — the words that normally go together.

A tiny taste

Reading is a habit every student should (1) _____. It (2) _____ the mind and, (3) _____ we meet new words in context, our vocabulary grows.

Best fits → (1) **develop** a habit · (2) **opens** the mind · (3) **because** (reason).

① How to Approach →

1. **Read the whole passage first** — get the **theme** and tone before touching a blank.
2. Decide the **part of speech** the blank needs — noun, verb, adjective or connector.
3. Use **collocation & context clues** — which word *naturally* sits with its neighbours?
4. Check the **tense** and the **connector logic** (and / but / because / although).
5. **Re-read** the filled sentence — the right word should make it **read smoothly**.



Golden rule: never fill a blank in isolation — the words *before and after* it decide the answer.

② What the Blanks Test

Spot the **kind** of blank — then you know what clue to hunt for!

Blank tests...	What to look at
Grammar	article, tense & the verb form (has come, made)
Vocabulary	the exact word whose meaning suits the sentence
Prepositions	fixed pairs — grown on beds, full of , ahead of
Connectors	the logic link — and, but, because, although
Collocation	words that habitually pair — carry out experiments, make famous

Connector cheat-sheet

and / also → adds a similar idea

but / however → signals a contrast

because / as → gives a reason

although / though → concession

so / therefore → shows a result

unless / if → sets a condition



If two options mean the **same**, one of them must be wrong for a **grammar** reason — check the tense or the word that follows.



Method: read once for the theme, then attack each blank with the four options in hand — **eliminate** the misfits before you pick.

③ Cloze Passage 1 — Habit of reading

¶ The Passage

Reading is one of the best habits a student can (1) _____. It opens the mind and (2) _____ our knowledge of the world. When we read regularly, our vocabulary grows (3) _____ we learn new words in context. Good books also improve our writing, (4) _____ they show us how sentences are built. (5) _____ television, reading demands active thinking. That is (6) _____ teachers always encourage children to read every day.

Options

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) (A) develop (B) throw (C) waste (D) lose | (2) (A) narrows (B) widens (C) hides (D) shuts |
| (3) (A) because (B) but (C) although (D) unless | (4) (A) or (B) as (C) but (D) so |
| (5) (A) Like (B) Unlike (C) With (D) During | (6) (A) why (B) how (C) when (D) where |

Answer Key & Reason

- 1→ (A) develop — we “develop a habit” (collocation).
2→ (B) widens — reading *increases* knowledge; the opposite of “narrows”.
3→ (A) because — the clause gives the reason vocabulary grows.
4→ (B) as — “as they show us” again gives a reason.
5→ (B) Unlike — a contrast with passive television-watching.
6→ (A) why — “That is why” introduces the result.

 **Trap watch:** in (5), “Like” would say reading is the same as TV — but the sentence contrasts them, so only *Unlike* fits.

④ Cloze Passage 2 — Money sense

¶ The Passage

Learning to handle money is a skill that schools often (1) _____ to teach. Many young people spend their pocket money (2) _____ thinking about the future. If they learned to (3) _____ a small amount each month, they would build a useful habit. Managing money teaches patience and (4) _____. Parents can help by (5) _____ money matters openly at home. Children who understand budgeting early are usually far (6) _____ of their friends in later life.

Options

- | | |
|---|--|
| (1) (A) fail (B) refuse (C) hope (D) manage | (2) (A) after (B) without (C) before (D) while |
| (3) (A) borrow (B) waste (C) save (D) lend | (4) (A) laziness (B) discipline (C) anger (D) fear |
| (5) (A) hiding (B) avoiding (C) discussing (D) refusing | (6) (A) behind (B) ahead (C) short (D) apart |

Answer Key & Reason

- 1→ (A) fail — “fail to teach”; the passage regrets money is *not* taught.
2→ (B) without — “spend...without thinking” = carelessly.
3→ (C) save — putting a small amount aside builds the habit.
4→ (B) discipline — a positive quality that money-management teaches.
5→ (C) discussing — parents *help* by talking money over openly.
6→ (B) ahead — “far ahead of their friends” (fixed pair *ahead of*).

- ✓ **Tone clue:** the passage praises saving, so every blank must carry a **positive, sensible** meaning — that rules out “waste”, “laziness” and “hiding”.

⑤ Cloze Passage 3 — Seedless fruits

¶ The Passage

Seedless fruits are the result of careful research. Japanese scientists were the (1) _____ to develop seedless watermelons in 1951. Later, Indian researchers (2) _____ produced a similar variety and (3) _____ it a new name. (4) _____ these fruits are popular, the seedless kind has not yet (5) _____ the stage of large-scale farming. Watermelons were once grown mostly (6) _____ river beds, but today they thrive in almost any fertile soil.

