



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

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

1. My boss said that the project needs to be _____, so I _____ it.
A. longer ... shortened
B. smaller ... enlarged
C. less complicated ... simplified
D. more advanced ... organized
2. Thomas was _____ from his job because he was always _____.
A. appreciated ... slow
B. fired ... late
C. expelled ... working
D. hired ... rude
3. Tigers are extremely _____. They can leap onto rocks, climb tall trees, and evade even the fastest of predators.
A. sluggish
B. interesting
C. invisible
D. agile
4. Compared to the American Civil War (1861-1865), the technology used to fight the Vietnam War (1955-1975) was _____.
A. louder
B. older
C. more modern
D. less dangerous
5. Not a single person remained in the burned-down house. It was _____.
A. abandoned
B. spooky
C. repaired
D. unsteady
6. Even though they have been working on it for three years, the bridge is still _____ completion.
A. close to
B. near
C. far from
D. at
7. Teddy found it terribly difficult to write his novel. Nevertheless, he managed to _____ it in less than two years.
A. forget
B. plan
C. begin
D. complete
8. Although Yoko played well, she didn't _____ the game.
A. win
B. forfeit
C. cheat
D. lose
9. I am tired, but I am not going to _____.
A. rest
B. exercise
C. study
D. play
10. I don't like to read. Surprisingly, I found the book _____.
A. boring
B. tiresome
C. uninteresting
D. entertaining

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word “so” means that two things progress in a logical way. This means that there will be a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between how my boss wants the project to be and how I made the project. If my boss wants a project to be *less complicated*, then I need to make it less complicated. Another way of saying “make less complicated” is “simplify.” To make the project less complicated, I *simplified* it. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between how my boss wants the project and how I made the project. If the boss wanted a *longer* project and I *shortened* it, I did the opposite of what my boss wanted. You should not do the opposite of what your boss wants, because you can lose your job.

(B) is incorrect because if the boss wanted a *smaller* project and I *enlarged* it, then I did the opposite of what my boss wanted. My boss will probably be unhappy that I did not do what was expected.

(D) is incorrect because if my boss wanted a *more advanced* project and I *organized* it, then I did something unrelated to what my boss wanted. There is no logical relationship between “more advanced” and “organized.” This is not the best answer choice.

2) **B**

The word “because” means that two things progress in a logical way. This means that there will be a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between Thomas’s status at his job and something he always did. If he was always *late* for his job, that is a bad thing. He was probably *fired* from his job, because he always did a bad thing. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if Thomas was always *slow*, that is a bad thing. He would not be *appreciated* for doing something bad. People would probably get annoyed at Thomas and try to convince him to come in on time. If he kept being late, he would be fired. He would not be appreciated.

(C) is incorrect because if Thomas was always *working*, that is a good thing. He would not be *expelled* because he was doing a good thing. Being expelled means that you have been banned from the premises of where you work. Usually, this word refers to being kicked out of school. However, even if we apply the term “expelled” to a work environment, this answer choice is illogical. Thomas would not be punished for working hard.

(D) is incorrect because if Thomas was always *rude*, that is a bad thing. He would not be *hired* for always being rude. He probably would not have gotten hired if he had been rude during the hiring process.

3) **D**

The main clue in this question is the list of things that tigers can do, such as climb tall trees. This means that the correct answer choice will describe tigers in relation to their abilities. All of the abilities in the list describe aspects of agility, which is a physical characteristic of speed and power. If tigers can perform tasks that require agility, then they are *agile*. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sluggish* means lazy or slow. This is the opposite of how tigers are described in the question. Tigers are described by their ability to move quickly, not to be lazy and slow.

(B) is incorrect because tigers may be *interesting*, but we cannot tell from the question. The question only talks about tigers' movement-based abilities such as climbing and jumping. It does not comment on whether or not they are interesting.

(C) is incorrect because tigers are not *invisible*. Being invisible means that something cannot be seen with the human eye. However, we can see tigers. Furthermore, this answer choice does not relate to the question's clues about tiger's movement-based abilities.

