



APEX ENGLISH

Your voice. Global.

B2 · GENERAL ENGLISH

UNIT 9 · 9A

Hidden gems

Theme · City Life

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Hidden gems

Theme: City Life



Learning objectives

- Use CLAUSES OF CONTRAST (although, even though, though, in spite of, despite, however, whereas, while) with the correct structure after each linker.
- Use CLAUSES OF PURPOSE (to / in order to / so as to / so that / in case / for) to explain WHY someone does something.
- Talk about neighbourhoods and city exploration with B2 vocabulary (a hidden gem, a hole-in-the-wall, off the beaten track, a tourist trap, gentrified).
- Hear and produce the stress SHIFT between two-syllable noun/verb pairs (REcord vs reCORD, PROgress vs proGRESS).
- Describe a hidden gem in your own city or a place you've travelled to, using at least two contrast linkers and two purpose linkers.
- Write a short 'insider's guide' recommendation post (100–120 words).

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Class Book

Warm-up · your city, honestly

Answer any **ONE** prompt for your partner — 30 seconds each. Try to say **WHERE** and **WHY**.

The most overrated place in my city is...

A place I always take visitors, even though it's touristy, is...

A tiny café / shop / bar most people don't know about is...

A neighbourhood I only recently discovered is...

One street I could walk down every day without getting bored is...

followUp: Listen for **BUT, ALTHOUGH, EVEN THOUGH, TO, SO THAT** — that's today's grammar hiding in your answers.

Lead-in: 'tourist trap or hidden gem?'

Match each short description (1–6) to the label (a–f) that fits best. Only **ONE** fits each.

1. A tiny bakery down an alley, no sign, only three tables — the locals queue at 7am.
2. A famous square where the coffee costs €9 and every menu is in five languages.
3. An old warehouse district now full of artisan gin bars and €4,000 rents.
4. A neighbourhood twenty minutes from the centre — no tourists, brilliant food, cheap.
5. A rooftop bar hidden above a launderette — you ring a doorbell to get in.
6. A restaurant that's been in the same family for four generations, still no website.

- a) a tourist trap
- b) a hidden gem
- c) off the beaten track
- d) a hole-in-the-wall
- e) a gentrified neighbourhood
- f) an institution

- 1 → d · a HOLE-IN-THE-WALL (tiny, unmarked, brilliant)
2 → a · a TOURIST TRAP (overpriced, aimed at visitors)
3 → e · a GENTRIFIED neighbourhood (formerly working-class, now expensive)
4 → c · OFF THE BEATEN TRACK (away from the usual routes)
5 → b · a HIDDEN GEM (great, and most people don't know)
6 → f · an INSTITUTION (long-standing, loved, iconic)

followUp: Every city has all six. The trick is knowing which is which **BEFORE** you go in — and how to explain it in English.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Reading: 'the map of the city you can't buy'

There are two maps of every city. The first is the one the airport hands you, folded and glossy, with red circles around the cathedral, the market and the museum. The second is invisible. It lives in the heads of the people who take the bus at seven in the morning, who know which bakery opens on a Sunday, and which side of which square catches the first sun in November.

Ana Ribeiro, a walking-tour guide in Lisbon, has spent twelve years drawing that second map for visitors. 'Tourists want a hidden gem, but the moment I put one online, it stops being hidden,' she says. 'So I teach people HOW to find their own, instead of giving them a list.' Her method is embarrassingly simple. Walk two streets past wherever the guidebook told you to stop. Sit down somewhere with a menu only in the local language. Order what the person at the next table is eating. Come back at a different time of day.

It sounds trivial, but it works. In spite of the enormous investment cities make in official tourism, the moments visitors remember most are almost never the ones on the ticket. They're the ones that happen by accident — a wrong turn into a quiet square, a conversation with a shopkeeper who ends up drawing a map on a napkin, a rooftop found because you followed the smell of someone's grandmother's cooking.

Ana warns, however, that hidden gems and gentrification are uncomfortably close cousins. A café praised in one viral video can, within eighteen months, have doubled its prices, tripled its queue and quietly pushed out the pensioners who used to sit there for a euro coffee. 'The kindest thing you can do,' she says, 'is not to name the place online. Tell the friend sitting next to you. Then walk on.'

1. What are the 'two maps' of every city, according to the writer?

- (A) The old one and the new one
- (B) The tourist map and the local mental map
- (C) A paper map and a digital app

2. Why does Ana refuse to put hidden gems online?

- (A) She doesn't like the internet
- (B) Once posted, they stop being hidden
- (C) The city has forbidden it

3. What is Ana's method for tourists?

- (A) Give them a printed list of the best spots
- (B) Teach them how to find their own
- (C) Take them on longer tours

4. According to the text, the best travel memories are usually...

- (A) The main sights
- (B) The organised excursions
- (C) Accidental discoveries

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5. What danger does Ana link to a viral 'hidden gem'?

