

• **Sentence Completion 3** Level 6

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Marcel performed poorly at his audition because the judges were very _____, and he could not overcome how nervous they made him.
A. intimidating
B. encouraging
C. talented
D. portly
E. uplifting
2. Professor Frank speaks in a _____ voice, never changing pitch or sounding excited about anything.
A. cacophonous
B. harmonious
C. musical
D. energetic
E. monotone
3. After living in a _____ for many years, Pete realized he needed a change and decided to retire to a small cottage in a quiet, _____ town.
A. town ... familiar
B. village ... tiny
C. metropolis ... country
D. house ... soothing
E. city ... urban
4. Students are not allowed to copy others' work when writing their reports; instead, they must _____ the things they read in their own words.
A. plagiarize
B. steal
C. define
D. paraphrase
E. parody
5. Since the harvest was so _____, the tribe held a lavish feast and, after the _____, the tribe still had enough food left over to preserve for the winter.
A. abundant ... meal
B. meager ... celebration
C. minute ... festival
D. beneficial ... mourning
E. cultivated ... suffering
6. Although Eric was _____ to admit his guilt, he ultimately confessed that he had stolen Jessica's wallet.
A. eager
B. reluctant
C. swift
D. grateful
E. obliging
7. Some scientists worry that humans are _____ the earth's resources too quickly and that humanity will soon run out of essentials such as clean freshwater.
A. depleting
B. displacing
C. decorating
D. donating
E. dominating
8. All members of the jury must agree about whether or not the suspect is guilty; the trial will be thrown out if they cannot make _____ decision.
A. an inconclusive
B. a rational
C. an expected
D. an innocent
E. a unanimous

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which means that one thing causes another thing to happen. The correct choice will explain why Marcel’s nerves caused him to perform poorly at his audition. Marcel’s nervousness was caused by the judges, so the correct choice must describe judges who make people nervous. *Intimidating* means frightening, and frightened people are often also nervous, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *encouraging* means giving support or confidence to someone. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since there is no logical relationship between judges who are encouraging and Marcel’s extreme nervousness. Encouraging judges would have made Marcel feel more comfortable.

(C) is incorrect because *talented* means skilled. There is no logical relationship between judges who are talented and Marcel’s extreme nervousness. This choice does not make sense; the judges are the ones assessing Marcel’s talent, not the other way around.

(D) is incorrect because *portly* means stout or fat. There is no logical relationship between judges who are portly or plump and Marcel’s extreme nervousness. The weight of the judges would not have affected Marcel’s performance.

(E) is incorrect because *uplifting* means inspiring. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since there is no logical relationship between judges who are uplifting or inspiring and Marcel’s extreme nervousness. Judges who inspire auditioning people would encourage those people to do their best, not try to make them more nervous so that they perform badly.

2) E

The main clue in this question is the phrase “never changing pitch or sounding excited about anything.” This describes Professor Frank’s voice. This kind of voice is very boring and tedious to hear, so the correct choice must be a synonym for “boring.” *Monotonous* means dull or lacking in interest and variety, so choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *cacophonous* means having a harsh or unpleasant sound. The prompt does not imply that Frank’s voice is harsh. It only states that it did not change pitch.

(B) is incorrect because *harmonious* means tuneful and pleasant to hear. The prompt does not imply that Frank’s voice is pleasant. It only states that it did not change pitch.

(C) is incorrect because *musical* means that Professor Frank’s voice has a melody, as if he were always singing. However, the prompt states that his voice never changes pitch. Therefore, his voice cannot be musical.

(D) is incorrect because *energetic* means active or excited. The prompt says that Professor Frank’s voice never sounds excited about anything.

3) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “realized he needed a change.” This phrase describes what Pete needed and sets up an opposite relationship between the missing words. Pete lived in one type of place “for many years” then changed and moved to a different type of place. A *metropolis* is a large city, while *country* means rural or located away from a city. These are opposites, so choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the two words do not form an opposite relationship. A *town* is an urban area that has a name and boundaries. *Familiar* means well-known from long and close association. One would not move to a familiar town if he “needed a change.”

(B) is incorrect because the two words do not form an opposite relationship. A *village* is a small town, while *tiny* means very small. This sentence would imply that Pete changed from living in a small town to living in a small town.

(D) is incorrect because the two words do not form an opposite relationship. A *house* is a building designed for humans to live in. *Soothing* means calming or relaxing. These words have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because the words do not form an opposite relationship. A *city* is a large town, while *urban* means characteristic of a city. If Peter has lived in a city all his life, then he would not retire to an urban town if he “needed a change.” That would be too similar to what he’s used to.

