Gap-filling exercises
(Put each verb in brackets into an appropriate verb form. This may include: simple form, ing-form, infinitives, participles, passive voice, gerund, modal verbs, perfect aspect.)

Exercise 1

The Cure review – 'A free approach to 45 songs (prove) numbing.'

They can play for hours, (settle) into dense, swirling grooves without (exhaust) their hits, but this show (need) a greater sense of momentum.

"Show your hands if you (wear) black nail varnish," commands XFM presenter Jon Holmes, (introduce) the first of the Cure's two Teenage Cancer Trust shows. When a surprising number of arms shoot upward, he sighs: "Forty-year-olds in black nail varnish. That (be) scary." But not as scary, we soon (discover), as Robert Smith in full fig: big-screen closeups reveal that the 54-year-old frontman (acquire) a passing resemblance to Gene Simmons of Kiss, which (seem fit): both the Cure and Kiss (be) fan bands these days, (mine) catalogues so extensive that they (tour) for the rest of their days without repeating themselves too often.

The Cure, however, would benefit from heeding the Simmons dictum: "Rock (be) about (grab) people's attention." They (able to) play for more than three hours without (exhaust) their hits, but they (yet / work out) how to build up a show: song (follow) song – an incredible 45 in all – but there are few peaks or teasers, let alone much of the fraught darkness that (get) them here in the first place.

Though they hit the ground running with swampy, bass-drenched versions of Plainsong, A Night Like This and the joyous release of In Between Days, the momentum trundles to a halt. Once (settle) into their dense, swirling groove, they (stay) there for the rest of the night, with occasional diversions into the sunny uplands of Friday I'm in Love, The Walk and The Lovecats. It's numbing, even though Smith's voice still (quaver) affectingly and B-sides such as Harold and Joe (get) their first airing in decades. But then, there's no new album, and the last, 4:13 Dream, is mostly overlooked tonight, which gives them licence to do what they like. (condense) into 90 minutes, though, this (be) one of the gigs of the year.

The Cure review – 'A free approach to 45 songs proves numbing'

They can play for hours, settling into dense, swirling grooves without exhausting their hits, but this show needs a greater sense of momentum.

"Show your hands if you're wearing black nail varnish," commands XFM presenter Jon Holmes, introducing the first of the Cure's two Teenage Cancer Trust shows. When a surprising number of arms shoot upward, he sighs: "Forty-year-olds in black nail varnish. That's scary." But not as scary, we soon discover, as Robert Smith in full fig: big-screen closeups reveal that the 54-year-old frontman has acquired a passing resemblance to Gene Simmons of Kiss, which seems fitting: both the Cure and Kiss are fan bands these days, mining catalogues so extensive that they could tour for the rest of their days without repeating themselves too often.

The Cure, however, would benefit from heeding the Simmons dictum: "Rock is about grabbing people's attention." They may be able to play for more than three hours without exhausting their hits, but they've yet to work out how to build up a show: song follows song – an incredible 45 in all – but there are few peaks or teasers, let alone much of the fraught darkness that got them here in the first place.

Though they hit the ground running with swampy, bass-drenched versions of Plainsong, A Night Like This and the joyous release of In Between Days, the momentum trundles to a halt. Once settled into their dense, swirling groove, they stay there for the rest of the night, with occasional diversions into the sunny uplands of Friday I'm in Love, The Walk and The Lovecats. It's numbing, even though Smith's voice still quavers affectingly and B-sides such as Harold and Joe get their first airing in decades. But then, there's no new album, and the last, 4:13 Dream, is mostly overlooked tonight, which gives them licence to do what they like. Condensed into 90 minutes, though, this would have been one of the gigs of the year.
Exercise 2

British Wildlife in Peril

Through the centuries we ________(hunt) many animals to extinction, for their meat or fur or feathers. But nowadays man’s activities ________(have) a deadly effect on our planet as well as on wildlife and we ________(rapidly change) the face of the countryside.

In Britain over the last 40 years or so, 95% of hay meadows, 50% of fens and field ponds, 40% of ancient woodlands and, disastrously, 140,000 miles of hedgerow ________(lose). Hedges and verges ________(be) shelter and food source for all six species of British reptiles (three kinds of snakes and three kinds of lizards), for at least half our mammals, butterflies and bumblebees, and around 40 of our 200 species of breeding birds.

We ________(drain) marshes, ________(reclaim) estuaries, and ________(fell) trees. There ________(be) a danger that otters, barn owls, dormice and many species of butterflies and plants ________(lose) for ever. The chemical fertilisers and pesticides now ________(use) so freely ________(pollute) the water, food and air.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that growing numbers of people ________(work), as individuals or as part of groups and bodies, to help preserve our natural world. They want to ensure that their grandchildren ________(see) the real live robins and hedgehogs, not just photographs in books.

One important body is the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC). It ________(advise) the Government, ________(promote) nature conservation and ________(set up) and ________(manage) Natural Nature Reserves. Here is one example of how it ________(help) threatened wildlife.

The majestic sea eagle, the world’s fourth largest eagle, ________(be) once very common in Britain. Over the last 100 years or so there ________(be) increasing pressure on its habitat, it ________(kill) by shepherds and gamekeepers, and its eggs ________(steal) by collectors. In 1918 the very last British sea eagle ________(shoot). In 1975 the NCC ________(decide) to try to reintroduce it, ________(use) young birds donated by Norway. These ________(release) on a reserve in the Isle of Rhum, off west Scotland. As they live a long time, there was quite a wait to see if they ________(adapt) successfully to their new home, but at least nine pairs now ________(establish) territories – so let’s keep our fingers crossed!

British Wildlife in Peril

Through the centuries we have hunted many animals to extinction, for their meat or fur or feathers. But nowadays man’s activities are having a deadly effect on our planet as well as on wildlife and we are rapidly changing the face of the countryside.

In Britain over the last 40 years or so, 95% of hay meadows, 50% of fens and field ponds, 40% of ancient woodlands and, disastrously, 140,000 miles of hedgerow have been lost. Hedges and verges are shelter and food source for all six species of British reptiles (three kinds of snakes and three kinds of lizards), for at least half our mammals, butterflies and bumblebees, and around 40 of our 200 species of breeding birds.

We have been draining marshes, reclaiming estuaries, and felling trees. There is a danger that otters, barn owls, dormice and many species of butterflies and plants may be lost for ever. The chemical fertilisers and pesticides now used so freely are polluting the water, food and air.

That’s the bad news. The good news is that growing numbers of people are working, as individuals or as part of groups and bodies, to help preserve our natural world. They want to ensure that their grandchildren will be able to see the real live robins and hedgehogs, not just photographs in books.

One important body is the Nature Conservancy Council (NCC). It advises the Government, promotes nature conservation and sets up and manages Natural Nature Reserves. Here is one example of how it is helping threatened wildlife.

The majestic sea eagle, the world’s fourth largest eagle, was once very common in Britain. Over the last 100 years or so there has been increasing pressure on its habitat, it has been killed by shepherds and gamekeepers, and its eggs have been stolen by collectors. In 1918 the very last British sea eagle was shot. In 1975 the NCC decided to try to reintroduce it, using young birds donated by Norway. These were released on a reserve in the Isle of Rhum, off west Scotland. As they live a long time, there was quite a wait to see if they would adapt successfully to their new home, but at least nine pairs now have established territories – so let’s keep our fingers crossed!