



● **Sentence Completion 12** (*low-intermediate level*)

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

1. Although skunks may be pretty, they are \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. very ugly  
B. really smart  
C. amazingly quick  
D. terribly smelly
2. Marvin \_\_\_\_\_ studies, so he gets \_\_\_\_\_ grades.  
A. never ... bad  
B. always ... poor  
C. rarely ... good  
D. occasionally ... excellent
3. The metal pole is not \_\_\_\_\_. It is very \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. heavy ... cold  
B. hollow ... skinny  
C. flexible ... rigid  
D. soft ... loose
4. While John is not \_\_\_\_\_, he is not necessarily \_\_\_\_\_, either.  
A. hungry ... tired  
B. tall ... short  
C. smart ... intelligent  
D. fat ... heavy
5. The building was designed using many straight lines. As a result, it is not very \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. funny  
B. curvy  
C. weird  
D. comfortable
6. Even though Dana is \_\_\_\_\_, she has a lot of \_\_\_\_\_. She believes she can win every race.  
A. nervous ... confidence  
B. brave ... courage  
C. small ... weight  
D. excited ... energy
7. Although the message is supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_, I don't mind if you tell it to your friends.  
A. special  
B. secret  
C. permanent  
D. educational
8. Rats are \_\_\_\_\_ but \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. small ... strong  
B. gross ... disgusting  
C. friendly ... kind  
D. quick ... fast
9. No one \_\_\_\_\_ the movie. On the other hand, everyone \_\_\_\_\_ the play.  
A. liked ... hated  
B. respected ... disliked  
C. saw ... avoided  
D. enjoyed ... loved
10. Motorcycles are too \_\_\_\_\_. I prefer to drive trucks because they are safe.  
A. difficult  
B. boring  
C. fast  
D. dangerous

## Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up a negative relationship between two characteristics of skunks. We know from the question that skunks have one positive characteristic: they are pretty. Therefore, the correct answer choice must be negative. *Terribly smelly* is a negative characteristic, and it is true that skunks smell terrible. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It is impossible for skunks to be pretty and *really ugly* at the same time.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Really smart* is not a negative characteristic, and we need a negative characteristic in order to fill the blank correctly.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Amazingly quick* is not a negative characteristic, and we need a negative characteristic in order to fill the blank correctly.

2) **A**

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship between how much Marvin studies and what kind of grades he earns. The more you study, the higher your grades should be. If Marvin *never* studies at all, then he will get *bad* grades. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If Marvin *always* studies, then he probably gets good grades, not *poor* ones.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If Marvin *rarely* studies, then he probably gets bad grades, not *good* ones.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If Marvin only *occasionally* studies, he probably get mediocre grades, not *excellent* ones.

3) **C**

The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between two characteristics of the metal pole. If something is not *flexible*, then it must be *rigid*. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Heavy* and *cold* are not opposites.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hollow* and *skinny* are not opposites.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Soft* and *loose* are not opposites.

4) **B**

The word “while” can mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up a negative relationship between two of John’s characteristics. If someone is not *tall*, then he or she is *short*. Note that this question is made trickier by the word “either,” which implies that something is negative. John is not tall, but he also is not short. This means that he is not short *either*, because both characteristics are expressed in the negative. That means that John does *not* have either of those characteristics. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hungry* and *tired* are unrelated characteristics.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Smart* and *intelligent* are close in meaning, so they are not opposites.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fat* and *heavy* are close in meaning, so they are not opposites.

5) **B**

The main clue in this question is “many straight lines.” Another clue is the word “not.” This means that the correct answer choice will involve a logical relationship between the straight lines and some characteristic that the building does *not* have. If the building was designed with straight lines, the building will not be *curvy*. “Straight” and “curvy” are opposites. Nothing can be both straight and curvy. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Funny* is not an opposite of “straight.”

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Weird* is not an opposite of “straight.”

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Comfortable* is not an opposite of “straight.”

6) **A**

The words “even though” mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Dana’s feelings. If Dana believes she can win every race, then she has a lot of *confidence*. People who have confidence trust in their

abilities. If Dana is *nervous* even though she is confident, then there is an opposite relationship between her feelings. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. It is possible both to be *brave* and to have a lot of *courage*. These two characteristics are very close in meaning, so they are not opposites.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Although *small* and having a lot of *weight* seem like an opposite relationship, these words do not make sense in context. Dana's weight will probably not affect her ability to win the race.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. It is possible both to be *excited* and to have a lot of *energy*. People who are excited are often very energetic, so these words are not opposites.

7) **B**

The main clue in this question is "I don't mind if you tell your friends." Remember that the word "although" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means there will be an opposite relationship between telling your friends and not telling anyone. If something is a *secret*, then you are not supposed to repeat it to anyone. If you know secret information but I let you tell it to your friends, this is the opposite of what is expected. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If a message is *special*, then there will be no problem sharing it with other people.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If a message is *permanent*, then there will be no problem sharing it with other people.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If a message is *educational*, then there will be no problem sharing it with other people.

8) **A**

Remember that the word "although" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that there will be an opposite relationship between two characteristics of rats. If something is *small*, you do not expect it to be *strong*, because most small things are not strong. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If something is *gross*, you would expect it to be *disgusting*, because these two words mean the same thing.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If something is *friendly*, you would expect it to be *kind*, because these two words mean the same thing.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If something is *quick*, you would expect it to be *fast*, because these two words mean the same thing.

9) D

The phrase “on the other hand” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will involve a difference between how people felt about the movie and the play. We actually need to find two words with similar meanings in order to set up the correct opposite relationship. This is because the first sentence of the question begins with “no one,” but the second sentence begins with “everyone.” These two words are opposites, so the correct answer choice must involve synonyms or near-synonyms. If no one *enjoyed* the movie but everyone *loved* the play, then there is an opposite relationship between how people felt about the movie and the play. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If no one *liked* the movie and everyone *hated* the play, then everyone had negative feelings about both the movie and the play.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If no one *respected* the movie and everyone *disliked* the play, then everyone had negative feelings about both the movie and the play.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If no one *saw* the movie and everyone *avoided* the play, then no one saw either the movie or the play.

10) D

The main clue in this question is “because they are safe.” Remember that the word “too” means that something is excessive or goes beyond what is necessary. This means that something about motorcycles is excessive, and as a result the speaker does not prefer them. If the speaker thinks motorcycles are too *dangerous*, then they are the opposite of trucks. “Safe” and “dangerous” are opposites. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Difficult* is not an opposite of “safe.”

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Boring* is not an opposite of “safe.”

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fast* is not an opposite of “safe.”