

• Sentence Completion 3 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. Chris and Mackenzie were both _____, so they decided to purchase _____ to share.
A. thirsty ... a beverage
B. hungry ... a soda
C. exhausted ... a meal
D. starving ... medicine
E. confused ... a snack
2. Martin is not old enough to vote, live alone, or even drive, since he is still _____.
A. an employee
B. a minor
C. an heir
D. a male
E. an adult
3. The classroom seems _____ today, because all of the desks are in an unusual arrangement and everything feels mysterious.
A. commonplace
B. luxurious
C. miniature
D. peculiar
E. ordinary
4. People always say that I look just like my mother, but I think I _____ my father.
A. resemble
B. imitate
C. match
D. compare to
E. duplicate
5. Small cars are _____ for large families; they don't have enough seating or space to be useful.
A. successful
B. profitable
C. impractical
D. inactive
E. damaging
6. Unlike Bermuda, which has a _____ climate, Minnesota is often _____, especially in the winter.
A. breezy ... windy
B. cold ... chilly
C. stormy ... unpredictable
D. warm ... humid
E. tropical ... frigid
7. _____ contains lists of words that have similar meanings; a student can use one to find _____ to use in his or her writing.
A. An atlas ... maps
B. A thesaurus ... synonyms
C. An encyclopedia ... homonyms
D. A dictionary ... locations
E. A textbook ... translations
8. Neither team had enough players to compete in the tournament, but when the teams _____, there were enough players to compete in it as one team instead of two.
A. bungled
B. combined
C. separated
D. rebelled
E. participated

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which sets up a logical relationship between what Chris and Mackenzie were and what they decided to purchase. The correct choice will provide a pair of words that are related in this way. *Thirsty* means feeling a need to drink something, while a *beverage* is a drink other than water. When one is thirsty, he or she would buy something to drink, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Hungry* means in need of or wanting food, but a *soda* is a carbonated, sugary beverage. One does not buy a soda because he or she is hungry.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Exhausted* means very tired, but a *meal* is food eaten at a designated time of day. One does not buy food because he or she is hungry.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Starving* means extremely hungry, but a *medicine* is something taken to prevent or cure a disease. One does not buy medicine because he or she is hungry.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Confused* means perplexed or unclear about something, but a *snack* is a small meal. One does not buy food because he or she is confused.

2) B

The main clue in this question is the word “since,” which links two parts of a sentence that logically derive from each other. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that Martin “is not old enough” to do certain things and another characteristic he possesses. The missing word must indicate that Martin is not old enough to do something. Because a *minor* is someone who is under the age of legal responsibility, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *an employee* is someone who works for someone else. The prompt gives no indication that Martin works for himself or for anyone else, so this choice does not make sense.

(C) is incorrect because *an heir* is someone who inherits something. The prompt gives no indication that Martin is or is not an heir, so this choice does not make sense.

(D) is incorrect because *a male* is a person who is a boy or a man. While Martin is a male, this choice does not work because being a male is not the same as being a certain age.

(E) is incorrect because *an adult* is a fully-grown and legally responsible person. This choice does not work because Martin is not an adult. The prompt says he “is not old enough to vote, live alone, or even drive.” Adults are old enough to do all of these things.

3) D

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship between parts of the sentence. Here, because “the desks are in an unusual arrangement and everything feels mysterious,” the classroom feels a certain way. The missing word describes the way the classroom feels and must logically derive from the unusual arrangement and feeling of mystery in the room. *Peculiar* means odd, unusual, or strange, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *commonplace* means ordinary or usual. This does not set up a logical relationship with the strange circumstances surrounding the classroom’s new arrangement.

(B) is incorrect because *luxurious* means marked by opulence or wealth. The prompt does not suggest that the classroom has been made more opulent or wealthy, as it only implies that the classroom has been rearranged.

(C) is incorrect because *miniature* means of a much smaller size than normal. This does not work because the prompt does not suggest that the room became smaller or more cramped as a result of the rearrangement of the desks.

