



● **Sentence Completion 5** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Ruben is a _____. He works for the _____ and votes on new laws.
A. janitor ... cafeteria
B. father ... children
C. musician ... orchestra
D. senator ... government
2. I did _____ on the test because I _____ very hard.
A. poorly ... worked
B. quickly ... ran
C. well ... studied
D. badly ... prepared
3. Johann just got married. His _____ is very pretty.
A. smile
B. wife
C. house
D. mother
4. Pour the _____ very carefully. You do not want to _____ it.
A. wine ... spill
B. juice ... drink
C. milk ... cook
D. coffee ... burn
5. While Stephanie was on vacation, a _____ stole her wallet. How _____!
A. woman ... funny
B. monkey ... wonderful
C. baby ... cute
D. thief ... terrible
6. Celia is a little baby. She can't walk or _____ yet.
A. sleep
B. smile
C. breathe
D. talk
7. Mia does not like to wear _____, so she wears _____ instead.
A. makeup ... paint
B. shoes ... mittens
C. skirts ... pants
D. sweaters ... jeans
8. Reggie is a very _____ boy. He is always making people laugh.
A. quiet
B. serious
C. lonely
D. funny
9. I don't want to play with Jim. He never follows the rules. He _____.
A. fails
B. complains
C. cheats
D. runs
10. I saw a painting by my favorite _____ at the _____.
A. teacher ... library
B. food ... cafeteria
C. artist ... museum
D. color ... store

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “votes on new laws.” Ruben’s job involves voting on new laws. *Senators* work for the *government*, and they vote on new laws. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *janitors* do not vote on new laws. Janitors clean buildings. Janitors can also be senators, but most janitors are not senators.

(B) is incorrect because *fathers* do not vote on new laws. Fathers take care of their children. Fathers can also be senators, but most fathers are not senators.

(C) is incorrect because *musicians* do not vote on new laws. Musicians make music. Musicians can also be senators, but most musicians are not senators.

2) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “on the test.” This means that the correct answer choice involves taking a test. Also remember that the word “because” means that two events progress in a logical way. This means that there will be a logical relationship between the first and second parts of the question. If you *study* very hard, then you will probably do very *well* on a test. This is because you will be prepared for the questions you will see. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if you *work* hard, you will not do *poorly*. Hard work and preparation will help you do well on a test.

(B) is incorrect because you will not *run* on a test to finish it *quickly*. This does not make logical sense. Running is a quick way of moving around, but running will not help you complete a test.

(D) is incorrect because if you *prepare* for a test, you will not do *badly*. Hard work and preparation will help you do well on tests.

3) **B**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “Johann just got married.” This means that the correct answer choice will involve Johann’s marriage. The correct answer is *wife*, because the previous sentence talks about Johann’s marriage. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because Johann might have a pretty *smile*, but we do not know this from the question. We only know he just got married. We don’t know anything about his appearance.

(C) is incorrect because Johann might have a pretty *house*, but we do not know this from the question. We only know he just got married. We don't know anything about his home.

(D) is incorrect because Johann might have a pretty *mother*, but we do not know this from the question. We only know he just got married. We don't know anything about his mother.

4) **A**

The main clue in this question is "very carefully." When you are pouring a drink, you pour it carefully to avoid spilling it. If you do not want to *spill* your drink, you must pour carefully. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because if you pour *juice* in a cup, you probably want to *drink* it. It would not make sense to pour the juice (either carefully or carelessly) if you do not want to drink it in the first place.

(C) is incorrect because you can pour *milk* without worrying about whether or not you are going to *cook* it. You have to heat milk in order to cook it. Simply pouring the milk does not mean it will be cooked.

(D) is incorrect because you can pour *coffee* without worrying about whether or not you will *burn* it. You would have to overheat the coffee beans while roasting them in order to technically burn coffee. Most liquids cannot really burn. In any case, simply pouring coffee will not result in the coffee burning.

5) **D**

The main clue in this question is "stole her wallet." If someone steals your wallet, this is very, very bad. You will lose your money as well as any credit cards or driver's licenses you have. If someone stole Stephanie's wallet, that is *terrible*. Answer choice also includes the word "thief," which means a person who steals. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *funny* is a positive adjective, but having your wallet stolen is a negative experience. You would not use a positive word to describe a negative event.

(B) is incorrect because *wonderful* is a positive adjective, but having your wallet stolen is a negative experience. You would not use a positive word to describe a negative event.

(C) is incorrect because *cute* is a positive adjective, but having your wallet stolen is a negative experience. You would not use a positive word to describe a negative event.

6) **D**

The main clue in this question is “little baby.” Babies cannot do many of the things that adults can do. For example, they cannot walk or *talk*. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because babies can *sleep*. Human beings are born instinctively knowing how to sleep. They do not have to be taught.

(B) is incorrect because babies can *smile*. Human beings are born instinctively knowing how to smile. They do not have to be taught.

(C) is incorrect because babies can *breathe*. Human beings are born instinctively knowing how to breathe. They do not have to be taught.

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. If Mia does not like to wear something, she will wear something else that serves the same function. *Skirts* and *pants* are the only answer choice pair that serves the same function. Skirts and pants both cover up a person from the waist to the legs. If Mia does not like wearing one of them, she can wear the other one. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *makeup* and *paint* do not serve the same function, so Mia cannot substitute one for the other. Furthermore, people do not wear paint. Most paint is harmful to human skin.

(B) is incorrect because *shoes* and *mittens* do not serve the same function. They do not cover the same parts of the body. Shoes cover the feet and mittens cover the hands. Mia cannot substitute one for the other.

(D) is incorrect because *sweaters* and *jeans* do not serve the same function. They do not cover the same parts of the body. Sweaters cover the top part of a person’s body and jeans cover the lower part. Mia cannot substitute one for the other.

8) **D**

The main clue in this question is “He is always making people laugh.” This means that Reggie *funny*. When someone or something is funny, other people will laugh. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if Reggie were *quiet*, people would not laugh. It is hard to make people laugh if you are too quiet to make jokes. Being quiet is not related to laughter.

(B) is incorrect because if Reggie were *serious*, people would not laugh. Serious people usually do not make jokes. Being serious is not related to laughter.

(D) is incorrect because being *lonely* will not make others laugh. Being lonely is usually a very sad experience. It is not funny at all.

9) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “He never follows the rules.” The answer choice will involve the fact that Jim breaks the rules. When someone *cheats*, he or she breaks the rules to try to win. Cheating is unfair, and if you get caught, you will be punished. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it is possible that Jim could *fail*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Jim does not follow the rules, so we know that he cheats.

(B) is incorrect because it is possible that Jim could *complain*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Jim does not follow the rules, so we know that he cheats.

(D) is incorrect because it is possible that Jim could *run*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know from the question that Jim does not follow the rules, so we know that he cheats.

10) C

The main clue in this question is the word “painting.” This means that you saw a work of art. Art is created by artists. If you saw a painting, it was made by an *artist*. You probably saw it at a *museum*, because that’s where many famous paintings are shown. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because your *teacher* might make paintings, but even if he or she does so, the paintings probably would not hang in a *library*. Libraries are usually for books, not paintings.

(B) is incorrect because *food* cannot make paintings. Even if it could, paintings are not often displayed in *cafeterias*.

(D) is incorrect because *colors* cannot make paintings. Colors are only characteristics of paintings. You might find a painting in a *store*, but this answer choice still does not make sense. A person uses color to make a painting, but the color does not make the painting itself.