

• Sentence Completion 1 Level 6

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. Although it's not remotely frightening in the daylight, the estate takes on _____ quality at night.
A. an eerie
B. a stately
C. a jovial
D. an optimistic
E. a marvelous
2. I have always preferred _____ areas to _____ ones, because I really like the countryside.
A. city ... downtown
B. rural ... urban
C. attractive ... beautiful
D. quiet ... tranquil
E. magnificent ... majestic
3. Though the accident damaged the car pretty severely, mechanics were able to _____ it and make it almost good as new.
A. destroy
B. build
C. salvage
D. hinder
E. cure
4. Silvio first arranged the anthology in _____ order based on when the writers published each piece, but he later switched to _____ ordering system based on the spelling of the authors' names.
A. reverse ... a straightforward
B. random ... an orderly
C. mathematical ... a geometric
D. chronological ... an alphabetical
E. original ... a superior
5. The other children did not want Alexander to play with them, so they _____ him from their game.
A. exchanged
B. exhibited
C. exposed
D. examined
E. excluded
6. Apart from the one small river running through it, the desert is entirely _____.
A. arid
B. humid
C. remote
D. temperate
E. moist
7. Eleanor is _____ peanuts: the smallest taste of peanut butter can stop her breathing and put her in the hospital.
A. enamored of
B. allergic to
C. intrigued by
D. interested in
E. fatal to
8. The dancer tried to _____ the movements of his teacher, exactly copying every graceful step.
A. plagiarize
B. interpret
C. mimic
D. possess
E. refine

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “although,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. Here, the prompt implies that the estate is one way in the daylight and the opposite of that at night. So, if it is not “frightening in the daylight,” it must be scary at night. Because *eerie* means strange and frightening, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Stately* means impressive or majestic in appearance. This has no relationship to something that is “not remotely frightening.”

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Jovial* means cheerful and friendly, but the opposite of “not remotely frightening” is frightening, not friendly.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Optimistic* means hopeful, but the opposite of “not remotely frightening” is frightening, not hopeful.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Marvelous* means extraordinary, but the opposite of “not remotely frightening” is frightening, not impressive or extraordinary.

2) B

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship between parts of a sentence. The fact that “I really like the countryside” explains why the narrator prefers one type of area to another. The fact that he or she prefers one to another sets up an opposite relationship, too, so the correct choice will provide a pair of opposites that imply the narrator prefers the countryside. *Rural* means relating to the countryside, while *urban* means relating to the city. These are opposites, so choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *City* means characteristic of a large town, while *downtown* means characteristic of a central area of a town. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Attractive* means pretty or easy to look at, while *beautiful* means extremely pretty. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Quiet* means free from noise or disturbance, while *tranquil* means calm and peaceful. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Magnificent* means impressively beautiful, while *majestic* means having impressive beauty. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

3) C

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which links parts of a sentence that state similar information. This means there is a relationship between what the “mechanics were able to” do to the damaged car and the fact that they made it “almost good as new.” The missing word describes what the mechanics did to the car, and since *salvage* means to rescue something from potential ruin or severe damage, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *destroy* means to completely ruin something beyond repair. The prompt implies that the mechanics actually did the opposite of this, since they made the car “almost good as new.”

(B) is incorrect because *build* means to construct from simple parts. Nothing in the prompt implies that the mechanics constructed the car from parts, as the car was damaged, not split into simple parts.

(D) is incorrect because *hinder* means to create difficulties for something. The prompt implies that the mechanics actually did the opposite of this, since they made the car “almost good as new.”

(E) is incorrect because *cure* means to bring back to full health. Cars cannot be cured, since only living things can be cured.

4) D

The main clues in this question are the phrases “based on when the writers published each piece” and “based on the spelling of the authors’ names.” The first phrase relates to the first missing word, so the first missing word must deal with time. The second phrase relates to the second missing word, so that the second missing word must relate to names. *Chronologically* means ordered by time with the earliest event being placed first, while *alphabetically* means ordered in the same order as the letters of the alphabet. Therefore, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a logical relationship. *Reverse* means in the opposite order, while *straightforward* means uncomplicated and easy to understand. Neither word relates to either time or names, so this choice is not correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a logical relationship. *Random* means without a logical order, while *orderly* means carefully arranged. Neither word relates to either time or names, so this choice is not correct.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a logical relationship. *Mathematical* means relating to the science of numbers and spaces, while *geometric* means relating to the science of shapes and mathematical spaces. Neither word relates to either time or names, so this choice is not correct.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a logical relationship. *Original* means first or primary, while *superior* means higher in rank or quality. Neither word relates to either time or names, so this choice is not correct.

