

Text Completion Questions: 20 Question with answer & explanation

Direction: For each blank select the correct answers from the available choices. Fill all the blanks in the way that best completes the text.

1. The success of the company was _____; its competitor was often able to _____ its efforts in the marketplace.

A irascible . . exculpate

B prodigious . . qualify

C consistent . . hinder

D sporadic . . stymie

E undermined . . laud

2. Patrick could not be accused of _____; he set out to _____ the administration of its unrealistic assumptions.

A prevarication . . ameliorate

B discretion . . oscillate

C veracity . . relieve

D neologism . . precipitate

E equivocation . . disabuse

3. Only a person of great _____ and accomplishment deserved the tribe's _____.

A garrulousness, vacillation

B sagacity, veneration

C magnanimity, prescience

D wisdom, perfidy

E acumen, castigation

4. Although he could have earned much in royalties because he had been so _____, the author refused to _____ the publication of any of his works.

A pious . . eulogize

B malevolent . . occlude

C entertaining . . reiterate

D prolific . . sanction

E spurious . . exonerate

5. Although the chemical manufacturing company was _____, questions about its financial accounting resulted in the _____ of its officers.

A vigilant . . hubris

B ephemeral . . abstinence

C bankrupt . . retention

D solvent . . subpoena

E belligerent . . abeyance

6. Aunt Sally was known to be generally _____; her sister, however, had a reputation for being _____.

A garrulous . . loquacious

B diffident . . ebullient

C derisive . . variegated

D didactic . . pedagogic

E terse . . self-deprecating

7. The senator was skilled at defending his policies _____, answering his colleagues' challenges with _____.

A assiduously . . petulance

B extemporaneously . . alacrity

C perfunctorily . . filibusters

D succinctly . . grandiloquence

E comprehensively . . platitudes

8. The tenacious trainer, after working with the _____ young dog, decided that his efforts were actually serving to _____ the animal's challenges.

A perennial . . vitiate

B redolent . . desiccate

C noxious . . pervade

D trenchant . . qualify

E recalcitrant . . exacerbate

9. The sly thief _____, daring to _____ that the treasure had actually been given to him as compensation for services during the war.

A vilified . . inveigle

B dissembled . . intimate

C wavered . . obviate

D censured . . refute

E chagrined . . advocate

10. Although his _____ habits had caused the company difficulty, my boss' _____ comments about my spendthrift coworker's conduct were superfluous.

A fortuitous . . . germane

B tenuous . . . endemic

C refulgent . . . transient

D profligate . . vituperative

E heretical . . impecunious

11. The problems of the school appeared to be entirely _____; the hardworking staff had ample justification for _____.

A pristine . . hubris

B untenable . . probity

C aberrant . . ennui

D ubiquitous . . torpor

E intractable . . vexation

12. After the war there was a _____ of fresh meat, although there was a _____ of dead animals.

A squandering . . burgeon

B bounty . . profusion

C dearth . . plethora

D superfluity . . surfeit

E tirade . . proclivity

13. The little girl did not _____ an excuse; she knew her strict teacher would simply not _____ disobedience.

A broach . . parody

B essay . . brook

C prattle . . recant

D engender . . adulterate

E assuage . . bolster

14. The handsome prince, arriving at the resplendently _____ venue in his modern automobile, cut a dashing and _____ figure among the assembled nobles.

- A ascetic . . cosmopolitan
- B metropolitan . . urbane
- C squalid . . sophisticated
- D viscous . . refined
- E consequential . . emollient

15. The winsome girl appeared stoic during the ceremony, her _____ somewhat diminished by her _____ manner.

- A opacity . . aloof
- B exigency . . detached
- C audacity . . facetious
- D austerity . . heretical
- E pulchritude . . dispassionate

16. His naturally _____ was the foundation of his erudition in the field of logic.

- A baleful . . cynicism
- B exacting . . bent
- C impetuous . . rancor
- D salubrious . . apathy
- E obdurate . . misanthropy

17. The new television show was _____ by the critics as _____ and jejune.

- A hailed . . meretricious
- B remonstrated . . palliative
- C panned . . vapid
- D propitiated . . sagacious
- E appropriated . . prosaic

18. The _____ course of action is to inform the electorate about current issues; their apathy cannot be mitigated by painting fanciful but baseless pictures of future _____ days.

- A pragmatic . . halcyon
- B bombastic . . canonical
- C dogmatic . . nascent
- D prescient . . austere
- E infelicitous . . salubrious

19. The _____ quality about the lieutenant that day was the dignity with which he _____ his resignation, although the admiral's aspect would have made the ablest seaman quail.

