

• **Antonyms 1** Level 4

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

1. LAST

- A. early
- B. closing
- C. ending
- D. primary

2. DISTRESS

- A. headache
- B. pleasure
- C. luck
- D. suffering

3. CAPTIVITY

- A. slavery
- B. permission
- C. freedom
- D. limitation

4. CRAFTY

- A. honest
- B. bright
- C. deceitful
- D. scientific

5. RESIST

- A. adjust
- B. remain
- C. decline
- D. yield

6. REVEAL

- A. develop
- B. showcase
- C. cover
- D. thwart

7. SURVIVE

- A. recover
- B. expire
- C. withstand
- D. flee

8. DETEST

- A. adore
- B. withhold
- C. injure
- D. assist

9. CAREFREE

- A. easygoing
- B. worried
- C. relaxed
- D. cautious

10. BICKER

- A. debate
- B. surrender
- C. concur
- D. hassle

Answers and Explanations

1) **D**

The word *last* means coming after all others in time or order. The final test of the year is the last one you take at school. The opposite of last is first. Because *primary* means first in order or importance, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *early* means happening before the expected time. This is not the opposite of *last*, because something that happens early might not happen first over all.

(B) is incorrect because *closing* means final. This is the same as *last*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *ending* means final. This is the same as *last*, not the opposite of it.

2) **B**

The word *distress* means worry, sorrow, or pain. Someone who has been hurt or injured might feel distress. The opposite of distress is ease, happiness, or satisfaction. Because *pleasure* is a feeling of happy satisfaction and enjoyment, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *headache* is a continuous pain in the head. This is a form of *distress*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *luck* is success or failure brought on by chance. This is not the opposite of *distress*, because luck can be good or bad.

(D) is incorrect because *suffering* is the state of undergoing pain or hardship. This is almost the same as *distress*, not the opposite of it.

3) **C**

The word *captivity* means the condition of being imprisoned or confined. A criminal who is in captivity is not free to roam the streets. The opposite of captivity is the condition of being free or not being imprisoned. Because *freedom* is the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *slavery* is the state of being the property of another person. This is a form of *captivity*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *permission* is consent or authorization to do something. This is not the opposite of *captivity*, because if one needs permission to do something, he or she is not completely free.

(D) is incorrect because a *limitation* is a restriction of any kind. This is not the opposite of *captivity*.

4) **A**

The word *crafty* means clever or skilled at achieving one's aims by indirect or dishonest methods. A person who uses schemes and lies to get something he or she wants would be described as crafty. The opposite of crafty is forthright, sincere, or free of deceit. Because *honest* means forthright or free of deceit, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *bright* means well-lit or intelligent. This is not the opposite of *crafty*, since crafty is not the same as dark or dumb.

(C) is incorrect because *deceitful* means guilty of misleading others. This is almost the same as *crafty*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *scientific* means characterized by the methods of science or the study of the natural world. This is not the opposite of *crafty*.

5) **D**

The word *resist* means to struggle against someone or something. If someone resists temptation, he or she is struggling against a desire to do something bad. The opposite of resist is to give way to pressure or stop struggling against something. Because *yield* means to give way to pressure, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *adjust* means to alter or move something slightly. This is not the opposite of *resist*.

(B) is incorrect because *remain* means to stay in place. This is not the opposite of *resist*, since resisting is not the same as moving.

(C) is incorrect because *decline* means to politely refuse. This is almost the same as *resist*, not the opposite of it.

6) **C**

The word *reveal* means to cause or allow something to be seen. When a mask is taken off someone, his or her face is revealed. The opposite of reveal is to hide or mask. Because *cover* means to put something in front of or on top of something in order to hide or conceal it, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *develop* means to grow. This is not the opposite of *reveal*.

(B) is incorrect because *showcase* means to display or exhibit. This is almost the same as *reveal*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *thwart* means to prevent someone from accomplishing something. This is not the opposite of *reveal*, because revealing is not the same as encouraging or easing.

7) **B**

The word *survive* means to continue to live or exist. Someone who has survived a fire has lived through one. The opposite of survive is to die or cease to exist. Because *expire* means to come to an end or die, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *recover* means to regain full health or strength. This is almost the same as *survive*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *withstand* means to remain undefeated by something. This is almost the same as *survive*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *flee* means to leave. This is not the opposite of *survive*, because surviving is not the same as staying in one place.

8) **A**

The word *detest* means to hate. If one detests green beans, then he or she really dislikes them. The opposite of *detest* is to love. Because *adore* means to love and respect, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *withhold* means to hold back or refuse to give something to someone. This is not the opposite of *detest*.

(C) is incorrect because *injure* means to harm or cause physical pain. This is not the opposite of *detest*.

(D) is incorrect because *assist* means to help someone out. This is not the opposite of *detest*, since detesting is not the same thing as refusing to help.

9) **B**

The word *carefree* means easygoing or free from stress. Someone might be carefree while on a relaxing vacation. The opposite of carefree is stressed or anxious. Because *worried* means anxious, troubled, or stressed, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *easygoing* means relaxed or calm. This is the same as *carefree*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *relaxed* means free from tension and anxiety. This is the same as *carefree*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *cautious* means careful. This is not the opposite of *carefree*, because carefree is not the same as careless.

10) **C**

The word *bicker* means to argue about unimportant matters. Siblings might bicker about unimportant things such as who gets to sit in which car seat. The opposite of bicker is to have the same opinion about something and avoid arguing. Because *concur* means to agree or have the same opinion, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *debate* means to argue about something. This is almost the same as *bicker*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *surrender* means to stop fighting and submit to an opponent. This is not the opposite of *bicker*, because surrendering is not the same as agreeing and bickering is not the same as fighting.

(D) is incorrect because *hassle* means to harass or bother. This is not the opposite of *bicker*.

• **Antonyms 2** Level 4

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

1. ARREST

- A. capture
- B. extend
- C. release
- D. block

2. PERMIT

- A. allow
- B. outlaw
- C. challenge
- D. recognize

3. FULLY

- A. partially
- B. completely
- C. finally
- D. totally

4. LIMP

- A. strict
- B. bending
- C. plastic
- D. stiff

5. POINTLESS

- A. resolved
- B. harmful
- C. useless
- D. worthwhile

6. ROUTINE

- A. unusual
- B. typical
- C. general
- D. creative

7. ENTRANCE

- A. passage
- B. escape
- C. opening
- D. doorway

8. HOST

- A. entertainer
- B. valet
- C. manager
- D. visitor

9. MATURE

- A. ripe
- B. experienced
- C. juvenile
- D. idiotic

10. HUMBLE

- A. lowly
- B. proud
- C. aggressive
- D. timid

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

The word *arrest* means to capture by legal authority. When police officers arrest a criminal, they take the criminal into custody. The opposite of arrest is to free. Because *release* means to set free, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *capture* means to take into one's possession by control or force. This is the same as *arrest*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *extend* means to prolong or make longer. This is not the opposite of *arrest*, because arresting is not the same as decreasing.

(D) is incorrect because *block* means to make the movement of something impossible or difficult. This is not the opposite of *arrest*.

2) **B**

The word *permit* means to allow. If bicycling is permitted in a certain area, then one is allowed to ride a bike there. The opposite of permit is to ban or not allow. Because *outlaw* means to ban, prohibit, or make illegal, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *allow* means to grant permission or admit something as acceptable. This is the same as *permit*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *challenge* means to argue against or dispute the truth of something. This is not the opposite of *permit*, because permitting is not the same as arguing for something.

(D) is incorrect because *recognize* means to identify someone from having seen him or her before. This is not the opposite of *permit*.

3) **A**

The word *fully* means totally or completely. A cake is fully baked when it is done cooking and ready to be eaten. The opposite of fully is incompletely. Because *partially* means only in part or incompletely, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *completely* means totally. This is the same as *fully*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *finally* means after a long time or at last. This is not the opposite of *fully*.

(D) is incorrect because *totally* means completely or fully. This is the same as *fully*, not the opposite of it.

4) **D**

The word *limp* means not stiff or firm. For example, a wet noodle is limp. The opposite of limp is firm or hard. Because *stiff* means rigid, hard, firm, or not easily bent, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *strict* means demanding that rules are obeyed and observed. This is not the opposite of *limp*, because limp is not the same as relaxed or lenient.

(B) is incorrect because *bending* means not firm or fixed in shape. This is almost the same as *limp*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *plastic* means formable or lacking a clear shape. This is almost the same as *limp*, not the opposite of it.

5) **D**

The word *pointless* means having little or no sense, use, or purpose. An activity is pointless if doing it will not achieve anything. The opposite of pointless is purposeful, important, or worth the effort. Because *worthwhile* means worth the time, money, or effort spent, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *resolved* means determined to do something. This is not the opposite of *pointless*, since pointless is not the same as uncertain or undecided.

(B) is incorrect because *harmful* means able or likely to cause harm or injury. This is not the opposite of *pointless*, since pointless is not the same as harmless.

(C) is incorrect because *useless* means not expected to achieve the intended purpose or outcome. This is the same as *pointless*, not the opposite of it.

6) **A**

The word *routine* means commonplace or done as a regular course of action. Something that you do every day, such as brushing your teeth, would be a routine event. The opposite of routine is atypical or uncommon. Because *unusual* means not commonplace or not habitually done, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *typical* means normal or characteristic of a type. This is almost the same as *routine*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *general* means normal or usual. This is the same as *routine*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *creative* means involving original ideas or imagination. This is not the opposite of *routine*, since creative is not the same as unusual.

7) **B**

The word *entrance* means an opening that allows access to a place. The entrance to a house might be its front door. The opposite of an entrance is an exit or way out. Because an *escape* is a way out, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because a *passage* is a way that allows access between buildings or rooms. This is not the opposite of *entrance*, since a passage could provide entrance to another room or building.