- (A) Overcrowding and gentrification
- (B) Government regulation
- (C) The place closing down

City vocabulary in context

Match each expression from the text to its closest meaning.

a hidden gem — an excellent place most people don't know about

off the beaten track — away from the usual tourist routes

a tourist trap — overpriced spot aimed at visitors, not locals

gentrification — richer people replacing lower-income residents

an institution — a long-standing, iconic local place

a wrong turn — an accidental route that leads somewhere new

Vocabulary: neighbourhoods & city exploration

intro: At B2 you need the precise word: not 'a nice area' but LEAFY, BUZZY, RESIDENTIAL, EDGY, RUN-DOWN, UP-AND-COMING. Not 'small shop' but a HOLE-IN-THE-WALL, an INDEPENDENT café, a FAMILY-RUN restaurant.

1. **label:** Describing a neighbourhood

2. **label:** Kinds of places

3. **label:** Getting around & exploring

4. **label:** City problems & positives

practice

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box (correct form).

1. Twenty years ago it was rough; now it's completely ____ and I can't afford to live there.

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2. Don't eat on the main square — it's a total tourist ____.

3. It's a tiny, ____ eatery, but the queue starts at 6am.

4. We just ____ around for two hours with no plan and had the best day.

5. The Old Town is charming but permanently ____ with tour groups.

6. That district is really ____-and-coming — new bars opening every month.

7. The view is stunning but honestly the food is ____.

8. We ____ across a jazz bar hidden above a bookshop.

Practice 2 — collocations & rewrite

Rewrite each sentence replacing the underlined phrase with ONE word from this lesson's vocabulary. Keep the meaning identical.

1. We <u>walked with no fixed plan</u> through the old streets for hours.

2. We <u>found by pure accident</u> a tiny jazz bar above a bookshop.

3. The area used to be working-class, but it's now <u>full of wealthier newcomers and rising rents</u>.

4. It's a tiny, <u>unmarked and modest-looking</u> restaurant, but the food is superb.

5. Honestly, the famous viewpoint is <u>more talked about than it deserves</u>.

Practice 3 — discursive writing

prompt: Write about the tension between sharing a favourite 'hidden gem' and the risk of ruining what makes it special.

Use at least FOUR of the target words from this unit.

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Vary sentence length and use one relative clause.

Aim for a reflective, cohesive C1 register.

sample: There is a small, unassuming café near my flat that I chanced upon years ago, back when the whole street still felt slightly forgotten. I used to meander past it most mornings, never expecting it to change, until a well-known food blogger, who had presumably stumbled on it the same way I had, posted a single photo online. Within months the neighbourhood, once quiet, had begun to feel gentrified, and the café itself was suddenly overhyped, its queue stretching around the corner before opening time. I still love the coffee, but I no longer feel the small private thrill I once did. Now, when I find somewhere genuinely special, I hesitate before telling anyone — torn between wanting to share it and wanting to keep it exactly as it was.



Grammar: clauses of contrast & purpose

1. Two ideas — one sentence — A city sentence often does two things at once: 'It's expensive, BUT it's worth it' (contrast) or 'I got up early TO catch the light' (purpose). At B2, we upgrade BUT and TO with more precise linkers.

2. Contrast — followed by a CLAUSE (subject + verb) — ALTHOUGH / EVEN THOUGH / THOUGH + subject + verb. • 'ALTHOUGH the café is tiny, it seats twenty people.' • 'It seats twenty people, EVEN THOUGH it looks tiny.' (EVEN THOUGH = stronger) • 'The café is tiny, THOUGH.' (end position, more informal, means 'but') Rule: full clause after the linker.

3. Contrast — followed by a NOUN or -ING — IN SPITE OF / DESPITE + noun / -ing / the fact that + clause. • 'IN SPITE OF the rain, we walked everywhere.' • 'DESPITE walking everywhere, we weren't tired.' • 'DESPITE THE FACT THAT it rained, we walked everywhere.' ✗ 'Despite it rained...' — NEVER a clause directly after despite/in spite of.

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4. Contrast — between two full ideas (linkers) — HOWEVER / NEVERTHELESS = but (formal), between two sentences. • 'The area is beautiful. HOWEVER, it's overpriced.' WHEREAS / WHILE = compare/contrast two things. • 'The old town is buzzy, WHEREAS the new town is sleepy.' • 'WHILE the food is excellent, the service is slow.'

5. Purpose — the WHY of an action — TO + infinitive (most common): 'I went TO see the view.' IN ORDER TO / SO AS TO + infinitive (more formal): 'She left early IN ORDER TO avoid the crowds.' IN ORDER NOT TO / SO AS NOT TO (negative — never 'to not...'): 'I whispered SO AS NOT TO wake him.' SO THAT + subject + verb (usually with can / could / would): 'I turned my phone off SO THAT I could focus.' IN CASE + subject + verb (as a precaution — NEVER with 'will'): 'Take an umbrella IN CASE it rains.' FOR + noun / -ing (general purpose): 'I went out FOR a coffee.' / 'This knife is FOR cutting bread.'

6. Common mistakes — ✗ Despite it was raining, we walked. → ✓ Despite the rain / Despite the fact that it was raining, we walked. ✗ Although in spite of... → ✓ Choose ONE linker per idea. ✗ I got up early for to see the sunrise. → ✓ ...TO see / IN ORDER TO see the sunrise. ✗ In case it will rain... → ✓ IN CASE it rains (present tense after 'in case'). ✗ So as to don't wake him... → ✓ SO AS NOT TO wake him.

Exercise A — pick the correct linker

Choose the ONE linker that fits grammatically AND makes sense.

