



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

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

1. The job interview went well. The employer _____ me.
A. removed
B. hired
C. fired
D. ignored
2. Tim's mother _____ him for his bad behavior.
A. helps
B. rewards
C. punishes
D. trusts
3. The police are here to _____ the people in danger.
A. help
B. hurt
C. arrest
D. rob
4. I tell secrets to Quincy. I feel like I can _____ him.
A. see
B. hear
C. trust
D. hurt
5. Using a microscope, you can _____ things that are tiny.
A. touch
B. chase
C. taste
D. see
6. Farmers _____ vegetables for people to _____.
A. grow ... eat
B. cook ... sell
C. steal ... buy
D. make ... taste
7. Brian is always late to work. I think the boss is going to _____ him.
A. hire
B. fire
C. quit
D. pay
8. If you don't _____ the first time, then you should _____ again.
A. win ... lose
B. succeed ... try
C. pass ... fail
D. compete ... play
9. The _____ painting is very _____.
A. simple ... complicated
B. heavy ... light
C. good ... bad
D. beautiful ... expensive
10. The carpet is _____. It is not _____.
A. plain ... fancy
B. cheap ... simple
C. nice ... good
D. red ... ugly

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

A job interview is a situation in which a company decides whether or not they want to hire you. If the interview goes well, you might get *hired*. This means that you get the job. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if an employer *removes* you, then you have lost your job. This is a bad outcome. If this happened, you would not say the interview went well, because “well” is a positive (good) adjective.

(C) is incorrect because if an employer *fires* you, then you have lost your job. This is a bad outcome. If this happened, you would not say the interview went well, because “well” is a positive (good) adjective.

(D) is incorrect because is incorrect because if an employer *ignores* you, then he or she is not paying attention to you. This is probably a bad outcome. If this happened, you would not say the interview went well, because “well” is a positive (good) adjective

2) **C**

If you behave badly or break a rule, something bad should happen to you in return. This is called “punishment.” If Tim behaves badly, his mother will *punish* him so that he will not behave badly again. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because mothers do not *help* children to behave badly. Mothers want their children to be well-behaved.

(B) is incorrect because a *reward* is a special prize that you earn with good behavior. Tim’s mother probably rewards him for his good behavior, not for his bad behavior.

(D) is incorrect because mothers do not *trust* children when they behave badly. Children must earn their parents’ trust with consistent good behavior.

3) **A**

The police are supposed to *help* the people of their community. If someone is in danger, the police should help that person. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because the police are not supposed to *hurt* people. Police are supposed to stop people from hurting others.

(C) is incorrect because the police can *arrest* people, but they only arrest suspected criminals. They do not arrest victims or people in danger.

(D) is incorrect because the police are not supposed to *rob* people. Police are supposed to stop people from robbing others.

4) **C**

A secret is something that you do not want everyone to know about. If you tell someone your secret, you expect them not to tell anyone else. This means that you *trust* that person. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because although I might be able to see Quincy, this does not relate to whether or not I tell him my secrets. We only know from the question that I tell him secrets, so we only know from the question that I trust him.

(B) is incorrect because although I might be able to *hear* Quincy, this does not relate to whether or not I tell him my secrets. We only know from the question that I tell him secrets, so we only know from the question that I trust him.

(D) is incorrect because although I might be able to *hurt* Quincy, this does not relate to whether or not I tell him my secrets. We only know from the question that I tell him secrets, so we only know from the question that I trust him.

5) **D**

A microscope is a scientific tool that helps you see things that are very, very small. If you have a tiny object that you want to look at, you need to use a microscope. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a microscope will not affect whether or not you can *touch* something, regardless of how tiny it is. A microscope has a very specific purpose: it helps you see things that are tiny.

(B) is incorrect because a microscope will not affect whether or not you can *chase* something, regardless of how tiny it is. A microscope has a very specific purpose: it helps you see things that are tiny.

(C) is incorrect because a microscope will not affect whether or not you can *taste* something, regardless of how tiny it is. A microscope has a very specific purpose: it helps you see things that are tiny.

6) **A**

Farmers are people who *grow* different types of plants, or crops, to sell to people. Most farmers grow vegetables for people to *eat*. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because farmers do not *cook* vegetables. Farmers sell uncooked vegetables, not cooked ones.

(C) is incorrect because farmers do not *steal* vegetables. They grow vegetables.

(D) is incorrect because farmers do not *make* vegetables. Nature makes vegetables, and the farmers simply oversee that process.

7) **B**

If you get fired from your job, your boss says that you cannot work for his or her company anymore, and you will not get paid anymore. If you are always late for work, your boss might *fire* you. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the boss *hires* a worker when he or she offers a job to a worker for the first time. Brian already has a job, though, so the boss has already hired him.

(C) is incorrect because when you *quit* your job, you stop working for a company because you want to leave your job. This is different from being fired because you make the decision to stop working yourself. The boss does not make the decision for you.

(D) is incorrect because the boss will only *pay* Brian if Brian keeps his job. If Brian gets fired, though, he will not get paid

8) **B**

To *succeed* means to achieve a goal. If you do not succeed, you can *try* again to achieve your goal. If you try hard enough, you will probably achieve your goal eventually. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if you do not *win* the first time you play a game, this does not mean that you will or should *lose* in the future. In fact, you are more likely to win in the future, because you will practice and get better.

(C) is incorrect because if you don't *pass* a class the first time, you probably will not *fail* in the future. After failing once, you should study harder and get better.

(D) is incorrect because if you do not *compete*, it does not mean you will *play* in the future. There is no logical relationship between these two ideas. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

9) **D**

If a painting is very *beautiful*, many people will want to buy it. If many people want to buy something, this means that it is valuable to them. If something is very valuable, it will probably also be *expensive*. This is why many beautiful paintings are so expensive. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a painting cannot be both *simple* and *complicated*. These words are opposites. They cannot both describe the same thing at the same time.

(B) is incorrect because *heavy* and *light* are also opposites. They cannot both describe the same thing at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because *good* and *bad* are also opposites. They cannot both describe the same thing at the same time.

10) **A**

When something is *fancy*, this means that it is very valuable, beautiful, or high-quality. The opposite of *fancy* is *plain*. If you have a plain carpet, then your carpet is not fancy. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a carpet can be both *cheap* and *simple* at the same time. There is no contradiction here, so this answer choice is incorrect.

(C) is incorrect because there is no contradiction between a carpet that is both *nice* and *good*. A carpet can have both qualities at the same time.

(D) is incorrect because there is no contradiction between a carpet that is both *red* and *ugly*. A carpet can have both qualities at the same time.