



● **Sentence Completion 3** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Estelle wants to buy a new car, so she is _____ her money.
A. spending
B. saving
C. losing
D. stealing
2. Nelson is a _____. He is mean to people and makes them feel _____.
A. chef ... hungry
B. clown ... happy
C. doctor ... good
D. bully ... bad
3. Mr. Morrissey is the _____ of a company. He tells all of the other workers what to do.
A. student
B. passenger
C. banker
D. boss
4. Although Gail _____ in California, she now lives in Texas.
A. was born
B. died
C. is working
D. travels
5. Tabitha asked for _____ ketchup for her French fries. She really likes ketchup.
A. no
B. less
C. extra
D. red
6. Last Tuesday, Wesley brought delicious _____ to school. He shared them with everyone.
A. puppies
B. pencils
C. cookies
D. ideas
7. I put the cake on the _____ shelf so that the children cannot reach it.
A. lowest
B. middle
C. highest
D. smallest
8. Because Ben _____ a rule today, he was punished.
A. broke
B. made
C. invented
D. learned
9. Gloria does not know how to _____ her shoes yet, but she is _____.
A. wear ... barefoot
B. buy ... trying
C. tie ... learning
D. find ... hiding
10. After Ronda _____ the dish, she promised to buy me a new one.
A. washed
B. ate
C. broke
D. purchased

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. When you want to buy something expensive, you must *save up* your money until you have enough to buy the expensive thing. Cars are very expensive. If Estelle wants to buy a car, then she has to save her money. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *spending* money will not help Estelle buy a car. She needs to save money to buy a car.

(C) is incorrect because *losing* money will not help Estelle buy a car. She needs to save money to buy a car.

(D) is incorrect because *stealing* money would be very bad. Estelle should not steal money to buy a car. It is wrong, and if Estelle gets caught, she will go to jail.

2) **D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “He is mean to people.” We know that Nelson is a mean person. A *bully* is mean. A bully is someone who is mean to people and makes them feel *bad*. If this is what Nelson does, then he is a bully. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *chef* should not be mean. Sometimes a chef might be mean, but he or she is not mean by definition. A bully is mean by definition.

(B) is incorrect because a *clown* should not be mean. Sometimes a clown might be mean, but he or she is not mean by definition. A bully is mean by definition.

(C) is incorrect because a *doctor* should not be mean. Sometimes a doctor might be mean, but he or she is not mean by definition. A bully is mean by definition.

3) **D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “tells the other workers what to do.” This means that Mr. Morrissey is in charge of the other workers, and that he is their leader. The leader of a company and its workers is the *boss*. If Mr. Morrissey is the boss, then he can tell the other workers what to do. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *students* do not tell the workers of a company what to do. Only the boss gets to tell the other workers what to do. Students go to school to learn.

(B) is incorrect because *passengers* do not tell the workers of a company what to do. Only the boss gets to tell the other workers what to do. Passengers just wait on a train, ship, plane, etc. in order to get to a destination.

(C) is incorrect because *bankers* do not tell the workers of a company what to do. Only the boss gets to tell the other workers what to do. Bankers just work with money.

4) **A**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with “she now lives in Texas.” If Gail *was born* in California, this means there is an opposite relationship between where she was born and where she lives now. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because Gail cannot have *died* in California. We know from the question that she is still alive. She is living in Texas.

(C) is incorrect because Gail cannot *work* in California if she lives in Texas. These states are too far apart. Gail cannot travel the distance from Texas to California to get to work every day.

(D) is incorrect because Gail can *travel* in California, but then there is no opposite relationship with the fact that she lives in Texas. It is possible to travel to a place but still live somewhere else.

5) **C**

The main clue in this question is “She really likes ketchup.” When you really like a food, you want to eat a lot of it. If Tabitha really likes ketchup, then she wants to eat a lot of it. If she asked for *extra* ketchup, that means she asked for more ketchup than the usual amount. If she really likes ketchup, then she wants more than the usual amount. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because Tabitha would not ask for *no* ketchup. She really likes ketchup, so she would want to have a lot of it.

(B) is incorrect because Tabitha would not ask for *less* ketchup. She really likes ketchup, so she would want to have a lot of it.

(D) is incorrect because although most ketchup is *red*, this is not the most logical answer choice. Most people understand that ketchup is red. You do not have to specify “red ketchup” when you could just say “ketchup.”

6) **C**

The main clue in this question is “delicious.” Delicious is a word that describes food. This means that the answer choice must involve food. *Cookies* can be delicious. Cookies are the only food-related answer choice. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *puppies* are not a type of food. You can only use “delicious” to describe food.

(B) is incorrect because *pencils* are not a type of food. You can only use “delicious” to describe food.

(D) is incorrect because *ideas* are not a type of food. You can only use “delicious” to describe food.

7) C

The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. When you do not want children to be able to reach something, you must put it in a high place. If I baked a cake that I do not want the children to eat yet, I put it on the *highest* shelf, so that they cannot reach it. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if put the cake on the *lowest* shelf, the children might be able to reach it. I do not want the children to reach the cake, so I would not put the cake where they could reach it.

(B) is incorrect because if put the cake on the *middle* shelf, the children might still be able to reach it. I do not want the children to reach the cake, so I would not put the cake where they could reach it.

(D) is incorrect because I might put the cake on the *smallest* shelf, but only if that shelf is also the highest shelf. The size of the shelf does not matter as much as the height of the shelf.

8) A

The word “because” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. When someone is punished, he or she is learning not to behave badly. If Ben was punished, he must have behaved badly. If he *broke* a rule, then he was behaving badly. When you break a rule, you have shown bad behavior. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because you would not be punished if you came up with or *made* a rule. This does not involve bad behavior, and you are only punished for bad behavior.

(C) is incorrect because you would not be punished if you came up with or *invented* a rule. This does not involve bad behavior, and you are only punished for bad behavior.

(D) is incorrect because you would not be punished if you *learned* a rule. This does not involve bad behavior, and you are only punished for bad behavior. In fact, learning the rules will help you avoid bad behavior, because you will know what is considered good behavior.

9) **C**

The answer choice will set up a logical relationship with “does not know.” If you do not know something, you can learn how to do it. If Gloria does not know how to *tie* her shoes yet, she can learn how to do so. If she keeps *learning*, she will eventually know how to tie her shoes. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because you do not have to learn how to *wear* shoes. You just put them on your feet and walk around.

(B) is incorrect because you do not have to learn how to *buy* shoes, or anything else, for that matter. You simply exchange your money for whatever it is that you want to buy.

(D) is incorrect because there is no reason why Gloria would *hide* if she could not *find* her shoes. People usually only hide when they do not wish to be seen. There is no logical relationship between hiding and not being able to find your shoes.

10) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “she promised to buy me a new one.” This means that the original dish can no longer be used. If she *broke* the dish, then it can no longer be used, and I will need to buy a new one. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because there would be no reason to buy me a new dish if Ronda simply *washed* the dish. The dish can still be used, so I do not need a new one.

(B) is incorrect because Ronda would not *eat* the dish. “Dish” in this sentence refers to a plate, not to the meal that goes on the plate. People do not eat plates. People eat the food that goes on plates.

(D) is incorrect because there would be no reason to buy me a new dish if Ronda just *purchased* a new dish. We already have a new dish. We do not need another new dish.