

Sentence Completions

3

WHAT IS A SENTENCE COMPLETIONS QUESTION?

In each SAT sentence completions question, you are given a sentence containing one or more blanks. A number of answers, or pairs of answers, are suggested to fill the blank spaces. You must select the word or pair of words that best completes the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

Through his ---- he managed to cheat his partners out of their earnings.

- (A) inefficiency
- (B) ineptness
- (C) machinations
- (D) regime
- (E) dealings

The correct answer is (C). You should ask, “Through *what* (noun) does one cheat?” You should be able to answer, “Through unfair play, conspiracy, evil planning, or the like.” A look at the five possibilities reveals *machinations* as the only possible choice.

Normally a(n) ---- of dependability, he had let his colleagues down; now he could not face their ----.

- (A) pillar .. smirks
- (B) besmircher .. titillation
- (C) paragon .. wrath
- (D) bastion .. adulation
- (E) anathema .. debts

The correct answer is (C). Despite being a *what* (noun) of dependability did he let his colleagues down so badly that he couldn’t face them? *Paragon*, *bastion*, and *pillar*—all symbols of strength or virtue—would work; *besmircher* (“one who dirties”) and *anathema* (“curse”) would not. Using any of the three, focus now on the fact that he had “let them down.” What do people show when they are severely disappointed? Certainly not *smirks* (“crooked smiles”) or *adulation* (“praise”). *Wrath*, however, is a perfect fit.

HOW TO ANSWER SENTENCE COMPLETIONS QUESTIONS

Read the sentence through for sense and try to anticipate what word would best fill the blank. Then look for that word in the answer choices.

Alan waited ---- for his turn, relaxing in an easy chair with his eyes closed.

- (A) impatiently
- (B) eagerly
- (C) warily
- (D) calmly
- (E) tensely

The correct answer is (D). When you read the sentence, you might have anticipated that a word like *patiently* could be used in the blank. *Patiently* does not appear as an answer choice, but there is one choice that is close to that meaning: *calmly*. None of the other choices has a meaning that is appropriate in the context of the sentence.

This sentence was a fairly easy one. And some of those you encounter on your SAT will be easy. Others, however, will be more difficult. Those will require that you analyze the logical structure of the sentence to see what is required.

Determine whether the missing word must contrast with or support another idea in the sentence.

Although this method will not solve every sentence completion item on the SAT, it is a fairly useful and easy-to-use tool. The idea is that the logic of a sentence requires a certain result, as in the following example.

The service at the restaurant was usually very attentive, but on this one occasion the waiter seemed to ---- the diners.

- (A) applaud
- (B) urge
- (C) ignore
- (D) restrain
- (E) fulfill

The correct answer is (C). The *but* in this sentence sets up a contrasting idea. The word that fills the blank must contrast with the idea of “very attentive.”

If Peter continues to skip classes and fail to complete homework assignments, he will soon find that he has been ---- the university.

- (A) dismissed from
- (B) invited to
- (C) trapped in
- (D) warned about
- (E) reminded of

The correct answer is (A). The logical structure of this sentence requires a completion that shows the logical conclusion of “skipping classes and not completing assignments.”

Words such as “although,” “though,” “not,” “but,” and “however” signal contrast.

If you spot any of these words in a sentence completion question, you know that you should look for an answer that contrasts with an idea in the sentence.

Although the movie was panned by all the major critics, audiences around the country seemed to find it ----.

- (A) reprehensible
- (B) worthless
- (C) subdued
- (D) iconoclastic
- (E) entertaining

The correct answer here is (E). The *although* signals a reversal of the *panning* or disapproval of the critics: The critics disliked the movie but the audiences like it.

The restaurant itself was beautiful and the service excellent, but the food was ----.

- (A) outstanding
- (B) morose
- (C) conclusive
- (D) inedible
- (E) filling

The correct answer is (D). Here, the *but* signals a contrast between the positive ideas of *beautiful* and *excellent* and an adjective with negative connotations that describes the food. What is a good way of describing bad food? *Inedible* fits best.

Words such as “so,” “for,” “because,” “therefore,” and “as a result” signal ideas that support each other.

If you spot one of these words in a sentence completion question, you know that you should look for an answer that supports an idea in the sentence.

Millicent was extremely ---- to be given the award, for she had worked very hard for it.

- (A) pleased
- (B) open-minded
- (C) embarrassed
- (D) interested
- (E) fruitful

The correct answer is (A). Here the word that fills in the blank must be something that is consistent with the idea of “working very hard” for something. Had you worked very hard for something, what would be your attitude toward it? You would be proud, or happy, or satisfied. So you can see that choice (A) gives the best completion.

Throughout his young life, John excelled in sports, and as a result he decided he wanted to become a professional ----.

- (A) chemist
- (B) athlete
- (C) accountant
- (D) sales representative
- (E) student

The correct answer is (B). This is a rather simple example of how the logic of a sentence dictates your choice. The phrase “as a result” tells you that John’s decision was the logical outcome of his excellence in sports. What is the logical outcome of excellence in sports? A career as a professional athlete.

Sometimes the blank requires a word that restates an idea already mentioned in the sentence.

