



● **Sentence Completion 4** *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. Some people believe that water becomes _____ if it is blessed through prayer.
 - A. holy
 - B. typical
 - C. evil
 - D. precious
 - E. valuable
2. After engaging in _____ exercise, it is important to recharge by eating a _____ meal.
 - A. rigorous ... fattening
 - B. strenuous ... healthy
 - C. hard ... thin
 - D. easy ... heavy
 - E. painful ... injurious
3. Chris was _____ after his all-night study session; if he had been able to _____ during the test, he would have performed better.
 - A. lethargic ... sleep
 - B. exhausted ... study
 - C. drowsy ... concentrate
 - D. tired ... nap
 - E. strained ... rest
4. Kara was _____ when her boyfriend asked her to marry him. It was the happiest moment of her life.
 - A. suspicious
 - B. joyful
 - C. sorrowful
 - D. dismayed
 - E. annoyed
5. Despite her advanced _____, her childish antics made Jessica appear _____.
 - A. appetite ... healthy
 - B. conversation ... shy
 - C. interests ... diverse
 - D. age ... immature
 - E. manners ... polite
6. Mel's favorite thing about the holidays is the _____ cuisine; a joyous occasion calls for great food.
 - A. standard
 - B. festive
 - C. bland
 - D. tasteless
 - E. repetitive
7. Due to Blake's _____ attitude, many were _____ to trust him as camp counselor.
 - A. good ... unwilling
 - B. apathetic ... compelled
 - C. positive ... hesitant
 - D. negative ... eager
 - E. uncaring ... reluctant
8. Drug addiction can be very _____; oftentimes, it will tear apart both family and career.
 - A. destructive
 - B. selfish
 - C. permanent
 - D. fortunate
 - E. innocent

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The main clue in this question is “blessed through prayer.” These are religious words that have positive connotations. (A) Holy is another religious word with positive connotations. Some people believe that if you pray over water to bless it, then the water becomes holy. (A) is the correct answer.

The other answer choices do not relate directly to religion, and not all of them are positive. It is true that many people think that holy water is (D) precious or (E) valuable, but these are not the best answer choices because they do not directly relate to religion or to the holiness of the water. (B) Typical and (C) evil are not religious words, and they are not particularly positive, either. These answer choices are incorrect.

2) **B**

The main clues in this question are “exercise” and “recharge by eating.” This means that there will be a logical relationship between the type of exercise you do and the type of food you should eat afterward. If you engage in (B) strenuous exercise, then you have exercised very hard. You should eat a (B) healthy meal to make sure that your body has enough fuel to last the rest of the day and to recover from all your hard work. This is what is meant by “recharge.” The correct answer is (B).

You would not want to eat a (A) fattening or (D) heavy meal after exercising. Eating too much after working out can make you feel sick and undo the positive effects of your exercise. You cannot usually describe meals as (C) thin or (E) injurious, because these words do not apply to food. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

3) **C**

Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between the fact that Chris was up all night studying and something that could have helped him on the test. All-night study sessions are almost never a good idea. You may be able to retain some of the information you studied for a short period of time, but you will also be very, very tired the next day. Another way to say “tired” is (C) drowsy. If Chris stayed up all night, he was probably drowsy the next day, and he probably could not (C) concentrate on the test. The correct answer is (C).

You cannot (A) sleep, (D) nap, or (E) rest during a test. You usually only have a short period of time to take a test, so if you spend that time sleeping, you will not have enough time to finish your test. Sleeping during the test would not improve Chris’s score, so these answer choices are incorrect. Similarly, you cannot (B)

study during a test. A test is your chance to show what you have learned from what you have *already* studied. This answer choice is also incorrect.

4) **B**

The main clue in this question is “It was the happiest moment of her life.” This means that the correct answer choice will reflect Kara’s happiness and extreme positive feelings. (B) Joyful is the only answer choice that relates to happiness. The correct answer is (B).

The other answer choices involve negative or unrelated feelings. Kara would have no reason to feel (A) suspicious when her boyfriend asked her to marry him, so we can ignore this answer choice. Similarly, she would not have felt (C) sorrowful, (D) dismayed, or (E) annoyed, because these are all negative feelings. We know from the question that this was the happiest moment of Kara’s life, so we know she did not feel any negative emotions. These answer choices are incorrect.

5) **D**

The word “despite” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between two of Jessica’s characteristics. If Jessica is advanced in (D) age but she behaves childishly, that is the opposite of what most people would expect. She will come across as, or seem, (D) immature. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not relate to Jessica’s “childish antics.” Behaving childishly will not make Jessica appear (A) healthy, (B) shy, (C) diverse, or (E) polite. Furthermore, none of these answer choices set up the opposite relationship we need. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

6) **B**

The main clue in this question is “the holidays.” This term usually applies to the winter holidays such as Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year’s. During this time, people like to cook and eat special, (B) festive food. The word “festive” is related to parties and holidays. The correct answer is (B).

Some people might eat (C) bland or (D) tasteless food for the holidays, but most people do not. Furthermore, these characteristics do not directly relate to the holidays themselves. The food eaten during the holidays is not (A) standard or (E) repetitive. They are special foods that most people only eat during a specific time of the year. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

7) **E**

The main clue in this question is “trust him as camp counselor.” This means that the correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between Blake’s attitude and how people felt about trusting him as camp counselor. If someone is cold or (E) uncaring, others will be (E) reluctant to trust that person. No one

wants to trust someone who seems not to care about others. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. In fact, they set up opposite relationships between positive and negative traits and feelings. If Blake had a (A) good or (C) positive attitude, then there would be no reason for people to feel (A) unwilling or (C) hesitant to trust him. This mismatches Blake's positive traits with negative outcomes. Similarly, if he had an (B) apathetic or (D) negative attitude, people would not feel (B) compelled or (D) eager to trust him. This mismatches negative traits with positive outcomes. These answer choices are incorrect.

8) **A**

Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between a characteristic of drug addiction and the fact that it rips apart families and careers. Anything that can "rip apart" something else is (A) destructive. This is a negative description of drug addiction, because destroying families and careers is a negative thing to do. The correct answer is (A).

Drug addiction is not (D) fortunate or (E) innocent. Both of these words have positive connotations, but drug addiction is not a positive thing, and neither is destroying families or careers. We can ignore these answer choices right away. Some people might argue that drug addicts are (B) selfish or that addiction can be (C) permanent or incurable, but these are not the best answer choices. They do not directly relate to the clue about destroying families and careers.