

• Sentence Completion 3 Level 9

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. In the 1970s, gas prices rose drastically because of _____ of oil entering the marketplace; as with any commodity, gas prices are impacted by the basic laws of supply and demand.
A. a peak
B. a glut
C. an amount
D. an inundation
E. a dearth
2. Much of Molière's work was satirical in nature; in *Tartuffe*, for instance, he _____ much of French high society, including church leaders.
A. administers
B. lampoons
C. immortalizes
D. lauds
E. disgusts
3. The coach was dismayed to find that his team was unable to get past its _____ start; rather than being _____ in the second half, the team remained lethargic throughout.
A. slipshod ... enumerated
B. slow ... enervated
C. slapdash ... enraged
D. sluggish ... energized
E. slothful ... engaged
4. One of the most effective ways to resolve conflict is to seek an outside mediator, someone who can hear both sides of the argument and attempt to _____ the angered parties.
A. inflame
B. pacify
C. outwit
D. bolster
E. entice
5. Once the District Attorney convinced the _____ star witness to testify, her once _____ case suddenly appeared more than sufficient.
A. obsolete ... scanty
B. ruthless ... infamous
C. treacherous ... robust
D. reluctant ... flimsy
E. paltry ... obstinate
6. In *On the Road*, Jack Kerouac documented the _____ lifestyle he and other members of the Beat generation practiced; rather than settle down in one place, many of them would move around from coast to coast.
A. transient
B. exotic
C. pedestrian
D. nontraditional
E. orthodox

Answers and Explanations

1) E

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keyword is “rose,” as the prompt explains that gas prices rose because of the missing word. The prompt gives one other piece of key information, stating that supply and demand impacts gas prices. The basic law of supply and demand states that the smaller a supply of a product, the more it will cost, other factors being equal. Since gas is something almost everyone needs, if its price rose, the supply likely decreased. Thus, the missing word here must mean something that implies a decrease. Because a *dearth* is a scarcity or lack of something, choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *peak* is a high point. It is the opposite of the word the prompt is looking for, as the prompt requires a word that implies a decrease in the amount of oil entering the marketplace.

(B) is incorrect because a *glut* is an overstock of something. It is the opposite of the word the prompt is looking for, as the prompt requires a word that implies a decrease in the amount of oil entering the marketplace.

(C) is incorrect because *an amount* is any quantity of something. This does not work in context because an amount could be large or small, meaning this word does not necessarily describe a decrease in oil entering the marketplace.

(D) is incorrect because *inundation* is an overwhelming amount. It is the opposite of the word the prompt is looking for, as the prompt requires a word that implies a decrease in the amount of oil entering the marketplace.

2) B

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key word is “satirical,” as the prompt uses *Tartuffe* as an example of how Molière’s work is satirical. Thus, the missing word must mean something that implies that Molière satirized “French high society” in *Tartuffe*. Because *lampoon* means ridicules, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *administers* means dispenses or applies something. This word does not relate to the fact that Molière’s work is “satirical” in any way.

(C) is incorrect because *immortalizes* means bestows unending fame upon. This implies that Molière celebrated “French high society,” even though the prompt calls his work “satirical,” not celebratory.

(D) is incorrect because *lauds* means praises or celebrates. This implies that Molière celebrated “French high society,” even though the prompt calls his work “satirical,” not celebratory.

(E) is incorrect because *disgusts* means causes revulsion or strong disapproval. This does not work because disgusting is not synonymous with “satirical.”

3) D

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, each missing word has its own keyword. The keyword for the first missing word is “lethargic,” which means drowsy. As the team “remained lethargic throughout” the game, it must have had a lethargic start. The second missing word’s keyword is “rather,” which sets up an opposite relationship between how the coach expected the team to be and how it “remained.” Since the team continued to be “lethargic,” the coach must have expected the team to be the opposite of lethargic. Thus, the correct choice will provide a pair of opposites relating to lethargy. *Sluggish* means lethargic or slow, while *energized* means invigorated, and one who is invigorated would not be lethargic. These are opposites, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Slipshod* means untidy, while *enumerated* means listed. Neither word relates to the prompt.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Slow* means lethargic or not fast-moving, while *enervated* means weakened. An enervated team would be likely to remain lethargic.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Slapdash* means haphazard, while *enraged* means very angry. Neither word really relates to the prompt.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Slothful* means lazy or lethargic, while *engaged* means occupied or busy. Being lethargic is the opposite of having energy, but being engaged is not the same as being energized. Moreover, the prompt implies that the team was tired and slow, not distracted or unoccupied.

