



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

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

1. In our class, students _____ their hands before they _____.
A. hold ... sneeze
B. clap ... write
C. raise ... speak
D. point ... read
2. When you _____ something, you get money in exchange for it.
A. borrow
B. sell
C. buy
D. steal
3. Doreen does not like to _____ without a pillow.
A. laugh
B. sleep
C. eat
D. smile
4. Kathleen always _____ while watching funny movies.
A. frowns
B. cries
C. sleeps
D. laughs
5. The boy _____ a shell that he liked on the beach. He decided to _____ it home with him.
A. took ... toss
B. lost ... sell
C. found ... take
D. made ... bring
6. Stephanie has enough money to _____ the dress she wants.
A. buy
B. sell
C. steal
D. take
7. Chan is a great musician. He _____ the violin in the orchestra.
A. sings
B. hears
C. helps
D. plays
8. When the teacher is _____, you should _____.
A. teaching ... fail
B. crying ... laugh
C. reading ... sleep
D. speaking ... listen
9. Melissa works at an Italian restaurant. She is a _____.
A. maid
B. waitress
C. nurse
D. doctor
10. Demetrius likes to _____ to music in his _____.
A. listen ... car
B. talk ... house
C. give ... headphones
D. speak ... television

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

When you are in class, you should *raise* your hand before you *speak*. It is polite, and it means that everyone gets a chance to be heard. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not make sense to *hold* hands before you *sneeze*. In fact, you should not be holding hands when you sneeze. You should cover your sneeze with your hands and then wash them.

(B) is incorrect because there is no relationship between *clapping* your hands and *writing*. You can write without clapping your hands.

(D) is incorrect because you do not need to *point* in order to *read*. You can read without pointing at each word you see.

2) **B**

When you *sell* something to someone, you give that person an item and he or she gives you money. You get money “in exchange” for your item. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because you do not get money in exchange for items that you *borrow*. When you borrow an item, you simply take it for a short amount of time and give it back. No money is usually involved.

(C) is incorrect because you do not get money when you *buy* an item. In fact, when you buy an item, you are the one giving money in exchange for that item.

(D) is incorrect because you do not get money when you *steal* an item. No one gets money, because stealing, by definition, involves taking something without any form of payment.

3) **B**

Most people like to *sleep* with a pillow. Pillows make sleeping more comfortable. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because you can *laugh* without a pillow. Pillows do not affect whether or not a person laughs.

(C) is incorrect because you can *eat* without a pillow. Pillows do not affect whether or not a person eats.

(D) is incorrect because you can *smile* without a pillow. Pillows do not affect whether or not a person smiles.

4) **D**

Most people *laugh* when something is funny. If Kathleen is watching funny movies, she will probably laugh. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because Kathleen probably would not *frown* during a funny movie. Frowning expresses negative (bad) emotions like anger or sadness, but laughing expresses a positive (good) emotion like happiness.

(B) is incorrect because Kathleen probably would not *cry* during a funny movie. Crying usually expresses sadness, but laughing expresses a positive (good) emotion like happiness.

(D) is incorrect because you only sleep when you are tired. We do not know if Kathleen is tired. We only know that she is watching a funny movie.

5) **C**

If the boy really liked the shell, he would want to keep it. He probably *found* (past tense of "find") the shell at the beach, because shells are very common at the beach. In order to keep it, he has to *take* it home. Choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because you cannot *toss* a shell all the way home from the beach.

(B) is incorrect because you cannot *sell* something that you have *lost*. If you lost it, it is no longer in your possession, so you cannot sell it to someone else.

(D) is incorrect because you cannot *make* a shell. Shells are only made in nature.

6) **A**

If you want to *buy* something, you have to have enough money to pay for it. If Stephanie has enough money, then she can buy the dress she likes. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because you do not need any money to *sell* a dress. If you sell a dress, you actually receive money for it.

(C) is incorrect because you do not need money to *steal* a dress. If you steal a dress, you specifically do not give money in exchange for it. That is what makes it stealing.

(D) is incorrect because you do not need money to *take* a dress. If you take a dress, it is implied that you do not give money in exchange for it. This is a way of saying that you stole it.

7) **D**

An orchestra is a group of musicians who play different musical instruments. To *play* an instrument means to use it to make music. If Chan plays the violin, that means he is a musician. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it is not possible to *sing* a violin. A person can only play a violin.

(B) is incorrect because although it is possible to *hear* a violin, hearing music is not what makes someone a member of an orchestra. Members of an audience hear the instruments. Members of orchestras play the instruments

(C) is incorrect because it is not possible to *help* a violin. Usually, only living creatures can require help from others.

8) **D**

Whenever your teacher is *speaking*, you should *listen*. You cannot learn from your teacher if you do not listen to him or her. Listening also shows respect and helps you learn. Choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because you should never *fail* a class. You should always do your best in order to pass.

(B) is incorrect because you should not *laugh* at your teacher unless he or she is making a joke on purpose. If you laugh at your teacher when he or she is not joking, then you are being disrespectful.

(C) is incorrect because you should never *sleep* in class. You should always be awake and pay attention.

9) **B**

A *waitress* is a woman who serves food to the customers at a restaurant. If Melissa serves food at a restaurant, she is a waitress. Choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *maids* do not serve food in restaurants. Melissa serves food at a restaurant, so she is not a maid.

(C) is incorrect because *nurses* do not serve food in restaurants. Melissa serves food at a restaurant, so she is not a nurse.

(D) is incorrect because *doctors* do not serve food in restaurants. Melissa serves food at a restaurant, so she is not a doctor.

10) **A**

When you hear music, you *listen* to it. Demetrius listens to music in his *car* because he must have a radio in it. Many people like to listen to the radio while they are driving. Choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not make sense to *talk* to music. Music cannot talk back.

(C) is incorrect because it does not make sense to *give* anything to music. Music cannot give or receive things.

(D) is incorrect because it does not make sense to *speak* to music. Music cannot speak back.