



● Sentence Completion 15 *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Today the weather is rainy. However, yesterday it was _____.
A. stormy
B. sunny
C. cloudy
D. cold
2. Construction of the new gymnasium was temporarily _____ due to _____ weather conditions.
A. suspended ... poor
B. ruined ... perfect
C. completed ... unfortunate
D. forgotten ... agreeable
3. Karen wore _____ to the beach, but she still got a sunburn.
A. a bikini
B. sunscreen
C. sunglasses
D. a dress
4. Since you were _____ from school yesterday, you _____ our math lesson.
A. suspended ... learned
B. absent ... missed
C. home ... taught
D. present ... disliked
5. The invention of the telephone has made communication much _____ than it was before.
A. worse
B. more expensive
C. easier
D. more boring
6. Martha is the _____ person in the class, unlike Daisy, who is _____.
A. tallest ... short
B. biggest ... smart
C. prettiest ... funny
D. newest ... serious
7. Books are _____ newspapers; they both contain words and information.
A. different from
B. similar to
C. worse than
D. better than
8. Cookies are _____ because _____ is their main ingredient.
A. bitter ... coffee
B. healthy ... wheat
C. sweet ... sugar
D. sour ... lemon
9. I have been working for three hours and _____ have not completed the job.
A. already
B. still
C. therefore
D. finally
10. Although Jamie did not eat breakfast, he was _____ hungry by lunchtime.
A. extremely
B. not
C. very
D. too

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word “however” means 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 today’s weather and yesterday’s weather. We know that today is rainy. If today is rainy and yesterday was *sunny*, then there is a clear opposite relationship between the two. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If today is rainy and yesterday was *stormy*, then the weather conditions today and yesterday are very similar and cannot be opposites.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If today is rainy and yesterday was *cloudy*, then the weather conditions today and yesterday are both unpleasant and cannot be opposites.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Cold* is not an opposite of *rainy*, because rain often makes the temperature outside cooler.

2) **A**

The correct answer choice will involve a logical relationship between the construction of the gymnasium and the weather conditions. We can assume that good weather means that the construction will proceed normally, and bad weather means that the construction must be paused. Construction would not pause in good weather, because there is no logical relationship between good weather and a pause in construction. *Poor* weather is bad weather. During bad weather, construction must be paused, or “temporarily *suspended*.” Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the construction and the weather. The gymnasium would not be *ruined* by *perfect* weather conditions; it would actually be helpful to the construction to have perfect weather.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the construction and the weather. The gymnasium could not be *completed* during *unfortunate* weather conditions. Unfortunate is another word for bad. Bad weather would mean that the workers would have to stop building the gym.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the construction and the weather. The construction would not be *forgotten* no matter what the weather is like.

3) **B**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means there will be an opposite relationship between what Karen wore and the fact that Karen got a sunburn. If Karen wore *sunscreen* but still got a sunburn, this is the opposite of what is expected. Sunscreen is supposed to prevent sunburns. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Karen could still get a sunburn even if she wore *a bikini*. In fact, she would be more likely to get a sunburn if she wore a bikini, since bikinis are not meant to protect your skin from the sun.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Karen could still get a sunburn even if she wore *sunglasses*, because sunglasses are meant to protect your eyes, not your skin, from the sun.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Karen could still get a sunburn even if she wore *a dress*, because dresses are not meant to protect your skin from the sun.

4) **B**

The word “since” means that two things progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship between school and a lesson. When you attend school, you learn lessons. If you do not attend school, you miss lessons, and you do not learn anything. Another way to say that you did not attend school is that you were *absent* from school. If you were absent, then you *missed* your lessons. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You would not *learn* a lesson if you were *suspended* from school. Being suspended means that you were forced to leave because of your bad behavior. You would not be at school, so you could not learn the lesson.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You would not *teach* the lesson while you were *home* from school. To teach a lesson, you must be present at school.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If you *disliked* a lesson, that is unrelated to the fact that you were *present* at school.

5) **C**

The correct answer choice will involve a logical relationship between communication before and after the invention of the telephone. The telephone has made communication much *easier* than before. We can call someone on the phone and talk to him or her whenever we want to do so. We do not have to depend on older, slower forms of communication. For example, we do not have

to wait for a letter to travel through the postal service from mailbox to mailbox. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. The telephone has not made communication *worse* than it was before.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. The telephone has not made communication *more expensive* than it was before.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. The telephone has not made communication *more boring* than it was before.

6) **A**

The word “unlike” means 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 Martha and Daisy. If Martha is the *tallest* student in the class, then Daisy is the opposite of tall. The opposite of tall is *short*. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. There is no opposite relationship between being the *biggest* student and being *smart*.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. There is no opposite relationship between being *pretty* and being *funny*.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. There is no opposite relationship between being *new* and being *serious*.

7) **B**

The main clue in this question is “they both contain words and information.” This means that books and newspapers have something in common. Whenever two things have something in common, they are *similar to* one another. Since books and newspapers have something in common, they are similar to one another. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. To say that books and newspapers are *different from* one another is the opposite of what is implied in the question.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You might think that books are *worse than* newspapers, but that has nothing to do with the fact that they both contain words and information.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. You might think that books are *better than* newspapers, but that has nothing to do with the fact that they both contain words and information.

8) **C**

The correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between the way cookies taste and the ingredients that result in that flavor. Each answer choice involves a logical relationship between a characteristic and an ingredient. Most cookies are made with *sugar*, so they taste *sweet*. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Although *coffee* is *bitter*, most cookies are not made from coffee.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Although most cookies are made with flour, which comes from *wheat*, cookies are not at all a *healthy* food.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Although *lemon* tastes *sour*, most cookies are not made from lemons.

9) **B**

The main clue in this question is “I have been working for three hours.” Another clue is “have not completed the job.” This means that even though I have been working for a long time, I *still* have more work to do. The word “still” can express a sense of incompleteness. “Still” means that there is more to come. If I *still* have not finished the job, then I am expressing that the job is incomplete and there is more work to come. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If I have *already* completed the job, then my work is finished, so the job is not incomplete.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. The word *therefore* means that something is true as the result of something else. The fact that I have not yet finished the job is not a result of the fact that I worked for a long time.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If I *finally* completed the job, then I do not have to work anymore, because I have finished. But we know from the question that the job is incomplete, so this answer does not make sense.

10) **B**

The word “although” means 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 the fact that Jamie did not eat breakfast and how he felt by lunchtime. If you skip a meal, it is expected that you will be very hungry by the time of your next meal. If Jamie skipped breakfast but he was *not* hungry by lunchtime, 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 Jamie skipped breakfast, we expect him to be *extremely* hungry by lunchtime. However, the question requires a word that indicates the opposite of what we expect.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If Jamie skipped breakfast, we expect him to be *very* hungry by lunchtime. However, the question requires a word that indicates the opposite of what we expect.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If Jamie skipped breakfast, he could not be *too* hungry for lunch – it is impossible to feel so hungry that you cannot eat.