Joan was so abrupt with clients that her supervisor eventually put a letter in her file citing her ----.

- (A) enthusiasm
- (B) rudeness
- (C) lethargy
- (D) diligence
- (E) patience

The correct answer is (B). Notice that the idea of *rudeness* restates the idea of “abruptness.”

Sometimes the blank requires a word that summarizes an idea already mentioned in the sentence.

After seeing shocking films of animals maimed and tortured by traps of hunters, Marie concluded that purchasing a new fur coat would be ----.

- (A) mandatory
- (B) subliminal
- (C) glamorous
- (D) immoral
- (E) redundant

The correct answer is (D). Here the word that fills the blank must be an adjective that describes a reaction to the shocking hurting of animals. The word that best describes such an act is *immoral*.

If you have to guess, first eliminate all choices that make no sense.

Many wrong answer choices, when inserted into a blank, create a meaningless phrase. Suppose, for example, that you have a sentence completion item that includes as a subpart the element “---- task.” Some English words would suitably modify the word *task*. You might have an *easy* task, a *simple* task, a *difficult* task, an *arduous* task, or even a *monstrous* task. You could not, however, have a *blushing* task, an *alert* task, a *famished* task, a *determined* task, or an *excitable* task. These are words that just cannot be used to modify the word *task*. Therefore, even if you don’t understand the overall logic of a sentence, you should be able to eliminate one or more choices that contain words that are unsuitable.

Professor Martin spent his entire career as a teacher trying to ---- his students to appreciate the beauty of poetry.

- (A) alienate
- (B) disrupt
- (C) encourage
- (D) repeal
- (E) define

The correct answer is (C). Test each for its suitability in the subpart “---- his students.” Using just this part of the sentence, you should be able to eliminate choices (B), (D), and (E). As for (B), you can disrupt a class or a meeting, but you cannot disrupt a student; as for (D), you can repeal an act or a law, but you cannot repeal a student; and as for (E) you can define the word *student*, but you cannot define a student. Having eliminated three choices, you can make your guess.

If you have to guess, as a last resort, select a difficult vocabulary word.

SAT sentence completion items are arranged in order of increasing difficulty. What makes one item more difficult than another? Sometimes it is the logic of the sentence, but other times it is the vocabulary. And for a question to be difficult because it uses difficult vocabulary, the correct answer must be a difficult vocabulary word.

Here is an example of a problem using difficult vocabulary:

Because the speaker had a reputation for ----, the chairperson warned him to be succinct.

- (A) bravery
- (B) creativity
- (C) lassitude
- (D) piety
- (E) loquaciousness

The correct answer is (E). Assume that this item is one of the last in a series of sentence completions. Given its position, you know that it is supposed to be a difficult question (remember the order of increasing difficulty). And what makes it difficult is that many test-takers won't know the meaning of the correct answer. Since choices (A), (B), and (D) are likely to be familiar to most test-takers, none of them is a likely candidate for a correct answer. Having eliminated those three, you would guess either choice (C) or choice (E), one of the two difficult vocabulary words. The correct answer is (E); *loquaciousness* means "talkativeness."

PRETEST

Directions: Answer each question based on what is directly stated or suggested in each passage. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- The film was completely devoid of plot or character development; it was merely a ---- of striking images.
(A) renouncement
(B) montage
(C) calumny
(D) carnage
(E) premonition
- She delivered her speech with great ----, gesturing flamboyantly with her hands and smiling broadly from her opening remarks through her conclusion.
(A) candor
(B) consternation
(C) acerbity
(D) verve
(E) innuendo
- As a result of a(n) ---- with her landlord, she was evicted.
(A) contusion
(B) alternative
(C) conflagration
(D) altercation
(E) aggression
- It was not possible to set a monetary value on the legal services she provided, so the grateful town had a gold medal struck as a(n) ----.
(A) affirmation
(B) eulogy
(C) exultation
(D) elegy
(E) honorarium
- No elected official who remains ---- can play a major role in public life; compromise is the life-blood of politics.
(A) obdurate
(B) dogmatic
(C) pragmatic
(D) irrefutable
(E) inflexible
- Contrary to popular opinion, bats are not generally aggressive and rabid; most are shy and ----.
(A) turgid
(B) disfigured
(C) punctual
(D) innocuous
(E) depraved
- The ballet company demonstrated its ---- by putting both classical and modern works in the repertoire.
(A) versatility
(B) mollification
(C) treachery
(D) dignity
(E) obtrusiveness
- Though the concert had been enjoyable, it was overly ---- and the three encores seemed ----.
(A) extensive .. garrulous
(B) protracted .. gratuitous
(C) inaudible .. superfluous
(D) sublime .. fortuitous
(E) contracted .. lengthy
- A good trial lawyer will argue only what is central to an issue, eliminating ---- information or anything else that might ---- the client.
(A) seminal .. amuse
(B) extraneous .. jeopardize
(C) erratic .. enhance
(D) prodigious .. extol
(E) reprehensible .. initiate
- Peter, ---- by the repeated rejections of his novel, ---- to submit his manuscript to other publishers.
(A) encouraged .. declined
(B) elated .. planned
(C) undaunted .. continued
(D) inspired .. complied
(E) undeterred .. refused

