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FCE (B2):
REPHRASING

**50 PRACTICE QUESTIONS FOR THE CAMBRIDGE
FIRST CERTIFICATE EXAM**

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Rephrasing (transformation) types in the FCE exam

In this part of the exam you have six sentences to complete. You need to read the first sentence in each question. From this you need to look at the second sentence and think about what information is missing. You must then complete the second sentence so that it has the same meaning as the first with **2-5 words** (NO MORE). Another thing to understand is that you are provided with a word that you must use in exactly the same form (if it is TOLD, you cannot use tell, telling or any variation of the word. **ONLY TOLD**). Each of the questions is worth 2 points and the points are based on lexical (vocabulary) or structural (grammatical) points. What they assess in this part of the exam are as follows:

Lexical: phrasal verbs, word patterns, fixed expressions, contextual vocabulary etc.

Structural: passive, relative clauses, reported speech, quantifiers, connectors, tense changes, gerund versus infinitive, modal verbs, inversions (rarely), conditionals etc.



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Passive voice

The examiner tells candidates the rules before the start of the exam.

TOLD At the beginning of the exam candidates the rules.

Answer: are told

Comparatives

The pizza was so good we had to ask for seconds.

SUCH It we had to ask for seconds.

Answer: was such good/great pizza

Reported speech

'You look really upset,' he told his brother.

SAID He really upset.

Answer: said that he/his brother looked

Verb patterns (gerund vs infinitive)

I think it would be a good idea if you joined the beginner's class.

SUGGEST I the beginners class.

Answer: suggested joining

Phrasal verbs

They've cancelled the meeting as the boss couldn't make it.

OFF They have the meeting because of the boss's absence.

Answer: had to call off



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Quantifiers

We had several issues to work out before signing the contract

FEW Before signing the contract issues to resolve.

Answer: we had a few

Tense change

This weekend has been much cooler than last week.

COLD Last week this weekend.

Answer: wasn't as cold as

Conditionals

I only told you because I thought you would be excited about the opportunity.

TOLD I you if I thought you weren't excited.

Answer: wouldn't have told

Unreal conditionals

You should get up earlier in the morning so as not to be late.

BETTER You up earlier so that you are not late.

Answer: had better get

Auxiliary verbs

Perhaps we missed the train and will have to get a later one.

MIGHT We the train and will have to wait.

Answer: might have missed



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50 QUESTIONS

1. If you want to pass the exam, you need to make an extra big effort.
PUT
You need _____ big effort unless you want to fail the exam.
2. As for me, you had better lower the price of your course.
CONCERNED
As _____, you should lower the price of your course.
3. Our siblings are eager to arrange a romantic get-away for our parents.
LIKE
Our siblings really _____ a romantic trip for our parents.
4. I have to admit that football has never really interested me.
GRAB
I must say that football _____ attention.
5. What is the thing that you are most afraid of doing?
FEAR
What do _____ most?
6. I am learning English so that I can finish my degree by May of this year.
ORDER
I am learning English _____ my degree by May this year.
7. We are not allowed to go to the party because we are grounded
LET
Our parents won't _____ to the party as a punishment.



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8. The teacher says it is a good idea to study the course material using an online course.

RECOMMENDS

The teacher _____ to study the course material.

9. I don't mind working hard, as long as I get paid for it.

PROVIDING

Working hard doesn't matter to me, _____ payment for it.

10. I find it hard to keep amused when I stay in my home town.

ENTERTAIN

It isn't _____ by staying in my home town.

11. The teacher was so boring that I literally fell asleep.

SUCH

She was _____ that I literally couldn't stay awake.

12. We must make the most of our opportunity to speak to the native teacher.

ADVANTAGE

We need _____ the chance to speak to the native teacher.

13. In spite of the cost, it was still a great evening.

DESPITE

_____ lot, it was still a great evening.

14. I was surprised that you called me after so many years.

CAME

It _____ to receive your phone call after such a long time.

15. It was ages since I had seen my parents.

FOR

I hadn't _____ ages.

16. I haven't been out and done any training for ages.

BEEN

It _____ since I went out and did some exercise.



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17. She was so cross because of the way I spoke to her.

AS

_____ spoken to her badly, she got really angry.

18. I am very used to spending lots of time outdoors with friends.

TEND

I _____ out with friends outside a lot.

19. Surely you are looking forward to finishing the course so that you can relax?

WAIT

I bet you _____ to end the course in order to unwind.

