

● Sentence Completion 20 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

- The senator's plan was highly _____. Congress held intense debates about it for days.
 - agreeable
 - optimistic
 - beneficial
 - patriotic
 - controversial
- Since Angela dislikes scary movies, she _____ my invitation to see a new horror film together.
 - accepted
 - bought
 - declined
 - implemented
 - frightened
- The two tribes have been at war for hundreds of years. All attempts to forge peace and end the conflict have been _____.
 - fruitless
 - belligerent
 - effective
 - useful
 - violent
- Taylor has a tendency to _____ the truth. As a result, it's hard to _____ the things he says.
 - exaggerate ... trust
 - manipulate ... doubt
 - tell ... believe
 - invent ... disprove
 - uphold ... imagine
- The Olympic Games draw superior _____ from around the world. Each competitor represents his or her _____, so winning a gold medal in any sport becomes a matter of national pride.
 - events ... nation
 - players ... team
 - athletes ... country
 - gymnasts ... state
 - coaches ... citizenship
- The invention of the polio vaccine has _____ the disease in most parts of the world. Almost no one suffers from polio in developed countries anymore.
 - restored
 - increased
 - escalated
 - hidden
 - eradicated
- The theatre critic wrote _____ review of the new play. Attendance decreased and the show was cancelled not long thereafter.
 - a glowing
 - a raving
 - an exquisite
 - an irate
 - a disapproving
- I always cry at _____. I feel overcome with _____ when watching two people declare their love for one another.
 - funerals ... sadness
 - church ... faith
 - parties ... anxiety
 - weddings ... emotion
 - Christmas ... joy

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “intense debates.” This means that members of Congress devoted several days of intense discussion or argumentation to the issues raised by the senator’s plan. Whenever a topic results in debate, it can be said that the topic is (E) controversial. It generates controversy or disagreement. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices all have positive connotations. Since Congress is supposed to act in the best interests of the United States, they should not vote against any plans that are (A) agreeable, (B) optimistic, (C) beneficial, or (D) patriotic. We can assume that such plans would be in the best interests of US citizens, so we can assume that Congress should vote in favor of any such plans without prolonged, intense debate.

2) **C**

The word “since” means that there is a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between two things. The fact that Angela dislikes scary movies will have an effect on how she reacts to my invitation to see a horror film. She probably would not want to see a horror film with me, because “horror film” and “scary movie” are extremely similar in meaning. Therefore, she would most likely (C) decline my offer. The correct answer is (C).

It would not make sense if Angela (A) accepted my invitation. She dislikes horror movies, so she probably would not accept an invitation to watch one with me. (B) Bought, (D) implemented, and (E) frightened also fail to set up the logical relationship we need to answer this question. One cannot technically buy, implement, or frighten an invitation. Angela might buy a *movie ticket*, she might implement a *plan* to see the movie with me, and she might *feel* frightened if we watch a scary movie, but none of these things relate directly to the invitation. These answer choices are incorrect.

3) **A**

We know from the question that the two tribes have been fighting for hundreds of years. We can assume from the wording of the question that they are continuing to fight to this day. This means that any peace talks that may have occurred over time have been ineffective. When something does not yield a desired result, in this case peace, we can say that the thing is (A) fruitless. The correct answer is (A).

War itself is both (B) belligerent and (E) violent, but the question does not refer to the war. Rather, it refers to attempts to end the war. These attempts have not been (C) effective or (D) useful, because the war is still raging on. These answer choices are incorrect.

4) **A**

The phrase “as a result” sets up a logical, cause-and-effect relationship. This means that whatever Taylor does to the truth will somehow affect how others interpret what he says. If he (A) exaggerates, then he stretches the truth to include his own ideas of events that may not have happened. If people are aware that he has a tendency to exaggerate, it may be hard to (A) trust what he says. People will not know how to separate fact from fiction when he speaks. The correct answer is (A).

If Taylor (B) manipulates the truth, then he presents the facts or adds details in such a way as to present only what he wants to convey, regardless of whether or not his message is accurate. This would not be difficult to (B) doubt, however. It would be difficult to trust or believe, which is the opposite of “doubt.” Similarly, if Taylor (D) invents ideas and presents them as facts, it would not necessarily be difficult to (D) disprove his lies. Eventually his stories would be proven false. If he always (C) tells or (E) upholds the truth, then he is an honest person. It is not hard to (C) believe or (E) imagine the things that honest people say.

5) **C**

The main clues in this question are “Olympic Games,” “around the world,” and “national pride.” Even if you have never heard of the Olympics, you can figure out by context that they involve (C) athletes because the word “sport” is in the question. The top prize in the Olympics is a gold medal. Since the athletes come from around the world, if an athlete wins a gold medal, then he or she brings pride and honor to his or her (C) country. This is what is meant by the phrase “national pride.” The correct answer is (A).

The Olympic Games do involve many kinds of sporting (A) events, but they do not “draw” events from around the world. They draw (attract) athletes, not the sporting events themselves. (B) Players, (D) gymnasts, and (E) coaches also play very important roles in the Olympics. However, representing a (B) team, (D) state, or (E) citizenship does not bring *national* pride. The word “national” refers directly to one’s country. Therefore, these are not the best answer choices.

6) **E**

The main clue in this question is “almost no one suffers from polio.” This means that the invention of the vaccination has caused a severe drop in polio infection rates. Whenever a cure such as a vaccine eliminates a disease, we say that the disease has been (E) eradicated. “Eradicate” is another word for “wipe out” or “abolish.” The correct answer is (E).

Polio infection rates have not (B) increased or (C) escalated as a result of the vaccine. The opposite has happened; polio rates are sharply down worldwide. Vaccines do not (A) restore diseases that have been eradicated. Vaccines eradicate diseases through widespread prevention of infection. Vaccines do not (D) hide diseases. They cause the diseases to stop spreading in the first place,

so the diseases are not merely hidden somewhere waiting to strike again. These answer choices are incorrect.

7) **E**

The opinions of theatre critics can have far-reaching effects on the popularity and success of plays. If a play gets negative reviews, people will stop buying tickets. This causes the play to lose money, and the play will shut down. (E) A disapproving review from a well-respected critic has the power to cause a play to close in a short amount of time. The correct answer is (E).

The word (D) irate does not really describe the review itself. If the critic was very disappointed in the play, he or she may have felt irate, but the review itself cannot technically feel irate. The other answer choices all have positive connotations that would not result in a loss of business for the play. A (A) glowing, (B) raving, or (C) exquisite review would most likely result in the success of the play, not in its failure.

8) **D**

The main clue in this question is “watching two people declare their love for one another.” This describes what traditionally happens at (D) weddings. Some people cry during weddings because they feel overcome with (D) emotion. They are very happy for the couple being wed, and they are impressed by the beauty of the wedding ceremony itself. The correct answer is (D).

(A) Funerals, (B) church services, (C) parties, and (E) Christmas celebrations do not typically involve two people’s declaration of love for one another. Any intense emotion might cause someone to cry during one of these events, but these answer choices do not fit the clue outlined in the question. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.