



● Sentence Completion 14 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ future stock market trends, experts analyze an abundance of data.  
A. predict  
B. organize  
C. invest  
D. decide  
E. formulate
2. Jennifer likes the summer. Jamie, \_\_\_\_\_, likes the winter.  
A. in addition  
B. concurrently  
C. similarly  
D. however  
E. suddenly
3. Due to falling revenues and increasing costs, quarterly profits showed a marked \_\_\_\_\_ in 1986.  
A. expansion  
B. decrease  
C. increase  
D. growth  
E. continuation
4. In order to \_\_\_\_\_ their power and unity, rich landowners often married other members of the \_\_\_\_\_, noble class.  
A. defend ... lowly  
B. imitate ... royal  
C. preserve ... wealthy  
D. destroy ... influential  
E. waste ... foreign
5. Citizens should fight to protect the rights of the condemned. \_\_\_\_\_, they should insist that all prisoners are treated fairly.  
A. Conversely  
B. Therefore  
C. However  
D. Slowly  
E. Nevertheless
6. \_\_\_\_\_, my favorite team lost the game.  
A. Luckily  
B. Conveniently  
C. Unfortunately  
D. Interestingly  
E. Easily
7. Most companies have quality control procedures in place to check the durability of their products. If they \_\_\_\_\_ these procedures, their products are more likely to malfunction.  
A. follow  
B. neglect  
C. observe  
D. obey  
E. respect
8. Most people prefer chocolate. \_\_\_\_\_, some people favor vanilla.  
A. Originally  
B. In addition  
C. As a result  
D. Immediately  
E. On the other hand

## Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The main clue in this question is “future stock market trends.” No one knows exactly what the future will hold, especially when it comes to the stock market. Therefore, we can only (A) predict (guess) what will happen. We can analyze data on past and present market trends to try to predict what the market will be like in the future. The correct answer is (A).

We cannot (B) organize or (E) formulate what the stock market will be like in the future. This would mean that people had the power to control the future, but people do not completely have that power. Similarly, we cannot simply (D) decide what will happen in the future, because it is not something we control. People can (C) invest in the stock market, but they do not literally “invest in the future.” This phrase can be used figuratively, but it does not fit in the context of the question. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

2) **D**

The question sets up an opposite relationship between the fact that Jennifer likes the summer and Jamie likes the winter. The correct answer choice will be a conjunction or adverb that can be used to set up a negative relationship. (D) however sets up a negative relationship. The correct answer is (D).

(A) in addition means that two things are related, and that one thing adds to another. This does not exactly fit in the context of the question, since the question involves opposites. (B) concurrently means that two things happen at the same time. (C) similarly means that there is a logical, equal relationship between two things. (E) suddenly means that something occurred very quickly and without notice. None of these words involve opposite relationships, so they are incorrect.

3) **B**

The main clue in this question is “falling revenues and increasing costs.” This means that a company is taking in less money from customers and spending more money on upkeep at the same time. Companies want to spend less money and make more money in order to make a larger profit. However, since this company is doing the opposite of what it should, profits must be (B) decreasing, or lessening. The correct answer is (B).

If profits were undergoing (A) expansion, (C) increase, or (D) growth, then the company would be spending much less money than it takes in. A (E) continuation would mean that profit would remain steady, but this cannot be the case with falling revenue and increasing cost. Profit must be getting smaller and smaller, so these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **C**

The main clues in this question are “power and unity,” “rich,” and “married.” Throughout history, rich and powerful families often arranged marriages with members of other powerful families to (C) preserve their power and unity. By marrying a (C) wealthy son of a noble family to the daughter of another rich, noble family, the two fortunes are combined and the families double in power. This ensures that the family status will continue. The correct answer is (C).

Marrying into other powerful families would not (B) imitate, (D) destroy, or (E) waste a family’s power. We can ignore these answer choices right away. Marrying into a rich family could (A) defend a family’s position, but the noble class is not (A) lowly or weak. The nobility is powerful and strong. Therefore, this answer choice is also incorrect.

5) **B**

A person who is “condemned” is someone who has been pronounced guilty of some wrongdoing and/or sentenced to a particular fate. This often refers to criminals who are condemned to prison sentences for their crimes. Many people believe that prisoners deserve fair treatment and that they have the same basic human rights as free people who are not criminals. (B) Therefore, if someone believes in the rights of the condemned, then that person also believes in treating prisoners fairly. The two ideas are close in meaning. They stem from one another and progress logically. The correct answer is (B).

(A) Conversely, (C) however, and (E) nevertheless all set up opposite relationships, but there is no opposite relationship implied in the question. (D) Slowly refers to speed, which is unrelated to the ideas of fair treatment of prisoners and the rights of the condemned. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

6) **C**

The main clue in this question is “lost the game.” Most people cheer for their favorite teams, and want them to win. If you like a certain team, you want to see them win every game. If my team lost, I would think that their loss was unfortunate, which means unlucky, or unfavorable. (C) Unfortunately is a negative adverb that describes a negative event. The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices do not have negative connotations. (A) Luckily, (B) conveniently, and (E) easily all have clear positive connotations in this context, so we can ignore them right away. You might find it interesting to know that your favorite team could lose, but (D) interestingly does not carry a strong enough negative connotation to express how you would most likely feel. This is not the best answer choice, either.

7) **B**

The main clue in this question is “more likely to malfunction.” There must be an opposite relationship between the quality control procedures and allowing

products to break. If the products malfunction, the company must have (B) neglected its own quality control procedures. If these rigorous checking procedures had been followed, the products would not have failed. The correct answer is (B).

If the company (A) followed, (C) observed, (D) obeyed, or (E) respected its quality control procedures, then the products would not have failed. The procedure is designed to prevent products from failing, so only by neglecting or disobeying the procedure will products be more likely to malfunction.

8) **E**

This question sets up an opposite relationship between those who prefer chocolate and those who prefer vanilla. This means that the correct answer must be a word or phrase that sets up an opposite relationship. (E) On the other hand is a phrase that fits this description. The correct answer is (E).

(A) Originally means that something preceded something else. This would mean that some people first liked vanilla and then switched to chocolate, but this relationship is not clearly implied by the question. This is not the best answer choice. (B) In addition means that two things are related, and that one thing adds to another. This does not exactly fit in the context of the question, since the question involves opposites. (C) As a result would mean that some people like vanilla *because* most people like chocolate, but there is no such cause-and-effect relationship implied by the question. (E) Immediately is a speed-related word that would mean that people like vanilla suddenly and without warning. Again, no such characteristic is implied by the question, so this is not the best answer choice, either.