ANSWERS TO
CAMBRIDGE CHECKPOINT ENGLISH WORKBOOK 1

Note: It is expected that students will use dictionaries and thesauruses in their answers to the questions testing understanding of vocabulary in the comprehension sections.

1  Factual writing

The Channel Tunnel

1  Fear of war (between Britain and France)
2  Steam trains (too much smoke); could be used for invasion
3  Funded privately/not by taxpayers
4  Three
5  Tunnelling begun from each end; joined up in the middle
6  a) Enmity/War
   b) Serious difficulties in making things work
   c) Bearing ill will
   d) Assorted suggestions
   e) Result
7  Any five of the following: Built by Channel Tunnel Company; construction began in 1988; runs from Folkestone to Coquelles; two rail tunnels plus one service tunnel; cost £4650 million/about $7 billion; involved 1500 workers; opened 6 May 1994; carries High Speed passenger trains and shuttles for cars/lorries; locomotives powered by electricity; 23.5 miles/37.5 kilometres long; world’s longest undersea tunnel.

How to Travel on a Limited Budget

1  a) Horrific mental pictures
   b) All-in-one holidays that may not deliver what they promise
   c) Unprofessional/Unscrupulous hotel owners
2  It ensures that you can find dates when the cheapest flight deals are on offer.
3  You can easily compare accommodation prices to find the best deal; no booking fees.
4  People who live in the area; other travellers; people who work in the hostel where you are staying.
5  Places especially designed to attract tourists; prices are expensive and these places are not true representations of the country or its culture.
The Channel Tunnel’ is impersonal, written in third person; uses passive verbs; textbook tone. ‘How to Travel on a Limited Budget’ is addressed directly to the reader, uses second person (you); active verbs.

## Fact or opinion?

1. Fact  
2. Fact  
3. Opinion  
4. Opinion  
5. Fact  
6. Opinion  
7. Fact  
8. Opinion  
9. Fact  
10. Fact

## Parts of speech: nouns and verbs

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Sentence types

1 Simple
2 Simple
3 Complex
4 Compound
5 Complex
6 Complex
7 Simple
8 Compound
9 Complex
10 Simple

Punctuation: full stops and capital letters

One of the most famous pirates to have his base at Port Royal was Sir Henry Morgan. Many called him ‘the Pirate King’, as he amassed a great fortune as well as respect from his many sea battles and raiding ventures. However, once he was knighted by the English king, Charles II, he tried to make the region more respectable by attempting to remove the criminals. He began to hunt down his old pirate buddies and hanged them at Gallows Point. It would be at Morgan’s hands that the streets of Port Royal and the story of the pirates would for ever change. Eventually he was made Governor of Jamaica.

Nevertheless, Port Royal continued as a thriving harbour town, the wealthiest in the Caribbean. The Governor of Jamaica made his residence there, hundreds of ships came and went, and large sugar plantations sprang up across the island. Fate, however, would not let this prosperity continue. On 7 June 1692 shortly before noon the earth moved. A massive earthquake rocked the island and Port Royal, out there on the end of its spit of land, was destroyed in a matter of moments. Over half the town simply collapsed and disappeared, sinking into Kingston Harbour as the sandy ground liquefied beneath it. Over 2000 people were killed instantly, with two or three thousand more dying of injuries, illness and aftershocks. The queen city of the Caribbean was shattered as much of it was swallowed up by the sea.
2 Autobiography

Extract 1: Mary Seacole

1 a) The things that my mother liked were naturally passed on to me.
   b) Longing for
   c) Female supporter/Sponsor
   d) Affection/Flattery
   e) Most predominant
   f) Pleasure/Satisfaction
   g) I saw in my imagination
   h) Dangerous/Risky
   i) Pretend/Imitate

2 Kindness; comfortable childhood. She could have been overindulged and become spoilt/lazy.

3 Her doll

4 Children play roles. Left alone a child will turn anywhere into a role-play area and will use a doll as a partner with which it can act out its feelings/scenes.