Options

- | | |
|--|--|
| (1) (A) last (B) first (C) slowest (D) only | (2) (A) also (B) never (C) hardly (D) rarely |
| (3) (A) gave (B) shouted (C) spoke (D) told | (4) (A) Although (B) Because (C) Unless (D) So |
| (5) (A) started (B) begun (C) opened (D) reached | (6) (A) for (B) on (C) to (D) at |

Answer Key & Reason

- 1→ (B) first — “the first to develop” (they led the way).
2→ (A) also — the Indians did the same thing in addition.
3→ (A) gave — “gave it a new name” (give a name).
4→ (A) Although — contrast: popular, yet not widely farmed.
5→ (D) reached — “reached the stage of” (collocation).
6→ (B) on — crops are “grown on river beds”.

 **Connector clue:** in (4) the two halves clash — “popular” vs “not yet farmed widely” — so only a **concession** word (*Although*) works, never “Because”.

⑥ Cloze Passage 4 — In the countryside

¶ The Passage

We need never feel bored in the countryside. No matter how often we walk (1) _____ the same road or through the same woodland paths, there is always something new to (2) _____. It may be a little plant that has (3) _____ up since our last visit. A hedge that was once just a bunch of bare (4) _____ may now be (5) _____ with flowers. If we are (6) _____ not to frighten the birds, we may even watch a nest slowly fill with chicks.

Options

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) (A) off (B) at (C) down (D) into | (2) (A) spot (B) see (C) scan (D) smell |
| (3) (A) came (B) come (C) coming (D) comes | (4) (A) stones (B) leaves (C) sticks (D) wires |
| (5) (A) shrouded (B) guarded (C) surrounded (D) covered | (6) (A) anxious (B) proud (C) careful (D) angry |

Answer Key & Reason

- 1→ (C) down — we “walk down a road” (common idiom).
2→ (B) see — “something new to see” suits the general sense.
3→ (B) come — after “has” we need the past participle: has come up.
4→ (C) sticks — a bare hedge is made of leafless sticks.
5→ (D) covered — “covered with flowers” (fixed pair).
6→ (C) careful — being careful not to frighten the birds.

- ✓ Grammar first: blank (3) sits right after “has”, so the answer must be a past participle — “come”, not “came” or “comes”.

⑦ Cloze Passage 5 — Faraday & electricity

¶ The Passage

Michael Faraday was one of the greatest scientists of his age. He (1) _____ out many experiments on electricity and magnetism. In 1820, Hans Oersted found that (2) _____ an electric current passes through a wire, it can produce a magnetic field. Faraday thought it might work the other (3) _____ round, and soon discovered the (4) _____ of electromagnetic induction. He showed that a wire carrying a current, when hung near a magnet, revolves (5) _____ it. These experiments (6) _____ him famous throughout Europe.

Options

- | | |
|---|---|
| (1) (A) carried (B) invented (C) worked (D) brought | (2) (A) though (B) when (C) from (D) since |
| (3) (A) away (B) side (C) path (D) way | (4) (A) product (B) principle (C) picture (D) event |
| (5) (A) on (B) around (C) upon (D) under | (6) (A) make (B) made (C) making (D) makes |

Answer Key & Reason

1 → (A) **carried** ("carried out experiments") · 2 → (B) **when** (time clause) · 3 → (D) **way** ("the other way round") · 4 → (B) **principle** (a scientific law) · 5 → (B) **around** ("revolves around it") · 6 → (B) **made** (past tense: "made him famous").

Quick Tips 💡

- ✓ Read the **full passage** once before filling any blank — the theme decides the tone.
- ✓ Test each option by **reading the whole sentence aloud** in your head.
- ✓ Watch the word **after** the blank — it often fixes the **preposition** or verb form.
- ✓ Do the **easy blanks first**; the answers you fill in narrow down the hard ones.

⑧ Common Traps ⚠

The four mistakes that quietly cost marks — learn to dodge them!

- **Meaning fits, grammar fails** — the word makes sense but is the wrong form (came vs come). Always check the tense.
- **Ignoring the connector** — picking “because” where the two halves contrast and need “although”.
- **Wrong preposition** — “grown in beds” instead of “grown on beds”; learn the fixed pairs.
- **First word that ‘sounds nice’** — two options seem right; the passage’s **tone** decides which one truly fits.

⚡ Trap in action

“The team worked hard, _____ they still lost the match.” (A) so (B) because (C) but (D) and

Answer → (C) but. “Worked hard” and “lost” clash, so the blank needs a **contrast** word. “So” and “because” (cause / result) would twist the logic.



Golden habit: for every blank ask three questions — does it fit the **grammar**, the **meaning**, and the **collocation**? All three must say yes.



Re-read the finished passage end to end — if it flows like natural English, your answers are right!

☆ Read the whole — then fill each gap! ☆