(C) is incorrect because an *opening* is a gap that allows access. This is not the opposite of *entrance*, since an opening could provide entrance to another room or building.

(D) is incorrect because a *doorway* is an entrance to a room or building through a door. This is the same as *entrance*, not the opposite of it.

8) **D**

The word *host* means a person who receives or entertains guests. If you invite friends to your house for a birthday party, you are serving as a host to them. The opposite of a host is a guest. Because a *visitor* is a guest or person visiting a place, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because an *entertainer* is someone whose job is to entertain or provide amusement for others. This is not the opposite of a *host*.

(B) is incorrect because a *valet* is a person employed by a hotel to assist guests. This is almost the same as a *host*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because a *tenant* is a person who occupies land or property owned by someone else. This is not the opposite of a *host*, because renting is not the same as visiting or being a guest somewhere.

9) **C**

The word *mature* means ripe or fully-grown. An adult is mature. The opposite of mature is growing, immature, or unripe. Because *juvenile* means immature or childish, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *ripe* means fully matured or grown. This is the same as *mature*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *experienced* means having knowledge or skill gained over a period of time. This is not the opposite of *mature*.

(D) is incorrect because *idiotic* means stupid or unintelligent. This is not the opposite of *mature*, because mature is not the same as smart.

10) **B**

The word *humble* means modest or not arrogant. Someone who does not brag is likely humble. The opposite of humble is arrogant or self-important. Because *proud* means having a high opinion of oneself or one's importance, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *lowly* means modest or low in status. This is almost the same as *humble*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *aggressive* means ready to attack or fight. This is not the opposite of *humble*, because humble is not the same as peaceful or passive.

(D) is incorrect because *timid* means lacking confidence or courage. This is not the opposite of *humble*.

• **Antonyms 3** Level 4

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

1. ENTERTAIN

- A. bore
- B. perform
- C. recline
- D. excite

2. ATTRACTIVE

- A. wonderful
- B. hideous
- C. beautiful
- D. average

3. ASSIST

- A. support
- B. help
- C. prevent
- D. pamper

4. THREAT

- A. protection
- B. emergency
- C. courage
- D. danger

5. SEVERE

- A. strict
- B. relaxed
- C. kindly
- D. serious

6. ATTENTIVE

- A. lazy
- B. watchful
- C. alert
- D. distracted

7. ENTIRE

- A. unified
- B. flawed
- C. perfect
- D. incomplete

8. CONCENTRATE

- A. daydream
- B. focus
- C. ignore
- D. examine

9. APPROPRIATE

- A. suitable
- B. false
- C. improper
- D. fitting

10. NOBLE

- A. gentle
- B. cruel
- C. dishonorable
- D. meek

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

The word *entertain* means to provide someone with amusement or enjoyment. An interesting and funny story might entertain someone. The opposite of entertain is to fail to provide someone with amusement or enjoyment. Because *bore* means to be dull or to make someone feel uninterested, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *perform* means to present a form of entertainment to an audience. This is a way of entertaining, not the opposite of *entertain*.

(C) is incorrect because *recline* means to lie back in a relaxed position. This is not the opposite of *entertain*, because reclining is not the same as failing to provide enjoyment to another.

(D) is incorrect because *excite* means to arouse enthusiasm or eagerness in someone. This is almost the same as *entertain*, not the opposite of it.

2) **B**

The word *attractive* means appealing to look at. Someone who is pretty would be considered attractive. The opposite of attractive is ugly or unappealing to look at. Because *hideous* means very ugly, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *wonderful* means extremely good or marvelous. This is not the opposite of *attractive*.

(C) is incorrect because *beautiful* means very pretty or full of beauty. This is the same as *attractive*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *average* means normal or mediocre. This is not the opposite of *attractive*, because average is not limited in meaning to looks or appearances.

3) **C**

The word *assist* means to help out. When you help someone cook dinner, you are assisting him or her in the kitchen. The opposite of assist is to block or make someone's efforts more difficult. Because *prevent* means to make someone less able to do something, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *support* means to give assistance or help. This is the same as *assist*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *help* means to make it easier for someone to do something by offering one's own services or support. This is the same as *assist*, not the opposite of it.

(D) is incorrect because *pamper* means to spoil or indulge. This is not the opposite of *assist*, since spoiling someone is not the same as making his or her efforts more difficult.

4) **A**

The word *threat* means something likely to cause damage or danger. For example, a predator is a threat to its prey. The opposite of threat is something likely to prevent damage or danger. Because *protection* is something that prevents someone from suffering harm or injury, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because an *emergency* is a serious and unexpected situation that requires immediate action. This is not the opposite of *threat*, since a threat could lead to an emergency.

(C) is incorrect because *courage* is the ability to do something dangerous or frightening. This is not the opposite of *threat*, because a threat is not the same as cowardice.

(D) is incorrect because *danger* is the possibility of suffering harm or injury. This is almost the same as *threat*, not the opposite of it.

5) **B**

The word *severe* means strict or harsh. A severe punishment for a crime is one that is very intense. The opposite of severe is easy or less strict. Because *relaxed* means less strict or harsh, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *strict* means rigidly enforced or harsh. This is almost the same as *severe*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *kindly* means nice. This is not the opposite of *severe*, since severe is not the same as mean.

(D) is incorrect because *serious* means careful or earnest in manner. This is not the opposite of *severe*, since severe is not the same as careless or joking.

6) **D**

The word *attentive* means focused or paying close attention to something. A good student would be attentive in class and listen carefully to everything the teacher says. The opposite of attentive is inattentive or unfocused. Because *distracted* means unfocused because one's mind is preoccupied, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *lazy* means unwilling to work or use energy. This is not the opposite of *attentive*, since attentive is not the same as hardworking.

(B) is incorrect because *watchful* means alert or watching something closely. This is the same as *attentive*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *alert* means quick to notice any unusual circumstances. This is almost the same as *attentive*, not the opposite of it.

7) **D**

The word *entire* means whole or with no part left out. If someone were to eat every slice of a pizza, then he or she would have eaten the entire pizza. The opposite of entire is partial. Because *incomplete* means partial or not having all the necessary parts, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *unified* means made whole or united. This is almost the same as *entire*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *flawed* means imperfect or damaged. This is not the opposite of *entire*, since entire is not the same as perfect or undamaged.

(C) is incorrect because *perfect* means free from flaw or defect. This is not the opposite of *entire*.

8) **A**

The word *concentrate* means to focus one's attention or mental efforts on a certain object or activity. A scientist might concentrate on an experiment instead of letting his or her mind wander. The opposite of concentrate is to let one's mind wander. Because *daydream* means to indulge in a series of thoughts that distract someone's attention from the present, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *focus* means to pay attention to something. This is the same as *concentrate*, not the opposite of it.

(C) is incorrect because *ignore* means to fail to consider or intentionally disregard. This is not the opposite of *concentrate*, because one might make a conscious choice to ignore something rather than simply not focusing on it.

(D) is incorrect because *examine* means to inspect something in close detail. This is not the opposite of *concentrate*.

9) **C**

The word *appropriate* means suitable or proper for a given situation. For example, it is appropriate to wear a bathing suit to the beach. The opposite of appropriate is inappropriate or unsuitable. Because *improper* means unsuitable or inappropriate for a certain situation, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *suitable* means right or appropriate for a particular circumstance. This is the same as *appropriate*, not the opposite of it.

(B) is incorrect because *false* means incorrect or not true. This is not the opposite of *appropriate*, because appropriate is not the same as correct.

(D) is incorrect because *fitting* means appropriate or suitable for the circumstances. This is the same as *appropriate*, not the opposite of it.

10) **C**

The word *noble* means belonging to a higher social class or having honor and dignity. A king and queen, for instance, are noble people. The opposite of noble is ignoble or lacking in honor and dignity. Because *dishonorable* means lacking honor, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *gentle* means kind or tender. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as mean.

(B) is incorrect because *cruel* means very mean or willfully causing pain to others. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as kind.

(D) is incorrect because *meek* means submissive or easily imposed on. This is not the opposite of *noble*, since noble is not the same as assertive.

• Reading Comprehension 1 Level 4

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

Today, Mike and his mom are going to the library. Mike wants to find a book to read. His mom wants to use a computer there.

When they get to the library, Mike finds a book about detectives. He also finds a book with chapters about a friendly ghost. Finally, he finds a book about a man who lives in the woods without food or water. He puts the books on the front desk and waits for his mom.

Mike's mom sits at one of the computers in the library. She checks her email and looks at pictures of flowers on the internet. Then she reads a news article on a website.

Mike's mom leaves the computer and walks over to Mike, holding up something out for him. Mike looks at her **quizzically**. It takes him a moment to recognize what she is holding. "I got that movie for us to watch tonight," says Mike's mom. "Are you ready to leave?"

"Sure," Mike says, now holding the movie out in front of him. He reads the cover while walking back to the library entrance. He puts his books and the movie on the front desk to **check out**. A librarian stands behind the counter holding an electronic scanner. "How long can we keep them?" Mike asks her.

"Three weeks," says the librarian.

"Cool," says Mike.

Suddenly, Mike is surprised. His mother is checking out something else that is too big to put on the desk. It's a picture of the ocean.

"What is that for?" Mike asks.

"To put on our wall at home," says Mike's mom.

"You can do that?" Mike asks.

Mike's mom smiles at the librarian. "Yes," she says, "but we have to return it in three months."