1. ____ the queue, the pastry was worth it.
(A) Although
(B) Despite
(C) However
2. ____ it was raining, we walked all afternoon.
(A) Despite
(B) Even though
(C) In spite of
3. I left early ____ avoid the rush hour.
(A) for
(B) in order to
(C) so that
4. Take a jumper ____ it gets cold later.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



5. The area is buzzy, ____ the neighbouring one is completely dead at night.
(A) although
(B) whereas
(C) despite
6. He whispered ____ wake the baby.
(A) so as not to
(B) to not
(C) for not
7. The food was excellent. ____, the service was painfully slow.
(A) Although
(B) However
(C) In spite of
8. I brought cash ____ the card machine broke.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to

Exercise B — join the ideas

Combine each pair into ONE sentence using the linker in brackets. Change the form if you need to.

1. The café is tiny. It seats twenty people. (although)

2. It rained all day. We walked everywhere. (despite)

3. I left early. I wanted to avoid the crowds. (in order to)

4. Take a map. Your phone might die. (in case)

5. The old town is lively. The new town is quiet. (whereas)

6. The view is amazing. The food is disappointing. (however)

7. She spoke quietly. She didn't want to wake the baby. (so as not to)

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



8. I got up at 5. I wanted to photograph the empty streets. (so that)

Exercise C — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Despite it was raining, we walked everywhere.

2. I got up early for to see the sunrise.

3. In case it will rain, take an umbrella.

4. Although in spite of the crowds, we enjoyed it.

5. So as to don't wake him, I whispered.

6. Whereas the food was excellent, but the service was slow.

Exercise D — an insider's blog post

Complete the text using ONE linker from the box (each used once).

Word bank: Although · despite · however · whereas · in order to · so that · in case · so as not to · even though · for

Everyone visits the old square. (1) ____, if you walk five minutes north, you find a completely different city. (2) ____ the maps still call it a working-class district, most of the old shops have closed and the rents have quadrupled.

My favourite café there is Marta's. (3) ____ having no sign and no website, it's full every morning. I always sit at the back (4) ____ face the door and watch the regulars come in. Marta whispers your order to the kitchen (5) ____ disturb the other customers.

Go early (6) ____ get a table by the window. Take cash (7) ____ the machine is broken again. The pastries are €2 — (8) ____ they cost €7 across the square, they are unquestionably better here. (9) ____ the coffee is famous, the real reason to come is Marta herself: she remembers your face, your order and your birthday. Old-fashioned service, in other words — increasingly rare, and worth crossing the city (10) ____.

However

Although

Despite

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



so that

so as not to

in order to

in case

whereas

Even though

for

Listening: 'show me your city'

Maya, visiting from Toronto, asks her local friend Diego for the honest local guide to his city — not the guidebook version. Two clearly different voices, no name-introductions in the audio.

Before you listen

Predict: what will Diego tell Maya to AVOID?

Predict: what one 'hidden gem' will he insist on showing her?

First listen — gist

1. What does Maya want from Diego?

2. What does Diego tell her to skip completely?

3. Where does he suggest going instead for breakfast?

Second listen — detail

1. What does Diego say about the guidebook's 'top pick' restaurant?

2. What time does he tell Maya to go to the bakery, and why?

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. What does he warn her to take, in case something happens?

4. Why does Diego prefer the northern district to the old town?

5. What does he say about naming the bakery online?

6. What single practical rule does Diego give Maya for finding hidden gems on her own?

A: OK, before we go anywhere — I want the real version. Not what's in the guidebook. Show me YOUR city.

B: Fine. But you have to trust me on the first one. Skip the main square. Completely.

A: Skip it? It's on every list! Everyone I know said —

B: Everyone you know went there once and paid nine euros for a coffee. Even though the buildings are beautiful, the place is a tourist trap now. I promise. Every restaurant on that square has the same twelve dishes and the same three languages on the menu.

A: OK. So where do we start?

B: Breakfast. There's a tiny bakery near mine — no sign, an old couple running it for forty years. Hole-in-the-wall. But we go before eight, so that we don't queue for forty minutes.

A: You get up before eight on a Saturday?

B: For that bakery I do. And take cash, in case the card machine is dead — it's been broken since 2022. They keep saying they'll fix it.

A: My guidebook says the top restaurant in the city is on that square, though.

B: It used to be. Genuinely used to be one of the best. But it went viral three years ago, and now it's full of tour groups paying triple. The food is fine. Just fine. Whereas ten minutes north, in the residential district, there's a family-run place with no website and better food for half the price.

A: Why doesn't anyone go there?

B: Because nobody's told the internet. And that's exactly the point. When we go, please don't post the name online. Tell your friends. Not the algorithm.

A: OK, deal. But you know I'll want to explore on my own too. Give me a rule.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



B: One rule. Walk two streets past wherever the guidebook told you to stop. Sit down somewhere with a menu only in the local language. Order what the person at the next table is eating. Come back at a different time of day.

A: That's four rules.

B: It's one method. Try it. You'll never trust a guidebook again.

Speaking: 'the honest tour of my city'

In pairs, give your partner a 3-minute honest tour of your city, town or village. You MUST use: (a) 2 contrast linkers (although / despite / whereas / however), (b) 2 purpose linkers (to / in order to / so that / in case), (c) 4 vocabulary items from section 4.

