



● Sentence Completion 11 *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Despite his growing wealth and popularity, Teddy remains _____ man.
A. a humble
B. a powerful
C. a greedy
D. an intelligent
2. Mary is _____. As a result, she _____.
A. kind ... gets in a lot of fights
B. unfriendly ... has no friends
C. generous ... is very wealthy
D. weird ... is very popular
3. Some snakes are very _____. Therefore, you should take caution if you see one.
A. dangerous
B. slippery
C. colorful
D. quick
4. The ticket costs ten dollars. I only have five dollars. I do not have _____ money to buy the ticket.
A. much
B. too much
C. a lot of
D. enough
5. _____ plants live longer than _____ ones.
A. tall ... smooth
B. beautiful ... good
C. healthy ... sick
D. rich ... poor
6. The rock is _____. I cannot lift it.
A. somewhat light
B. not large
C. too heavy
D. very smooth
7. Billy cannot play the piano very well. He _____ practices.
A. sometimes
B. usually
C. always
D. never
8. Cats are _____ and _____.
A. beautiful ... ugly
B. cold ... hot
C. strong ... pathetic
D. kind ... gentle
9. Although the desert gets very hot during the day, it is gets very _____ at night.
A. dry
B. sandy
C. cold
D. dangerous
10. Plants will die _____ they get sunlight.
A. unless
B. whenever
C. while
D. if

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word “despite” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Teddy’s growing wealth and popularity and some other characteristic of his. A person who is *humble* is very modest. Humble people are not selfish, and they do not think that they are better than anyone else. If Teddy is humble, this is the opposite of what people expect from wealthy, popular people. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. It is possible to be wealthy and *powerful* at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. It is possible to be wealthy and *greedy* at the same time.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Teddy may or may not be *an intelligent* man, but we cannot tell from the question. Wealth and popularity do not affect intelligence.

2) **B**

The word “so” means that two things progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. Someone who is *unfriendly* is mean to others and does not make friends very easily. If Mary is unfriendly, she will *have no friends*. This is a logical consequence of being unfriendly. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Kind* people do not *get in a lot of fights*, because there is no reason to fight with kind people; they are nice and friendly to everyone.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Generous* people are not necessarily *very wealthy*. In fact, generous people often give most of their money away.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Weird* people are not necessarily *popular*. In fact, people tend to avoid other people who they think are weird, so most weird people are actually unpopular.

3) **A**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “take caution.” This means that you should be careful. Remember that the word “therefore” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship that results in being careful. If something is *dangerous*, you must be careful to make sure that you do not get hurt. Many snakes are dangerous because they can hurt people. If you see a snake, you should take caution. The snake might be dangerous. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. There is no reason to take caution around animals that are *slippery*, because being slippery does not imply that an animal can hurt you.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. There is no reason to take caution around animals that are *colorful*, because being colorful does not imply that an animal can hurt you.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. There is no reason to take caution around animals that are *quick*, because being quick does not imply that an animal can hurt you.

4) **D**

When you have *enough* money to buy something, then you have the same amount of money that the item costs or more. If you do not have enough money, then you cannot buy the item that you want. If the ticket in the question costs more money than the amount that I have, then I cannot buy the ticket. I do not have enough money. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because not having *much* money does not necessarily mean that I cannot afford the ticket. However, the prompt states that I only have five dollars, and the ticket costs ten, so I definitely cannot afford the ticket. Therefore, this is not the best answer.

(B) is incorrect because not having *too much* money does not necessarily mean that I cannot afford the ticket. However, the prompt states that I only have five dollars, and the ticket costs ten, so I definitely cannot afford the ticket. Therefore, this is not the best answer.

(C) is incorrect because not having *a lot of* money to buy the ticket does not necessarily mean that I cannot afford the ticket. However, the prompt states that I only have five dollars, and the ticket costs ten, so I definitely cannot afford the ticket. Therefore, this is not the best answer.

5) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “live longer than.” This means that there will be an opposite relationship between two types of plants: one that lives longer than the other. A *healthy* plant will live longer than a *sick* plant. The logical, opposite relationship is established by this answer choice. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical, opposite relationship. A *tall* plant will not necessarily live longer than a *smooth* plant.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical, opposite relationship. A *beautiful* plant will not necessarily live longer than a *good* plant.

(D) is incorrect because it is not logical. A plant cannot be *rich*.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “I cannot lift it.” This means that the correct answer choice will involve a characteristic of the rock that makes it difficult to move. If the rock is *too heavy*, then I cannot lift it. My muscles can only lift objects of a certain weight. If the rock exceeds that weight limit, then I cannot lift it. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a rock that is *somewhat light* will be very easy to move, and I will be able to lift it without a problem.

(B) is incorrect because a rock that is *not large* will be very easy to move, and I will be able to lift it without a problem.

(D) is incorrect because a *very smooth* rock is no more difficult to lift than a very rough one. The smoothness of the rock is unrelated to my ability to lift it.

7) D

The main clue in this question is “Billy cannot play the piano very well.” This means that he probably *never* practices. When you practice an instrument, you develop your skills and get better at it. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because even if you only *sometimes* practice, you will get better at playing the piano.

(B) is incorrect because if you *usually* practice, you will be able to play the piano well.

(C) is incorrect because if you *always* practice, you will be able to play the piano very well.

8) D

The word “and” sets up an equal relationship between two or more things. This means that the correct answer choice will involve two equal characteristics of cats. Cats can be *kind* and *gentle*, because these are not opposites, and they can be considered equal characteristics. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. Cats cannot be both *beautiful* and *ugly* at the same time, because these words are opposites. The prompt needs two words that have similar meanings or whose meanings are complementary.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. Cats cannot be both *cold* and *hot* at the same time, because these words are opposites. The

prompt needs two words that have similar meanings or whose meanings are complementary.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. Cats cannot be both *strong* and *pathetic* at the same time, because these words are opposites. The prompt needs two words that have similar meanings or whose meanings are complementary.

9) **C**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the temperature of the desert in the day and night. If it is hot in the day, it will be the opposite of hot at night. The opposite of hot is *cold*. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Dry* is not an opposite of “hot.”

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Sandy* is not an opposite of “hot.”

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Dangerous* is not an opposite of “hot.”

10) **A**

The main clues in this question are “plants will die” and “sunlight.” Plants need sunlight in order to live. Without it, they will die. This means that they will die *unless* they get sunlight. The word “unless” means that event 1 will not happen if event 2 happens first. In this case, event 1 is the death of the plants. Event 2 is the sunlight reaching the plants. If the plants receive sunlight (event 2), then they will not die (event 1). Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Plants will not die *whenever* they receive sunlight. Sunlight is not harmful to plants – they need it in order to live.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Plants will not die *while* they receive sunlight. Sunlight is not harmful to plants – they need it in order to live.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Plants will not die *if* they receive sunlight. Sunlight is not harmful to plants – they need it in order to live.