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 becausealthough 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. 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.