5 She started to treat the cats and dogs in the area.

6 Vocabulary used (‘blandishments’, etc.); sentence length; the overall (slightly sentimental) tone

Extract 2: I Can’t Stay Long

1 a) If facts are wrong or uncertain, can this detract from the truth of the emotions being described?
   b) Exploration
   c) The writer confined by the need to be factually accurate.
   d) Cannot be exhausted.
   e) Keeping (truth) concealed.
   f) Cutting out/Distorting facts about oneself.
   g) Demure/reserved
   h) Someone who stands in for another.

2 Fear as to whether the remembered details are factual and accurate or have been distorted by feelings/memories/affections.

3 Facts alone cannot convey the magic of the total experience of the place.

4 The article gave facts about the city, but did not bring the spirit of the place alive.

5 They were at different stages of development at any one time and saw things from different perspectives.

6 a) What actually happened can never be described with absolute truth because the event is filtered through the different memories/emotions of the different people involved.
   b) The author may not want to give away too much of his/her private feelings and so produces a fictional portrait of him/herself for public consumption.
Punctuation: full stops and capital letters

1 We spent our holiday on a campsite in France. It was very crowded.

2 We visited Paris which was as beautiful as I expected. It is also full of interesting museums.

3 My mother enjoyed the experience of living in a tent. She said that it was easier to keep tidy than our house.

4 When we arrived at the campsite we hired a small Citroën car so that we could explore the area.

5 On most days the weather was very hot and sunny. It rained on only one day.

6 On most nights we ate in the campsite restaurant. There was a good range of food to suit the tastes of the whole family.

7 We also visited the house and gardens where the artist Claude Monet used to live. There were very many other tourists there on the day we went.

8 The French people that we met were all very friendly and appreciated our attempts to speak their language.

9 The part of France we were in is called Normandy. I want to visit Provence next year which is another part of the same country.

10 It is said to be very beautiful and its beaches are on the shore of the Mediterranean Sea.

Parts of speech: pronouns and possessive adjectives

1 This house is yours.

2 He gave the present to me.

3 Is this their car?

4 Where is your sister going tonight?

5 I know where Rohan and his family live. This house is theirs.

6 This is a photo of my friend, Shivane.

7 Her family live in a large house.

8 She has a pet cat. The basket is its.

9 This house is ours.

10 Rohan lives next door with his mother, father and sister.

11 Who is your best friend?

12 We visited them during the summer holidays.

Parts of speech: prepositions

1 To reach the library you have to go up these stairs and then down a long corridor.

2 I watched a programme about elephants on the television.

3 He drove towards me without slowing down, swerved at the last minute and then sped off towards the town centre.

4 He drove under the railway bridge and then past the town hall.

5 She took the money out of her bag and put it into the safe.

6 I’ll meet you at 6 o’clock.
I've been waiting here for 30 minutes.

Who is responsible for this delay?

She went to her friend’s birthday party.

I'm not very keen on the blue dress. I prefer the red one.

3 Descriptive writing

Extract 1: Baskerville Hall

1 a) With banisters
   b) Gloomy/Dark
   c) Coarse laughter
   d) Intimidated/Unnerved
   e) Sadness

2 Long room; raised platform at the end with a step up to it

3 Quiet and restrained

4 They were overawed by the surroundings and their atmosphere.

5 The last impression he had of the scene outside reinforced his earlier feelings.

6 Candles so pre-electricity but post-Regency period, probably mid/late nineteenth century. Harsh, threatening landscape; dining room is dark; shadows; haunting portraits; modern billiard room.

Extract 2: Jos Sedley

1 a) To take a share of
   b) Devotion/Concentration
   c) As the fashion was
   d) Big/Central/Capital city
   e) Bad tempered
   f) Excessive amount of
   g) Laziness/Lethargy
   h) Attempts to improve

2 Took a painful amount of effort.

3 No – ‘give you to understand’

4 They teased and embarrassed him.

5 Sold off the clothes Jos discarded and kept the money for himself.

6 Fat, vain, shy, easily embarrassed, lazy, bad tempered, tries to be fashionable but too old, the wrong shape and getting past it. Self-important – a sad and comic figure.