1. **label:** The tourist trap · **hint:** 'Everyone goes to X, even though...'

2. **label:** The overrated · **hint:** 'Y is famous, however it's actually...'

3. **label:** The hidden gem · **hint:** 'Whereas X is packed, Y is...'

4. **label:** The insider tip · **hint:** 'Go early so that you can...'

5. **label:** The warning · **hint:** 'Take cash in case...'

example: OK so everyone lands and heads straight for the cathedral square. Even though the buildings are beautiful, the whole square is a tourist trap now — nine-euro coffees and a queue for everything. Whereas ten minutes uphill, there's a completely leafy, residential district with a Sunday market. Nobody goes. It's my favourite place in the city. Go before ten so that you can talk to the stallholders properly — after eleven it gets packed. And take cash in case the ATM on the corner is out of service again, which it usually is. Despite being twenty minutes from the centre, it feels like a completely different city.

challenge: ■ Extra ■ if you sneak in a 'so as not to' AND a 'whereas' in the same tour.

Writing mini-task — an 'insider's guide' post (100–120 words)

Recommend ONE hidden gem in your own city or a place you've travelled to. Structure: (1) the tourist trap to avoid, (2) your gem, (3) how to get there, (4) one practical warning. Use at least 2 contrast linkers, 2 purpose linkers, and 4 vocab items from section 4.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Wrap-up · three quick prompts

Pick ONE and finish it out loud. Class votes on the sharpest verdict.

1. **label:** Prompt 1 — the honest one · **prompt:** The single most overrated place in my city is... and the reason people still go is...

2. **label:** Prompt 2 — the confession · **prompt:** A 'hidden gem' I would never post online, in case it gets ruined, is...

3. **label:** Prompt 3 — the prediction · **prompt:** The neighbourhood that will be totally gentrified in five years is... because...

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Workbook — home practice



Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Hidden gems - Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary - city & neighbourhoods

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

1. A neighbourhood that's improving fast and becoming fashionable is ____.
(A) run-down
(B) up-and-coming
(C) sleepy
(D) gentrified
2. A tiny, often unmarked shop or café is an ____.
(A) chain
(B) landmark
(C) unassuming eatery
(D) tourist trap
3. An area away from the usual tourist routes is ____.
(A) off the beaten track
(B) unaffordable
(C) vibrant
(D) overcrowded
4. A café that has doubled in price since it went viral is now a ____.
(A) hidden gem
(B) hole-in-the-wall
(C) tourist trap
(D) residential area
5. Full of energy, nightlife and people = ____.
(A) tranquil
(B) vibrant
(C) leafy
(D) polluted
6. To find something by accident is to ____ upon it.
(A) meander
(B) chance
(C) walk
(D) look

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box (correct form).

BOX: meander · gentrified · packed · overhyped · walkable · landmark

1. The main square is a famous ____ but honestly it's completely ____.
2. We spent Sunday afternoon just ____ing around the old town.
3. Twenty years ago this was rough; today it's fully ____ and unaffordable.
4. The whole street is ____ with tourists from 10am till midnight.

5. The old town is small and completely ____ - you don't need the metro.
6. The view is spectacular but the food is honestly ____.

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Write 120-180 words: 'Gentrification is often seen as a double-edged sword for urban communities. Discuss the impact on local culture and the economy of a vibrant neighbourhood.'

Checklist:

- [] Use target lexis from the city and neighbourhood sections
- [] Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. contrast and purpose linkers)
- [] Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- [] Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar - pick the correct linker

Choose the **ONE** linker that is grammatically correct AND makes sense.

1. ____ the queue, the pastry was worth it.
(A) Although
(B) Despite
(C) However
2. ____ it rained all afternoon, we didn't go inside once.
(A) Despite
(B) Even though
(C) In spite of
3. I left early ____ avoid the rush.
(A) for
(B) in order to
(C) so that

4. Take a jumper ____ it gets cold later.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to
5. The old town is buzzy, ____ the new town is completely dead at night.
(A) although
(B) whereas
(C) despite
6. He whispered ____ wake the baby.
(A) so as not to
(B) to not
(C) for not
7. The view was amazing. ____, the food was terrible.
(A) Although
(B) However
(C) In spite of
8. I brought cash ____ the card machine broke.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to

4. Grammar - join the ideas

Combine each pair into ONE sentence using the linker in brackets.

1. The café is tiny. It seats twenty. (although)
2. It rained all day. We walked everywhere. (despite)
3. I got up at 5. I wanted empty streets for photos. (so that)
4. Take a paper map. Your phone may die. (in case)
5. The old town is lively. The new town is quiet. (whereas)
6. The view is amazing. The food is disappointing. (however)
7. She spoke quietly. She didn't want to wake the baby. (so as not to)
8. The area is busy in the day. It's dead at night. (even though)

5. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Despite it was raining, we walked everywhere.
2. I got up early for to see the sunrise.
3. In case it will rain, take an umbrella.
4. Although in spite of the crowds, we enjoyed it.
5. So as to don't wake him, I whispered.
6. Whereas the food was excellent, but the service was slow.

