



● **Sentence Completion 17** *(low-intermediate level)*

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

1. Examples are commonly used to \_\_\_\_\_ one's argument.  
A. deny  
B. weaken  
C. declare  
D. support
2. Scientists tried for years to explain the \_\_\_\_\_ phenomenon.  
A. simple  
B. plain  
C. strange  
D. ordinary
3. Marlene is very \_\_\_\_\_ of rich and famous celebrities. It is her dream to be like them one day.  
A. bored  
B. nervous  
C. excited  
D. jealous
4. Cheyenne is \_\_\_\_\_ about starting her new job. She has wanted to work for this company for a long time.  
A. excited  
B. upset  
C. indifferent  
D. selfish
5. Even though Jack's presentation was \_\_\_\_\_, his message was \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. interesting ... funny  
B. comical ... serious  
C. long ... complicated  
D. new ... strange
6. Ew ... gross! I think sushi is \_\_\_\_\_. It makes me sick!  
A. tasty  
B. attractive  
C. delicious  
D. disgusting
7. Although most Japanese maple trees don't get very tall, some can reach astounding \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. heights  
B. varieties  
C. abilities  
D. colors
8. Although most ancient Greek sculptures have been destroyed over time, the Pantheon has managed to \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. survive  
B. perish  
C. dissolve  
D. die
9. Molly is never \_\_\_\_\_ with the things she has. She always wants more. She is \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. generous ... annoying  
B. gentle ... selfish  
C. satisfied ... greedy  
D. picky ... easygoing
10. The museum groups artifacts with respect to age; an ancient sculpture is likely to be placed near \_\_\_\_\_ painting.  
A. a beautiful  
B. an old  
C. a special  
D. a rare

## Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The correct answer choice will involve a logical relationship between examples and arguments. In this context, an argument is a statement of opinion. When making an argument, you should *support* your opinion with examples. These examples illustrate how you reached your opinion, and why others should agree with you. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Examples are not used to *deny* an argument you are trying to make.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Examples are not used to *weaken* an argument that you are trying to make. Examples are supposed to make your argument strong, so that other people will agree with you.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. Examples are not used to *declare* your argument. You state your point of view first, and then you use examples to explain or support your point of view.

2) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “tried for years.” This means that scientists were not able to explain the phenomenon in a short period of time. If the phenomenon cannot be explained quickly and easily, then it is a *strange* phenomenon. The fact that the phenomenon took so long to explain is an indicator that it is unusual and unrelated to things that scientists can already explain. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If the phenomenon were *simple*, then it would not have taken years for scientists to explain it.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If the phenomenon were *plain*, then it would not have taken years for scientists to explain it.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. If the phenomenon were *ordinary*, then it would not have taken years for scientists to explain it.

3) **D**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “It is her dream to be like them someday.” This means that Marlene wants to be like a rich, famous celebrity. If Marlene wants to have someone else’s lifestyle, then she is *jealous* of the person

whose lifestyle she wants to have. She is not satisfied with the life she has, and she wants what someone else has. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Marlene's feelings about celebrities and her desire to be like them. If Marlene is *bored* about celebrities, she would not want to live like them someday.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Marlene's feelings about celebrities and her desire to be like them. If Marlene is *nervous* about celebrities, she would not want to live like them someday.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Marlene's feelings about celebrities and her desire to be like them. If Marlene is *excited* about celebrities, she would not necessarily want to live like them someday.

4) **A**

The main clue in this question is the phrase "She has wanted to work for this company for a long time." This means that Cheyenne's long-awaited wish has been fulfilled. She is finally starting a job at the company. She is probably *excited* about her new job, because she has wanted to work there for so long. When people want something and they finally get it, they are usually excited. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Cheyenne's feelings and her desire to work at her new company for a long time. Cheyenne would not feel *upset* about working at a company for which she's wanted to work for so long. She would be happy about such an exciting development.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Cheyenne's feelings and her desire to work at her new company for a long time. Cheyenne would not feel *indifferent* about working at a company for which she's wanted to work for so long. She would be happy about such an exciting development.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship between Cheyenne's feelings and her desire to work at her new company for a long time. Cheyenne would not feel *selfish* about working at a company for which she's wanted to work for so long. She would be happy about such an exciting development.

