

► 1) Choose the correct answer :

I believe that _____ can be very hurtful.

La bonne réponse est : B. criticism

Answer B The correct answer requires an uncountable noun. Critical is an adjective, criticize is a verb describing the act of analysing, evaluating and judging, critic (the person who analyses, evaluates and judges) is a countable noun requiring an article or the plural form, criticism is an uncountable noun meaning the act of analysing, evaluating and judging.

► 2. Choose the correct answer

It has been a long time _____ I read such a good book.

La bonne réponse est : B. since

Answer B The expression “it has been such a long time” in the present perfect is followed by since (depuis) and a verb in the “preterit”. For (depuis) is used with an expression of a length of time, ago (il y a) is used only with the “preterit” to describe an action that is finished, during (pendant) is used with a word, which evokes a length of time such as holiday.

► 3. Choose the correct answer

This factory produces _____ units per month.

La bonne réponse est : D. twenty-five million

Answer D A precise number in front of a noun has the role of an adjective and is invariable. The number cannot be plural, nor is it followed by the preposition “of”. We can however, use the plural and of in the expressions “hundreds of, thousands of, millions of etc.” where the exact number is not defined.

► 4. Choose the correct answer

If the weather had been better, we _____ the day in the country.

La bonne réponse est : C. would have spent

Answer C It is important to respect the correct combination of tenses in sentences with if. Here, if is followed by the “plus-que-parfait » had been so the second part of the sentence should be in the “conditionnel antérieur” – would + have + participe passé would have spent. Be careful not to confuse the infinitive form spend with the irregular past participle spent.

► 5. Choose the correct answer

Because he no longer had the necessary funds, he decided to back ____ the venture.

La bonne réponse est : A. out of

Answer A Phrasal verbs are complicated, the preposition after the verb changes the meaning completely. To back off = reculer, to back down = céder, se dérober, to back out of = se retirer de, se désengager de. Don't forget to back up = soutenir, faire marche arrière en voiture, to back away = prendre ses distances

► **6. Find the mistake**

It was not until the end of the war when the truth of the matter was discovered.

La bonne réponse est : B. When

Answer B "That" should be used instead of "when" to introduce the second part of the sentence because the emphasis is on the event and not on the time.

► **7. Find the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word**

The shareholders learnt that their firm was on the brink of collapse.

La bonne réponse est : D. verge

Answer D "On the brink of", synonym = on the edge, on the verge, at a crucial/critical point of a situation usually leading to success or catastrophe (Fr. au bord de). Near, synonym = close to, beside, next to (Fr. près de) is not followed by another preposition (to/at) but the direct noun. Peak, synonym = climax, top, highest point (Fr. sommet, point culminant, pic). Side (Fr. coté).

► **8. Choose the correct answer**

If Charles isn't willing, I will have to _____ Paul to help me.

La bonne réponse est : A) get

Answer A When using the construction "faire faire" in English don't forget : *In the active form* : - To get somebody to do something - To have somebody do something - To make somebody do something - *In the passive form* : - To get something done by somebody - To have something done by somebody - It's impossible to use make in the passive form. Here it's not possible to use "got" because after will have to we must use the infinitive. "Make" and "have" are not possible because they are followed by the infinitive without to.

► **9. Find the mistake**

Mr Smith, who is one of the most well liked worker in the company, is retiring at the end of the month.

La bonne réponse est : C. worker

Answer C The noun worker must be in the plural because Mr Smith is one of all the workers in the company. Always look out for the expression “one of the”, the noun which follows must be in the plural, don't be misled by adjectives that are included in the expression to distract you.

► 10. Find the word that is closest in meaning to the underlined word

The managing director is toying with the idea of opening a subsidiary or a branch in China.

La bonne réponse est : D. considering

Answer D The expression to toy with an idea means to think about something in a casual and informal way, to consider an idea. Don't be misled by the connection between a toy and to play ! Make the difference between a branch in Fr. succursale and a subsidiary in Fr. filiale.