

Student name: _____

Class: _____

Date: _____

Practice

1 Choose the correct word or phrase to introduce the explanation.

- a The company was unable to increase salaries *due to* / *because* the financial crisis.
- b There are no advertising costs involved *thanks to* / *which means that* the customer benefits from the reduced retail price.
- c The lack of success at the first attempt turned out to be a good thing, *as* / *that is* it helped researchers to find a far cheaper solution.
- d The agreement was not signed on the first of June, as had been planned. *Therefore* / *The main reason for this was* the failure of all the countries to agree on a trade policy.
- e This kind of telescope uses different technology to the optical type you are familiar with. *By this I mean that* / *This happens as a result of* you don't actually 'see' the object, so much as record the radio waves that it is emitting.
- f *So that* / *Because of* the weather, the event had to be moved indoors.

2  **01 Look at the extracts from talks and lectures, and predict which words or phrases might be used to complete them. There are many possible answers. Then listen and check.**

- a Finally, there are the double skin curtain walls. _____? Well, there are two layers of window with a cavity in between, and this cavity acts as insulation against the hot sun.
- b But there's a reason it's been described as 'the most energy-efficient skyscraper in the world', and that's because it's essentially a 'smart tower' – _____ it intelligently uses natural forces to maximize energy efficiency.
- c As you will know if you have prepared for this lecture, the Itaipu Dam is built on the Paraná River in South America, on the border of Brazil and Paraguay. And _____ its location, the whole project has been shared between the two countries.
- d All around the world, people are living longer – in some cases, much longer – than they were in the past. _____ a number of factors, including improved medicine, diets and access to sanitation and health services.
- e And _____ the school is immersed in the jungle, the students are able to explore their relationship with the environment every day.
- f Hall pioneered the study of proxemics – _____ how the physical closeness of people is shaped by culture.

3  **02 Listen to a longer extract and answer the questions.**

- a According to the speaker, what is light pollution?

- b What examples of causes of light pollution could you see on a night walk in a city?

- c What are the first two reasons why light pollution is a problem?
1 _____
2 _____
- d Why is light pollution a serious problem for animals?

- 4** **03** Listen to someone talking about a process. In the spaces below, try to write down the key information you hear as part of the explanation.

First of all	
Then	
Now	

Reflect

- 5** Read through the checklist and the examples. Number the points in order (1–7) to show how important you think they are. Then compare and discuss your answers with a partner.

Checklist: listening for explanations

- ☐ Listen for a definition:
The jewellery is made of agate. This semi-precious stone has been prized by humans for thousands of years.
- ☐ Listen for explanatory or linking phrases which provide clear 'signposts':
The problem cannot be solved easily. The main reason for this is that countries cannot agree on a single solution.
- ☐ Listen for contrasting ideas:
Originally, we used wood for this, but now we use steel.
- ☐ Listen for a relative pronoun introducing a definition:
Treatment includes hydrotherapy, where patients perform special exercises in a heated pool.
- ☐ Listen for a main point followed by a new sentence:
This is easily the best app for the job. It is quick, free and intuitive to use.
- ☐ Listen for a rhetorical question:
This is an area of study that is becoming less and less popular. Why should this be the case? Well, it has to do with ...
- ☐ Listen for the beginning of a list or sequence of events:
Manned space travel beyond the nearest planets is difficult to imagine. Firstly, the distances involved mean that it would simply take too long. Then ...