Questions

- 1) Based on the books Mike finds to check out, we can tell that he is interested in
 - A. science
 - B. nature
 - C. mystery
 - D. adventure

- 2) While at the computer, Mike's mom
 - I. checks her mail
 - II. looks at pictures
 - III. reads an article
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

- 3) According to the passage, how long can Mike and his mother use the books and the movie before they must return them to the library?
 - A. one week
 - B. two weeks
 - C. three weeks
 - D. four weeks

- 4) Based on its use in paragraph 4, it can be understood that **quizzically** belongs to which of the following word groups?
 - A. abnormally, strangely, weirdly
 - B. casually, carelessly, indifferently
 - C. passionately, keenly, intensely
 - D. inquisitively, questioningly, curiously

- 5) As used in paragraph 5, the phrase "check out" most nearly means
 - A. to see
 - B. to rent
 - C. to find
 - D. to buy

- 6) What does Mike's mom want to do with the picture of the ocean?
 - A. She wants to buy it.
 - B. She wants to hang it on her wall.
 - C. She wants to give it to her friend as a gift.
 - D. She wants to donate it to the library.

7) Using the passage as a guide, it can be understood that you can check out which of the following things from the library?

- I. pictures
- II. furniture
- III. computers

- A. I only
- B. I and II only
- C. II and III only
- D. I, II, and III

8) Which of the following would be the best title for this passage?

- A. Mike's Mom
- B. A Picture of the Ocean
- C. At the Library
- D. Books, Computers, Movies, and Pictures

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In paragraph 2, the passage talks about the books that Mike finds. It says, "Mike finds a book about detectives. He also finds a book with chapters about a friendly ghost. Finally, he finds a book about a man who lives in the woods without food or water." The first book is about detectives. Detectives solve mysteries. The second book is about ghosts. Ghosts are mysterious. The third book is about a man who lives without food or water. This is also mysterious. Using this information, we can tell that Mike is interested in mystery. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **D**

In paragraph 3, the passage says that Mike's mom "sits at one of the computers in the library. She checks her email and looks at pictures of flowers on the internet." This supports **option (I)** and **option (II)**. At the end of paragraph 3, the passage says that Mike's mom "reads a news article on a website." This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

3) **C**

In the middle of the passage, Mike puts the books and the movie on the front desk to check out. Then he asks the librarian how long he can keep them. The librarian tells him that he can keep them for three weeks. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **D**

quizzically (*adverb*): in a questioning or puzzled manner.

In paragraph 4, the passage says, "Mike's mom leaves the computer and walks over to Mike, holding up something out for him. Mike looks at her quizzically. It takes him a moment to recognize what she is holding." Given that it takes Mike a moment to recognize what his mother is holding, we can understand that he must be looking at it *inquisitively*, *questioningly*, or *curiously*. Therefore, we can understand that *quizzically* belongs to the word group in **(D)**. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **B**

check out (*idiom*): to itemize or sort to obtain the amount due for purchase or record.

Both Mike and his mom go to the librarian in order to *check out* things from the library. We know that Mike has to return the books and the movie to the library in three weeks. We also know that Mike's mom has to return the picture to the library in three months. Using this information, we can understand that if you *check out* something, you must return it later. Similarly, if you rent something, you must return it later. Therefore, *check out* means *rent*. Choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **B**

At the end of the passage, Mike asks his mom what the picture is for. She says that it is "to put on our wall at home." This lets us know that **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **A**

In the end of the passage, it says that Mike's mother "is checking out something else that is too big to put on the desk. It's a picture of the ocean." This lets us know that you can check out pictures from the library. This supports **option (I)**. Although Mike's mother does check out a picture from the library, the passage does not provide information to support the idea that you can check out furniture from the library. Pictures are not commonly considered articles of furniture. This eliminates **option (II)**. Although Mike's mother *uses* a computer at the library, the passage does not provide information to support the idea that you can check out computers from the library. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

8) **C**

A good title describes the main idea of the passage. In this passage, Mike and his mom go to the library. There, they read books, use the computer, check out a movie and a picture. Using this information, the reader can understand what happens at the library. Since the passage concentrates on Mike and his mother's experience at the library, this is the main idea. Choice **(C)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because Mike's mom is just one of the characters in the passage. She is not the main idea. Although Mike's mom checks out a picture of the ocean, this is only a detail of the passage. It is not the main idea. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. While the passage does involve books, computers, movies, and pictures, this is not the main idea of the passage. Rather, these are just details that are part of the overall theme of the passage, which involves a description of things you can do at the library. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 2 Level 4

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

Next week I am on vacation. While I am on vacation, I will work on two projects.

First, I will fix the washing machine. The washing machine has been broken for two weeks. To fix it, I will need three tools: a screwdriver, a wrench, and a clamp. It will take one day to fix the washing machine.

Next, I will fix our back porch. This is a bigger project. It will probably take about two days to fix the back porch, and will **require** a screwdriver, a hammer, nails, and a saw.

My vacation starts on Monday. I have a lot of work to do, but hopefully I can relax after I finish my work

Questions

- 1) Which of these tools will the author use more than once?
 - A. a screwdriver
 - B. a hammer
 - C. a clamp
 - D. a saw

- 2) As used in paragraph 3, what does **require** mean?
 - A. need
 - B. use
 - C. find
 - D. buy

- 3) Which of the following tools does the author not need to fix the back porch?
 - A. a screwdriver
 - B. a wrench
 - C. nails
 - D. a saw

- 4) What is the earliest day that the author can finish both projects?
 - A. Monday
 - B. Wednesday
 - C. Thursday
 - D. Friday

- 5) On which project will the author need to use the most tools?
- A. fixing the washing machine
 - B. fixing the back porch
 - C. both projects need the same number of tools
 - D. neither project needs any tools
- 6) According to the passage, fixing the back porch will take longer because
- A. the author really doesn't want to do it
 - B. it has been broken longer
 - C. it needs more tools
 - D. it is a bigger project
- 7) The author of this passage can best be described as
- A. interesting
 - B. lazy
 - C. constructive
 - D. intelligent

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

In paragraph 2, the author says that to fix the washing machine, he or she will need “a screwdriver, a wrench, and a clamp.” In paragraph 3, the author says that to fix the back porch, he or she will need “a screwdriver, a hammer, nails, and a saw.” The author needs the screwdriver for both projects, so it will be used more than once. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **A**

require (*verb*): to have a need for.

In paragraph 2, the author writes that to fix the washing machine, “I will need three tools: a screwdriver, a wrench, and a clamp.” In paragraph 3, the author talks about the next job, which is fixing the porch. Like in paragraph 2, the author writes that, “It will probably take about two days to fix the back porch, and will require a screwdriver, a hammer, nails, and a saw.” In paragraph 3, the author is telling us about the tools he or she will require, or need, to complete the job, just like in paragraph 2. Using this information, it can be understood that *require* means *need*. Therefore **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

3) **B**

In paragraph 3, the author says that he or she requires, or needs, “a screwdriver, a hammer, nails, and a saw” to fix the back porch. The author does not say that he or she needs a wrench. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **B**

In the final paragraph, the author writes, “My vacation starts on Monday.” In paragraph 1, the author writes, “While I am on vacation, I will work on two projects.” This lets us know that the author plans to start working on Monday. In paragraph 2, the author writes that, “It will take one day to fix the washing machine.” In paragraph 3, the author writes that, “It will probably take about two days to fix the back porch.” If the author starts the projects on Monday, the first day of vacation, and it takes 3 days to finish both projects, the earliest that he or she can be finished is Wednesday. Therefore **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **B**

In paragraph 2, the author writes that to fix the washing machine, “I will need a screwdriver, a wrench, and a clamp.” This is 3 tools. In paragraph 3, the author writes that to fix the back porch, he or she will require, or need, “a screwdriver, a hammer, nails, and a saw.” This is 4 tools. 4 is greater than 3, so **(B)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **D**

In paragraph 3, the author writes, “Next, I will fix our back porch. This is a bigger project. It will probably take about two days to fix the back porch.” The author says that fixing the porch is a bigger project just before he or she says that it will take two days to fix the back porch. Since these ideas are next to each other, the reader can understand that being a bigger project is the reason the back porch will take longer to fix. Choice **(D)** is correct. The passage does not contain information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

7) **C**

The author tells us about the projects that he or she plans to complete during vacation. Both projects involve fixing things. Since the author is willing to work during his or her vacation, and since the author plans to fix things using tools, we can understand that he or she can best be described as *constructive*. Choice **(C)** is correct. Although the author may seem like an *interesting* person, we cannot know this simply because he or she fixes things during vacation. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. The author plans to work during his or her vacation. This means that he or she is not *lazy*. **(B)** is incorrect. The author talks about fixing things. However, the author does not talk about *how* he or she plans to fix them. It may be the case that the author plans to fix them in a unintelligent way. Therefore, we cannot tell if the author is intelligent or not. Choice **(D)** is incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 3 Level 4

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

Most human beings are awake during the day and sleep all night. Owls live the opposite way. Owls are **nocturnal**. This means that they sleep all day and stay awake at night. Because owls are nocturnal, this means they must eat at night. But finding food in the dark is difficult. To help them, they have special eyes and ears.

Owls have very large eyes. These eyes absorb more light than normal. Since there is little light during the night, it is helpful to be able to absorb more of it. This helps owls find food in the dark.

Owls also have very good hearing. Even when owls are in the trees, they can hear small animals moving in the grass below. This helps owls catch their **prey** even when it is very dark.

Like owls, mice are also nocturnal animals. Mice have an excellent sense of smell. This helps them find food in the dark.

Being nocturnal helps mice to hide from the many different animals that want to eat them. Most of the birds, snakes, and lizards that like to eat mice sleep at night—except, of course, owls!

