



● Sentence Completion 10 *(low-advanced SAT level)*

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

1. After the researchers completed their individual experiments, they \_\_\_\_\_ their disparate data to form a comprehensive conclusion regarding the effectiveness of the vaccine.
  - A. synthesized
  - B. decimated
  - C. swerved
  - D. ameliorated
  - E. dichotomized
2. Though laugh tracks commonly accompanied sitcoms decades ago, the use of prerecorded laughter makes the modern show seem \_\_\_\_\_.
  - A. contrived
  - B. formulaic
  - C. anachronistic
  - D. ambiguous
  - E. antithetical
3. Contrary to popular myth, the idea of gravity did not just occur to Isaac Newton in a single instant; rather, he \_\_\_\_\_ it in his brain for years before committing the theory into writing.
  - A. commiserated
  - B. cogitated
  - C. communed
  - D. colluded
  - E. confounded
4. As the designer of the University of Virginia, author of the Declaration of Independence, and third president of the United States, Thomas Jefferson was truly a Renaissance man; he was \_\_\_\_\_, dabbled in many fields, and possessed a wide \_\_\_\_\_ breadth of knowledge.
  - A. versatile ... breadth
  - B. accomplished ... dearth
  - C. esoteric ... capacity
  - D. multifaceted ... canto
  - E. variegated ... beatitude
5. Most screenplays adhere to a structure wherein the main character is at his or her \_\_\_\_\_ in the middle of the film, but by the end, all the conflicts are \_\_\_\_\_, and the character is happier than ever before.
  - A. acme ... reproached
  - B. peak ... removed
  - C. ebb ... resumed
  - D. nadir ... resolved
  - E. chasm ... reprieved
6. The painting offered a peek into a very private scene that would not normally be witnessed by outsiders, transforming the viewer into a \_\_\_\_\_ who was seeing something sneakily.
  - A. spectator
  - B. mystic
  - C. seer
  - D. nihilist
  - E. voyeur

## Answers and Explanations

### 1) **A**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here the key words are found in the phrase “their disparate data to form a comprehensive conclusion,” and the missing word must be a verb that means put together different things to form one larger, all encompassing, thing. Choice **(A)** provides such a word: *synthesized* means formed by combining parts or elements.

**(B)** is incorrect because *decimated* means destroyed (specifically, to destroy one tenth of something). The prompt implies that researchers used their data to form a conclusion and did not destroy the data.

**(C)** is incorrect because *swerved* means turned abruptly, though the prompt implies that researchers used their data to form a conclusion and did not turn away from it.

**(D)** is incorrect because *ameliorated* means improved. Though the researchers indirectly improved their data by combining it, the missing word must be one that explains that they combined the data, not that they improved it.

**(E)** is incorrect because *dichotomized* means divided into two parts. Thus, it is a word that means the opposite of the missing word, as the missing word must mean something akin to combining into one rather than dividing into two.

### 2) **C**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The missing word must be an adjective that describes something that was common “decades ago” but is not common anymore. *Anachronistic* means out of place in time and usually implies something from the past that is seen in the present. Therefore, choice **(C)** is the right answer.

**(A)** is incorrect because *contrived* means planned with ingenuity or plotted. Though the show probably was plotted, the only information the prompt gives about the show is that it featured a laugh track and that the laugh track is not common on television anymore. Thus, contrived does not really make sense in context.

**(B)** is incorrect because *formulaic* means following a predetermined plan or method. Though the show may have been formulaic, the only information the prompt gives about the show is that it featured a laugh track and that the laugh track is not common on television anymore. Thus, formulaic does not really make sense in context.

**(D)** is incorrect because *ambiguous* means unclear in meaning. The prompt gives no indication that the show was unclear in meaning, and, if anything, the inclusion of a laugh track probably made the show easier to understand, as a laugh track alerts an audience to jokes.

**(E)** is incorrect because *antithetical* means opposite. The prompt does not provide anything for the sitcom to be the opposite of, so antithetical does not make logical sense in context.

3) **B**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. Here, the key words come in the phrase “occur to Isaac Newton in a single instant.” Whatever the missing word is must have a relationship to this concept. The constructive key words of “contrary” and “rather” provide the relationship of the two clauses: the first one is contrary to the second one, meaning the second clause must state the opposite of the first one. Thus, if the first one suggests that gravity was some sudden stroke of genius, the second clause must suggest that it was the opposite of this, that he thought about “it in his brain for years.” Thus, the missing word must mean something akin to thought about. Choice **(B)** provides a word that works in context, as *cogitated* means thought over.

**(A)** is incorrect because *commiserated* means felt sympathy for. The theory of gravity is not something one would feel sympathy for, so commiserated makes no sense in context.

**(C)** is incorrect because *communed* means talked together with. The theory of gravity is not something one can talk with, so communed makes no sense in context.

