



● **Sentence Completion 9** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Tristan thinks biology is boring, but math is _____.
A. difficult
B. interesting
C. dull
D. easy
2. Corey is trying to find a _____. He must work to be able to pay his bills.
A. job
B. college
C. secret
D. check
3. The book is long but _____.
A. fascinating
B. boring
C. slow
D. terrible
4. Unlike my short brother, I am _____.
A. kind
B. polite
C. tall
D. athletic
5. My favorite holiday is _____ because I love to receive _____.
A. Christmas ... presents
B. Thanksgiving ... candy
C. New Year's Eve ... cookies
D. Halloween ... money
6. The bracelet costs too much money. I cannot _____ it.
A. afford
B. wear
C. steal
D. receive
7. Rather than give your old clothes away, you should try to _____ them.
A. sell
B. buy
C. make
D. wash
8. Soccer is exciting, _____ tennis is boring.
A. and
B. so
C. or
D. but
9. Lemons are _____. They are not sweet.
A. delicious
B. terrible
C. sour
D. bland
10. _____ are similar to _____. They are both shapes.
A. dogs ... cats
B. men ... women
C. squares ... circles
D. hands ... feet

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship between biology and math. Tristan thinks biology is boring. The opposite of boring is *interesting*. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *difficult* is not the opposite of boring. Something that is boring can also be difficult at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because *dull* and *boring* are very close in meaning. There is not an opposite relationship between them.

(D) is incorrect because *easy* is not the opposite of boring. Something that is boring can also be easy at the same time

2) **A**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “work to pay his bills.” This means that Corey is trying to find work so that he can pay for his lifestyle. A *job* will pay him money to work. If Corey finds a job, he will be able to work for money. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because going to *college* may help Corey get a good job in the future, but it will not help him work to pay his bills now. This is not the most logical answer choice.

(C) is incorrect because a *secret* will not help Corey work to pay his bills. There is no logical connection between secrets and working to pay his bills.

(D) is incorrect because a *check* would help Corey pay his bills, but Corey has to “work” to pay his bills. If he works for a paycheck, then he must have a job.

3) **A**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship with the fact that the book is long. Many people think that long books are boring or difficult to read. If a long book is actually *fascinating*, then this is the opposite of what many people would expect. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a book can be both long and *boring* without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.

(C) is incorrect because a book can be both long and *slow* without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.

(D) is incorrect because a book can be both long and *terrible* without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.

4) C

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship between my tall brother and me. The opposite of short is *tall*. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *kind* is not the opposite of short.

(B) is incorrect because *polite* is not the opposite of short.

(D) is incorrect because *athletic* is not the opposite of short.

5) A

The word “because” means that two things progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship between a holiday and what I receive on that holiday. Traditionally, *Christmas* is a day when many people give and receive *presents*. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because most people do not receive *candy* for *Thanksgiving*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

(C) is incorrect because most people do not receive *cookies* for *New Year’s Eve*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

(D) is incorrect because most people do not receive *money* for *Halloween*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

6) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “too much money.” Remember that the word “too” means that something is excessive, or it goes beyond what is necessary or acceptable. If the bracelet costs too much money, then it costs more money than what I think is acceptable. When something costs too much money, I cannot *afford* it. This means that I am unable or unwilling to pay the high price for it. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because I can *wear* a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of wearing it.

(C) is incorrect because I can *steal* a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of stealing it.

(D) is incorrect because I can *receive* a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of receiving it from someone else.

7) **A**

The phrase “rather than” means that two things are related in a negative and opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship with giving the clothes away. The opposite of giving something away is *selling* it. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *buy* does not form an opposite relationship with give away.

(C) is incorrect because *make* does not form an opposite relationship with give away.

(D) is incorrect because *wash* does not form an opposite relationship with give away.

8) **D**

The main clues in this question are “exciting” and “boring.” This means that there is an opposite relationship between my opinions of soccer and tennis. The word *but* sets up a negative or opposite relationship. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *and* sets up a coordinating relationship. It brings two things together. Something cannot be both exciting and boring, because those two things are opposites.

(B) is incorrect because *so* sets up a cause-and-effect relationship. This question requires an opposite relationship, so “so” is not the best word to choose.

(C) is incorrect because *or* sets up a contrasting relationship, but not the kind we are looking for. You use “or,” when you are presenting someone with multiple possibilities to choose from, not when you are contrasting two different things.

9) **C**

The correct answer choice will set up a negative relationship between the taste of lemons and the sweetness of sugar. *Sour* is the opposite of sweet. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *delicious* is not the opposite of *sour*.

(B) is incorrect because *terrible* is not the opposite of *sour*.

(D) is incorrect because *bland* is not the opposite of *sour*.

10) **C**

If something is similar to something else, this means it is like it or comparable to it. *Squares* are similar to *circles* because they are both shapes. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *dogs* and *cats* are both animals, not shapes.

(B) is incorrect because *men* and *women* are both humans, not shapes.

(D) is incorrect because *hands* and *feet* are both limbs, not shapes.