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EXAMPLE EXERCISE: OPEN CLOZE



Fill in the gaps in the text with one word. More than one answer may be possible.

Excluded and alone

Having a home is a luxury that we don't appreciate until we don't have one. To have a roof over our head is something that we take for granted. Oliver Sum was only 15 ____ (1) he first slept rough having run away from an unsafe home. Wandering the streets ____ (2) hours and then trying to find a place to sleep in a car park where nobody would notice me but he could easily reach help if required. He still went to school for the first week or so, getting ____ (3) early to the sound of reversing delivery vehicles behind the shops on Harborn Road, to get cleaned up in the public toilets before heading to school. In the evenings he began begging to get money for food and whilst he was amazed by the kindness of strangers he also experienced verbal abuse and threatening behaviour from others. He was ____ (4) scared to access services that were full of adults and stayed on the streets much longer than he had to because of it. He only survived because of the homeless community looking out for him and a local youth organisation offering him some hand-outs. It wasn't only because of the practical help they offered ____ (5) because they cared, they cared enough to listen, to chat and to look for him when he wasn't around; this perhaps was the ____ (6) important thing, knowing that he was worth caring about. Once he was in stable housing he decided that he had to ensure that other young people did not have to experience the trauma and exclusion of homelessness. 20 years later Oliver leads the only youth specific homeless organisation in Birmingham and whilst things have changed dramatically for him, it's hard to believe that there are still young people out there, feeling excluded and alone. We can identify and attack cancer cells, we can design solar powered planes but somehow we can't stop 80,000 young people in the UK ____ (7) year from becoming homeless. Why do we accept this, why are we ____ (8) angry about it?



Answer sheet

1. when
2. for
3. up
4. too
5. but
6. most
7. each/every
8. not