Pretest

Explanatory Answers

1. **The correct answer is (B).** A film that has no plot or character development is simply a collection, or *montage*, of images.
2. **The correct answer is (D).** Putting together the gestures and smile yields an impression of enthusiasm. *Verve*, a synonym for *spirit*, is the right choice.
3. **The correct answer is (D).** Eviction is a drastic measure, usually the result of nonpayment of rent or some other negative occurrence. The only possible choice that fits the logic of the sentence is *altercation* (heated argument).
4. **The correct answer is (E).** The context indicates some sort of payment for services but also shows that the amount of remuneration could not be calculated in monetary terms. The correct choice, *honorarium*, according to *Webster's*, is “a payment as to a professional person for services on which no fee is set or legally obtainable.”
5. **The correct answer is (E).** The context indicates that whoever does not compromise has no future in politics. The missing word, then, must mean “not amenable to compromise.” All choices except (D) describe varying degrees of stubbornness, but only *inflexible* means “a complete refusal to compromise.”
6. **The correct answer is (D).** The sentence starts with *contrary*, a “thought reverser.” So we know that bats are something that is the opposite of *aggressive* and *rabid*. *Innocuous*, or harmless, is the opposite of *rabid* and goes nicely with *shy*.
7. **The correct answer is (A).** This is basically a vocabulary question. You need to know what noun means “the ability to do more than one thing well.” Only *versatility* completes the sentence correctly.
8. **The correct answer is (B).** The *though* sets up a contrast. The concert was enjoyable, but it suffered from some defect. Additionally, the two blanks themselves are parallel, for they complete similar thoughts. Only the words in choice (B) satisfy this condition. The concert was *protracted* (too long), and the encores were *gratuitous* (uncalled for).
9. **The correct answer is (B).** The first blank calls for a word indicating information that a trial lawyer would eliminate because it is not central to an issue. The only possible choice is *extraneous*. Likewise, a good lawyer would not mention anything that might *jeopardize* (endanger) a client.
10. **The correct answer is (C).** Even though Peter’s novel was rejected by many publishers, he was *undaunted* (not discouraged) and *continued* to submit it to others.

LEVEL A SENTENCE COMPLETIONS EXERCISES**Exercise 1**

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. Although her lips wore a smile, her eyes wore a ----.
(A) veil
(B) laugh
(C) shadow
(D) frown
(E) stare
2. Martha's ---- handling of the steaks caused us to amend our plans for dinner and eat out.
(A) ingenious
(B) ingenuous
(C) disingenuous
(D) inverted
(E) inept
3. The stigma attached to this job makes it ---- even at a(n) ---- salary.
(A) enticing .. fabulous
(B) unattractive .. attractive
(C) attractive .. attractive
(D) sybaritic .. meager
(E) uninviting .. nominal
4. One man's meat is another man's ----.
(A) dairy
(B) flesh
(C) poison
(D) meeting
(E) prerogative
5. Joseph's ---- handling of the Thompson account made him the laughingstock of the industry.
(A) proper
(B) dishonest
(C) maudlin
(D) humorous
(E) incompetent
6. By shrewdly shifting district lines, a party boss can ---- any voting bloc out of ----.
(A) talk .. registering
(B) gerrymander .. existence
(C) shift .. precinct
(D) cheat .. majority
(E) gerrymander .. hand
7. The prisoner was in a state of great ---- after three months in solitary confinement with no bathing.
(A) lassitude
(B) decrepitude
(C) solitude
(D) rectitude
(E) fortitude
8. He was the chief ---- of his uncle's will. After taxes, he was left with an inheritance of \$20,000,000.
(A) exemption
(B) pensioner
(C) beneficiary
(D) contestant
(E) winner
9. Don't be ----; I don't have time to split hairs.
(A) spurious
(B) childish
(C) picayune
(D) erudite
(E) absurd
10. When his temperature climbed above 104 degrees, he became ----.
(A) tepid
(B) discordant
(C) deceased
(D) delirious
(E) presumptuous

11. To climb at another's expense is to ---- yourself morally.
- (A) upbraid
 - (B) elevate
 - (C) energize
 - (D) enervate
 - (E) abase
12. We waited patiently for the storm to slacken; it ---- refused to ----.
- (A) persistently .. strengthen
 - (B) stoutly .. abate
 - (C) wanly .. sublimate
 - (D) sternly .. mitigate
 - (E) consistently .. perambulate
13. The prince decided to ---- when he found that he couldn't have his love and his throne at the same time; it was 1937.
- (A) prevaricate
 - (B) ablute
 - (C) alter
 - (D) abrogate
 - (E) abdicate
14. Although he was not ever at the scene of the crime, his complicity was uncovered; he had ---- and ---- in the robbery by acting as a fence.
- (A) stolen .. sold
 - (B) assisted .. testified
 - (C) witnessed .. participated
 - (D) aided .. abetted
 - (E) financed .. mastermind
15. In view of the extenuating circumstances and the defendant's youth, the judge recommended ----.
- (A) conviction
 - (B) a defense
 - (C) a mistrial
 - (D) leniency
 - (E) hanging