**(D)** is incorrect because *colluded* means conspired or met with secretly. The theory of gravity is not something one can conspire with, so colluded makes no sense in context.

**(E)** is incorrect because *confounded* means confused. The prompt gives no indication that gravity ever confused Newton, though it does suggest that he thought about it a long time before writing about gravity. Choice **(E)**'s word essentially twists the meaning of the prompt and, therefore, is not correct.

4) **A**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. Here, the keywords come at the end of the sentence where Jefferson is described as “a Renaissance man, someone who dabbles in many fields.” The first missing word comes after a list of the things Jefferson dabbled in and, thus, must be synonymous with an adjective for someone who dabbles in many fields. The second missing word is one that describes the

amount of knowledge a Renaissance man would have. As Jefferson was able to do distinct things that require a great deal of knowledge, the second missing word must mean something having to do with size or space, as Jefferson had a “wide” space for knowledge. Choice **(A)** is the correct answer, because *versatile* means capable of many tasks and *breadth* means extent.

**(B)** is incorrect, as only one of the words could possibly work in context. *Accomplished* means highly skilled and could theoretically work in context (though the clue of the sentence states that Jefferson “dabbled in many fields,” not that he was skilled), but *dearth* means inadequate supply. Jefferson clearly had a great deal of knowledge, not an inadequate supply of it.

**(C)** is incorrect, as only the second of the two words works in context. *Capacity* means space and could work to describe the amount of knowledge Jefferson had, but *esoteric* means hard to understand. Nothing in the prompt implies that Jefferson was hard to understand, as the prompt only states that he did a number of diverse things.

**(D)** is incorrect, as only the first word works in context. *Multifaceted* means having many aspects, which could describe a Renaissance man such as Jefferson, but a *canto* is a division of a long poem, meaning it has no relationship to Jefferson or how much knowledge he had.

**(E)** is incorrect. Neither word works in context, as *variegated* means many-colored and *beatitude* means blessedness. Neither word would describe a Renaissance man such as Jefferson or his capacity for knowledge.

## 5) **D**

To figure out what the missing words are, try to predict their definitions by using key words from the prompt. Here, each word has its own key words. The first missing word’s key words “the character is happier than ever before.” The first missing word describes the fate of the protagonist at the middle of the film. Since the structure of the screenplay reverses this fate, if by movie’s end the character is happy, at the middle of the movie, he or she must be unhappy. Moreover, since the character is “happier than ever” at movie’s end, the character must be peaking, implying that at the middle of the film, the character is at his or her low point. The second missing word explains how the character became happy, so it must mean something that implies that “conflicts” are gone, as people tend not be happy when surrounded by conflict. Choice **(D)** provides the best words, then, as *nadir* means low point and *resolved* means finished. Together, then, choice **(D)** would state that a character is at his or her low point until the conflicts are resolved.

**(A)** is incorrect because neither word works in context. *Acme* means peak and *reproached* means expressed disapproval. If a character is “happier than ever

before” by the end of a formulaic movie, then at the middle of the movie, he or she cannot have already peaked.

**(B)** is incorrect, as only the second word works in context. *Removed* means got rid of, but *peak* means top point. If a character is “happier than ever before” by the end of a formulaic movie, then at the middle of the movie, he or she cannot have already peaked.

**(C)** is incorrect because only the first word works in context. *Ebb* means a point in decline and would work for describing the fate of the character at the middle of the movie, but *resumed* means started up again, and one would not be “happier than ever” because conflicts started up again, as happiness usually stems from a lack of conflict.

**(E)** is incorrect because neither word really works in context. *Chasm* means abyss, and *reprieved* means temporarily put on hold. An abyss does not mean the same thing as the opposite of a peak, and a temporary removal of conflict would not cause one to be the happiest he or she has ever been.

6) **E**

To figure out what the missing word is, try to predict its definition by using key words from the prompt. The key words here are given in the phrase “seeing something sneakily.” This phrase implies that the missing word is defined as one who sees something he or she is not supposed to see. The first clause of the prompt confirms this definition, as well, by implying that the viewer of the painting is seeing something “very private” that one would not normally see. Answer choice **(E)** is the best, because a *voyeur* is a Peeping Tom, or one who finds gratification by observing private acts from afar.

**(A)** is incorrect because *witness* means someone who sees something, but the prompt implies that the person is seeing something illicitly rather than merely seeing something in general.

**(B)** is incorrect because *mystic* means a person initiated in religious or spiritual mysteries, though the prompt does not imply that there is a spiritual aspect to seeing this particular painting.

**(C)** is incorrect because *seer* means someone who sees the future, though the prompt does not imply that the painting provides a glimpse of events that have not yet happened.

**(D)** is incorrect because *nihilist* means one who believes in nothing. The prompt does not imply that viewing the painting makes someone believe in nothing.