Questions

- 1) In paragraph 1, we learn that "Owls are nocturnal." The word *diurnal* is the opposite of the word **nocturnal**. Using information in the passage as a guide, we can understand that an animal that is *diurnal*
 - A. sleeps at night and is awake during the day
 - B. hunts during the day and is awake at night
 - C. sleeps every other night and is awake during the day
 - D. hunts during the day and night

- 2) Based on information in paragraph 2, it can be understood that an animal with small eyes
 - A. must be diurnal
 - B. has trouble seeing in the dark
 - C. can see very well at night
 - D. is likely to be eaten by an owl

- 3) According to the passage, owls can find food in the dark using their sense of
 - I. sight
 - II. sound
 - III. smell
 - A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III

- 4) In paragraph 3 the author writes, "This helps owls catch their prey even when it is very dark." Based on its use in the passage, we can understand that **prey** is
- A. a noise that an animal makes during the night
 - B. a small animal such as a pet dog or cat
 - C. an animal that is hunted by other animals
 - D. an animals that hunts other animals
- 5) Based on information in the final paragraph, it can be understood that mice sleep during the day in order to
- A. find food that other animals can not
 - B. keep themselves safe
 - C. store energy for night time activities
 - D. release stress
- 6) Based on information in the final paragraph, it can be understood that
- A. owls hunt mice
 - B. mice can hide from owls
 - C. mice and owls both hide from birds, snakes, and lizards
 - D. birds and snakes often hunt lizards
- 7) If added to the end of this passage, which of the following conclusions would fit best?
- A. The owl is a nocturnal animal. This means it is active at night. The owl's excellent sense of sight and sound enable it to find food in the dark.
 - B. Mice are nocturnal animals. This means they are active at night. Similar to the owl, mice use their excellent sense of smell to find food in the dark.
 - C. Both mice and owls are nocturnal. This means they are active at night. Because these animals are active at night, they must sleep during the day. This makes them especially vulnerable to attack from diurnal animals.
 - D. Some animals are nocturnal. This means they are active at night. The owl and the mouse are good examples of nocturnal animals that use their senses to find food in the dark.

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

nocturnal (*adjective*): active by night, happening during the night.

diurnal (*adjective*): active by day, happening during the day.

In paragraph 1 the author writes, "Owls are nocturnal. This means that they sleep all day and stay awake at night." If diurnal is the opposite of nocturnal, then a diurnal animal would sleep all night and stay awake during the day. Choice **(A)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(B)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **B**

In paragraph 2 we learn that "Owls have very large eyes. These eyes absorb more light than normal. Since there is little light during the night, it is helpful to be able to absorb more of it." Using this information, we can understand that an animal that has small eyes has trouble seeing in the dark. This is because small eyes are able to absorb less light than large ones. Choice **(B)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because animals like mice do not have large eyes. Nonetheless, they are nocturnal. They are still able to find food in the dark using their sense of smell. **(C)** is incorrect because small eyes do not absorb as much light, making it harder to see at night. Therefore an animal with small eyes probably does not see well at night. If an animal has small eyes, this does not necessarily mean that it is likely to be eaten by an owl. After all, many animals that have small eyes (like fish, birds, etc.) are not likely to be eaten by an owl. Therefore choice **(D)** is incorrect.

3) **B**

In paragraph 2 we learn that "Owls have very large eyes." This helps them "find food in the dark." This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 3 we learn that "Owls also have very good hearing." This helps them "catch their prey even when it is very dark." This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 4 we learn that "Like owls, mice are also nocturnal animals. Mice have an excellent sense of smell." This helps them "find food in the dark." However, the question asks about owls, not mice. The passage does not provide information to support the idea that owls can find food in the dark using their sense of smell. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(B)** is correct.

4) **C**

prey (*noun*): an animal that is hunted by other animals.

To answer this question correctly, it helps to use context. In paragraph 2, the author writes that the owl's large eyes helps it "find food in the dark." In paragraph 3, the author gives more information about how owls find food in the dark. The author says that an owl's sense of hearing helps it to hear "small animals" moving around in the night. This hearing "helps owls catch their prey even when it is very dark." Owls have to find food in the dark. This food is the "small animals" moving beneath them. Owls use their eyesight and hearing to catch their *prey*, which is another word for an animal that is hunted by other animals. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(A)**. Therefore, it is incorrect. Although the passage does say that the owl hunts "small animals," this does not necessarily mean that only small animals are prey. Small animals are the prey of owls, but not necessarily of other animals. The prey of a lion, for example, could be a large animal, such as an elephant. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. **(D)** is incorrect because this defines a predator, which is the opposite of prey.

5) **B**

In the final paragraph, the author writes: "Being nocturnal helps mice to hide from the many different animals that want to eat them." In other words, sleeping during the day helps mice to keep themselves safe. This means choice **(B)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(C)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

6) **A**

In the final paragraph, the author writes: "Being nocturnal helps mice to hide from the many different animals that want to eat them. Most of the birds, snakes, and lizards that like to eat mice sleep at night—except, of course, owls!" Because mice are nocturnal, they can hide from most animals that sleep at night. Owls, however, do not sleep at night. For this reason, it is likely that owls hunt mice. This means **(A)** is correct. **(B)** is incorrect because mice cannot hide from owls because, like mice, owls are awake during the night. The owls can use their excellent senses of sight and sound to find the mice. Although the author says that mice hide from birds, snakes, and lizards, this does not necessarily mean an owl needs to hide from these animals as well. After all, an owl is not likely to be eaten by a snake or a lizard. This means **(C)** is incorrect. The passage does not provide information to support choice **(D)**. Therefore it is incorrect.

7) **D**

A good conclusion restates the main ideas or points of the passage. In paragraph 1, the author introduces the fact that some animals are nocturnal. In paragraphs 2 and 3, the author describes how the owl is nocturnal, and uses its senses to find food at night. In paragraphs 4 and 5, the author describes another nocturnal animal, the mouse, and how it uses its senses to find food at night. Using this information, it can be understood that **(D)** provides the best conclusion because it accurately restates the main ideas or points of the passage. Although the passage discusses owls, it also talks about mice. The conclusion in **(A)** fails to mention this, and is therefore incorrect. Although the passage discusses mice, this is not the main idea. Rather, this is used as an example of another animal (in addition to the owl) that is nocturnal, and how that animal uses its sense to find food in the dark. Therefore **(B)** is incorrect. While the passage does say that both mice and owls are nocturnal, it does not conclude that this makes them especially vulnerable to attack from diurnal animals. In fact, the final paragraph contains information that states the opposite: "Being nocturnal helps mice to hide from the many different animals that want to eat them." This means **(C)** is incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 4 Level 4

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

Lilly loves her new town. She loves the mall. She loves the parks. She also loves her school. Most of all, though, Lilly loves the seasons. In her old town, it was hot all of the time.

Sometimes it is cold in Lilly's new town. The cold season is in winter. Once in a while it snows. Lilly has never seen snow before. So for her, the snow is exciting as well as very beautiful. Lilly has to wear gloves to keep her hands warm. **She also wears a scarf around her neck.**

In spring, flowers bloom and the trees turn green with new leaves. Pollen falls on the cars and windowsills and makes Lilly sneeze. People work in their yards and mow their grass.

In summer, Lilly wears her old shorts and sandals—the same ones she used to wear in her old town. It's hot outside, and dogs lie in the shade. Lilly and her friends go to a pool or play in the water sprinkler. Her father cooks hamburgers on the grill for dinner.

Lilly's favorite season is autumn. In autumn, the leaves on the trees turn yellow, gold, red, and orange. Halloween comes in autumn, and this is Lilly's favorite holiday. Every Halloween, Lilly wears a costume. Last year she wore a mouse costume. This year she will wear a fish costume.

One evening in autumn, Lilly and her mom are on sitting together on the porch. Mom tells Lilly that autumn is also called "fall". This is a good idea, Lilly thinks, because in fall all of the leaves fall down from the trees.

Questions

1) Which of the following words best describes the way Lilly feels about living in her new town?

- A. *skeptical*, meaning questioning or showing doubt
- B. *apprehensive*, meaning anxious or worried
- C. *overjoyed*, meaning extremely happy
- D. *content*, meaning satisfied with what one is or has

2) This passage is mainly about

- A. Lilly's favorite season
- B. Lilly and the four seasons
- C. Lilly's favorite activities during winter
- D. Lilly's favorite Halloween costumes

3) What is Lilly's favorite thing about her new town?

- A. her school
- B. going to the pool
- C. the food
- D. the seasons

- 4) In paragraph 2 the author writes, "She also wears a scarf around her neck." What is the best way to rewrite this sentence while keeping its original meaning?
- A. In addition, she wears a scarf around her neck.
 - B. However, she wears a scarf around her neck.
 - C. Nevertheless, she wears a scarf around her neck.
 - D. As a result, she wears a scarf around her neck.
- 5) Which of the following best describes the structure of this passage?
- A. The author talks about Lily's new town, and then talks about how the seasons are changing.
 - B. The author introduces Lilly, and then describes her in relation to the four seasons.
 - C. The author introduces Lilly, and then explains why autumn is her favorite season.
 - D. The author discusses the four seasons, and then describes which one Lilly likes best.
- 6) How is Lilly's new town different from her old town?
- I. It snows in her new town.
 - II. Lilly wears different summer clothes in her new town.
 - III. Lilly wears a Halloween costume in her new town.
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 7) Based on information in paragraph 5, which of the following costumes is Lilly most likely to wear next year?
- A. a princess costume
 - B. a fairy costume
 - C. a ghost costume
 - D. a bird costume
- 8) Based on information in the passage, we can understand that, which season has two names?
- A. spring
 - B. summer
 - C. fall
 - D. winter

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In paragraph 1 we learn that "Lilly loves her new town." The author continues to explain all of the things she loves about her town. Since *love* is a strong word, we can understand that Lilly feels overjoyed about living in her new town. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **B**

The passage talks about Lilly and the four seasons. In the first paragraph, Lilly is introduced. In the following paragraphs, the author describes Lilly in the four seasons: winter, spring, summer, and fall. This makes **(B)** correct. Although the passage does say in paragraph 5 that Lilly's favorite season is autumn, this is only a detail, and is not what the passage is mainly about. Therefore **(A)** is incorrect. Although we learn about Lilly's activities during winter, we also learn about what she does during the other seasons. Therefore **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 5, we learn about the costume Lilly wore last year, as well as the costume she plans to wear this year. However, this is only a detail, and is not what the passage is mainly about. This eliminates choice **(D)**.

