



● Sentence Completion 17 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. After adhering to a strict low-fat diet for months, Edgar was \_\_\_\_\_ to return to his old ways; he missed his old favorite foods like cake and ice cream.
  - A. afraid
  - B. averse
  - C. hesitant
  - D. reluctant
  - E. tempted
2. The students were excited about the opportunity to take classes overseas, so they quickly \_\_\_\_\_ the offer.
  - A. rejected
  - B. accepted
  - C. decline
  - D. turned down
  - E. thought about
3. In order to gain attention from potential customers, the new company staged a \_\_\_\_\_ during its first few months of operation.
  - A. robbery
  - B. resignation
  - C. bankruptcy
  - D. meeting
  - E. promotion
4. The tutoring program was established to help students who were struggling with the chemistry class, but because of \_\_\_\_\_ attendance, it was found to be largely unsuccessful.
  - A. lackluster
  - B. increased
  - C. enthusiastic
  - D. skyrocketing
  - E. robust
5. She knew the medicine would \_\_\_\_\_. Nonetheless, she was willing to take it in order to be cured.
  - A. be effective
  - B. be beneficial
  - C. taste awful
  - D. fight infection
  - E. relieve her illness
6. Although the house may appear \_\_\_\_\_ from the outside, I assure you the interior is rather \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. small ... tiny
  - B. expensive ... large
  - C. plain ... ornate
  - D. bright ... colorful
  - E. gaudy ... elaborate
7. The economic recession has resulted in a sudden decline in consumer spending; likewise, it has caused home values to \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. continue
  - B. ascend
  - C. appreciate
  - D. increase
  - E. plummet
8. After looking at the map, we \_\_\_\_\_ that there wasn't enough time to walk to the theater before the movie started.
  - A. surmised
  - B. forgot
  - C. imagined
  - D. fantasized
  - E. remembered

## Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

To follow a low-fat diet, one must stop eating fatty foods such as cake and ice cream. Edgar really likes these foods, but he cannot eat them if he wants to stay on his diet. He misses his old foods and is (E) tempted to eat them again. This means he has the urge to eat them again, and he must fight that urge in order to stay on the diet. The correct answer is (E).

If Edgar missed his old favorite foods, he would not be (A) afraid to eat them again. Fear is a negative emotion, but he would not have negative feelings about his favorite foods. Similarly, he would not be (B) averse, (C) hesitant, or (D) reluctant to eat these foods again. These words also imply negative feelings or doubts about these foods, but he does not have negative feelings about them. He misses them, so he is tempted to eat them again.

2) **B**

The main clue in this question is “excited.” This means that the students had positive feelings about the opportunity to study overseas. This excitement would probably cause them to (B) accept the offer, since studying overseas is something they seriously wanted to do. The correct answer is (B).

The students probably would not (A) reject, (C) decline, or (D) turn down the offer. This contradicts the idea that they were excited about the opportunity, because excitement would not lead directly to rejection. They would probably (E) think about the offer in making their eventual decisions, but this is not the best answer choice. It is too general, and it does not directly relate to the ideas inherent in “excited” and “quickly.”

3) **E**

Since new businesses do not have established reputations or name recognition, one of the biggest problems facing new businesses is attracting new customers. A common strategy for new businesses is to offer discounts, sales, and special events to attract customers’ attention. These are all examples of (E) promotions. The business promotes itself in order to attract customers. The correct answer is (E).

Many of the other answer choices all have negative connotations that would probably result in a loss of customers, not an influx of new ones. A (A) robbery involves having your items or money stolen by thieves. Staging a robbery would certainly draw attention, but only negative attention that would drive people away. Similarly, (B) resignations and (C) bankruptcies are negative events that results in a loss of confidence or trust from customers. A (D) meeting is a neutral event where businesspeople discuss the future of their company, but the meeting itself does not affect whether or not customers come to the business. In fact,

customers are not usually invited to company meetings; they are usually for workers only. These answer choices are incorrect.

4) **A**

Students who do not attend class or tutoring sessions do not reap the benefits of expert instruction. A tutoring program will not help students if the students themselves do not choose to attend. (A) Lackluster attendance will lead to the program's failure. "Lackluster" means "insufficient," "dull," or "mediocre." If few people attend the tutoring program, then attendance is lackluster. The correct answer is (A).

(B) Increased, (C) enthusiastic, (D) skyrocketing, and (E) robust attendance all imply that many students attend the tutoring program. High attendance would most likely result in the program's success, so these answer choices are incorrect.

5) **C**

The word "nonetheless" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between some characteristic of the medicine and a woman's willingness to take the medicine. The correct answer choice will describe a negative characteristic of the medicine. If the medicine had no negative characteristics, then there would be no reason for the woman in the question not to want to take it. If the medicine (C) tastes awful, the woman might not want to take it. However, if it will cure her illness, this positive aspect of the medicine will outweigh her desire not to experience its bad taste. The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices all describe positive characteristics of the medicine. If the medicine (A) is effective, (B) is beneficial, (D) fights infection, or (E) relieves her illness, then there is no reason for the woman in the question not to want to take it. She will only be hesitant to take the medicine if there is some negative drawback to taking it, such as an unpleasant taste. These answer choices do not set up the opposite relationship we need, so they are incorrect.

6) **C**

The word "although" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between how the house looks from the outside and how it actually is on the inside. (C) Plain and (C) ornate are opposites, because "ornate" means "fancy" or "elaborately decorated." The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (A) Small and (A) tiny are close in meaning, so it is possible to be both small and tiny at the same time. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between being both (B) expensive and (B) large, (D) bright and (D) colorful, or (E) gaudy and (E)

elaborate. These answer choices do not set up the relationship we need, so they are incorrect.

7) **E**

The word “likewise” means that there is a logical relationship between two similar things. Economic recessions and declines in consumer spending are both negative situations. The correct answer choice will also describe a negative situation. If home prices (E) plummet (decrease quickly and sharply), this is a negative situation. Many people will lose money on their investments in their homes, or owe more money to banks and mortgage companies than their homes are even worth. An economic recession can lead to this terrible situation, so the logical relationship is established. The correct answer is (E).

If home prices (B) ascended, (C) increased, or (D) appreciated, then the value of the homes would go up. This is seen as a largely positive situation, since it does not lead to the problems described above. These answer choices do not set up the logical relationship we need, so they are incorrect. (A) Continue is a neutral word that would simply imply that home prices remained stable. This could be either good or bad; we cannot tell from the question. However, we know it is incorrect because it fails to set up the relationship we need.

8) **A**

A map can show the distance between two places, such as a house and a movie theater. Wherever the people in the question are, they first looked at a map to determine how far it was from their location to the movie theater. The distance was too far to walk in the amount of time they had before the beginning of the movie. Looking at the map, they were able to (A) surmise, or deduce, that they could not walk to the theater in time. The correct answer is (A).

Looking at the map did not make them (B) forget or (E) remember that they could not get to the theater in time. If they consulted the map because they had no previous knowledge of how far the walk was or how long it would take, then there was technically no information for them to forget or remember in the first place. The map did not make them (C) imagine or (D) fantasize anything about the distance to the movie theater. The map gave them concrete information about the distance; they did not have to use their imaginations at all. These answer choices are incorrect.