7 Points above are relevant but reward responses that find evidence that the writer also feels some sympathy.
**Punctuation: commas**

1. Mrs Singh, the Headteacher, is a very caring person.
2. On the bedroom shelf were books, an alarm clock, some toys and a glass containing water.
3. The group’s first album, in my opinion, is the best they ever made.
4. That was an enjoyable meal, don’t you agree?
5. Because of their strange and unnatural appearance, clowns may terrify some children.
6. Excuse me, sir, can you direct me to the library?
7. Her birthday, the last day in March, was a very special celebration.
8. Having set off much too quickly, Lee finished last in the 1500 metres race.
9. Slowly, clumsily and making far too much noise, Ravi failed to leave the house without anyone knowing.
10. I’m sorry, but, no, I’m sure I was told to expect you for lunch today.

**4 Non-fiction**

**Roald Dahl**

1. a) Set in an imaginary world with imaginary characters  
   b) An exciting mixture of bizarre, scary content and humour  
   c) Extreme overstatement  
   d) Having power (over people)
2. Worked for Shell because he thought it would involve foreign travel.
3. Independently minded; strong willed; adventurous; brave; determined
4. They contain disturbing and exciting content but it is interlaced with humour.
5. He exaggerated wildly – events and characters were larger than life.
6. Their sarcasm and humour appeal to adults.
7. ‘A thrilling mixture of the grotesque and comic’; ‘Roald Dahl is perhaps the most popular and best-selling children’s book author’; ‘one of the most widely read and influential writers of our generation’.

**Boulogne-sur-Mer – Descriptions 1 and 2**

1. a) Most important  
   b) Kept safe from damage  
   c) China, materials made from fire-hardened clay  
   d) Appealing, attractive
2. a) Defensive walls  
   b) As the tide comes in  
   c) Quite large  
   d) Made smaller
Extended task

Students’ notes might include the following:

- **Description 1**: Old town and its walls; port; cathedral; hill; main gate (Porte des Dunes); Church of St Nicolas; market in new town; four gates in old town; Tourist Information Cabin; castle museum and other main buildings in old town; many cafés.

- **Description 2**: Upper and Lower Towns; hill; ramparts; rows of trees; view (to England); ruined outworks; cathedral and other buildings (convent educating English girls); harbour; nobles live in Upper Town; merchants in Lower Town; river Liane; jetties and piers; sandbank; open and unsafe road.

In their answers they should include these points:

- Description 1 is informative and positive; Description 2 is informative but with some personal opinion (re design of piers, etc.).

- Description 1 is written for visitors to Boulogne; Description 2 is written for the general reader to provide a picture of the town.

- Specific historical period appears in the writers’ attitudes but also in references to cafés, use of the word ‘leagues’, and so on.

**Punctuation: apostrophes**

The correct sentences are 1c), 2c), 3d), 4a), 5d), 6c), 7a), 8b), 9b), 10a).

**Choosing the right word**

Accept any choice from the given options that produces a consistent and convincing description.

**Writing formal letters**

The letter should be set out in an appropriate format, use a formal, polite tone and include essential details such as the date of purchase.

5 **Folk tales**

**Extract 1: ‘The Man, the Boy and the Donkey’**

1. a) Oaf  
   b) Walk heavily  
   c) Mock  
   d) Deriding  
   e) Big and clumsy

2. Because they were not riding on the donkey.

3. That the boy was selfish by riding on the donkey rather than letting his father do so.

4. That the father was lazy/selfish for making his son walk while he rode.

5. Being cruel to the donkey by both riding on it.

6. The father and son arrived carrying the donkey tied to a pole. The animal struggled free, fell into the river and drowned because his feet were tied together.

7. Try to please all and you will please none.
Extract 2: ‘King of the Birds’

1  a) Feeling great discomfort  
   b) Sort out the difficulty  
   c) Someone who boasts a lot  
   d) Walked with a swagger  
   e) Making fun of  
   f) Shouted out in surprise

2 They felt embarrassed as all other creatures had kings; they wanted someone to be responsible for making decisions.

3 ‘Piped’ suggests a small uncertain voice/character; ‘loud, crackling’ suggests a self-important, domineering, unpleasant character.

