

• **Sentence Completion 3** Level 4

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. At first my parents did not allow me to ever play video games after school, but now they _____ it sometimes.
A. encourage
B. ban
C. permit
D. expect
2. When you need _____ count, it is not okay to estimate.
A. an accurate
B. a guessed
C. a gigantic
D. a truthful
3. Alexis was excited to begin her new job, and we were impressed by how _____ she was.
A. entertained
B. eager
C. experienced
D. essential
4. The actor always wore a mask and _____ his face, so it was exciting to see what he looked like when he finally _____ himself.
A. decorated ... cleansed
B. covered ... concealed
C. exposed ... disguised
D. hid ... revealed
5. The book's _____ was shocking, since I never thought the book would end with a major death.
A. beginning
B. conclusion
C. impression
D. section
6. Before I knew the rules, the game seemed _____, but now it seems so _____.
A. straightforward ... easy
B. complex ... bizarre
C. fun ... thrilling
D. complicated ... simple
7. In order to _____ her weight, Bernice decided to go on a diet.
A. reduce
B. expand
C. release
D. extend
8. In order to _____ the project, we need to finish all of the tasks it includes.
A. complete
B. delay
C. prevent
D. assist
9. The coach just wanted Sara to _____ the new technique, so she was upset when Sara refused to _____ it.
A. explain ... learn
B. perform ... enjoy
C. try ... attempt
D. examine ... understand
10. Unlike hippos, which I find ugly, flamingoes are _____.
A. interesting
B. graceful
C. awful
D. attractive

Answers and Explanations

1) C

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up an opposite or negative relationship. Since the speaker’s parents “did not allow” him or her to do something, then “now” they must allow it sometimes, since that is the opposite of not allowing something. Because *permit* means to allow, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *encourage* means to help or give support for someone to do something. This is too extreme to work in this sentence, since the sentence implies only that the speaker’s parents no longer ban video games after school. Allowing and encouraging are not identical in meaning.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Ban* means to officially prohibit, which is the same as not allowing something.

(D) is incorrect because *expect* means to think something is likely to happen. This is too extreme to work in this sentence, since the sentence implies only that the speaker’s parents no longer ban video games after school. Expecting is not the same as allowing.

2) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “it is not okay to estimate.” The sentence says this about a situation “when you need” a count described by the missing word, meaning the missing word must be the opposite of an estimate. Because “accurate” means correct and exact in all details, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Guessed* means estimated or supposed without accurately measuring. If one needed a guessed count, then it would be okay to estimate.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Gigantic* means very large. This is not the opposite of an estimate.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Truthful* means honest, which does not have a direct relationship to an estimate.

3) B

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which is used to indicate that the two parts of the sentence say similar things. Since Alexis “was excited,” “we” must have been “impressed by how” excited she was. The correct choice should be a word that means excited. Because *eager* means excited and wanting to do something very much, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *entertained* means amused. While one might be entertained by something he or she was excited about, it would not make sense for others to be entertained by someone else’s excitement.

(C) is incorrect because *experienced* means having knowledge and skills gained from past work. While Alexis might be experienced, the sentence gives no indication that she is.

(D) is incorrect because *essential* means extremely important. While Alexis might be essential, the sentence gives no indication that she is.

4) D

Wearing a mask would conceal or hide one’s face, so the first missing word must mean concealed or covered up. The second missing word’s main clue is the word “so,” which indicates a cause-and-effect relationship. Since the actor’s face was covered up, it would have been exciting to see what he looked like when he took the mask off. Therefore, the second missing word must mean showed. Because *hid* means concealed or covered up, and *revealed* means exposed or uncovered, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Decorated* means made more attractive by adding ornaments, while *cleansed* means cleaned. Decorating is not the same as covering up, and cleaning is not the same as exposing or uncovering.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Covered* means having something on top that conceals or hides. This word could work in context for the first missing word. However, *concealed* means hidden or covered up, the opposite of what is needed for the second word.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Exposed* means revealed or uncovered, while *disguised* means altered in appearance to hide one’s identity. These words would work in context only if their order were reversed.

5) B

The main clue in this question is the word “since,” which is used to indicate a cause-and-effect relationship. Here, the first part of the sentence explains that some part of the book was “shocking,” and the second part explains that the book unexpectedly ended with a major death. Since the missing word describes what part of the book was shocking, and the second part of the

sentence discusses the ending of the book, the ending of it must have been shocking. A *conclusion* is an ending, so choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *beginning* is the start or first part of something, so it would not make sense to say the beginning was shocking because of something that happened at the end of the book.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. An *impression* is an idea about something that is formed with little knowledge or experience. A book cannot have an impression, though a reader could have an impression of the book.

(D) is incorrect because a *section* is a part of something. This does not work because it is too unclear and not specific. A section of a book could be its beginning, middle, or end, but this sentence requires a word that can only refer to an ending.

6) D

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up a negative or opposite relationship. The two missing words complete this opposite relationship, since the narrator thought the game was one way before knowing the rules but a different way after knowing them. The correct choice will have a pair of opposites. *Complicated* means intricate or not straightforward, and *simple* means not intricate or confusing. This is a pair of opposites, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Straightforward* means uncomplicated and easy to understand, while *easy* means simple or not difficult. These words mean almost the same thing.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Complex* means complicated or intricate, while *bizarre* means unusual or strange. These words have no clear relationship.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fun* means enjoyable, while *thrilling* means exciting. These words have similar meanings.

7) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “in order to,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship in the prompt. Bernice’s end goal is to do something to her weight, and to achieve her goal, she has gone on a diet. One goes on a diet to lose weight, so Bernice must be attempting to lose weight. Because *reduce* means to make smaller in amount or size, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Expand* means to make or become larger, which is the opposite of what Bernice would do to her weight by going on a diet.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Release* means to let go or free from captivity, but one cannot let his or her weight go free.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Extend* means to make longer or wider, which is the opposite of what Bernice would do to her weight by going on a diet.

8) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “in order to,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship. The missing word describes the effect of finishing all the tasks the project includes. This means the missing word must mean finish, since a project would be finished when all of its tasks are finished. Because *complete* means to finish making or doing, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Delay* means to slow down or make something late. One would not attempt to finish all the tasks a project includes in order to make it late.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Prevent* means to keep something from happening. One would not attempt to finish all the tasks a project includes in order to prevent it from happening.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Assist* means to help. This choice is not extreme enough, since helping something along is not the same as finishing it.

9) C

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which is used to indicate a cause-and-effect relationship. The first part of the sentence explains what the coach wanted Sara to do, while the second part explains that she was upset when Sara refused to do it. This means the missing words must have similar meanings. Because *try* means to make an attempt or effort to do something, and *attempt* means to try or to make an effort to do something, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Explain* means to make something clear by describing it in more detail, while *learn* means to gain knowledge. These words do not have similar meanings.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Perform* means to carry out or fulfill an action, while *enjoy* means to take pleasure in something. These words do not have similar meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Examine* means to inspect something in detail, while *understand* means to be clear about the meaning of something. These words do not have similar meanings.

10) D

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which sets up an opposite or negative relationship. Since the narrator finds hippos to be “ugly,” he or she must find flamingoes to be the opposite of ugly. Because *attractive* means pretty, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Interesting* means causing curiosity or interest, which has no clear relationship to being ugly.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Graceful* means having elegance or moving without being clumsy. This is not the opposite of ugly.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Awful* means very bad or unpleasant. This is not the opposite of ugly.