20. I didn't know there was a problem because you didn't call me.

CALLED

Had _____, I would have known there was a problem.

21. Marc told Oliver, "I can't stand going to work every day, we need more time off".

HATES

Tom said _____ every day and that he needs more time off.

22. You are not supposed to study grammar all the time, you need to learn through the usage of language.

ALLOWED

You aren't _____ too much, you need to learn by practicing language.



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23. This year has been so awful that I don't know if I can go on.

SUCH

This has _____ year that I can't carry on.

24. I am having problems taking in all of the complex information.

SO

The information is _____ it is hard to believe.

25. I think it is a waste of time going to the school reunion tonight.

POINT

I don't _____ going to the school reunion tonight.

26. This whiskey is so strong that I can't drink it all at once.

SUCH

This is _____ I can't drink it in one go.

27. If what happened wasn't your fault, then why did you lie.

BLAME

Why lie if _____ for what happened?

28. Their car needs replacing as it is becoming expensive to repair.

FIX

Their car _____, it needs replacing.

29. The cruise to Norway was so expensive that nobody could afford it.

SUCH

It was _____ Norway that nobody had enough money to pay for it.



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30. You should use only English during the speaking exam.

OBJECT

The examiners _____ anything but English in the speaking exam.

31. What exactly are you getting at when you say “a bargain”?

SUGGESTING

What exactly _____ saying “a bargain”?

32. Inés knew nothing about the surprise they had arranged for her.

IDEA

Inés _____ that they had arranged a surprise for her.

33. Recently I have gone off eating tuna as I have eaten it too much.

ON

I am not so _____ tuna recently as I eat it too often.

34. The commuters were delayed by a serious accident on the M1.

UP

The commuters _____ by a serious accident on the motorway.

35. It's not easy to stand for the current situation as the terms are rubbish.

UP

I really don't like having _____ this situation on these rubbish terms.

36. We ought to continue with our lives after the tragic news.

CARRY

We had _____ with our lives after the tragedy.



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37. I won't be able to make it so let's cancel the party this weekend.

OFF

I reckon we _____ this weekend as I won't get there on time.

38. We won't be able to do a full training session because of the heat.

TO

_____ heat, we can't do a full training session.

39. The idea that he is a liar is completely false.

TRUTH

There is _____ claims that he is a liar.

40. "I didn't have an affair!" shouted the woman.

DENIED

The woman _____ on her husband.

41. My boss said that I had to work at the weekends.

ON

My boss _____ working at the weekends.

42. Ashley said "you pulled down my shelf".

ACCUSED

I was _____ down the shelf.

43. I hardly ever wear sunglasses as I find them annoying.

USED

I am _____ sunglasses because I don't like them.

44. John is excited about driving his new car.

FORWARD

John _____ his new car.

45. In the case of an emergency, read and follow the instructions beforehand.

JUST

Read and follow the instructions _____ is an emergency.



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46. He should learn to cope with things by himself.

OWN

He ought to handle things _____.

47. In the end it was a great trip, in spite of the weather.

OUT

Despite the weather, it _____ a great trip.

48. You should consider all the options before making a decision.

INTO

All the options should be _____ before deciding.

49. He stopped smoking several years ago.

UP

He _____ few years ago.

50. My teacher shouted at me for not doing my homework.

OFF

I _____ by my teacher for not completing my homework.



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ANSWER SHEET

1. to put in an extra
2. far as I am concerned
3. feel like arranging
4. has failed to grab my
5. do you fear doing
6. in order to finish
7. let us go
8. recommends using an online course
9. providing (that) I receive
10. easy to entertain myself
11. such a boring teacher
12. to take advantage of
13. Despite costing a
14. came as a surprise
15. had not seen my parents
16. has been ages
17. As I had
18. tend to hang
19. cannot/can't wait to
20. you called me
21. that he hates working
22. allowed to study grammar
23. been such an awful
24. so complex that
25. see the point in



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26. such strong whiskey
27. were not to blame
28. is so expensive to fix
29. such an expensive cruise to
30. object to you using
31. are you suggesting by
32. had no idea
33. keen on eating
34. were held up
35. to put up with
36. better carry on
37. should put off the party
38. Due to the
39. No truth in the
40. denied cheating
41. insisted on me
42. accused of pulling
43. not used to wearing
44. is looking forward to driving
45. just in case there
46. on his own
47. turned out to be
48. taken into account
49. gave up smoking a
50. was told off



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