



● **Sentence Completion 10** *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. The audience at the performance was _____. Dancers were repeatedly _____.
 - A. gracious ... criticized
 - B. disrespectful ... praised
 - C. happy ... ignored
 - D. supportive ... applauded
 - E. helpful ... ostracized
2. Although Mika's softball team occasionally played teams from other regions, most of their games were played against _____ teams.
 - A. poor
 - B. exceptional
 - C. excellent
 - D. weak
 - E. local
3. The new restaurant gets _____ reviews, so we have _____ eating there.
 - A. mediocre ... recommended
 - B. enthusiastic ... disliked
 - C. pleasant ... evaded
 - D. terrible ... visited
 - E. dreadful ... avoided
4. Sarah hardly noticed whenever someone made a negative comment about her. Her sister, however, was more _____.
 - A. sensitive
 - B. sociable
 - C. disinterested
 - D. frivolous
 - E. grateful
5. Though we may not always agree with the politicians in power, living in a democracy is a _____. People in many parts of the world don't enjoy similar _____.
 - A. burden ... expectations
 - B. right ... oppression
 - C. privilege ... liberties
 - D. advantage ... dangers
 - E. benefit ... injustice
6. Salvador's cat loves his family. He seems to always be finding cute ways to show them his _____.
 - A. interest
 - B. affection
 - C. courage
 - D. boredom
 - E. hunger
7. At first they were _____ to part ways, but they were glad they did so in the end.
 - A. ready
 - B. reluctant
 - C. thrilled
 - D. excited
 - E. eager
8. Sandra was made to do so many tiresome chores for her family. It was quite a _____.
 - A. disaster
 - B. release
 - C. bore
 - D. anger
 - E. prize

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between a characteristic of the audience and how the dancers were treated. If the audience was (D) supportive, then they encouraged the dancers. One way of showing encouragement to a performer is to (D) applaud him or her. “Applaud” is another word for “clap.” A supportive audience would clap for the dancers. The correct answer is (D).

If the audience was (A) gracious, the dancers would have been treated with respect. They would not have been (A) criticized. If the audience was (B) disrespectful, then the dancers would have been treated poorly. They would not have been (B) praised. If the audience was (C) happy, the dancers would not have been (C) ignored. The audience would have paid attention to them. If the audience was (E) helpful, the dancers would not have been (E) ostracized. There is no relationship between a helpful audience and being ostracized.

2) **E**

The word “although” can mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the teams Mika’s softball team usually plays and the teams that they play only sometimes. Sometimes the team plays teams from other regions. This means that most of the time, they do not play teams from other regions. A team from the same region as another team is a (E) local team. “Local” means “nearby” or “in the area.” The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships, and they do not relate to where the opposing teams come from. The teams that Mika plays against might be (A) poor, (B) exceptional, (C) excellent, or (D) weak, but we cannot tell from the information presented in the question. We only know that Mika’s team usually plays teams from the same region as them. Therefore, we only know that Mika’s team usually plays local teams.

3) **E**

Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a relationship between the reviews of the restaurant and whether or not we have eaten there. If the restaurant gets (E) dreadful reviews, then the reviews are very negative. This means that many people do not like the restaurant. If the restaurant gets negative reviews, we should (E) avoid eating there. We do not want to spend money at a restaurant we will not like. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. If the restaurant gets (A) mediocre reviews, then people think it is just average, not exceptionally

good. There is no reason to frequently (A) recommend a restaurant that is not exceptionally good. Similarly, there is no reason to (B) dislike a restaurant that gets positive, (B) enthusiastic reviews. There is no reason to (C) evade a restaurant that gets positive, (C) pleasant reviews, or to (D) visit a restaurant that gets (D) terrible reviews. These answer choices mismatch the idea that positive reviews bring customers to a business and negative reviews drive them away. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **A**

The word “however” can mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between how Sarah and Sarah’s sister react to criticism and insults. We know from the question that Sarah hardly notices when people make negative comments about her, so we know that her sister must behave in the opposite way. If Sarah’s sister is very (A) sensitive, then she takes other people’s comments very seriously. Negative comments hurt her feelings. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up the opposite relationship we need. There is no opposite relationship between not reacting to negative comments and being (B) sociable, (C) disinterested, (D) frivolous, or (E) grateful. These are unrelated characteristics, so these answer choices are incorrect.

5) **C**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between disagreements with political leaders and a characteristic of life in a democracy. Disagreements can usually be considered negative, because they cause conflict. However, most people would say that living in a democracy is a (C) privilege. A “privilege” is a positive, special advantage that is enjoyed only by a certain few. In this case, the right to choose one’s country’s leaders and freely disagree with them is a (C) liberty (or “freedom”) that not everyone in the world gets to enjoy. The correct answer is (C).

Most people would not say that living in a democracy is a (A) burden. The only (A) expectations of citizens are to pay taxes and obey the law. Living in a democracy is not a (B) right, nor do citizens of democracies face terrible (B) oppression in most cases. Living in a democracy is indeed an (D) advantage and a (E) benefit, but there is no increased (D) danger or (E) injustice associated with democracy.

6) **B**

The main clue in this question is the word “love.” The cat loves his owners, so he will find different ways to show them that he loves them. Another word for “love” is (B) affection. When the cat shows his family love, he is also showing affection. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do not directly relate to the fact that the cat loves his family. He might show them (A) interest, (C) courage, (D) boredom, or (E) hunger, but none of these ideas are related to love. Only affection is related to love. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

7) **B**

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 how two people felt upon parting ways and how they felt about it a while later. We know from the question that they were later glad that they parted. This means that they were not glad at first. If they were (B) reluctant to part ways, then they were hesitant about the decision and did not necessarily want to part. This is the opposite of how they felt later on. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. (A) Ready, (C) thrilled, (D) excited, and (E) eager all have positive connotations. There is no opposite relationship between feeling a positive emotion at first and continuing to feel a positive emotion later. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

8) **C**

The main clue in this question is the word “tiresome.” This means that Sandra’s chores were very boring, because “tiresome” and “boring” are very close in meaning. Since she was stuck in a boring situation, we can say that her situation was a (E) bore. This is simply the noun version of the adjective “boring.” The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not directly relate to the idea that Sandra’s chores were tiresome. (C) Release and (E) prize both have positive connotations, so we can ignore these answer choices right away. (A) Disaster and (D) anger both have negative connotations just like “tiresome,” but they are not close enough in meaning to be correct.