3) **D**

In paragraph 1, the author describes the things Lilly likes about her new town. In the middle of paragraph 1, the author says, "Most of all, Lilly loves the seasons." This means that Lilly's favorite thing about her new town is the seasons. Therefore **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

4) **A**

In paragraph 2, the passage says that it is cold in winter. For this reason, Lilly "has to wear gloves to keep her hands warm. She also wears a scarf around her neck." This means that "in addition" to her gloves, Lilly wears a scarf. The scarf is something extra. The conjunction "in addition" is used to describe something that is extra or more. Therefore **(A)** is correct. **(B)** is incorrect because the conjunction "however" is used to introduce a contradiction. This conjunction does not fit in this context. **(C)** is incorrect because the conjunction "nevertheless" is used to introduce the idea that something is true in spite of or regardless of something else. This conjunction does not fit in this context. **(D)** is incorrect because the conjunction "as a result" is used to introduce an effect that was caused by something that came before it. This conjunction does not fit in this context.

5) **B**

In the first paragraph, the author introduces Lilly. In the following paragraphs, the author describes Lilly in relation to the four seasons. Paragraph 2 talks about Lilly in winter. Paragraph 3 talks about Lilly in spring. Paragraph 4 talks about Lilly in summer. Paragraphs 5 and 6 talk about Lilly in autumn (or fall). This lets us know that **(B)** is correct. **(A)** is incorrect because the author introduces Lilly, not her new town. In addition, the rest of the passage does not talk about how the seasons are changing. **(C)** is incorrect because it leaves out the other three seasons that the author describes: winter, spring, and summer. **(D)** is incorrect because the author does not begin by discussing the four seasons. In addition, the author does not spend the rest of the passage describing which season Lilly likes best. Rather, the author describes Lilly in relation to all four seasons.

6) **A**

In paragraph 2, the author says, "Once in a while it snows. Lilly has never seen snow before." If Lilly has never seen snow before, this means that it did not snow in her old town. This is a way in which her new town is different from her old town. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 4, the author says, "In summer, Lilly wears her old shorts and sandals—the same ones she used to wear in her old town." This means Lilly wears the same summer clothes in her new town that she did in her old town. This is not a way in which her new town is different from her old town. This eliminates **option (II)**. In paragraph 5, the author says, "Every Halloween, Lilly wears a costume. Last year she wore a ghost costume. This year she will wear a fish costume." Last year, Lilly lived in her old town. If Lilly wore a costume last year, this means she wore a costume in her old town. So Lilly wears Halloween costumes in both her old town and her new town. This is not a way in which her new town is different from her old town. This eliminates **option (III)**. Therefore **(A)** is correct.

7) **D**

In paragraph 5, we learn about the costumes that Lilly likes to wear. The author writes, "Last year she wore a mouse costume. This year she will wear a fish costume." Using this information, we can understand that Lilly likes to wear animal costumes. Therefore, it makes sense that she would wear a bird costume next year. Choice **(D)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

8) **C**

In the last paragraph the author says, "Mom tells Lilly that autumn is also called 'fall'." Using this information, we can understand that **(C)** is the correct choice. Autumn and fall are two different names for the same season. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

• Reading Comprehension 5 Level 4

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

The living room does not look good. It looks bad without a carpet. Mary and Dan want to buy a carpet. They want to buy a carpet for their living room.

They go to the store. They look at the carpets. There are many colors. There are many sizes. Some have patterns. Some are plain.

Mary likes a pink and purple carpet. It has dots. It has pink and purple dots. Dan says no! He does not like the colors. He does not like the pattern. He does not like the size. The pink and purple carpet is too big.

Dan likes a green and red carpet. It has stripes. It has green and red stripes. Mary says no! She does not like the colors. She does not like the pattern. She does not like the size. The green and red carpet is too small.

Mary and Dan see a tan carpet. It does not have dots. It does not have stripes. It is plain. It is tan and plain. Dan likes the tan carpet. Mary likes the tan carpet. They both like the color. They both like the size. They both say yes!

Mary and Dan buy the tan carpet. They put the carpet in the living room. The living room looks wonderful with the new carpet.

Questions

- 1) According to the passage, Mary and Dan want to put the new carpet in their
 - A. bedroom
 - B. dining room
 - C. living room
 - D. bathroom

- 2) According to the passage, the pink and purple carpet
 - A. has dots
 - B. has stripes
 - C. is too small
 - D. is too plain

- 3) According to the passage, the green and red carpet
 - A. is plain
 - B. has dots
 - C. is too big
 - D. is too small

- 4) According to the passage, both Mary and Dan like the
- A. pink and purple carpet
 - B. green and red carpet
 - C. tan carpet
 - D. blue carpet
- 5) Mary and Dan do not see a
- A. black and blue carpet
 - B. pink and purple carpet
 - C. tan carpet
 - D. green and red carpet
- 6) According to the passage, Mary and Dan see a
- I. dotted carpet
 - II. striped carpet
 - III. plain carpet
- A. I only
 - B. I and II only
 - C. II and III only
 - D. I, II, and III
- 7) Based on information in the passage, it can be understood that both Mary and Dan would like which of the following carpets best?
- A. a grey carpet with no dots or stripes
 - B. a pink and yellow carpet with dots
 - C. a blue and green carpet with stripes
 - D. a black and white carpet with both dots and stripes

Answers and Explanations

1) **C**

In paragraph 1, the passage says that Mary and Dan “want to buy a carpet for their living room.” Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(D)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

2) **A**

In paragraph 3, the passage talks about the pink and purple carpet. It says the pink and purple carpet “has dots.” Choice **(A)** is correct. We know that the pink and purple carpet does not have stripes because it has dots. This makes **(B)** incorrect. We know that the pink and purple carpet is not too small because in paragraph 3 we learn that “The pink and purple carpet is too big.” This makes **(C)** incorrect. We know that the pink and purple carpet is not too plain because it has dots. This makes **(D)** incorrect.

3) **D**

In paragraph 4, the passage talks about the green and red carpet. It says the green and red carpet “is too small.” This makes **(D)** correct. We know that the green and red carpet is not plain because in paragraph 4 we learn that it “has stripes.” This makes **(A)** incorrect. We know that the green and red carpet does not have dots because it has stripes. This makes **(B)** incorrect. We know that the pink and purple carpet is not too small because in paragraph 4 we learn that “The green and red carpet is too small.” This makes **(C)** incorrect.

4) **C**

In paragraph 5, Mary and Dan see a tan carpet. The passage says “Dan likes the tan carpet. Mary likes the tan carpet. They both like the color. They both like the size. They both say yes!” This lets us know that Mary and Dan both like the plain carpet. Choice **(C)** is correct. The passage does not provide information to support choices **(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**. Therefore they are incorrect.

5) **A**

Mary and Dan do not see a black and blue carpet. Choice **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 3, Mary and Dan see a pink and purple carpet. This means **(B)** is incorrect. In paragraph 5, Mary and Dan see a tan carpet. This means **(C)** is incorrect. In paragraph 4, Mary and Dan see a green and red carpet. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

6) **D**

In paragraph 3, Mary and Dan see a carpet with dots. This is a dotted carpet. This supports **option (I)**. In paragraph 4, Mary and Dan see a carpet with stripes. This is a striped carpet. This supports **option (II)**. In paragraph 5, Mary and Dan see a carpet with no dots and no stripes. It has no design. It is plain. This is a plain carpet. This supports **option (III)**. Therefore **(D)** is correct.

7) **A**

In paragraph 5, Mary and Dan see a carpet that they both like. They see “a tan carpet. It does not have dots. It does not have stripes. It is plain.” This lets us know that both Mary and Dan would like a grey carpet with no dots or stripes. It has only one color and is plain. This is most similar to the carpet that both Mary and Dan like in the passage. Using this information, we can understand that Mary and Dan would like this carpet best. This means **(A)** is correct. In paragraph 3, Mary and Dan see a carpet that Mary likes but Dan does not. They see a “pink and purple carpet. It has dots. It has pink and purple dots.” This lets us know that because the carpet in **(B)** has dots, Dan will not like it. Therefore this choice is incorrect. In paragraph 4, Mary and Dan see a carpet that Dan likes but Mary does not. They see “green and red carpet. It has stripes. It has green and red stripes.” This lets us know that because the carpet in **(C)** has stripes, Mary will not like it. Therefore this choice is incorrect. In paragraph 3, Mary and Dan see a “pink and purple carpet. It has dots. It has pink and purple dots.” Dan does not like this carpet. This lets us know that because the carpet has dots, Dan will not like it. In paragraph 4, Mary and Dan see a “green and red carpet. It has stripes. It has green and red stripes.” This lets us know that because the carpet has stripes, Mary will not like it. Using this information, we can understand that neither Mary nor Dan would like a black and white carpet with both dots and stripes. This means **(D)** is incorrect.

