



● Sentence Completion 1 *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Despite his **shy** personality, Carlos can be rather **outgoing** sometimes.
A. nervous ... awkward
B. strange ... weird
C. shy ... outgoing
D. funny ... entertaining
2. I wanted to _____ the race, but my friends encouraged me to _____ running.
A. lose ... stop
B. quit ... continue
C. win ... begin
D. watch ... start
3. My doctor said that I need more exercise, so I _____ the time I spend _____.
A. increased ... running
B. continued ... eating
C. passed ... sleeping
D. decreased ... jogging
4. Keisha _____ the salesman's offer because the price was _____.
A. accepted ... high
B. rejected ... unfair
C. took ... expensive
D. considered ... terrible
5. Tom decided not to go to school when he was _____. Instead, he rested all day to recover.
A. young
B. intelligent
C. athletic
D. sick
6. Many people think rabbits love to eat carrots, but they actually _____ lettuce.
A. hate
B. consume
C. grow
D. prefer
7. Although it is _____ outside, Quincy is not wearing a _____.
A. cool ... hat
B. warm ... scarf
C. hot ... shirt
D. cold ... jacket
8. Brian was worried that he would be late for school, so he _____ out the front door.
A. wandered
B. ran
C. danced
D. drove
9. Samantha _____ the test to get her driver's license. She will try again tomorrow.
A. noticed
B. took
C. passed
D. failed
10. Sherita can play soccer very well. She is _____.
A. talented
B. pretty
C. clumsy
D. smart

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word “despite” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will involve two words that are opposites. *Shy* and *outgoing* are the only words that are opposites. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because Carlos can be both *nervous* and *awkward* at the same time. There is no contradiction, because these two characteristics are not opposites.

(B) is incorrect because Carlos could also be both *strange* and *weird* at the same time. There is no contradiction, because these two characteristics are not opposites.

(D) is incorrect because *funny* and *entertaining* are not opposites. In fact, these two words are closely related. If Carlos were funny, it would also make sense for him to be entertaining and vice versa.

2) **B**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will involve two words that are opposites. *Quit* and *continue* are the only words that are opposites. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If I want to *lose* the race and my friends encourage me to *stop* running, there is no contradiction. There is no way for me to win the race if I stop running. I will automatically lose.

(C) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between wanting to *win* the race and being encouraged to *begin* running. You must start running in order to win.

(D) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between wanting to *watch* the race and being encouraged to *start* running. Watching a race does not require running, so the two ideas are unrelated, but they are not opposites.

3) **A**

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. My doctor told me to spend more time exercising. When you spend more time doing something, you increase the amount of time you do it. Running is a type of exercise. Therefore, if you need to spend more time exercising, you should *increase* the amount of time you spend *running*. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because this answer choice does not set up a logical relationship with the idea of “more exercise.” *Eating* is not an exercise. The things you eat can affect your health, but because the question relates to “exercise,” this answer choice does not fit.

(C) is incorrect because *sleeping* is not an exercise. How much and how well you sleep can affect your health, but because the question relates to “exercise,” this answer choice does not fit.

(D) is incorrect because, although *jogging* is a type of exercise, if you *decrease* the amount of time you spend jogging, then you are getting less exercise. The doctor ordered “more exercise,” not less.

4) **B**

The word “because” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. If a salesman offers you a price that you think is *unfair*, you can *reject* his offer. You would only accept a good offer, and a good offer would involve a fair price. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it is not logical to *accept* an offer just because it is *high*. In fact, you want to accept a low offer so that you can save money.

(C) is incorrect because it is not logical to *take* an offer because the price is *expensive*. You want the least expensive price offered so that you can save money.

(D) is incorrect because you should not *consider* a *terrible* offer at all. If the price is terrible, you should reject the offer right away and find a better one.

5) **D**

When you get *sick*, you should not go to school. You should take time off from school so that you can recover from being sick, and so that you do not spread your illness to others. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect *young* people are supposed to go to school. Tom would not skip school just because he was young. Furthermore, he does not need to “rest” or “recover” from being young.

(B) is incorrect because *intelligent* people usually go to school at some point in their lives. Tom would not skip school just because he was intelligent (if he were intelligent he would go to school). Furthermore, he does not need to “rest” or “recover” from being intelligent.

(D) is incorrect because being *athletic* should not affect whether or not a person goes to school. In fact, many athletic young people play on sports teams for their

school. Furthermore, people like Tom do not need to “rest” or “recover” from being athletic.

6) **D**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with “Many people think rabbits love to eat carrots.” If rabbits actually *prefer* lettuce, that means they like lettuce more than carrots. This is the opposite of what people think. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between the belief that rabbits love carrots and the possibility that they might *hate* lettuce. There is an opposite relationship between love and hate in general, but this question specifically refers to what people think. The opposite relationship must be between what many people think and what rabbits actually prefer. A person can believe that rabbits both love carrots and hate lettuce.

(B) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between the belief that rabbits love carrots and the possibility that they might *consume* lettuce. It is always possible to consume a type of food, whether you love it or hate it.

(C) is incorrect because there is no possibility that rabbits *grow* lettuce for themselves. Rabbits do not know how to raise crops and grow their own vegetables.

7) **D**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with “It is cold outside.” When it is *cold* outside, most people wear a coat or a *jacket* to stay warm. If Quincy is not wearing a jacket even though it is cold outside, then this is the opposite of what is expected. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because there is no conflict between *cool* weather and the choice not to wear a *hat*. Plenty of people do not wear hats in cool weather.

(B) is incorrect because you would not want to wear a *scarf* when it is *warm* outside. Scarves are usually meant to keep your face and neck warm in cold weather. However, if you wear a scarf in warm weather, you are only making yourself hotter.

(C) is incorrect because some men choose not to wear *shirts* outside when it is *hot*. This is not the opposite of what is expected.

8) **B**

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. If Brian is worried

about being late, he hurries and tries to get to school on time. In order to do this, he runs (present tense of *ran*) quickly. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wandering* will not help Brian move quickly enough to avoid being late. Furthermore, wandering implies that a person does not know where he or she is going or does not have a goal in mind. However, Brian has a goal. He is trying to get to school.

(C) is incorrect because *dancing* will not help Brian move quickly enough to avoid being late. It is not the quickest way a person can move from one place to the next.

(D) is incorrect because although *driving* would be faster than walking, you do not drive “out the front door” of your house. You drive out of the garage door if you have a garage and a car.

9) **D**

When you take a test, you either pass or fail. You must pass a test in order to get a driver’s license. If you fail, you can only get your license if you try again and pass. If Samantha will “try again tomorrow,” that means she must have *failed* the first time. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because there is no logical relationship between Samantha *noticing* the test and the fact she must take it again. She must have failed the test in order to need to take it again.

(B) is incorrect because although it is true that Samantha *took* the test, we also know from the question that she must take it again. Saying only that she took the test is an incomplete description of events. She must have failed the test in order to need to take it again.

(C) is incorrect because if Samantha *passed* the test, she would not have to take it again.

10) **A**

When someone is *talented*, he or she is very good at something. If Sherita is a very good soccer player, then she is talented at playing soccer. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because we cannot tell from the question if Sherita is *pretty*. We only know that she is a very good soccer player, so we know she is talented at soccer.

(C) is incorrect because Sherita probably is not *clumsy*. Soccer players must be coordinated, well-balanced, quick, and strong. They cannot be clumsy, or else they will not be good at soccer in the first place.

(D) is incorrect because we cannot tell from the question if Sherita is *smart*. We only know that she is a very good soccer player, so we know she is talented at soccer.