

• Sentence Completion 1 Level 7

Directions: Complete the sentence using the word or set of words for each blank that best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. Despite the unfavorable attention brought on by some critics, the press had _____ effect on the campaign overall.
A. a beneficial
B. a neutral
C. an inert
D. a destructive
E. a harmful
2. Although Kate's report on her scientific findings was lengthy, the presentation she held was rather _____.
A. brief
B. thorough
C. mundane
D. straightforward
E. elaborate
3. The new building was expansive; its _____ foundation allowed for wider hallways than its predecessor.
A. shallow
B. small
C. broad
D. thin
E. fancy
4. The famous pop singer tragically died at age thirty-two; it was an _____ event for all his many fans, but it was especially hard on his most _____ fans.
A. unthinkable ... healthy
B. amazing ... dubious
C. appalling ... devoted
D. appreciated ... strange
E. emotional ... heavy
5. It is no secret that prison can be rather _____; grim conditions and severe treatment have been known to _____ even the most hardened criminals.
A. cruel ... entertain
B. harsh ... dishearten
C. pleasant ... encourage
D. awful ... satisfy
E. horrendous ... soothe
6. Unlike the misleading television documentary, the biography was _____.
A. interesting
B. accurate
C. fantastic
D. phony
E. false
7. According to clinicians, psychopaths are _____: that is, they are intentionally violent and mean.
A. sympathetic
B. timid
C. polite
D. vicious
E. infrequent
8. The doctor takes note of any _____ marks on the patient's skin, because such abnormalities often indicate the presence of skin cancer.
A. irregular
B. typical
C. ordinary
D. invisible
E. common

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “although,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between Kate’s lengthy report and her presentation. The missing word describes her presentation, and if her report were lengthy, her report must have been not lengthy. Because *brief* means not lengthy, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Thorough* means complete with regard to every detail and is, as such, not the opposite of “lengthy.”

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Mundane* means dull and is, as such, not the opposite of “lengthy.”

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Straightforward* means easy to understand and not complex. It does not work because straightforward is not the same as short.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Elaborate* means complex and detailed and is, as such, not the opposite of “lengthy.”

2) A

The main clue in this question is the word “despite,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship with “unfavorable attention.” The word “unfavorable” is a negative word, so the correct choice must be something positive. *Beneficial* means favorable or resulting in good, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *neutral* means having neither a positive nor a negative effect on something. This does not work because neutral is not the opposite of “unfavorable.”

(C) is incorrect because *inert* means lacking the strength to move or affect something. This does not work because inert is not the opposite of “unfavorable.”

(D) is incorrect because *destructive* means harmful or damaging. This is similar to “unfavorable,” not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because *harmful* means causing damage or harm. This is similar to “unfavorable,” not the opposite of it.

3) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical relationship between the expansive hallways and the foundation the missing word describes. The missing word must, therefore, mean expansive or large. Because *broad* means wide, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Shallow* means of little depth and in no way would imply that the foundation was “expansive.”

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Small* means not large in size. In context, it conveys the idea that the foundation is too little or narrow to provide for expansive hallways. This is the opposite of what the prompt implies.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Thin* means not wide. In context, it conveys the idea that the foundation is too little or narrow to provide for expansive hallways. This is the opposite of what the prompt implies.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Fancy* means elaborate in structure or decoration. There is no connection between this word and the size characteristics implied by the prompt.

4) C

Each missing word has its own clue in this sentence. The first missing word’s clue is the semicolon (;), which links independent clauses that state related information. This means there is a logical connection between the tragic death of the pop singer and the type of “event” it was for his fans, meaning the first missing word must relate to tragic. The second missing word hinges on the word “but,” which sets up an opposite relationship between “all of his many fans” and the missing word. This means the missing word must refer to a specific, rather than general, type of fan who would take the death “especially hard.” *Appalling* means awful or terrible, and *devoted* means loyal. In context, these words would imply that the tragic death was an awful event for all fans but especially for the singer’s most loyal ones. Therefore, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Unthinkable* means too terrible to be considered a possibility, while *healthy* means in good health or physically well. The prompt implies that the singer’s death was tragic but not that it was impossible. Furthermore, healthy or unhealthy fans would both take a tragic event in the same way.

(B) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Amazing* means causing great surprise or wonder, while *dubious* means doubtful. Amazing is not the same as tragic, and doubtful fans would not take tragic news harder than would any other fans.

(D) is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Appreciated* means valued, while *strange* means odd or unusual. A tragic event would not be valued, and strange fans would not take the news of a tragic event any harder than would normal fans.

(E) is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Emotional* means arousing great feelings, and a tragic death could certainly be an emotional event. However, *heavy* means of great weight or significance, and there is no reason that heavy fans would take the news harder than non-heavy fans would.

5) B

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical relationship between prison conditions and their effects on prisoners. The prompt states that prison is “grim” and “severe,” so the first missing word must also mean grim or severe. The second missing word must relate to what prison does to “even the most hardened” criminals. The “even” in that phrase implies that prison does the opposite of hardening criminals. A hardened criminal is one who is determined to be a criminal, so the second missing word must describe the process by which a hardened criminal becomes no longer hardened. Because *harsh* means severe or unpleasantly rough, while *dishearten* means to cause someone to lose confidence or determination, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Cruel* means willfully causing pain, while *entertain* means to provide someone with amusement. Prison can be cruel, but it does not entertain criminals.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Pleasant* means enjoyable or pleasing, while *encourage* means to give someone confidence or support. The prompt implies that prison is the opposite of pleasant and does the opposite of encouraging hardened criminals.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Awful* means terrible or very bad, while *satisfy* means to meet someone’s expectations or bring pleasure. Prison can be awful, but it does not satisfy prisoners.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Horrendous* means very awful, while *soothe* means to relax or calm. Prison can be horrendous, but it does not soothe prisoners, since nothing horrendous would calm anyone.

6) B

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship with “misleading.” If something is not misleading, then it is correct and factual. Because *accurate* means correct in all details, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Interesting* means arousing curiosity or interest. There is no relationship between being “misleading” and being interesting.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fantastic* means imaginative, which is not the opposite of “misleading.”

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Phony* means not genuine. This is almost the same as “misleading,” not the opposite of it.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *False* means not true. This is almost the same as “misleading,” not the opposite of it.

7) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “that is,” which is used to separate an explanatory clause from the part of the sentence it explains. This means that everything after “that is” explains what “psychopaths are,” meaning that the missing word must mean “intentionally violent and mean.” Because *vicious* means deliberately cruel and violent, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sympathetic* means feeling sympathy or care for others. This is the opposite of what someone who is “intentionally violent and mean” would be described as.

(B) is incorrect because *timid* means lacking courage. This has no relationship to being “intentionally violent and mean.”

(C) is incorrect because *polite* means courteous and kind. This is the opposite of what someone who is “intentionally violent and mean” would be described as.

(E) is incorrect because *infrequent* means rare. This has no relationship to being “intentionally violent and mean.”

8) A

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which links clauses that have a cause-and-effect relationship between them. This means that there is a relationship between the marks the doctor notes and those “abnormalities” that can indicate skin cancer. The missing word describes the “marks,” so it must mean abnormal in order for the sentence to make sense. Because *irregular* means abnormal or not typical, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Typical* means normal or usual. A typical mark would not be described as an abnormality.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Ordinary* means usual or normal. An ordinary mark would not be described as an abnormality.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Invisible* means unable to be seen. An invisible mark would not be described as an abnormality, especially since it would not even be able to be seen.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Common* means ordinary. An ordinary mark would not be described as an abnormality.