



● Sentence Completion 19 *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. The child's father _____ to let her get a candy bar at the store. The child threw a horrible tantrum in response.
A. agreed
B. refused
C. paid
D. allowed
E. consented
2. The music teacher has been _____ for the last several days. The principal arranged for a substitute to take her place.
A. singing
B. exchanged
C. teaching
D. absent
E. present
3. The shoes I bought did not fit me properly. _____, I returned them to the store and bought a different size.
A. Consequently
B. Immediately
C. However
D. Although
E. Nevertheless
4. Countries with marine borders only have jurisdiction within a certain distance from their shores. That's why most of the ocean is considered _____ waters.
A. narrow
B. exclusive
C. free
D. international
E. admiral
5. A 26-mile marathon race is _____ test of human fitness and endurance. Runners must train for months or even years to be _____ enough for such a competition.
A. an extreme ... prepared
B. a rapid ... fast
C. an ancient ... old
D. a dangerous ... healthy
E. a torturous ... weak
6. Sheila's musical compositions sound too much like Beethoven's symphonies. She needs to develop her own style and become a little more _____.
A. classical
B. ancient
C. derivative
D. inspired
E. original
7. *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens is one of the most _____ written works in the English language. It has been _____ for the screen and stage dozens of times.
A. revered ... written
B. beloved ... adapted
C. well-known ... performed
D. despised ... recreated
E. obscure ... dramatized
8. Blake felt _____ when he spilled coffee all over his shirt. He felt as if everyone were staring and laughing at him.
A. proud
B. unnoticed
C. invisible
D. humorous
E. embarrassed

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “horrible tantrum.” This means that the child became extremely upset and began to cry or even shout. Children often behave this way when they cannot have what they want. If the child’s father (B) refused to let her have the candy bar she wanted, she would have responded with a tantrum. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices would result in the child getting the candy bar, so a tantrum would not have ensued. (A) Agreed, (D) allowed, and (E) consented all mean that the father gave permission for his child to have the candy bar. If he allowed this to happen, he would have (C) paid for the candy at the cash register at the end of the shopping trip.

2) **D**

The main clue in this question is “a substitute to take her place.” This means that the music teacher must have been (D) absent. When a teacher is absent, his or her students need someone else to lead class as usual. This job usually falls to a substitute teacher, a teacher who takes the place of the teachers who cannot make it to school. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not describe situations that would require a substitute teacher. The music teacher is probably (A) singing and (C) teaching quite often; this is part of her job. She would not need a replacement if she were doing these things in the classroom as usual. If she were (E) present, she would by definition be in class as usual. Teachers are not usually (B) exchanged for substitutes at random. Outstanding circumstances demand their absence in the first place.

3) **A**

The correct answer choice will set up a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between the fact that the original shoes did not fit me and the fact that I exchanged them for another size. (A) Consequently can be used to set up cause-and-effect relationships. Situation Y occurs as a consequence of situation X; one thing leads to another. Exchanging the shoes would be a consequence of the fact that the original shoes did not fit well. The correct answer is (A).

The other answer choices do not set up cause-and-effect relationships. (B) Immediately relates to time or speed, not cause and effect. (C) However, (D) although, and (E) nevertheless all set up opposite relationships, not cause-and-effect relationships. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

4) **D**

The main clue in this question is “a certain distance from their shores.” This means that every country with a border along the ocean can only claim a certain

amount of ocean-territory as its own. Beyond each country's jurisdiction, the oceans become (D) international waters. This means that they are not governed by the laws of any single country. The correct answer is (D).

The ocean is not (A) narrow. It is extremely vast. We can ignore this answer choice right away. International waters are not (B) exclusive. If they were exclusive to one country, they would be part of that country's territory. However, beyond any given country's exclusive boundaries, the oceans become international and are no longer exclusive. The ocean is not technically (C) free from all jurisdiction whatsoever; international laws such as treaties and United Nations declarations are still valid there. (E) Admiral is an ocean-related term, often seen in the context of Navy officials or "admiralty law," but this is not the best answer choice. "Admiral" does not accurately fit within the context of the question because it does not describe the ocean territories that are governed by no single country. These answer choices are incorrect.

5) **A**

The main clues in this question are "26-mile marathon" and "train for months of even years." These imply that marathons are (A) extreme feats of strength that the average person cannot perform without extensive training. This training makes runners (A) prepared for the arduous task of running for 26 miles without stopping or becoming injured or ill. The correct answer is (A).

Marathons are not (B) rapid races. They take several hours to complete, even if the runners themselves are quite (B) fast. Marathons are rooted in (C) ancient Greek tradition, but training does not make the runners become (C) old. Marathons are not inherently (D) dangerous. Only inexperienced runners or those with existing injuries would face any danger by attempting to run a marathon. Marathons are not (E) torturous for well-trained distance runners, but training does not make these runners (E) weak. It makes them strong and it enables them to compete. These answer choices are incorrect.

6) **E**

The main clue in this question is "develop her own style." If Sheila's music sounds too much like music that Beethoven has already been written, then it may seem like she is merely copying Beethoven's style. If she develops her own style, her music will be more (E) original. It will be less and less similar to music that already exists; it will be Sheila's own creation. The correct answer is (E).

Beethoven wrote (A) classical music. If Sheila wants to sound less like Beethoven, she should develop a non-classical style. Beethoven's music is old, but not necessarily (B) ancient. Nevertheless, reverting back to very old or even ancient styles will not result in originality for Sheila. (C) Derivative means that something is derived from an existing style. This word often has a negative connotation and is used to put down artists who imitate or copy other artists' work without adding anything new. Being (D) inspired may help Sheila develop her

own style, but this is not the best answer choice. Sheila's Beethoven-like compositions were probably inspired by listening to Beethoven. She must find her own inspiration, not any inspiration in general.

7) **B**

The main clue in this question is “dozens of times.” This means that *A Christmas Carol* is performed on the stage and screen (movies and television) very often. When a non-theatrical written work is performed by actors, then the original work has been (B) adapted. *A Christmas Carol* was originally a short novel (or “novella”) that many scriptwriters have adapted into plays, movies, or TV shows. It has been adapted many times because it is so (B) beloved. Many people love Dickens's story so much that they want to keep performing it over and over, and in many different ways. The correct answer is (B).

Stories that are (D) despised or (E) obscure do not usually become popular movies or plays. Only well-known, well-liked stories achieve this status. *A Christmas Carol* is certainly (A) revered and (C) well-known, but it was not originally (A) written to be performed, nor is it (C) performed specifically for the screen and stage. It is performed on the screen and stage for the amusement of audiences. These answer choices are incorrect.

8) **E**

If you ever feel like people are staring and laughing at you, you will probably feel (E) embarrassed. Many people feel this way when they make obvious mistakes. Spilling coffee on his shirt was a mistake, so Blake probably felt embarrassed if other people saw him do so and proceeded to laugh. The correct answer is (E).

(A) Proud and (D) humorous are positive characteristics that do not describe how most people feel after making big mistakes in front of others. Furthermore, we know that Blake did not feel (B) unnoticed or (D) invisible. He felt the exact opposite way, because he felt like other people were paying attention to him by staring and laughing. These answer choices are incorrect.