Grammar plus: substitution/ellipsis

1. Look at the first three paragraphs of the text on p.82.

There are three places marked with a ▲. In each of these places a different word is understood by the reader but left out of the text by the writer. Can you identify what word is missed out in each case?

▲ \_
▲ \_
▲ \_

2. There are four words/phrases underlined. In each case, can you identify what the underlined word refers back to?

- line 10 \_
- line 14 \_
- line 20 \_
- line 32 \_

Look at the box below and decide which substitution word should be used in each sentence 1–6.

Substitution

We often try to avoid repeating a word or expression that has already been used. To do this, we can use other words as substitutes e.g. it, one, do, there, this, so, neither, not. This has the effect of tying together or ‘connecting’ phrases and sentences.

1. Ann: Do you think Mary will come to the film? Pete: She might \_
2. James: I’ll be at the restaurant by 8 p.m. Kevin: OK, I’ll see you \_
3. Tina: Are you going to go out with Sam? Laura: I think \_
4. John: I can’t decide whether to buy a new car or a second-hand \_
5. Joe: Are you going to do this essay tonight or \_
6. Mary: Sarah lost her job on Friday \_

Look at 1–10 below. Find the mistake in each one and correct it.

2. A: Are you going to have the living-room redecorated? B: No, I’m afraid I can’t afford.
3. We don’t want a new music system. Our old is still perfectly OK.
4. A: We won’t have a proper holiday this year. B: So we will.
5. A: Sandra should be at home by 9 p.m. B: OK, I’ll drop by after work.
6. They said they’d give us a ring when they arrived but they hadn’t.
7. A: Tell Julie I want a word with her! B: Don’t worry, I do.
8. A: Who does this wallet belong to? B: Oh, I think it’s Joan’s one.
10. We seem to have more free time now than we used.

Grammar reference pp.196–197

Exam Master M

Look at the box below and decide which words’ phrases are being missed out in each sentence 1–9.

Ellipsis

We often leave our words in order to avoid repetition. This is called ellipsis.

1. They feel tired but \_
2. She was thinking of taking some holiday next week but now she can’t \_
3. Eat as many as you want \_
4. Jim is leaving on Friday. He will ring you later to explain why \_
5. I haven’t got any blue towels. Only green \_
6. Those are Melanie’s trainers. Those \_
7. She promised she’d come and visit me but she hasn’t \_
8. If you can \_
9. I’m sorry I got so angry. I didn’t mean to \_

Work with another student. Decide how the following paragraphs can be improved in style by using substitution or ellipsis.

1. I’ve been out that relationships between children and their parents fundamentally affect adult behaviour. But now the importance of the relationship between children and their parents is being challenged as new research shows that a child’s relationship with his siblings may have a more important effect on future adult behaviour. Psychologist Francesca Kajtrak says, "Our relationship with our siblings is unbreakable. We have our siblings whether we like our siblings or whether we don’t like them. As parents, friends drift away, marriages dissolve, that relationship with our siblings continues and the memories of the time that has been shared with them remain with us for a long time after childhood has ended."

2. Choose six of the verb and preposition combinations above that you are less confident about using correctly. Make one sentence for each to demonstrate you understand their meaning. Try and make the sentences true about yourself where possible.

EXAMPLE: I hope to specialise in veterinary science after I leave school.

Speaking: talking about families

Listen to Tony describing his family. Complete the family tree started below and make notes of any special information about the different family members or relationships between them.

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