



● Sentence Completion 1 *(high-advanced GRE level)*

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

1. The board of directors required a **plenary** meeting of all board members before ousting the current CEO, so because one member was absent, the issue could not be put to a vote.
 - A. clandestine
 - B. unabridged
 - C. fractional
 - D. plenary**
 - E. uncondensed
2. Well-behaved and innocent, the child was completely morally pure; in fact, he was practically a _____.
 - A. dastard
 - B. seraph
 - C. paragon
 - D. Gnostic
 - E. bromide
3. In order to convey the wealth and power that horses symbolize, many cultures honor their past leaders with _____ statues.
 - A. veterinary
 - B. bovine
 - C. equine
 - D. idealized
 - E. equestrian
4. A bottle of generic ibuprofen is just as effective as a name-brand one; they are completely _____.
 - A. synonymous
 - B. replaceable
 - C. fungible
 - D. antithetical
 - E. ambidextrous
5. The scientist admitted that the results of the experiment were _____ and that, because they were so unusual, they were not indicative of any larger trends.
 - A. aberrant
 - B. abortive
 - C. abrupt
 - D. abstract
 - E. abstruse
6. Marissa accepted the promotion opportunity with _____, due to the fact that the position was her dream job.
 - A. trepidation
 - B. alertness
 - C. brevity
 - D. legerity
 - E. alacrity

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The key words in this sentence are found in the descriptive clause “because one member was absent,” a phrase that explains why the vote did not occur at the meeting. The missing word describes the type of meeting needed before the ousting of the CEO can occur, so the meeting must include all members without even one absence. Thus, the missing word means complete or total. Choice **(D)** is the correct answer, since *plenary* means attended by all qualified members.

(A) is incorrect because *clandestine* means secret. The prompt does not in any way indicate that the meeting of the board members must be secret.

(B) is incorrect because *unabridged* means not shortened. This word could theoretically describe a meeting at which all members are present. However, unabridged is too limited in meaning. It refers to a book or text, not a meeting.

(C) is incorrect because *fractional* means partial or incomplete, the opposite of the missing word. A “fractional meeting” is what took place when “one member was absent” and “the issue could not be put to a vote.”

(E) is incorrect because *uncondensed* means not shortened in length or scope. Thus, this word could not quite describe a complete or fully attended meeting. This word would refer to the length or duration of the meeting, not its attendance.

2) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. In this prompt, the key words are “completely morally pure,” a phrase that, like the missing word, describes the child. The missing word presents an extreme version of this quality, given the inclusion of the modifier “practically.” The missing word must mean something or someone extremely pure. Thus, choice **(B)** is the best choice: a *seraph* is a member of the highest order of angels.

(A) is incorrect because a *dastard* is a mean coward, not someone who is “completely morally pure.”

(C) is incorrect because a *paragon* is a model of excellence. Generally, a paragon is something to be replicated regardless of morality. This word could work in context if the child were specifically a paragon of virtue, but this is not the wording contained in the prompt.

(D) is incorrect because a *Gnostic* is a member of a Christian sect that claims to have superior knowledge of spiritual matters. Though the prompt does suggest

the child was “morally pure,” it does not go so far as to suggest he had advanced spiritual knowledge. There is not enough information in the prompt to support this answer.

(E) is incorrect because a *bromide* is a dull person. While one who is “completely morally pure” might be considered dull by some, the prompt does not convey that connotation. Thus, this word is not supported by the information given in the prompt.

3) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The key word in this sentence is “horses,” and the prompt hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship. The statues described by the missing word are designed as they are because of what horses “symbolize.” This means that the statues themselves must involve horses in order to be logically linked to the first clause of the prompt. Thus, the missing word must mean horse. Choice **(E)** is the best choice, since *equestrian* means mounted on horseback.

(A) is incorrect because *veterinary* means pertaining to the medical treatment of animals. Thus, a “veterinary statue” would be a statue relating to medicine for animals rather than one of a leader mounted on a horse.

(B) is incorrect because *bovine* means pertaining to cows, though the prompt discusses “horses” only.

(C) is incorrect because *equine* means pertaining to a horse. While this word could work in context, it is not as strong as choice (E). Equine typically refers to a horse itself, not the horse’s rider.

(D) is incorrect because *idealized* means exalted to perfection. While the statues probably do depict leaders in an idealized way, this word ignores the “horses” mentioned in the prompt. Therefore, it is not as strong an answer choice as (E).

4) **C**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key words are “just as effective,” a phrase that describes the relationship between name-brand and generic drugs and that implies the drugs are interchangeable. The missing word likewise describes that relationship, so the missing word must mean interchangeable. Choice **(C)** is, therefore, the best choice, as *fungible* means freely exchangeable or interchangeable.

(A) is incorrect because *synonymous* means equivalent in meaning. Its meaning is too limited to work in context. Synonymous can really only refer to words and the concepts they represent, not drugs.

(B) is incorrect because *replaceable* means can be substituted with something else. Both drugs in the prompt are can be replaced by each other, but the drugs are not necessarily replaceable by something else entirely. One cannot swap ibuprofen for aspirin, for instance, because they are different chemicals that will have different effects. This is a weak answer choice.

(D) is incorrect because *antithetical* means opposite. If the drugs were complete opposites of each other, one would not be “just as effective” as the other. This word does not work in context.

(E) is incorrect because *ambidextrous* means able to use both hands equally well. This would only work for describing a person, not drugs, even though the word does suggest interchangeability.

5) **A**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key words is “unusual,” a word that, like the missing word, describes the “results of the experiment.” Thus, the missing word must also mean unusual, making choice **(A)** is the best answer, since *aberrant* means abnormal or atypical.

(B) is incorrect because *abortive* means imperfectly developed or failing to produce an intended result. As such, this word would not be used to describe “unusual” results. An experiment in general can be “abortive” if it does not produce the intended results, but the results themselves cannot be abortive. Results cannot logically produce results.

(C) is incorrect because *abrupt* means unexpected or sudden. While the prompt implies that the results were not expected, it does not imply they involved sudden movements or rashness.

(D) is incorrect because *abstract* means complex or theoretical. The prompt does not suggest that the results of the experiment were either complex or simple.

(E) is incorrect because *abstruse* means difficult to understand. The prompt only implies the results were not typical and does not state anything about the relative difficulty in comprehending them.

6) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key words are in the phrase “the position was her dream job.” This phrase is the cause of the missing word, since Marissa “accepted the promotion” in a certain way because it was her dream job. Thus, the missing word must mean enthusiasm, certainty, or excitement—anything that conveys that Marisa jumped at the opportunity. Thus, choice **(E)** is correct, since *alacrity* means cheerful readiness.

(A) is incorrect because *trepidation* means trembling fear. There is no reason for anyone to be afraid of his or her “dream job.”

(B) is incorrect because *alertness* means attentiveness. While Marissa was probably attentive when she accepted the position, this word is not as strong as the one presented in choice (E).

(C) is incorrect because *brevity* means terseness. Though terseness might seem to indicate that Marissa responded quickly, it actually implies that she was brief in speech or even rude in her acceptance of the position. However, she would be unlikely to be either of those while accepting “her dream job.”

(D) is incorrect because *legerity* is quickness. The prompt does not necessarily indicate that she accepted the offer quickly, although she may have in fact done so. This word also fails to connote any type of emotion or excitement that may have accompanied Marissa’s acceptance. Though *legerity* could work in context, it is not the best answer choice.