Exercise 2

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. A person who will not take “no” for an answer may sometimes be classified as a ----.
(A) salesman
(B) persistent
(C) zealot
(D) heretic
(E) notary
2. The children were told that they should be ---- of strangers offering candy.
(A) weary
(B) wary
(C) envious
(D) considerate
(E) happy
3. Politicians are not coerced into taxing the public; they do it of their own ----.
(A) reputation
(B) appraisal
(C) graft
(D) expediency
(E) volition
4. Elder statesmen used to be ---- for their wisdom when respect for age was an integral part of the value structure.
(A) known
(B) venerated
(C) exiled
(D) abused
(E) used
5. The 45-minute sermon is a potent ----; it is an absolute cure for ----.
(A) astringent .. drowsiness
(B) aphrodisiac .. celibacy
(C) soporific .. insomnia
(D) therapeutic .. malaise
(E) trial .. lassitude
6. His cynicism was ----; it was written all over him.
(A) affected
(B) covert
(C) infamous
(D) manifest
(E) famous
7. Suffering from ----, she was forced to spend most of her time indoors.
(A) claustrophobia
(B) anemia
(C) agoraphobia
(D) ambivalence
(E) xenophobia
8. We were not allowed to ---- our appetite until we had tidied up our living quarters.
(A) fill
(B) whet
(C) sate
(D) flag
(E) address
9. If you don't badger the child, he may do what you want him to do without ----.
(A) pleasure
(B) pain
(C) pressure
(D) volition
(E) waste
10. You must see the head of the agency; I am not ---- to give out that information.
(A) nervous
(B) authorized
(C) programmed
(D) happy
(E) avid

11. The magazine is considered a ---- of literary good taste; the stories it publishes are genteel and refined.
- (A) cabal
 - (B) credential
 - (C) potential
 - (D) bastion
 - (E) maelstrom
12. The ship was in a(n) ---- position; having lost its rudder it was subject to the ---- of the prevailing winds.
- (A) inexcusable .. direction
 - (B) unintended .. riptides
 - (C) untenable .. vagaries
 - (D) dangerous .. breezes
 - (E) favored .. weaknesses
13. ---- shadows played over her face as the branches above her danced in the sunlight.
- (A) Transient
 - (B) Prolonged
 - (C) Swarthy
 - (D) Clandestine
 - (E) Sedentary
14. Alchemists expended their energies in an attempt to ---- base elements into gold.
- (A) transfer
 - (B) raise
 - (C) translate
 - (D) commute
 - (E) transmute
15. Publication of the article was timed to ---- with the professor's fiftieth birthday.
- (A) coincide
 - (B) adapt
 - (C) amalgamate
 - (D) terminate
 - (E) interfere

Exercise 3

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- The chariot ---- around the curve completely out of control when Thessalius dropped the reins.
(A) trotted
(B) competed
(C) careened
(D) fell
(E) caromed
- Don't ----; stick to the ---- of the issue so that we can take it to a vote.
(A) prevaricate .. jist
(B) stammer .. meat
(C) procrastinate .. promptness
(D) delay .. urgency
(E) digress .. crux
- The more the search proved fruitless, the more ---- the parents of the missing child became.
(A) disconsolate
(B) dislocated
(C) disappointed
(D) disheveled
(E) disinfected
- When the unpopular war began, only a few citizens enlisted; the rest had to be ----.
(A) shot
(B) processed
(C) pacified
(D) reassured
(E) conscripted
- The ---- fumes from the refinery poisoned the air, causing many people to fall ill.
(A) superfluous
(B) peremptory
(C) noxious
(D) lugubrious
(E) intransigent
- The upset furniture and broken window silently ---- to the fact that the apartment had been robbed.
(A) witnessed
(B) confirmed
(C) attested
(D) admitted
(E) alleged
- Although the warrior could cope with blows from swords, he was ---- to gunshots; his armor was not ---- to them.
(A) reachable .. proof
(B) vulnerable .. susceptible
(C) vulnerable .. impervious
(D) invulnerable .. susceptible
(E) invulnerable .. impervious
- When she addressed the reporters, her beauty, bearing, and elegant garb were belied by the ---- words she uttered.
(A) untrue
(B) uncouth
(C) unemotional
(D) unfettered
(E) unequivocal
- "A stitch in time saves nine" and other such ---- expressions made his speeches insufferable.
(A) tried
(B) cryptic
(C) redundant
(D) trite
(E) true
- The new regulations turned out to be ----, not permissive.
(A) impermissive
(B) liberal
(C) stringent
(D) uniform
(E) unrestrictive

11. They prefer to hire someone fluent in Spanish, since the neighborhood where the clinic is located is ---- Hispanic.
- (A) imponderably
 - (B) sparsely
 - (C) consistently
 - (D) predominantly
 - (E) not at all
12. A dark, cloudy sky is a ---- of a storm.
- (A) remnant
 - (B) precursor
 - (C) belier
 - (D) proof
 - (E) constellation
13. The Freedom of Information Act gives private citizens ---- government files.
- (A) access to
 - (B) excess of
 - (C) redress of
 - (D) release from
 - (E) no rights to
14. His remarks were so ---- we could not decide which of the possible meanings was correct.
- (A) ambiguous
 - (B) facetious
 - (C) improper
 - (D) congruent
 - (E) quiet
15. His performance was ----; it made a fool of him.
- (A) auspicious
 - (B) ludicrous
 - (C) luscious
 - (D) interlocutory
 - (E) internecine

