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

1. Tristan thinks biology is boring, but math is ______.
   A. difficult
   B. interesting
   C. dull
   D. easy

2. Corey is trying to find a ______. He must work to be able to pay his bills.
   A. job
   B. college
   C. secret
   D. check

3. The book is long but ______.
   A. fascinating
   B. boring
   C. slow
   D. terrible

4. Unlike my short brother, I am ______.
   A. kind
   B. polite
   C. tall
   D. athletic

5. My favorite holiday is ______ because I love to receive ______.
   A. Christmas ... presents
   B. Thanksgiving ... candy
   C. New Year’s Eve ... cookies
   D. Halloween ... money

6. The bracelet costs too much money. I cannot ______ it.
   A. afford
   B. wear
   C. steal
   D. receive

7. Rather than give your old clothes away, you should try to ______ them.
   A. sell
   B. buy
   C. make
   D. wash

8. Soccer is exciting, ______ tennis is boring.
   A. and
   B. so
   C. or
   D. but

9. Lemons are ______. They are not sweet.
   A. delicious
   B. terrible
   C. sour
   D. bland

10. ______ are similar to ______.
    They are both shapes.
    A. dogs ... cats
    B. men ... women
    C. squares ... circles
    D. hands ... feet
Answers and Explanations

1) B
The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship between biology and math. Tristan thinks biology is boring. The opposite of boring is interesting. Choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because difficult is not the opposite of boring. Something that is boring can also be difficult at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because dull and boring are very close in meaning. There is not an opposite relationship between them.

(D) is incorrect because easy is not the opposite of boring. Something that is boring can also be easy at the same time.

2) A
The main clue in this question is the phrase “work to pay his bills.” This means that Corey is trying to find work so that he can pay for his lifestyle. A job will pay him money to work. If Corey finds a job, he will be able to work for money. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because going to college may help Corey get a good job in the future, but it will not help him work to pay his bills now. This is not the most logical answer choice.

(C) is incorrect because a secret will not help Corey work to pay his bills. There is no logical connection between secrets and working to pay his bills.

(D) is incorrect because a check would help Corey pay his bills, but Corey has to “work” to pay his bills. If he works for a paycheck, then he must have a job.

3) A
The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship with the fact that the book is long. Many people think that long books are boring or difficult to read. If a long book is actually fascinating, then this is the opposite of what many people would expect. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a book can be both long and boring without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.

(C) is incorrect because a book can be both long and slow without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.
(D) is incorrect because a book can be both long and *terrible* without any contradiction. This does not set up an opposite relationship.

4) **C**
The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship between my tall brother and me. The opposite of short is *tall*. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *kind* is not the opposite of short.

(B) is incorrect because *polite* is not the opposite of short.

(D) is incorrect because *athletic* is not the opposite of short.

5) **A**
The word “because” means that two things progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship between a holiday and what I receive on that holiday. Traditionally, *Christmas* is a day when many people give and receive *presents*. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because most people do not receive *candy* for *Thanksgiving*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

(C) is incorrect because most people do not receive *cookies* for *New Year’s Eve*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

(D) is incorrect because most people do not receive *money* for *Halloween*. This is not a traditional way to celebrate that holiday.

6) **A**
The main clue in this question is the phrase “too much money.” Remember that the word “too” means that something is excessive, or it goes beyond what is necessary or acceptable. If the bracelet costs too much money, then it costs more money than what I think is acceptable. When something costs too much money, I cannot *afford* it. This means that I am unable or unwilling to pay the high price for it. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because I can *wear* a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of wearing it.

(C) is incorrect because I can *steal* a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of stealing it.
(D) is incorrect because I can receive a bracelet regardless of how much it costs. The price of the bracelet only affects whether or not I can afford it, not whether I am capable of receiving it from someone else.

7) A
The phrase “rather than” means that two things are related in a negative and opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will involve an opposite relationship with giving the clothes away. The opposite of giving something away is selling it. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because buy does not form and opposite relationship with give away.

(C) is incorrect because make does not form and opposite relationship with give away.

(D) is incorrect because wash does not form and opposite relationship with give away.

8) D
The main clues in this question are “exciting” and “boring.” This means that there is an opposite relationship between my opinions of soccer and tennis. The word but sets up a negative or opposite relationship. Choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because and sets up a coordinating relationship. It brings two things together. Something cannot be both exciting and boring, because those two things are opposites.

(B) is incorrect because so sets up a cause-and-effect relationship. This question requires an opposite relationship, so “so” is not the best word to choose.

(C) is incorrect because or sets up a contrasting relationship, but not the kind we are looking for. You use “or,” when you are presenting someone with multiple possibilities to choose from, not when you are contrasting two different things.

9) C
The correct answer choice will set up a negative relationship between the taste of lemons and the sweetness of sugar. Sour is the opposite of sweet. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because delicious is not the opposite of sour.

(B) is incorrect because terrible is not the opposite of sour.

(D) is incorrect because bland is not the opposite of sour.
10) C
If something is similar to something else, this means it is like it or comparable to it. Squares are similar to circles because they are both shapes. Choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because dogs and cats are both animals, not shapes.

(B) is incorrect because men and women are both humans, not shapes.

(D) is incorrect because hands and feet are both limbs, not shapes.