Exercise D: Fill in the gaps with the following words and phrases to make the letter more emphatic.

Nowhere near not all great on earth no way

Just well and truly downright no end of real

Dear Tom,

Thanks so much for inviting us to your party next week. It was a really nice thought. However, unfortunately, there’s 1\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ we can come as we’re 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ broke.

As I think I’ve told you before, we’re having a 3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ struggle to get by on our student grant as it’s 4\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ enough to cover our expenses. How 5\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ do they expect students to survive on such a small amount? We work just as hard as other people and we have 6\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ lectures to go to and studying to do. If you ask me, the grant they pay us is a 7\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ insult. It’s 8\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that different from being on the dole\* but we have to work for the money! All the same, I’m enjoying the course here. It’s 9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ what I wanted and I’m glad I came.

Well, that’s enough about college for now. We both hope you have a 10\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ party and we’re only sorry we won’t be there. Do write and tell us all about it when you get a spare moment and give our love to everyone.

Best wishes,

\*Be on the dole receiving unemployment benefit (επιδομα ανεργιας)

Exercise E

Match the sayings which you would use to console someone to the circumstances in which you would say them.

Every cloud has a silver lining. 1 ( ) Someone who has just crashed their car.

There’s plenty more fish in the sea. 2. ( ) Someone who has just lost his job A change is as good as a rest. 3. ( ) Smn who is feeling frustrated at their slow

progress.

It’s no use crying over spilt milk. 4( ) Someone whose fiancé has broken off their

engagement.

Rome wasn’t built in a day. 5 ( ) Someone who has had a very busy holiday.

Exercise F : Fill in the blanks with one of the following informal linking expressions.

as I said before come to think of it by the way anyway

mind you you see to tell you the truth what with

that’s enough about

Dear Angela,

Sorry I missed your birthday but we were on holiday in Spain at the time. 1.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I told you we were going the last time we spoke, didn’t I?

But 2\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the holiday was a real letdown, if not the worst we’ve ever had, 3\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a 10-hour delay at the airport 4.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and we couldn’t get a wink of sleep at night. 5.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, I would have been dissatisfied with the hotel even if it hadn’t been noisy as the service was awful and the beds were terribly uncomfortable. 6.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, after a lot of complaints, they finally moved us to another hotel but, of course, by that time our holiday was ruined. 7\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, it was the worst holiday we’ve ever had and I wish we’d stayed at home.

But, 8. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that. Did I tell you we’re having a party next weekend? We really hope you can come. It’ll do you both the world of good. 9\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, Sarah’s home from Canada so she’ll be there, too, of course. Do try to get a baby-sitter as she’d love to see you again.

Give my love to Mark.

Best wishes,