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.