



● **Sentence Completion 20** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. After our team _____ the game, everybody _____.
A. lost ... cheered
B. won ... celebrated
C. tied ... smiled
D. watched ... laughed
2. Regardless of the fact that she doesn't speak Chinese, Maria was able to _____ with the waiter at the Chinese restaurant.
A. communicate
B. chat
C. speak
D. converse
3. Lana doesn't want to _____, but her husband wants a large family.
A. get married
B. buy a house
C. go to school
D. have children
4. While other corporations have _____ as a result of the economic depression, ours has _____.
A. decreased ... declined
B. improved ... spread
C. suffered ... grown
D. disappeared ... retreated
5. The yellow jacket is _____ than the black one.
A. brighter
B. newer
C. nicer
D. less expensive
6. The golf tournament is _____ due to rain. It is scheduled to _____ tomorrow at 8:00.
A. over ... start
B. cancelled ... pause
C. delayed ... resume
D. finished ... begin
7. Tina felt _____; the committee rejected her proposal.
A. overjoyed
B. cheerful
C. pleased
D. miserable
8. Marvin told me the store was _____. However, it was _____.
A. organized ... great
B. open ... closed
C. cheap ... inexpensive
D. popular ... large
9. Yuri is very _____. He waited for two hours to see the doctor and did not complain.
A. nervous
B. patient
C. intelligent
D. brave
10. I found it _____ that the rude man was _____ the party.
A. ridiculous ... denied from
B. reasonable ... invited to
C. illogical ... ejected from
D. understandable ... asked to leave

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The correct answer choice must set up a logical, cause-and-effect relationship between the outcome of a game and a team's reaction to that outcome. *Won ... celebrated* is the only answer choice that sets up such a relationship. Winning is usually seen as a positive outcome. People celebrate positive outcomes. Therefore, if our team won the game, we might celebrate afterward. The correct answer is **(B)**.

(A) is incorrect because people do not cheer for negative outcomes. If our team *lost* the game, we would be sad. We would not have *cheered*.

(C) is incorrect because a *tied* game means that neither team won or lost. Therefore, our team would not have *smiled*, because a tie is not necessarily a positive outcome.

(D) is incorrect because there is no evidence in the question to suggest that the game was funny enough that people who *watched* the game *laughed*.

2) **A**

The word “regardless” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. Therefore, the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that Maria does not speak Chinese and her actions with the waiter at a Chinese restaurant. The question assumes that the waiter only speaks Chinese, but there are methods of communication other than language. Maria can *communicate* with the waiter by pointing at items on the menu, for instance. If Maria can communicate with the waiter without using language, this is the opposite of what most people would expect, since most people use language to communicate. The correct answer is **(A)**.

(B) is incorrect because it is impossible to *chat* with someone whose language you do not speak. Chatting involves spoken language, and we know from the question that Maria does not speak Chinese.

(C) is incorrect because it is impossible to *speak* with someone whose language you do not know. We know from the question that Maria does not speak Chinese.

(D) is incorrect because it is impossible to *converse* with someone whose language you do not know. Conversing involves spoken language, and we know from the question that Maria does not speak Chinese.

3) **D**

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 what Lana wants and what her husband wants. We know that Lana's

husband wants a big family, so Lana wants the opposite of a big family. If Lana doesn't want to *have children*, then her family will be very small: just her and her husband, with no children. The correct answer is **(D)**.

(A) is incorrect because it makes no sense to say that Lana does not want to *get married*, because we know from the question that she already has a husband.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship between what Lana wants and what her husband wants. Not wanting to *buy a house* has no effect on the size of Lana's family.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship between what Lana wants and what her husband wants. Not wanting to *go to school* has no effect on the size of Lana's family.

4) **C**

The word "while" can mean 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 conditions of some corporations and the conditions of our corporation. *Suffered ... grown* is the only answer choice that sets up an opposite relationship. "Suffered" is a negative word. When a corporation suffers, it fails to make money. "Grow" is, in this case, a positive word. When a corporation grows, it increases its business and makes more money. Therefore, "suffered" and "grown" are opposites. The correct answer is **(C)**.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Decreased* and *declined* are both negative words that mean that the corporations in the question are losing money.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Improved* and *spread* are both positive words that mean that the corporations in the question are successful.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Disappeared* and *retreated* are negative words that mean that the corporations in the question are closing or losing business.