4 He had been beneath Eagle’s wing and using it to support his flight.

5 They didn’t like boastful Eagle.

6 ✷ Eagle: big, strong, boastful, arrogant, scornful of others, proud.  
    ✷ Sparrow: small, apparently timid, well balanced, modest, clever.

7 Accept any convincing comment based on the details of the story (e.g. pride comes before a fall; modesty and cleverness will win the day).

Punctuation: apostrophes

1  a) Her sister’s best friend is a nurse.  
   b) We saw the children’s ball in the middle of the garden.  
   c) The twins’ teachers could not tell them apart.  
   d) The two scientists’ conclusion could not be questioned.  
   e) The play’s excitement increased in the second act.  
   f) Anybody’s solution is better than mine.  
   g) When I was a child I spent all of my holidays at my grandparents’ farm.  
   h) The three teachers’ votes decided who won the prize.  
   i) Your bicycle’s front wheel has a puncture.  
   j) The dog chased its ball.

2  a) I didn’t eat my supper yesterday.  
   b) You’re being very foolish.  
   c) He’d often arrive late for school.  
   d) She’s the best behaved student in the class.  
   e) We can’t be late for the party tonight.  
   f) I hadn’t finished my homework when my friend arrived.  
   g) We’ve never been on holiday to Australia.  
   h) I’ll make sure that I remember your birthday.  
   i) You won’t forget that tomorrow is my birthday.  
   j) Surely she wouldn’t forget to buy me a present.

Punctuation: direct speech

One Saturday morning Abby’s mum came upstairs to see Abby in her bedroom. Or tried to. There was so much mess on the floor she could only poke her head around the door. Abby sat in the middle of it all reading a book. ‘What a tip,’ Mum said. ‘You need to have a clear up in here.’ ‘Why?’ Abby asked.
‘Why?’ Mum repeated. ‘Because things get broken or lost when they're all willy-nilly like this. Come on, have a tidy up now.’

‘But I’m very busy,’ Abby argued, ‘and it’s boring on my own. Can’t you help me?’

‘No I can’t, I’m busy too. But I’ll give you extra pocket money if you do a good job.’

When Mum came back later all the toys and clothes and books had disappeared.

‘I’m impressed,’ said Mum. ‘But I’ll inspect it properly later.’

‘It was easy,’ said Abby. ‘Can I have my extra pocket money now?’

‘All right. Get it out of my change purse. It’s in the kitchen tidy drawer.’

In the kitchen Abby went over to the dresser and pulled open the tidy drawer. She hunted for the purse.

‘Any luck?’ Mum asked.

Abby shook her head.

‘It must be lurking at the bottom,’ Mum said. ‘Let’s have a proper look.’

6  Short stories

‘High and Lifted Up’ – Part 1

1  a) The letters that had just been saved after blowing away in the wind.
   b) Swirling around in small joyful spirals.
   c) Looked on as if enchanted.
   d) Different colours (of leaves) twisting and twirling around.

2  Because of the strength of the wind.

3  It is blown out of the mailman’s hands into the house, picked up by Mrs Pennington, blown out of her hands and further into the house as Tommy opens the door.

4  Leaping, landing, jumping, chasing. All contribute to the lively action; the participles suggest a continuous action.

5  He was absorbed in the movement of the leaves (‘watched in fascination’) and wanted to join them (‘would fly clear across the world’).

6  He had joined the leaves/become a leaf.

7  A bit of a worrier (typical mother?); wants to make sure Tommy does not come to harm.

‘High and Lifted Up’ – Part 2

1  a) The veins of the leaf were very clear to see.
   b) Great splendour/Brightness
   c) Think carefully about
   d) Astounding/Magnificent
   e) Paid no attention to

2  Life (the journey) may be short but it's important to have a sense of direction. Accept any intelligent comment related to the context of the story.

3  The maple leaf has no thought for the future; the old leaf is more circumspect.

4  He wants to continue playing/having fun.
5 There's a fire at the dump that is likely to burn the leaves – the old leaf has warned against not thinking of possible dangers.

