Name_____
Date_____

# • Sentence Completion 3 Level 11

**_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. The staff writers found the new editor-in-chief to be _____, especially when he would belittle the writers and irritate them with his desire to micromanage their stories.

   A. abrasive
   B. judicial
   C. charismatic
   D. demure
   E. winsome

2. Contrary to popular belief, most Americans did not feel the deleterious effects of the stock market crash for several years; as the Depression worsened, though, millions of Americans were left _____ as the nation saw its highest unemployment levels in history.

   A. irate
   B. inferior
   C. covetous
   D. destitute
   E. laboring

3. Though obviously a work of fiction, the book became popular because of its _____: because the author made even the ancient Byzantine conspiracy plot seem believable, the book sold millions of copies.

   A. incongruities
   B. disingenuousness
   C. honesty
   D. machinations
   E. verisimilitude

4. The food critic was not quite sure what to make of the_____ foam that accompanied the foie gras, as it seemed _____ and added nothing to the dish overall.

   A. insufficient ... imperative
   B. causeless ... warranted
   C. gratuitous ... superfluous
   D. verbose... extravagant
   E. lavish ... opulent

5. Early historians referred to Custer's defeat at Little Big Horn as a savage massacre by the Cheyenne tribe, but most modern interpretations place the _____ in the proper historical context and note, for instance, that Custer himself had led several similar bloody attacks on various tribes in the region.

   A. restitution
   B. carnage
   C. ordnance
   D. vengeance
   E. insurrection

6. Most felt that Carlton's _____ made him incredibly unpopular, since people seldom wish to be friends with someone who constantly looks down on them.

   A. superciliousness
   B. apathy
   C. gregariousness
   D. modesty
   E. insensitivity

## Answers and Explanations

**1) A**
To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keywords are "belittle" and "irritate," two words that describe the actions of the "new editor-in-chief." The missing word describes how others found the editor to be, so it make it clear that the writers did not like the editor's style and found him disagreeable and annoying, since most would be annoyed by someone who would "irritate them." Because *abrasive* means annoying or causing ill will, choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because *judicial* means fair. The prompt indicates that the writers found the editor to be belittling and irritating. These qualities are not indicative of someone who is fair.

**(C)** is incorrect because *charismatic* means likeable, which is the exact opposite of how the prompt describes the editor-in-chief.

**(D)** is incorrect because *demure* means shy and modest, not words that would describe an editor known to "belittle" or insult his writers.

**(E)** is incorrect because *winsome* means charming, which is the exact opposite of how the prompt describes the editor-in-chief.

**2) D**
To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. In this prompt, the keywords are "deleterious effects" and "highest unemployment rates." Both of these are effects of the Depression and stock market crash, and no part of the prompt implies there were positive effects of either, as the prompt simply calls into question when the effects were felt. Thus, the missing word must also be one that refers to the harmful or "deleterious" effects of the Depression. The missing word must also specifically refer to poverty, given that the immediate cause of the missing word is a high unemployment rate. Because the unemployed do not earn income, they descend into poverty. Thus, choice **(D)** is the best choice, as *destitute* means impoverished.

**(A)** is incorrect because *irate* means extremely angry. While many people probably were angry during the Depression, the prompt does not suggest that this is a fact. The prompt only focuses on unemployment and other "deleterious effects" of the Depression.

**(B)** is incorrect because *inferior* means less than adequate. In context, this would imply that the Americans experiencing the Depression were themselves not adequate, though the prompt really means to suggest that Americans were left with an inadequate amount of money.

**(C)** is incorrect because *covetous* means greedy. The prompt does not imply that the Americans in question were greedy but that they, instead, did not have the ability to meet basic needs.

**(E)** is incorrect because *laboring* means working, though the prompt implies that few had jobs, "as the nation saw its highest unemployment levels in history."

**3) E**
To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the key word is "believable," which comes in the clause that follows the colon. Colons are used to separate explanatory information from the rest of a sentence, so everything that comes after the colon in this sentence elaborates on the missing word. The missing word must, thus, refer to the fact that the book is believable despite the fact that the book is a work of fiction. Choice **(E)** provides a word that works in context, as *verisimilitude* means the appearance of truth or believability.

