

• **Antonyms 1** Level 5

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. DEBATE

- A. agree
- B. tame
- C. dispute
- D. ignore

2. HAVOC

- A. wonder
- B. peace
- C. chaos
- D. warfare

3. EXCAVATE

- A. scrape
- B. hollow
- C. bury
- D. mask

4. ABSURD

- A. batty
- B. sensible
- C. certain
- D. insane

5. PEDESTRIAN

- A. motorist
- B. hiker
- C. galloper
- D. sailor

6. SOLITARY

- A. friendly
- B. lonely
- C. isolated
- D. together

7. SOAR

- A. elevate
- B. float
- C. mount
- D. land

8. ATHLETIC

- A. frail
- B. muscular
- C. energetic
- D. intelligent

9. CRITICIZE

- A. punish
- B. praise
- C. blame
- D. approve

10. ACCOMPLISH

- A. exhaust
- B. manage
- C. blunder
- D. cease

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *debate* means to argue or discuss. When two people disagree about something, they might debate it. The opposite of debate is to share the same view or ideas. Because *agree* means to have the same opinion, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *tame* means to make calmer or easier to control. This is not the opposite of *debate*.

(C) is incorrect because *dispute* means to challenge or argue. This is almost the same as *debate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *ignore* means to not notice or pay attention to. This is not the opposite of *debate*, since arguing about something is not the same thing as paying attention to it.

2) **B**

The word *havoc* means widespread destruction or confusion. A great tragedy might lead to havoc. The opposite of havoc is calmness. Because *peace* is a calmness or freedom from disturbance, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wonder* is a feeling of surprise. This is not the opposite of *havoc*.

(C) is incorrect because *chaos* is complete disorder and confusion. This is the same as *havoc*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *warfare* is violent conflict. This is not the opposite of *havoc*.

3) **C**

The word *excavate* means to dig out. A dog might retrieve a bone from the backyard by excavating it. The opposite of excavate is to put into the ground. Because *bury* means to put or hide underground, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *scrape* means to rub a sharp object across something, such as the skin. This is not the opposite of *excavate*.

(B) is incorrect because *hollow* means to make a hole and remove the inner contents of something. This is not the opposite of *excavate*.

(D) is incorrect because *mask* means to cover up or disguise. This is not the opposite of *excavate*, because excavating is not the same as uncovering or revealing.

4) **B**

The word *absurd* means foolish, unreasonable, or unrealistic. An absurd idea is one that is completely ridiculous. The opposite of absurd is smart, reasonable, or realistic. Because *sensible* means wise and reasonable, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *batty* means crazy or insane. This is almost the same as *absurd*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *certain* means sure or known. This is not the opposite of *absurd*, since absurd is not the same as unsure.

(D) is incorrect because *insane* means crazy. This is almost the same thing as *absurd*, not the opposite of it.

5) **A**

The word *pedestrian* means a person walking along a road. Anyone on foot in a city or town is a pedestrian. The opposite of a pedestrian is someone driving a car on a road. Because a *motorist* is someone driving a vehicle, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a *hiker* is someone who walks long distances. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, because a pedestrian does not only walk for short distances.

(C) is incorrect because a *galloper* is someone who walks at a very fast pace. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, since a pedestrian does not only walk slowly.

(D) is incorrect because a *sailor* is a person who works on a ship. This is not the opposite of *pedestrian*, because a sailor might not necessarily operate a motor-powered boat. For example, there are rowboats and sailboats.

6) **D**

The word *solitary* means done or existing alone. In prison, if one is put in solitary confinement, he or she is completely alone in a prison cell. The opposite of solitary is with other people. Because *together* means with another person or people, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *friendly* means nice or sociable. This is not the opposite of *solitary*, since being alone is not the same as being mean or unfriendly.

(B) is incorrect because *lonely* means without companions. This is the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *isolated* means having little contact with others. This is almost the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

7) **D**

The word *soar* means to fly high in the air. For example, jumbo jets soar from airport to airport. The opposite of *soar* is to be on the ground. Because *land* means to come down from the air and touch the ground, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *elevate* means to rise higher. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

(B) is incorrect because *float* means to hover or fly just above the surface. This is not the opposite of *soar*, since both floating and soaring are ways of flying.

(C) is incorrect because *mount* means to climb. This is not the opposite of *soar*.

8) **A**

The word *athletic* means physically strong, fit, and active. Someone who is in good physical shape would be considered athletic. The opposite of athletic is weak or lazy. Because *frail* means weak and delicate, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *muscular* means strong or fit. This is almost the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *energetic* means active or full of energy. This is nearly the same as *athletic*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *intelligent* means smart. This is not the opposite of *athletic*, since being athletic is not the same as being dumb.

9) **B**

The word *criticize* means to indicate one's faults in a negative way. One might criticize someone else for being lazy, for instance. The opposite of criticize is to indicate one's good qualities in a positive way. Because *praise* means to express approval or admiration, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *punish* means to penalize someone for doing something bad. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(C) is incorrect because *blame* means to assign responsibility for a fault or wrongdoing. This is not the opposite of *criticize*.

(D) is incorrect because *approve* means to believe that something is good or satisfactory. This is not the opposite of *criticize*, because one could approve of something without mentioning it publicly.

10) **C**

The word *bicker* means to argue about unimportant matters. Siblings might bicker about unimportant things such as who The word *accomplish* means to achieve or complete something successfully. For example, if you have reached a goal, you have accomplished something. The opposite of accomplish is to fail. Because *blunder* means to fail or make a foolish mistake, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *exhaust* means to tire out. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, since accomplish does not mean to energize.

(B) is incorrect because *manage* means to oversee. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*.

(D) is incorrect because *cease* means to come to an end or stop. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, because stopping something is not the same as failing at something.

• **Antonyms 2** Level 5

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. DEBATE

- A. agree
- B. tame
- C. dispute
- D. ignore

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- A. wonder
- B. peace
- C. chaos
- D. warfare

3. EXCAVATE

- A. scrape
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- A. motorist
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- A. friendly
- B. lonely
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7. SOAR

- A. elevate
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- A. exhaust
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- D. cease

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *debate* means to argue or discuss. When two people disagree about something, they might debate it. The opposite of debate is to share the same view or ideas. Because *agree* means to have the same opinion, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *tame* means to make calmer or easier to control. This is not the opposite of *debate*.

(C) is incorrect because *dispute* means to challenge or argue. This is almost the same as *debate*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *ignore* means to not notice or pay attention to. This is not the opposite of *debate*, since arguing about something is not the same thing as paying attention to it.

2) **B**

The word *havoc* means widespread destruction or confusion. A great tragedy might lead to havoc. The opposite of havoc is calmness. Because *peace* is a calmness or freedom from disturbance, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wonder* is a feeling of surprise. This is not the opposite of *havoc*.

(C) is incorrect because *chaos* is complete disorder and confusion. This is the same as *havoc*, not the opposite of it.

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3) **C**

The word *excavate* means to dig out. A dog might retrieve a bone from the backyard by excavating it. The opposite of excavate is to put into the ground. Because *bury* means to put or hide underground, choice **(C)** is correct.

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6) **D**

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(C) is incorrect because *isolated* means having little contact with others. This is almost the same as *solitary*, not the opposite of it.

7) **D**

The word *soar* means to fly high in the air. For example, jumbo jets soar from airport to airport. The opposite of *soar* is to be on the ground. Because *land* means to come down from the air and touch the ground, choice **(D)** is correct.

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8) **A**

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10) **C**

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(D) is incorrect because *cease* means to come to an end or stop. This is not the opposite of *accomplish*, because stopping something is not the same as failing at something.

• **Antonyms 3** Level 5

Directions: Choose the word that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the word in capital letters.

1. FATIGUE

- A. liveliness
- B. exhaustion
- C. weakness
- D. excitement

2. EXHIBIT

- A. conceal
- B. uncover
- C. distort
- D. display

3. MYTH

- A. story
- B. epic
- C. invention
- D. truth

4. IMPRESSIVE

- A. dull
- B. insignificant
- C. towering
- D. majestic

5. AVAILABLE

- A. acceptable
- B. accessible
- C. absent
- D. attainable

6. SQUASH

- A. spurt
- B. expand
- C. hydrate
- D. squeeze

7. SUMMIT

- A. bottom
- B. boundary
- C. endpoint
- D. peak

8. TAUNT

- A. ridicule
- B. gratify
- C. abuse
- D. compliment

9. PERISH

- A. crumble
- B. revive
- C. construct
- D. destroy

10. INDUSTRIOUS

- A. tireless
- B. eager
- C. idle
- D. awkward

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *fatigue* means extreme tiredness. Someone might experience fatigue after working hard for a long time. The opposite of fatigue is energy. Because *liveliness* is energy, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *exhaustion* is extreme tiredness. This is the same as *fatigue*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *weakness* is a lack of strength. This is not the opposite of *fatigue*.

(D) is incorrect because *excitement* is a feeling of enthusiasm. This is not the opposite of *fatigue*, because fatigue is not the same as boredom.

2) **A**

The word *exhibit* means to showcase or display. When a museum exhibits a work of art, it displays it for museum visitors to see. The opposite of exhibit is to hide. Because *conceal* means to hide or prevent from being seen, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *uncover* means to remove a cover or mask from something so that it can be seen. This is almost the same as *exhibit*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *distort* means to twist out of shape. This is not the opposite of *exhibit*, because distorting something does not make it invisible.

(D) is incorrect because *display* means to show. This is the same as *exhibit*, not the opposite of it.

3) **D**

The word *myth* means a widely held but false belief. A myth is a story that is not factual. The opposite of myth is a fact. Because a *truth* is a fact, **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *story* is an account told for entertainment. This is not the opposite of *myth*, because a story can be either factual or fictional.

(B) is incorrect because an *epic* is a very long story. This is not the opposite of *myth*, because an epic can be either factual or fictional.

(C) is incorrect because an *invention* is something that is created. This is not the opposite of *myth*, because an invention is not the same as a fact.

4) **B**

The word *impressive* means grand, imposing, or awesome. Something is impressive if it causes someone to be in awe. The opposite of impressive is unimportant or unremarkable. Because *insignificant* means unimportant, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *dull* means boring. This is not the opposite of *impressive*, because impressive is not the same as exciting.