Exercise 4

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- A person who commits a wrong may be required to ---- his property as a penalty.
(A) confiscate
(B) destroy
(C) forfeit
(D) assess
(E) sell
- When the desk was placed facing the window, she found herself ---- from her work by the activity in the street.
(A) distraught
(B) destroyed
(C) distracted
(D) decimated
(E) diminished
- He said he didn't get the job done because he was incapacitated; in truth, he was ----.
(A) indigent
(B) indolent
(C) indulgent
(D) insipid
(E) inculpable
- The "policemen" turned out to be clowns; the complete scene was a ----.
(A) stickup
(B) mystery
(C) mixup
(D) fracas
(E) hoax
- The authorities declared an ---- on incoming freight because of the trucking strike.
(A) impression
(B) immolation
(C) embargo
(D) alert
(E) opprobrium
- The grade was steep and the load heavy; we had to ---- the oxen in order to arrive home on time.
(A) rest
(B) eat
(C) feed
(D) goad
(E) slaughter
- He was proved guilty; his alibi had been a complete ----.
(A) attestation
(B) fabrication
(C) intonation
(D) litany
(E) cementation
- He claimed to be deathly ill, although he looked perfectly ---- and ---- to us.
(A) fine .. fettle
(B) sane .. sound
(C) hale .. hearty
(D) hectic .. healthy
(E) sound .. decrepit
- Although she had ---- about the weather, she had no ---- about her ability to navigate through it.
(A) doubts .. confidence
(B) confidence .. qualms
(C) qualms .. confidence
(D) misgivings .. qualms
(E) reports .. foresight
- The police department will not accept for ---- a report of a person missing if his residence is outside the city.
(A) foreclosure
(B) convenience
(C) investigation
(D) control
(E) guidance

11. Rabbits, elephants, deer, and sheep are ----; they eat only plants.
- (A) omnivorous
 - (B) herbivorous
 - (C) carnivorous
 - (D) ruminants
 - (E) pachyderms
12. Foreman and Ali were fighting tooth and nail when suddenly, in the thick of the ----, the bell rang.
- (A) night
 - (B) day
 - (C) thievery
 - (D) fray
 - (E) ring
13. The judge ---- the union from blocking the accesses.
- (A) suspended
 - (B) ordered
 - (C) forbade
 - (D) unfrocked
 - (E) enjoined
14. The ---- on the letter showed it had been mailed in North Dakota two weeks previously.
- (A) address
 - (B) stamp
 - (C) postmark
 - (D) envelope
 - (E) printing
15. It is easy to see the difference between the two photographs when they are placed in ----.
- (A) disarray
 - (B) juxtaposition
 - (C) composition
 - (D) jeopardy
 - (E) collaboration

Exercise 5

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. We are indeed sorry to hear of your mother's passing; please accept our sincerest ----.
(A) adulations
(B) congratulations
(C) condolences
(D) concatenations
(E) contortions
2. While on a diet I remained lean, but once off it I became ----.
(A) adept
(B) remiss
(C) corpulent
(D) corporeal
(E) corporal
3. With his gutter language and vile manner he was positively ----.
(A) urbane
(B) banal
(C) rural
(D) liberal
(E) boorish
4. The voters show their ---- by staying away from the polls.
(A) interest
(B) usury
(C) apathy
(D) serendipity
(E) registration
5. Being less than perfectly prepared, I took my exams with ----.
(A) aplomb
(B) confidence
(C) trepidation
(D) indifference
(E) skepticism
6. During colonial winters in America there was a ---- in every ----.
(A) fire .. hearth
(B) stoker .. pot
(C) flintlock .. chimney
(D) tepee .. stockade
(E) blizzard .. storm
7. The good-humored joke ---- the tension in the room.
(A) enervated
(B) allocated
(C) dispelled
(D) cited
(E) berated
8. When the bomb exploded in front of the building, it destroyed the whole ----.
(A) cellar
(B) pontoon
(C) facade
(D) facet
(E) cupola
9. He is expected to testify that he saw the ---- thief fleeing the scene of the crime.
(A) convicted
(B) delinquent
(C) alleged
(D) offensive
(E) innocent
10. A child who has not slept well will be anything but ----.
(A) intractable
(B) docile
(C) equine
(D) bovine
(E) ill-tempered

11. What we thought was a ---- volcano suddenly erupted.
- (A) deceased
 - (B) dactylic
 - (C) dormant
 - (D) disruptive
 - (E) discontinued
12. Cigarette smoking is ---- to your health.
- (A) disengaging
 - (B) deleterious
 - (C) delectable
 - (D) irrespectiv
 - (E) irrelevant
13. My uncle hardly ever needed a telephone; his voice was ---- from a distance of half a mile.
- (A) inaudible
 - (B) audible
 - (C) suspicious
 - (D) visible
 - (E) copious
14. Her parents never had to ---- her for being ----.
- (A) chide .. industrious
 - (B) ride .. superfluous
 - (C) chide .. indolent
 - (D) punish .. independent
 - (E) commend .. intransigent
15. The current use of “----” in place of “fat” is a euphemism.
- (A) overwrought
 - (B) portly
 - (C) insipid
 - (D) obstreperous
 - (E) pugilistic