6 Unlikely; it's a way of conveying the effects of Tommy's imagination.

7 Cf. answer to Question 6 – he's learnt to think more about the consequences of his actions.

**Punctuation: direct speech**

‘Excuse me,’ said the stranger. ‘Can you tell me where the library is?’

‘I'm not entirely sure because I'm a visitor here myself,’ replied Anna. ‘However, I went there with my friend a few days ago and I think it's very near the police station.’

‘The police station!’ said the stranger. ‘That's good; I need to go there as well. Can you tell me how I get there from here?’

‘I think so,’ said Anna. ‘It's in the road after the railway station. You turn left at the next junction and then it's on your left.’

‘Thanks,’ said the stranger, ‘but which place will I be at then?’

‘Oh, sorry,’ said Anna. ‘That's the railway station. Go past there, cross the road and turn right and the police station is opposite you. I'm sure the library is a bit further down the same road.’

‘Thanks a lot,’ said the man. ‘You've been very helpful.’

**Punctuation: commas**

Oh! But he was a tight-fisted hand at the grindstone, Scrooge! A squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching, covetous, old sinner! Hard and sharp as flint, from which no steel had ever struck out generous fire; secret, and self-contained, and solitary as an oyster. The cold within him froze his old features, nipped his pointed nose, shrivelled his cheek, stiffened his gait; made his eyes red, his thin lips blue; and spoke out shrewdly in his grating voice. A frosty rime was on his head, and on his eyebrows, and his wiry chin. He carried his own low temperature always about with him; he iced his office in the dog-days; and didn't thaw it one degree at Christmas.

External heat and cold had little influence on Scrooge. No warmth could warm, no wintry weather chill him. No wind that blew was bitterer than he, no falling snow was more intent upon its purpose, no pelting rain less open to entreaty. Foul weather didn't know where to have him. The heaviest rain, and snow, and hail, and sleet, could boast of the advantage over him in only one respect. They often 'came down' handsomely, and Scrooge never did.

**Punctuation and paragraphs**

**Build a House from Recycled Products**

You may be surprised, but it is possible to build a house using almost all recycled or recyclable material. Below are some examples of materials that can be used when building a house.

- Tyres can be packed with earth and arranged on top of one another like bricks, and used as interior walls. They can then be covered with plaster to absorb heat and provide insulation for the house. This method reduces the amount of timber required in the building.

- Cellulose insulation material can be made from recycled newspapers and can provide insulation for the building.

- Recycled/recyclable steel can be used for many frameworks in a building. Steel can also be used for creating the roof.

- Plastic bottles can be recycled to make carpet material for the building, and carpet pads can be made from reused textiles.

- Recycled wood can be used for much of the interior of the house, such as worktops, cabinets and drawers.

- Reclaimed paint can be used to decorate the building once it has been fully built.
Literature from around the world

‘Cow’s Head’ – Part 1

1. a) Showing bias towards
   b) Spent her time doing very little/being lazy
   c) Rough and sore
   d) Unwillingly
   e) Fearful/Submissive
   f) Askew/Leaning to one side

2. Oksana was disliked by her stepmother; she did all the housework while Olena lived a life of leisure and pleasure. Oksana was made to wear Olena’s old clothes. Her father was a weak man who was intimidated by his new wife.

3. Scrubbing (floors/clothes)

4. She had common sense. In the hut she collected wood for a fire and realised that she would have to find food to last through the winter.

5. With the food that she had with her but also with a stew she made from roots and berries she had found and animals that she had snared. She got water from melted snow.

6. The demons and monsters rumoured to be in the woods might appear; she persuaded herself that she was not afraid.

7. Oksana’s resourcefulness will help her survive; her stepmother and Olena will get their just desserts.

‘Cow’s Head’ – Part 2

1. a) With an empty sound
   b) In a mysterious and scary way
   c) The snow being blown fiercely by the wind could be seen in the light given off by the fire’s flames.
   d) Swallowed hard to calm her fear at the terrifying sight
   e) Obeyed the orders she was given
   f) Sympathy and pity
   g) Wealth and happiness

2. They help to build up suspense.

3. ‘Oksana swallowed’; ‘Her heart pounded fiercely’; ‘Oksana let out a shriek of terror’.

