

• **Sentence Completion 3** 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. Though Peter did not appear to be particularly _____, he was easily the _____ player on the team.
A. brawny ... strongest
B. athletic ... frailest
C. husky ... bravest
D. delicate ... densest
E. intelligent ... fastest
2. In order to _____ discussion about the novel, the teacher asked his students a series of questions about its themes.
A. advocate
B. hasten
C. aggravate
D. facilitate
E. perplex
3. Though the attorney did not directly state that the witness was a liar, the jury was able to _____ that the witness was not _____.
A. understand ... valuable
B. imagine ... scandalous
C. infer ... trustworthy
D. deduce ... likeable
E. impose ... honest
4. The helicopter _____ over the scene of the accident and lingered at a low altitude.
A. soared
B. hovered
C. excelled
D. collided
E. stormed
5. Jacob's mother and father both had to _____ him from his sleep because he had slept through his alarm.
A. fluctuate
B. deliver
C. lull
D. tremble
E. rouse
6. In an effort to make sure that no one found the evidence of his crime, Dean attempted to _____ it from investigators.
A. condemn
B. consecrate
C. conceal
D. convict
E. contemplate
7. The bombing of Pearl Harbor was _____ act of hostility, and the United States reacted to the blatant act with a declaration of war on Japan.
A. a clandestine
B. an overt
C. an inconspicuous
D. an ambiguous
E. a petty
8. Allen Ginsberg's poetry offers _____ insight into the counterculture of the 1950s; his writings give readers a deep understanding of the Beat movement.
A. profound
B. scholarly
C. cryptic
D. superficial
E. shallow

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “though,” which sets up an opposite relationship between how Peter “did not appear to be particularly” and what he actually was. The missing words describe what he did not appear to be and what he actually was, so they must be synonyms in order to maintain the opposite relationship. *Brawny* means strong and muscular, while *strongest* means having the most power and ability to move heavy objects. These words have similar meanings, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Athletic* means strong and fit, while *frailest* means most weak and delicate. These words are opposites of each other.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Husky* means strong or hefty, while *bravest* means most courageous. These words have no clear relationship, since being strong is not the same as being courageous.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Delicate* means fragile or easily broken, while *densest* means most compacted. These words have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Intelligent* means smart, while *fastest* means most fast. These words have no clear relationship.

2) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “the teacher asked his students a series of questions.” This describes what the teacher did “in order to” have an effect on the class’s “discussion about the novel.” By asking specific questions, the teacher probably started or encouraged an ongoing discussion, so the missing word must mean encourage or start. Because *facilitate* means to make a process easier, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *advocate* means to defend or support. Nothing in the prompt implies that the teacher needed to defend the discussion of the novel. The discussion does not appear to have taken place under any threats or attacks.

(B) is incorrect because *hasten* means to speed up. Nothing in the prompt implies that the teacher needed to make the discussion happen faster. There are no clues in the prompt that refer to speed or time.

(C) is incorrect because *aggravate* means to make worse or intensify. Nothing in the prompt implies that the teacher’s questions made the discussion worse.

(E) is incorrect because *perplex* means to confuse. Nothing in the prompt implies that the teacher’s questions made the discussion more confusing.

3) C

The main clue in this question is the word “though,” which indicates a negative or opposite relationship between the two parts of the sentence. This means that the clause containing the missing words describes something unexpected, given that the “the attorney did not directly state that the witness was a liar.” If the jury still figured out that the witness was a liar, this would be the opposite of what is expected. Therefore, the first missing word must describe the jury’s actions or conclusions, while the second missing word must mean honest, since it is modified by the “not” that precedes it. Because *infer* means to deduce something from evidence rather than explicit statements, while *trustworthy* means reliable or honest, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Understand* means to mentally grasp or comprehend, while *valuable* means of great worth. Though the jury could have implicitly understood that the “witness was a liar,” being a liar does not make someone valueless, so this choice does not work.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Imagine* means to form a concept or mental image of something, while *scandalous* means disgracefully bad. Neither word would work in context, since imagining is not the same as deducing and scandalous is not the same as honest.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Deduce* means to derive as a conclusion from something known or assumed, while *likeable* means pleasant and easy to like. Though the attorney might have deduced that the witness was a liar, deducing is not the same as understanding a hint. Additionally, being a liar does not necessarily mean someone is unlikeable.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Impose* means to forcibly put something in place, while *honest* means truthful or sincere. Though the jury might have gathered from the attorney that “the witness was not” honest, it was not able to force that idea upon anyone.