4) B

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. The keyword here is “resolve,” and the prompt makes it clear that the goal of a mediator is conflict resolution. Thus, the missing word must be a verb that would at least contribute to conflict resolution. *Pacify* means to soothe or calm down, and conflict resolution can be aided by calming down “angered parties.” Therefore, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *inflame* means to anger or incite. This is the opposite of what a mediator is supposed to do in order to resolve a conflict.

(C) is incorrect because *outwit* means to outsmart or trick. It would not make sense for a mediator to trick “the angered parties” in an attempt to resolve their conflict.

(D) is incorrect because *bolster* means to reinforce. If the mediator wants to resolve a conflict, it would not make sense for him or her to attempt to strengthen “the angered parties,” as reinforcing their anger would only make them more likely to continue fighting.

(E) is incorrect because *entice* means to attract or tempt someone by offering pleasure or advantage. An effective mediator would not need to tempt “the angered parties” to make up by offering some kind of reward. Additionally, the prompt gives no indication that the mediator would offer some advantage or reward to them.

5) D

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. In this prompt, each missing word has its own keyword. The first missing word’s keyword is “convinced,” which implies that the “star witness” needed to be talked into testifying. Thus, the missing word must describe the fact that the witness was in need of convincing. The second missing word’s keywords are in the phrase “more than sufficient.” Since it was “suddenly” more than sufficient but was once whatever the missing word is, the missing word must be something that means insufficient or weak. Of the choices, only choice (D) provides two words that work in context: *reluctant* means hesitant, while *flimsy* means not sturdy. In the prompt, these would imply that the hesitant witness had to be convinced to testify, and, once the witness was convinced, the formerly weak case became relatively strong.

(A) is incorrect because only one word could work in context. *Obsolete* means outdated or fallen into disuse, while *scanty* means insufficient. Of these, only scanty could work in context, as a star witness could not logically be obsolete to the prosecutor.

(B) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Ruthless* means cruel, while *infamous* means well-known for a bad quality. Nothing in the prompt suggests that the witness was cruel or that the case was notorious.

(C) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Duplicitous* means deceitful, while *illusory* means deceptive. These words, though related to each other, do not work in context for the missing words. Nothing in the prompt implies that the witness was deceitful or that the case was deceptive.

(E) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Paltry* means insignificant, while *obstinate* means stubborn. Though these words could work if they were listed in reverse order, paltry would not be used to describe the star witness, and illusory would not be used to describe the case overall.

6) A

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using clues from the prompt. In this prompt, the main clue is the semicolon, which links independent clauses that are logically linked. This means there is a connection between what is stated after the semicolon and what is stated before it. Here, the definition of the missing word is basically given after the semicolon: the lifestyle was defined by “moving around from coast to coast.” Thus, the missing word, which describes the “lifestyle,” must be something that means moving around. Because *transient* means staying in one place for only a short time, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *exotic* means of a kind not ordinarily encountered or seen. Though the Beat generation’s lifestyle might seem contrary to normal lifestyles, this does not work in context, as the prompt only indicates that the “lifestyle” of the Beats included moving “around from coast to coast.” It does not directly state that the Beats lived in an unusual lifestyle.

(C) is incorrect because *pedestrian* means dull or unexciting. Nothing in the prompt suggests that the Beat “lifestyle” was dull or commonplace.

(D) is incorrect because *nontraditional* means different from an established norm or custom. Though the Beat generation’s lifestyle might seem contrary to normal lifestyles, this does not work in context, as the prompt only indicates that the “lifestyle” of the Beats included moving “around from coast to coast.” It does not directly state that the Beats lived in an unusual lifestyle.

(E) is incorrect because *orthodox* means traditional and is, as such, a word that would neither describe the Beat Generation nor one who moves from coast to coast.