(C) is incorrect because *towering* means extremely tall. This is almost the same as *impressive*, since a towering structure could be impressive.

(D) is incorrect because *majestic* means grand or extremely beautiful. This is almost the same as *impressive*, not the opposite of it.

5) **C**

The word *available* means able to be used or obtained. For instance, food is usually available at a restaurant. The opposite of available is not present or unable to be used or obtained easily. Because *absent* means not present or not available, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *acceptable* means able to be agreed on. This is not the opposite of *available*.

(B) is incorrect because *accessible* means able to be easily obtained or used. This is the same as *available*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *attainable* means able to be reached or achieved. This is not the opposite of *available*.

6) **B**

The word *squash* means to crush or squeeze something so that it becomes flatter or smaller. One might kill a spider by squashing it with a magazine. The opposite of squash is to increase in size. Because *expand* means to grow or increase in size, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *spurt* means to gush out in a stream. This is not the opposite of *squash*.

(C) is incorrect because *hydrate* means to cause to absorb water. This is not the opposite of *squash*.

(D) is incorrect because *squeeze* means to firmly press something. This is almost the same as *squash*, not the opposite of it.

7) **A**

The word *summit* means the top or peak of something. The highest point of a mountain is called its summit. The opposite of summit is the low point of something. Because a *bottom* is the lowest point or part of something, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because a *boundary* is a line that marks the limits of an area. This is not the opposite of *summit*, because a boundary can be the lowest or highest point of something.

(C) is incorrect because an *endpoint* is the final stage of a process. This is not the opposite of *summit*, because a summit is not the beginning of something.

(D) is incorrect because a *peak* is the top of something. This is the same as *summit*, not the opposite of it.

8) **D**

The word *taunt* means to provoke or challenge someone with an insult. When a child makes fun of someone else in order to start a fight, the child is taunting him or her. The opposite of taunt is to praise. Because *compliment* means to flatter, praise, or congratulate, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *ridicule* means to mock or insult someone. This is almost the same as *taunt*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *gratify* means to give someone pleasure. This is not the opposite of *taunt*, since gratifying is not the same as praising.

(C) is incorrect because *abuse* means to treat with cruelty. This is almost the same as *taunt*, not the opposite of it.

9) **B**

The word *perish* means to suffer ruin or destruction. A person who dies in a shipwreck has perished in the wreck. The opposite of perish is to save or recover from ruin. Because *revive* means to restore to life or give new strength or energy, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *crumble* means to break apart into small fragments. This is not the opposite of *perish*.

(C) is incorrect because *construct* means to build or erect. This is not the opposite of *perish*, because perishing is not the same as destroying.

(D) is incorrect because *destroy* means to cause the ruin of something. This is not the opposite of *perish*.

10) **C**

The word *industrious* means hardworking. Somebody who works without tiring would be described as industrious. The opposite of industrious is lazy. Because *idle* means lazy or not working, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *tireless* means showing great effort or work. This is the same as *industrious*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *eager* means wanting to do something very much. This is not the opposite of *industrious*.

(D) is incorrect because *awkward* means causing difficulty or discomfort. This is not the opposite of *industrious*.

• Reading Comprehension 1 Level 5

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Marcia says that all of her friends have a cell phone, but Marcia's mom doesn't want to buy her one. Marcia's mom doesn't want Marcia to play video games either. What is more, the Internet scares her. Marcia's mom says, "If Marcia has a cell phone, how do we know whom she is talking to? Video games are bad for you. The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled. **It's like having a gun in the house.** We should just ban her from using the computer, and I'm not buying her a cell phone until she is eighteen. This is the only way we can be sure that Marcia is safe."

Marcia's dad disagrees with Marcia's mom. Although he agrees that there are some dangers to it, he likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful. "The trouble is," he says, "**We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage.** What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control. **Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone.** We can't take these things away."

Questions

- 1) Which of the following best describes the difference between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad?
 - A. Mom wants to ban Marcia from using the computer, while dad likes to play video games.
 - B. Mom thinks technology is dangerous, while dad thinks it can be useful.
 - C. Mom cares little about Marcia's future, while dad is very supportive.
 - D. Mom is very strict while Dad is open minded.

- 2) Which of the following best describes the similarity between Marcia's mom and Marcia's dad?
 - A. Mom and dad both like technology.
 - B. Mom and dad both think video games are bad.
 - C. Mom and dad both think the internet is dangerous.
 - D. Mom and dad both care about Marcia's wellbeing.

- 3) In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom says, "It's like having a gun in the house." She says this in order to
 - A. support the idea that the Internet is dangerous
 - B. reject the claim that guns can be safe if used responsibly
 - C. encourage Marcia's dad to purchase a gun
 - D. explain why the Internet is uncontrolled

- 4) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage." What does Marcia's dad mean by this?
 - A. Marcia needs to learn how to use the internet if she wants to have friends in the future.
 - B. Marcia should not stop using the internet because this will seriously slow her learning.
 - C. If a person's ability to use the internet becomes important in the future, Marcia will be at a loss.
 - D. If Marcia does not learn to use the internet on her own, then she will never learn to recognize its dangers.

- 5) In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "Finally, I think Marcia needs a cell phone." Given what you know about Marcia's mom's concerns, what is the best reason Marcia's dad can provide to convince Marcia's mom that Marcia needs a cell phone?
- A. Marcia can use her cell phone to talk to her friends, instead of needing to borrow one of ours.
 - B. Having a cell phone will teach Marcia how to use new technology.
 - C. Because all of her friends have one, it would be unfair to disallow Marcia to have a cell phone.
 - D. If Marcia's is in trouble she can use her cell phone to call for help.
- 6) Which of the following describes a level of game play that Marcia' dad would disapprove of?
- A. On Saturday, Marcia plays video games all evening. The next day, she wakes up early and goes for a walk through the woods near her house. When her friend calls Marcia, they talk about the what they are going to wear to school on Monday.
 - B. Marcia plays video games for an hour or two. Then she eats lunch and meets her friends at the skating rink. That night, Marcia and her friends go to see a movie.
 - C. Marcia plays video games all morning. When her friends ask her to come play outside, Marcia tells them that she is too busy and continues to play.
 - D. Marcia plays video games for an hour every day for five days straight. During these days, she does not watch any TV.
- 7) Marcia's mom can best be described as
- A. ridiculous
 - B. careful
 - C. cruel
 - D. rude
- 8) Marcia's dad can best be described as
- A. shameless
 - B. foolish
 - C. wild
 - D. reasonable
- 9) Which of the following would be the best way for Marcia to change the way her mom thinks about technology?
- A. Read her a newspaper article that talks about the importance of technology.
 - B. Provide her an instruction manual detailing how the latest cell phone functions.
 - C. Take her to the library and show her the top five most popular internet websites.
 - D. Spend the weekend playing video games with her.

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom says, "The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled," and "Video games are bad for you." This lets us know that mom thinks cell phones and the Internet are dangerous and that video games are bad for you. In paragraph 2 we learn that although he agrees with mom that there are some dangers involved with using the internet, he "likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful." Moreover, dad thinks Dad continues to say, "I like video games." At the end of paragraph 2 dad says, "I think Marcia needs a cell phone." This let us know that dad thinks the Internet is useful, video games are fun (when played in moderation), and that Marcia needs a cell phone. Cell phones, video games and the Internet are all examples of technology. Mom thinks these things are dangerous and Dad thinks these things are useful. Therefore **(B)** is correct. Mom does want to ban Marcia from the computer and Dad does like playing video games. However, **(A)** is not the best choice because these are not the only differences between Marcia's Mom and Dad. In addition, Mom doesn't want Marcia using certain technologies because she is worried that they are dangerous or bad for Marcia. Marcia's dad thinks that Marcia should use the technology because it is useful and fun. This means that both parents want the best for Marcia. Since both parents support Marcia and care about her future, **(C)** is incorrect. Finally, just because Mom is concerned about the use of certain technologies doesn't mean that she is strict in general. Just because Dad is pro-technology does not mean that he is open minded about everything. Since choice **(D)** makes generalizations not supported by the passage, it is incorrect.

2) **D**

In paragraph 1, Marcia's mom describes why she thinks technology is bad. She says that the internet, cell phones, and video games are dangerous. At the end of the paragraph she says, "This is the only way we can be sure that Marcia is safe." This lets us know that the reason why she dislikes technology is because it will put Marcia's safety at risk. This lets us know that Marcia's mom cares about Marcia's wellbeing. In paragraph 2, we learn about why Marcia's dad thinks technology is good for Marcia. According to him, technology is "very useful." Moreover, he does not want to take technology away from Marcia, as this will "put her at a disadvantage." This lets us know that Marcia's dad also cares about Marcia's wellbeing. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **A**

Feedback: To answer this question, it helps to use context. In paragraph 1, Mom says "The Internet is dangerous and uncontrolled. It's like having a gun in the house." Since Mom says that the Internet is dangerous immediately before she compares it to having a gun in the house, we can understand that Mom draws this comparison to illustrate how dangerous she thinks the Internet is. This makes **(A)** the correct choice. Mom is not arguing that guns can never be safe. Rather, she compares the Internet to guns to express how dangerous she finds the Internet. This makes **(B)** incorrect. Mom does not encourage Dad to buy a gun, so **(C)** is not the best choice. Mom compares having the Internet to having a gun in the house. She does this to explain how dangerous the internet is, not explain why the Internet is uncontrolled. This rules out **(D)**.

4) **C**

disadvantage (*noun*): an unfavorable or poor condition.

