

• Sentence Completion 1 Level 10

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

- The airplane manufacturer realized a flaw in its design when tests revealed that the cabin door required too much force to be opened in an emergency: for safety purposes, the door needs to be difficult to open but not _____.
A. indelible
B. immutable
C. immobile
D. indelicate
E. impossible
- When the headlights shone on the raccoon that was foraging in the trash, the alarmed critter _____ away.
A. pilfered
B. scurried
C. dawdled
D. trespassed
E. sauntered
- The three-legged race is _____ team-building activity: when two people are _____ together, they must communicate effectively in order to move forward.
A. a superb ... weaned
B. an excellent ... yoked
C. an obvious ... waffled
D. an ineffective ... cuffed
E. a sordid ... chained
- Many voters were turned off by the mayoral candidate's reliance on _____; he seemed unable to answer a question in a straightforward, non-evasive manner.
A. circumlocution
B. eloquence
C. terseness
D. conciseness
E. animosity
- Due to a conflict of interest, the judge was forced to _____ herself from hearing the case and _____ from voting in the decision.
A. remove ... pander
B. quell ... forgo
C. abjure ... afford
D. recuse ... abstain
E. indulge ... decline
- Because of rumors that the ship's passengers were sick with a terrible plague, the port _____ the ship and refused to let it dock.
A. begrudged
B. nurtured
C. purported
D. sanctioned
E. quarantined

Answers and Explanations

1) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using clues from the prompt. Here, the main clue is the colon, which is used to separate explanatory information from the rest of a sentence. This means that the last clause of the sentence elaborates on or explains the first clause. Thus, the fact that the “cabin door required too much force to be opened in an emergency” is explained by the final clause. Since the door required too much force, this particular door must have been extremely difficult to open, more difficult to open than “the door needs to be.” This means the missing word must mean extremely difficult. Because *impossible* means not able to be done, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *indelible* means not able to be forgotten or removed. Removing a door is not the same as opening a door, so this choice does not work.

(B) is incorrect because *immutable* means unable to be changed. Changing a door is not the same as opening a door, so this choice does not work in context.

(C) is incorrect because *immobile* means unable to be moved. Moving a door is not the same as opening a door, so this choice does not work.

(D) is incorrect because *indelicate* means lacking a sensitive understanding or tact. A door cannot have sensitivity or tact, so this choice is completely illogical.

2) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the key word is “alarmed,” and the prompt hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship: because the raccoon was alarmed, it did the action described by the missing word. Of the choices, only **(B)** provides a word that could logically describe the effect of the raccoon being alarmed by the headlights: *scurried* means moved briskly, implying that the headlights caused the raccoon to run away.

(A) is incorrect because *pilfered* means stole, a verb that would not result from the raccoon being “alarmed.”

(C) is incorrect because *dawdled* means loitered or wasted time. If the raccoon were “alarmed,” it would not be likely to remain in the area and loiter.

(D) is incorrect because *trespassed* means entered someone’s property illegally. Raccoons do not have laws, so nothing they do could be described as illegal.

(E) is incorrect because *sauntered* means strolled slowly. If the raccoon were “alarmed,” it would not be likely to walk away slowly.

3) **B**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Each missing word has its own keywords in this prompt. The first missing word’s keywords are found in the last clause of the sentence: “they must communicate effectively.” Colons are used to separate explanatory information from the rest of the sentence, so everything after the colon here elaborates on what is stated in the first clause. The race must therefore be a good “team-building activity,” since the act of learning to communicate effectively is essential for building a team. The second missing word’s keywords are found in the first clause, as the second missing word elaborates upon that clause. The entire phrase “when two people are _____ together,” describes what a “three-legged race” is. A three-legged race is a game in which two people’s legs are tied together, so the second missing word must be one that means tied. Thus, a correct choice will provide one word meaning good and one word meaning tied. Because *excellent* means extremely good and *yoked* means joined together, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Superb* means outstanding, but *weaned* means gave up a cherished activity. Nothing in the prompt suggests that two people give up a cherished activity together during a “three-legged race.”

(C) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Obvious* means readily apparent and could work to describe the benefits a three-legged race has as a team-building activity, but *waffled* means equivocated or went back and forth on a decision, not something that in any way relates to team-building or a “three-legged race.”

(D) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Ineffective* means not producing a desired effect, while *cuffed* means linked. Though a “three-legged race” is one in which two people are cuffed together, the sentence means to imply that the race is a good activity for team building, not an ineffective one.

(E) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Sordid* means vile, while *chained* means linked. Though a “three-legged race” is one in which two people are chained together, the sentence means to imply that the race is a good activity for team-building, not a vile one.

4) **A**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keywords are “straightforward, non-evasive manner,” and the prompt makes it clear that the candidate was unable to speak in such a way. Thus, the candidate must have relied on the opposite of straightforward speech, meaning the missing word is a noun that means indirect speech. Because *circumlocution* is the use of many words in a deliberate attempt to be vague and evasive, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *eloquence* is expressiveness or the ability to speak well. The prompt implies only that the candidate avoided straightforward answers to questions and does not imply either that he was or was not eloquent.

(C) is incorrect because *terseness* is pithiness or the ability to speak in a short and clear manner. It has the opposite meaning of the missing word.

(D) is incorrect because *conciseness* is the ability to speak in a short and clear manner. It has the opposite meaning of the missing word.

(E) is incorrect because *animosity* is active hatred. This has no logical connection to the prompt.

5) **D**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the only keywords are found in the opening modifying clause, "due to a conflict of interest," which sets up the cause for the effect described in the rest of the sentence. Both words result from the same cause, and the conjunction "and" is used, implying that the words are equal or similar in meaning. The correct choice must be a pair of synonyms that would result from the conflict of interest. *Recuse* means to remove from a court case, while *abstain* means to refrain from something. Both words, thus, would imply that the judge removed herself from hearing and ruling on the case because of a conflict of interest. Because of this, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms. *Remove* means to dismiss, while *pander* means to appeal to others' low desires or tastes. These words have no clear relationship.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms. *Quell* means to put down, while *forgo* means to do without. These words have no clear relationship, as subduing something is not the same as doing without it.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms. *Abjure* means to renounce, while *afford* means to be able to do something. These words have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms. *Indulge* means to allow oneself to enjoy something, while *decline* means to turn down. These words are antonyms, not synonyms.

6) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. The keyword here is "sick," while the prompt hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship: because the people were sick, the port did the action described by the missing word, a word that must also relate to the fact that the ship was refused the right to dock. Thus, the missing word must mean some action resulting from illness, but not an action involving helping the sick. Choice **(E)** is the only choice that provides a word relating to disease, as *quarantined* means isolated to prevent the spread of disease.

(A) is incorrect because *begrudged* means resented. The prompt implies that the port did more than merely resent the ship, as it "refused to let the ship dock."

(B) is incorrect because *nurtured* means nourished or educated. This implies that the port helped the ship, though the passage states that the port did not do so, as it "refused to let the ship dock."

(C) is incorrect because *purported* means alleged. While the rumor of illness might have been alleged, by the time the port took any action, it had already heard the rumor, not created it.

(D) is incorrect because *sanctioned* means approved, though the prompt implies that the port did not approve of the ship, as it "refused to let the ship dock."