



● Sentence Completion 16 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. Chocolate has always been one of my favorite foods, so it was _____ for me to resist the temptation to eat another slice of chocolate cake.
A. simple
B. common
C. painless
D. difficult
E. possible
2. The position would allow me to achieve my career goals, so I _____ the job offer.
A. declined
B. debated
C. refused
D. accepted
E. acknowledged
3. Fusion cuisine involves _____ techniques and ingredients from all over the world to create new recipes.
A. revising
B. combining
C. inventing
D. improving
E. collecting
4. Though at first glance the water may appear _____, I urge you not to be fooled; it is actually rather _____.
A. gross ... disgusting
B. ordinary ... plain
C. tempting ... enticing
D. mild ... cool
E. clear ... polluted
5. Weather patterns in Nanula typically _____ those in Abduka; when it is raining in Nanula, chances are it is raining in Abduka.
A. counteract
B. contradict
C. produce
D. alter
E. mirror
6. Although my father never attended college, my mother _____ math at a prestigious university.
A. understood
B. studied
C. forgot
D. failed
E. invented
7. Stocks and treasuries have an inverse relationship; when stock prices _____, treasuries typically _____.
A. go up ... increase
B. descend ... devalue
C. appreciate ... decline
D. climb ... elevate
E. go down ... collapse
8. Overall, the new cancer treatment has had a _____ impact, in spite of its _____ side effects.
A. beneficial ... improving
B. positive ... negative
C. serious ... dangerous
D. terrible ... deadly
E. wonderful ... promising

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

If someone likes chocolate, then that person probably likes chocolate cake. He or she may feel a “temptation” to continue eating the cake even after he or she is full. It may be (D) difficult for that person to stop eating when it is appropriate to stop. This means that it will be difficult for him or her to resist the temptation. The correct answer is (D).

If not eating more cake were (A) simple or (C) painless, then I would not be struggling with any temptation. However, since chocolate is my favorite food, it is likely that I will, in fact, struggle with temptation. It might not be (B) common for me to resist eating my favorite food, either. The question does not say whether or not I am *good* at resisting temptation, so we cannot tell from the question if I commonly resist eating my favorite food or not. It is always (E) possible to resist a temptation, since almost anything is technically possible. Although this answer choice fits the context of the question, it is not the strongest answer choice.

2) **D**

The word “so” means that two things progress in a logical, cause-and-effect way. Most people like to achieve their goals, because it makes them feel successful and accomplished. If I (D) accept the job offer, I will achieve my goals and most likely feel good about myself. The correct answer is (D).

If I (A) decline or (C) refuse the job offer, then I do not take the job that helps me achieve my goals. Since I probably *do* want to achieve my goals, these are not the best answer choices. (B) Debating or (E) acknowledging the job offer does not necessarily imply that I either accept or decline the offer. This does not help me achieve my goals, either. The best answer choice will be the one that implied that I achieve my goals.

3) **B**

The main clue in this question is “fusion cuisine.” The word “fusion” means “combination” or “mixture.” In the culinary world, this involves (B) combining ingredients or cooking styles from distinct cultures to make brand new dishes. If a chef ingredients from around the world, he or she will create new fusion recipes. The correct answer is (B).

(A) Revising or (D) improving other culture’s techniques does not directly relate to the idea of “fusion.” Some chefs might think that fusion dishes are an improvement over existing dishes from specific cultures, but this is not clearly implied by the question. “Fusion” does not mean “revision,” it means “combination.” Similarly, although fusion cuisine involves (C) inventing new recipes, it is not the ingredients themselves that are invented. Simply (E) collecting the ingredients does not result in a new dish; the ingredients must be

combined in order to be considered a fusion meal. These answer choices are incorrect.

4) **E**

The word “though” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between how the water looks and how it actually is. (E) Clear and (E) polluted are opposites. Water that is polluted is not clear. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (A) Gross and (A) disgusting are close in meaning; it is possible for something to be gross and disgusting at the same time. Similarly, something can be both (B) ordinary and (B) plain, (C) tempting and (C) enticing, or (D) mild and (D) cool. These pairs are not opposites, so they are incorrect.

5) **E**

The main clue in this question is “when it is raining in Nanula, chances are it is raining in Abduka.” This means that the weather in these two cities is very similar. When two things are very similar, it can be said that they (E) mirror one another. The correct answer is (E).

When two things (A) counteract or (B) contradict one another, then they serve as opposites. However, the weather patterns in Nanula and Abduka are very similar, not opposites, so these answer choices are incorrect. There is no reason to believe that weather in one place can (C) produce weather somewhere else. Weather is produced by conditions in the atmosphere, not in a specific city or town. Similarly, weather in one place cannot (D) alter (change) weather somewhere else. These answer choices are also incorrect.

6) **B**

The word “although” means that there is a negative or opposite relationship between two things. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between my father, who never attended college, and my mother. In order to set up the opposite relationship, we must assume that my mother attended college. The question strongly implies this, because it includes the keywords “prestigious university” when describing my mother. This means she must have (B) studied at a prestigious school. The correct answer is (B).

Math is not something that was (E) invented by only one person, so we can ignore this answer choice right away. My mother must have (A) understood math in order to study it at the college level, but this is not the best answer choice. There is no direct, opposite relationship between understanding math and not attending college. Similarly, while it is possible that my mother (C) forgot or (D) failed math at her university, these words do not set up an opposite relationship with “never attended college,” either. These answer choices are incorrect.

7) **C**

The main clue in this question is “inverse relationship.” This means there is an opposite relationship between the behavior of stocks and treasuries. When one goes up, the other must go down. This means that when stocks (C) appreciate, treasuries (C) decline. The correct answer is (C).

If stocks (A) go up and treasuries (A) increase, then they both grow in size or value. There is no opposite relationship implied by these descriptions. Similarly, there is no opposite established between (B) descending and (B) devaluing, (D) climbing and (D) elevating, or (E) going down and (E) collapsing. Each of these pairs implies a similar state of increase or decrease for both stocks and treasuries, so these answer choices are incorrect.

8) **B**

The phrase “in spite of” means that there is a negative or opposite relationship between two things. Specifically, it means that idea X is true even if idea Y would seem to prevent it from being true. If a new cancer treatment has (B) negative side effects, one might think the treatment must have a negative impact overall. However, certain medicines with negative side effects can still be very effective. If the treatment has a (B) positive effect overall, then it has a positive effect in spite of its negative drawbacks. The correct answer choice is (B).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (A) Beneficial and (A) improving both have positive connotations, so there is no opposite relationship between them. Similarly, (E) wonderful and (E) promising also both have positive connotations. (C) Serious and (C) dangerous are both negative, and so are (D) terrible and (D) deadly. These answer choices do not set up opposite relationships, so they are incorrect.