



● Sentence Completion 8 *(low-advanced SAT level)*

Directions: Choose the best word(s) to complete each sentence.

1. Late in his life, Elvis Presley's appetite was so _____ that he could not be _____: he would eat constantly but could not feel full.
A. voracious ... satiated
B. active ... pleased
C. surmountable ... gratified
D. rapacious ... hungry
E. replete ... surfeited
2. Among history's greatest _____ is Albert Abrams, a quack doctor who invented machines he claimed could cure any ailment, even though the machines usually didn't do anything at all.
A. charlatans
B. stereotypes
C. artisans
D. hecklers
E. suffragists
3. Getting a newborn baby to fall asleep has long been a great challenge for new parents, but the advice given has not been _____ by technological innovations; even to this day, many child-rearing experts espouse the use of traditional lullabies for their _____ qualities.
A. altered ... soporific
B. modified ... invigorating
C. chafed ... slumberous
D. modernized ... potent
E. transformed ... stimulating
4. The young critic was so _____ the new novel that she _____ it at length in her column.
A. adoring of ... criticized
B. apathetic toward ... raved about
C. exuberant about ... savaged
D. enthusiastic about ... rhapsodized about
E. bored by ... lauded
5. In order to create his creature, Dr. Frankenstein _____ several corpses, and once they were dug up, he harvested their body parts to build his own creation.
A. disclaimed
B. disbursed
C. disenfranchised
D. disinterred
E. disparaged
6. Film noir movies capture the _____ side of American life and showcase the sordid desires Americans keep repressed.
A. winsome
B. sententious
C. eventful
D. wholesome
E. seamy

Answers and Explanations

1) A

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. The key words here all relate to food or eating: “appetite” and the clause “he would eat constantly but not feel full.” Moreover, the second clause of the sentence describes the first clause, as the construction of the prompt hinges on a colon, and colons are used to separate explanatory information from the rest of the sentence. Thus, the second part of this sentence is used to elaborate on the first part and essentially gives the definitions of the two missing words. The first missing word must describe someone with a large appetite, as Presley ate constantly, and the second missing word must be one that implies getting full, as the word “not” modifies its meaning to make it clear Presley could not get full. Thus, choice **(A)** is the best choice, as *voracious* means ravenous or unable to be made full and *satiated* means satisfied fully.

(B) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Pleased* means brought pleasure to and could work for a word that means getting full, as Presley would “not be pleased” in terms of his appetite. However, *active* simply means being in a state of motion. An appetite does not move, so active does not make sense in context.

(C) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Gratified* means satisfied fully and could work in place of a word that must imply that Presley was able to get full and would thus be “not gratified” in terms of his appetite. However, *surmountable* means able to overcome and is, as such, the opposite meaning of the word that works in context for the first missing word.

(D) is incorrect because *rapacious* means excessively greedy, while *hungry* means in need of food. Neither word works in context then, as an appetite cannot be greedy and Presley’s appetite was so great that he would be constantly hungry, not “not hungry” as it would be in context.

(E) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Surfeited* means satiated or fully satisfied and could work for a word that means getting full, as Presley would “not be satiated” in terms of his appetite. However, *replete* means filled to the brim and does not work in context, as an appetite cannot be filled to the brim, though a stomach could be.

2) A

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words in the prompt. The key word in this sentence is “quack” which, like the missing word, is used as an adjective to describe Dr. Abrams. Moreover, the sentence makes it clear that Abrams made outrageous claims about his products, though he knew the products did not work. Thus, he would be described as a *charlatan*, meaning choice **(A)** is correct, as charlatan means one

who pretends to have knowledge about something he or she really does not understand.

(B) is incorrect because *stereotype* means a fixed representation that is prejudicial in nature. Though there is a stereotype involving a quack doctor, the passage makes clear that the portrayal of Abrams as a quack is rooted in reality, as he attempted to sell machines that did not work.

(C) is incorrect because *artisan* means a skilled worker. Since Abrams' machines did not work, he probably was not skilled. Moreover, the prompt calls Abrams a "quack," not an expert worker.

(D) is incorrect because *heckler* means a person who harasses others. The prompt makes it clear Abrams' inventions did not work, but it does not say he harassed anyone in order to sell them.