In paragraph 2, we learn about why Marcia's dad thinks technology is good for Marcia. According to him, technology is "very useful." Moreover, he does not want to take technology away from Marcia, as this will "put her at a disadvantage." This lets us know that Marcia's dad also cares about Marcia's wellbeing. So, it makes sense to think that if Marcia does not learn to use the internet, and the internet becomes important in the future, Marcia will be at a loss. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **D**

In paragraph 1, we learn that Marcia's mom does not want Marcia to have a cell phone. This is because if Marcia had a cell phone, Marcia's mom would not know who Marcia was talking to. In addition, Marcia's mom wants to ban Marcia from using the computer because she thinks the Internet is dangerous. We can understand from this that Mom is very concerned about Marcia's safety. Since Marcia could use her cell phone to call for help, the cell phone may actually make Marcia safer. Since Marcia's mother is very concerned about safety, this reason would be most likely to change her mind about Marcia having a cell phone. This makes **(D)** the best choice. The passage does not provide any information to make us think that Marcia's mom is concerned about Marcia borrowing her cell phone. Since this reason does not address any of Mom's concerns, **(A)** is not a good choice. Moreover, Marcia's mom does not appreciate any of the technology discussed in the passage, so it is very unlikely that she thinks Marcia needs to learn how to use new technology. This makes **(B)** incorrect. As explained above, Marcia's mom is very concerned with safety and what is best for her daughter. The fact that all of Marcia's friends have cell phones does not address any these concerns. Moreover, in the opening line of the passage we learn that, "Marcia says that all of her friends have a cell phone, but Marcia's mom doesn't want to buy her one." This lets us know that Marcia's mom does not care about the fact that all of Marcia's friends have cell phones. This means **(C)** is incorrect.

6) **C**

In paragraph 2, Marcia's dad says, "What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control." From this, we can understand that Marcia's dad thinks it is okay to play video games in moderation. When you do something *in moderation*, you exercise restraint, and do not do it too much. Using this information, we can understand that if Marcia plays games all morning and then declines an invitation to play outside with her friends, then she is not playing in moderation. This means **(C)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because although Marcia plays video games all evening, she goes for a walk the next day. When her friend calls, they talk about school. This shows that Marcia has other interests in addition to playing video games. What is more, she plays the video games on a Saturday, which is a weekend. Weekends are good times to play games. **(B)** is incorrect because Marcia only plays video games for an hour or two. Then she goes to the skating rink with her friends. This is a social activity in which Marcia can get some exercise. Later, they go to a movie. This

shows that Marcia has other interests in addition to playing video games. **(D)** is incorrect because although Marcia plays video games for five days straight, she only plays them for one hour each day. This is a moderate level of play. What is more, she does not watch TV. This is good because it means she is spending her time doing something other than looking at a screen. For example, she might be doing homework, playing outside, or doing arts and crafts.

7) **B**

In paragraph 1, we learn about how Marcia's mom thinks the internet is "dangerous and uncontrolled." For this reason, she does not want Marcia to use technological devices. She is very concerned about her daughter's wellbeing, and does not want her to take any risks. Using this information, we can understand that Marcia's mom can best be described as careful. Although Marcia's mom seems to have an extreme view of technology, she does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. Caring about one's child is not ridiculous. Choice **(B)** is correct. Although Marcia's mom seems to have an extreme view of technology, she does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. Caring about one's child is not ridiculous. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. **(C)** is incorrect because it is wrong to think that Marcia's mom is cruel, or mean, simply because she has an extreme view of technology. She does this only because she cares about her child, Marcia. **(D)** is incorrect because Marcia's mom is never rude, or impolite.

8) **D**

In paragraph 2, we learn that Marcia's dad thinks that although "there are some dangers to it, he likes the Internet, and finds it to be very useful." Marcia's dad continues to say, "We just can't stop Marcia from using the Internet, as this would put her at a disadvantage. What is more, I like video games. I think that, when played in moderation, they are fun. Obviously, it is not good to play them without restraint or self-control." This lets us know that Marcia's dad cares about Marcia's future. He realizes that there are dangers involved in using technology, such as the risk of playing video games too much, but that the world is changing. If Marcia does not change with it, she will be left behind. This is a reasonable way to think. This makes **(D)** correct. Although Marcia's dad is more willing to take the risks involved in allowing Marcia to use technology, this does not mean that he is *shameless*, *foolish*, or *wild*. These words are too strongly negative. In life, risks must be taken. One must face these risks, and think about ways to overcome them. This means choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** are incorrect.

9) **A**

In paragraph 1, we learn that Marcia's mom does not like the internet and other forms of technology because she thinks they are "dangerous and uncontrolled." In order to change the way she thinks about technology, it makes sense to read her a newspaper article that talks about the importance of technology. This is a good idea because it involves a form of communication that is not technological. Also, a newspaper article is typically viewed as a reputable source. Marcia's mom will be most likely to consider the opinion of a newspaper article author. Therefore **(A)** is correct. **(B)** is incorrect because an instruction manual will not provide arguments in favor of the idea that a child should be able to use technology. Although it may be a good idea to take Marcia's mom to the library to show her the internet, it is not a good idea to show her the top five most popular websites. The most popular websites may not demonstrate the true value to be gained by using the internet. This means **(C)** is incorrect. Although it may be a good idea for Marcia to play a video game with her mom to show her what they are like, it is not a good idea to play them all weekend with her. This would be bad because you should not play video games for such a long time. Marcia's mom would not like this. Even Marcia's dad, who is in favor of using technology, would consider this level of game play to be excessive, or immoderate. Choice **(D)** is incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 2 Level 5

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Have you ever heard someone use the phrase “once in a blue moon?” People use this **expression** to describe something that they do not do very often. For example, someone might say that he tries to avoid eating sweets because they are unhealthy, but will eat chocolate “once in a blue moon.” Or someone who does not usually like to go to the beach might say “I visit the shore once in a blue moon.” While many people use this phrase, not everyone knows the meaning behind it.

The first thing to know is that the moon itself is never actually blue. This is just an expression. The phrase “blue moon” actually has to do with the shape of the moon, not the color.

As the moon travels around the earth, it appears to change shape. We associate certain names with certain shapes of the moon. For example, when we can see a small part of the moon, it is called a **crescent** moon. A crescent is a shape that looks like the tip of a fingernail. When we cannot see the moon at all, it is called a new moon. When we can see the entire moon, it is called a full moon. Usually, there is only one full moon every month. Sometimes, however, there will be two full moons in one month. When this happens, the second full moon is called a “blue moon.”

Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons. As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event. This fact has led people to use the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives.

Questions

- 1) Which of the following would be a good example of someone doing something “once in a blue moon”?
 - A. Mary likes to go to the mountains every weekend. Mary goes to the mountains once in a blue moon.
 - B. Tom rarely remembers to take out the trash. Tom takes out the trash once in a blue moon.
 - C. Cindy hates to wash the dishes. Nevertheless, she does it every day. Cindy washes the dishes once in a blue moon.
 - D. Ming sometimes forgets to do his homework. Ming forgets to do his homework once in a blue moon.

- 2) When does a blue moon happen in nature?
 - A. when there are two full moons in one month
 - B. when the moon has a blue color
 - C. when we cannot see the moon at all
 - D. when we can only see a small part of the moon

- 3) Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that which of the following sentences does not contain an **expression**?
- A. Thomas has lost his mind.
 - B. An apple a day keeps the doctor away.
 - C. I'll mow the grass after I finish my homework.
 - D. It's never a bad time to start something new.
- 4) As described in paragraph 3, what is another example of something that has a **crescent** shape?
- A. your thumb
 - B. a distant star
 - C. the letter "C"
 - D. the letter "H"
- 5) In the final paragraph, the author states: "Over the next 20 years, there will only be 15 blue moons." This means that over the next 20 years, a blue moon will happen
- A. once a year
 - B. less than once a year
 - C. more than once a year
 - D. not enough information is provided
- 6) As used in the final paragraph, which is the best antonym for **rare**?
- A. common
 - B. strange
 - C. colorful
 - D. infrequent
- 7) In the final paragraph the author writes, "As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event." The purpose of this statement is to
- A. answer an earlier question
 - B. provide an example
 - C. support an upcoming conclusion
 - D. challenge a previous statement

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In the first and last paragraphs, we learn that the phrase “once in a blue moon” describes very rare events. If Tom rarely remembers to take out the trash, then it makes sense to say he takes out the trash “once in a blue moon.” Therefore **(B)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because Mary goes to the mountains every weekend. This happens more often than the blue moon. **(C)** is incorrect because Cindy washes the dishes every day. This happens more often than the blue moon. **(D)** is incorrect because Ming sometimes forgets to do his homework. This happens more often than the blue moon.

2) **A**

In the third paragraph, the author tells us that when there are two full moons in one month, the second moon will be called a “blue moon.” Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **C**

In paragraph 1 the author introduces the phrase “once in a blue moon.” Then the author tells us that “People use this expression to describe something that they do not do very often.” This lets us know that the phrase “once in a blue moon” is an expression. In paragraph 2 the author writes, “The first thing to know is that the moon itself is never actually blue. This is just an expression.” This lets us know that an expression contains information or facts that are not actually true. The sentence in **(C)** does not contain any facts that are not actually true. Therefore it is the correct choice. **(A)** is incorrect because a person cannot actually lose his or her mind. **(B)** is incorrect because eating an apple a day does not necessarily keep someone from having to visit the doctor. **(D)** is incorrect because there are some times in which it is indeed a bad idea to start something new. For example, it’s a bad idea to learn how to fly a kite in a lightning storm.

4) **C**

crescent (*noun*): the figure of the moon in its first or last quarter, resembling the segment of a ring thinning to points at the ends. In paragraph 3, the author says that “a crescent is a shape that looks like the tip of a fingernail.” Of all the choices, the letter “C” is the one most similar to this shape. Therefore **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **B**

This question involves some math. If a blue moon will happen 15 times over the next 20 years, this is the same as saying it will happen 15 out of 20 times, or 15/20. Since 15/20 is less than one, we know that the blue moon will happen less than one time per year. This means **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

rare (*adjective*): something that does not happen very often.

The question asks us to find the best antonym. Antonyms are words that have opposite meanings. In the last paragraph, the author describes a blue moon as a “very rare event.” In this paragraph and the rest of the passage, blue moons are described as events that do not happen very often. Therefore, *common*, a word that means happening very often, is the best opposite of *rare*. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **C**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In the final paragraph the author writes, “As you can see, a blue moon is a very rare event. This fact has led people to use the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives.” The key phrase here is “This fact has led people to.” This is meant to show that the fact that a blue moon is a very rare event lends support to the conclusion that the expression “once in a blue moon” to describe other very rare events in their lives. This means choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 3 Level 5

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Many people who are looking to get a pet dog get a puppy. There are many reasons why people get puppies. After all, puppies are cute, friendly, and playful. But even though puppies make good pets, there are good reasons why you should consider getting an adult dog instead.