6. Reading - true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

For thirty-eight years, Café Alma sat on a quiet corner in what everyone called 'the working district'. The coffee was a euro, the pastries were made at four every morning by the owner's mother, and the regulars - mostly retired postal workers - had their own reserved chairs. Then, in the summer of 2021, a food blogger posted a fifteen-second video of Alma's cinnamon roll. Within a month, the queue reached the corner. Within a year, the price of the coffee had tripled, the mother had retired, and the retired postal workers had quietly moved to a smaller café two streets away. In spite of the enormous new revenue, the owner told a local paper last month that she regretted the video and would refuse to be filmed again. 'We were fine,' she said. 'We didn't need to be famous. We needed to be ours.'

1. Café Alma had been open for over 30 years before it became famous. [T / F / NG]
2. The café's popularity grew because of a viral video. [T / F / NG]
3. The owner's mother made the coffee every morning. [T / F / NG]
4. The regular customers stopped coming to that neighbourhood. [T / F / NG]
5. The owner sold the café to a chain. [T / F / NG]
6. The owner now regrets the video that made the café famous. [T / F / NG]

7. Writing - an 'insider's guide' post (100-120 words)

Recommend one hidden gem in your city or somewhere you've travelled. Structure: (1) the tourist trap to avoid, (2) your gem, (3) how to get there, (4) a practical warning. Use 2 contrast linkers, 2 purpose linkers and 4 vocab items from Lesson 9A.

Checklist:

- [] 100-120 words
- [] 2+ contrast linkers (although / despite / whereas / however)
- [] 2+ purpose linkers (to / in order to / so that / in case)
- [] 4+ vocabulary items from Lesson 9A
- [] Structured: trap → gem → how to get there → warning

[illegible]

8. Listening - 'the neighbourhood tour'

Read the transcript (two clearly different voices). Answer the questions.

Audio: Local resident (Voice A) guiding a friend (Voice B) around her district · two clearly different voices

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

9. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2-5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. 'The café is tiny, but it seats twenty.' → ____ tiny, it seats twenty. (KEYWORD: ALTHOUGH)
2. 2. 'It rained, but we walked everywhere.' → ____ the rain, we walked everywhere. (KEYWORD: DESPITE)
3. 3. 'I got up early because I wanted to avoid crowds.' → I got up early ____ crowds. (KEYWORD: TO)
4. 4. 'Take an umbrella - it might rain.' → Take an umbrella ____ rains. (KEYWORD: CASE)
5. 5. 'I whispered because I didn't want to wake him.' → I whispered ____ wake him. (KEYWORD: NOT)
6. 6. 'The food was great; the service was slow.' → The food was great; ____ service was slow. (KEYWORD: HOWEVER)

10. ■ Challenge - noun or verb? (stress)

Read each sentence. Is the CAPS word a noun (stress 1) or a verb (stress 2)?

1. The city has broken every RECORD this year.
(A) Noun (REcord)
(B) Verb (reCORD)
2. Can you RECORD the meeting for me?
(A) Noun (REcord)
(B) Verb (reCORD)
3. There's been a huge INCREASE in rents.
(A) Noun (INcrease)
(B) Verb (inCREASE)
4. Prices will INCREASE again in September.
(A) Noun (INcrease)
(B) Verb (inCREASE)
5. We need to make some real PROGRESS today.
(A) Noun (PROgress)
(B) Verb (proGRESS)
6. The plan is PROGRESSING slowly.
(A) Noun (PROgress)
(B) Verb (proGRESS)

11. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- ☐ I use ALTHOUGH / EVEN THOUGH + subject + verb (never + noun).
- ☐ I use DESPITE / IN SPITE OF + noun / -ing / 'the fact that + clause'.
- ☐ I use HOWEVER / WHEREAS / WHILE to contrast two full ideas.
- ☐ I use TO / IN ORDER TO / SO AS (NOT) TO + infinitive for purpose.
- ☐ I use SO THAT + clause (with can / could / would) and IN CASE + present tense.
- ☐ I describe neighbourhoods with 6+ B2 adjectives (leafy, buzzy, up-and-coming, gentrified...).
- ☐ I move the stress correctly between REcord/reCORD, INcrease/inCREASE, PROgress/proGRESS.

Hidden gems — Workbook

Extra practice for home study · with answer keys

1. Vocabulary — city & neighbourhoods

Choose the word or phrase that fits best.

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(D) residential area
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(B) vibrant
(C) leafy
(D) polluted
6. To find something by accident is to ____ upon it.
(A) meander
(B) chance
(C) walk
(D) look

2. Vocabulary — gap-fill

Complete each sentence with ONE word from the box (correct form).

BOX: meander · gentrified · packed · overhyped · walkable · landmark

1. The main square is a famous ____ but honestly it's completely ____.
2. We spent Sunday afternoon just ____ing around the old town.
3. Twenty years ago this was rough; today it's fully ____ and unaffordable.
4. The whole street is ____ with tourists from 10am till midnight.

5. The old town is small and completely ____ — you don't need the metro.
6. The view is spectacular but the food is honestly ____.

2b. Vocabulary — discursive writing

Write 120–180 words: 'Gentrification is often seen as a double-edged sword for urban communities. Discuss the impact on local culture and the economy of a vibrant neighbourhood.'

