

• **Sentence Completion 2** Level 8

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 villain's henchman was _____, following every degrading command without hesitation or question.
A. humble
B. freethinking
C. uppity
D. servile
E. modest
2. In our system, one must be sworn into office, so, although the candidate won the election in November, he will not become president until he is _____ in January.
A. inaugurated
B. baptized
C. discharged
D. established
E. annulled
3. Coleen's knee injury _____ her from furthering her career as a long-distance runner.
A. forbids
B. facilitates
C. precludes
D. nurtures
E. eschews
4. Because of her use of convoluted language, the professor failed to _____ her ideas to her students; they later argued that her poor communication skills resulted in confusion and misunderstanding.
A. bequeath
B. contract
C. commit
D. yield
E. convey
5. The death of the king left the nation in a state of _____: without a clear successor, conditions rapidly descended into _____.
A. confederation ... disorder
B. sorrow ... tumult
C. anarchy ... chaos
D. panic ... tranquility
E. mutiny ... serenity
6. When the dentist removed my wisdom teeth, she used drugs to _____ the pain and make me unconscious—if she hadn't, the pain from the operation would have been _____.
A. sedate ... uncomfortable
B. amplify ... fierce
C. dull ... excruciating
D. heighten ... exquisite
E. quell ... moderate
7. It is _____ that this message be delivered to the general, so be absolutely certain he gets it.
A. imperative
B. optional
C. intentional
D. adequate
E. abnormal
8. Leila is _____ reader and has read more than eighty books this year.
A. a careful
B. an avid
C. a casual
D. a reluctant
E. an occasional

Answers and Explanations

1) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “following every degrading command without hesitation or question.” This phrase explains or elaborates on the meaning of the missing word, so the missing word must refer to following every command without question. *Servile* means having an excessive willingness to serve others, so choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *humble* means modest or deferential. Although this may describe the henchman, it is not strong enough to work in context. It does not refer to the fact that the henchman’s work was “degrading” or that he did it “without hesitation or question.”

(B) is incorrect because *freethinking* means independently forming opinions or beliefs. This does not describe someone who follows “degrading” commands “without hesitation or question.”

(C) is incorrect because *uppity* means arrogant or self-asserting. This does not describe someone who follows “degrading” commands “without hesitation or question.”

(E) is incorrect because *modest* means humble or not proud. Although this may describe the henchman, it is not strong enough to work in context. It does not refer to the fact that the henchman’s work was “degrading” or that he did it “without hesitation or question.”

2) A

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which links parts of a sentence joined by a cause-and-effect relationship. This means there is a logical relationship between the fact that “one must be sworn into office” and what must happen before the elected candidate can “become president.” This means that the missing word must likewise mean sworn in. Because *inaugurated* means admitted formally to public office, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *baptized* means admitted to a specific church through a water-based rite or ceremony. Nothing in this prompt suggests any religion or religious rite.

(C) is incorrect because *discharged* means relieved of or released from duty. The prompt implies that the candidate will assume his duties in January, not that he will be released from them.

(D) is incorrect because *established* means instituted or set up. Although the winning candidate will be established as president in January, this is not the strongest choice, since established is too broad in meaning and does not specifically refer to a formal swearing in.

(E) is incorrect because *annulled* means eliminated or voided. The prompt implies that the candidate will assume his duties in January, not that his election victory will be voided.

3) C

The main clues in this question are “knee injury” and “long-distance runner.” If a long-distance runner were to have a knee injury, her career would likely end, since one cannot have bad knees and be a successful runner. The missing word should imply that the knee injury damaged her career, and because *precludes* means makes impossible or prevents from happening, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *forbids* means refuses to allow or bans. Coleen’s injury cannot literally forbid her to run. Only people can forbid one another from doing things, because forbidding involves issuing a command or demand.

(B) is incorrect because *facilitates* means makes possible or makes easy. Coleen’s injury will not make it easier for her to run. Rather, it will prevent her from running, so this is the opposite of a correct choice.

(D) is incorrect because *nurtures* means cares for or fosters. Coleen’s injury will not make it easier for her to run. Rather, it will prevent her from running, so this is the opposite of a correct choice.

(E) is incorrect because *eschews* means avoids or abstains. Coleen may have to abstain from running as a result of her injury, but her injury cannot eschew anything itself.