LEVEL B SENTENCE COMPLETIONS EXERCISES**Exercise 1**

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- An accident report should be written as soon as possible after the necessary ---- has been obtained.
(A) bystander
(B) formulation
(C) information
(D) charter
(E) specimen
- A change in environment is very likely to ---- a change in one's work habits.
(A) affect
(B) inflict
(C) effect
(D) prosper
(E) rupture
- With typical diplomatic maneuvering, the State Department used every known ---- to avoid expressing the avowed policy in ---- language.
(A) trick .. diplomatic
(B) page .. gobbledygook
(C) circumlocution .. concise
(D) summary .. plain
(E) formula .. cryptic
- The astute attorney asked many ---- questions of the witness in an attempt to ---- the truth.
(A) pretentious .. prolong
(B) loquacious .. placate
(C) nebulous .. mitigate
(D) probing .. elicit
(E) spurious .. verify
- The main reason for the loss of the Alamo was the ---- of Santa Ana's forces.
(A) decline
(B) felicitation
(C) preponderance
(D) isolation
(E) absence
- A cloudy suspension may be described as ----.
(A) turbid
(B) precipitous
(C) suspicious
(D) auspicious
(E) temporary
- The flamenco dancer stood still, ready to perform, his arms ----.
(A) blazing
(B) akimbo
(C) flailing
(D) deadlocked
(E) askew
- The celebrity sued the magazine, claiming that the article ---- his character.
(A) demoted
(B) deplored
(C) defamed
(D) implicated
(E) whitewashed
- To be a "joiner" is to be ----.
(A) gregarious
(B) popular
(C) hilarious
(D) woodworking
(E) singular

10. As a result of constant and unrelenting eating, he changed from slightly overweight to ----.
- (A) overrun
 - (B) parsimonious
 - (C) oblate
 - (D) obese
 - (E) lilliputian
11. When you have ---- your palate with pickles, you want no more.
- (A) scarred
 - (B) satiated
 - (C) imbibed
 - (D) covered
 - (E) palavered
12. To protect the respondents' privacy, names and Social Security numbers are ---- the questionnaires before the results are tabulated.
- (A) referred to
 - (B) deleted from
 - (C) retained in
 - (D) appended to
 - (E) computerized in
13. TASS was the ---- for Telegrafnoe Agentsvo Sovietskovo Soyuz.
- (A) homonym
 - (B) acronym
 - (C) heteronym
 - (D) antonym
 - (E) pseudonym
14. After the deluge, flood waters ---- the town.
- (A) imperiled
 - (B) redeemed
 - (C) impugned
 - (D) regaled
 - (E) traduced
15. To put off until tomorrow what you should do today is to ----.
- (A) prorate
 - (B) procrastinate
 - (C) preface
 - (D) proscribe
 - (E) promulgate

Exercise 2

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. New York's climate is not very ----; its winters give you colds, and its summers can cause heat prostration.
(A) sanitary
(B) volatile
(C) salubrious
(D) healthy
(E) pathogenic
2. One who ---- another is laughing *at* him, not *with* him.
(A) derides
(B) defiles
(C) irks
(D) buffoons
(E) harasses
3. To give in to the terrorists' demands would be a betrayal of our responsibilities; such ---- would only encourage others to adopt similar ways to gain their ends.
(A) defeats
(B) appeasement
(C) appeals
(D) subterfuge
(E) treaties
4. It is hard to believe that the Trojans could have been so easily deceived by the ---- of the wooden horse.
(A) tragedy
(B) stratagem
(C) strategy
(D) prolixity
(E) fetlocks
5. She pretended to be nonchalant but her movements betrayed signs of ----.
(A) greed
(B) weariness
(C) worry
(D) boredom
(E) evil
6. We can easily forgo a ---- we have never had, but once obtained it often is looked upon as being ----.
(A) requirement .. unusual
(B) gift .. useless
(C) bonus .. unearned
(D) luxury .. essential
(E) necessity .. important
7. ---- means an injustice so ---- that it is wicked.
(A) Iniquity .. gross
(B) Lobotomy .. inane
(C) Perjury .. mendacious
(D) Lobotomy .. pernicious
(E) Bias .. slanted
8. The navy scoured the area for over a month, but the ---- search turned up no clues.
(A) temporary
(B) cursory
(C) fruitful
(D) painstaking
(E) present
9. The ---- assumed for the sake of discussion was that business would improve for the next five years.
(A) labyrinth
(B) hypothesis
(C) outlay
(D) itinerary
(E) assumption
10. I wish you wouldn't be so ----; you make faces at everything I say.
(A) supercilious
(B) insubordinate
(C) disconsolate
(D) superficial
(E) banal