Checklist:

- Use target lexis from the city and neighbourhood sections
- Use varied C1-level grammar (e.g. contrast and purpose linkers)
- Ensure logical cohesion and smooth transitions
- Maintain a formal or semi-formal academic register

[illegible]

3. Grammar — pick the correct linker

Choose the **ONE** linker that is grammatically correct AND makes sense.

1. ____ the queue, the pastry was worth it.
(A) Although
(B) Despite
(C) However
2. ____ it rained all afternoon, we didn't go inside once.
(A) Despite
(B) Even though
(C) In spite of
3. I left early ____ avoid the rush.
(A) for
(B) in order to
(C) so that

4. Take a jumper ____ it gets cold later.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to
5. The old town is buzzy, ____ the new town is completely dead at night.
(A) although
(B) whereas
(C) despite
6. He whispered ____ wake the baby.
(A) so as not to
(B) to not
(C) for not
7. The view was amazing. ____, the food was terrible.
(A) Although
(B) However
(C) In spite of
8. I brought cash ____ the card machine broke.
(A) so that
(B) in case
(C) in order to

4. Grammar — join the ideas

Combine each pair into ONE sentence using the linker in brackets.

1. The café is tiny. It seats twenty. (although)
2. It rained all day. We walked everywhere. (despite)
3. I got up at 5. I wanted empty streets for photos. (so that)
4. Take a paper map. Your phone may die. (in case)
5. The old town is lively. The new town is quiet. (whereas)
6. The view is amazing. The food is disappointing. (however)
7. She spoke quietly. She didn't want to wake the baby. (so as not to)
8. The area is busy in the day. It's dead at night. (even though)

5. Grammar — spot & fix the mistake

Each sentence has ONE mistake. Rewrite it correctly.

1. Despite it was raining, we walked everywhere.
2. I got up early for to see the sunrise.
3. In case it will rain, take an umbrella.
4. Although in spite of the crowds, we enjoyed it.
5. So as to don't wake him, I whispered.
6. Whereas the food was excellent, but the service was slow.

6. Reading — true / false / not given

Read the short text and mark each statement T, F or NG.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

For thirty-eight years, Café Alma sat on a quiet corner in what everyone called 'the working district'. The coffee was a euro, the pastries were made at four every morning by the owner's mother, and the regulars — mostly retired postal workers — had their own reserved chairs. Then, in the summer of 2021, a food blogger posted a fifteen-second video of Alma's cinnamon roll. Within a month, the queue reached the corner. Within a year, the price of the coffee had tripled, the mother had retired, and the retired postal workers had quietly moved to a smaller café two streets away. In spite of the enormous new revenue, the owner told a local paper last month that she regretted the video and would refuse to be filmed again. 'We were fine,' she said. 'We didn't need to be famous. We needed to be ours.'

1. Café Alma had been open for over 30 years before it became famous. [T / F / NG]
2. The café's popularity grew because of a viral video. [T / F / NG]
3. The owner's mother made the coffee every morning. [T / F / NG]
4. The regular customers stopped coming to that neighbourhood. [T / F / NG]
5. The owner sold the café to a chain. [T / F / NG]
6. The owner now regrets the video that made the café famous. [T / F / NG]

7. Writing — an 'insider's guide' post (100–120 words)

Recommend one hidden gem in your city or somewhere you've travelled. Structure: (1) the tourist trap to avoid, (2) your gem, (3) how to get there, (4) a practical warning. Use 2 contrast linkers, 2 purpose linkers and 4 vocab items from Lesson 9A.

Checklist:

- 100–120 words
- 2+ contrast linkers (although / despite / whereas / however)
- 2+ purpose linkers (to / in order to / so that / in case)
- 4+ vocabulary items from Lesson 9A
- Structured: trap → gem → how to get there → warning

[illegible]

8. Listening — 'the neighbourhood tour'

Read the transcript (two clearly different voices). Answer the questions.

■ **Audio:** Local resident (Voice A) guiding a friend (Voice B) around her district · two clearly different voices

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.

9. ■ Challenge — sentence transformation

Rewrite the second sentence using 2–5 words including the KEYWORD.

1. 1. 'The café is tiny, but it seats twenty.' → ____ tiny, it seats twenty. (KEYWORD: ALTHOUGH)
2. 2. 'It rained, but we walked everywhere.' → ____ the rain, we walked everywhere. (KEYWORD: DESPITE)
3. 3. 'I got up early because I wanted to avoid crowds.' → I got up early ____ crowds. (KEYWORD: TO)
4. 4. 'Take an umbrella — it might rain.' → Take an umbrella ____ rains. (KEYWORD: CASE)
5. 5. 'I whispered because I didn't want to wake him.' → I whispered ____ wake him. (KEYWORD: NOT)
6. 6. 'The food was great; the service was slow.' → The food was great; ____ service was slow. (KEYWORD: HOWEVER)

10. ■ Challenge — noun or verb? (stress)

Read each sentence. Is the CAPS word a noun (stress 1) or a verb (stress 2)?

1. The city has broken every RECORD this year.
(A) Noun (REcord)
(B) Verb (reCORD)
2. Can you RECORD the meeting for me?
(A) Noun (REcord)
(B) Verb (reCORD)
3. There's been a huge INCREASE in rents.
(A) Noun (INcrease)
(B) Verb (inCREASE)
4. Prices will INCREASE again in September.
(A) Noun (INcrease)
(B) Verb (inCREASE)
5. We need to make some real PROGRESS today.
(A) Noun (PROgress)
(B) Verb (proGRESS)
6. The plan is PROGRESSING slowly.
(A) Noun (PROgress)
(B) Verb (proGRESS)

11. Self-check

Tick what you can now do confidently.

