Multiple Choice Cloze

B2 Multiple Choice Cloze: Community Repair Cafés and Everyday Sustainability

Complete original B2 First exam-style task. Independent practice material, not an official Cambridge paper.

For questions 1-8, read the text below and decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

To raise awareness of waste, local volunteers promote the possibility of repair. Repair cafés show how an idea can (1) _____ on and spread beyond its original community. At these events, visitors bring broken objects and work alongside volunteers to see what can be repaired. A successful repair may avoid the need to buy a (2) _____, although materials can cost money. Repairing an object can give it a new (3) _____ of life. Avoiding an unnecessary purchase can make a big (4) _____ to a household budget. Visitors can also (5) _____ up practical skills by helping with simple tasks under guidance. The events bring neighbours together and encourage people to (6) _____ responsibility for the waste they create. To provide regular meeting places for this work, repair cafés have been (7) _____ up by local groups. Not every object can be repaired, but the events encourage people to think before throwing things away. What began with an event in Amsterdam in 2009 has (8) _____ into an international movement.

Your answers

1	A catch	B hold	C bring	D turn
2	A restoration	B renewal	C replacement	D recovery
3	A period	B lease	C span	D length
4	A result	B point	C effect	D difference
5	A catch	B hold	C pick	D turn
6	A do	B fill	C take	D make
7	A made	B set	C held	D grown
8	A grown	B stretched	C widened	D pushed

Answers & explanations

Question 1 | A - catch

"catch on and spread beyond its original community"

An idea can catch on: it becomes popular or gains acceptance. The clue is that it spreads beyond its original community.

B. Hold on means wait or keep a grip; it does not express growing popularity.

C. Bring on can mean cause something, but that use needs an object: bring on a headache.

D. Turn on can mean activate a device; it does not mean become popular.

Question 2 | C - replacement

"avoid the need to buy a replacement"

A replacement is another item that takes the broken object's place. The phrase buy a links the gap to that substitute item, rather than to a process of making the original usable again.

A. Restoration is the process of returning something to a former condition; it does not name the new item bought instead.

B. Renewal means making something new again or extending its validity, as in a subscription renewal.

D. Recovery means returning to a normal state or getting something back; it does not name a substitute product.

Question 3 | B - lease

"give it a new lease of life"

Give something a new lease of life means make it useful, active or enjoyable again. Repairing the object provides exactly this renewed usefulness. Learn the complete expression, including a new and of life.

A. Period means a stretch of time, but a new period of life is not the fixed expression used here.

C. Span occurs in life span, meaning the total time something lasts; a new span of life does not complete this idiom.

D. Length describes duration, as in the length of someone's life, rather than renewed usefulness.

Question 4 | D - difference

"make a big difference to a household budget"

Make a big difference to something means have a substantial effect on it. Here, avoiding a purchase can noticeably help a household budget. Both make before the gap and to after it help identify the expression.

A. We normally achieve or get a result, rather than make a big result.

B. Make a point means express or emphasise an idea; it does not describe the financial benefit here.

C. We have an effect on something, rather than make an effect to it.

Question 5 | C - pick

"pick up practical skills"

Pick up practical skills means learn them through experience or informal practice. Taking part in guided repair activities explains how visitors acquire these skills.

A. Catch up means reach the same position or level as someone else. With skills as the object, it does not express learning them.

B. Hold up can mean delay or support something, neither of which expresses learning.

D. Turn up can mean arrive or increase a setting, such as the volume; it does not mean acquire skills.

Question 6 | C - take

"take responsibility for the waste they create"

Take responsibility for something means accept that you should deal with it or are accountable for it. Here, people recognise their own role in producing waste.

A. Do is used with tasks, as in do the work, but not in the expression do responsibility.

B. Fill combines with role or position; it does not combine with responsibility in this sense.

D. Make responsibility does not express accepting accountability.

Question 7 | B - set

"repair cafés have been set up by local groups"

Have been set up by local groups means those groups have established the repair cafés. The purpose, to provide regular meeting places, supports this meaning. Have been and by local groups signal a passive construction, so the gap requires a past participle. Set has the same base form, past tense and past participle.

A. Made up would suggest invented or fabricated, rather than established as real events.

C. Held up would mean delayed. The purpose of providing regular meeting places points instead to establishing the cafés.

D. Grown up means become an adult or mature; it cannot describe this passive action by organisers.

Question 8 | A - grown

"has grown into an international movement"

Has grown into an international movement describes development from a small beginning into something larger. The contrast between one event and an international movement supports this meaning. Into introduces the resulting form.

B. Stretched suggests extension or strain; it does not naturally express this development into a movement.

C. Widened means become broader, but widened into a movement is not the usual construction.

D. Pushed into suggests force or pressure. That meaning would need a passive construction here, such as has been pushed into.