

## Part 2

For questions 16–30, complete the following article by writing each missing word in the space provided. Use only one word for each space.

The exercise begins with an example (0).

Example: 0 by  <sup>0</sup>

## Cause for Alarm?

A friend was kept awake one night recently (0) ..... a car alarm. At 6 a.m. he stormed out and tried to force the car window open. A neighbour caught him (16) ..... the act and (17) ..... of calling the police, brought out a hammer to help. (18) ..... them, they broke the window, turned off the alarm, and happily went back to bed.

The owner, (19) ..... to his car, presumably thought his expensive vehicle alarm had prevented a break-in. Precisely the opposite was true. (20) ..... my friend been the type who steals car radios, the alarm would have provided the perfect cover: "Stupid burglar alarms," he could have said to passers-by as he attacked the car (21) ..... a screwdriver. So (22) ..... is the point of alarms when everyone, (23) ..... from my sleepy friend, that is, ignores them?

The police, and even the manufacturers, admit (24) ..... much. Keith Cobham, director of Cobra Security Systems, says: "If an alarm goes off nobody (25) ..... take any notice, even if the thief is disconnecting the batteries. The main deterrent value (26) ..... you are the owner is that the thief does not know where you are."

Most alarms automatically cut out the engine, (27) ..... the main purpose of the noise is to deter thefts of stereos and briefcases. But as Inspector Brayne of the Metropolitan Police Crime Prevention Service points out: "This sort of theft takes place (28) ..... split seconds. If the person (29) ..... smashed the window, he'll carry on regardless (30) ..... the alarm."

### ► Question 25

Make sure you use the right tense. This sentence begins with *If* + present simple; what structure is that? What tense is needed here?

### ► Question 30

This is an example of a dependent preposition. When you learn new nouns, verbs and adjectives, make a point of learning the prepositions which go with them.

From *The Independent on Sunday*