

**PROFICIENCY READING & USE OF ENGLISH PART 1 – MULTIPLE CHOICE CLOZE.**

**Read this article, (adapted from the BBC March 2020) and choose the correct option (A,B,C or D) which best fits each gap. There are 14 gaps. As you know, in the official exam there are 8 gaps and the text is much shorter.**

**As more countries go into lockdown, bookshops around the world are having to think of creative ways to serve their customers and communities.**

In uncertain times, \_\_\_1\_\_\_ spaces feel more comforting than a bookshop. And, over the past few years, as the world has felt increasingly \_\_\_2\_\_\_, indie bookshops – once in danger from online retailers and big chains – have experienced something of a resurgence, providing a place of \_\_\_3\_\_\_ and sense of community.

So, it feels especially painful that during this global pandemic, bookshops – at least physically – have become increasingly \_\_\_4\_\_\_. As Covid-19 spreads around the world, many countries are entering periods of total lockdown, with \_\_\_5\_\_\_ but essential services closed, and people ordered to stay inside.

All this means bookshops are rapidly closing their stores – some because they have been told to, others through choice to protect the health of their customers and staff. Yet, with people stuck at home and in need of \_\_\_6\_\_\_ and escape, books suddenly feel more vital than ever – and booksellers by their very \_\_\_7\_\_\_ are resilient and creative folk. So they are \_\_\_8\_\_\_ new ways to serve their customers and communities, from \_\_\_9\_\_\_ their delivery service and dropping off orders by bicycle, to recreating their community spaces on social media, recommending the perfect books for those stuck in self isolation and \_\_\_10\_\_\_ virtual events.

## Comfort reading

For Mike, owner of a bookstore in Michigan, shutting the doors was both an easy and a difficult decision to make. Like many shops, they moved quickly to

11 online ordering. “We usually get around 5 or 10 orders a day. In less than a week we’ve had over 800,” says Mike. “Everything happened so fast. However, our community has 12 behind us. They have placed many orders, left overwhelmingly kind comments and 13 our morale on social media pages. I fully 14 that during times like these, books are not high on the hierarchy of survival needs. And yet, for so many, books offer a unique kind of comfort, and perhaps are really needed right now.”

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|-----|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------|
| 1.  | A. many         | B. few              | C. little         | D. less         |
| 2.  | A. stormy       | B. confusing        | C. tumultuous     | D. violent      |
| 3.  | A. solace       | B. solidarity       | C. seclusion      | D. solitude     |
| 4.  | A. in the dark  | B. up the creek     | C. out of bounds  | D. out of sorts |
| 5.  | A. every        | B. some             | C. only           | D. all          |
| 6.  | A. disruption   | B. disarray         | C. concentration  | D. distraction  |
| 7.  | A. nature       | B. self             | C. character      | D. personality  |
| 8.  | A. putting out  | B. coming down with | C. coming up with | D. bringing up  |
| 9.  | A. boosting up  | B. ramping up       | C. flaring up     | D. moving up    |
| 10. | A. taking place | B. running          | C. functioning    | D. driving      |
| 11. | A. formalising  | B. updating         | C. cancelling     | D. prioritising |
| 12. | A. supported    | B. backed           | C. encouraged     | D. rallied      |
| 13. | A. grown        | B. risen            | C. expanded       | D. boosted      |
| 14. | A. grasp        | B. grip             | C. glance         | D. glimpse      |

\*text adapted from “How bookshops are helping with isolation” by Clare Thorp, BBC Culture 23 March 2020.

## ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE CHOICE CLOZE

1.	B
2.	C
3.	A
4.	C
5.	D
6.	D
7.	A
8.	C
9.	B
10.	B
11.	D
12.	D
13.	C
14.	A