



● **Sentence Completion 11** *(high-intermediate level)*

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

1. My friend generously offered to _____ my children while I was out, but because we already had a babysitter, I kindly _____ the offer.
 - A. drive ... refused
 - B. mind ... negotiated
 - C. watch ... declined
 - D. monitor ... accepted
 - E. care for ... ignored
2. The series of private airplanes was only one of the company's many _____; they also had a good deal of valuable real estate, vehicles, and investments.
 - A. finances
 - B. shareholders
 - C. accounts
 - D. debts
 - E. assets
3. When released into the wild after growing up in captivity, Georgie was unable to relate to other members of his tribe. Eventually, he became _____; the other chimpanzees refused to interact with him.
 - A. an outlaw
 - B. an outcast
 - C. a hero
 - D. an accomplice
 - E. a nomad
4. Based on my enthusiastic _____, Francis now uses the same floor cleaner that I do.
 - A. interest
 - B. conversation
 - C. disapproval
 - D. rejection
 - E. recommendation
5. While some people enjoy sodas, I dislike carbonated _____. I often drink juice or water instead.
 - A. mixes
 - B. potions
 - C. foods
 - D. beverages
 - E. teas
6. Rather than focus on a specific demographic, our program serves a _____ client base.
 - A. diverse
 - B. specific
 - C. narrow
 - D. precise
 - E. fixed
7. Despite a wealth of evidence supporting the idea that wolves are very caring and social creatures, many people still _____ that they are nothing more than cruel, vicious animals.
 - A. reject
 - B. dream
 - C. refute
 - D. assert
 - E. deny
8. The _____ of meat in your refrigerator doesn't necessarily indicate that you are _____.
 - A. presence ... hungry
 - B. absence ... vegetarian
 - C. amount ... herbivorous
 - D. taste ... carnivorous
 - E. flavor ... ravenous

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word “but” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between my friend’s offer and how I reacted to the offer. An important clue in this question is “we already had a babysitter.” This means that my friend offered to be a babysitter for my children, but I already had a different babysitter. Another way to say “babysit” is to (C) watch someone else’s children. However, since someone was already watching my children, I (C) declined the offer, meaning I said no. The correct answer is (C).

Babysitters do not necessarily (A) drive children anywhere, so we can ignore this answer choice. I would not (B) negotiate an offer for my friend to (B) mind my children if I already had a babysitter. The babysitter would already be minding the children. Similarly, I would not (D) accept an offer to (D) monitor my children, since the babysitter would already be doing that. I cannot “kindly” (E) ignore an offer. Ignoring someone is rude. If my friend made an offer I did not want to accept, the kind thing to do would be to politely decline.

2) **E**

The question lists several valuable items owned by a company: airplanes, real estate, vehicles, and investments. Property of this nature is often referred to as (E) assets. Assets are certain possessions that, in addition to things like cash and bank account balances, contribute to one’s overall wealth. The correct answer is (E).

(A) Finances refers to the management of one’s funds, not necessarily to property like vehicles and real estate. (B) Shareholders are people who own stock in a company. This is also unrelated to the list of property in the question. (C) Accounts are business arrangements with institutions such as banks where people or companies can deposit and withdraw money. (D) Debts are the amounts of money that people or companies owe anyone who has lent them money in the past. Again, these ideas are unrelated to the properties in the question.

3) **B**

The main clue in this question is “the other chimpanzees refused to interact with him.” This means that Georgie was not accepted as a member of the tribe. This is unfortunately very common for animals released into the wild after growing up in captivity. They become (B) outcasts, which means that other members of their species want nothing to do with them. The correct answer is (B).

(A) An outlaw is a person who breaks the law and lives in hiding from the police. Since chimpanzees do not have a criminal justice system, they cannot, by

definition, be outlaws. (C) A hero is someone who others look up to, usually for honorable characteristics of brave deeds. This is the opposite of what is implied by the fact that the other chimps rejected Georgie. (D) An accomplice is someone who helps out the perpetrator of a crime. Again, chimpanzees do not commit crimes, so Georgie is not an accomplice. (E) A nomad is someone who wanders around from place to place, with one set location to call home. We do not know from the question if Georgie ever pursued nomadic life. We only know from the question that he was rejected by the tribe, so we only know he was an outcast.

4) **E**

If you like a certain product or business very much, you may wish to share your positive opinion with others. This is called a (E) recommendation. By suggesting good products to others, you hope that they will try the product and be as satisfied as you are. If I enthusiastically recommended a floor cleaner to Francis, he would have tried it and hopefully liked it. The correct answer is (E).

(A) Interest and (B) conversation do not imply that I talked to Francis specifically about switching to a particular floor cleaner. I can be interested in something without recommending it, and I can have a conversation without talking about floor cleaner. (C) Disapproval and (D) rejection are negative words that imply that I do not like the cleaner. I would not try to get Francis to switch to a product I did not like, so these answer choices are also incorrect.

5) **D**

The word “while” can mean that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with the fact that many people enjoy soda. It is strongly implied that I do not enjoy drinking soda. Soda is a carbonated (D) beverage, meaning that it is a fizzy drink that produces tiny bubbles. If I do not like carbonated beverages, then I do not like soda, and I will drink non-fizzy beverages such as juice instead. The correct answer is (D).

(C) Food cannot be drunk, so we can ignore that answer choice right away. (A) Mixes, (B) potions, and (E) teas are all things that people can drink, but they do not describe soda. Soda is not a mix, potion, or tea. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

6) **A**

The phrase “rather than” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship with “a specific demographic.” This means that our program serves more than one demographic (subset of consumers such as a race, religion, gender, etc.). If the program focuses on multiple demographics, then it focuses on a (A) diverse client base. The correct answer is (A).

A (B) specific, (C) narrow, (D) precise, or (E) fixed client base would be one that focuses on one targeted demographic. None of these answer choices sets up the appropriate opposite relationship we need to answer the question. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

7) **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 the evidence and what many people incorrectly believe. The evidence points to the fact that wolves are caring and sociable. This means that most people believe the opposite to be true. They (D) assert (claim) that wolves are cruel and vicious, even though they are not. The correct answer is (D).

If people (A) reject, (C) refute, or (E) deny the incorrect claim about wolves’ cruelty, then they believe the claim is false and accept the truth instead. However, this does not set up the opposite relationship we need to answer the question, so these answer choices are incorrect. If people (B) dream that wolves are vicious, then they have images of vicious wolves in their dreams. This does not directly oppose the evidence, since people cannot control what they dream about. Therefore, this answer choice is also incorrect.

8) **B**

A (B) vegetarian is someone who chooses not to eat meat, usually for moral- or health-related reasons. Someone who is vegetarian will not have any meat in his or her refrigerator. However, the (B) absence of meat in the refrigerator does not make a person a vegetarian. It is possible that some meat-eaters might not have meat in the refrigerator on a given day, that they have run out of meat temporarily, or that they prefer to eat meat cooked in restaurants. You cannot tell if someone is a vegetarian just by looking in his or her refrigerator. The correct answer is (B).

The presence of meat in a person’s refrigerator has no effect on whether or not that person is (A) hungry or (E) ravenous. These words are close in meaning. A person can get hungry regardless of what is in his or her refrigerator, so these answer choices are incorrect. The (C) amount or (D) taste of meat in a refrigerator does not impact whether someone is (C) herbivorous or (D) carnivorous (whether he or she eats only plants or only meat). Nearly all humans are technically omnivorous, meaning that they eat plant- and animal-based products, regardless of their choices about meat. These answer choices are also incorrect.