• Sentence Completion 1 Level 4

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. Despite his growing wealth and power, Teddy remains _____ man.
A. a humble
B. an irritable
C. a greedy
D. an intelligent
2. Because Mary is so _____, she is _____.
A. friendly ... despised
B. unpleasant ... unpopular
C. generous ... wealthy
D. strange ... fortunate
3. Some snakes are very _____, so you should take caution if you see one.
A. dangerous
B. slippery
C. careful
D. favorable
4. Donald was not _____ and had to go to the doctor so that he wouldn't be _____ anymore.
A. tall ... smooth
B. beautiful ... pretty
C. healthy ... sick
D. rich ... poor
5. Though cats are known for being unfriendly, most of the cats I know are _____ and _____.
A. lovely ... ugly
B. skillful ... furry
C. strong ... athletic
D. kind ... gentle
6. Billy cannot play the piano very well, since he _____ practices.
A. sometimes
B. usually
C. always
D. never
7. I cannot _____ the price of a ticket, so I cannot see the movie.
A. buy
B. save
C. donate
D. afford
8. Although the desert gets very hot during the day, it is very _____ at night.
A. dry
B. humid
C. cold
D. lonely
9. Jared placed the plant _____ the other two plants, so that it was in the middle.
A. between
B. over
C. through
D. outside
10. Even though I knew the rock weighed a lot, it was still _____ than I thought I would be.
A. lighter
B. larger
C. heavier
D. sharper

Answers and Explanations

1) A

The main clue in this sentence is the word “despite,” which means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between Teddy’s growing wealth and power and some other characteristic of his. People usually expect a wealthy, powerful person to be mean and arrogant, so Teddy must have been the opposite of that. *Humble* means modest or unassuming, so choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Since *irritable* means easily angered or upset, it is possible to be wealthy and irritable at the same time.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Since *greedy* means having a selfish desire for wealth, it is possible to be wealthy and greedy at the same time.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. Teddy may or may not be *an intelligent* man, since intelligent means smart, but we cannot tell from the question. Wealth and power do not affect intelligence.

2) B

The main clue in this sentence is the word “because,” which means that two things progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship. *Unpleasant* and *unpopular* have such a relationship. Someone who is *unpleasant* is mean to others and does not make friends very easily. If Mary is unfriendly, she will not be popular or well-liked, meaning she would be *unpopular*. This is a logical consequence of being unfriendly. Choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Friendly* people are not *despised*, because friendly means kind and despised means hated.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Generous* people are not necessarily *wealthy*, since generous just means willing to share and wealthy means rich. Someone can be willing to share without being rich.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Strange* people are not usually considered *fortunate*, since strange people are odd people, and fortunate people are lucky.

3) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “take caution.” This means that you should be careful. The word “so” means that two events progress in a logical way. The answer choice will involve a logical cause-and-effect relationship that results in being careful. If something is *dangerous*, it can cause harm. This would mean you should be careful to make sure that you do not get hurt, then, which makes sense. Choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. There is no reason to take caution around animals that are *slippery*, because being slippery does not imply that an animal can hurt you. Slippery just means slick or difficult to hold.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Careful* means cautious. This word describes what you should be when you’re around snakes, but it does not describe what the snakes themselves are.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. There is no reason to take caution around animals that are *favorable*, because favorable means beneficial or good. There is no reason to be cautious around something good.

4) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “so that he wouldn’t be.” This means that there will be an opposite relationship between the missing words. One describes what Donald was not, while the other describes what he wouldn’t be anymore. One goes to the doctor when one is ill. Donald must not have been well and wanted not to be ill anymore. Because *healthy* means well and *sick* means ill, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical, opposite relationship. A *tall* person is one who is large in height. A doctor cannot make someone no longer be *smooth*, since smooth means even in surface.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical, opposite relationship. *Beautiful* means very attractive, while *pretty* means attractive. So, these words have almost the same meaning.

(D) is incorrect because it is not logical. *Rich* means wealthy, while *poor* means needing money. One does not go to the doctor to gain money.

5) D

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which sets up an equal relationship between two or more things. This means that the correct answer choice will involve two equal characteristics of cats. The other clue here is that most expect cats to be “unfriendly,” but the cats in question are the opposite of that, since “though” indicates opposite relationships. *Kind* means friendly, while *gentle* means kind or tender, so both words have similar meanings. This means choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. Cats cannot be both *lovely* and *ugly* at the same time, because these words are opposites. *Lovely* means pretty, while *ugly* means unattractive.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. *Skillful* means having skills or abilities, while *furry* means covered in fur or hair. These words have nothing in common.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an equal relationship. *Strong* means having strength, while *athletic* means strong and fit. These words are similar, but they are not the opposite of “unfriendly.”

6) D

The main clue in this question is “Billy cannot play the piano very well.” A piano player gets better by practicing, so Billy must not practice often. *Never* means not ever, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *sometimes* means occasionally. Even if you only sometimes practice, you will get better at playing the piano.

(B) is incorrect because *usually* means typically or on a regular basis. If you usually practice, you will be able to play the piano well.

(C) is incorrect because *always* means constantly. If you always practice, you will be able to play the piano very well.

7) D

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which means the sentence has a cause-and-effect relationship. The effect of the missing word is that the person cannot see the movie. One can see a movie if he or she buys a ticket, so the person must not have enough money to buy a ticket. *Afford* means to have enough money to pay for something, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *buy* means to purchase, but one cannot purchase the price of a ticket. Instead, one would purchase a ticket, not its price.

(B) is incorrect because *save* means to rescue. No one could possibly rescue the price of something. This does not make logical sense.

(C) is incorrect because *donate* means to give away, but one does not donate money to get a ticket. A ticket is something that is bought and sold.

8) C

The main clue in this question is the word “although,” which indicates that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means that the correct answer choice will set up an opposite relationship between the temperature of the desert in the day and night. If it is hot in the day, it will be the opposite of hot at night. The opposite of hot is *cold*, so choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Dry* means lacking water, not the opposite of hot.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Humid* means moist or damp, not the opposite of hot.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Lonely* means isolated or without people, not the opposite of hot.

9) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “so that it was in the middle,” which suggests a cause-and-effect relationship. Jared must have placed the plant in the middle of the other two. *Between* means in the middle of, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Over* means above or on top of, not in the middle of something.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Through* means moving in one side and out the other of something, not in the middle of something.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Outside* means situated on the exterior or outer part of something, not in the middle of something.

10) C

The main clue in this question is the phrase “I knew the rock weighed a lot.” The sentence makes it clear that the narrator expected the rock to weigh a lot but was still surprised by how much it weighed. This means that the correct answer choice will suggest the rock weighs a lot. *Heavier* means of greater weight, so choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *lighter* means lesser in weight. This is the opposite of the right answer.

(B) is incorrect because *larger* means of greater size. This is not the best answer choice because being bigger is not the same as weighing more.

(D) is incorrect because *sharper* means having a pointier edge. This has nothing to do with weight.

• Sentence Completion 2 Level 4

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. Unlike the actual building, which was quite sturdy, Cam's model of the building was _____.
A. plastic
B. stable
C. false
D. fragile
2. The gymnast was very _____, but her younger sister was completely _____.
A. heavy ... weighty
B. hollow ... skinny
C. flexible ... rigid
D. soft ... crafty
3. The road is _____, so cars that drive it are constantly turning and swerving.
A. flat
B. curvy
C. weird
D. peaceful
4. Jackie is full of _____ and believes she can achieve almost any goal she sets for herself.
A. confidence
B. courage
C. concern
D. comfort
5. While Johnny is not _____, he is not necessarily _____, either.
A. hungry ... tired
B. tall ... short
C. smart ... intelligent
D. fat ... thick
6. Although the message was meant to be _____, I don't mind if you tell it to your friends.
A. special
B. secret
C. permanent
D. educational
7. My mother gets seasick, so it shouldn't surprise anyone that she got _____ on my uncle's boat.
A. queasy
B. healthy
C. tired
D. energetic
8. While none of the critics _____ the film, almost everyone I know who saw it absolutely _____ it.
A. liked ... hated
B. respected ... disliked
C. saw ... avoided
D. enjoyed ... loved
9. The town decided to make the fair _____ occurrence, meaning it will take place every year.
A. an apparent
B. a common
C. a weekly
D. an annual
10. The animal shelter had a _____ of kittens to choose from, and it was difficult to choose between the calico, the white cat, the Persian, and the Siamese.
A. variety
B. lack
C. supply
D. team

Answers and Explanations

1) D

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which sets up a contrasting or opposite relationship. If the actual building was “sturdy,” the model must have been the opposite of sturdy. *Fragile* means breakable or not sturdy, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Plastic* means formable, shapeable, or made of plastic. While the model could be plastic, plastic is not the opposite of sturdy.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Stable* means not likely to change. Something that is sturdy could also be stable.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *False* means not true. This has no relationship to being sturdy.

2) C

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up a contrasting or opposite relationship in the sentence. The correct choice should be a pair of opposites. *Flexible* means able to bend or be bent, while *rigid* means stiff or unbendable. These are opposites, and they work in context, since a gymnast should be flexible. Therefore, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Heavy* and *weighty* both mean of great weight or difficult to lift.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hollow* means having empty space inside, while *skinny* means thin. These words have no clear relationship.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Soft* means not hard or firm, while *crafty* means clever and dishonest. These words have no clear relationship.

3) B

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship. The first part of the sentence gives the cause for the effect described in the second part of the sentence. Since cars are constantly swerving and turning on the road, the road that the missing word describes must be winding or not straight. Because *curvy* means having many curves or bends, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Flat* means smooth and even. This would not require swerving and turning.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Weird* means unusual or strange, but a weird road could be straight and not require swerving and turning.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Peaceful* means calm and tranquil. This would not require swerving and turning.

4) A

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which links the two ideas in the sentence and suggests that they say similar things. Since Jackie “believes she can achieve almost any goal,” she must be full of a belief in herself. *Confidence* is self-assuredness about one’s own abilities, so choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect *courage* is bravery or a lack of fear. This does not have any relationship to a belief that one “can achieve almost any goal.”