4) **C**

The main clues in this question are the dates listed next to the American Civil War and the Vietnam War. The American Civil War took place about one hundred years earlier than the Vietnam War. This means that the correct answer choice will describe the weaponry used in each war with respect to the hundred-year time difference between the wars. Since the Vietnam War was later on in history, the weapons used in the war were *more modern* than the weapons used in the American Civil War, which was earlier in history. This means that the weapons were newer and closer to the weapons we have today. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the weapons used in the Vietnam War may have been *louder* than the weapons used in the Civil War, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know the years in which the wars took place. We do not know anything about how the weapons sounded.

(B) is incorrect because the weapons of the Vietnam War cannot have been *older* than the weapons of the Civil War. The Vietnam War happened later than the Civil War.

(D) is incorrect because the weapons used in the Vietnam War may have been *louder* than the weapons used in the Civil War, but we cannot tell from the question. We only know the years in which the wars took place. We do not know anything about how dangerous the weapons were.

5) **A**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “not a single person remained.” This means that there used to be people in the house, but they are no longer there. When people no longer occupy a house that they used to occupy, then the house is *abandoned*. No one remains in an abandoned house. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because the house might be *spooky*, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know from the question that people no longer live in the house. We do not know whether the house was scary or not.

(C) is incorrect because the house might be *repaired* later, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know that it is “burned-down” and that no one lives there anymore.

(D) is incorrect because the house might be *unsteady*, but we cannot tell this from the question. We only know that no one remains in the house. We do not know if it is structurally sound or not.

6) **C**

The phrase “even though” 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 the status of the bridge and the fact that people have been working on it for three years. If people have been working on it for three years, you would expect it to be almost finished. If it is *far from* completion, this is the opposite of what you might expect. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because if the bridge is *close to* completion, this is exactly what you would expect after three years of construction. There is no opposite relationship between three years of work and being close to completion.

(B) is incorrect because if the bridge is *near* completion, this is exactly what you would expect after three years of construction. There is no opposite relationship between three years of work and being near completion.

(D) is incorrect because if the bridge is *at* completion, this is exactly what you would expect after three years of construction. There is no opposite relationship between three years of work and being completed.

7) **D**

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 the fact that Teddy found it difficult to write his novel and what he did with it in two years. If Teddy managed to *complete* the novel in less than two years even though found it difficult, this is the opposite of what is expected. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between *forgetting* a novel in two years and the fact that the novel is difficult to write. In fact, if writing a novel is difficult, you might quit and forget about your plans to write a novel in the first place.

(B) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between *planning* a novel in two years and the fact that the novel is difficult to write. If writing a novel is extremely difficult, it may actually take two years to plan the entire story.

(C) is incorrect because it would not take Teddy two years to *begin* writing his novel. He begins writing it in the moment he puts the first word on a page. It only takes a moment to begin writing a novel, no matter how difficult the rest of the writing process may be.

8) **A**

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 how Yoko played and how she did at the game. If Yoko played well, she would be expected to *win*. If she did not win, this is the opposite of what is expected. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between playing well and not *forfeiting* a game. A forfeit occurs when a player or team gives up and automatically loses a game. If Yoko played well, she had no reason to forfeit.

(C) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between playing well and not *cheating*. If Yoko was playing well, she would have no reason to break the rules and cheat. You should never cheat anyway, because cheating is wrong.

(D) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between playing well and not *losing* a game. If you play well, it is expected that you will not lose.

9) **A**

The word “but” 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 the fact that I am tired and something I am not going to do. If I am tired, it would be expected that I *rest*. If I do not rest, this is the opposite of what is expected. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between feeling tired and not exercising. If you feel tired, you probably will not want to *exercise*. Exercising will only make you feel more tired.

(C) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between feeling tired and not studying. If you feel tired, you probably will not want to *study*. You should

rest first and study later. Studying while tired is no fun, and you will not learn as much as you would have if you were well-rested.

(D) is incorrect because there is no opposite relationship between feeling tired and not playing. If you feel tired, you probably will not want to *play*. Playing a game or sport may only make you feel more tired.

10)**D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “I don’t like to read.” The word “surprisingly” means that a situation is the opposite of what might be expected. If I found the book *entertaining*, then I liked it. This is the opposite of what is expected if I don’t like to read. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If I found the book *boring*, then I did not like the book. This is exactly what would be expected, because I don’t like to read.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If I found the book *tiresome*, then I did not like the book. This is exactly what would be expected, because I don’t like to read.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If I found the book *uninteresting*, then I did not like the book. This is exactly what would be expected, because I don’t like to read.