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Usage Pairs

Medium | B1 | Intermediate | Adjective | Comparative and superlative | Conditional sentence | Countable and uncountable | Determiner | Imperative mood | Infinitive | Irregular verb | Negation | Noun | Object | Past tense | Preposition | Present tense | Questions | Sentence | Verb | Simple tense

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1. Help Dr. Fizzle complete his rather explosive laboratory report.

The green potion had an unexpected _____ on the laboratory mice. I strongly _____ my assistant to double-check the cages tonight. If the door hinges are _____, the mice will escape and conquer the city!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) effect
B) affect
C) affection

Blank 2

A) advise
B) advice
C) advising

Blank 3

A) loose
B) lose
C) losing

2. Read the cat owner's dramatic diary entries about their lazy pet. Select ALL the sentences that use "lay" and "lie" correctly.

Select all that apply.

A) Sir Fluffs-a-Lot likes to lie right on my computer keyboard when I am working.
B) I always lay a soft blanket on his favorite chair so he doesn't scratch it.
C) He lays on the sunny windowsill all afternoon, ignoring the mice.
D) I usually lie my coffee cup on the desk, which is a big mistake around him.

3. Complete the food critic's dramatic review of the new alien-themed diner by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

The chef should definitely use _____ space-salt in the cosmic soup.
However, a surprising _____ of guests actually enjoyed the glowing green bread.
I found a plastic toy spaceship hidden _____ the many lettuce leaves in my salad.
I placed my napkin right _____ my plate and refused to eat another bite!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

A) less
B) fewer
C) few

Blank 2

A) number
B) amount
C) sum

Blank 3

A) among
B) between
C) middle

Blank 4

- **A)** beside
- **B)** besides
- **C)** next

4. Help Captain Comet review his new superhero fitness plan. Select ALL the sentences that use "fewer" and "less" correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** Captain Comet needs to eat fewer donuts if he wants to fit into his spandex suit.
- **B)** He also needs to drink less soda during his late-night patrols.
- **C)** He should consume less donuts before flying at supersonic speeds.
- **D)** He requires fewer courage to fight villains now that he is stronger.

5. Choose the correct words to complete the spaceship captain's log entry.

We had to carefully navigate _____ two massive asteroids, and then divide the remaining rations _____ the fifty crew members.

Select one.

- **A)** among / between
- **B)** between / among
- **C)** between / between
- **D)** among / among

6. Review the mad scientist's laboratory notes. Select ALL the sentences that use "affect" and "effect" correctly.

Select all that apply.

- **A)** The shrinking potion had a hilarious effect on my assistant's shoes.
- **B)** Will the purple smoke affect the laboratory plants?
- **C)** I hope the recent explosion doesn't effect our annual funding.
- **D)** We still need to study the long-term affects of drinking liquid gold.

7. Complete the frustrated barista's rant to his coworker.

I have _____ patience for customers who demand _____ syrup pumps in their morning coffee.

Select one.

- **A)** less / fewer
- **B)** fewer / less
- **C)** less / less
- **D)** fewer / fewer

8. Help the forgetful wizard complete his frantic text messages to his roommate by dragging the correct words into the blanks.

Please _____ me your invisibility cloak for the weekend.
I had to _____ a regular coat yesterday, and it wasn't nearly as cool.
Also, the button on this coat is too _____, so it keeps falling off!
If I _____ the button, the coat's owner will be absolutely furious.

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** lend
- **B)** borrow
- **C)** lending

Blank 2

- **A)** borrow
- **B)** lend
- **C)** borrowing

Blank 3

- **A)** loose
- **B)** lose
- **C)** loosely

Blank 4

- **A)** lose
- **B)** loose
- **C)** losing

9. Help Inspector Crumb complete his notes on the Great Bakery Heist.

The thief left _____ clues behind, so we have almost nothing to go on. We found a single muddy footprint _____ the cash register. _____ the missing chocolate chip cookies, a giant wedding cake was also stolen!

Choose the correct option for each gap.

Blank 1

- **A)** few
- **B)** a few
- **C)** little

Blank 2

- **A)** beside
- **B)** besides
- **C)** among

Blank 3

- **A)** Besides
- **B)** Beside
- **C)** Between

10. Help the anxious cat owner complete the note for the pet sitter.

Every afternoon, Sir Fluffington likes to _____ on the sofa, so please _____ his favorite velvet blanket there before you leave.

Select one.

- **A)** lay / lie
- **B)** lay / lay
- **C)** lie / lay
- **D)** lie / lie