When you get a puppy, you have to teach it how to **behave**. You have to make sure that the puppy is **housebroken** so that it does not go to the bathroom inside the house. You have to teach the puppy not to jump up on your guests or chew on your shoes. You have to train the puppy to walk on a leash. This is a lot of work.

On the other hand, when you get an adult dog, there is a good chance that it will already know how to do all of the previously mentioned things. Many adult dogs have already been housebroken. Many adult dogs will not jump on or chew things that you do not want them to jump on or chew. Many adult dogs will be able to walk on a leash without pulling you to the other side of the street.

Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time. This can be fun, but you might not want to play as much as your puppy does. Puppies will not always sleep through the night or let you **relax** as you watch television.

On the other hand, most adult dogs will wait on you to play. What is more, they will sleep when you are sleeping and are happy to watch television on the couch right beside you.

There is one last reason why you should get an adult dog instead of a puppy. When most people go to the pound to get a dog, they get a puppy. This means that **many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes**. So if you are looking to get a dog for a pet, you should think about getting an adult dog. They are good pets who need good homes.

Questions

- 1) The author apparently thinks that puppies are
 - A. bad pets because they take too much work to own
 - B. friendly, playful, and a lot of work
 - C. not as cute as adult dogs
 - D. not as playful as adult dogs

- 2) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best synonym for **behave**?
 - A. listen
 - B. understand
 - C. train
 - D. act

- 3) The main purpose of paragraph 2 is to explain how puppies
 - A. are very immature
 - B. do not make good pets
 - C. can be very destructive
 - D. are a lot of work

- 4) As used in paragraph 2, which is the best example of a dog that is **housebroken**?
- A. Spot goes outside to use the bathroom.
 - B. Rex always breaks things inside of the house.
 - C. Rover never jumps on guests.
 - D. Muffin chews on people's shoes.
- 5) According to the passage, why are adult dogs easier to take care of than puppies?
- I. Puppies need to learn how to walk nicely on a leash.
 - II. Adult dogs have less energy than puppies do.
 - III. It is harder for adult dogs to find a home than it is for puppies.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 6) Based on information in the passage, which of the following statements is false?
- A. Puppies have a lot of energy.
 - B. Puppies need a lot of attention.
 - C. Adult dogs do not like to play.
 - D. Adult dogs do not need eat very much.
- 7) As used in paragraph 4, which is the best synonym for **relax**?
- A. work
 - B. leave
 - C. play
 - D. rest
- 8) The author begins paragraphs 3 and 5 with the phrase, "On the other hand." This phrase is used to
- A. highlight an example
 - B. contrast previous information
 - C. contradict a later statement
 - D. support the upcoming paragraph
- 9) In the final paragraph, the author says, "many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes." Based on what you have read in the passage, why is this most likely the case?
- A. People see adult dogs as unhappy and dangerous, while they see puppies as cute and friendly.
 - B. People understand that most adult dogs still need to a lot of training before they understand how to behave properly.
 - C. People think that puppies are cute and playful and do not always think about how much work it will take to train them.
 - D. People do not want to get a dog that does not have much time left to live.
- 10) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that someone who owns a puppy must be
- A. strict
 - B. serious
 - C. careful
 - D. responsible

Answers and Explanations

1) **B**

In paragraph 1, the author says that "puppies are cute, friendly, and playful." In paragraph 2, the author talks about all of the things you have to do to care for a puppy. At the end of the paragraph the author says, "This is a lot of work." These ideas are presented in **(B)**, making it the correct choice. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **D**

behave (*verb*): to act.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. In paragraph 2, the author says, "When you get a puppy, you have to teach the puppy how to behave." The author continues to talk about how the puppy goes to the bathroom, jumps on guests, chews your shoes, and walks on a leash. These are all ways in which the puppy acts. This means *act* is a good synonym for *behave*. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **D**

In paragraph 2, the author describes the things you will have to teach your puppy in order to make it behave properly. At the end of this paragraph, the author says, "This is a lot of work." Using this information, we can understand that the main idea of paragraph 2 is to explain how puppies are a lot of work. Choice **(D)** is correct. Paragraph 2 does describe ways in which puppies are immature and destructive, but this is not the main purpose. These are details used to support the idea that puppies are a lot of work. This means **(A)** and **(C)** are incorrect. **(B)** is incorrect because the author does not mean to say that puppies do not make good pets. We know this because the author says "puppies are cute, friendly, and very playful" in the first paragraph.

4) **A**

housebroken (*adjective*): trained to avoid excreting inside the house or in improper places.

In paragraph 2 the author says that "you have to make sure that the puppy is housebroken so that it does not use the bathroom inside of your house." Using this information, we can understand that if a dog is *housebroken*, then it will go outside to use the bathroom. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **B**

In paragraph 2, the author says you need to teach puppies how to do things that adult dogs already know how to do. The author tells us that you "have to train the puppy to walk on a leash." This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time." On the other hand, in paragraph 5 the author says that adult dogs "sleep when you are sleeping and are happy to watch television on the couch right beside you." This lets us know that the author thinks that adult dogs have less energy than puppies do. This supports **option (II)**. In the final paragraph, the author tells us that "many adult dogs spend a lot of time in the pound, and some never find good homes." This lets us know that it is harder for adult dogs to find a home than it is for puppies. However, this is not meant to be a reason why adult dogs are easier to take care of than puppies. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

6) **C**

In paragraph 5, the author says, "most adult dogs will wait on you to play." This is not meant to say that adult dogs do not like to play. The author says this simply to contrast adult dogs with puppies, as described in paragraph 4. This makes **(C)** false, and therefore the correct choice. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies also have a lot of energy and want to play all of the time." This means **(A)** is incorrect. Also in paragraph 4, the author says, "Puppies will not always sleep through the night or let you relax as you watch television." Since puppies don't sleep through the night and don't let you relax, it can be understood that they need a lot of attention. So **(B)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(D)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

7) **D**

relax (*verb*): to rest, especially after doing work.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. In paragraph 3 the author says that puppies have a lot of energy and always want to play. They will not "let you relax as you watch television." Given that people typically want to rest while watching television, we can understand that *rest* is a good synonym for *relax*. Choice **(D)** is correct. Work and play are not synonyms. Rather, they are antonyms (words that have the opposite meaning). Therefore **(A)** and **(C)** are incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(B)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

8) **B**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraphs 2 and 4, the author gives reasons why puppies are more work to teach than adult dogs. In paragraphs 3 and 5, the author gives reasons why adult dogs are easier to teach than puppies. Given that paragraphs 2 and 4 come previous to, or before, paragraphs 3 and 5, and that they supply contrary information, we can understand that this phrase is used to contrast previous information. Choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

9) **C**

In paragraph 1, the author talks about how many people want to get a pet puppy because they "are cute, friendly, and playful." The author spends the rest of the passage describing how in reality, puppies take a lot of work before they learn to behave properly. Using this information, we can understand that the author believes people think that puppies are cute and playful and do not always think about how much work it will take to train them. This means **(C)** is correct. The author does not talk about how people see adult dogs as unhappy and dangerous. This means choice **(A)** is incorrect. **(B)** is incorrect because the author describes how adult dogs

do not need much training. Rather, the author describes how puppies need a lot of training. While it may be true that adult dogs do not have much time left to live, this is not a reason the author gives for why puppies are more likely to find good homes. Therefore **(D)** is incorrect.

10) **D**

In paragraph 1, the author writes, "But even though puppies make good pets, there are good reasons why you should consider getting an adult dog instead." The author spends the rest of the passage telling us how much care a puppy needs. According to the author, it takes "a lot of work" to teach a puppy how to behave. Using this information, we can understand that someone who owns a puppy must be very *responsible*. Choice **(D)** is correct. Although in paragraph 2 the author says that "When you get a puppy, you have to teach it how to behave," this does not necessarily mean that you have to be strict, or severe, with it. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The author lets us know that someone who owns a puppy must be responsible. This does not mean that someone must also be serious, however. You can be humorous or happy and still be responsible. **(B)** is incorrect. Although you have to "do a lot of work" to teach a puppy how to behave properly, you do not necessarily have to be careful to do this. This makes **(C)** incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 4 Level 5

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Many people like to eat pizza, but not everyone knows how to make it. Making the perfect pizza can be **complicated**, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home.

When you make pizza, you must begin with the crust. The crust can be hard to make. If you want to make the crust yourself, you will have to make dough using flour, water, and yeast. You will have to knead the dough with your hands. If you do not have enough time to do this, you can use a prepared crust that you buy from the store.

After you have chosen your crust, you must then add the sauce. Making your own sauce from scratch can take a long time. You have to buy tomatoes, peel them, and then cook them with spices. If this sounds like too much work, you can also **purchase** jarred sauce from the store. **Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home.**

Now that you have your crust and your sauce, you need to add the cheese. Cheese comes from milk, which comes from cows. Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese? If not, you might want to buy cheese from the grocery store instead of making it yourself.

When you have the crust, sauce, and cheese ready, you can add other toppings. Some people like to put meat on their pizza, while other people like to add vegetables. Some people even like to add pineapple! The best part of making a pizza at home is that you can **customize** it by adding your own favorite ingredients.

