



● **Sentence Completion 7** (*high-intermediate level*)

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

1. When a person is described as _____, it might be best to stay away from him or her. That person probably isn't too friendly.
A. childish
B. wise
C. organized
D. hostile
E. undervalued
2. _____ flowers bloom year after year, but perennial flowers bloom only once and then die.
A. beautiful
B. healthy
C. monthly
D. annual
E. deadly
3. Animals who survive without social interaction _____ exist in nature. For this reason, the chameleon represents _____, as they prefer to live alone.
A. commonly ... an anomaly
B. sometimes ... a community
C. seldom ... a reptile
D. frequently ... an outlier
E. rarely ... an aberration
4. Historically speaking, one outstanding aspect of religion is its ability to _____ a population of believers with feelings of community and righteousness, giving them the ability to _____ opposing nations in times of war.
A. reinforce ... appreciate
B. weaken ... flee
C. segregate ... conquer
D. divide ... overwhelm
E. strengthen ... defeat
5. Luis is _____ going to the market this weekend; he has done so every weekend so far this year.
A. unexpectedly
B. doubtfully
C. possibly
D. probably
E. unfortunately
6. Considering the fact that she was in a terrible accident and now uses a prosthetic leg, Linda's victory in the marathon race was _____ amazing.
A. sadly
B. truly
C. predictably
D. unsurprisingly
E. laughably
7. My piano teacher dislikes _____ music. For this reason, he only teaches _____ music.
A. contemporary ... classical
B. new ... recent
C. modern ... popular
D. traditional ... old
E. loud ... rock
8. She closed the car door and _____ waved goodbye. She was moving away and would not see her friends for a long time.
A. hurriedly
B. sadly
C. patiently
D. lazily
E. originally

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The main clues in this question are “stay away” and “probably isn’t too friendly.” This means that the person has a negative characteristic. Hostility is a negative characteristic. (D) Hostile people are very mean, and they like to start fights. If someone you know is hostile, you should stay away from him or her. The correct answer is (D).

Being (A) childish is also a negative characteristic, but childish people aren’t necessarily unfriendly. They are just immature. Similarly, there is no logical relationship between being (B) wise, (C) organized, or (E) undervalued and being unfriendly. There is no reason to stay away from people with these characteristics.

2) **D**

The main clue in this question is “year after year.” Remember that the word “but” sets up an opposite relationship, so we know we must choose the opposite of “perennial.” This is because perennial flowers die, but some other type of flower lives on. If the non-perennial flowers bloom “year after year,” then they bloom annually. The word (D) annual means “yearly.” The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (C) Monthly is a trick answer. A flower that blooms monthly would continue to bloom over and over, unlike a perennial flower. However, the clue in the question is “year after year,” not “month after month.” We can ignore (A) beautiful, (B) healthy, and (E) deadly because they do not deal with time or frequency of blooms. Lastly, none of these answer choices are technical terms used by gardeners, florists, or botanists (professionals who work with flowers). These professionals only classify flowers as annual or perennial.

3) **E**

The phrase “for this reason” means that two things are related in a logical, cause-and-effect way. The correct answer choice will set up a relationship between the frequency of animals who survive without social interaction and the fact that the chameleon lives alone. Most animals on Earth have evolved to depend on one another. This means that animals (E) rarely survive without interaction with others. However, there are many exceptions to the rule. Chameleons live alone, but they are (E) an aberration. This means that they behave differently from most other animals. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. If lone animals (A) commonly existed in nature, then the chameleon would not be (A) an anomaly. “Anomaly” and “aberration” are close in meaning, so an anomaly is a creature who deviates from the norm. Similarly, if lone animals survived (D) frequently,

then chameleons would not be (D) an outlier. The other answer choices do not make reference to the unusual behavior of chameleons. Chameleons are (C) reptiles, but this does not relate to the clues in the question, and neither does (B) a community. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **E**

The main clue in this question is “feeling of community and righteousness.” This refers to the fact that religion unifies people who share the same beliefs and makes them feel confident that they are correct, just, or holy. These feelings can be important during wartime, historically speaking. If a nation is united under one religion, they may feel (E) strengthened in their cause and go on to (E) defeat their enemies, especially those who lack religious cohesion. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do set up logical relationships. We can ignore (C) segregate and (D) divide right away, because they contradict the clue about “community.” Religion (A) reinforces a unified population, but it does not make them (A) appreciate their enemies. Religion does not (B) weaken a population, and it does not make them (B) flee their enemies. Therefore, these answer choices are also incorrect.

5) **D**

Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between whether Luis will go to the market this weekend and the fact that he has been going to the market every weekend this year. When people do something very regularly, it is likely that they will continue to behave the same way in the future. If Luis goes to the market every weekend, then he will (D) probably go again this weekend. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. There is nothing (E) unfortunate about going to the market, so we can ignore this answer choice right away. It is not (A) unexpected or (B) doubtful that Luis will go to the market. He has gone every other weekend, so there is very little doubt that he will go again. The word (C) possibly is too weak in connotation to convey the logical relationship we need. “Probably” indicates a greater likelihood than “possibly,” so this is not the best answer choice.

6) **B**

The phrase “considering the fact” means that two things are related in a logical, cause-and-effect way. The correct answer choice will set up a relationship between Linda’s “prosthetic” (artificial, replacement) leg and her victory in the marathon. If someone is in a terrible accident and loses a leg, it can take many months or years for that person to recover. If Linda not only recovered from her

accident, but also trained to run a marathon and won it, then that is (B) truly amazing. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. Although it is sad that Linda lost her leg, there is nothing sad about her victory. Furthermore, the phrase “(A) sadly amazing” is contradictory and doesn’t make sense. Similarly, there is nothing (C) predictable, (D) unsurprising, or (E) laughable about Linda’s situation, and these words cannot be combined with “amazing.”

7) **A**

Remember that the phrase “for this reason” means that two things are related in a logical, cause-and-effect way. We need to find the difference between the music that my teacher dislikes and the music that he teaches instead. (A) Contemporary music is new music that has been written recently. This is the opposite of (A) classical music, most of which was written many centuries ago. If my teacher dislikes contemporary music, he probably teaches classical music instead. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up logical, opposite relationships. There is no opposite relationship between (B) new music and (B) recent music. Compared to centuries-old classical music, even music that is decades-old is both new and recent. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between (C) modern music and (C) popular music, (D) traditional music and (D) old music, or (E) loud music and (E) rock music. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

8) **B**

The main clue in this question is “would not see her friends for a long time.” This means that the woman in the question is about to leave her friends behind. This is a sad event, so she probably (B) sadly wave goodbye. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do not match the negative connotation associated with leaving one’s friends behind. The woman in the question would not close the door (A) hurriedly; she would want to savor every last moment with her friends. Similarly, there is no relationship between the woman’s sad situation and closing the door (C) patiently, (D) lazily, or (E) originally. These answer choices are incorrect.