



● Sentence Completion 18 *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Despite \_\_\_\_\_ in sales, the company's profits \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. an improvement ... grew  
B. a decrease ... went down  
C. an incline ... enlarged  
D. an increase ... declined
2. Baby lion cubs are not \_\_\_\_\_ enough to hunt with the adults.  
A. smart  
B. hungry  
C. mature  
D. passionate
3. Margot was not sick. She was just \_\_\_\_\_ to be sick so she would not have to go to school.  
A. pretending  
B. expecting  
C. trying  
D. wanting
4. Unlike her \_\_\_\_\_ brother, Ginny is very \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. outgoing ... talkative  
B. shy ... social  
C. uneducated ... friendly  
D. serious ... intense
5. Nostradamus was able to make amazing \_\_\_\_\_. Many of the events he envisioned came true in the future.  
A. predictions  
B. announcements  
C. ideas  
D. potions
6. The decision \_\_\_\_\_ the president his career. Nevertheless, he felt that he made the right choice.  
A. won  
B. earned  
C. cost  
D. got
7. After committing such \_\_\_\_\_ crime, many people thought it would be \_\_\_\_\_ if the criminal received the harshest penalty.  
A. a terrible ... wrong  
B. an insignificant ... reasonable  
C. an unimportant ... understandable  
D. a horrible ... fair
8. My grandmother thinks it's wrong for women to wear pants. As a result, she only wears \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. skirts  
B. shoes  
C. shirts  
D. gloves
9. The \_\_\_\_\_ suit does not fit the \_\_\_\_\_ man.  
A. wool ... elderly  
B. tight ... skinny  
C. small ... overweight  
D. elegant ... rich
10. Although it is \_\_\_\_\_, the coral snake is very \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. quick ... slow  
B. colorful ... fancy  
C. small ... dangerous  
D. uncommon ... rare

## Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The word “despite” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between a company’s sales and profits. If the company experienced an *increase* in sales, but profits *declined*, then sales and profits moved in opposite directions. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If there was an *improvement* in sales and profits *grew*, then both sales and profits increased, so there is no opposite relationship.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If there was an *incline* in sales and *enlarged* profits, then both sales and profits increased, so there is no opposite relationship.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If there was a *decrease* in sales and profits *went down*, then both sales and profits moved in a negative direction, so there is no opposite relationship.

2) **C**

The main clues in this question are the phrase “baby lion cubs” and the word “adults.” This means that the correct answer choice will deal with the main difference between baby cubs and adult lions. In addition to age, cubs and adults differ in maturity. Baby cubs are not *mature* enough to hunt with adults. They are physically too small, and they are not mentally prepared or experienced enough to hunt. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the difference in age or level of development between the cubs and the adults. Baby lion cubs may be *smart*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know that there is a difference between babies and adults with respect to age and development.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the difference in age or level of development between the cubs and the adults. Baby lion cubs may be *hungry*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know that there is a difference between babies and adults with respect to age and development.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the difference in age or level of development between the cubs and the adults. Baby lion cubs may be *passionate*, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know that there is a difference between babies and adults with respect to age and development.

3) **A**

The main clues in this question are “Margot was not sick” and “so she would not have to go to school.” If you are not sick but you do not want to go to school, you can *pretend* to be sick. This means that you tell others that you are sick and act like you are sick. If others believe you, then they will not make you go to school. This is not the right thing to do, because it involves lying, but it is still the correct answer choice. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Expecting* to be sick does not result in staying home from school.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Trying* to be sick does not result in staying home from school.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Wanting* to be sick does not result in staying home from school.

4) **B**

The word “unlike” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Ginny and her brother. If Ginny’s brother is *shy* but she is *social*, then they have opposite characteristics. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If Ginny’s brother is *outgoing* and Ginny is *talkative*, then they have similar personalities. They cannot be opposites.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If Ginny’s brother is *uneducated* and Ginny is *friendly*, their personalities are not related. These characteristics cannot be opposites because they have no relationship at all.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If Ginny’s brother is *serious* and Ginny is *intense*, they have similar personalities. They cannot be opposites.