Questions

- 1) The author's main purpose in writing this passage is to
 - A. describe the history of pizza
 - B. teach a healthier way to make pizza
 - C. outline steps to make a basic pizza at home
 - D. provide tips about how to make your pizza especially delicious

- 2) As used in paragraph 1, which word means the opposite of **complicated**?
 - A. difficult
 - B. simple
 - C. easy
 - D. manageable

- 3) As used in paragraph 3, which is the best synonym for **purchase**?
 - A. forget
 - B. buy
 - C. ask
 - D. cook

- 4) In paragraph 3, the author writes, "Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home." The purpose of this statement is to
- A. clarify a later statement
 - B. provide an example
 - C. clarify an earlier statement
 - D. support the previous paragraph
- 5) In paragraph 4, the author asks a series of questions in order to
- A. support the idea that most people cannot make homemade cheese
 - B. reinforce the idea that most people probably live on farms
 - C. prove that store-bought cheese tastes better than homemade cheese
 - D. emphasize the superiority of homemade cheese over store bought cheese
- 6) As used in paragraph 5, which is the best definition for **customize**?
- A. to make personal
 - B. to prepare for more than one
 - C. to eat while hot
 - D. to desire
- 7) According to the author, which of the following ingredients do you need to have ready before you can add the toppings?
- I. crust
 - II. sauce
 - III. cheese
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 8) Which of the following words best describes how the author feels about making a pizza from scratch?
- A. helpful
 - B. understanding
 - C. enthusiastic
 - D. negative
- 9) Which of the following conclusions would work best at the end of this passage.
- A. Although the crust, sauce, and toppings are all important ingredients in pizza, it is clear that the cheese is most important. Therefore, be sure your cheese is homemade.
 - B. It can be understood that making your pizza from scratch should be avoided at all costs. Use store bought ingredients and save yourself a heap of trouble.
 - C. As you can see, cooking a pizza can be fun, but it can also be very expensive. But, as you can see, the best things are worth paying for.
 - D. Once you have prepared the crust, sauce, cheese, and toppings, you are ready to bake your pizza. I think you will see that making pizza at home can be a good alternative to purchasing it from the store.

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In the first paragraph, the author introduces the main idea. The author says, "Making the perfect pizza can be complicated, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home." Here, the author tells us that he or she wants to give us some ways to make a more basic pizza at home. The author spends the rest of the passage outlining the steps we need to take to make the pizza. This means **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **B**

complicated (*adjective*): difficult to explain, understand, or analyze.

In paragraph 1, the author says, "Making the perfect pizza can be complicated, but there are lots of ways for you to make a more basic version at home." Given that making pizza at home can be complicated or difficult, the author wants to explain a way that is more basic. So, the author wants to explain a way to make pizza that is basic, or not complicated. *Simple* is the only choice that means something similar to basic, or not complicated. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **B**

purchase (*verb*): to acquire through the payment of money or its equivalent; to buy.

The question asks us to find the best synonym. Synonyms are words that have nearly the same meanings. The author tells us that if making homemade tomato sauce sounds like too much work, we can "purchase jarred sauce from the store." Using context, we can understand that another word for *purchase* is *buy*. If you are unfamiliar with the word "purchase," you might still be able to guess that people usually go to a store in order to buy things. Choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **C**

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. At the end of paragraph 3 the author writes, "If this sounds like too much work, you can also purchase jarred sauce from the store. Many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home." The author tells us that as a substitute for something that takes too much work, we can purchase jarred sauce. This may seem like a poor substitute, but the author explains that this is not necessarily the case; many jarred sauces taste almost as good as the kind you make at home. Using this information, we can understand that the purpose of the statement in question is to clarify an earlier statement. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **A**

In paragraph 4, the author asks the reader, "Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese?" The author thinks that he or she knows the answer to these questions. The author thinks that you probably do not have a cow in your backyard, do not know how to milk a cow, and do not know how to turn milk in cheese. After all, not many people would answer these questions positively. Given that the author expects that most people would not answer positively to these questions, then it is fair to assume that most people are unable to make home-made cheese. The author's question is intended to be rhetorical, or perhaps even sarcastic. This means choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

customize (*verb*): to build according to personal preferences or tastes.

In order to answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraph 5, the author says, "The best part of making a pizza at home is that you can customize it by adding your favorite ingredients." After the author says this, he or she continues to give examples: some people like to add vegetables, meat, or even pineapple. Since the author tells us that different people like different things on their pizza, we can understand that the choice of toppings is personal, or special for each person. Therefore, you can *customize* things to make them *personal*. This lets us know that **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **D**

In paragraph 2, the author says, "When you make pizza, you must begin with the crust." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 3, the author says, "After you have chosen your crust, you must then add the sauce." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 4, the author says, "Now that you have your crust and your sauce, you need to add the cheese." This comes before the author instructs you to add the toppings. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

8) **D**

In paragraph 2 the author writes, "If you want to make the crust yourself, you will have to make dough using flour, water, and yeast. You will have to knead the dough with your hands.." In paragraph 3 the author writes, "Making your own sauce from scratch can take a long time. You have to buy tomatoes, peel them, and then cook them with spices." In paragraph 4 the author writes, "Do you have a cow in your backyard? Do you know how to milk the cow? Do you know how to turn that milk into cheese?" In all of these quotations, the author talks about how hard it is to make a pizza from scratch. The author uses negative language to highlight this difficulty. This lets us know that the author is feels negative about making pizza from scratch. Choice **(D)** is correct. Choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)** all contain positive words. However, the author is negative about making a pizza from scratch. Therefore these choices are incorrect.

9) **D**

A good conclusion restates the main idea and the basic points (or thesis) of the passage. In paragraph 1 the author introduces the idea of making a pizza at home. In paragraph 2 the author talks about the crust. In paragraph 3 the author talks about the sauce. In paragraph 4 the author talks about the cheese. In paragraph 5 the author talks about the toppings. Using this information, we can understand that **(D)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because the passage does not provide information to support the idea that cheese is the most important ingredient in pizza. Although the author does advise against making your own ingredients, this is not the main idea of the passage. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. The author does not talk about the cost of making pizza in this passage. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 5 Level 5

Directions: Read the passage. Then answer the questions below.

Dan, Sarah, Ted, and Rebecca have been playing a friendly game of poker for almost an hour. So far, Ted has the biggest pile of winnings, with a total of \$5.45. Sarah has won a small sum, and Rebecca has lost more than Dan.

Questions

- 1) At this stage of the game, who has lost the most money?
 - A. Ted
 - B. Sarah
 - C. Dan
 - D. Rebecca

- 2) How much money might each player have started with, if each player started with the same amount?
 - A. \$4
 - B. \$6
 - C. \$8
 - D. Not enough information is provided

- 3) If the game started at 7:00, what time might it be at this stage of the game?
 - A. 7:30
 - B. 7:50
 - C. 8:00
 - D. 8:45

- 4) At this stage of the game, who has/have won money?
 - I. Ted
 - II. Sarah
 - III. Dan
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The passage tells us that "Rebecca has lost more than Dan." This lets us know that Rebecca and Dan have lost money. Since Rebecca has lost more than Dan, we know that she has lost the most money. This means choice **(D)** is correct. The passage tells us that Ted "has the biggest pile of winnings," and that "Sarah has won a small sum." This lets us know that Ted and Sarah have won money. This eliminates choices **(A)** and **(B)**. The passage also tells us that "Rebecca has lost more than Dan." Choice **(C)** is incorrect.

2) **A**

The passage says that, "Ted has the biggest pile of winnings, with a total of \$5.45." Since Ted has the biggest pile of winnings, and each player started with the same amount, he must have started with less than \$5.45. Answer **(A)** is correct. The values in choice **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)** are all higher than \$5.45. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **B**

The passage says that "Dan, Sarah, Ted, and Rebecca have been playing a friendly game of poker for almost an hour." If the game started at 7:00, and has been going on for almost an hour, then the only time that makes sense is 7:50. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(A)**, **(C)**, or **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **B**

We know that Ted has won money, because the passage tells us that he "has the biggest pile of winnings." This supports **option (I)**. We also know that Sarah has won money, because the passage says that Sarah has "won a small sum." This supports **option (II)**. Finally, we know that Dan has not won money. This is because the passage says that "Rebecca has lost more than Dan." If Rebecca has lost more than Dan, this implies that Dan has also lost money in addition to Rebecca. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

• Sentence Completion 1 Level 5

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. This spinach omelet makes for _____ breakfast; it has the vegetables and protein needed for a healthy diet.
A. a delicious
B. a filling
C. a fortunate
D. an edible
E. a nutritious
2. Jerry's grandfather's house is full of _____ technology such as rotary-dial phones and other devices that are no longer in use.
A. prehistoric
B. obsolete
C. current
D. broken
E. advanced
3. My younger brother constantly misbehaves and is always causing _____.
A. hostility
B. generosity
C. violence
D. courtesy
E. mischief
4. The teacher only has one copy of the worksheet right now, so she is going to _____ it and give the new copy to her student.
A. translate
B. multiply
C. duplicate
D. plagiarize
E. expand
5. Montero was _____ about the upcoming investigation, and he was only made more _____ by the newspaper accounts of it.
A. upset ... easygoing
B. angry ... frightened
C. relaxed ... stressed
D. anxious ... nervous
E. aggressive ... calm
6. Almost no one actually believes that the god Zeus lives on top of Mount Olympus; most people understand that this is just a _____, not a reality.
A. poem
B. lyric
C. myth
D. sonnet
E. counterfeit
7. The carpenter ant is _____ critter and is not at all _____.
A. an immense ... gigantic
B. an industrious ... lazy
C. a stupid ... ignorant
D. an active ... energetic
E. a tireless ... hardworking
8. The attorney suggested that the witness's testimony was _____ because the witness was a known liar.
A. sincere
B. amazing
C. insane
D. unreliable
E. innocent

Answers and Explanations

1) E

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links clauses that have similar meanings. This means that there is a logical relationship between a characteristic of the “spinach omelet” and the fact that it has the nutrients needed for a “healthy diet.” The missing word must make this connection. Because *nutritious* means nourishing or full of vitamins and minerals, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *delicious* means very pleasant to taste. The prompt does not state or hint at how the omelet tastes, since it only describes the fact that it has vegetables and proteins.

(B) is incorrect because *filling* means leaving one feeling full or satisfied. The prompt does not state or hint at whether the omelet will leave one feeling full, since it only describes the fact that it has vegetables and proteins.

(C) is incorrect because *fortunate* means lucky. This word is not usually used to describe food. Furthermore, it does not relate to the fact that the omelet has “vegetables and protein needed for a healthy diet.”

(D) is incorrect because *edible* means able to be eaten. This word describes all food in general, so it is not specific enough to work in context. Furthermore, it does not relate to the clue about nutrients or being “healthy.”

