

• **Sentence Completion 2** 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.

1. The overly _____ title character was the embodiment of greed: he was so _____ that he literally sold his daughter to the highest bidder.
A. conventional ... orthodox
B. covetous ... acquisitive
C. gluttonous ... clever
D. gregarious ... avid
E. stingy ... philanthropic
2. After wandering the desert for nearly three days without sight of water, the commander was overwhelmed with joy to _____ an oasis in the distance, as it would mean he and his troop could drink.
A. escape
B. esteem
C. eschew
D. espy
E. establish
3. The couple was upset by the construction of the new skyscraper across the street, as the building would _____ their once scenic view.
A. ameliorate
B. obstruct
C. obviate
D. refine
E. plagiarize
4. Many cult leaders will go to great lengths to impress others: for example, Jim Jones, one of history's most infamous religious _____, staged miracles to convince his retinue to continue following him.
A. raconteurs
B. connoisseurs
C. pundits
D. ethicists
E. hucksters
5. The veterinarian told us that the kitten's original owners were _____ and did not give her adequate food, water, or shelter.
A. scurrilous
B. remiss
C. prudent
D. sheer
E. doting
6. One of the most important steps of the recipe is to _____ out impurities from the soup; failure to _____ the broth for fat and burnt bits will make for a bitter soup.
A. filter ... skim
B. withstand ... resist
C. sieve ... peruse
D. scuttle ... obliterate
E. separate ... nettle

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keyword for both words is “greed,” which comes in the first clause. If the character is “the embodiment of greed,” he must be overly greedy. The prompt’s second big clue is the colon. Colons are used to separate explanatory information from the rest of the sentence, meaning the second clause here elaborates on or explains the first one and explains why the character is the embodiment of greed. Thus, the character in question must be overly greedy and “so” greedy “that he sold his daughter.” *Covetous* means greedy, and *acquisitive* means excessively interested in acquiring money or material things, so choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms relating to greed. *Conventional* means customary, while *orthodox* means adhering to or observant of given customs. These words are synonymous, but neither has any connection to greed.

(C) is incorrect because only the first word could work in context. *Gluttonous* means excessively greedy, which could describe a character who is “the embodiment of greed.” However, *clever* means intelligent or witty. Nothing in the prompt implies that the character is clever, as greed is not synonymous with intelligence or wit.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonyms relating to greed. *Gregarious* means friendly and outgoing, while *avid* means having an eager desire or interest in something. Though a greedy person might be avid for money, this word does not directly relate to greed. Additionally, gregarious and avid have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of synonym. *Stingy* means cheap or unwilling to spend money, while *philanthropic* means generous. These words are antonyms, not synonyms.

2) **D**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. The keywords here are “without sight of water” and “an oasis,” which is a place in the desert that has water. The prompt hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship: because the commander had not seen water in days, the oasis made the commander happy. The missing word is a verb that describes what the commander did to the oasis, and it must mean something such as find or see, since the commander had not seen water for days. Therefore, choice **(D)** is the correct answer, because *esp*y means to catch sight of something.

(A) is incorrect because *escape* means to break free from confinement or control. Since the commander wanted water, it would not make sense for the commander to be happy to leave the oasis.

(B) is incorrect because *esteem* means to respect and admire. An oasis could not logically be respected, so this choice does not make sense.

(C) is incorrect because *eschew* means to deliberately avoid using. If the commander had not seen water for days, he would not be likely to avoid the oasis.

(E) is incorrect because *establish* means to form or build. Nothing in the prompt indicates that the commander or his troop built a drinking spot themselves.

3) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. The keywords here are “their once scenic view,” and the prompt hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship, with the second clause explaining why the couple was upset. The couple was upset because their view will no longer be scenic as it once was, since a skyscraper would likely block any view that once existed. Thus, the correct choice will provide a word that means block. *Obstruct* means to block or be in the way of something, so choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *ameliorate* means to improve. If the skyscraper improved the couple’s view, the couple would not be upset by the construction of the building.

(C) is incorrect because *obviate* means to make unnecessary. A view cannot ever be described as either necessary or unnecessary, so obviate does not make sense in context.

(D) is incorrect because *refine* means to improve by making small changes or removing impurities. If the skyscraper improved the couple’s view, the couple would not be upset by the construction of the building.

(E) is incorrect because *plagiarize* means to copy someone else’s work and claim it as one’s own. It in no way relates to the couple’s “once scenic view.”

4) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. In this prompt, Jim Jones is used as an example of a “cult leader,” and the keyword to describe his actions is “staged,” implying that his miracles were fake acts, not real miracles. Thus, the missing word must be one that implies that Jones used showy and fraudulent means to

make people think he was something he was not. *Hucksters* are people who employ showy methods to make a sale or to convince others of greatness, and so choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *raconteurs* are storytellers, not necessarily people who would stage miracles to convince people of their powers.

(B) is incorrect because *connoisseurs* are people who expert judges in matters of taste, not people who would stage miracles to convince people of their powers.

(C) is incorrect because *pundits* are authorities on a particular subject, not people who would stage miracles to convince people of their powers.

(D) is incorrect because *ethicists* are people devoted to ethical issues or moral principles of right behavior. Someone who stages fake miracles and leads a cult would in no way be grouped with ethicists.

5) B

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. In this prompt, the keywords are found in the clause “did not give her adequate food, water, or shelter.” These words describe “the kitten’s original owners” in the same way that the missing word does, so the missing word must describe owners who did not take care of their kitten. Because *remiss* means negligent, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *scurrilous* means vulgar. The prompt implies that the original owners did not provide adequate care, but it does not call them vulgar.

(C) is incorrect because *prudent* means cautious or careful. As the original owners of the kitten did not provide adequate care, they were probably not prudent or cautious.

(D) is incorrect because *sheer* means very thin or transparent. People cannot be described as sheer, so this word does not work in context.

(E) is incorrect because *doting* means excessively fond. As the original owners of the kitten did not provide adequate care, they were probably not overly fond of the kitten.

6) A

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the only keywords are “impurities” and “fat and burnt bits.” These suggest things that do not belong in the soup, things that would make the soup “bitter.” The sentence’s structure implies equivalency between the missing words, as both are verbs relating to things that should be removed from the soup. Both missing words, thus, must mean remove. *Filter* means to pass something through a device to remove unwanted material, while *skim* means to clear or remove something from the surface of a liquid. Both words would describe removing something from a soup, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because neither word works in context. Both *withstand* and *resist* mean to hold out against. These words would imply that the impurities would stay in the soup rather than being separated from it.

(C) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Sieve* means to sift or separate, but *peruse* means to read or examine carefully or at length. A broth cannot be read, and examining it would not necessarily involve removing anything, so *peruse* makes no logical sense in context.

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Scuttle* means to sink, and *obliterate* means to destroy completely. The sentence does not imply that impurities should sink into the broth or that the broth should be eliminated.

(E) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Separate* means to divide and could work to describe the removal of the impurities from the soup. The second word does not work, though, as *nettle* means to annoy, but a broth cannot be annoyed.