

Multiple-choice cloze

4 Complete the sentences with the words given.

• customary • common • usual • ordinary

- 1 I arrived at work at the ..... time, but there was nobody to let me in.
- 2 To avoid debt, use your ..... sense when planning your spending.
- 3 It was a normal Tuesday on which nothing out of the ..... happened.
- 4 It is ..... to mark special occasions with some form of celebration.

• fees • accounts • payments • instalments

- 5 Sean found the tuition ..... for his son's education to be quite expensive.
- 6 Paul paid for his new laptop in 24 monthly .....
- 7 A tax official is coming to check the company's ..... next week.
- 8 Sally didn't keep up with her mortgage ..... and she lost her home.

• comprised • consisted • included • featured

- 9 The meal ..... of three traditional dishes each more delicious than the other.
- 10 The panel of interviewers was ..... of three heads of department.
- 11 The film was made on a shoestring and ..... mostly unknown actors.
- 12 We ..... a generous tip for the waiter when we paid the bill.

• curb • conquer • command • control

- 13 Jane doesn't delegate as she wants to ..... every aspect of the project.
- 14 Tom's films make lots of money and he can ..... huge fees for each one.
- 15 I think the government should do more to ..... tax evasion.
- 16 If you want a job abroad, you'll need to ..... your fear of flying first.

5 For questions 1-8, decide which answer (A, B, C or D) best fits each gap.

## Gazumping: What options do you have?

If a seller accepts an offer to buy their house, but then 0) .....B..... the agreement and accepts a higher offer from a second buyer, the first buyer has been 'gazumped'. The practice is understandably frowned 1) ....., but is not illegal in England and Wales. The first buyer is simply left in the lurch and either has to offer a higher price or 2) ..... losing the house. The problem for buyers is that once an offer has been accepted, they start 3) ..... costs, like lawyers' bills, surveyors charges and so on, without any legal guarantee of ownership. Until contracts have been exchanged the sale agreement is not legally 4) ..... and estate agents are obliged to tell the seller about any higher offers on the property.

Unlike Scotland, where a sale is considered legally binding from the moment an offer is accepted, gazumping is widespread in England and Wales, and the government is looking at measures to 5) ..... the practice, including making sellers pay for structural surveys and legal expenses.

Until things change, you can help to ward off gazumpers by pushing the sale through quickly and staying in regular contact with the seller's agent. Insist the house is taken off the market once your offer has been accepted and check that the board outside the house has a 'sold' sign on it. To be extra safe, you can take out insurance 6) ..... as protection or spend a bit extra on legal 7) ..... to get an exclusivity agreement 8) ..... up with the seller.

- |   |            |             |              |               |
|---|------------|-------------|--------------|---------------|
| 0 | A refuses  | B scraps    | C denies     | D crushes     |
| 1 | A over     | B onto      | C upon       | D into        |
| 2 | A prefer   | B comprise  | C withstand  | D face        |
| 3 | A spending | B mounting  | C financing  | D incurring   |
| 4 | A securing | B confining | C obliging   | D binding     |
| 5 | A curb     | B cut       | C decelerate | D rein        |
| 6 | A contract | B cover     | C policy     | D deal        |
| 7 | A fees     | B accounts  | C payments   | D instalments |
| 8 | A marked   | B drawn     | C sketched   | D made        |