



● **Sentence Completion 2** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Mr. Marley is usually very _____, but last Christmas he gave one thousand dollars to charity. How _____!
A. ugly ... beautiful
B. selfish ... generous
C. greedy ... terrible
D. sarcastic ... funny
2. Joanna makes delicious _____. She is a great _____.
A. cupcakes ... baker
B. songs ... singer
C. bread ... artist
D. paintings ... teacher
3. Because this suit was on sale, I got it for a _____ price.
A. higher
B. similar
C. lower
D. worse
4. Anita doesn't _____ the lesson, so she _____ a question.
A. like ... ignores
B. understand ... asks
C. fail ... has
D. learn ... answers
5. Caleb hates _____. He does not eat lettuce or carrots.
A. sports
B. cats
C. cooking
D. vegetables
6. Gary is _____. He always says "please" and "thank you."
A. polite
B. ugly
C. artistic
D. strong
7. David is _____. He is about to give a speech in front of a large audience and he is afraid of public speaking.
A. patient
B. nervous
C. angry
D. frustrated
8. I am afraid of flying. For this reason, I do not like to ride in _____.
A. submarines
B. trains
C. limousines
D. airplanes
9. My family went to the _____ yesterday. We saw two _____ and a giraffe.
A. airport ... helicopters
B. beach ... shells
C. zoo ... elephants
D. supermarket ... tomatoes
10. English is _____, but math is _____!
A. hard ... easy
B. great ... good
C. fun ... weird
D. new ... interesting

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word “but” means that two statements are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with the fact that Mr. Marley gave one million dollars to charity. When someone gives a lot of money to charity, that is a *generous* thing to do. There is an opposite relationship between the fact that Mr. Marley is usually *selfish* and the fact that he did a generous thing. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because although *ugly* and *beautiful* are opposites, but they do not describe the situation. If Mr. Marley is ugly, giving money to charity will not make him beautiful.

(C) is incorrect because giving money to charity is not *terrible*. It is a wonderful, nice thing to do, because it helps people in need. Even if Mr. Marley were *greedy*, giving to charity is still a good thing.

(D) is incorrect because giving money to charity is not *funny*. It is a nice thing to do, but it is usually not amusing. Furthermore, there is no opposite relationship between *sarcastic* and funny. It is possible to be both at the same time.

2) **A**

The main clue in this question is the word “delicious.” We know that Joanna must make something that can be eaten. This means that *cupcakes* or *bread* must be the correct answer. We must look at the second part of each of these choices. A *baker* makes cupcakes and other baked goods. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because although a *singer* does sing *songs*, songs are not usually described as “delicious.” This word usually describes food, so we know that the correct answer choice must talk about food.

(C) is incorrect because *artists* do not usually make *bread*. They make art. Even though this answer choice mentions a type of food, it is still incorrect because it sets up an incorrect relationship between artists and bread.

(D) is incorrect because *teachers* do not always make *paintings* unless they are art teachers. Furthermore, paintings are not “delicious.” This word usually describes food, so we know that the correct answer choice must talk about food.

3) **C**

The word “because” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. When something is on sale, the price is *lower* than it used to be. If a suit is on sale, you can buy it for a lower price. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because items on sale do not sell for *higher* prices than items that are not on sale. An item that is on sale should always sell for a lower price than the same item when it is not on sale.

(B) is incorrect because a sale that results in an item having a *similar* price is not a good sale. A good sale will have a large discount, which will result in a lower price, not a similar price.

(D) is incorrect because items on sale do not sell for *worse* prices than items that are not on sale. If we understand that a good price is a low price, an item that is on sale should always sell for a better price than the same item when it is not on sale.

4) **B**

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. If a student does not *understand* a lesson, she *asks* the teacher a question. This helps her understand. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because even if Anita doesn’t *like* the lesson, she has no reason to *ignore* a question. These two things are unrelated. You should not ignore anything that happens in class, even if you don’t like the lesson. You should always pay attention so you can learn.

(C) is incorrect because if Anita does not *fail* the lesson, she does not necessarily have to *have* a question. She could have questions whether she is failing or passing. No matter what her grade is, asking questions will help her understand the lesson better.

(D) is incorrect because Anita can *learn* the lesson without having to *answer* a question. It is possible that she understands the lesson material without having to talk about it with others.

5) **D**

The main clue in this question is “lettuce or carrots.” We know that Caleb does not eat carrots or lettuce, so they must be some of the things he hates. Lettuce and carrots are both *vegetables*. If Caleb hates vegetables, he does not eat lettuce or carrots. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because although Caleb might hate *sports*, we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Caleb hates carrots and lettuce. Carrots and lettuce are vegetables, not sports.

(B) is incorrect because although Caleb might hate *cats*, we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Caleb hates carrots and lettuce. Carrots and lettuce are vegetables, not cats.

(C) is incorrect because although Caleb might hate *cooking*, we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Caleb hates carrots and lettuce. Carrots, lettuce, and cooking are all food-related words, but they do not fall into the same category. Cooking is an activity. Carrots and lettuce are vegetables.

6) **A**

When someone says “please” and “thank you” he or she is *polite*. Being polite means you have good manners. Since Gary always says “please” and “thank you,” he is polite. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because Gary might be *ugly*, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know from the question that Gary is polite, because we know that he says “please” and “thank you.” This has nothing to do with how he looks.

(C) is incorrect because Gary might be *artistic*, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know from the question that Gary is polite, because we know that he says “please” and “thank you.” This has nothing to do with making art.

(D) because Gary might be *strong*, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know from the question that Gary is polite, because we know that he says “please” and “thank you.” This has nothing to do with how strong or fit he is.

7) **B**

Many people are afraid of speaking in front of an audience because they are afraid they will make mistakes. If David is about to give a speech in front of an audience, he may feel afraid or *nervous*. Choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because David would not feel *patient*. This is not a common emotion that people feel before speaking in public. We know David is “afraid of public speaking,” so he probably feels nervous.

(C) is incorrect because David would not feel *angry*. This is not a common emotion that people feel before speaking in public. We know David is “afraid of public speaking,” so he probably feels nervous.

(D) is incorrect because David would not feel *frustrated*. This is not a common emotion that people feel before speaking in public. We know David is “afraid of public speaking,” so he probably feels nervous

8) **D**

The word “since” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. If I am afraid of flying, then I do not like to travel in vehicles that fly. *Airplanes* are the only answer choice that fly. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *submarines* do not fly. They travel underwater.

(B) is incorrect because *trains* do not fly. They travel on land.

(C) is incorrect because *limousines* do not fly. They are a type of car that travels on land.

9) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “and a giraffe.” This means that my family and I went to a place where giraffes are common. Giraffes are common at the zoo. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because giraffes are not common at the *airport*. Animals do not usually live there.

(B) is incorrect because giraffes are not common at the *beach*. Sea creatures such as crabs might live there, but not giraffes.

(D) is incorrect because giraffes are not common at the *supermarket*. Animals do not usually live there.

10) A

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between my feelings about English and my feelings about math. Only *hard* and *easy* are opposites. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because if I think that English is *great* and math is *good*, there is no opposite comparison. *Good* and *great* are not opposites.

(C) is incorrect because *fun* and *weird* are not opposites. If I think English is fun and math is weird, there is no opposite comparison.

(D) is incorrect because *new* and *interesting* are not opposites. If I think English is new and math is weird, there is no opposite comparison. Furthermore, it does not even make sense to think that English is “new.” The English language is hundreds of years old.