- I use ALTHOUGH / EVEN THOUGH + subject + verb (never + noun).
- I use DESPITE / IN SPITE OF + noun / -ing / 'the fact that + clause'.
- I use HOWEVER / WHEREAS / WHILE to contrast two full ideas.
- I use TO / IN ORDER TO / SO AS (NOT) TO + infinitive for purpose.
- I use SO THAT + clause (with can / could / would) and IN CASE + present tense.
- I describe neighbourhoods with 6+ B2 adjectives (leafy, buzzy, up-and-coming, gentrified...).
- I move the stress correctly between REcord/reCORD, INcrease/inCREASE, PROgress/proGRESS.



Answer key — Class Book

Reading: 'the map of the city you can't buy'

1. (B) The tourist map and the local mental map
2. (B) Once posted, they stop being hidden
3. (B) Teach them how to find their own
4. (C) Accidental discoveries
5. (A) Overcrowding and gentrification

Vocabulary: neighbourhoods & city exploration

1. gentrified
 2. trap
 3. unassuming
 4. meandered
 5. packed
 6. up
 7. overhyped
 8. chanced
1. We meandered through the old streets for hours.
 2. We chanced upon a tiny jazz bar above a bookshop.
 3. The area used to be working-class, but it's now gentrified.
 4. It's a tiny, unassuming restaurant, but the food is superb.
 5. Honestly, the famous viewpoint is overhyped.

Grammar: clauses of contrast & purpose

1. (B) Despite
 2. (B) Even though
 3. (B) in order to
 4. (B) in case
 5. (B) whereas
 6. (A) so as not to
 7. (B) However
 8. (B) in case
1. Although the café is tiny, it seats twenty people.
 2. Despite the rain / Despite walking, we... → Despite the rain, we walked everywhere. (or: Despite the fact that it rained, we walked everywhere.)
 3. I left early in order to avoid the crowds.
 4. Take a map in case your phone dies.
 5. The old town is lively, whereas the new town is quiet.
 6. The view is amazing. However, the food is disappointing.
 7. She spoke quietly so as not to wake the baby.
 8. I got up at 5 so that I could photograph the empty streets.
1. Despite the rain, we walked everywhere. / Although it was raining, we walked everywhere.
 2. I got up early TO see the sunrise. / IN ORDER TO see the sunrise.
 3. In case it RAINS, take an umbrella.
 4. Although there were crowds, we enjoyed it. / In spite of the crowds, we enjoyed it.
 5. So as NOT to wake him, I whispered.
 6. Whereas the food was excellent, the service was slow. / The food was excellent, but the service was slow.

Listening: 'show me your city'

1. The real, local version of the city — not what's in her guidebook.
 2. The main square — he calls it a tourist trap with €9 coffees.
 3. A tiny hole-in-the-wall bakery in his neighbourhood, no sign, run by an elderly couple.
1. It used to be brilliant but has become overpriced and full of tour groups since it went viral.
 2. Before 8am, so that they don't have to queue for forty minutes.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



3. Cash — the card machine has been broken for two years.
4. It's residential and quiet, whereas the old town is packed with tourists all day.
5. Please don't post it — she can tell her friends, but posting it publicly would ruin the place.
6. Walk two streets past wherever the guidebook stops, and sit somewhere with a menu only in the local language.

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class



Answer key — Workbook

Ask the teacher — notes to bring to class

Hidden gems - Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary - city & neighbourhoods

1. **(B)** *up-and-coming*
2. **(C)** *unassuming eatery*
3. **(A)** *off the beaten track*
4. **(C)** *tourist trap*
5. **(B)** *vibrant*
6. **(B)** *chance*

2. Vocabulary - gap-fill

1. **landmark**
2. **meander**
3. **gentrified**
4. **packed**
5. **walkable**
6. **overhyped**

2b. Vocabulary - discursive writing

Sample answer

An up-and-coming neighbourhood often attracts investment that revitalises a run-down area, yet this process frequently leads to it being fully gentrified and unaffordable for original residents. While we may stumble upon a hidden gem or an unassuming eatery, these locations often become overhyped tourist traps once they appear in guidebooks. A vibrant district is defined by its unique culture, but when every street is packed with chains, that identity is lost. Even though a walkable old town is a significant landmark, we must consider who it is truly for. Meandering through a sleepy street that has suddenly become fashionable, one notices the tension between development and heritage. In order to preserve the soul of a city, urban planning must go beyond aesthetics. Despite the economic benefits of increased tourism, the displacement of local communities remains a high price to pay. Ultimately, a city is only as strong as its most authentic, honest neighbourhoods.

