

## UNIT 9 DESERTS

**I. Write the pronunciation of the underlined letter (s) in each of the following words. Use a dictionary if you need to.**

- |           |           |                |               |
|-----------|-----------|----------------|---------------|
| 1. desert | 6. aerial | 11. expedition | 16. spinifex  |
| 2. animal | 7. cactus | 12. hummock    | 17. corridor  |
| 3. slope  | 8. camel  | 13. route      | 18. European  |
| 4. strrch | 9. colony | 14. pale       | 19. Australia |
| 5. plant  | 10. dune  | 15. survey     | 20. aborigine |

**II. Fill in each blank with one appropriate word to complete the passage.**

The Sahara is the world's largest hot desert and the world's second largest desert (1).....Antarctica. At over 9000000 square kilometers, it covers most parts of northern Africa; an area (2) .....from the Red Sea, including parts of the Mediterranean coasts, to the outskirts of the Atlantic Ocean. It is almost as (3) .....as the continental United States, and is larger than Australia. The Sahara has an intermittent history that may go (4) .....as much as 3 million years. Some of the sand dunes can reach 180 meters (600 feet) in (5) .....

People lived (6) .....the adge of the desert thousands of years ago since, immediately after the last ice age, the Sahara was a (7)..... wetter place than it is today. Over 30000 petroglyphs of river animals such as crocodiles (which still exist in parts of the desert) survive, with half (8).....in the Tassili n' Ajjer in southeast Algeria. Fossils of dinosaurs, including *Afrovenator*, *Jobaria* and *Ouranosaurus*, have also been found (9)..... The modern Sahara, though, is not as lush in vegetation, except in the Nile Valley, at a few oases, and in the northern highlands, where Mediterranean (10).....such as the olive tree are found to grow. Some 2.5 million people live in the Sahara, most of these in Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco and Algeria.

### III. Add so, but, therefore, however where appropriate.

1. The wind was howling outside, .....it was warm and comfortable indoor.
2. The highway was under construction, .....we had to take a different route to work.
3. You could fly visa Singapore; ..... this isn't the only way.
4. There is still much to discuss. We shall, ..... return to this item at our next meeting.
5. It isn't that he lied exactly, .....he did tend to exaggerate.
6. I thought the plane would be delayed; .....I bought a lot of magazines to read.
7. Jackson was going to study all night, .....he declined our invitation to dinner.
8. We thought the figures were correct.....we have now discovered some errors.
9. Cars have become much more complicated.....mechanics need more training than in the past.
10. We arrived at the theater late.....the play had not yet begun. We were quite surprised.
11. Prices have been rising. It is unlikely, .....that this increase will continue.
12. The bread was old and stale, .....Martha ate it anyway.
13. The holiday had been a complete disaster. We.....decide to fly home early if we could.
14. He failed the exam, .....he had to do the job he didn't like.

15. The expedition hoped to climb the mountain by August.....bad weather could be a hindrance.

#### **IV. Complete these two paragraphs.**

**A. Put in: also, but, despite, or, that, therefore.**

##### **CAR PROBLEMS**

I was having a lot of problems with my car. The engine kept cutting out, and I (1).....has trouble starting it. I got so fed up with it (2).....I took it to a garage. They told me it was going to cost hundreds of pounds to repair, (3).....unfortunately I didn't have the money, and I (4).....decided to get rid of the car (5).....needing it for work. Now I get the bus to work (6)..... a colleague gives me a lift.

**B. Put in: alternatively, as a result of, consequently, furthermore, in spite of, on top of.**

##### **UNIVERSITY STUDENTS**

(7) .....their aim to get more young people into universities, the government has put financial difficulties in their way. Nowadays most students get a loan instead of a grant, and some have to pay tuition fees (8).....that. (9).....many of them run up huge debts, or (10).....their parents have to support them (11).....these obstacles, some school leavers are discouraged from applying to go to university. (12).....an increasing number are dropping out before completing the course.

#### **V. Underline the correct alternative.**

1. Your essay is badly organized and full of spelling mistakes. *Though/ Nevertheless*, it contains some very interesting ideas.

2. To the east the trees were left standing, *while/ in contrast* to the west they were cut down.

3. I felt guilty about leaving the company even *so/ even though* I knew I had made the right decision.
4. The graphics in that new computer game I bought are quite good. *Even though/ Even so*, I soon got bored with playing it.
5. He was refused entry to the country. *Though/ Instead* he was forced to return to Spain.
6. Herbs are usually grown in temperate climates, *whereas/ on the other hand* spices are mainly from tropical areas.
7. We are short of money *so/as a consequence* we had to spend the night on a park bench.
8. I understand your point of view. *However/ Although* I don't agree with it.
9. I turned the ignition, but the car refused to start. *As/ Meanwhile* the lions were getting ever closer.
10. Modern farming methods have destroyed the habitat of many birds. *As a result/ So that* their numbers are in decline.
11. He has lived next door to us for years, *yet/ however* we hardly ever see him.
12. The building was extremely well constructed and, *consequently/ furthermore*, difficult to demolish.
13. The company has spent millions on computers. *Nevertheless/ As a result*, it does not seem to have become more efficient.
14. There is fog at Heathrow; the plane, *however/ therefore*, has been diverted.
15. I know traveling by bus takes longer than flying, *but/ however* it will be more interesting.