(E) is incorrect because *ordinary* means common or usual. This does not set up a logical relationship with the strange circumstances surrounding the classroom’s “unusual” new arrangement.

4) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that some people think I “look just like my mother” and some relationship I have with my father. The correct choice must reflect the fact that I think I look like my father, not my mother, then, as looking like my father is the opposite of looking like my mother. *Resemble* means to look or seem like, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *imitate* means to mimic or follow a pattern. This does not work because looking like someone is not the same as mimicking him or her.

(C) is incorrect because *match* means to be equal. This does not work because looking like someone is not the same as being equal to him or her.

(D) is incorrect because *compare* means to discover resemblances or differences. This does not work because things that do not look like each other can be compared, since comparing involves looking for similarities as well as differences.

(E) is incorrect because *duplicate* means to make a second copy. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that the narrator has physically made a copy or clone of his or her father.

5) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between how small cars are for large families and the fact that they are too small to be “useful.” The missing word must also reflect the fact that small cars are not “useful” for large families. Because *impractical* means not sensible, realistic, or ideally suited, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *successful* means resulting in success or a desired outcome. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(B) is incorrect because *profitable* means resulting in profit or wealth. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(D) is incorrect because *inactive* means not active or moving. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(E) is incorrect because *damaging* means harmful or dangerous. This choice is too extreme, because something can be not useful without being harmful.

6) E

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which sets up a negative or opposite relationship. Here, there is an opposite relationship between Bermuda’s climate and Minnesota’s, meaning the correct choice will provide a pair of opposites. *Tropical* means hot and humid, while *frigid* means very cold. These are opposites, so choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Breezy* means pleasantly windy, while *windy* means marked by winds or gusts of air. These words have almost the same meaning, not opposite meanings.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Cold* means not warm or hot, while *chilly* means cold. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Stormy* means characterized by storms or violent gusts of wind and rain, while *unpredictable* means not able to be foreseen or predicted. These words have no clear relationship.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Warm* means relatively hot or not cold, while *humid* means moist or marked by moisture in the air. These words have no clear relationship.

7) B

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between something with “lists of words that have similar meanings” and what a student can find in that thing. The first missing word must refer to a book that contains lists of words that mean similar things. The second missing word must refer to the actual words on the list. A *thesaurus* is a book that contains lists of words with similar meanings, and *synonyms* are words that have similar meanings, so choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because an *atlas* is a book of maps, and *maps* are visual representations of a physical area. Neither an atlas nor a map have a clear relationship to “lists of words that have similar meanings.”

(C) is incorrect because an *encyclopedia* is a book that contains factual entries about many different topics. However, these entries do not contain “lists of words that have similar meanings.” Furthermore, *homonyms* are words that sound the same but have different meanings.

(D) is incorrect because a *dictionary* is a book containing definitions or meanings of words. However, *locations* are places or positions, and they would not be found in a dictionary.

(E) is incorrect because a *textbook* is a book of information on a certain subject that is used to teach a class. This does not relate to the clue about “words that have similar meanings.” Moreover, *translations* are written works that were originally made in one language but can be read in another language. A textbook might not contain translations.

8) B

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up a contrasting or opposite relationship between the parts of the sentence. Here, the opposite relationship concerns the number of players on the teams. As two teams, neither had enough players, but “as one team instead of two,” there were enough players. The missing word describes how the two teams became one. Because *combined* means united or merged into one group, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *bungled* means carried out a task clumsily. This has no relationship to two teams joining as one.

(C) is incorrect because *separated* means divided or split into more than one entity. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since the prompt describes how two teams became one, not how one team became two.

(D) is incorrect because *rebelled* means rose in opposition to a group that was in power. This has no relationship to two teams joining as one.

(E) is incorrect because *participated* means took part in something. While this describes what the teams ultimately were able to do, this does not work because it does not explain how they were able to participate.