3. Grammar - pick the correct linker

1. **(B)** *Despite*
2. **(B)** *Even though*
3. **(B)** *in order to*
4. **(B)** *in case*
5. **(B)** *whereas*
6. **(A)** *so as not to*
7. **(B)** *However*
8. **(B)** *in case*

4. Grammar - join the ideas

1. *Although the café is tiny, it seats twenty.*
2. *Despite the rain, we walked everywhere. / Despite the fact that it rained, we walked everywhere.*
3. *I got up at 5 so that I could get empty streets for photos.*
4. *Take a paper map in case your phone dies.*
5. *The old town is lively, whereas the new town is quiet.*
6. *The view is amazing. However, the food is disappointing.*
7. *She spoke quietly so as not to wake the baby.*
8. *Even though the area is busy in the day, it's dead at night.*

5. Grammar - spot & fix the mistake

1. *Despite the rain, we walked everywhere. / Although it was raining, we walked everywhere.*
2. *I got up early TO / IN ORDER TO see the sunrise.*
3. *In case it RAINS, take an umbrella.*
4. *Although there were crowds, we enjoyed it. / In spite of the crowds, we enjoyed it.*
5. *So as NOT to wake him, I whispered.*
6. *Whereas the food was excellent, the service was slow.*

6. Reading - true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **T**
3. **F**
4. **F**
5. **NG**
6. **T**

7. Writing - an 'insider's guide' post (100-120 words)

Sample answer

Everyone lands in Porto and rushes to the Ribeira for EUR12 sardines. Even though it's beautiful, the whole strip is a tourist trap now. Whereas ten minutes uphill, in a leafy residential district called Bonfim, there's a family-run tasca called Casa Guedes with the best sandwich in the city. Get the tram (line 22) so that you skip the hill in July. Go before 12.30 in order to grab a table by the window - after that the queue is round the corner. Take cash in case the card machine is dead, which it often is. Despite being twenty minutes from the centre, it feels like a totally different, honest Porto.

8. Listening - 'the neighbourhood tour'

1. *It's overcrowded and overpriced - a total tourist trap.*
2. *A family-run tasca in a residential district with no website.*
3. *Cash - the card machine is often broken.*
4. *So that they can get a table by the window - after that there's a huge queue.*
5. *In case it goes viral and gets ruined by tour groups.*
6. *Walk two streets past wherever the guidebook stops, and sit somewhere with a menu only in the local language.*

9. ■ Challenge - sentence transformation

1. *Although the café is*
2. *Despite*
3. *to avoid*
4. *in case it*
5. *so as not to*
6. *however, the*

10. ■ Challenge - noun or verb? (stress)

1. **(A)** Noun (REcord)
2. **(B)** Verb (reCORD)
3. **(A)** Noun (INcrease)
4. **(B)** Verb (inCREASE)
5. **(A)** Noun (PROgress)
6. **(B)** Verb (proGRESS)

11. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.

Hidden gems — Workbook — Answer Key

1. Vocabulary — city & neighbourhoods

1. **(B)** *up-and-coming*
2. **(C)** *unassuming eatery*
3. **(A)** *off the beaten track*
4. **(C)** *tourist trap*
5. **(B)** *vibrant*
6. **(B)** *chance*

2. Vocabulary — gap-fill

1. **landmark**
2. **meander**
3. **gentrified**
4. **packed**
5. **walkable**
6. **overhyped**

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Sample answer

An up-and-coming neighbourhood often attracts investment that revitalises a run-down area, yet this process frequently leads to it being fully gentrified and unaffordable for original residents. While we may stumble upon a hidden gem or an unassuming eatery, these locations often become overhyped tourist traps once they appear in guidebooks. A vibrant district is defined by its unique culture, but when every street is packed with chains, that identity is lost. Even though a walkable old town is a significant landmark, we must consider who it is truly for. Meandering through a sleepy street that has suddenly become fashionable, one notices the tension between development and heritage. In order to preserve the soul of a city, urban planning must go beyond aesthetics. Despite the economic benefits of increased tourism, the displacement of local communities remains a high price to pay. Ultimately, a city is only as strong as its most authentic, honest neighbourhoods.

3. Grammar — pick the correct linker

1. **(B)** *Despite*
2. **(B)** *Even though*
3. **(B)** *in order to*
4. **(B)** *in case*
5. **(B)** *whereas*
6. **(A)** *so as not to*
7. **(B)** *However*
8. **(B)** *in case*

4. Grammar — join the ideas

1. *Although the café is tiny, it seats twenty.*
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6. *Whereas the food was excellent, the service was slow.*

6. Reading — true / false / not given

1. **T**
2. **T**
3. **F**
4. **F**
5. **NG**
6. **T**

7. Writing — an 'insider's guide' post (100–120 words)

Sample answer

Everyone lands in Porto and rushes to the Ribeira for €12 sardines. Even though it's beautiful, the whole strip is a tourist trap now. Whereas ten minutes uphill, in a leafy residential district called Bonfim, there's a family-run tasca called Casa Guedes with the best sandwich in the city. Get the tram (line 22) so that you skip the hill in July. Go before 12.30 in order to grab a table by the window — after that the queue is round the corner. Take cash in case the card machine is dead, which it often is. Despite being twenty minutes from the centre, it feels like a totally different, honest Porto.

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1. *Although the café is*
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10. ■ Challenge — noun or verb? (stress)

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2. **(B)** Verb (reCORD)
3. **(A)** Noun (INcrease)
4. **(B)** Verb (inCREASE)
5. **(A)** Noun (PROgress)
6. **(B)** Verb (proGRESS)

11. Self-check

Self-assessment — no fixed answers.