

• **Sentence Completion 2** Level 5

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 governor thinks the tax is a good one and would like to see it continue, but his opponent wants to _____ it.
A. abolish
B. amend
C. modify
D. enact
E. employ
2. My neighbor wears a mask when he is outdoors because he doesn't want to _____ the pollution in the air.
A. consume
B. overcome
C. infect
D. inhale
E. provoke
3. Ash tried to move the large rock that was blocking the road, but it wouldn't _____.
A. budge
B. rotate
C. dodge
D. evade
E. wander
4. Though the thief _____ the evidence in the woods, it was _____ by the police, who were able to link the evidence to the criminal.
A. disguised ... removed
B. hid ... camouflaged
C. buried ... excavated
D. concealed ... harmed
E. exposed ... sheltered
5. Educated people have _____ when applying for jobs; they are more likely to be hired.
A. a challenge
B. a prejudice
C. an advantage
D. a handicap
E. a talent
6. The dentist told me there were _____ reasons to brush my teeth, but I can only think of one.
A. magnificent
B. few
C. numerous
D. insufficient
E. important
7. Claudio's parents don't speak English, so he has to _____ his teacher's letters from English to Spanish so they can read them.
A. fabricate
B. originate
C. divide
D. translate
E. digest
8. My mother said I needed a _____ to come with me to the zoo because I was not old enough to go _____, so I brought my friend with me.
A. partner ... together
B. friend ... accompanied
C. peasant ... solo
D. visitor ... independently
E. companion ... alone

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which links two things that are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that the governor thinks the tax is good and wants it to “continue” and what his opponent wants to do to the tax. The opposite of continuing a tax is stopping, repealing, or getting rid of it. Because *abolish* means to formally put an end to something, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *amend* means to change or revise. This does not work because changing a tax would not prevent it from continuing to exist.

(C) is incorrect because *modify* means to change or alter. This does not work because changing a tax would not prevent it from continuing to exist.

(D) is incorrect because *enact* means to put into law. This is what the governor would like to do to the tax but the opposite of what his opponent would like to do to it.

(E) is incorrect because *employ* means to use. The governor might want to use the tax, but his opponent wants to do the opposite of that.

2) D

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which combines two ideas that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that the neighbor “wears a mask” and what he doesn’t want to do with the pollution in the air. Masks cover people’s faces, including their noses and mouths. Many people wear masks to prevent breathing in air pollution, so it is likely that the neighbor wanted to not breathe in the pollution. *Inhale* means to breathe in, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *consume* means to use up, eat, or drink. This does not work because consuming is not the same as breathing, and air cannot be eaten or drunk.

(B) is incorrect because *overcome* means to conquer or surmount. The prompt does not imply that the neighbor wished to overpower air, especially since air cannot be overpowered.

(C) is incorrect because *infect* means to sicken or afflict with a disease. This does not work because it would imply that the neighbor had the ability to make the air sick and that wearing a mask would prevent this from happening.

(E) is incorrect because *provoke* means to arouse or incite. Air cannot be aroused or provoked, so this choice does not make sense.

3) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which links two things that are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between what Ash tried to do to the “large rock” and what the rock wouldn’t do. If Ash tried to “move” the large rock, an opposite relationship would be set up if the rock did not actually move. *Budge* means to make or cause to make the slightest movement, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *rotate* means to turn in a circular motion. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since the prompt does not imply that Ash tried to move the rock in a circular motion.

(C) is incorrect because *dodge* means to move out of the way or evade an oncoming object or attack. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since dodging is not the same as merely moving.

(D) is incorrect because *evade* means to move out of the way or dodge an oncoming object or attack. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since evading is not the same as merely moving.

(E) is incorrect because *amble* means to saunter, stroll, or walk at a slow or leisurely pace. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, because it is impossible for a rock to walk.