2) B

The main clue in this question is the phrase “such as rotary-dial phones and other devices that are no longer in use.” This phrase, like the missing word, describes the type of “technology” found in the grandfather’s house, so the technology in question must have been “no longer in use.” Because *obsolete* means out of date or no longer used, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *prehistoric* means relating to the period before written records existed. This does not work in context because it is too extreme. The prompt implies that Jerry’s grandfather’s house has old technology, but not technology that existed in the time of dinosaurs.

(C) is incorrect because *current* means belonging to the present time. It would not be logical to say that Jerry’s grandfather’s house was full of current technology and then give examples of technology that is no longer in use.

(D) is incorrect because *broken* means damaged or no longer in working order. The prompt implies that Jerry’s grandfather owned out-of-date technology, but it does not state that said technology was damaged.

(E) is incorrect because *advanced* means far ahead in development or progress. This is the opposite of the type of technology Jerry’s grandfather had in his house if the technology he had was “no longer in use.”

3) E

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which is used to link two parts of a sentence that state similar information. In this sentence, the fact the younger brother “constantly misbehaves” is related to what he “is always causing.” One who misbehaves would be likely to cause misbehavior. Because *mischief* means playful misbehavior or troublemaking, choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *hostility* is unfriendliness or animosity. One shows hostility to an enemy, but the prompt does not imply that the younger brother even has any enemies, so this choice is not supported by the prompt.

(B) is incorrect because *generosity* is willingness to give or help others. There is no clear relationship between misbehaving and being generous, so this choice does not make logical sense.

(C) is incorrect because *violence* is physical behavior intended to hurt or harm someone else. While misbehaving could involve violence, nothing in the prompt implies that the younger brother was violent, so this choice is not supported by the prompt.

(D) is incorrect because *courtesy* is politeness and respect toward others. A misbehaving younger brother would not be likely to cause courtesy, so this choice does not work.

4) C

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which links two ideas that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that “the teacher only has one copy of the worksheet” and what she will do to that worksheet. The question says that she will give a “new copy” to her student, so the correct choice must imply that she will make a new copy. *Duplicate* means to double or make a copy of something, so choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *translate* means to change something from one language to another. The prompt only refers to the fact that the teacher will make a “new copy” of the worksheet for her student, not that she will change the language of it.

(B) is incorrect because *multiply* means to increase in number. This does not work because multiplying something is not the same as copying it.

(D) is incorrect because *plagiarize* means to copy something and present it as one's own work without giving credit to the original author. This does not work because making a copy is not the same as plagiarizing, since one can copy something and correctly give credit to its originator.

(E) is incorrect because *expand* means to make something wider or larger. The prompt only refers to the fact that the teacher will make a "new copy" of the worksheet for her student and does not imply that she will make the copy larger or smaller.

5) D

The main clue in this question is the word "and," which is used to link two parts of a sentence that provide similar information. This means that both parts of this sentence must state the same thing. Additionally, the question states that Montero "was only made more" whatever he was to begin with, so the correct choice will provide two words with similar meanings. Because *anxious* means worried or nervous, and *nervous* means worried or easily alarmed, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Upset* means angry or not calm, while *easygoing* means relaxed. These words are opposites of each other.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Angry* means mad, while *frightened* means scared. These words have no clear relationship.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Relaxed* means calm or free of stress, while *stressed* means upset, worried, or not relaxed. These words are opposites of each other.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of words with similar meanings. *Aggressive* means ready or likely to attack, while *calm* means relaxed. These words are almost opposites of each other, since a calm person is usually not aggressive.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links clauses that have similar meanings. This means that there is a logical relationship between what "almost no one" believes about Zeus and what "most people understand" about his story. Additionally, the question provides an additional clue in the phrase "not a reality," which expands on what the missing word says. The missing word must refer to something that is not a reality then. A *myth* is a belief or story from a particular culture that is not factually true, so choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *poem* is a type of writing that emphasizes feeling and emotion. A poem has no clear relationship to "reality," and the prompt does not suggest that the story of Zeus is a poem.

(B) is incorrect because a *lyric* is a line from a song or a poetic type of writing. A lyric has no clear relationship to "reality," and the prompt does not suggest that the story of Zeus is a poem or lyric.

(D) is incorrect because a *sonnet* is a type of poem with fourteen lines. A sonnet has no clear relationship to "reality," and the prompt does not suggest that the story of Zeus is a sonnet.

(E) is incorrect because a *counterfeit* is a forgery of something. This does not work, because even though a counterfeit is not real, it is presented as though it is real. The prompt implies that the story of Zeus is widely known not to be real, so it would not make sense to suggest it has been passed off as a reality.

7) B

The main clue in this question is the word "and," which is used to link two parts of a sentence that state similar information. This means that what is before and after the and in this prompt state similar things about the carpenter ant. However, the second missing word is preceded by the modifying phrase "not at all" which means the correct choice will actually provide a pair of words with opposite meanings. *Industrious* means hardworking and *lazy* means unwilling to work or use energy, making them opposites of each other. Therefore, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Immense* means very large, while *gigantic* also means very large. These words have similar meanings then, not opposite meanings.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Stupid* means not smart, while *ignorant* means lacking knowledge. These words have very similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Active* means engaging in physical pursuits, while *energetic* means full of energy or liveliness. These words are not opposites of each other.

(E) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Tireless* means having great energy, while *hardworking* means tending to work with energy and commitment. These words are not opposites of each other.

8) D

The main clue in this question is the word "because," which suggests a cause-and-effect relationship between two parts of the sentence. Here, the fact that the "witness was a known liar" provides the cause for what the attorney suggested the witness's testimony was. A known liar would not provide strong or reliable testimony, so the missing word must mean weak or not reliable. Because *unreliable* means not reliable or trustable, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sincere* means honest and trustworthy. This is the opposite of a correct answer, since a “known liar” would not be likely to provide sincere testimony.

(B) is incorrect because *amazing* means wonderful or surprising. This does not imply that the witness is unable to give accurate, trustworthy testimony, since there is no relationship between being amazing and being “a known liar.”

(C) is incorrect because *insane* means crazy or not of sound mind. Although this correctly implies that the witness is not giving accurate, trustworthy testimony, it incorrectly implies that the witness is not sane. The prompt does not state that the witness was mentally or psychologically disturbed, since being “a known liar” is not the same as being mentally ill.

(E) is incorrect because *innocent* means free of guilt or blame. Lying on the witness stand is a serious crime, so the attorney would not be likely to call the testimony of “a known liar” innocent.

• Sentence Completion 2 Level 5

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. The governor thinks the tax is a good one and would like to see it continue, but his opponent wants to _____ it.
A. abolish
B. amend
C. modify
D. enact
E. employ
2. My neighbor wears a mask when he is outdoors because he doesn't want to _____ the pollution in the air.
A. consume
B. overcome
C. infect
D. inhale
E. provoke
3. Ash tried to move the large rock that was blocking the road, but it wouldn't _____.
A. budge
B. rotate
C. dodge
D. evade
E. wander
4. Though the thief _____ the evidence in the woods, it was _____ by the police, who were able to link the evidence to the criminal.
A. disguised ... removed
B. hid ... camouflaged
C. buried ... excavated
D. concealed ... harmed
E. exposed ... sheltered
5. Educated people have _____ when applying for jobs; they are more likely to be hired.
A. a challenge
B. a prejudice
C. an advantage
D. a handicap
E. a talent
6. The dentist told me there were _____ reasons to brush my teeth, but I can only think of one.
A. magnificent
B. few
C. numerous
D. insufficient
E. important
7. Claudio's parents don't speak English, so he has to _____ his teacher's letters from English to Spanish so they can read them.
A. fabricate
B. originate
C. divide
D. translate
E. digest
8. My mother said I needed a _____ to come with me to the zoo because I was not old enough to go _____, so I brought my friend with me.
A. partner ... together
B. friend ... accompanied
C. peasant ... solo
D. visitor ... independently
E. companion ... alone

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which links two things that are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that the governor thinks the tax is good and wants it to “continue” and what his opponent wants to do to the tax. The opposite of continuing a tax is stopping, repealing, or getting rid of it. Because *abolish* means to formally put an end to something, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *amend* means to change or revise. This does not work because changing a tax would not prevent it from continuing to exist.

(C) is incorrect because *modify* means to change or alter. This does not work because changing a tax would not prevent it from continuing to exist.

(D) is incorrect because *enact* means to put into law. This is what the governor would like to do to the tax but the opposite of what his opponent would like to do to it.

(E) is incorrect because *employ* means to use. The governor might want to use the tax, but his opponent wants to do the opposite of that.

2) D

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which combines two ideas that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that the neighbor “wears a mask” and what he doesn’t want to do with the pollution in the air. Masks cover people’s faces, including their noses and mouths. Many people wear masks to prevent breathing in air pollution, so it is likely that the neighbor wanted to not breathe in the pollution. *Inhale* means to breathe in, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *consume* means to use up, eat, or drink. This does not work because consuming is not the same as breathing, and air cannot be eaten or drunk.

(B) is incorrect because *overcome* means to conquer or surmount. The prompt does not imply that the neighbor wished to overpower air, especially since air cannot be overpowered.

(C) is incorrect because *infect* means to sicken or afflict with a disease. This does not work because it would imply that the neighbor had the ability to make the air sick and that wearing a mask would prevent this from happening.

(E) is incorrect because *provoke* means to arouse or incite. Air cannot be aroused or provoked, so this choice does not make sense.

3) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which links two things that are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between what Ash tried to do to the “large rock” and what the rock wouldn’t do. If Ash tried to “move” the large rock, an opposite relationship would be set up if the rock did not actually move. *Budge* means to make or cause to make the slightest movement, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *rotate* means to turn in a circular motion. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since the prompt does not imply that Ash tried to move the rock in a circular motion.

(C) is incorrect because *dodge* means to move out of the way or evade an oncoming object or attack. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since dodging is not the same as merely moving.

(D) is incorrect because *evade* means to move out of the way or dodge an oncoming object or attack. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, since evading is not the same as merely moving.

(E) is incorrect because *amble* means to saunter, stroll, or walk at a slow or leisurely pace. Although this is a type of motion, this does not work in context, because it is impossible for a rock to walk.

