



● Sentence Completion 13 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. Ancient cave paintings _____ that our ancestors were making art thousands of years ago.
A. foreshadow
B. disprove
C. demonstrate
D. imagine
E. diagram
2. Anne is _____; she weighs all options before making a big decision.
A. careless
B. bold
C. thoughtful
D. educated
E. impulsive
3. Climbing can be _____; nonetheless, some people love the sport and are willing to take the risk.
A. fun
B. interesting
C. complicated
D. dangerous
E. engaging
4. Though the two fingerprints were quite _____, they were not a perfect match, so no identification could be made.
A. impressive
B. identical
C. smudged
D. similar
E. interesting
5. Because some of the measurements were incorrect, the architect needed to _____ his original plan.
A. reinvent
B. recant
C. revise
D. revitalize
E. redirect
6. Factory managers constantly think of ways to increase _____— to manufacture more parts in less time.
A. efficiency
B. pollution
C. insurance
D. invention
E. wages
7. The class was too _____ for students at this level. Even the smartest students failed the course.
A. long
B. boring
C. advanced
D. creative
E. fascinating
8. The performance was physically demanding, and the dancers were _____ after delivering it three nights in a row.
A. stunned
B. lithe
C. energized
D. exhausted
E. flexible

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word (C) demonstrate means “to show,” “to prove,” or “to illustrate.” The fact that archaeologists have found ancient cave paintings is definitive proof that our prehistoric ancestors made art. In other words, the paintings demonstrate that our ancestors made art. The correct answer is (C).

If the paintings (A) foreshadowed anything, then they would help us predict something about the future. This is incorrect because the paintings are ancient, and they help us prove things about the past, not the future. The paintings do not (B) disprove (prove false) the claim that our ancestors made art. They directly prove it. They do not (D) imagine anything, because they are inanimate (nonliving) objects. Only living things have the power of imagination. They do not (E) diagram anything about our ancestors. Some of the paintings might look like diagrams, but they do not diagram anything about our ancestors themselves. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

2) **C**

The semicolon (;) is a punctuation mark that combines two sentences that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between one of Anne’s characteristics and how she makes decisions. If she considers all of her options very carefully, then she is (C) thoughtful. She puts a lot of thought into her decisions. The correct answer is (C).

(A) Careless, (B) bold, and (E) impulsive all roughly mean the opposite of “thoughtful.” These words mean that she does not spend much time weighing her options before she makes a decision, so these answer choices are incorrect. Anne might be (D) educated, but we cannot tell from the question. One does not need to be educated in order to be thoughtful. This is not the best answer choice either.

3) **D**

The main clue in this question is the word “risk.” This means that there are risks involved in climbing, and only some people are willing to take those risks. Another way to say that something involves risks is that it is potentially (D) dangerous. The correct answer is (D).

Many people think that climbing is (A) fun, (B) interesting, and (E) engaging. These are all positive characteristics. Some people may even find climbing to be (C) complicated, which is a negative characteristic. However, the correct answer does not necessarily need to be either positive or negative. The correct answer simply must relate to the clue about risk. Therefore, these are not the best answer choices.

4) **D**

The word “though” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between a characteristic of the fingerprints and the fact that they were not a perfect match. If two things are close to being a match but they are not perfect, we can say the two things are (D) similar. This means they share most, but not all of their qualities. The correct answer is (D).

If the two prints were (B) identical, then they would have been a perfect match, and an identification could have been made. We can ignore this answer choice right away. The prints may have been (A) impressive, (C) smudged, or (E) interesting, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that they are a near match, so we only know that they are similar.

5) **C**

An architect is a highly trained professional who designs buildings. If he or she works with incorrect measurements, the design plans will be flawed and the building may not be structurally sound and safe. Flawed plans must be (C) revised. This means that the architect goes back over the plans and fixes the mistakes. The correct answer is (C).

(A) Reinvent means “to invent again.” However, the plans aren’t exactly an invention; they are just a design. This is not the best answer choice. (B) Recant means “to renounce” or “to take back what one has previously said.” This does not describe what the architect must do, either. (D) Revitalize means “to make lively again,” but the plans must not necessarily be lively in the first place. (E) Redirect means “to send in another direction,” which also fails to describe what the architect must do. These answer choices are incorrect.

6) **A**

The main clue in this question is “more parts in less time.” The answer choice will mean the same thing as this clue, which describes the goal of the managers. (A) Efficiency is one way to describe this goal. To be efficient means to perform a lot of quality work in a short amount of time. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices are unrelated to “more parts in less time.” Increasing (B) pollution would mean sending more waste into the air and water, which does not increase efficiency. Increasing (C) insurance means buying more insurance coverage to protect against mistakes and accidents, which also fails to increase efficiency. Increasing (D) invention means coming up with more new ideas. Increasing (E) wages means paying the employees more money. None of these ideas directly relates to producing more parts in less time, so they are incorrect.

7) **C**

The main clues in this question are “at this level” and “even the smartest students failed.” This means that the level of the course was too high for the students who

tried to take the class. Another way of saying that something's level is too high is to say that it is too (C) advanced. The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices do not directly relate to the levels of the students or the class. The class might have been (A) long or (B) boring, but we cannot tell from the question. Similarly, we do not know if the class was (D) creative or (E) fascinating. None of these characteristics relate to the level of the course, so they are not the best answer choices.

8) **D**

The main clue in this question is “physically demanding.” This means that the performance required a lot of the dancers’ energy and strength. After performing this demanding choreography for three nights in a row, the dancers were probably extremely tired. Another way to say “extremely tired” is (D) exhausted. The correct answer is (D).

There is no reason for the dancers to be (A) stunned (surprised or shocked). There is no relationship between being stunned and performing a demanding piece. The dancers probably were both (B) lithe and (E) flexible, which are close in meaning, but not *after* performing the show. They probably were lithe and flexible before the performance too, because most dancers already have those characteristics. They probably were not (C) energized, because the demanding show caused them to expend all their energy. They would have no energy left over. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.