

I. Choose the words that best complete the sentences in the text.

Very few of us would (1) putting much trust in horoscopes and the fact that the movements of astronomical bodies (2) to earthly occurrences affecting peoples' everyday lives.

We all know about the zodiac signs which reflect the position of the sun, the moon and the planets at the moment of a man's birth and about the peculiar characteristics (3) to them by astrologers. We say we will take these phenomena with a (4) of salt while we keep (5) our eyes over them in every tabloid we (6) our hands on. Most frequently, we expect horoscopes to (7) the future, to (8) our optimistic mood with a piece of comforting information or to (9) our ego by confirming the superlative features that we tend to attribute to our zodiacs.

However, there's no scientific evidence to (10) the assumption that human existence is so closely (11) with the parametres of the celestial bodies. Our curiosity in horoscopes may, then, (12) our sheer fascination with the unexplained or the unpredictable as well as in the enticing insight into the future that the horoscopes offer, thus establishing the sense of our (13) an extreme power over our own lives. An additional explanation is that humans tend to have a soft (14) for any form of flattery, which is the fact to which astrologers and the horoscope writers seem to (15) the greatest deal of weight.

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|------------------|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. a) ensure | b) grant | c) state | d) admit |
| 2. a) rely | b) correspond | c) match | d) compare |
| 3. a) identified | b) associated | c) incorporated | d) ascribed |
| 4. a) speck | b) pinch | c) grain | d) scrap |
| 5. a) running | b) sending | c) fixing | d) putting |
| 6. a) settle | b) draw | c) grab | d) lay |
| 7. a) notify | b) predict | c) acquaint | d) convey |
| 8. a) restore | b) adjust | c) upgrade | d) reassure |
| 9. a) boost | b) escalate | c) revitalize | d) improve |
| 10. a) conclude | b) concede | c) corroborate | d) confound |
| 11. a) fused | b) adhered | c) coalesced | d) intertwined |
| 12. a) stem | b) crop | c) rear | d) dawn |
| 13. a) disposing | b) wielding | c) effecting | d) committing |
| 14. a) pit | b) dot | c) spot | d) nick |
| 15. a) instil | b) consign | c) fasten | d) attach |

AT BEYOND BY FOR IN OF ON TO WITH WITHIN

1. She may seem to be crazy about fashion, but she certainly knows what is vogue.
2. The doctors don't give him much chance of surviving. In a word, his life is the line.
3. I have been using her computer ever since she placed it my disposal.
4. You do sound foolish times, but your jokes may be tolerated as long as they are reason.
5. According to the barrister, Adam may be detained virtue of the suspicious testimony he gave in the court.
6. Do you think the director was earnest offering us an apartment in his hotel for free?
7. Mrs Black has promised to be service on Monday. I hope she keeps her word or else I won't manage to prepare everything in time.
8. I'm really sorry I cannot lend you a single pound. I'm pinched money myself these days.
9. It's rather my comprehension how they have succeeded in growing fruit trees on this barren soil.
10. We did our utmost to save the plants from being destroyed by the hail, but all that was vain anyway.
11. Mrs Wright has no problems with her children; they are usually very attentive her and offer any help they can.
12. Willy was so engrossed his reading that he didn't even hear the doorbell ringing.
13. The rescue brigade will be standby in case something unusual should happen.
14. The general's strategy isn't by any means consistent our aim of averting an open conflict.
15. 'Is the place that they inhabit easy reach?'
'On the contrary, they live at the back of