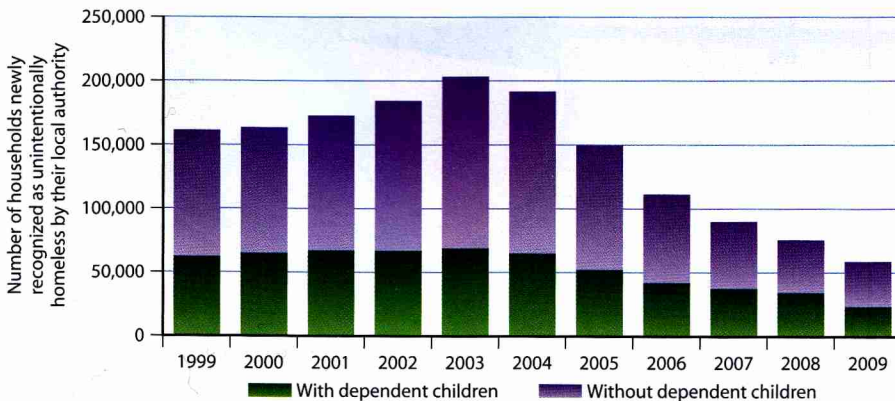


## Practice 11

1 Complete the text by writing one suitable preposition in each space.

### Homelessness: Trends over time

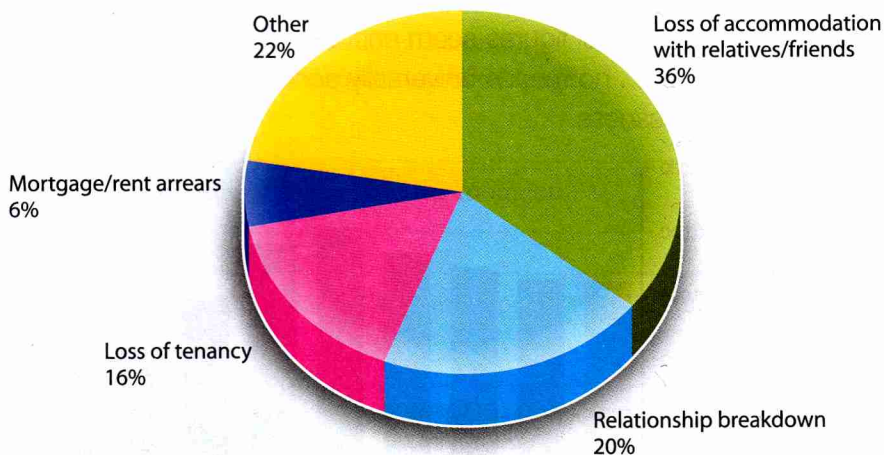
According to government statistics, the problem of homelessness is being slowly brought (1) ..... *under* ..... control. Although these figures are not completely (2) ..... to date, the table shows that they have changed (3) ..... the better. At the beginning of the period (4) ..... consideration, over 150,000 households came (5) ..... the definition of homeless. (6) ..... contrast, ten years later the numbers were well (7) ..... this level, at (8) ..... 85,000. In 2003, the figures seemed (9) ..... danger of rising (10) ..... of control, as (11) ..... that point they had topped the 200,000 mark. Local authorities have been (12) ..... pressure to provide more housing, and their services are much (13) ..... demand. However, (14) ..... practice they have to prioritize those (15) ..... need of housing, which, (16) ..... general, means those with special needs or with children, though not all families with children qualify (17) ..... the rules. The table shows (18) ..... detail how many homeless with 'priority need' have been rehoused during the ten-year period. (19) ..... average, only about half of those with children qualify (20) ..... this way, so (21) ..... addition the table shows numbers of homeless families who have not been rehoused. Note that there is a significant number of homeless who are considered to have lost their accommodation (22) ..... purpose. Local authorities are (23) ..... no obligation to rehouse this category. The overall figures seem encouraging, but they are (24) ..... no means universally accepted as representing the full truth about homelessness.



2 Complete the text by writing one suitable word in each space.

**Why are people homeless?**

(1) *Anyone*..... who has lost their permanent accommodation is classified in the UK as homeless. (2) ..... these may be people who have (3) ..... to live and are literally sleeping on the street, but (4) ..... practice the majority will be people living in temporary accommodation. (5) ..... of the bodies concerned with the homeless agree with the government on exact numbers of homeless people, mainly because (6) ..... organization has its own way of defining who the homeless are. Leaving this question aside, most are (7) ..... agreement about the causes of homelessness. Many people who previous lived (8) ..... home with their families, or who were living (9) ..... the time being with relatives or friends, end up without a roof (10) ..... their heads when they can no longer be helped (11) ..... this way. Some people in this category, sometimes known as 'sofa surfers' end up going (12) ..... and forth from one house to another, and may not appear (13) ..... the statistics at all. Another large group comes (14) ..... the heading of 'relationship breakdown'. (15) ..... this event, (16) ..... or both parties may find themselves with (17) ..... to go. Others who may be living, for example, in a flat (18) ..... the shop where they work, may find themselves without a home when they are (19) ..... of work. Finally there is a small group who have got (20) ..... financial difficulties, and cannot pay the rent or the mortgage on their property.



**3 Match the words and phrases in brackets with the words and phrases (a–r) below.**

- |                             |                                 |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>a</b> at present         | <b>j</b> changed for the better |
| <b>b</b> whatever they do   | <b>k</b> keep in touch          |
| <b>c</b> in many cases      | <b>l</b> with regards to        |
| <b>d</b> under discussion   | <b>m</b> on the streets         |
| <b>e</b> in general         | <b>n</b> for consideration      |
| <b>f</b> in common          | <b>o</b> in their way           |
| <b>g</b> be smaller in size | <b>p</b> on hand                |
| <b>h</b> in charge          | <b>q</b> at first hand          |
| <b>i</b> in the first place | <b>r</b> at risk of             |

## Talking to the government

A group of homeless people, some of whom are (1) ..... (currently) sleeping (2) ..... (rough), have visited a government office to give the minister responsible the opportunity to learn (3) ..... (directly by experience) the issues they face. Topics (4) ..... (covered) at the meeting included looking at how services for rough sleepers could be (5) ..... (improved), and how homelessness could be avoided (6) ..... (from the outset). Among the recommendations (7) ..... (to be considered) were: that local authorities could provide a helpline for those (8) ..... (facing) eviction; that (9) ..... (generally) those rehoused people who had experience (10) ..... (together) of sleeping rough could be housed close together so they could still (11) ..... (talk to each other); that local authorities and government agencies could in general cut down the bureaucratic obstacles that homeless people find (12) ..... (stopping them making progress), obstacles which frustrate them (13) ..... (at every turn) when they are trying to get off the streets and into accommodation; that hostels for the homeless could (14) ..... (contain fewer people), and could be better planned (15) ..... (concerning) the needs of individuals; and that there should be help (16) ..... (present) in hospitals for homeless people who are (17) ..... (often) simply returned to the streets after medical treatment. The minister (18) ..... (responsible) assured the visitors that their views would be seriously considered.