5) **B**

The phrase "even though" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Jack's presentation and his message. If Jack's presentation

was *comical*, then it was amusing, and people probably laughed. If Jack's message was *serious*, then his message was not funny, and people probably would not have laughed at it. If Jack combined a comical presentation and a serious message, then he combined two opposite things. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Jack's presentation could be both *interesting* and *funny* without creating any conflict or defeating his audience's expectations, because interesting and funny are not opposites.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Jack's presentation could be both *long* and *complicated* without creating any conflict or defeating his audience's expectations, because long and complicated are not opposites.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Jack's presentation could be both *new* and *strange* without creating any conflict or defeating his audience's expectations, because new and strange are not opposites.

6) **D**

The main clues in this question are "Ew ... gross!" and "It makes me sick!" These phrases convey negative feelings about sushi. Therefore, the correct answer choice will also convey negative feelings about sushi. Since "gross" and *disgusting* are very close in meaning, I probably think that sushi is disgusting. "Disgusting" is another negative way to describe sushi. Choice **(D)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it describes sushi in a positive way. If sushi makes me sick, then I will not think that it is *tasty*.

**(B)** is incorrect because it describes sushi in a positive way. If sushi makes me sick, then I will not think that it is *attractive*.

**(C)** is incorrect because it describes sushi in a positive way. If sushi makes me sick, then I will not think that it is *delicious*.

7) **A**

The word "although" means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between most Japanese maple trees and some Japanese maple trees that are different from the rest. We know from the question that most of these trees don't get very tall. The opposite of this would be if a Japanese maple tree got very tall. Another way to say that something is tall is that it reaches astounding *heights*. If a Japanese maple tree reaches astounding heights, then it is tall. This is the opposite of most Japanese maple trees. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. The question requires that the correct answer relate to the height of the trees. Their *varieties* have nothing to do with how tall they grow.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. The question requires that the correct answer relate to the height of the trees. Their *abilities* have nothing to do with how tall they grow.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. The question requires that the correct answer relate to the height of the trees. Their *colors* have nothing to do with how tall they grow.

8) **A**

The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the Pantheon and other ancient Greek statues. If most ancient Greek statues have been destroyed, this must mean that the Pantheon has not been destroyed. Another way to say that it has not been destroyed is that it has *survived*. Choice **(A)** is correct.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the Pantheon *perished*, then it has been destroyed. The question requires a word that means that the Pantheon is unlike most ancient Greek statues in that it was not destroyed.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the Pantheon *dissolved*, then it has been destroyed. The question requires a word that means that the Pantheon is unlike most ancient Greek statues in that it was not destroyed.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. If the Pantheon *died*, then it has been destroyed. The question requires a word that means that the Pantheon is unlike most ancient Greek statues in that it was not destroyed.

9) **C**

The main clue in this question is the phrase “She always wants more.” This means that Molly is never *satisfied* with what she has. If Molly were satisfied, she would not always want more. People who always want more and more can be described as *greedy*. Greedy people are always trying to obtain more possessions, money, power, and so on. They never have enough. Choice **(C)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship with the idea that Molly always wants more. Molly might be *generous* or *annoying*, but we cannot tell from the clues in the question.

**(B)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship with the idea that Molly always wants more. Molly might be *gentle* or *selfish*, but we cannot tell from the clues in the question.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship with the idea that Molly always wants more. Molly might be *picky* or *easygoing*, but we cannot tell from the clues in the question.

10) **B**

The main clues in this question are “with respect to age” and “ancient.” This means that the correct answer choice will involve an age- or time-related word close in meaning to “ancient.” *Old* is the only answer choice that fits this description. Ancient sculptures and old paintings are likely to be placed together in a museum that groups items by age. Choice **(B)** is correct.

**(A)** is incorrect because it does not refer to age or time. The painting near the sculpture may be *beautiful*, but we do not know this from the information given in the question. We only know that the painting and the sculpture are close in age.

**(C)** is incorrect because it does not refer to age or time. The painting near the sculpture may be *special*, but we do not know this from the information given in the question. We only know that the painting and the sculpture are close in age.

**(D)** is incorrect because it does not refer to age or time. The painting near the sculpture may be *rare*, but we do not know this from the information given in the question. We only know that the painting and the sculpture are close in age.