11. I felt as ---- as a fifth wheel.
- (A) rolled
 - (B) round
 - (C) superfluous
 - (D) axillary
 - (E) rotational
12. If we were to ---- our democracy with a ----, there would be no way, short of civil war, to reverse the change.
- (A) contrast .. parliament
 - (B) substitute .. constitutional monarchy
 - (C) supplant .. dictatorship
 - (D) reinforce .. three-party system
 - (E) automate .. technocracy
13. A(n) ---- look came into the poodle's eye as a dachshund wandered onto its territory.
- (A) feline
 - (B) bellicose
 - (C) onerous
 - (D) canine
 - (E) felonious
14. A few of the critics ---- the play, but in general they either disregarded or ridiculed it.
- (A) mocked
 - (B) discredited
 - (C) criticized
 - (D) denounced
 - (E) appreciated
15. The annual ---- in his school attendance always coincided with the first week of fishing season.
- (A) sequence
 - (B) hiatus
 - (C) accrual
 - (D) increment
 - (E) motivation

Exercise 3

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- During the Revolutionary War, Hessian troops fought on the British side not as allies, but as ----. They were paid in money, not glory.
(A) assistants
(B) orderlies
(C) valets
(D) infantry
(E) mercenaries
- On and on they came, countless as the blades of grass in a field, a ---- of them.
(A) myriad
(B) dryad
(C) dozen
(D) multitudinous
(E) multiplicity
- If you find peeling potatoes to be ----, perhaps you'd prefer to scrub the floors?
(A) preferable
(B) onerous
(C) infectious
(D) relevant
(E) passé
- The offenders then prostrated themselves and ---- for mercy.
(A) entreated
(B) applauded
(C) begged
(D) imprecated
(E) deprecated
- His rebelliousness was ----; it was written all over him.
(A) exterior
(B) covert
(C) implicit
(D) contumacious
(E) manifest
- A system of education should be ---- by the ---- of students it turns out, for quality is preferred to quantity.
(A) controlled .. intelligence
(B) justified .. number
(C) examined .. wealth
(D) judged .. caliber
(E) condemned .. ability
- Giving preference to his brother's son for that office smacks of ---- to me!
(A) chauvinism
(B) sycophancy
(C) nepotism
(D) nihilism
(E) pleonasm
- We seldom feel ---- when we are allowed to speak freely, but any ---- of our free speech brings anger.
(A) angry .. defense
(B) blessed .. restriction
(C) scholarly .. understanding
(D) enslaved .. misuse
(E) upset .. explanation
- Although the wind was quite dependable in those waters, the schooner had an inboard engine as a ---- just in case.
(A) relief
(B) substitute
(C) ballast
(D) generator
(E) subsidiary
- Being perfectly prepared, I took my exams with ----.
(A) aplomb
(B) pugnacity
(C) trepidation
(D) indifference
(E) resentment

11. Her speech was too ----; its meaning escaped me completely.
- (A) protracted
 - (B) concise
 - (C) sordid
 - (D) circumspect
 - (E) abstruse
12. The “life” of some subatomic particles is so ---- it has to be measured in nanoseconds.
- (A) contrived
 - (B) finite
 - (C) ephemeral
 - (D) circumscribed
 - (E) macroscopic
13. When income taxes are repealed, the ---- will have arrived.
- (A) apocalypse
 - (B) holocaust
 - (C) millstone
 - (D) milestone
 - (E) millennium
14. Government often seems to regard money as the route to social salvation: a ---- for all the troubles of humanity.
- (A) provocation
 - (B) panacea
 - (C) standard
 - (D) nucleus
 - (E) resource
15. You’ll ---- the day you voted for Zilch; he’ll break every promise he’s made to you.
- (A) regard
 - (B) eschew
 - (C) obliterate
 - (D) rue
 - (E) darken

Exercise 4

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- If he hasn't yet learned the importance of speaking well of others, he must be quite ----.
(A) loquacious
(B) oblique
(C) mathematical
(D) arcane
(E) obtuse
- Louis XIV was the ---- of ---- elegance; he wore a different outfit for practically every hour of the day.
(A) paragon .. peripatetic
(B) epitome .. sartorial
(C) acme .. epicurean
(D) architect .. gastronomic
(E) root .. European
- Favoring one child over another will only intensify ---- rivalry.
(A) fraternal
(B) sororal
(C) parental
(D) maternal
(E) sibling
- The man ---- the speaker at the meeting by shouting false accusations.
(A) corrected
(B) interfered
(C) disconcerted
(D) collapsed
(E) acknowledged
- The literal meaning of *astronaut* is "----."
(A) space jockey
(B) cosmic navigator
(C) star sailor
(D) space pilot
(E) sky pilot
- If you ---- your energy wisely you will never lack for it; if you ---- it, you'll remain poor.
(A) burn .. cauterize
(B) use .. dissipate
(C) husband .. economize
(D) expend .. spend
(E) economize .. alter
- The only fair way to choose who will have to work over the holiday is to pick someone ---- by drawing lots.
(A) covertly
(B) conspicuously
(C) randomly
(D) painstakingly
(E) senior
- Richelieu achieved eminence under Louis XIII; few cardinals since have been so politically ----.
(A) retiring
(B) unassuming
(C) prominent
(D) hesitant
(E) wavering
- People started calling him a ----; he had broken a law.
(A) conspirator
(B) transgressor
(C) transient
(D) bystander
(E) paragon
- "---- and ----," he said with a smile as he met his class for the new term.
(A) Warm .. welcome
(B) Pupils .. colleagues
(C) Friends .. countrymen
(D) Hail .. farewell
(E) Greetings .. salutations