**(A)** is incorrect because *incongruities* are things that do not fit together or are inconsistent. Inconsistencies do not make a novel popular and generally do not add to a book's believability.

**(B)** is incorrect because *disingenuousness* is insincerity. This is not a quality that would contribute to a book's believability.

**(C)** is incorrect because *honesty* is candor or sincerity. While the prompt makes it clear the author wrote the book to be "believable," it does not say that the book is a true story or one full of sincerity.

**(D)** is incorrect because *machinations* are crafty schemes. This word could describe the plot of the novel, but it would not explain why it was successful, since the book's success depended on the book being "believable," not on the crafty schemes in its plot.

**4) C**
To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using keywords from the prompt. Here, the keywords for both missing words are "added nothing to the dish overall." This phrase describes the "foam" as unnecessary to the taste or appearance of the meal, and, since the first missing word describes the foam and the second what the foam "seemed" to be, both words should imply that the foam was unnecessary. Therefore, choice **(C)** is the correct answer, since it provides two words that work in context: *gratuitous* means added without justification, while *superfluous* means unnecessary.

**(A)** is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Insufficient* means not enough, while *imperative* means crucial. As the foam "added nothing to the dish overall," there is no such thing as insufficient or not enough foam. Furthermore, the prompt would not say that an unnecessary addition was crucial, as those ideas are antithetical.

**(B)** is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Causeless* means unnecessary or without reason and, thus, works in context for the first missing word. However, *warranted* means deserved and would not be used to describe the unnecessary foam.

**(D)** is incorrect because only the second word works in context. *Verbose* means using more words than are needed. The foam in question is an unnecessary food item, not a redundant word, so verbose does not make sense logically. However, *extravagant* means beyond what is necessary, so this word would accurately describe the foam.

**(E)** is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Lavish* and *opulent* both mean decadent, but the prompt only implies that the foam was unnecessary, not that it was necessarily rich or decadent.

**5)    B**
To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. The keywords here are "massacre" and "bloody attacks." The prompt makes it clear that the missing word refers to the defeat of Little Big Horn and that it is also an example of "similar bloody attacks" or "massacres" that Custer once led. The missing word must be one that means bloody violence, so choice **(B)** is correct: *carnage* is a massacre.

**(A)** is incorrect because *restitution* is a reparation made to compensate a loss. The prompt implies that the battle at Little Big Horn was part of an ongoing war but not that it was necessarily payback for the Cheyenne.

**(C)** is incorrect because an *ordnance* is a military weapon, not a violent act.

**(D)** is incorrect because *vengeance* is violent revenge. The prompt implies that the battle at Little Big Horn was part of an ongoing war but not that it was necessarily payback for the Cheyenne.

**(E)** is incorrect because an *insurrection* is a violent uprising against an authority figure. The prompt does not imply that the battle at Little Big Horn was an insurrection by the Cheyenne; rather, it merely implies that it was a bloody battle in an ongoing war. Insurrection usually refers to an armed rebellion.

**6)    A**
To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using keywords from the prompt. Here the keywords are in the phrase "someone who constantly looks down on them," a phrase that explains why Carlton was unpopular. The missing word likewise provides a cause for his unpopularity, so the missing word must be a noun that would describe one who is arrogant or looks down on others. Choice **(A)** provides such a word, as *superciliousness* is haughty contempt or arrogance.

**(B)** is incorrect because *apathy* is the absence of emotion or feeling for others. While such a trait would make one unpopular, the prompt provides a different explanation for Carlton's unpopularity: the fact that he "looks down on" others.

**(C)** is incorrect because *gregariousness* is sociability or friendliness and is, as such, a trait that would not define someone who is "unpopular" and "looks down on others."

**(D)** is incorrect because *modesty* is humility or a lack of arrogance. The prompt implies Carlton is anything but modest, as he "constantly looks down on" others.

**(E)** is incorrect because *insensitivity* is callousness or an inability to care for others. While such a trait would make one unpopular, the prompt provides a different explanation for Carlton's unpopularity: the fact that he "looks down on" others.