



● **Sentence Completion 12** (*high-intermediate level*)

**Directions:** Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. Drivers have not been \_\_\_\_\_ the new traffic rules. \_\_\_\_\_, there have been several accidents.  
A. understanding ... in addition  
B. following ... as a result  
C. ignoring ... therefore  
D. comprehending ... on the other hand  
E. making ... nonetheless
2. \_\_\_\_\_ cars can fit into \_\_\_\_\_ parking spaces.  
A. compact ... small  
B. foreign ... domestic  
C. powerful ... slow  
D. nice ... expensive  
E. leased ... reserved
3. People say the neighborhood is unsafe. \_\_\_\_\_, I still take my evening walks.  
A. Nevertheless  
B. Immediately  
C. Consequently  
D. Therefore  
E. Understandably
4. Though my colleagues were in favor of ending our research, I wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
A. abandon  
B. continue  
C. stop  
D. investigate  
E. change
5. I don't have much energy these days. After a short stroll, I am quite \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. exhausted  
B. eager  
C. happy  
D. relieved  
E. energized
6. In prehistoric times, most people wandered about large territories. \_\_\_\_\_, in modern times, people typically settle in one place they call home.  
A. however  
B. therefore  
C. in addition  
D. moreover  
E. furthermore
7. While most people simply walked by, some \_\_\_\_\_ person stopped to \_\_\_\_\_ the homeless beggar.  
A. considerate ... help  
B. caring ... annoy  
C. dangerous ... educate  
D. reckless ... aid  
E. kind ... harass
8. After the penalty was finally \_\_\_\_\_, motorists decided to \_\_\_\_\_ their poor driving habits.  
A. created ... continue  
B. enforced ... uphold  
C. instituted ... maintain  
D. reduced ... abandon  
E. increased ... alter

## Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

Traffic laws are put in place to prevent people in motor vehicles from having accidents. Examples of traffic laws include the speed limit and rules about stop signs and traffic lights. If people stop (B) following traffic laws, then there will be more traffic accidents (B) as a result. This means that the accidents are a logical consequence of the fact that people have not been following the laws. The correct answer is (B).

Drivers do not (E) make traffic laws in the first place, so we can ignore this answer choice right away. If people do not (A) understand or (D) comprehend the traffic laws, then there will be many accidents. However, the accidents will be as a result of the misunderstandings, not (A) in addition to them or (D) on the other hand, which is used to make a comparison. If people do not (C) ignore the laws, then that means people are obeying the laws. (C) Therefore, there will not be as many traffic accidents.

2) **A**

The correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between a type of car and the type of parking spaces it can fit into. If a car is (A) compact, this means it is smaller than most other cars. As a result, it will be able to fit into (A) small parking spaces that larger cars, trucks, and vans cannot fit into. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. Although cars can be (B) foreign or (B) domestic, parking spaces cannot be described by these characteristics, so we can ignore this answer choice. Similarly, some cars are (C) powerful, but parking spaces cannot be described as (C) slow. A (D) nice car can fit into an (D) expensive parking space, but so can a not-so-nice car. There is no logical relationship between these two characteristics. Similarly, there is no relationship between (E) leased cars and (E) reserved parking spaces. These answer choices are incorrect.

3) **A**

The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between rumors that the neighborhood is unsafe and the fact that I still take walks there. (A) Nevertheless is a conjunction that can be used to set up negative relationships. If people say that the neighborhood is unsafe but I take walks there nevertheless, then my behavior is the opposite of what people might expect. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (B) Immediately relates to speed, not logic, so we can ignore this answer choice. The other answer choices relate to logic, but they set up cause-and-effect relationships, not opposite relationships. (C) Consequently, (D) therefore, and (E) understandably

are used when there is a clear, logical relationship between one situation and its consequences. Since that kind of relationship is not set up by the question, these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **B**

The word “though” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with the fact that my colleagues wanted to end the research. If I wanted to (B) continue the research, then I did not want it to end. This is the opposite of what my colleagues wanted. The correct answer is (B).

(D) Investigate and (E) change do not directly relate to ending or continuing the research, so we can ignore these answer choices right away. If I wanted to (A) abandon or (C) stop the research, that would mean that I wanted to end the research just like my colleagues. Since these answer choices do not set up opposite relationships, they are incorrect.

5) **A**

The main clue in this question is “I don’t have much energy.” This means that physical exertion wears me out very easily. A short stroll would be enough to make me feel very worn out or tired. Another way to say this is that a short stroll makes me feel (A) exhausted. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Eager, (C) happy, and (E) energized are all positive, upbeat words that convey a sense of energy and alertness. This is the opposite of what the question implies. (D) Relieved is close in meaning to “relaxed,” but these characteristics are not implied by the question, either. We only know from the question that I don’t have much energy, so we only know that I become tired or exhausted easily.

6) **A**

The question sets up an opposite relationship between how people lived in prehistoric times and how they live today. This means that the correct answer choice will be a conjunction that sets up a negative or opposite relationship. (A) However is the only answer choice that fits this description. “However” sets up opposite relationships. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Therefore, (C) in addition, (D) moreover, and (E) furthermore all set up logical, cause-and-effect relationships. This kind of relationship is not set up by the question. The question contains a pair of opposites, so we need a conjunction that sets up an opposite relationship, not a cause-and-effect relationship.

7) **A**

The correct answer choice will describe the characteristics and actions of someone who stopped at the sight of a beggar. A “beggar” is an extremely poor

person who asks passersby for money, often in the streets. If someone finally stopped to (A) help the beggar, then that person must have been very (A) considerate. "Considerate" is another way to say "thoughtful," "nice," or "polite." The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships between the person's characteristics and his or her actions. A (B) caring person would not intentionally try to (B) annoy the beggar; this pairs a positive characteristic with a negative action. Similarly, a (E) kind person would not (E) harass the beggar. The other answer choices pair negative characteristics with positive actions. A (C) dangerous or (D) reckless person would not (C) educate or (D) aid the beggar. These answer choices are incorrect.

8) **E**

A "penalty" is a punishment for bad behavior or rule-breaking. Penalties for bad driving often include tickets and fines. If the amount of money charged for traffic penalties (E) increased, then people might think twice about breaking traffic laws. They would (E) alter their bad habits, meaning they would change from breaking the rules to following them. The correct answer is (E).

If penalties were recently (A) created or (C) instituted, people would not (A) continue to drive badly or (C) maintain their poor behavior. No one wants to pay heavy penalties, so it is easier to simply follow the law. Similarly, if penalties were (B) enforced, people would not (B) uphold their poor driving standards; they would improve their standards to avoid the penalty. If the penalties were (D) reduced, people would have no reason to (D) abandon their bad driving habits. Without punishment, many people would find no reason to obey the law, and bad driving behavior would continue.