

English: Choose the Best Word: Easy Practice Paper 1 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	A	We choose between a and an by the sound a word starts with, not by its spelling. The h of hour is silent, so the word begins with the vowel sound 'ow' and takes An . A hour is wrong for the same reason a apple is. The hour later, Any hour later and Each hour later all point at a particular hour or at every hour, but the story is simply telling us how much time went by.
2	C	The friends belong to Mia and her team-mates, so we need the word that shows belonging: Their friends. There is about place (over there), and They're is short for they are, which would give the nonsense They are friends were leaning. Them and Theirs can never be followed by a noun in this way: we say their friends, not them friends.
3	D	The whole story is told in the past, and this action finished before the moment we are watching, so it needs had taken: had already taken their places. Have and has would put the action in the present, and has is singular anyway, while swimmers is plural. Were taken and was taken would mean somebody took the swimmers, which is not what happened.
4	B	The subject of the sentence is Each , not swimmers, and each means one at a time, so the verb is singular: Each of the eight swimmers was waiting. The words of the eight swimmers sit in between and tempt you into the plural were. Are and is are present tense, and the story is being told in the past, and being waiting is not English at all.
5	B	The word than is comparing two things, the water and what Mia expected, so we need the comparative: colder than. Short words like cold make their comparative by adding -er, which is why more cold and most cold are wrong. Coldest compares three or more things, and plain cold does not compare anything, so neither can stand before than.

6	A	The two halves of the sentence pull against each other: her arms hurt, and yet she kept going. Although is the joining word that shows that contrast. Because and Since would say that the aching was the reason she carried on, which makes no sense. Unless would make her swimming depend on her arms not aching, and Whether leaves the sentence unfinished, as it needs an or.
7	E	Ready is followed by for when the next word names the thing you are preparing yourself to face: ready for this one race. Ready to is only used before a verb (ready to swim), not before a noun. Getting ready at, of and on are not English: no phrase pairs ready with those words.
8	C	The missing word stands in for the coach and is doing the watching, so it is the subject of that part of the sentence, and the subject word for a person is who. Which and what are used for things, not people. Whom is for a person the action is done to, not the one doing it. Whose shows belonging and would need a noun after it, as in whose stopwatch.
9	C	The missing word tells us how she waved, and a word that describes an action in that way is an adverb, usually ending in -ly: waved excitedly. Excited and exciting are adjectives, which describe a person or thing rather than an action. Excitement is a noun, the name of the feeling itself, and excites is a verb, which the sentence already has in waved.
10	B	A question tag turns a statement into a question, and it flips the statement round: a positive statement takes a negative tag. You won it is positive and uses the past simple, so the tag is didn't you. Did you keeps the positive form, so it is not a tag at all. Haven't you would need You have won it, and weren't you would need were. Wasn't it points at a thing, but the statement is about you.