4) C

The main clue in this question is the word “though,” which is used to indicate a contrasting or opposite relationship. This means that the thief tried to do something to the evidence, but the police undid his or her work or did the opposite of it. *Buried* means put or hid underground, while *excavated* means dug up. These are opposites, so choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Disguised* means given a different appearance to conceal something’s identity, while *removed* means taken away from a place occupied. These words have no clear relationship.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hidden* means concealed from view, while *camouflaged* means disguised or hidden. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Concealed* means hidden or covered from view, while *harmed* means hurt or damaged. These words have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship that works in context. *Exposed* means made something that was hidden visible, while *sheltered* means protected from bad weather. These words are opposites, but they do not work in context. A thief would be unlikely to show off evidence of his or her guilt, and the prompt in no way implies that there was bad weather or that the police protected the evidence from bad weather.

5) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between what “educated people” have when applying for jobs and the fact that they are more likely to be hired. People apply for jobs with the goal of eventually being hired. This prompt states that educated people are more likely to achieve this goal, so the missing word must imply this. *Advantage* means a condition that puts one in a favorable position, so choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *challenge* is an obstacle or disadvantage. Disadvantages hold people back from achieving their goals, so this does not set up a logical relationship.

(B) is incorrect because a *prejudice* is a preconceived idea or judgment. This is not the best choice because prejudices do not usually affect a person’s ability to achieve his or her goals and find a job. An employer’s prejudices might keep someone from being hired, but the prejudices of the applicant do not matter.

(D) is incorrect because a *handicap* is a disadvantage or disability. Disadvantages hold people back from achieving their goals, so this does not set up a logical relationship.

(E) is incorrect because a *talent* is a special skill. This is not the best choice, because talents are not necessarily related to education.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which indicates that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the one reason the narrator can think of for brushing his or her teeth and what the dentist said. The opposite of one reason would be several reasons. Because *numerous* means many, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Magnificent* means impressively beautiful. This is not the opposite of “one.”

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Few* means hardly any. This is similar to “one,” not the opposite of it, since both one and few would imply that there are not many reasons to brush one’s teeth.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Insufficient* means not enough. This is similar to “one,” not the opposite of it, since both one and insufficient would imply that there are not many reasons to brush one’s teeth.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Important* means significant or valuable. This has no relationship to “one.”

7) D

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which combines two ideas that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that “Claudio’s parents don’t speak English” and what Claudio must do with his teacher’s letters. Because these letters are written in English, Claudio must make sure his parents can read the letters in Spanish. The missing word must describe this process. Because *translate* means to convert something written or stated in one language into another language, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *fabricate* means to invent with deceitful intent. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that Claudio lies to his parents or is deceitful in any way.

(B) is incorrect because *originate* means to create or initiate something. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that Claudio creates or writes something.

(C) is incorrect because *divide* means to separate into parts. This does not work because one cannot separate a letter into English and Spanish.

(E) is incorrect because *digest* means to understand something. While Claudio probably did understand his teacher’s letters, this does not work because it does not describe the process of converting the letters from English into Spanish.

8) E

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which is used to set up a cause-and-effect relationship between two parts of a sentence. This means the missing words must set up such a relationship. Additionally, the prompt provides another clue in the phrase “so I brought my friend with me,” a phrase that explains what the solution was to the problem of not being old enough to go to the zoo a certain way. This means that the narrator’s mother needed him or her to bring a friend to the zoo

because he or she was not old enough to go alone. *Companion* means a person with whom one travels, while *alone* means without anyone else. Together these would imply that the mother needed the narrator to bring a friend to the zoo because the narrator was not old enough to go by himself or herself, so choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *partner* is a person who takes part in something with another person, but *together* means with other people. This would imply that the mother both wanted the narrator to bring someone to the zoo with him or her and was not old enough to go with another person.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *friend* is a person who cares about and gets along with another person, but *accompanied* means with another person. This would imply that the mother both wanted the narrator to bring someone to the zoo with him or her and was not old enough to go with another person.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *peasant* is a poor farmer, while *solo* means alone. Solo could work for the second missing word, but nothing in the prompt suggests that the narrator needed to bring a farmer with him or her to the zoo.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *visitor* is someone who is in a place in which he or she does not live, while *independently* means done alone. Independently could work for the second missing word, but the prompt does not imply that the narrator needed someone who lives in a different city to go the zoo with him or her.