

• **Sentence Completion 2** 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. The professor told her students about the project months in advance so that they would have \_\_\_\_\_ time to complete their work.  
A. chronological  
B. constant  
C. insufficient  
D. ample  
E. standard
2. Because the soldier fought so valiantly, he was \_\_\_\_\_ by the president who awarded him an honorary medal.  
A. commended  
B. rejected  
C. encountered  
D. ambushed  
E. chastised
3. Stalin often purged the Communist Party of his enemies and \_\_\_\_\_ in order to eliminate \_\_\_\_\_ and maintain his control over the party.  
A. supporters ... dispute  
B. maniacs ... rebellion  
C. fugitives ... power  
D. associates ... cooperation  
E. rivals ... dissent
4. Northampton High School is \_\_\_\_\_: students come from 24 different countries and speak 15 languages.  
A. diverse  
B. uniform  
C. local  
D. similar  
E. identical
5. A new rule prohibits students from \_\_\_\_\_ on campus after school, so, now, all students must leave campus by 4 PM.  
A. arriving  
B. remaining  
C. dining  
D. returning  
E. fighting
6. My mother's \_\_\_\_\_ salary never left us with enough money to afford luxuries such as vacations, new cars, or nice clothes.  
A. meager  
B. unlimited  
C. supportive  
D. tremendous  
E. prosperous
7. Trying to teach a dog to speak English is \_\_\_\_\_ task; the creature will never be able to use language like we do.  
A. a worthwhile  
B. an admirable  
C. a futile  
D. a respectable  
E. a fruitful
8. Marie had never seen anything as \_\_\_\_\_ as the Grand Canyon before; she wanted to \_\_\_\_\_ at its beauty forever.  
A. striking ... marvel  
B. phenomenal ... scoff  
C. picturesque ... laugh  
D. enormous ... stare  
E. grotesque ... look

## Answers and Explanations

### 1) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “months in advance.” Since the professor told the students about the project far in advance, they had plenty of time to complete it. The missing word describes how much time the students had, so it should imply that they had lots of time. Because *ample* means enough or more than enough, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *chronological* means sequentially ordered on the basis of time. This choice does not work because chronological is not the same as enough or plenty.

(B) is incorrect because *constant* means never ending or stopping. This choice does not work because constant is not the same as enough or plenty.

(C) is incorrect because *insufficient* means not enough. This is the exact opposite of a correct choice, given that the professor made the project known to her students “months in advance.”

(E) is incorrect because *standard* means common or regular. This choice does not work because standard is not the same as enough or plenty.

### 2) A

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship between two parts of the sentence. This means that what the missing word describes is the effect of the fact that “the soldier fought so valiantly.” When one fights valiantly, one fights bravely, and one who fights bravely is usually praised in some way. Because *commended* means praised formally, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *rejected* means turned down. The prompt implies that the soldier was not turned down by the president, as he was awarded a medal.

(C) is incorrect because *encountered* means met or found. This choice does not work because the prompt implies that the president did more than simply meet the soldier, as the president also awarded a medal to the soldier.

(D) is incorrect because *ambushed* means attacked by surprise. This does not describe what the President would do to a valiant soldier.

(E) is incorrect because *chastised* means punished. This is the opposite of what the president did to the soldier, since one does not punish someone who is being awarded a medal.

### 3) E

The main clues in this question are the word “and” and the phrase “in order to.” The former is the clue for the first missing word, while the latter is the clue for the second missing word. “And” is used to link parts of a sentence that state similar information, so the first missing word must be similar to “enemies” and imply a group that does not support Stalin. “In order to” sets up a cause-and-effect relationship, meaning there has to be a connection between what Stalin did and what he was trying to “eliminate.” By purging his party of enemies, he would have been trying to eliminate those who disagreed with him. The second missing word must reflect this. Because *rivals* are people who challenge one another, and *dissent* is disagreement or the holding of a rival opinion or viewpoint, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because only the second word could work in context. *Supporters* are people who approve of and encourage someone. This does not work for the first blank. However, *dispute* is argument or disagreement, which would work for the second blank.

(B) is incorrect because only the second word could work in context. *Maniacs* are people who exhibit wild behavior. This does not work for the first blank, since a maniac is not the same as an enemy. However, *rebellion* is an act of violent opposition to a government or ruler, which would work for the second blank.

(C) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Fugitives* are people hiding from the police to avoid being arrested, while *power* is political control. Neither word sets up a logical relationship to the fact that Stalin “purged the Communist party of his enemies.”

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Associates* are partners or colleagues, not “enemies,” and *cooperation* is the act of working together to achieve a goal. Stalin would not try to purge his party of enemies to eliminate cooperation.