(E) is incorrect because *suffragist* means someone who fights for voting rights. Nothing in the prompt is even remotely connected to voting rights, so **(E)** is completely out of scope.

3) **A**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. Each word here has its own key words. The first missing word matches up with the word "traditional" in the last part of the sentence. Because many experts still support ("espouse" means support) traditional lullabies, the advice given must not have been changed by "technological innovations." The first missing word must involve change. The second missing word hinges on a cause-and-effect relationship: because the goal is to get babies to fall asleep, experts suggest using "lullabies" because they have qualities that the missing word describes. If the goal is to induce sleep, then the second missing word must mean sleep-inducing. Choice **(A)** is the best choice, since *altered* means changed and *soporific* means causing sleep.

(B) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Modified* means changed, but *invigorating* means energized, which is the opposite of what would be appropriate for the second missing word.

(C) is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Slumberous* means sleep inducing, but *chafed* means made sore, meaning it has absolutely no connection to the situation described in the prompt.

(D) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Modernized* means updated, but *potent* means powerful. While lullabies might be powerful, the prompt only fully implies that they are able to induce sleep and does not suggest anything about how powerful they are.

(E) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Transformed* means changed, but *stimulating* means excited, meaning it is the opposite of a word that would be appropriate for the second missing word.

4) **D**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. Here, it is impossible to predict the meanings of the words, though it is possible to predict the relationship between them by using the key words “so” and “that.” When a sentence uses so and that in the order used in this prompt, it implies a cause-and-effect relationship. Here, the critic had a reaction to the novel that caused her to do something about it in her column. Thus, the answer choices must have similar meanings: either the critic hated the book and wrote about how awful it was, or she liked the book and wrote about how good it was. Choice (D) is the only answer choice that offers up words that have similar meanings: *enthusiastic* means filled with passion and *rhapsodized* means spoke or wrote in an overly enthusiastic manner.

(A) is incorrect because *adoring* means loving and *criticized* means judged negatively. These words are opposite in meaning then, but the prompt requires words that are similar in meaning.

(B) is incorrect because *apathetic* means indifferent toward and *raved* means wrote an overwhelmingly favorable review. Apathy would not lead to a favorable review, so these words do not work in context.

(C) is incorrect because *exuberant* means excited and *savaged* means thoroughly criticized. If one were excited about something, he or she would not be likely to strongly criticize it.

(E) is incorrect because *bored* means uninterested and *lauded* means praised. Boredom would not lead to praising, so these words do not work together in context.

5) **D**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words in the prompt. The key words here are found in the phrase “dug up,” and the missing word must be synonymous with dug up, as the rest of the sentence discusses what happened once the corpses were dug up. Choice (D) is correct, as *disinterred* means unearthed.

(A) is incorrect because *disclaimed* means disowned. Nothing in the prompt suggests Frankenstein disowned any corpses.

(B) is incorrect because *disbursed* means paid out. Nothing in the prompt suggests Frankenstein paid any corpses.

(C) is incorrect because *disenfranchised* means deprived of civil rights. Nothing in the prompt suggests Frankenstein deprived any corpses of their civil rights, since corpses don't have civil rights.

(E) is incorrect because *disparaged* means belittled. Nothing in the prompt suggests Frankenstein belittled any corpses.

6) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words in the prompt. Here, the key word is "sordid," since the prompt makes clear that film noir films "showcase the sordid desires" and "capture" a certain side of American life. That side must also be "sordid," because the passage uses the conjunction "and," which implies similarities or groupings. The side of American life captured by film noir is akin to the sordid desires the films showcase. Sordid means dirty or filthy, and choice **(E)** is correct because *seamy* means sordid or dirty.

(A) is incorrect because *winsome* means gracious. The prompt does not imply that the Americans shown in film noir films are gracious in any way, as it only discusses them as having sordid desires.

(B) is incorrect because *sententious* means concise. Nothing in the prompt discusses the length of film noir films, so this answer choice does not work.

(C) is incorrect because *eventful* means an occasion to be remembered. The prompt does not suggest that film noir captures events to be remembered. Rather, it suggests that the films expose things that are "repressed."

(D) is incorrect because *wholesome* means morally sound. It, thus, has the opposite meaning of a correct answer choice for this prompt.