



● **Sentence Completion 13** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. The park used to be _____, but now it is _____.
A. dirty ... clean
B. old ... new
C. fun ... exciting
D. expensive ... costly
2. Although Devon is _____, he does not have much money.
A. poor
B. homeless
C. generous
D. wealthy
3. The game is not _____. Actually, it is rather _____.
A. fast ... ordinary
B. new ... complicated
C. fun ... fantastic
D. exciting ... boring
4. Unlike the _____ water in Switzerland, the water in South Carolina is _____.
A. pure ... clean
B. clear ... cloudy
C. cold ... shallow
D. deep ... rough
5. Since it was _____ outside, we _____ our picnic at the park.
A. snowing ... enjoyed
B. raining... cancelled
C. warm ... delayed
D. sunny ... disliked
6. These shoes are not _____. I think they are too small for me.
A. comfortable
B. beautiful
C. expensive
D. available
7. In order to _____ the project, we are working overtime.
A. complete
B. begin
C. delay
D. stop
8. For some _____ reason, Tommy wants to lose the race rather than win.
A. obvious
B. straightforward
C. clear
D. strange
9. Birds and airplanes are _____. They both use wings to fly.
A. light
B. interesting
C. smart
D. similar
10. Taking harmful drugs is neither _____ nor _____.
A. fun ... unsafe
B. dangerous ... risky
C. smart ... safe
D. good ... bad

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means there will be an opposite relationship between how the park used to be and how it is now. Something can become *clean* again after it has been *dirty*. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Although *old* and *new* are opposites, nothing can become new again after it is already old; that would be impossible.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fun* and *exciting* have similar meanings, so they are not opposites.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Expensive* and *costly* mean the same thing, so they are not opposites.

2) **C**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means there will be an opposite relationship between two of Devon’s characteristics. If you do not have much money, people do not expect you to be *generous* and give freely to others. This is the opposite of what people expect. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Poor* is not the opposite of not having a lot of money.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. People who are *homeless* usually do not have a lot of money.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It is impossible to be *wealthy* and have no money at the same time.

3) **D**

The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between two characteristics of a game. The game in the question will have one characteristic and lack the other characteristic. If a game is not *exciting*, then it is *boring*. Choice **(D)** is correct.

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

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *New* and *complicated* are unrelated characteristics.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fun* and *fantastic* are both positive words, so they are not opposites.

4) **B**

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means there will be an opposite relationship between the water in Switzerland and the water in South Carolina. *Clear* and *cloudy* are opposites. If water is clear, then it is not cloudy. If water is cloudy, then it is not clear. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Pure* and *clean* are very close in meaning, so they are not opposites.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Cold* and *shallow* are unrelated characteristics.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Deep* and *rough* are unrelated characteristics.

5) **B**

The word “since” means that two things progress in a logical way. This means that there is a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between the weather and our picnic at the park. If it is *raining* outside, you should not have a picnic. You and your food will get wet, and that is no fun. If it is raining outside, you should *cancel* your picnic. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You would not *enjoy* a picnic that took place when it was *snowing* outside. You and your food would freeze and get wet from the snow.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You would not *delay* a picnic because of *warm* weather. Warm weather is ideal for having picnics.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You would not *dislike* a picnic that took place when it was *sunny* outside. Sunny weather is perfect weather for a picnic.

6) **A**

The main clue in this question is “I think they are too small for me.” Remember that the word “too” means that something is excessive or goes beyond what is necessary. The correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between the small size of the shoes and another characteristic of the shoes. There is a logical relationship between the size of the shoes and whether or not they are *comfortable*. Shoes that are too small are not comfortable. Shoes must be the correct size in order to be comfortable. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Beautiful* shoes are not necessarily small.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Expensive* shoes are not necessarily small.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Available* shoes are not necessarily small.

7) **A**

The main clue in this question is “we are working overtime.” This means that we are working more than the usual amount of time. Usually, people work overtime if they are very, very busy at their jobs. If there is an important project that needs to be finished by a certain date, people might work overtime to *complete* the project. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not make sense to work overtime to *begin* a project. It is only during the middle or at the end of a project that workers might feel the need to work overtime.

(C) is incorrect because it does not make sense to work overtime in order to *delay* a project. When a project is delayed, the workers do not work, so they definitely cannot work overtime.

(D) is incorrect because it does not make sense to work overtime in order to *stop* a project. When a project is stopped, the workers do not work, so they definitely cannot work overtime.

8) **D**

The main clue in this question is “Tommy wants to lose the race rather than win.” This is the opposite of what most people expect. Most people want to win, not lose. If Tommy wants to lose, most people would find this *strange*. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *obvious* why Tommy wants to lose, because his behavior is not what people would expect; usually people want to win.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *straightforward* why Tommy wants to lose, because his behavior is not what people would expect; usually people want to win.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *clear* why Tommy wants to lose, because his behavior is not what people would expect; usually people want to win.

9) **D**

The main clue in this question is “they both use wings to fly.” This means that birds and airplanes have something in common. When two things have common characteristics, they are *similar*. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Birds and airplanes may be *light*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the clue that they both use wings to fly, which tells us nothing about their weight.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Birds and airplanes may be *interesting*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the clue that they both use wings to fly, which tells us nothing about how interesting they are.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Birds and airplanes may be *smart*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the clue that they both use wings to fly, which tells us nothing about their intelligence.

10) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “harmful drugs.” This refers to drugs that can damage a person’s health. Taking harmful drugs is neither *smart* nor *safe*, because you will damage your health. The words “neither” and “nor” are both negative words. If taking harmful drugs is *neither safe nor smart*, this means that it is not safe and it is not smart. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If something is not *unsafe*, then it is *safe*. However, we know that the drugs are “harmful,” so they cannot be safe for you to take.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If something is not *dangerous*, then it is *safe*. However, we know that the drugs are “harmful,” so they cannot be safe for you to take.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If something is not *bad*, then it is *good*. However, we know that the drugs are “harmful,” so they cannot be good for you to take.