5) **A**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “Many of the events he envisioned came true in the future.” This means that Nostradamus envisioned events before they happened. Another way to say this is that he made *predictions*. A prediction is a guess about what will happen in the future. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the fact that Nostradamus envisioned events before they happened. It is possible that Nostradamus made amazing *announcements*, but we cannot tell from the question, because announcements do not anticipate future events.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the fact that Nostradamus envisioned events before they happened. It is possible that Nostradamus had amazing *ideas*, but we do not know from the question. Ideas are thoughts created by an individual and do not anticipate future events.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not refer to the fact that Nostradamus envisioned events before they happened. It is possible that Nostradamus made amazing *potions*, but we cannot tell from the question. Potions are mixtures of chemicals; they have nothing to do with telling the future.

6) **C**

The word “nevertheless” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between two characteristics of the president’s decision. If the president feels that he made the right choice, this is a positive characteristic. The other characteristic must therefore be negative. If the decision *cost* the president his career, this means that he lost his job over the decision. This is a negative characteristic, and it sets up an opposite relationship with the fact that he felt it was the right choice. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the decision *won* the president his career, it means that the decision helped him become president. However, this is a positive outcome, and the question calls for a negative one.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the decision *earned* the president his career, it means that the decision helped him become president. However, this is a positive outcome, and the question calls for a negative one.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the decision *got* the president his career, it means that the decision helped him become president. However, this is a positive outcome, and the question calls for a negative one.

7) **D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “harshest penalty.” This means that there will be a logical relationship between a crime and the criminal’s harsh penalty. Usually, the severity of a penalty depends on the severity of the crime. The harshest penalties are reserved for the worst crimes. If the criminal committed a *horrible* crime, it would be *fair* for him to receive the harshest penalty. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the crime and the penalty. It would not be *wrong* to pay a harsh penalty after committing a *terrible* crime; it would be fair.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the crime and the penalty. It would not be *reasonable* to pay a harsh penalty after committing *an insignificant* crime; it would be very unfair.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the crime and the penalty. It would not be *understandable* to pay a harsh penalty after committing *an unimportant* crime; it would be unfair.

8) **A**

The phrase “as a result” means that two things progress in a logical way. This means that there will be a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between what my Grandmother wears the fact that my Grandmother thinks it’s wrong for women to wear pants. My Grandmother is a woman who thinks that women should not wear pants, so she must not wear pants. She must wear something else to cover herself from the waist down. A *skirt* can cover a person’s body from the waist down. If my Grandma does not wear pants, she might wear skirts. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *shoes* do not cover a person’s body from the waist down, and therefore cannot be substituted for pants. We are looking for a piece of clothing that can be worn instead of pants.

**(C)** is incorrect because *shirts* do not cover a person’s body from the waist down, and therefore cannot be substituted for pants. We are looking for a piece of clothing that can be worn instead of pants.

**(D)** is incorrect because *gloves* do not cover a person’s body from the waist down, and therefore cannot be substituted for pants. We are looking for a piece of clothing that can be worn instead of pants.

9) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “does not fit.” This means that a characteristic of the suit and a characteristic of the man are in conflict, resulting in the fact that the suit does not fit him. If the man is *overweight*, he will not fit in a *small* suit. He would need a large suit, because he is a large man. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a characteristic of the suit and a characteristic of the man. An *elderly* man can wear a *wool* suit. Wool suits are for everyone, regardless of age.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a characteristic of the suit and a characteristic of the man. A *skinny* man can fit in a *tight* suit, because both of these characteristics relate to being small.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a characteristic of the suit and a characteristic of the man. A *rich* man can fit into an *elegant* suit; the elegance of the suit does not prevent a rich man from wearing it.

10)**C**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between two characteristics of a snake. If the snake is *small*, you might not expect it to be *dangerous*. If it is dangerous and small, this is the opposite of what you expect. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an appropriate opposite relationship between the characteristics of the snake. It is impossible to be *quick* and *slow* at the same time. Even though these words are opposites, they do not set up a logical relationship because they completely contradict each other.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an appropriate opposite relationship between the characteristics of the snake. A snake can be both *colorful* and *fancy* without defying expectations; these characteristics are not opposites.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an appropriate opposite relationship between the characteristics of the snake. *Uncommon* and *rare* mean the same thing. They both mean that this kind of snake is not seen very often and is hard to find. These words are not opposites.