### 4) A

The main clue in this question is the colon (:), which is used to separate explanatory information from the rest of a sentence. This means that what comes after the colon explains or elaborates on what the missing word states. Since the prompt states that the school contains students from 24 countries who speak 15 languages, the missing word must reflect that the school contains many types of students. *Diverse* means showing a great deal of variety, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *uniform* means of a similar character of form throughout. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since a school with students from all over the world who speak several languages would not be considered uniform.

(C) is incorrect because *local* means belonging to a particular neighborhood. Nothing in the prompt indicates that Northampton High is a local school, as most local schools do not contain students from all around the world.

(D) is incorrect because *similar* means alike. The students at Northampton are actually not all that similar to one another: they come from 24 countries and speak 15 languages.

(E) is incorrect because *identical* means exactly alike. The students at Northampton are actually not identical to one another: they come from 24 countries and speak 15 languages.

5) B

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which sets up a logical relationship between the two parts of the sentence it links. This means that there is a logical relationship between the new rule and the fact that “all students must leave campus by 4 PM.” The new rule “prohibits” students from doing something “after school,” and since they now have to leave campus by 4 PM, it follows that the new rule must not allow them to stay on campus after school. Because *remaining* means staying in the same place, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *arriving* means reaching or entering a place. At the end of the school day, students would already be at school, so it would not make sense for the school to “prohibit students from” arriving “on campus after school.”

(C) is incorrect because *dining* means eating a meal. This does not work because dining has no relationship to the fact that “students must leave campus.”

(D) is incorrect because *returning* means coming back to a place one left. At the end of the school day, students would already be at school, so it would not make sense for the school to “prohibit students from” coming back “after school.”

(E) is incorrect because *fighting* means engaging in violent conflict. This does not work because fighting has no relationship to the fact that “students must leave campus.”

6) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “never left us with enough money.” This means that “my mother’s salary” must have been so small that luxuries could not be afforded. The missing word describes the salary, so it must be a word that means small. *Meager* means lacking in quantity, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *unlimited* means without any boundary or limit. An unlimited salary would provide infinite amounts of money, meaning the narrator’s family would have been able to afford luxuries.

(C) is incorrect because *supportive* means helpful. This does not work because almost any salary is supportive, so a salary that is supportive would not necessarily prevent someone from being able “to afford luxuries.”

(D) is incorrect because *tremendous* means very large. If the mother’s salary were large, then the family could afford “luxuries such as vacations, new cars, or nice clothes,” though the prompt states the opposite of this.

(E) is incorrect because *prosperous* means economically favorable or wealthy. If the mother’s salary made her wealthy, then the family would have been able to afford “luxuries such as vacations, new cars, or nice clothes,” though the prompt states the opposite of this.

7) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links independent clauses that are logically related to each other. This means that the fact that a dog “will never be able to use language like we do” relates to the type of task that “trying to teach a dog” English is. The missing word must reflect that it is pointless to teach a dog English, then, since a dog cannot use language like we do. Because *futile* means pointless or incapable of producing an effective result, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *worthwhile* means valuable. A worthwhile task is one that is worth the time and energy spent to complete it, so this is the opposite of a correct choice. Teaching a dog English will never be worth the time spent attempting to do so, since the desired outcome will never be achieved.

(B) is incorrect because *admirable* means attracting the admiration or respect of others. The prompt does not imply that teaching a dog English is respected, since it only states that a dog will never be able to use English like humans do.

(D) is incorrect because *respectable* means attracting the admiration or respect of others. The prompt does not imply that teaching a dog English is respected, since it only states that a dog will never be able to use English like humans do.

(E) is incorrect because *fruitful* means achieving a desired result. Attempting to teach a dog English is not fruitful because the desired outcome will never be achieved. The dog will never speak English.

8) A

The key word in this question is “beauty.” Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between how Marie saw the Grand Canyon and what she wanted to do to it. The question already describes the Grand Canyon as beautiful, which has a positive meaning. This

means that Marie must have seen the Grand Canyon in a positive way. Additionally, since the prompt mentions her seeing the Grand Canyon, she must have wanted to see its beauty forever. *Striking* means dramatically beautiful, while *marvel* means to be filled with wonder or astonishment at the sight of something. Both words make sense in context, so choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical sentence. *Phenomenal* means incredible or amazing, which would make sense in the first blank; however, *scoff* means to mock or ridicule. People scoff at things to show disapproval or derision, which is not what Marie wanted to do.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical sentence. *Picturesque* means visually attractive, which would make sense in the first blank; however, *laugh* means to be amused by. People laugh at things they find funny, but nothing in the prompt suggests that Marie found the Grand Canyon humorous.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical sentence. *Enormous* means very large, which does not work because large is not the same as beautiful. However, *stare* means to look at intensely, which could describe what Marie wanted to do to the Grand Canyon.

**(E)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical sentence. *Grotesque* means monstrous or hideous, the very opposite of what the Grand Canyon was if it were full of "beauty." However, *look* means to set one's eyes upon, which could describe what Marie wanted to do to the Grand Canyon.