**VI. Choose items from (i) and from (ii) to complete these sentences in an appropriate way. Note the punctuation at the ends of the sentences and phrases already given.**

(i)	(ii)
as a result	his face seemed familiar
so that	the volcano continues to erupt
otherwise	everybody had their fair share
furthermore	he had not even contacted her
yet	it's too expensive
meanwhile	the street was deserted
by contrast	we were on holiday
though	the worker had to be sent home
while	Cuba has increased production by 35%
for one thing	The acting was superb

1. The world output of sugar has been in slow decline since 1984.

.....

2. The story told in the film was predictable, .....

3. There was no heating in the building.....

4. Martha cut the cake carefully into slices.....

5. A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall; .....

6. I couldn't remember meeting him before, .....

7. A mass evacuation of islander is taking place.....

8. 'Why don't you like that new French restaurant?' .....

9. Karen came down with flu.....

10. he said he had not discussed the matter with her.....

**VII. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate preposition.**

More than a billion people all (1).....the world are (2).....  
the threat of desert expansion, but few of them are aware that they themselves  
cause it and are also its victims. They cut (3).....trees for fuel and  
farmland. Their herds eat (4).....the grass covering the valley floors  
and hillsides. The climate and soil quality, therefore are affected and forests are  
turned (5).....deserts.

Efforts have been made to solve the problem. One common method is called  
“dune fixation”: if a fence is built, it ‘fixes’ sand dunes, this fence will prevent the  
dune (6).....advancing. (7).....Algeria, people planted a  
green wall of trees (8).....the edge of the Sahara to stop the desert sand  
(9).....spreading. People in other countries around the Sahara built  
fences made (10).....brushwood or dead palm leaves (11)  
.....the same purpose. Obviously, the Sahara will become much larger  
unless something continues to be done to solve this problem.

**VIII. Write a sentence of similar meaning using the word or words in brackets.**

1. This product is cheap, and it’s effective. (as well as)

.....

2. I haven’t got a car, and I haven’t got a bike. (either)

.....

3. The answer was obvious, but I just couldn’t see it. (although)

.....

4. The party isn’t very popular, and its policies aren’t very popular. (neither, nor)

.....

5. I felt very emotional, and I almost burst into tears. (so, that)

.....

6. I was quoted in the newspapers and interviewed on TV. (not only, but, also)

.....  
7. I have to book the hotel, and I have to make the travel arrangements. (in addition to)

8. The meal was excellent, but the surroundings were depressing. (though)

.....  
9. The affair became public even though they attempted to conceal it. (despite)

.....  
10. Wage cuts have led to people rioting on the streets. (as a result of)

.....  
**ĐÁP ÁN:**

**I.**

1. /e/      2. /æ/      3. /ə ʊ /      4. /e/      5. /a:/      6. /e/      7. /æ/      8. /æ/  
9. /a:/      hoặc /u/      10. /ju:/      11. /ɪ /      12. /ʌ /      13. /u:/      14. /eɪ /  
15. /ɜ :/      16. /aɪ /      17. /ɔ :/      18. /ju:/      19. /ɔ :/      20. /ə /

**II.**

1. after      3. large      5. height      7. much      9. here  
2. stretching      4. back      6. on      8. found      10. plants

**III.**

1. but      4. therefore      7. so      10. but      13. therefore  
2. so      5. but      8. however      11. however      14. so  
3. however      6. therefore      9. therefore      12. but      15. however

**IV.**

- A. 1. also      2. that      3. but      4. therefore      5. despite      6. or  
B. 7. In spite of      8. on top of      9. consequently      10. alternatively

11. As a result of      12. Furthermore

## V.

1. nevertheless      4. even so      7. so      10. As a result      13. nevertheless  
2. while      5. Instead      8. however      11. yet      14. therefore  
3. even though      6. whereas      9. meanwhile      12. consequently      15. but

## VI.

1. The world output of sugar has been in slow decline since 1984. By contrast, Cuba has increased production by 35%.
2. The story told in the film was predictable, though the acting was superb.
3. There was no heating in the building. As a result, the workers had to be sent home.
4. Marta cut the cake carefully into slices so that everybody had their fair share.
5. A small boy was kicking a ball against a wall; otherwise, the street was deserted.
6. I couldn't remember meeting him before, yet his face seemed familiar.
7. A mass evacuation of islander is taking place. Meanwhile, the volcano continues to erupt.
8. For one thing, it's too expensive.
9. Karen came down with flu while we were on holiday.
10. He said he had not discussed the matter with her. Furthermore, he had not even contacted her.

## VII.

1. over      2. under      3. down      4. up      5. into      6. from  
7. In      8. across      9. from      10. of      11. for

## VIII.

1. This product is cheap as well as effective.

2. I haven't got a car, and I haven't got a bike either
3. Although the answer was obvious, I just couldn't see it/ The answer was obvious, although I just couldn't see it.
4. Neither the party nor its policies are very popular.
5. I felt so emotional that I almost burst into tears.
6. I was not only quoted in the newspapers, but I was also interviewed on TV.
7. In addition to booking the hotel, I have to make the travel arrangements./ I have to book the hotel in addition to making the travel arrangements.
8. The meal was excellent, though the surroundings were depressing.
9. The affair became public despite their attempts to conceal it/ despite the fact that they attempted to conceal it.
10. As a result of wage cuts, people are rioting/ have been rioting/ have rioted on the streets.