

RW.4-5 · Key cloze: vocabulary and grammar in context

A2 Key and B1 Preliminary (KET, PET) · Cambridge English · A2 Key (KET)

What this topic covers

Parts 4 and 5 are the **cloze** parts: a short text with gaps. Part 4 gives three word choices per gap (vocabulary); Part 5 gives no choices at all (grammar). Together they are the “vocabulary and grammar in context” engine of A2 Key.

- **Part 4:** six gaps, three options each. It tests **word choice**: collocation, meaning, phrasal verbs.
- **Part 5:** six gaps in a short email – sometimes an email and its reply. No options; you write one word per gap: an article, a preposition, a pronoun, a modal – the small grammar words.
- Memory hook: Part 4 is a **shop** – choose from the shelf. Part 5 is a **kitchen** – cook the word yourself from whatever the sentence gives you.

Part 4: choosing from the shelf

Three options; usually all three are “possible English”, but only one fits **this sentence**.

- **Collocation is king.** *We ____ a great time.* A) made B) had C) took → **had** (*have a great time* is the fixed pair). The other two are fine words at the wrong party.
- Read the **whole sentence**, not just the gap. The answer often hides three words later: *She is very fond ____ cats.* → **of**. (*fond of* – the shelf only sells the pair.)
- △ If two options feel right, one of them is collocating with a neighbour word you’re ignoring. Re-read the gap’s neighbours on both sides.

Part 5: cooking the word yourself

No options. One word per gap, and the menu is predictable:

The gap’s job	The usual answers
article	a, an, the
preposition	in, on, at, for, with, by
pronoun	it, they, who, which
modal / auxiliary	can, will, would, do, is, are, has
linker	and, but, so, because, when, if

- The grammar you learned in A1 and A2 **is** the answer key: articles (A2 topic 7), prepositions of time and place, *there is*, question words, modals.

- Example: *I have lived here ____ 2019.* → **since.** ____ *you like tea?* → **Do.** The A2 review pays its rent here.
- **△ Spelling counts.** A right word spelled wrong is a wrong word. *whent* gets no mark and no sympathy.

The cloze rhythm

1. **Read the whole text first** without writing anything. Know the story.
 2. Then fill the gaps one by one, reading the full sentence each time.
 3. Re-read the finished text. If a sentence sounds wrong in your head, it is wrong.
- Memory hook: the first read is the map; the gaps are the roads; the re-read is the drive.

Watch out: traps for Chinese speakers

- **△ The article gaps are yours to lose.** Chinese has no articles, so *a/the* gaps feel invisible. They are not invisible; they are free marks wearing camouflage.
- **△ One word only.** Part 5 takes exactly one word. “*in the*” in one gap is two words and zero marks.
- **△ Don’t invent rare words.** The answer is always a small common word. If your answer is *serendipity*, the gap wanted *so*.
- **△ Check the capital letter.** A gap at the start of a sentence needs a capital. *There* not *there*.

Try it

Last summer, I went to the beach ____ my family. We stayed ____ a small hotel near the sea. The weather ____ perfect, so we swam every day. I have never had ____ a good holiday. I will never forget it.

Answers: **with** · **in/at** · **was** · **such**. (*such a good holiday* – the collocation shelf again. *so* would need *so good a holiday*, and nobody has time for that.)

Check yourself

Answer first, then read the explanation.

1. *We ____ a great time.* – **had**. The collocation decides.
2. *I have lived here ____ 2019.* – **since**. A start line, from A2.
3. Part 5, no options – **one small grammar word**: article, preposition, pronoun, modal, linker.
4. A right word spelled wrong – **no marks**. Spelling counts.
5. “*in the*” in one gap – **illegal**. One word per gap.