4) B

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which is used to link parts of a sentence that state similar information. This means that there is a relationship between what the helicopter did “over the scene of the accident” and the fact that it “lingered at a low altitude.” The missing word must, therefore, describe lingering over the scene. Because *hovered* means remained in one place in the air, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *soared* means flew at a great height. This is the opposite of what the prompt implies when it says the helicopter was “at a low altitude.”

(C) is incorrect because *excelled* means surpassed or was superior. This word does not relate to flying in the air.

(D) is incorrect because *collided* means clashed, struck, or made an impact. Nothing in the prompt implies that the helicopter crashed into anything in the air.

(E) is incorrect because *stormed* means moved violently or angrily. Nothing in the prompt implies that the helicopter was moving in a violent or threatening way.

5) E

The main clue in this question is “because,” which indicates a cause-and-effect relationship between the two clauses of this sentence. This means that “because” Jacob “had slept through his alarm,” his parents had to do something. An alarm clock usually wakes someone up, so it follows that his parents had to wake him up. Because *rouse* means to wake or bring out of sleep, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *fluctuate* means to shift uncertainly or in waves. This does not work because fluctuating is not the same as waking.

(B) is incorrect because *deliver* means to turn in or hand over. This is not related to waking someone up at all.

(C) is incorrect because *lull* means to soothe or put to rest. This is the opposite of what Jacob’s parents were trying to do to him.

(D) is incorrect because *tremble* means to shake involuntarily or shiver. This does not work because trembling is not the same as waking.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “in an effort to make sure that no one found the evidence,” a phrase that explains why Dean “attempted to” do something. When one wants to make sure no one finds something, he or she attempts to hide it. The missing word must, therefore, mean hide. Because *conceal* means to hide or keep out of sight, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *condemn* means to express complete disapproval of something. This does not work because nothing in the prompt implies that Dean disapproved of the evidence, as it only states that he wanted “to make sure that no one found” it.

(B) is incorrect because *consecrate* means to make something sacred. This does not work because nothing in the prompt implies that Dean made the evidence sacred, as it only states that he wanted “to make sure that no one found” it.

(D) is incorrect because *convict* means to declare someone guilty of a crime. “Evidence” cannot be found guilty, so this choice does not make logical sense.

(E) is incorrect because *contemplate* means to think about something. This does not work because nothing in the prompt implies that Dean thought about the evidence, as it only states that he wanted “to make sure that no one found” it.

7) B

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which links two parts of a sentence that state similar information. This means that the “act” mentioned in the first part of the sentence is the same as the one mentioned in the second part. Since the act is referred to as “blatant” later in the sentence, the missing word must likewise mean blatant. *Overt* means blatant or done or shown openly, so choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *clandestine* means secret or surreptitious. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since clandestine is the opposite of “blatant.”

(C) is incorrect because *inconspicuous* means unnoticeable. This does not work because inconspicuous is not synonymous with “blatant.”

(D) is incorrect because *ambiguous* means unclear or open to multiple interpretations. This does not work because ambiguous is not synonymous with “blatant.”

(E) is incorrect because *petty* means minor or insignificant. This does not work because petty is not synonymous with “blatant.”

8) A

The main clue in this question is the semicolon, which is used to link independent clauses that are logically linked. This means that the two clauses here state similar things, so the type of “insight” Ginsberg’s poetry offers is related to the “deep understanding” his writings give. Thus, the missing word must mean deep. Because *profound* means deep or intense, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *scholarly* means pertaining to academia or study. Although Ginsberg's poetry can be viewed in a scholarly way, this does not set up the logical, parallel relationship to "deep" as required by the prompt's key phrases.

(C) is incorrect because *cryptic* means secret, ambiguous, or mysterious. Nothing in the prompt implies that Ginsberg's poetry was ambiguous or mysterious.

(D) is incorrect because *superficial* means shallow or external. This is the opposite of the "deep understanding" described by the prompt.

(E) is incorrect because *shallow* means superficial or not deep. This is the opposite of the "deep understanding" described by the prompt.