

Unit 8 Fill in the blank

Ask your partner for the words required to fill the gaps. They should only use words with the part of speech shown in brackets. Don't let them see the text or tell them anything about it. When you have finished, read the completed text out loud to your partner – and enjoy the inevitably silly result!

A Simpler Life

In the heart of a _____ (1. adjective) metropolis, there was a _____ (2. adjective) book store called 'The Book Nook'. Its motto was simple but _____ (3. adjective): "The less you _____ (4. second person singular verb), the better you _____ (5. second person singular verb)." Now more than ever, in a world so filled with _____ (6. uncountable noun), this philosophy _____ (7. past simple verb) with the store's customers.

One day, a young _____ (8. singular noun) named Emma entered the store, feeling overwhelmed by the _____ (9. uncountable noun) in her life. She approached the store owner, Mr Turner, and confessed, "I've _____ (10. past participle) so much, but I feel no better off. I haven't the _____ (11. superlative adjective) idea how to _____ (12. bare infinitive)."

Mr Turner, a man of few _____ (13. plural noun) but much _____ (14. uncountable noun), smiled and said, "Sometimes the less you _____ (15. second person singular verb), the better your _____ (16. singular noun) becomes. It's tantamount to decluttering your _____ (17. singular noun). Even the _____ (18. superlative adjective) change can bring you _____ (19. singular noun)."

Inspired, Emma decided to _____ (20. bare infinitive) this philosophy. She gradually let go of the _____ (21. singular noun) and _____ (22. past simple verb) her life. Now she understood that owning countless _____ (23. plural noun) was not as _____ (24. adjective) as _____ (25. uncountable noun).

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Activity

Pair work: speaking

Aim

To give students the opportunity to revise comparative structures and phrases

Language focus

Comparatives

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each pair.

Time

25 minutes

Teaching notes

Procedure

- › Tell your students that they are going to play a special word game. In pairs, they will work to complete a gapped text – but only one of the two students in the pair will be able to see it. The student with the text will ask their partner to provide different types of words, and these words will be added to the text, whether they make sense or not.
- › Put your students in pairs and give the gapped text to one person in the pair; tell them not to show the text to their partner until the end. Point out that next to each gap there is a word or phrase in brackets indicating which part of speech the word in the gap should be – e.g., *bare infinitive*, *superlative adjective*, *plural noun*. The student with the text will ask their partner to provide the words required and then add them to the text.
- › Give the pairs five minutes to complete the text while you circulate and provide support.
- › Once the pairs have completed their texts, ask one person in each pair to read their text to the class. The results are unlikely to make sense and should be amusing.
- › Now ask the pairs to work together to complete the text in a way that makes sense. To make this task a bit easier, project a complete version of the first paragraph, or provide it as a handout, using the suggested answer below. Give them ten minutes to do this while you circulate and provide support.
- › As a final task, ask the pairs to identify the eight examples of comparative language that appear in the text.

Possible answers

In the heart of a bustling metropolis, there was a charming book store called 'The Book Nook'. Its motto was simple but profound: "The less you own, the better you live." Now more than ever, in a world so filled with materialism, this philosophy resonated with the store's customers.

One day, a young woman named Emma entered the store, feeling overwhelmed by the clutter in her life. She approached the store owner, Mr Turner, and confessed, "I've accumulated so much, but I feel no better off. I haven't the faintest idea how to simplify."

Mr Turner, a man of few possessions but great wisdom, smiled and said, "Sometimes the less you possess, the better your life becomes. It's tantamount to decluttering your soul. Even the slightest change can bring you peace."

Inspired, Emma decided to embrace this philosophy. She gradually let go of the excess and simplified her life. Now she understood that owning countless possessions was not as important as simplicity.

Comparative language

The less you own, the better you live

Now more than ever

no better off

the faintest idea

the less you possess, the better your life becomes

tantamount to

the slightest change

not as important as