



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

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

1. When you \_\_\_\_\_ at someone, you look at them for a long time.  
A. laugh  
B. wave  
C. stare  
D. wink
2. When you \_\_\_\_\_ numbers, you find the difference between them.  
A. add  
B. subtract  
C. multiply  
D. divide
3. Please \_\_\_\_\_ your waste in the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. throw ... trashcan  
B. take ... house  
C. dump ... bed  
D. drop ... office
4. Mr. Williams is a \_\_\_\_\_ teacher. He always helps me \_\_\_\_\_ what we are learning.  
A. poor ... fail  
B. good ... teach  
C. great ... understand  
D. bad ... forget
5. I like to \_\_\_\_\_ because it is good for my health.  
A. exercise  
B. smoke  
C. drive  
D. sit
6. I \_\_\_\_\_ ice cream. I want to \_\_\_\_\_ it every day!  
A. hate ... buy  
B. like ... drink  
C. buy ... spill  
D. love ... eat
7. Kendra did extra work to \_\_\_\_\_ her grade.  
A. make  
B. improve  
C. lower  
D. forget
8. I don't like Billy. He is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. calm  
B. sweet  
C. nice  
D. mean
9. Please hurry up and choose which \_\_\_\_\_ you want to take home. The library is about to \_\_\_\_\_!  
A. book ... close  
B. dictionary ... open  
C. magazine ... go  
D. novel ... write
10. Tommy is a \_\_\_\_\_. He \_\_\_\_\_ houses and other outdoor structures.  
A. police officer ... destroys  
B. doctor ... heals  
C. construction worker ... builds  
D. soccer player ... plays

## Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

To *stare* at someone means to look at him or her without stopping. If you look at someone for a long time, or without stopping, you stare at him or her. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because you do not have to look at someone in order to *laugh* at him or her.

**(B)** is incorrect because you do not need to look at a person for very long in order to *wave*, either.

**(D)** *winking* at a person involves looking at him or her, but not necessarily for a long time. Therefore, this answer choice is incorrect.

2) **B**

The “difference” is what remains when you *subtract* one number from another number. It is the end result of subtraction. Choice **(B)** is correct.

Here are a few examples:

If we subtract seven from nine, the **difference** is two.

The **difference** of nine minus four is five.

Tim had five dollars and spent three dollars. The **difference** is two dollars.

**(A)** is incorrect because when you *add* numbers, you find their “sum.”

**(C)** When you *multiply* numbers, you find their “product.”

**(D)** When you *divide* numbers, you find their “quotient.”

3) **A**

“Waste” is a word for anything that needs to be thrown away. You should *throw* away your waste in the *trashcan*. Waste belongs in the trashcan. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because waste does not belong in the *house*.

**(C)** is incorrect because waste does not belong on the *bed*.

**(D)** is incorrect because waste does not belong in the *office*.

4) **C**

A *great* teacher is a teacher who helps all of his or her students to learn. If your teacher helps you *understand* everything that you are trying to learn, this means you have a great teacher. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a teacher will never help you *fail*. A teacher's job is to help you succeed. We can ignore answer choice (A) right away.

(B) is incorrect because a teacher does not help you *teach*. The teacher is the one who teaches, and the student is the one who learns.

(D) is incorrect because a teacher does not help you *forget*. A teacher helps you remember what you learn.

5) A

Your health improves when you *exercise*, because exercising regularly is good for your health. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because when you *smoke*, you can damage your health.

(C) is incorrect because *driving* has no effect on your health.

(D) is incorrect because if you *sit* for too long without moving, you can damage your health.

6) D

If you *love* a food, you feel like you want to *eat* it every day. However, if you love ice cream, you probably should not eat it every day. Too much ice cream can be bad for your health. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if you *hate* something, you will never want to *buy* it, so we can ignore this choice right away.

(B) is incorrect because, while you might *like* ice cream, you probably do not want to *drink* it. Ice cream is for eating, not for drinking.

(C) is incorrect because, although you can *buy* ice cream, you probably do not want to *spill* it. Spilling your ice cream would waste it.

7) B

Some teachers give extra opportunities to their students beyond the usual amount of homework and class work. If you do extra work, it can *improve* your grade. Choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because extra work will not *make* your grade; that doesn't make sense at all.

(C) is incorrect because extra work would not *lower* your grade.

(D) is incorrect because extra work will not help you *forget* your grade.

8) **D**

Nobody likes people who are *mean*. Being mean is a bad characteristic that people dislike. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because being *calm* is a good characteristic that people like.

**(B)** is incorrect because being *sweet* is a good characteristic that people like.

**(C)** is incorrect because being *nice* is a good characteristic that people like.

9) **A**

You are allowed to take home books from the library, but the library is not open all day. If you are at the library when it is about to *close*, you need to hurry and choose which *book* you want to borrow before it closes. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because you do not have to choose a *dictionary* before the library *opens*. You can find dictionaries in the library, but you cannot get into the building before it opens.

**(C)** is incorrect because the library does not *go* anywhere.

**(D)** is incorrect because the library cannot *write* anything.

10) **C**

A *construction worker* is someone who *builds* buildings. If Tommy builds things like houses, he is a construction worker. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because *police officers* do not *destroy* buildings. They protect people.

**(B)** is incorrect because *doctors* can *heal* people, but they can do nothing for buildings.

**(D)** is incorrect because *soccer* players can *play* soccer, but they do not play with buildings.