(C) is incorrect because *concern* is anxiety or worry. This is the opposite of what Jackie has if she “believes she can achieve almost any goal.”

(D) is incorrect because *comfort* is a state of ease and freedom. This does not have any relationship to a belief that one “can achieve almost any goal.”

5) B

The main clue in this question is the word “while” which is used to indicate that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. The correct choice will set up a negative relationship between two of Johnny’s characteristics. *Tall* means of great height, while *short* means not tall. So, if someone is not *tall*, then he or she is *short*. The sentence actually implies that Johnny is neither tall nor short, though, because it states he is “not necessarily” short “either.” Regardless, choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Hungry* and *tired* are unrelated characteristics, since *hungry* means wanting food, while *tired* means sleepy.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Smart* and *intelligent* are close in meaning, as both mean having intelligence or a strong ability to think.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fat* and *thick* are close in meaning, since *fat* means having a large amount of excess flesh, while *thick* means wide.

6) B

The main clue in this question is the phrase “I don’t mind if you tell your friends.” The word “although” means that two things are related in a negative or opposite way. This means the missing word must be the opposite of something that could be told to your friends. *Secret* means something that is not meant to be widely known. If something is a *secret*, then you are not supposed to repeat it to anyone, which is the opposite of something that could be told to your friends. Therefore, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Special* means different from what is common or usual and has no relationship to something you could tell your friends about.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Permanent* means lasting forever without change and has no relationship to something you could tell your friends about.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Educational* means designed to teach or enlighten someone and has no relationship to something you could tell your friends about.

7) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “it shouldn’t surprise anyone,” which suggests that the two parts of the sentence give similar information. Since the mother gets “seasick,” it wouldn’t be surprising if she got seasick on a boat. Since *queasy* means nauseated or feeling sick, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because *healthy* means well or fit. Since the mother “gets seasick,” it would be a surprise if a boat ride made her feel healthy or well.

(C) is incorrect because *tired* means sleepy or lacking energy. This has no relationship to getting seasick.

(D) is incorrect because *energetic* means having a lot of energy. This has no relationship to getting seasick.

8) D

The main clue in this question is the word “while,” which sets up an opposite or negative relationship in the sentence. This means that the critics who saw the movie must have a different opinion of it than everyone else did. However, the actual missing words will have similar meanings, since the first missing word is impacted by the “none” before it. This means that either “none of the critics” liked it but everyone else did, or “none of the critics” disliked it but everyone else did. A correct choice would have a pair of words that mean the same thing, then. Because *enjoyed* means liked or took pleasure in and *loved* means really liked, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because the two words do not have the proper relationship. *Liked* means was satisfied by, while *hated* means strongly disliked. These are opposites, but the sentence requires similar words.

(B) is incorrect because the two words do not have the proper relationship. *Respected* means admired, while *disliked* means did not enjoy or admire. These are opposites, but the sentence requires similar words.

(C) is incorrect because the two words do not have the proper relationship. *Saw* means watched or noticed, while *avoided* means kept away from doing or seeing. These are opposites, but the sentence requires similar words.

9) D

The main clue in this question is the phrase “meaning it will take place every year.” This gives the definition of the missing word. Because *annual* means “taking place every year,” choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *apparent* means clearly visible, which is not the same as “meaning it will take place every year.”

(B) is incorrect because *common* means typical or normal, which is not the same as “meaning it will take place every year.”

(C) is incorrect because *weekly* means taking place every seven days, which is not the same as “meaning it will take place every year.”

10) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “it was difficult to choose between the calico, the white cat, the Persian, and the Siamese.” The missing word describes the “kittens” the animal shelter had, and the clue implies that the pet shelter had many types of cats. Because *variety* means the state of being different, diverse, or of many kinds, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Lack* is the state of not having enough of something, but the shelter clearly has many cats.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *supply* is a stock or collection of something that others can use. While the shelter does have a supply of cats, this word is not the best choice, because it does not imply that the shelter has many different types of cats.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *team* is a group of people or animals working together. The prompt does not imply that the kittens work together toward a common goal.

• Sentence Completion 3 Level 4

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. At first my parents did not allow me to ever play video games after school, but now they _____ it sometimes.
A. encourage
B. ban
C. permit
D. expect
2. When you need _____ count, it is not okay to estimate.
A. an accurate
B. a guessed
C. a gigantic
D. a truthful
3. Alexis was excited to begin her new job, and we were impressed by how _____ she was.
A. entertained
B. eager
C. experienced
D. essential
4. The actor always wore a mask and _____ his face, so it was exciting to see what he looked like when he finally _____ himself.
A. decorated ... cleansed
B. covered ... concealed
C. exposed ... disguised
D. hid ... revealed
5. The book's _____ was shocking, since I never thought the book would end with a major death.
A. beginning
B. conclusion
C. impression
D. section
6. Before I knew the rules, the game seemed _____, but now it seems so _____.
A. straightforward ... easy
B. complex ... bizarre
C. fun ... thrilling
D. complicated ... simple
7. In order to _____ her weight, Bernice decided to go on a diet.
A. reduce
B. expand
C. release
D. extend
8. In order to _____ the project, we need to finish all of the tasks it includes.
A. complete
B. delay
C. prevent
D. assist
9. The coach just wanted Sara to _____ the new technique, so she was upset when Sara refused to _____ it.
A. explain ... learn
B. perform ... enjoy
C. try ... attempt
D. examine ... understand
10. Unlike hippos, which I find ugly, flamingoes are _____.
A. interesting
B. graceful
C. awful
D. attractive

Answers and Explanations

1) C

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up an opposite or negative relationship. Since the speaker’s parents “did not allow” him or her to do something, then “now” they must allow it sometimes, since that is the opposite of not allowing something. Because *permit* means to allow, choice (C) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *encourage* means to help or give support for someone to do something. This is too extreme to work in this sentence, since the sentence implies only that the speaker’s parents no longer ban video games after school. Allowing and encouraging are not identical in meaning.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Ban* means to officially prohibit, which is the same as not allowing something.

(D) is incorrect because *expect* means to think something is likely to happen. This is too extreme to work in this sentence, since the sentence implies only that the speaker’s parents no longer ban video games after school. Expecting is not the same as allowing.

2) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “it is not okay to estimate.” The sentence says this about a situation “when you need” a count described by the missing word, meaning the missing word must be the opposite of an estimate. Because “accurate” means correct and exact in all details, choice (A) is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Guessed* means estimated or supposed without accurately measuring. If one needed a guessed count, then it would be okay to estimate.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Gigantic* means very large. This is not the opposite of an estimate.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Truthful* means honest, which does not have a direct relationship to an estimate.

3) B

The main clue in this question is the word “and,” which is used to indicate that the two parts of the sentence say similar things. Since Alexis “was excited,” “we” must have been “impressed by how” excited she was. The correct choice should be a word that means excited. Because *eager* means excited and wanting to do something very much, choice (B) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because *entertained* means amused. While one might be entertained by something he or she was excited about, it would not make sense for others to be entertained by someone else’s excitement.

(C) is incorrect because *experienced* means having knowledge and skills gained from past work. While Alexis might be experienced, the sentence gives no indication that she is.

(D) is incorrect because *essential* means extremely important. While Alexis might be essential, the sentence gives no indication that she is.

4) D

Wearing a mask would conceal or hide one’s face, so the first missing word must mean concealed or covered up. The second missing word’s main clue is the word “so,” which indicates a cause-and-effect relationship. Since the actor’s face was covered up, it would have been exciting to see what he looked like when he took the mask off. Therefore, the second missing word must mean showed. Because *hid* means concealed or covered up, and *revealed* means exposed or uncovered, choice (D) is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Decorated* means made more attractive by adding ornaments, while *cleansed* means cleaned. Decorating is not the same as covering up, and cleaning is not the same as exposing or uncovering.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Covered* means having something on top that conceals or hides. This word could work in context for the first missing word. However, *concealed* means hidden or covered up, the opposite of what is needed for the second word.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Exposed* means revealed or uncovered, while *disguised* means altered in appearance to hide one’s identity. These words would work in context only if their order were reversed.

5) B

The main clue in this question is the word “since,” which is used to indicate a cause-and-effect relationship. Here, the first part of the sentence explains that some part of the book was “shocking,” and the second part explains that the book unexpectedly ended with a major death. Since the missing word describes what part of the book was shocking, and the second part of the

sentence discusses the ending of the book, the ending of it must have been shocking. A *conclusion* is an ending, so choice **(B)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. A *beginning* is the start or first part of something, so it would not make sense to say the beginning was shocking because of something that happened at the end of the book.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. An *impression* is an idea about something that is formed with little knowledge or experience. A book cannot have an impression, though a reader could have an impression of the book.

(D) is incorrect because a *section* is a part of something. This does not work because it is too unclear and not specific. A section of a book could be its beginning, middle, or end, but this sentence requires a word that can only refer to an ending.

6) D

The main clue in this question is the word “but,” which sets up a negative or opposite relationship. The two missing words complete this opposite relationship, since the narrator thought the game was one way before knowing the rules but a different way after knowing them. The correct choice will have a pair of opposites. *Complicated* means intricate or not straightforward, and *simple* means not intricate or confusing. This is a pair of opposites, so choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Straightforward* means uncomplicated and easy to understand, while *easy* means simple or not difficult. These words mean almost the same thing.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Complex* means complicated or intricate, while *bizarre* means unusual or strange. These words have no clear relationship.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Fun* means enjoyable, while *thrilling* means exciting. These words have similar meanings.

7) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “in order to,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship in the prompt. Bernice’s end goal is to do something to her weight, and to achieve her goal, she has gone on a diet. One goes on a diet to lose weight, so Bernice must be attempting to lose weight. Because *reduce* means to make smaller in amount or size, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Expand* means to make or become larger, which is the opposite of what Bernice would do to her weight by going on a diet.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Release* means to let go or free from captivity, but one cannot let his or her weight go free.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Extend* means to make longer or wider, which is the opposite of what Bernice would do to her weight by going on a diet.

