

"Taliban capture first Afghan provincial capital city"

GAP FILL

The Taliban have (1) captured an Afghan provincial capital city for the first time since 2001. Police in the city of Zaranj, capital of the (2) southern Nimroz province, said Taliban forces are now in control. Nimroz is on the (3) border with Iran. The police there were unable to fight because there were too (4) few government soldiers to help. A Taliban official said it was an important day for the (5) group. He said the victory would increase the (6) morale of his fighters in other provinces. He added: "This is just the beginning. Other provinces will fall into our (7) hands very soon." There is currently heavy fighting in the cities of Lashkar Gah, Kanduz, Herat and Kandahar. They may fall before the Taliban (8) fight for the nation's capital Kabul.

morale
border
fight
captured
southern
group
hands
few

The Taliban are fighting to take (9) control of Afghanistan for the first time since 2001. This is when US-led forces (10) defeated them after the attacks on the World Trade Center in New York. The USA and other western powers have spent 20 years trying to (11) train an Afghan army and police officers to keep the country peaceful. However, the Taliban never (12) gave up their fight to take the country back. The USA and the UK are (13) currently pulling their forces out of Afghanistan. They are (14) ending their time in the country after 20 years. The UN's special (15) envoy for Afghanistan, Deborah Lyons, said the war there had entered "a new, deadlier, and more destructive phase". She warned that the country was heading for "(16) catastrophe".

train
envoy
defeated
currently
control
catastrophe
gave
ending

1. Choose the correct linker to fill in the sentences.

1. I'll lend you my car you promise to drive carefully.

a. provided that b. although

2. Pam took a day off she could go to the dentist.

a. unless b. in order to c. so that

3. I asked Sue for help, she refused to help me.

a. Despite b. Even though c. Since

4. The new secretary didn't give Mr Smith the message she didn't know who he was.

a. because of b. as c. due to

5. Sally works really hard at school., her brother is the laziest student I've ever known.

a. In spite of b. On the whole c. On the contrary

6. The Ambassador was dismissed his lack of diplomacy.

a. owing to b. despite c. since

7. We packed some thick clothes it got cold in the mountains.

a. because of b. unless c. in case

8. his weakness, Dr Brown advised Tom to take some pills.

a. Though b. However c. Due to

9. Pass me the dictionary check the meaning of this word.

a. so as to b. not to c. owing to

10. Peter didn't sleep well last night., he looked fresh and in shape this morning.

a. Although b. Nevertheless c. Because

11. having very little in common, Mary and Sam have been going out for a long time.

a. As b. In spite of c. As a result

12. Phone me you are late for dinner!

a. despite b. because c. if

13. Charles proposed to Meg., she didn't accept the engagement.

a. Despite b. However c. On the whole

14. Mandy has lost a lot of weight a strict diet.

a. in spite of b. because c. because of

15. I sent a text message to Mike he didn't forget our date.

a. so to b. so that c. so as to

16. Dan plays the flute and the piano., he writes songs.

a. Moreover b. However c. Too

2. Join the sentences with the linker in brackets. Make the necessary changes.

1. The teacher got angry because the students didn't behave.

2. Unless you are 18, you aren't allowed to buy or drink alcohol.

3. The football match was cancelled as there weren't enough children to play.

4. Some skiers didn't stop skiing despite the heavy snow.

5. We have installed an alarm so as to prevent thieves from breaking in.

6. Patrick broke his leg last week. As a result, he couldn't participate in the marathon.

7. My friends didn't go on holiday since they hadn't saved enough money.

8. Buy some salmon, Pete so that I can prepare your mum's favourite dish.

9. We ran for the bus. However, we missed it.

10. I made a big dinner in case the children showed up.

11. The Jones moved to a new house although they hadn't bought the furniture yet.

12. Paul enjoys painting whereas his sister is mad about sport.

Test Your Grammar Skills

Make or Do 1

Complete each gap below with either **make** or **do**:

Answers:

1. **make** a bet
2. **do** a job
3. **do** the dishes
4. **make** a skirt
5. **do** the cleaning
6. **do** your hair
7. **make** believe
8. **make** amends
9. **do** some damage
10. **make** a home
11. **do** fifty press ups
12. **make** some yoghurt
13. **make** a fortune
14. **make** a model
15. **make** a noise
16. **do** your best
17. **do** the washing up
18. **make** an application
19. **do** some work
20. **do** some harm
21. **do** a favour
22. **make** a man of you
23. **make** a profit
24. **make** an error
25. **do** the washing
26. **do** your nails
27. **make** do
28. **do** well in something
29. **make** a promise
30. **do** some practice
31. **make** a reservation
32. **make** a mess
33. **do** your duty
34. **make** ends meet
35. **make** an effort
36. **do** your own thing
37. **make** an enquiry
38. **make** some money
39. **make** waves
40. **make** eyes at someone

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Name: _____ **Key**

Misused Verbs: Lie/Lay

No, in this case we are not talking about whether or not you are telling the truth. The question is: when you stretch out on your bed, do you **lie**, or do you **lay**? The answer is: it depends when you are doing it.

Yes, this one is a little trickier than most. Read about the differences (and similarities) between **lie** and **lay**:



Lay: to lay means to place an object or objects down somewhere. **Lay** is the correct present tense form of the verb. **Laid** is the correct past tense form of the verb. This verb **to lay** always includes an item that is being put or placed.

The geese each **lay** three eggs per day.

Yesterday, the geese **laid** four eggs.

Lie: to lie means to recline your body. **Lie** is the correct present tense form of the verb. However, **lay** is the correct past tense form of the verb. That's right, lay. It's no wonder it gets confused with the verb above, since the past form is the same as that verb's present form.

I need to go **lie** on my bed.

Last night I **lay** on my bed, unable to sleep.



Choose "lie," "lay," or "laid" to complete each sentence.

1. Before I went to bed, I **laid** (lie, lay, laid) my clothes out for tomorrow.
2. Every afternoon, we **lie** (lie, lay, laid) on the bed for a nap.
3. When they're cold, they **lay** (lie, lay, laid) a blanket on their legs.
4. All of last week I **lay** (lie, lay, laid) in bed feeling sick.
5. Our pet dogs like to **lie** (lie, lay, laid) under the table.
6. Yesterday, the boys **laid** (lie, lay, laid) their backpacks outside.
7. While we meet, they **lay** (lie, lay, laid) their purses on the couch.
8. Susanna and Maribel often **lie** (lie, lay, laid) on the floor to make posters.
9. Last night we all **lay** (lie, lay, laid) awake until midnight.
10. Yesterday, our teacher **lay** (lie, lay, laid) on the ground, injured.