

### **25 was taken IABACK at/by**

This is a phrasal verb meaning “to greatly surprise someone”. In the passive, it can be followed by “at” or “by”.

### **26 empty/unoccupied at the TIME of**

“At the time of” is followed by a noun or -ing form, e.g. “at the time of writing”.

### **27 DESPITE the company(“s) offering**

“Despite” is a preposition, so it must be followed by a noun phrase or a structure using a present participle (“offering”). The subject of the present participle is “the company”. In more formal use, the possessive “company’s” is possible.

### **28 give her a LIFT, she would / she’d**

“give someone a lift” means to allow them to ride in your vehicle (usually a car), without charge; the sentence is in the form of a third conditional.

### **29 take any/much / a lot of NOTICE of**

“To take notice of” something means “to pay attention to” it. “Didn’t take any notice” means “paid no attention”, so doesn’t exactly match the first sentence, but “paid little attention” is sometimes used to mean “none, or almost none”.

### **30 opposition to the proposal DATES back**

The possessive form of (“residents”) shows that a noun is required; “opposition” is usually followed by “to” something; “to date back to” is a phrasal verb, and refers to when something started (an alternative is “to date from”).