



● **Sentence Completion 2** (*high-intermediate level*)

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

1. Mr. Hawkins' philosophy course gets _____ quickly, even though the school has increased the maximum enrollment limit twice already.
A. started
B. full
C. empty
D. completed
E. expired
2. It took Miranda years of substance abuse counseling to finally achieve _____; she now leads a healthy life free from drugs and alcohol.
A. sobriety
B. assistance
C. dignity
D. addiction
E. depression
3. Josh lets procrastination get the best of him; he _____ completed his project the night before it was due, resulting in a sloppy presentation.
A. patiently
B. slowly
C. hastily
D. nervously
E. carefully
4. Under ordinary circumstances, the board would never _____ such behavior, but due to the _____ status of the CEO, her wrongdoing was casually overlooked.
A. allow ... average
B. suppose ... questionable
C. suspect ... wavering
D. condone ... special
E. reprimand ... important
5. Most people consider torture _____ because it is an act of cruelty. However, some assert that it is _____ and can actually help save lives.
A. offensive ... dangerous
B. amazing ... crucial
C. horrible ... irrelevant
D. wrong ... necessary
E. terrible ... unforgivable
6. Health insurance prevents routine medical visits from becoming too _____ for the average citizen. Without insurance, seeing a doctor can be very expensive.
A. helpful
B. easy
C. costly
D. valuable
E. advantageous
7. Although they have always done things _____ in the past, the twins felt it was crucial that they experience college _____, and foster a healthy sense of independence.
A. jointly ... collectively
B. joyfully ... happily
C. simultaneously ... commonly
D. individually ... alone
E. together ... separately
8. Instead of playing with _____ toy, Daphne always chooses the same one. She tells everyone that it is her favorite.
A. an educational
B. an expensive
C. a wooden
D. a new
E. a shiny

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

The phrase “even though” means 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 the maximum enrollment of Mr. Hawkin’s class has been raised twice. This means that the school is always trying to let more students take Mr. Hawkin’s class. If the limit has been raised twice already but the class still gets (B) full too quickly, this is the opposite of what is expected. Raising the limit has not solved the problem. The correct answer is (B).

The enrollment limit has no effect on when the class gets (A) started or (D) completed. Only the school calendar affects these things, so we can ignore these answer choices. Classes do not (E) expire; they only fill up or conclude at the end of the semester or year. We can ignore this answer choice too. If the class were (C) empty, there would be no need to raise the enrollment limit. Therefore, this answer choice is also incorrect.

2) **A**

The main clues in this question are “substance abuse counseling” and “healthy life free from drugs and alcohol.” Remember that the semicolon (;) combines two independent clauses that are close in meaning and progress logically from one another. This means that there will be a logical or equal relationship between Miranda’s counseling and her new, drug-free life. People enter substance abuse counseling when they have a problem with drugs or alcohol. They want to quit using these substances and achieve (A) sobriety. “Sobriety” is another way of saying “life free from drugs and alcohol.” If Miranda has achieved this lifestyle, she has achieved sobriety. The correct answer is (A).

Miranda would not go to counseling to achieve (D) addiction. She already had an addiction in the first place, and she went to counseling to recover from it. Similarly, people with (E) depression attend counseling to recover from that condition as well. These answer choices are incorrect. Counseling may help Miranda obtain (B) assistance or (C) dignity, but the *main* reason why people attend counseling is to become sober. These answer choices make sense, but they are not the *best* answer choices.

3) **C**

The main clues in this question are “procrastination” and “the night before it was due.” This means that Josh put off working on the project until the last minute. When someone waits until the last minute to complete something, he or she must work (C) hastily. This means that he or she must work very quickly in order to be done in time. Often, this results in “sloppy” work, because there is no time to pay attention to details. The correct answer is (C).

If Josh waited until the last minute to do his project, he would not have enough time to work (A) patiently, (B) slowly, or (E) carefully. All of these descriptions mean that Josh spent a lot of time on the project and that he paid lots of attention to every detail. He could not have done this at the last minute, so these answer choices are incorrect. He might have worked (D) nervously, but this is not the best answer choice. We cannot tell from the question if he was nervous or not.

4) **D**

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 with the board’s usual reaction and the board’s reason for overlooking the CEO’s behavior. We know that if the board members overlooked the CEO’s behavior this time, then they must usually respond negatively to bad behavior. They must not usually (D) condone the CEO’s behavior, which means that they must reject it and punish it. Unfortunately, sometimes people with (D) special status or power get away with behaving badly. If the board ignored the special CEO’s bad behavior, this is the opposite of how they usually react. The correct answer is (D).

If the CEO were only (A) average, she probably would not have gotten away with any wrongdoing. Similarly, (B) questionable or (C) wavering CEOs usually do not have high enough status to have their wrongdoings overlooked, so we can ignore these answer choices. An (E) important CEO might have his or her bad behavior overlooked. However, if the board never (E) reprimands bad behavior, then there is no opposite relationship between their usual reaction and the fact that they overlooked this one instance of wrongdoing.

5) **D**

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 with most people’s negative opinion of torture and some people’s positive opinion of it. We know that most people have a negative opinion of torture because the first part of the question calls it “an act of cruelty.” Some people must have a positive opinion of torture, because the question sets up an opposite relationship. If some people think torture is (D) necessary, then they believe its positive aspects outweigh its negative aspects. People who believe that torture can stop evildoers from taking innocent peoples’ lives believe that torture is necessary. The correct answer is (D).

(B) is the only answer choice we can ignore right away, because (B) amazing is a positive word, and most people do not have positive opinions of torture. The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. Someone might think that torture is both (A) offensive and (A) dangerous without any contradiction. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between being (C) horrible and (C) irrelevant, or between being (E) terrible and (E) unforgivable. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

6) **C**

The main clue in this question is “without insurance, seeing a doctor can be too expensive.” This means that insurance must reduce the cost of seeing a doctor. Health insurance prevents medical visits from being too (C) costly. The correct answer is (C).

The other answer choices do not involve cost or money. Health insurance does not make seeing a doctor less (A) helpful, (B) easy, (D) valuable, or (E) advantageous. There is no relationship between having insurance and any of these characteristics. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

7) **E**

The main clue in this question is “healthy sense of independence.” Remember that the word “although” means that two things are related in an opposite way. This means that there is an opposite relationship between how the twins used to be and how independent they hope to become during college. If they used to do everything (E) together, they were not very independent. Independence means that you can do things by yourself, without help. If the twins go to college (E) separately, then they will learn how to be independent. This is the opposite of how they were before. The correct answer is (E).

The other answer choices do not set up opposite relationships. There is no opposite relationship between doing things (A) jointly or doing them (A) collectively, because these two words are very close in meaning. Similarly, there is no opposite relationship between doing something (B) joyfully and (B) happily, (C) simultaneously and (C) commonly, or (D) individually and (D) alone. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.

8) **D**

The key words in this question are “Daphne always chooses the same one.” This means that Daphne never chooses to play with (D) a new toy. She always returns to the same old toy. The correct answer is (D).

The other answer choices do not set up logical relationships. We don’t know if Daphne’s favorite toy is (A) educational or not. If her favorite toy is educational, then she always chooses an educational toy. Similarly, we do not know from the question if Daphne’s favorite toy is (B) expensive, (C) wooden, or (E) shiny. We do not know anything about the toy that Daphne always chooses. We only know that it is her favorite. Therefore, these answer choices are incorrect.