**The following two exercises are useful practice for the English exam. They show how the grammar of present and narrative tenses, time linkers, communication verbs and reference words (found in Units 1 and 2) need to be applied to complete the texts.**

1. Complete the following text, putting **one appropriate** word in each gap.Consider both **grammar and meaning.** An **example (0)** has been done for you.

**A FALLEN HERO**

In the Seoul Olympics (0) \_\_***in***\_\_ 1988, the Canadian runner Ben Johnson (1)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ running in the 100 metres final. People called it ‘the race of the century’ because Johnson had to compete (2)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his greatest rival, the American sprinter, Carl Lewis. However, (3)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the runners were preparing to start the race, some people noticed that Johnson’s eyes were very yellow. The race began and moments later Johnson (4)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ won, becoming the Olympic champion. His time of 9.72 seconds was a new world record. Johnson was euphoric.

After the race he (5)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_: ’My name is Benjamin Sinclair Johnson Jnr and this record (6)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ last 50 years, maybe 100 years.’

But he was wrong, because it lasted only a (7)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hours. That evening, drugs tests showed that Johnson had (8)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ steroids before the race. As a result, the Olympic committee took (9)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his gold medal and gave (10)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to Carl Lewis instead. Johnson was also banned from athletics for two years.

**See answers below**

**Answers to text 1**

1. was (auxiliary for past continuous)

2. against

3. while/when (time linker)

4. had (auxiliary for past perfect)

5. said / announced (past simple)

6. will

7. few

8. taken / used (past participle for past perfect)

9. away

10. it (reference word)

**2.** Complete the following text, putting one appropriate word in each gap. Consider both **grammar and meaning**. An example (0) has been done for you.

**Neighbours in Britain**

New research shows that British people (0).…***are***…… becoming increasingly isolated from (1)………… local communities: in fact almost 70 per cent of people (2)………… not know their neighbours’ full names and a third would not recognise (3)………….. in the street. Fewer (4)………….. a third of those questioned in a survey would consider their neighbours to be friends and, sadly, this figure falls to only 18 per cent for younger people - those aged (5)……………. 18 and 34. Similarly, 82 per cent of Londoners and 65 per cent of people living in the south-east of the country (6)………….. in the survey that they do not know what job their neighbours have and are not interested.

“Relationships with our neighbours (7)………….. changed significantly over the past few years because the way we live, work and socialise has evolved,” one researcher said. “We move house more frequently, spend less time communicating face-to-face and lead (8)…………… busy lives. As a result, we know very little about our neighbours”.

The government is concerned that this lack of community feeling and solidarity will become (9)………….. serious problem as more elderly people are living (10)…………., far from their families. “Having a good relationship with people who live nearby can make a community a safer and more sociable place to live in”, one spokesman said.

**See answers below**

**Answers to text 2**

1. their (reference word)

2. do (auxiliary for negative past simple)

3. them (reference word)

4. than

5. between

6. said / stated / claimed / declared / wrote (past simple communication verb)

7. have (auxiliary for present perfect)

8. very / such

9. a

10. alone