

Cambridge First Certificate (FCE) Sentence Transformations- Same or Different

Simplest responses game

Without looking below for now, listen to your teacher read out two phrases and race to raise the “The same” card if you think they have (exactly) the same meaning and raise the “Different” card if you think that there is some difference in their meanings as quickly as you can.

Label the pairs of phrases below with S for the same or D for different.

1. As a result of getting lost, they missed the meeting.

They missed the meeting because they got lost.

2. Because they had a nice time, they easily reached an agreement.

They had a nice time because they easily reached an agreement.

3. If I'd had time, I would have been able to wash my clothes.

If I had time, I would be able to wash my clothes.

4. I didn't hear the noise, so I didn't catch the thief.

If I had heard the noise, I would have caught the thief.

5. For a week after the storm, Tom was so scared that he wouldn't go out.

For a week after the storm, Tom was too scared to go out.

6. “Could you close the door, please?” asked Harry

Harry asked if I would close the door.

7. My company let me have an extra-long holiday this year.

I was allowed to have an extra-long holiday this year.

8. My father made me fix his car.

My father let me fix his car.

9. The last time I got angry was when I heard about my daughter's divorce.

I haven't lost my temper since I heard about my daughter's divorce.

10. There is currently a lot of criticism of multinational companies.

Multinational companies are being criticised a lot at the moment.

11. Although I'm feeling depressed, I have a party this evening.

Despite having a party this evening, I feel depressed.

12. I regret changing jobs.

I wish I had changed jobs.

13. The special set lunch includes half a bottle of wine.

Half a bottle of wine is included in the special set lunch.

14. My sister started working there five years ago.

My sister worked there for five years.

15. Fiction doesn't interest me.

I'm not interested in fiction.

16. Tom isn't as nearly intelligent as me.

I am slightly more intelligent than Tom.

Hint: There should be the same number of S pairs and D pairs above.

Check your answers as a class.

Without looking above, try to write a sentence which has (exactly) the same meaning as each sentence given below. Small differences in language or big differences in language between the sentence there and the sentence you write are both okay, as long as they have exactly the same meanings. Many sentences not above are also possible with the same meaning.

Check with the answer key. Note that other answers might be possible.

Work in groups to write similar pairs of sentences which have the same or (slightly) different meanings to test other groups with, perhaps based on real exam questions.

1. As a result of getting lost, they missed the meeting.
BECAUSE
2. Because they had a nice time, they easily reached an agreement.
SO
3. If I'd had time, I would have been able to wash my clothes.
COULDN'T
4. I didn't hear the noise, so I didn't catch the thief.
IF
5. For a week after the storm, Tom was so scared that he wouldn't go out.
TOO
6. "Could you close the door, please?" asked Harry
IF
7. My company let me have an extra-long holiday this year.
ALLOWED
8. My father made me fix his car.
FORCED
9. The last time I got angry was when I heard about my daughter's divorce.
SINCE
10. There is currently a lot of criticism of multinational companies.
CRITICISED
11. Although I'm feeling depressed, I have a party this evening.
DESPITE
12. I regret changing jobs.
WISH
13. The special set lunch includes half a bottle of wine.
INCLUDED
14. My sister started working there five years ago.
WORKED
15. Fiction doesn't interest me.
INTERESTED
16. Tom isn't as nearly intelligent as me.
MORE



Cards to hold up

The same	Different

Suggested answers

Answers in bold are different, with answers meaning the same as the top sentence written after the dash. Other sentences meaning the same thing are possible, so please check any different sentences that you wrote with your teacher.

1. As a result of getting lost, they missed the meeting.

BECAUSE

They missed the meeting because they got lost.

2. **Because they had a nice time, they easily reached an agreement.**

SO

They had a nice time because they easily reached an agreement. – They had a nice time, so they easily reached an agreement./ They easily reached an agreement because they had a nice time.

3. **If I'd had time, I would have been able to wash my clothes.**

COULDN'T

If I had time, I would have been able to wash my clothes. – I didn't have time, so I couldn't wash my clothes./ I wasn't able to wash my clothes because I didn't have time.

4. I didn't hear the noise, so I didn't catch the thief.

IF

If I had heard the noise, I would have caught the thief.

5. For a week after the storm, Tom was so scared that he wouldn't go out.

TOO

For a week after the storm, Tom was too scared to go out.

6. **“Could you close the door, please?” asked Harry**

IF

Harry asked if I would close the door. – Harry asked if I could close the door./ Harry asked if I would mind closing the door.

7. My company let me have an extra-long holiday this year.

ALLOWED

I was allowed to have an extra-long holiday this year.

8. **My father made me fix his car.**

FORCED

My father let me fix his car. – My father forced me to fix his car.

9. The last time I got angry was when I heard about my daughter's divorce.

SINCE

I haven't lost my temper since I heard about my daughter's divorce.

10. There is currently a lot of criticism of multinational companies.

CRITICISED

Multinational companies are being criticised a lot at the moment.

11. Although I'm feeling depressed, I have a party this evening.

DESPITE

Despite having a party this evening, I feel depressed. – Despite feeling depressed, I have a party this evening./ I'm feeling depressed, but I have a party this evening.

12. I regret changing jobs.

WISH

I wish I had changed jobs. – I wish I hadn't changed jobs.

13. The special set lunch includes half a bottle of wine.

INCLUDED

Half a bottle of wine is included in the special set lunch.

14. My sister started working there five years ago.

WORKED

My sister worked there for five years. – My sister has worked there for five years./ My sister has been working there for five years.

15. Fiction doesn't interest me.

INTERESTED

I'm not interested in fiction.

16. Tom isn't as nearly intelligent as me.

MORE

I am much more intelligent than Tom.