Lexiris

FREE SAMPLE · CAMBRIDGE ENGLISH

C1 Advanced: exercise snippets

Three short exercises from our C1 grammar toolkit, with answers and explanations

The exam at a glance

C1 Advanced (formerly CAE) shows you can study, work and live in English at an advanced level. It has four papers, and results are reported on the Cambridge English Scale: **180–199 is C1**, and 200–210 (grade A) shows C2 level.

1 h 30 min

Reading and Use of English

8 parts: vocabulary, grammar, word formation, transformations and four reading tasks.

1 h 30 min

Writing

2 tasks of 220–260 words: an essay, then a letter or email, proposal, report or review.

about 40 min

Listening

4 parts: short extracts, a talk, an interview and a set of short monologues.

about 15 min

Speaking

4 parts, with two candidates and two examiners.

1 Word formation

Reading and Use of English Part 3 skill · write the correct form of the word in capitals

1	The museum is free, so _____ costs nothing.	ADMIT
2	His explanation was completely _____; nobody could follow it.	LOGIC
3	She spoke so _____ that everyone believed her.	CONFIDENT
4	There has been a sharp _____ in online shopping.	GROW
5	Prices vary _____ from one shop to another.	CONSIDER
6	The results were _____ for the whole team.	DISAPPOINT

2 Inversion

Rewrite each sentence, starting with the words given

1 I have never heard such nonsense.
Never _____

2 As soon as we sat down, the phone rang.
No sooner _____

3 I didn't realise my mistake until I got home.
Not until _____

4 He was late, and he also forgot the tickets.
Not only _____

5 If you need any help, call me.
Should _____

3 Conditionals in key word transformations

Reading and Use of English Part 4 format · use 3–6 words, including the word given; do not change it

1 I didn't know about the meeting, so I didn't go. **HAD**
I would have gone to the meeting _____ about it.

2 You can borrow my car if you drive carefully. **LONG**
You can borrow my car _____ carefully.

3 We won't finish on time if nobody helps us. **UNLESS**
We won't finish on time _____ us.

What is in the full Lexiris C1 toolkit

Illustrated grammar guides (tenses, conditionals, the subjunctive, inversion, word formation, phrasal verbs and dependent prepositions), an essay writing toolkit with a marked-up model essay, and online practice pages that give you your score straight away. Students use them in one-to-one lessons with a Lexiris teacher.

Preparing for C1 Advanced?

Book a free 20-minute call: we look at where you are now and plan the way to your exam.

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ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Check your answers

1 · Word formation

#	ANSWER	WHY	TYPICAL MISTAKE
1	**admission**	A noun is needed: it is the subject of “costs”.	~~admittance~~ (= permission to enter)
2	**illogical**	Negative adjective: *il-* before *l*.	~~unlogical~~
3	**confidently**	An adverb, because it describes the verb “spoke”.	~~confident~~
4	**growth**	A noun after “a sharp”: *grow* → *growth*.	~~grow~~, ~~growing~~
5	**considerably**	An adverb describing “vary” (= a lot).	~~considerable~~, ~~considerabley~~
6	**disappointing**	*-ing* adjective: the results caused the feeling.	~~disappointed~~, ~~dissapointing~~

Ask three questions every time: which part of speech does the gap need? Is the meaning negative? Is it plural, or *-ing* / *-ed*? In the exam, spelling must be correct.

2 · Inversion

#	ANSWER	WHY	TYPICAL MISTAKE
1	**Never have I heard** such nonsense.	Negative adverbial first, then auxiliary + subject.	~~Never I have heard~~
2	**No sooner had we sat** down **than** the phone rang.	*No sooner* + past perfect, always with *than*.	~~… down when the phone rang~~
3	Not until I got home **did I realise** my mistake.	Only the main clause inverts, not the time clause.	~~Not until did I get home~~
4	**Not only was he** late, but he (also) forgot the tickets.	Only the first clause inverts.	~~… but did he also forget~~
5	**Should you need** any help, call me.	Inverted first conditional: *Should* replaces *If*; base form after it.	~~Should you needed~~

3 · Conditionals in key word transformations

#	ANSWER	WHY	TYPICAL MISTAKE
1	**had I | known** (also: **if I had known**)	Third conditional with inversion: *had* + subject + past participle, no *if*.	~~had I knew~~
2	**as long as | you drive**	*As long as* = only if; present tense after it.	~~as long as you will drive~~
3	**unless | someone / somebody helps**	*Unless* = if … not, so the verb is positive.	~~unless nobody helps~~ (double negative)

In Part 4 each question is worth 2 marks, one for each half of the answer (shown by |). Contractions count as two words.