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FREE RESOURCE · USE OF ENGLISH

Key word transformations

12 questions with answers, explanations and the typical mistake for each

C1 ADVANCED | TITULARIZARE ENGLEZĂ | BACALAUREAT

The task
Complete the second sentence so that it means the same as the first.

The word given
Use it, and do not change it in any way.

3–6 words
Including the word given. Contractions count as two words (*didn't = did not*).

1 I'm sure Ana forgot about our meeting; she is never late. **MUST**

Ana _____ about our meeting; she is never late.

2 It was a mistake for you to tell him the secret. **SHOULD**

You _____ the secret.

3 As soon as I got home, it started raining. **SOONER**

No _____ it started raining.

4 She had no idea that her friends were planning a party. **LITTLE**

_____ her friends were planning a party.

5 People believe that the painting was stolen in 1990. **BELIEVED**

The painting _____ in 1990.

6 A mechanic is going to check my car tomorrow. **HAVING**

I _____ by a mechanic tomorrow.

7 Tom's attitude annoyed me, not the things he said. **WHAT**

_____ was Tom's attitude, not the things he said.

8 There is no milk left in the fridge. **RUN**

We _____ milk.

9 They have postponed the meeting until Monday. **PUT**

They _____ until Monday.

10 However hard she tried, she couldn't open the jar. **MATTER**

No _____, she couldn't open the jar.

11 Although he is very clever, he makes silly mistakes. **AS**

Clever _____ silly mistakes.

12 I didn't study medicine, so I'm not a doctor now. **WOULD**

If I had studied medicine, I _____ now.

Five habits that save marks

1. **Find the grammar first.** The word given usually points to it: *MUST* → modal perfect, *SOONER* → inversion, *WHAT* → cleft.
2. **Read the whole second sentence.** The words after the gap decide the form (e.g. *than* in 3, *now* in 12).
3. **Count your words.** 3–6 including the word given; contractions count as two.
4. **Keep the meaning and the tense.** Nothing added, nothing lost.
5. **Never leave a blank.** Half an answer can still earn 1 mark.

Want to know where you stand?

Book a free 20-minute call with a Lexiris teacher: we look at your level and the exam you are preparing for.

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ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

Check your answers

In the C1 Advanced exam each question is worth 2 marks, one for each half of the answer (shown by the line |). Spelling must be correct.

#	ANSWER	WHY	TYPICAL MISTAKE
1	**must have | forgotten**	Modal perfect: *must have* + past participle = a confident guess about the past.	~~must forget~~, ~~must have forgot~~
2	**should not / shouldn't have | told him**	Criticism of a past action: *should not have* + past participle.	~~should not tell him~~, ~~mustn't have told~~
3	**sooner had I | got / arrived home than**	Inversion after *No sooner*: past perfect, auxiliary before the subject, then *than*.	~~sooner did I get~~, ~~… home when~~
4	**Little did she | know / realise (that)**	Inversion after *Little* (= not at all): *did* + subject + base form.	~~Little she knew~~, ~~Little did she knew~~
5	**is believed | to have been stolen**	Passive reporting: the belief is now, the theft is earlier, so *to have been* + past participle.	~~is believed to be stolen~~, ~~was believed that~~
6	**am having | my car checked**	Causative *have* + object + past participle: someone else does it for you.	~~am having checked my car~~
7	**What | annoyed me**	Cleft sentence: *What* + clause + *was* puts the focus on "Tom's attitude".	~~What it annoyed me~~
8	**have run | out of**	Phrasal verb *run out of* = have none left; keep both particles.	~~have run out milk~~, ~~are run out of~~
9	**have put off | the meeting** / **have put | the meeting off**	Phrasal verb *put off* = postpone. With a noun the particle can go either side.	~~have put off it~~ (a pronoun goes in the middle: *put it off*)
10	**matter how | hard she tried**	Concession: *No matter how* + adjective/adverb + subject + verb.	~~matter how she tried hard~~
11	**as he is, | he makes**	Concession by fronting: adjective + *as* + subject + verb = although.	~~Clever as is he~~, ~~Clever although he is~~
12	**would be | a doctor**	Mixed conditional: past condition (*had studied*), present result (*would be … now*).	~~would have been a doctor now~~

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