- A prodigious . . relinquished
- B credulous . . divulged
- C singular . . tendered
- D evanescent . . proffered
- E impassive . . reconciled

20. I must _____ that Mr. Smith is indeed known for his impressive _____; he would make an excellent mediator.

A abscond . . audacity

B obviate . . chicanery

C demur . . fallacy

D supplant . . zeal

E aver . . acumen

Answers & explanation

1. Answer: C

Explanation: Eliminate any choice for which at least one word does not work. Also, the sense of the sentence is either that the company is successful despite what its competitor does, or that it is unsuccessful because of what the competitor does. (A competitor may be assumed to work against the company.) Both words have to support one or the other of those meanings.

2. Answer: E.

Explanation: Eliminate any choice for which at least one word does not work. For example, at least one word makes sense in choices A, B, and C, but the other does not. Neither word in D works.

3. Answer: B

Explanation: Eliminate any choice for which at least one word does not work. For example, at least one word makes sense in choices C, D, and E, but the other does not. Neither word in A works.

4. Answer: D

Explanation: Ensure that in a two-word sentence completion question, both words support the meaning and direction of the sentence. At least one of the word choices in A, B, C, and E conflicts with the direction of the other.

5. Answer: D

Explanation: Ensure that in a two-word sentence completion question, both words support the meaning and direction of the sentence. At least one of the word choices in A, B, C, and E conflicts with the direction of the other.

6. Answer: B

Explanation: When you see the key word “however”, look for words opposite in meaning. Choices A, D, and E contain near-synonyms or words with the same tone; Choice C doesn’t make sense.

7. Answer: B

Explanation: This is an example of a second-best answer choice being available (Choice A); in certain contexts it might make sense, but choice B is better. This situation is common on the GRE. Choices C, D, and E contain words of opposite sense.

8. Answer: E.

Explanation: Remember, both words have to work in the blanks. Cross off any choice that includes one word that doesn’t work. A recalcitrant, or disobedient, animal is difficult to train, so its challenges are likely to be exacerbated, or to get worse, even if the trainer is tenacious or persistent.

9. Answer: B.

Explanation: The correct answer, B, includes an uncommon use of the word “intimate”, meaning “imply”. (It’s also pronounced somewhat differently from the form that means “cosy”.) The GRE often tests knowledge of uncommon uses for common words. “Dissembled” sounds like “disassembled” but actually means “tried to mislead”.

10. Answer: D.

Explanation: The word “spendthrift” is a clue that suggests “profligate”; the word “although” suggests that the speaker saw the boss’ “vituperative”, or extremely negative, comments as unwarranted despite the wrongdoing.

11. Answer: E

Explanation: Although at least one word in choices A-D might work in the sentence, only choice E has two words that will work together.

12. Answer: C.

Explanation: Many of the words used in the answer choices are related; the correct choice has words with opposite meaning and correct usage. Often taught together as synonym and antonym, “dearth” means “lack of” and “plethora” means “abundance of”.

13. Answer: B

Explanation: One technique on sentence completions is to fill in your own words in the blanks, and then look for similar words in the answer choices. In this case, the first blank means something like “try”, while the second means something like “tolerate”. You have to know the secondary meanings of “essay” and “brook” to identify the correct choice; the GRE often tests secondary meanings of common words.

14. Answer: B

Explanation: Don’t confuse “ascetic” with “aesthetic”. It’s just my little cute idea that the word “metropolitan” in the correct answer makes you think of the word “urban”, although not everyone knows what “urbane” means.

15. Answer: E

Explanation: I have always wondered why such an ugly word as “pulchritude” came to be a synonym for “beauty”, but there it is. Each of the other choices has at least one word that does not match the sense of the sentence clue words.

16. Answer: B

Explanation: As with many GRE-type questions, some of these answers may make sense in some contexts, but the one that stands on its own is B; someone with a perfectionist streak might be expected to go far in the field of logic.

17. Answer: C

Explanation: Remember with two blanks that both words must work in the finished sentence. Several of these work by themselves, but the only pair that makes sense is in Choice C. “Meretricious” is particularly tricky because it sounds like “merit”, but actually means something of the opposite, “vulgar”.

18. Answer: A

Explanation: This is an example of “best fit” words; you could make weaker cases for other choices, but the best pair is A.

19. Answer: C

Explanation: “Singular” means not only “one of” but also “noteworthy”. “Tendered” doesn’t sound like it means “handed in” or “submitted”, but it does. Other words among the choices would work, but no other pair does.

20. Answer: E.

Explanation: Mr. Smith might have many talents, but of this list, only “audacity”, “zeal”, or “acumen” might be good in a mediator. In making the

suggestion, of the choices in A, D, and E, the speaker can only “aver”, or declare, not “abscond” (sneak off) or “supplant” (replace).