4. That it was something unnatural; that it provoked fear that it was not alive/undead; that its voice sounded far away and expressionless.

5. She felt a mixture of anger and pity but pity proved the stronger; it tells us that she was a good and humane person.

6. Meagre

7. Cow’s Head had rewarded Oksana with treasure for her compassion towards it. Her father had gone against his wife’s wishes and come to rescue Oksana. The now rich Oksana was popular in her town and made a good marriage. Olena was jealous. She tried to repeat Oksana’s experience but was too lazy to help Cow’s Head when it appeared and as a result all her wealthy possessions were turned to dust. Oksana lived happily ever after.
Paragraphing
The Amazon rainforest gets its name from the Amazon River, the life force of the rainforest. The Amazon River begins in the Peruvian Andes, and winds its way east over the northern half of South America. It meets the Atlantic Ocean at Belem, Brazil. The main river is about 6560 kilometres long. Its drainage basin covers 7.050.000 square kilometres, and lies in the countries of Brazil, Columbia, Peru, Venezuela, Ecuador, Bolivia, and the three Guyanas.

Sixteen per cent of all the world’s river water flows through the Amazon delta. 127 billion litres of water flow into the Atlantic every minute, diluting the salinity of the ocean for more than 160 kilometres offshore. The Amazon rainforest watershed is home to the world’s highest level of biodiversity.

8 Poetry

‘Important Notice’ and ‘The Last Wolf Speaks from the Zoo’

1 A representative (‘Mother Nature Managing Director’) of ‘World Wildlife Industries’ is speaking and warning that stocks are getting low and the business may have to close as a rival company, ‘Human Beings International’ are threatening their livelihood. (Give credit to answers that show an understanding of the way the metaphor of big business is being applied to concerns for the environment, etc.)

2 Many products (living creatures) are now extinct.

3 The cause is the selfish actions/greed of human beings. Readers are asked to get together with parents and teachers to find ways of preserving wildlife species.

4 In a zoo. It is referring to its memories of being in the wild.

5 Children outside the cage looking at the wolf – ‘childflesh’ implies that the wolf still has predatory instincts.

6 The wolf still remembers the scent of the sister which didn’t fade from the earth of the enclosure for a full month. The wolf still has residual memories of being in the wild and free, and still retains the howl of wolves in the wild, but it is now captured and in a cage and cannot howl freely to the moon as in the past – it is as if the moon is muzzled and cannot reply (although, in fact, it is the wolf’s freedom that is restrained and it is no longer part of the natural world that the moon represents).

Extended task
Key points are that both poems are drawing our attention to the need to preserve endangered species and to be aware of what human beings are doing to the balance of nature. Points about the words and imagery are covered in answers to earlier questions.

‘The Statue’

1 a) Speak ill of
   b) Exceeding anything else
   c) Looked smaller (in comparison with the lower part of the column)
   d) Long-lasting
   e) The people complained/criticised.
   f) Symmetry/Matching dimensions
   g) Easily persuaded/unstable in their beliefs

2 At the top of the great column
Everlasting fame

Alcamenes ‘carved his little best’; Phidias had a ‘great soul’, ‘dazzling thought’ which was ‘like a bright sun’ and worked with ‘pure love’.

It appeared to be crudely done with over-emphasised features.

It was too limited in its details – it was impressive close up but looked insignificant when it was raised on high.

The last line of the first verse is important as it suggests that judging something by first impressions is not wise – Phidias’s sculpture at first appeared crude but he had understood the requirements for a carving that was to be displayed at a great height and viewed from below.

Vocabulary: synonyms

A good dictionary and/or thesaurus will help students to distinguish the shades of meaning between words in the different groups.

Figurative language: similes and metaphors

1 a) Simile
   b) Metaphor
   c) Simile
   d) Metaphor
   e) Metaphor
   f) Simile
   g) Metaphor
   h) Metaphor (‘groaned’) and simile (‘as if they were in pain’)
   i) Simile
   j) Metaphor