8) A

The main clue in this question is the phrase “in order to,” which sets up a cause-and-effect relationship. The missing word describes the effect of finishing all the tasks the project includes. This means the missing word must mean finish, since a project would be finished when all of its tasks are finished. Because *complete* means to finish making or doing, choice **(A)** is correct.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Delay* means to slow down or make something late. One would not attempt to finish all the tasks a project includes in order to make it late.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Prevent* means to keep something from happening. One would not attempt to finish all the tasks a project includes in order to prevent it from happening.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Assist* means to help. This choice is not extreme enough, since helping something along is not the same as finishing it.

9) C

The main clue in this question is the word “so,” which is used to indicate a cause-and-effect relationship. The first part of the sentence explains what the coach wanted Sara to do, while the second part explains that she was upset when Sara refused to do it. This means the missing words must have similar meanings. Because *try* means to make an attempt or effort to do something, and *attempt* means to try or to make an effort to do something, choice **(C)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Explain* means to make something clear by describing it in more detail, while *learn* means to gain knowledge. These words do not have similar meanings.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Perform* means to carry out or fulfill an action, while *enjoy* means to take pleasure in something. These words do not have similar meanings.

(D) is incorrect because it does not set up a logical relationship. *Examine* means to inspect something in detail, while *understand* means to be clear about the meaning of something. These words do not have similar meanings.

10) D

The main clue in this question is the word “unlike,” which sets up an opposite or negative relationship. Since the narrator finds hippos to be “ugly,” he or she must find flamingoes to be the opposite of ugly. Because *attractive* means pretty, choice **(D)** is correct.

(A) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Interesting* means causing curiosity or interest, which has no clear relationship to being ugly.

(B) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Graceful* means having elegance or moving without being clumsy. This is not the opposite of ugly.

(C) is incorrect because it does not set up an opposite relationship. *Awful* means very bad or unpleasant. This is not the opposite of ugly.

• **Word Definition 1** Level 4

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

1) EAGER

- A. wanting to do something very much
- B. not able to be used fully
- C. being relaxed or happy
- D. having the ability to soar or fly

6) SHALLOW

- A. not deep
- B. not beautiful
- C. not visible
- D. not fun

2) DEMONSTRATE

- A. to stop temporarily
- B. to take something from someone
- C. to show an example
- D. to discover something new

7) TIDY

- A. harmful and dangerous
- B. jealous and mean
- C. clean and neat
- D. broken and damaged

3) ACCURATE

- A. deadly or dangerous
- B. delicious or tasty
- C. nervous or anxious
- D. exact or precise

8) EXHAUSTED

- A. very angry
- B. very scared
- C. very responsible
- D. very tired

4) ROUTINE

- A. something done with carefully
- B. something done repeatedly
- C. something done for school
- D. something done by mistake

9) DESTROY

- A. to cheat
- B. to choose
- C. to ruin
- D. to improve

5) AFFORD

- A. to be able to buy something
- B. to make something more difficult
- C. to trade something for something else
- D. to depend on someone or something

10) CONCENTRATE

- A. to fail
- B. to save money
- C. to argue
- D. to focus

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

eager (*adjective*): wanting to do something very much: *On Christmas morning, the children were very eager to open their presents, and they did not stop being excited until all the gifts were opened.*

2) **C**

demonstrate (*verb*): to show an example: *Ms. Thatch demonstrated the dance by slowly performing the moves herself.*

3) **D**

accurate (*adjective*): exact or precise: *Your guess wasn't very accurate: George Washington was born in 1732, not the early 1600s.*

4) **B**

routine (*noun*): something done repeatedly: *Sophia's morning routine is always the same: she wakes up, showers, eats breakfast, and goes to work every single day.*

5) **A**

afford (*verb*): to be able to buy something: *I cannot afford to buy a new car because I do not have enough money.*

6) **A**

shallow (*adjective*): not deep: *The shallow puddle was only about half an inch deep, unlike the pool, which was five feet deep.*

7) **C**

tidy (*adjective*): clean and arranged neatly: *My father constantly reminds me to keep my room tidy, since I never clean up unless I have to.*

8) **D**

exhausted (*adjective*): very tired: *Running a marathon leaves people exhausted, since it requires running for 26 miles without stopping!*

9) **C**

destroy (*verb*): to ruin or heavily damage: *The terrible hurricane destroyed entire neighborhoods of New Orleans, and it would take years to rebuild them.*

10) **D**

concentrate (*verb*): to focus: *The math question was difficult, so Max had to concentrate and focus very hard in order to solve it.*

• **Word Definition 2** Level 4

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

1) TRIM

- A. to cut off a small part
- B. to speak very quietly
- C. to stop for a short time
- D. to divide equally

6) BENEFIT

- A. something needing help
- B. something twisted
- C. something gained
- D. something harmful

2) STEADY

- A. ugly or unattractive
- B. soft or comfortable
- C. difficult or challenging
- D. regular or even

7) ESSENTIAL

- A. very expensive
- B. very dangerous
- C. very strong
- D. very important

3) DOUBTFUL

- A. very clean
- B. probably not true
- C. very quiet
- D. not exciting

8) PLEAD

- A. to speak loudly
- B. to beg desperately
- C. to reach a conclusion
- D. to give instructions

4) MEETING

- A. a coming together of two people
- B. a large amount of money
- C. an action that is well planned
- D. a raise in the temperature

9) DELAY

- A. to wake up from sleep
- B. to make something larger
- C. to subtract something
- D. to make something late

5) ALERT

- A. very visible or seeable
- B. quick to notice something
- C. not yet fully grown
- D. different from something else

10) ABSENT

- A. missing
- B. dangerous
- C. good-looking
- D. hardworking

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

trim (*verb*): to cut off a small part: *I didn't want a full haircut; I only wanted the barber to trim my bangs.*

2) **D**

steady (*adjective*): regular and even without change: *Kelly has been working as a teacher for 27 years, and she is unlikely to move from her steady career in the near future.*

3) **B**

doubtful (*adjective*): probably not true: *Since there is a 90 percent chance of rain tomorrow, it is doubtful that we will have our picnic outside.*

4) **A**

meeting (*noun*): a coming together of two or more people: *During our first meeting, Trish seemed a little rude, but she has been polite every time I've seen her since then.*

5) **B**

alert (*adjective*): quick to notice any unusual or dangerous things: *The guards remained alert throughout the night, and they were ready to jump at the first sign of danger.*

6) **C**

benefit (*noun*): something gained or earned from something: *One of the benefits of being a member of the club is that you get discounts on plane tickets, so joining the club is clearly a good idea.*

7) **D**

essential (*adjective*): very important: *In order to become a master violinist, it is essential to practice every day, because you cannot be good at playing music if you don't practice.*

8) **B**

plead (*verb*): to beg desperately: *Ruth pleaded with her parents to let her go to the dance, but they refused to give in to her begging.*

9) **D**

delay (*verb*): to make something late or slow: *Bad weather delayed my flight, so I got in to Chicago later than planned.*

10) **A**

absent (*adjective*): missing; not present: *Tucker has been absent from school for six days, and now he has to make up all the work he has missed.*

• **Word Definition 3** Level 4

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

1) TRADITION

- A. a custom or part of a culture
- B. a thing given in exchange for something else
- C. a person who performs in plays
- D. a place where someone buys things

2) EMPTY

- A. not sick
- B. not lazy
- C. not full
- D. not creative

3) BAN

- A. to combine
- B. to praise
- C. to break
- D. to not allow

4) DESIRE

- A. an award or prize
- B. a call or signal
- C. a hat or cap
- D. a wish or want

5) FLAWED

- A. imperfect or incorrect
- B. wonderful or great
- C. trustworthy or honest
- D. elegant or formal

6) ARREST

- A. to hurt or attack someone
- B. to look at something closely
- C. to capture or hold back
- D. to trade something for something else

7) MASTER

- A. to become taller
- B. to lower in price
- C. to gain great skill
- D. to work for someone

8) POINTLESS

- A. useless
- B. independent
- C. plain
- D. unhealthy

9) TRAGIC

- A. very old
- B. very quiet
- C. very sweet
- D. very sad

10) MODEST

- A. having no money
- B. not bragging
- C. comfortable
- D. not exciting

Answers and Explanations

1) **A**

tradition (*noun*): a custom or part of a culture: *It is a tradition in most of the Western world to decorate a tree every Christmas, but other parts of the world have different customs.*

2) **C**

empty (*adjective*): not full: *After I drank the entire bottle of soda, the bottle was empty.*

3) **D**

ban (*verb*): to not allow something: *For part of the twentieth century, the US government banned alcohol, so it was against the law to buy it.*

4) **D**

desire (*noun*): a wish or want: *Charlie wants to go to Las Vegas, but I have no desire to travel there.*

5) **A**

flawed (*adjective*): imperfect or correct: *Kristoff's attempt to solve the math problem was flawed, and he came to the wrong answer as a result.*

6) **C**

arrest (*verb*): to capture or hold back: *The police arrested the man who robbed the video game store, so now he is in jail.*

7) **C**

master (*verb*): to earn great skill: *It took me years of hard study to master French, but now I can speak the language perfectly.*

8) **A**

pointless (*adjective*): useless: *It is pointless to try to teach a dog to speak Spanish because the dog will never be able to do it.*

9) **D**

tragic (*adjective*): very sad: *The news today was tragic, and I cried all morning because of it.*

10) **B**

modest (*adjective*): not bragging or thinking too highly of oneself: *Raquel was very modest about winning first place because she knows that bragging is rude.*