

Complete the sentences with a prepositional phrase from the box.

AT THE AGE OF - AT THE LATEST - AT SHORT NOTICE - AT TIMES - BY CHANCE - BY FAR - BY NATURE - BY SURPRISE - IN A GOOD MOOD - IN CONCLUSION - IN DETAIL - IN FASHION - IN NO TIME - IN PUBLIC - IN VAIN - ON FIRE - ON LEAVE - OUT OF STOCK - UNDER REPAIR - UNDER STRESS

1. He started composing his own symphonies _____ 9.
2. I'm not _____ today, so please leave me alone.
3. Has anyone _____ found my red fountain pen? I lost it yesterday.
4. Shorter skirts were _____ a few years ago but they're not anymore today.
5. Mom told me I had to be home by midnight, _____ .
6. He was questioned _____ so don't believe everything he says.
7. By the time someone got to the scene of the accident, the car was _____ .
8. I tried to convince her to take part in the course, but all my efforts were _____ .
9. _____ , I don't think we should hire too many new workers.
10. The headmaster cancelled the meeting _____ because he had to be somewhere else.
11. Mission Impossible is _____ the best thriller I have ever seen.
12. I'm sorry but this item is _____ . We'll try to get it by next month.
13. He is _____ until the end of the year, so I'm afraid we won't be here for the planning stages.
14. The main bridge of the city is still _____ , so you'll have to find another route across the river.
15. The question took him _____ , so he was struggling to find the right answer.
16. Politicians sometimes make statements _____ that they regret later.
17. If you study really hard, you're English will improve _____ .
18. The new girl is shy _____ , so you'll have to give her some time to loosen up.
19. I wrote out the instructions _____ so she would know exactly what to do.
20. _____ , I feel like leaving this country and moving somewhere else.

KEY

1. He started composing his own symphonies **at the age of** 9.
2. I'm not **in a good mood** today, so please leave me alone.
3. Has anyone **by chance** found my red fountain pen? I lost it yesterday.
4. Shorter skirts were **in fashion** a few years ago but they're not anymore today.
5. Mom told me I had to be home by midnight, **at the latest**.
6. He was questioned **under stress** so don't believe everything he says.
7. By the time someone got to the scene of the accident, the car was **on fire**.
8. I tried to convince her to take part in the course, but all my efforts were **in vain**.
9. **In conclusion**, I don't think we should hire too many new workers.
10. The headmaster cancelled the meeting **at short notice** because he had to be somewhere else.
11. Mission Impossible is **by far** the best thriller I have ever seen.
12. I'm sorry but this item is **out of stock**. We'll try to get it by next month.
13. He is **on leave** until the end of the year, so I'm afraid we won't be here for the planning stages.
14. The main bridge of the city is still **under repair**, so you'll have to find another route across the river.
15. The question took him **by surprise**, so he was struggling to find the right answer.
16. Politicians sometimes make statements **in public** that they regret later.
17. If you study really hard, your English will improve **in no time**.
18. The new girl is shy **by nature**, so you'll have to give her some time to loosen up.
19. I wrote out the instructions **in detail** so she would know exactly what to do.
20. **At times**, I feel like leaving this country and moving somewhere else.