4) C

The main clue in this question is the word “though,” which is used to indicate a contrasting or opposite relationship. This means that the thief tried to do something to the evidence, but the police undid his or her work or did the opposite of it. *Buried* means put or hid underground, while *excavated* means dug up. These are opposites, so choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Disguised* means given a different appearance to conceal something’s identity, while *removed* means taken away from a place occupied. These words have no clear relationship.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hide* means concealed from view, while *camouflaged* means disguised or hidden. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Concealed* means hidden or covered from view, while *harmed* means hurt or damaged. These words have no clear relationship.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship that works in context. *Exposed* means made something that was hidden visible, while *sheltered* means protected from bad weather. These words are opposites, but they do not work in context. A thief would be unlikely to show off evidence of his or her guilt, and the prompt in no way implies that there was bad weather or that the police protected the evidence from bad weather.

5) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which links two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between what “educated people” have when applying for jobs and the fact that they are more likely to be hired. People apply for jobs with the goal of eventually being hired. This prompt states that educated people are more likely to achieve this goal, so the missing word must imply this. *Advantage* means a condition that puts one in a favorable position, so choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *challenge* is an obstacle or disadvantage. Disadvantages hold people back from achieving their goals, so this does not set up a logical relationship.

(B) is incorrect because a *prejudice* is a preconceived idea or judgment. This is not the best choice because prejudices do not usually affect a person’s ability to achieve his or her goals and find a job. An employer’s prejudices might keep someone from being hired, but the prejudices of the applicant do not matter.

(D) is incorrect because a *handicap* is a disadvantage or disability. Disadvantages hold people back from achieving their goals, so this does not set up a logical relationship.

(E) is incorrect because a *talent* is a special skill. This is not the best choice, because talents are not necessarily related to education.

6) C

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which indicates that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the one reason the narrator can think of for brushing his or her teeth and what the dentist said. The opposite of one reason would be several reasons. Because *numerous* means many, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Magnificent* means impressively beautiful. This is not the opposite of “one.”

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Few* means hardly any. This is similar to “one,” not the opposite of it, since both one and few would imply that there are not many reasons to brush one’s teeth.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Insufficient* means not enough. This is similar to “one,” not the opposite of it, since both one and insufficient would imply that there are not many reasons to brush one’s teeth.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Important* means significant or valuable. This has no relationship to “one.”

7) D

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which combines two ideas that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that “Claudio’s parents don’t speak English” and what Claudio must do with his teacher’s letters. Because these letters are written in English, Claudio must make sure his parents can read the letters in Spanish. The missing word must describe this process. Because *translate* means to convert something written or stated in one language into another language, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *fabricate* means to invent with deceitful intent. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that Claudio lies to his parents or is deceitful in any way.

(B) is incorrect because *originate* means to create or initiate something. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that Claudio creates or writes something.

(C) is incorrect because *divide* means to separate into parts. This does not work because one cannot separate a letter into English and Spanish.

(E) is incorrect because *digest* means to understand something. While Claudio probably did understand his teacher’s letters, this does not work because it does not describe the process of converting the letters from English into Spanish.

8) E

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which is used to set up a cause-and-effect relationship between two parts of a sentence. This means the missing words must set up such a relationship. Additionally, the prompt provides another clue in the phrase “so I brought my friend with me,” a phrase that explains what the solution was to the problem of not being old enough to go to the zoo a certain way. This means that the narrator’s mother needed him or her to bring a friend to the zoo

because he or she was not old enough to go alone. *Companion* means a person with whom one travels, while *alone* means without anyone else. Together these would imply that the mother needed the narrator to bring a friend to the zoo because the narrator was not old enough to go by himself or herself, so choice **(E)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *partner* is a person who takes part in something with another person, but *together* means with other people. This would imply that the mother both wanted the narrator to bring someone to the zoo with him or her and was not old enough to go with another person.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *friend* is a person who cares about and gets along with another person, but *accompanied* means with another person. This would imply that the mother both wanted the narrator to bring someone to the zoo with him or her and was not old enough to go with another person.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *peasant* is a poor farmer, while *solo* means alone. Solo could work for the second missing word, but nothing in the prompt suggests that the narrator needed to bring a farmer with him or her to the zoo.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *visitor* is someone who is in a place in which he or she does not live, while *independently* means done alone. Independently could work for the second missing word, but the prompt does not imply that the narrator needed someone who lives in a different city to go the zoo with him or her.

• Sentence Completion 3 Level 5

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. Chris and Mackenzie were both _____, so they decided to purchase _____ to share.
A. thirsty ... a beverage
B. hungry ... a soda
C. exhausted ... a meal
D. starving ... medicine
E. confused ... a snack
2. Martin is not old enough to vote, live alone, or even drive, since he is still _____.
A. an employee
B. a minor
C. an heir
D. a male
E. an adult
3. The classroom seems _____ today, because all of the desks are in an unusual arrangement and everything feels mysterious.
A. commonplace
B. luxurious
C. miniature
D. peculiar
E. ordinary
4. People always say that I look just like my mother, but I think I _____ my father.
A. resemble
B. imitate
C. match
D. compare to
E. duplicate
5. Small cars are _____ for large families; they don't have enough seating or space to be useful.
A. successful
B. profitable
C. impractical
D. inactive
E. damaging
6. Unlike Bermuda, which has a _____ climate, Minnesota is often _____, especially in the winter.
A. breezy ... windy
B. cold ... chilly
C. stormy ... unpredictable
D. warm ... humid
E. tropical ... frigid
7. _____ contains lists of words that have similar meanings; a student can use one to find _____ to use in his or her writing.
A. An atlas ... maps
B. A thesaurus ... synonyms
C. An encyclopedia ... homonyms
D. A dictionary ... locations
E. A textbook ... translations
8. Neither team had enough players to compete in the tournament, but when the teams _____, there were enough players to compete in it as one team instead of two.
A. bungled
B. combined
C. separated
D. rebelled
E. participated

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which sets up a logical relationship between what Chris and Mackenzie were and what they decided to purchase. The correct choice will provide a pair of words that are related in this way. *Thirsty* means feeling a need to drink something, while a *beverage* is a drink other than water. When one is thirsty, he or she would buy something to drink, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Hungry* means in need of or wanting food, but a *soda* is a carbonated, sugary beverage. One does not buy a soda because he or she is hungry.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Exhausted* means very tired, but a *meal* is food eaten at a designated time of day. One does not buy food because he or she is hungry.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Starving* means extremely hungry, but a *medicine* is something taken to prevent or cure a disease. One does not buy medicine because he or she is hungry.

(E) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Confused* means perplexed or unclear about something, but a *snack* is a small meal. One does not buy food because he or she is confused.

2) B

The main clue in this question is the word “since,” which links two parts of a sentence that logically derive from each other. This means that there is a logical relationship between the fact that Martin “is not old enough” to do certain things and another characteristic he possesses. The missing word must indicate that Martin is not old enough to do something. Because a *minor* is someone who is under the age of legal responsibility, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *an employee* is someone who works for someone else. The prompt gives no indication that Martin works for himself or for anyone else, so this choice does not make sense.

(C) is incorrect because *an heir* is someone who inherits something. The prompt gives no indication that Martin is or is not an heir, so this choice does not make sense.

(D) is incorrect because *a male* is a person who is a boy or a man. While Martin is a male, this choice does not work because being a male is not the same as being a certain age.

(E) is incorrect because *an adult* is a fully-grown and legally responsible person. This choice does not work because Martin is not an adult. The prompt says he “is not old enough to vote, live alone, or even drive.” Adults are old enough to do all of these things.

3) D

The main clue in this question is the word “because,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship between parts of the sentence. Here, because “the desks are in an unusual arrangement and everything feels mysterious,” the classroom feels a certain way. The missing word describes the way the classroom feels and must logically derive from the unusual arrangement and feeling of mystery in the room. *Peculiar* means odd, unusual, or strange, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *commonplace* means ordinary or usual. This does not set up a logical relationship with the strange circumstances surrounding the classroom’s new arrangement.

(B) is incorrect because *luxurious* means marked by opulence or wealth. The prompt does not suggest that the classroom has been made more opulent or wealthy, as it only implies that the classroom has been rearranged.

(C) is incorrect because *miniature* means of a much smaller size than normal. This does not work because the prompt does not suggest that the room became smaller or more cramped as a result of the rearrangement of the desks.

(E) is incorrect because *ordinary* means common or usual. This does not set up a logical relationship with the strange circumstances surrounding the classroom’s “unusual” new arrangement.

4) A

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up an opposite relationship between the fact that some people think I “look just like my mother” and some relationship I have with my father. The correct choice must reflect the fact that I think I look like my father, not my mother, then, as looking like my father is the opposite of looking like my mother. *Resemble* means to look or seem like, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *imitate* means to mimic or follow a pattern. This does not work because looking like someone is not the same as mimicking him or her.

(C) is incorrect because *match* means to be equal. This does not work because looking like someone is not the same as being equal to him or her.

(D) is incorrect because *compare* means to discover resemblances or differences. This does not work because things that do not look like each other can be compared, since comparing involves looking for similarities as well as differences.

(E) is incorrect because *duplicate* means to make a second copy. This does not work because the prompt does not imply that the narrator has physically made a copy or clone of his or her father.

5) C

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between how small cars are for large families and the fact that they are too small to be “useful.” The missing word must also reflect the fact that small cars are not “useful” for large families. Because *impractical* means not sensible, realistic, or ideally suited, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *successful* means resulting in success or a desired outcome. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(B) is incorrect because *profitable* means resulting in profit or wealth. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(D) is incorrect because *inactive* means not active or moving. This does not set up a logical relationship with the clue that small cars are not “useful” for large families.

(E) is incorrect because *damaging* means harmful or dangerous. This choice is too extreme, because something can be not useful without being harmful.

6) E

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which sets up a negative or opposite relationship. Here, there is an opposite relationship between Bermuda’s climate and Minnesota’s, meaning the correct choice will provide a pair of opposites. *Tropical* means hot and humid, while *frigid* means very cold. These are opposites, so choice (E) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Breezy* means pleasantly windy, while *windy* means marked by winds or gusts of air. These words have almost the same meaning, not opposite meanings.

