



● **Sentence Completion 6** (*high-intermediate level*)

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

1. Although most guests ate the \_\_\_\_\_ cake at the wedding, I did not have any, because I am trying to lose weight.  
A. rich  
B. beautiful  
C. healthy  
D. decorated  
E. light
2. My neighbor's house is the \_\_\_\_\_ looking house on the block; it is in poor condition compared to all the other homes.  
A. worst  
B. best  
C. prettiest  
D. meanest  
E. weirdest
3. Although she usually dresses in \_\_\_\_\_ garments, Antoinette decided to wear \_\_\_\_\_ outfit to the gallery party.  
A. colorful ... an expensive  
B. frilly ... an extraordinary  
C. lousy ... a plain  
D. fashionable ... a stylish  
E. simple ... an elaborate
4. Despite his effort to combat his fear of heights, the alarming speed at which the roller coaster plunged downhill \_\_\_\_\_ John.  
A. excited  
B. terrified  
C. thrilled  
D. angered  
E. pleased
5. Although Lenny's parents can be \_\_\_\_\_ disciplinarians, their \_\_\_\_\_ affections reveal how much they truly care for him.  
A. firm ... infrequent  
B. harmful ... occasional  
C. strict ... tender  
D. responsible ... sincere  
E. permissive ... romantic
6. Unlike her curious neighbor, Brianna was \_\_\_\_\_ about who would move in to the empty house down the street.  
A. doubtful  
B. concerned  
C. skeptical  
D. excited  
E. uninterested
7. Emma was unaware of the dress code required at the black tie function, so she wore \_\_\_\_\_, casual jeans.  
A. polite  
B. respectable  
C. inappropriate  
D. ethical  
E. formal
8. Following years of disharmony, Sadie and Patrick were surprised to discover a new, \_\_\_\_\_ aspect of their relationship.  
A. unbearable  
B. wrong  
C. ominous  
D. positive  
E. disastrous

## Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The main clue in this question is “I am trying to lose weight” and “cake.” Cake is an unhealthy food that many people avoid when they are trying to lose weight. If the cake is (A) rich, this means it is delicious, but also heavy and very high in fat. People who are trying to lose weight avoid rich foods like cake. The correct answer is (A).

Most cake is not (C) healthy or (E) light. If cake were either of these things, people who are trying to lose weight would not avoid it as much. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect. Wedding cakes are usually (B) beautiful and highly (D) decorated, but these are not the best answer choices, either. They do not directly relate to the health issues involved in eating cake. Eating beautiful or decorated food does not cause people to gain or lose weight.

2) **A**

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 a characteristic of the house and the fact that it is in poor condition. If the house is in the poorest condition out of all the other houses, then it is in the (A) worst condition. This means it is worse than all the others. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. If the house is in poor condition, it would not be the (B) best or the (C) prettiest house. These ideas conflict with each other. There is no relationship at all between the house being in poor condition and the house being (E) weird, so we can ignore that answer choice too. Finally, it does not make sense to say that the house is (D) mean, because houses can be neither mean nor nice. They are inanimate objects (nonliving things), and only living things can be mean or nice.

3) **E**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between how Antoinette usually dresses and what she wore to the party. If she usually wears (E) simple outfits, it would be unexpected for her to wear an (E) elaborate dress. This is the opposite of how she normally dresses. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. If Antoinette usually wears (A) colorful clothes, there is no opposite relationship or contradiction when she wears (A) expensive clothes. Clothes can be colorful and expensive at the same time. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between wearing outfits that are both (B) frilly and (B) extraordinary, (C) lousy and (C)

plain, or (D) fashionable and (D) stylish. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **B**

The main clue here is “fear of heights.” Remember that “despite” means that two things share an opposite relationship. John was trying to “combat” his fear, which means that he wanted to challenge or overcome the fear. Many people try to overcome a fear of heights by reaching high places, such as the tops of mountains, buildings, or roller coasters. However, we need an opposite relationship to prove that John was *not* successful in overcoming his fear. If he was (B) terrified of the roller coaster, he did not overcome his fear. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do form opposite relationships. (A) Excited, (C) thrilled, and (E) pleased all have positive connotations, but John’s fear is a negative thing. We can ignore these answer choices. The roller coaster did not (D) anger John, because anger and fear are not opposites, either. This is also not the best answer choice.

5) **C**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between a characteristic of Lenny’s parents and a characteristic of the affection they show him. If they are (C) strict disciplinarians, this means that they make Lenny follow lots of rules and they punish him for his every wrongdoing. Some people think that strict parents are mean and do not love their children, but Lenny’s parents are the opposite. They show him (C) tender affection, meaning that they provide him with love and care. The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. If Lenny’s parents are (A) firm disciplinarians, (A) infrequent affection would not oppose the idea that they do not love him. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between Lenny’s parents being (B) harmful and only showing him (B) occasional affection, being (D) responsible and showing him (D) sincere affection, or being (E) permissive and showing him (E) romantic affection. These answer choices are incorrect.

6) **E**

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the curiosity of Brianna’s neighbor and the feelings of Brianna herself. Someone who is not curious is (E) uninterested. Brianna’s neighbor wants to know about who is moving in, but Brianna does not care. She is uninterested. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. If Brianna felt (B) concerned or (D) excited about people moving in nearby, then she would want to know about them. Just like her neighbor, she would be curious. Furthermore, there is no opposite relationship between being curious and being (A) doubtful or (C) skeptical. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

7) **C**

The main clues in this question are “unaware” and “black tie function.” A “black tie” party is an event that requires a very high standard of fashion: men are supposed to wear tuxedos, and women are supposed to wear gowns. However, Emma did not know about the dress code. If she wore casual jeans, this would be very (C) inappropriate. She is supposed to wear formal high fashion. The correct answer is (C).

Wearing jeans to a black tie event is not (A) polite, (B) respectable, or (E) formal. In fact, many people would find a person in jeans at a black tie event to be rude, unsightly, or vulgar, because that person has broken the rules of what is expected. However, there is nothing inherently (D) ethical or unethical about jeans. Dress codes at parties are not matters of deep, moral ethics; they are matters of social convention. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

8) **D**

The main clue in this question is “years of disharmony.” This means that Sadie and Patrick have not gotten along well for a very long time. However, they have been “surprised” by a new discovery. If they discovered something (D) positive about their relationship, then they might start to get along again. This would be surprising after so many years of conflict. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices all have negative connotations that do not contradict or challenge the idea of disharmony. If Sadie and Patrick discovered something (A) unbearable about one another, they would not be surprised—they have already been living in disharmony for years. Similarly, they would not be surprised by anything (B) wrong, (C) ominous, or (E) disastrous in their relationship. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.