4) E

The main clue in this question is the semicolon, which is used to link independent clauses that are logically linked. This means that there is a relationship between what the “professor failed to do” and the fact that “poor communication skills resulted in confusion and misunderstanding.” The convoluted language must have caused the students to misunderstand the professor’s points, so her language must have failed to explain her ideas. Because *convey* means to make an idea known to someone, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *bequeath* means to leave as an inheritance. Nothing in the prompt implies that the professor is dying and leaving “her ideas” as an inheritance to others.

(B) is incorrect because *contract* means to bring upon oneself or incur. The prompt does not state that the professor is trying to take in the ideas of others. Rather, she is trying to make her students understand her ideas.

(C) is incorrect because *commit* means to obligate or promise. Nothing in the prompt implies that the professor is giving “her ideas” as a kind of promise to her students.

(D) is incorrect because *yield* means to give up or surrender. Nothing in the prompt implies that the professor is giving up “her ideas” entirely and leaving nothing for herself. Rather, she will retain her own ideas even after sharing them with others.

5) C

The main clue in this question is the colon, which is used to separate explanatory information from the rest of a sentence. This means that the first missing word is described or elaborated upon by what follows the colon, meaning the two missing words must have similar meanings, as both describe what happened to the nation after “the death of the king.” *Anarchy* is a state of disorder brought on by an absence of authority, while *chaos* means in a state of complete confusion and disorder. These words are similar in meaning, so choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. A *confederation* is an alliance or league, while *disorder* means lacking order. These words have no clear relationship.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Sorrow* is sadness, while *tumult* means a state of excitement, confusion, or disorder. These words have no clear relationship.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Panic* is widespread anxiety, while *tranquility* means calm or peacefulness. These words are opposites of each other.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. A *mutiny* is an armed rebellion, while *serenity* means calm or peacefulness. These words have no clear relationship.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “if she hadn’t,” a phrase that implies that what the drugs did to the pain was the opposite of what the pain would have been without the drugs. The two missing words relate to the pain, so they must form a logical relationship. When one has surgery, there is usually a lot of pain, so it follows that the drugs must have reduced the pain and that, without the drugs, the pain would have been bad. Because *dull* means to make less intense, while *excruciating* means intensely painful, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Sedate* means to calm someone or put someone to sleep, while *uncomfortable* means feeling slight pain. Pain cannot be sedated, and the prompt implies that the pain would have been bad, not merely slight. Thus, neither word works in context.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Amplify* means to heighten, while *fierce* means powerful or destructive in force. This does not work because it would imply that the drugs made the pain worse but that, without the drugs, the pain would have still been bad.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Heighten* means to intensify, while *exquisite* means intensely felt. This does not work because it would imply that the drugs made the pain worse but that, without the drugs, the pain would have still been bad.

(E) is incorrect because it does not form a logical relationship. *Quell* means to subdue or put an end to something, while *moderate* means average in amount or intensity. This does not work because it would imply that the drugs made the pain go away but that, without the drugs, the pain would have been tolerable.

7) A

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which implies a cause-and-effect relationship between the parts of the sentence. Here, the delivery of the message is a certain way, so one needs to “be absolutely certain” that the message gets delivered. If one absolutely has to get the message to the general, the message must be very important. Because *imperative* means of vital importance, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *optional* means available to be chosen but not required. This does not work because being optional is not the same as being important.

(C) is incorrect because *intentional* means done on purpose. This does not work because being intentional is not the same as being important.

(D) is incorrect because *adequate* means sufficient. This does not work because being sufficient is not the same as being important.

(E) is incorrect because *abnormal* means unusual. This does not work because being unusual is not the same as being important.

8) B

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which links parts of a sentence that state similar information. This means that the type of “reader” Leila is relates to the fact that she “has read more than eighty books this year.” Eighty books is a lot of books, so the missing word must imply that she is a person who is very interested in books. Because *avid* means having or showing a keen interest for something, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *careful* means done with thought and attention. The prompt only implies that Leila reads a lot, not that she reads with close attention.

(C) is incorrect because *casual* means relaxed. The prompt only implies that Leila reads a lot, not that she reads in a relaxed manner.

(D) is incorrect because *reluctant* means hesitant. A hesitant reader would not be likely to read “more than eighty books this year.”

(E) is incorrect because *occasional* means infrequent and irregular. An occasional reader would not read that many books, but the prompt states that Leila “has read more than eighty books this year.”