(B) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Cold* means not warm or hot, while *chilly* means cold. These words have similar meanings, not opposite meanings.

(C) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Stormy* means characterized by storms or violent gusts of wind and rain, while *unpredictable* means not able to be foreseen or predicted. These words have no clear relationship.

(D) is incorrect because it does not provide a pair of opposites. *Warm* means relatively hot or not cold, while *humid* means moist or marked by moisture in the air. These words have no clear relationship.

7) B

The main clue in this question is the semicolon (;), which combines two independent clauses that logically progress from one another. This means that there is a logical relationship between something with “lists of words that have similar meanings” and what a student can find in that thing. The first missing word must refer to a book that contains lists of words that mean similar things. The second missing word must refer to the actual words on the list. A *thesaurus* is a book that contains lists of words with similar meanings, and *synonyms* are words that have similar meanings, so choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because an *atlas* is a book of maps, and *maps* are visual representations of a physical area. Neither an atlas nor a map have a clear relationship to “lists of words that have similar meanings.”

(C) is incorrect because an *encyclopedia* is a book that contains factual entries about many different topics. However, these entries do not contain “lists of words that have similar meanings.” Furthermore, *homonyms* are words that sound the same but have different meanings.

(D) is incorrect because a *dictionary* is a book containing definitions or meanings of words. However, *locations* are places or positions, and they would not be found in a dictionary.

(E) is incorrect because a *textbook* is a book of information on a certain subject that is used to teach a class. This does not relate to the clue about “words that have similar meanings.” Moreover, *translations* are written works that were originally made in one language but can be read in another language. A textbook might not contain translations.

8) B

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up a contrasting or opposite relationship between the parts of the sentence. Here, the opposite relationship concerns the number of players on the teams. As two teams, neither had enough players, but “as one team instead of two,” there were enough players. The missing word describes how the two teams became one. Because *combined* means united or merged into one group, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *bungled* means carried out a task clumsily. This has no relationship to two teams joining as one.

(C) is incorrect because *separated* means divided or split into more than one entity. This is the opposite of a correct choice, since the prompt describes how two teams became one, not how one team became two.

(D) is incorrect because *rebelled* means rose in opposition to a group that was in power. This has no relationship to two teams joining as one.

(E) is incorrect because *participated* means took part in something. While this describes what the teams ultimately were able to do, this does not work because it does not explain how they were able to participate.

• **Word Definition 1** Level 5

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

1) UNITED

- A. together and joined as one
- B. in bad taste and ugly
- C. difficult and challenging
- D. separate and divided

6) VIVID

- A. very bright or colorful
- B. very beautiful or attractive
- C. very unusual or strange
- D. very scared or afraid

2) INFLUENCE

- A. to confuse someone
- B. to buy something
- C. to take illegally
- D. to have an effect

7) APPROACH

- A. to save money
- B. to laugh at someone
- C. to come closer
- D. to divide equally

3) FRIGID

- A. very tired
- B. very exciting
- C. very quiet
- D. very cold

8) FREQUENT

- A. plain
- B. responsible
- C. modern
- D. often

4) NARRATOR

- A. someone who performs in plays
- B. someone who tells a story
- C. someone who teaches students
- D. someone who plays an instrument

9) MUTTER

- A. to walk slowly or unhurriedly
- B. to cry loudly or desperately
- C. to hurt badly or deeply
- D. to say quietly or unclearly

5) WITHDRAW

- A. to take out or to remove
- B. to shrink or to make smaller
- C. to exchange or to trade
- D. to create or to build

10) REBEL

- A. to stop temporarily
- B. to doubt something
- C. to make better
- D. to challenge an authority

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

united (adjective): together or joined as one: *The colonists knew they had to make a united nation of the thirteen separate colonies, so they all joined together as one.*

2) **D**

influence (verb): to have an effect: *The influence of smoking on a person's health is clear: cigarettes have horrible effects on the lungs, heart, and mouth.*

3) **D**

frigid (adjective): very cold: *The temperatures in Antarctica are usually below freezing, and almost no life can survive in such a frigid climate.*

4) **B**

narrator (noun): someone who tells a story: *I think Holden Caulfield is a bad narrator because instead of telling an honest story, he exaggerates the truth and criticizes every character in the book.*

5) **A**

withdraw (verb): to take out or to remove: *I had to withdraw money from my bank account so that I would have enough cash to pay for a new guitar.*

6) **A**

vivid (adjective): very bright or colorful: *The kindergarten classroom was painted in bright, vivid colors.*

7) **C**

approach (verb): to come closer: *The lawyer approached the judge so that she could say something to him quietly in private; she knew that if she got very close to the judge, no one else would be able to hear her.*

8) **D**

frequent (adjective): often: *Pete's frequent trips to the bathroom made his teachers wonder if he was trying to miss class as often as possible.*

9) **D**

mutter (verb): to say quietly or unclearly: *The student muttered a bad word about her classmate without the other students or the teacher hearing her.*

10) **D**

rebel (verb): to challenge an authority: *The American colonists rebelled against the British king when they declared themselves independent of his kingdom, directly challenging his rule.*

• **Word Definition 2** Level 5

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

1) REFRESH

- A. to make new
- B. to focus
- C. to destroy
- D. to fall asleep

6) SUSPEND

- A. to discover
- B. to hang
- C. to finish
- D. to teach

2) SIMILAR

- A. completely original
- B. very dull
- C. required
- D. almost the same

7) ABOLISH

- A. to hide or conceal
- B. to rob or steal
- C. to subtract or take away
- D. to cancel or ban

3) ABANDON

- A. to leave behind
- B. to give advice
- C. to watch closely
- D. to correct

8) SENSELESS

- A. pointless or silly
- B. dangerous or unsafe
- C. friendly or kind
- D. brave or confident

4) INJURY

- A. something that weighs a lot
- B. something that is pretty
- C. something that comes from nature
- D. something that hurts someone

9) STRATEGY

- A. a plan
- B. a government
- C. a war
- D. a conclusion

5) BLAND

- A. not present
- B. without hope
- C. with humor
- D. without flavor

10) DROWSY

- A. old
- B. ugly
- C. sleepy
- D. wealthy

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

refresh (verb): to make new or to revive: *I couldn't remember what we did in our last lesson, so my teacher refreshed my memory.*

2) **D**

similar (adjective): almost the same: *The brothers look very similar; they are about the same height and weight and have the same hair and eye colors.*

3) **A**

abandon (verb): to leave behind: *We think that the kitten might have been abandoned by its mother, since it was left all alone with no sign of its litter or parents.*

4) **D**

injury (noun): something that hurts or harms someone: *Mr. McGuire is in the hospital due to his injuries from the car accident, but doctors say he will make a full recovery.*

5) **D**

bland (adjective): boring or without flavor: *A plain salad is very bland, so I use salad dressing to give it flavor.*

6) **B**

suspend (verb): to hang: *The circus performer flew over the audience, suspended on the thin wires of her trapeze.*

7) **D**

abolish (verb): to cancel or ban: *Slavery was abolished in the United States under President Abraham Lincoln, meaning that no one was allowed to own slaves ever again.*

8) **A**

senseless (adjective): pointless or silly: *There is no point in arguing with your mother on this issue; she has made up her mind so it would be senseless to try to change it.*

9) **A**

strategy (noun): a plan of action or policy designed to achieve a major goal: *The president presented his strategy for ending the war and told reporters that the plan would go in effect in January.*

10) **C**

drowsy (adjective): sleepy: *Ms. Shaffer's boring lessons always make me feel drowsy, and a few times I've actually fallen asleep in class!*

• **Word Definition 3** Level 5

Directions: Choose the answer choice that best defines the word in capital letters.

1) URGE

- A. to decorate
- B. to praise
- C. to redo
- D. to encourage

6) UNSUCCESSFUL

- A. failing to meet one's goals
- B. depending on others
- C. causing trouble
- D. decorating something

2) MINOR

- A. larger in seriousness
- B. shorter in height
- C. greater in size
- D. lesser in importance

7) CENTRAL

- A. on the coast
- B. relating to sports
- C. in the middle
- D. relating to a government

3) ORDINARY

- A. fragile or delicate
- B. normal or plain
- C. chilly or cold
- D. famous or well known

8) NUMEROUS

- A. broken
- B. many
- C. successful
- D. poor

4) STARTLE

- A. to begin or get going
- B. to defeat or beat
- C. to surprise or frighten
- D. to offer or give

9) PROVIDE

- A. to improve or make better
- B. to request or ask for
- C. to speak or talk
- D. to give or offer

5) SATISFIED

- A. talented or skilled
- B. affordable or cheap
- C. content or happy
- D. depressing or sad

10) VISUAL

- A. relating to food
- B. relating to art
- C. relating to sight
- D. relating to science

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

urge (verb): to encourage: *The troop leader urged her scouts to sell as many boxes of cookies as they could, encouraging them to sell multiple boxes to all buyers.*

2) **D**

minor (adjective): lesser in importance, seriousness, or size: *I made some minor edits to my paper, changing just a few small things here and there.*

3) **B**

ordinary (adjective): normal or plain: *I'm bored by ordinary cheese pizzas—I prefer to add tasty and interesting toppings like ham and pineapple.*

4) **C**

startle (verb): to surprise or frighten: *Keisha did not notice that I was behind her, so when I shouted behind her, she was startled.*

5) **C**

satisfied (adjective): content or happy: *My father told me I needed to earn at least a B on my next exam, so when I showed him the 87 my teacher wrote at the top of the test paper, he was satisfied.*

6) **A**

unsuccessful (adjective): failing to meet one's goals: *Olivia was unsuccessful in her basketball career and had to find a different job outside of sports.*

7) **C**

central (adjective): in the middle: *The central part of the city is very busy because it is in the middle of everything.*

8) **B**

numerous (adjective): many: *The historian's well-researched book contained numerous sources, hundreds more than most books.*

9) **D**

provide (verb): to give or to offer: *Breakfast is provided at the hotel every morning, so don't have to worry about finding someplace else to eat.*

10) **C**

visual (adjective): relating to sight: *Ms. Rosso offers many visual examples of different lesson topics, including pictures, graphs, and charts.*