5) **A**

The main clues in this question are "yellow" and "black." The correct answer choice will set up a comparative relationship between a yellow jacket and a black jacket. By definition, yellow is *brighter* than black. A yellow jacket will always be brighter than a black jacket. The correct answer is **(A)**.

(B) is incorrect because the question does not give us any information about the age of the yellow jacket. It might be *newer* than the black one, but there is no evidence in the question to help us determine its age.

(C) is incorrect because the question does not give us any information about the quality of the yellow jacket. It might be *nicer* than the black one, but there is no evidence in the question to help us determine its quality.

(D) is incorrect because the question does not give us any information about the price of the yellow jacket. It might be *less expensive* than the black one, but there is no evidence in the question to help us determine its price.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “due to rain.” A golf tournament cannot be held in the rain. If a golf tournament is scheduled to take place on a rainy day, the tournament must be postponed or *delayed*. The tournament can *resume* when it stops raining. In this case, it is hoped that the tournament can resume tomorrow at 8 o’clock. The correct answer is (C).

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the timing of the tournament and the rain. The tournament would not be *over* because of the rain; it can only be over once all of the golfers have finished playing.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the timing of the tournament and the rain. The tournament would not be *cancelled* by the rain because there is already a time set for it to restart – 8 o’clock tomorrow morning.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between the timing of the tournament and the rain. The tournament would not be *finished* because of the rain; it can only be finished once all the golfers have completed the course.

7) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “The committee rejected her proposal.” This is a negative event. Tina would probably respond with a negative emotion. The only answer choice containing a negative emotion is *miserable*. Tina would feel miserable after the committee rejected her proposal. The correct answer is (D).

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a negative event and the emotion that results from it. If Tina’s proposal was rejected, she would be sad. *Overjoyed* means extremely happy, which does not make sense in context.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a negative event and the emotion that results from it. The rejection of Tina’s

proposal would not make her *cheerful*; in fact, it would make her sad, so this answer choice does not work in context.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between a negative event and the emotion that results from it. Tina would not be *pleased* after the committee rejected her proposal; she would be unhappy about such an outcome.

8) **B**

The word “however” 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 what Marvin told me about the store and what was actually true about the store. *Open ... closed* is the only answer choice that sets up an opposite relationship. Open and closed are opposites. If Marvin told me the store was open but it was actually closed, this is the opposite of what Marvin told me. The correct answer is **(B)**.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. The store could be both *organized* and *great* at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Cheap* and *inexpensive* mean the same thing, so they are not opposites.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. The store could be both *popular* and *large* at the same time.

9) **B**

The main clues in this question are “waited for two hours” and “did not complain.” Someone who can wait for a long time without complaining is a *patient* person. If Yuri waited for the doctor for two hours and did not complain, then he is a patient person. The correct answer is **(B)**.

(A) is incorrect because it does not relate to the fact that Yuri waited for a long time without complaining. He might be *nervous*, but we cannot tell from the question.

(C) is incorrect because it does not relate to the fact that Yuri waited for a long time without complaining. He might be *intelligent*, but we cannot tell from the question.

(D) is incorrect because it does not relate to the fact that Yuri waited for a long time without complaining. He might be *brave*, but we cannot tell from the question.

10) **D**

The main clue in this question is the word “rude.” This means that a man was behaving poorly at a party. The correct answer choice will set up a logical relationship between what a rude man was asked to do and how I felt about this request. If someone is being rude at a party, that person may be *asked to leave*. This means that the host of the party no longer wants that guest there, and that guest will be expected to go away. If someone is being rude, I might find it *understandable* that he or she would be asked to leave. This is a logical consequence of the fact that he or she is being rude. The correct answer is **(D)**.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *ridiculous* to *deny* a rude man from your party. If someone is rude, it makes sense to turn him or her away from your party.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *reasonable* to *invite* a rude person to a party. If you know that a person is rude, there is no reason to want him or her to come to the party.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. It would not be *illogical* to *eject* a rude person from a party. If someone is rude, it makes sense to make him leave the party.