5) E

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which implies a cause-and-effect relationship between the two parts of the sentence. This means that the children did something to Alexander as a result of not wanting him to play with them. When children do not want another to play with them, they usually do not let him play, so the missing word should reflect this. Because *exclude* means to deny access, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not complete a logical cause-and-effect relationship. *Exchanged* means traded or gave something in return for something else. The children are not able to trade Alexander, and the fact that they did not want to play with him would not likely cause them to trade him, so this choice is illogical.

(B) is incorrect because it does not complete a logical cause-and-effect relationship. *Exhibited* means displayed for others to see. The fact that the children did not want to play with Alexander would not likely cause them to show him off, so this choice is illogical.

(C) is incorrect because it does not complete a logical cause-and-effect relationship. *Exposed* means revealed something that was previously covered up. The fact that the children did not want to play with Alexander would not likely cause them to expose him, so this choice is illogical.

(D) is incorrect because it does not complete a logical cause-and-effect relationship. *Examined* means studied closely. The fact that the children did not want to play with Alexander would not likely cause them to study him, so this choice is illogical.

6) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “apart from,” which means that something is an exception to an overall pattern or rule. In this question, “one small river” is the exception to how “the desert” usually is. The correct choice must describe a quality opposite from those that can describe a river. Since a river contains flowing water, the desert must contain no other water. Because *arid* means dry, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *humid* means hot and wet. Although deserts are often hot, they are not usually wet. Additionally, this choice does not set up an opposite relationship with “river.”

(C) is incorrect because *remote* means far away. The prompt does not give any indication of how far away the desert is. Furthermore, this choice does not set up any relationship with the “small river.”

(D) is incorrect because *temperate* means mild and moderate. Most deserts are extremely hot, not only mildly hot. Furthermore, this choice does not set up any relationship with the “small river.”

(E) is incorrect because *moist* means wet or damp. This could describe the area immediately around the “river,” but not the desert as a whole, especially given the fact the “small river” is an exception to how the rest of the desert is.

7) B

The main clue in this question is the colon (:), which separates explanatory information from the rest of a sentence. This means that there is a logical relationship between how Eleanor reacts to peanuts and the fact that one taste of peanut butter can put her in serious danger. The missing word describes how she reacts to peanuts, and since they send her to the hospital, she must react poorly to them. Because *allergic* means having a damaging and abnormal response in the body to something, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *enamored* means very fond of or in love with. Nothing in the prompt indicates that Eleanor likes peanuts at all; in fact, the prompt implies that she cannot eat peanuts in the first place.

(C) is incorrect because *intrigued* means interested in or curious about. Nothing in the prompt indicates that Eleanor is curious about peanuts; in fact, the prompt implies that she cannot even eat peanuts.

(D) is incorrect because *interested* means intrigued by or curious about. Nothing in the prompt indicates that Eleanor is curious about peanuts; in fact, the prompt implies that she cannot even eat peanuts.

(E) is incorrect because *fatal* means causing death in. Peanuts can cause Eleanor’s death, but Eleanor cannot kill peanuts. This choice does not work in context.

8) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “exactly copying,” which, like the missing word, describes what the dancer did. The missing word must, therefore, imply that the dancer copied “the movements of his teacher.” Because *mimic* means to copy or attempt to copy, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *plagiarize* means to copy in a way that is unfair and illegal. Plagiarism involves taking someone else's work and trying to claim it as your own. Although it is related to the clue about "exactly copying," it does not work in context, since the prompt does not imply that the student is claiming his teacher's moves as his own.

(B) is incorrect because *interpret* means to explain or understand. This does not work because interpreting is not the same as copying.

(D) is incorrect because *possess* means to take ownership of or have something. This does not work because owning something is not the same as copying it.

(E) is incorrect because *refine* means to improve or make better. The prompt says the dancer was "exactly copying" his teacher's moves, not trying to improve them.