4) D

The main clues this question are the phrases “not allowed to copy others’ work” and “in their own words.” The correct choice must involve using ideas without copying someone else’s words exactly. *Paraphrase* means to reword something written or spoken by someone else. When something has been paraphrased, the meaning of the idea is the same, but the words are different. Therefore, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *plagiarize* means to copy someone else’s words exactly without giving them credit. This is the opposite of writing down ideas in one’s own words.

(B) is incorrect because *steal* means to take something that is not one's own without paying for it. This has no relationship to putting something in one's own words.

(C) is incorrect because *define* means to give the meaning of something. This does not work because defining is not the same as writing or putting something in one's own words.

(E) is incorrect because *parody* means to produce a humorously exaggerated imitation of someone else's writings. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that students are asked to make fun of other's work.

5) A

The main clues in this question are "feast" and "enough left over." The prompt implies that the harvest must have resulted in a huge amount of food, even though the tribe had a feast. The second word must mean feast, since the second half of the prompt describes what happened after the feast. The word *abundant* means plentiful, and a *meal* is a time in which a large amount of food is eaten. Together, these would imply that the food was so plentiful that there were leftovers after the feast, meaning choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Meager* means not enough, while a *celebration* is a party or joyous event. The prompt does imply that the tribe had a celebration, but one does not have a celebration or feast to celebrate a meager or small harvest.

(C) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Minute* means small, while a *festival* is a period of celebration. The prompt does imply that the tribe had a celebration, but one does not have a celebration or feast to celebrate a small harvest.

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Beneficial* means favorable, while *mourning* means a period of sadness or grief. A beneficial harvest would not cause a period of mourning; nor would it necessarily cause the tribe to have enough food left over for the winter.

(E) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Cultivated* means grown, while *suffering* is a feeling of pain or agony. All harvests are cultivated before they are harvested, and one does not suffer because of a harvest that allows for a lavish feast.

6) B

The main clues in this question are "although" and "ultimately." Although indicates that the correct choice must form an opposite relationship with the fact that Eric "confesses" that he is a thief. The word ultimately implies that Eric took a long time to tell the truth, so the missing word should explain why it took so long. *Reluctant* means unwilling and hesitant, and it would correctly imply that Eric did not want to admit his guilt and, as such, took a long time. Therefore, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *eager* means excited or looking forward to doing something. If Eric were eager or ready to confess to stealing Jessica's wallet, it would not have taken him so long to do so.

(C) is incorrect because *swift* means quick. If Eric were quick to confess to stealing Jessica's wallet, it would not have taken him so long to do so.

(D) is incorrect because *grateful* means thankful. There is nothing in this prompt for Eric to feel thankful for.

(E) is incorrect because *obliging* means helpful. Nothing in this prompt indicates that Eric was helpful.

7) A

The main clue in this question is the word "and," which links parts of a sentence that state similar information. Therefore, there must be a connection to what scientists believe humans are doing to "the earth's resources" and their fear that "humanity will soon run out of essentials." Resources and essentials are similar, so the missing word must likewise imply that humans are using up or running out of resources. Because *depleting* means using up the supply or resources of something, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *displacing* means moving things around. Merely moving resources from one place to another would not use them up, so this choice does not make sense in the context of the prompt.

(C) is incorrect because *decorating* means making something look festive or more attractive. This has nothing to do with the supply of resources. Furthermore, one cannot decorate resources such as fresh water.

(D) is incorrect because *donating* means giving something to someone else for free. It has nothing to do with using something up too quickly.

(E) is incorrect because *dominating* means controlling something. Our control over natural resources does not automatically cause us to run out of them, so this choice does not work.

8) E

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links independent clauses that state similar information. This means that there is a logical connection between the type of "decision" that must be made so that the case does not get thrown out

and the fact that “all members of the jury must agree” about guilt. The missing word describes the type of decision made, so it must relate to all members agreeing. Because *unanimous* means fully in agreement, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *inconclusive* means not ending doubt or dispute. This is the opposite of the type of “decision” that a jury must come to, so this does not work.

(B) is incorrect because *rational* means logical. The prompt only says that the entire jury must agree on a decision, not that the decision must be logical.

(C) is incorrect because *expected* means likely to happen. The prompt only says that the jury must agree on a decision, not that it has to be predictable.

(D) is incorrect because *innocent* means free of guilt. While the jury might decide that the defendant is innocent, the jury cannot make a guilty or innocent decision, since a decision cannot itself have guilt.