11. I'm glad to see you have ----; patience is a virtue!
- (A) arrived
 - (B) decided
 - (C) distemper
 - (D) time
 - (E) forbearance
12. As the fog came ----, visibility dropped to five feet.
- (A) often
 - (B) silently
 - (C) nigh
 - (D) damp
 - (E) unopposed
13. A(n) ---- jogger, she could do 15 miles a day.
- (A) reluctant
 - (B) indefatigable
 - (C) outfitted
 - (D) aged
 - (E) distant
14. The ---- speech, given on the spur of the moment, received as much publicity as a carefully planned announcement.
- (A) affable
 - (B) resilient
 - (C) indigenou
 - (D) impromptu
 - (E) pernicious
15. A week of sun and exercise had a ---- effect; the dark circles under her eyes were ---- and her skin took on a rosy glow.
- (A) preemptory .. reinstated
 - (B) salutary .. obliterated
 - (C) sentient .. proscribed
 - (D) contentious .. deluded
 - (E) fulsome .. censured

Exercise 5

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. Although she is reputed to be aloof, her manner that day was so ---- that everyone felt perfectly at ease.
(A) reluctant
(B) gracious
(C) malign
(D) plausible
(E) arrogant
2. Speeding may be a ----, but fleeing from the scene of a crime is a ----.
(A) mistake .. nuisance
(B) faux pas .. crime
(C) misdemeanor .. felony
(D) felony .. misdemeanor
(E) homicide .. fratricide
3. Among his ---- was the skill of escaping from any type of handcuffs.
(A) strengths
(B) crafts
(C) habits
(D) repertoires
(E) disadvantages
4. His remarks were too ---- to be taken seriously.
(A) insipid
(B) crucial
(C) timely
(D) pointed
(E) germane
5. Familiar with the countryside, they were able to ---- the soldiers who pursued them.
(A) upbraid
(B) restrain
(C) elude
(D) abet
(E) eschew
6. A(n) ---- lawyer will help her client ---- the law.
(A) efficient .. abrogate
(B) honest .. bend
(C) unscrupulous .. evade
(D) clever .. elect
(E) forthright .. obfuscate
7. Your banker may look at you ---- if you admit to not wanting to save money.
(A) respectfully
(B) only
(C) askance
(D) directly
(E) subvertly
8. The gossip-hungry readers combed through the article for every ---- detail.
(A) lurid
(B) common
(C) nagging
(D) recurring
(E) earthy
9. Worshipping her every move, he was her most ---- admirer.
(A) beneficent
(B) fatuous
(C) ardent
(D) sophisticated
(E) urbane
10. She was stubbornly persistent; nothing or nobody could ---- her from her self-appointed mission.
(A) prevent
(B) slow
(C) arrest
(D) pervade
(E) dissuade

11. To be ---- was her lot; she was destined never to earn enough money to support herself.
- (A) important
 - (B) impulsive
 - (C) impecunious
 - (D) innocuous
 - (E) intemperate
12. There was a ---- of food on the table, and no one could finish the meal.
- (A) surfeit
 - (B) diatribe
 - (C) rancor
 - (D) vestige
 - (E) remnant
13. Thanks to the state ----, the Arts Center is able to offer the finest in music at prices affordable to all.
- (A) developments
 - (B) subsidies
 - (C) conventions
 - (D) revivals
 - (E) clearances
14. The general couldn't attend, but he sent his ----.
- (A) commandant
 - (B) commander
 - (C) adjutant
 - (D) superior
 - (E) successor
15. You can depend on a malingerer to ---- his or her duty.
- (A) perform
 - (B) pursue
 - (C) shirk
 - (D) lack
 - (E) subordinate

LEVEL C SENTENCE COMPLETIONS EXERCISES**Exercise 1**

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- Her selection was kept in ---- pending receipt of response from her references.
(A) purgatory
(B) abeyance
(C) obeisance
(D) refrigeration
(E) back
- Scattered around the dead dragon were mementos of the ----: heads, arms, and torsos of its hapless victims.
(A) contest
(B) relics
(C) prom
(D) carnage
(E) feast
- The small, prestigious school had very ---- requirements for admission.
(A) insidious
(B) stringent
(C) strident
(D) invidious
(E) salutary
- Gold is one of the most ---- elements; it can be hammered into sheets thinner than a human hair.
(A) brittle
(B) adamantine
(C) soft
(D) malleable
(E) plastic
- To call a man a coward is to cast ---- on his virility.
(A) unkindness
(B) aspersion
(C) cloud
(D) prevarication
(E) guilt
- Noah Webster was famous as a ----; his dictionaries abounded in the English-speaking world.
(A) lexicographer
(B) cartographer
(C) holographer
(D) dictographer
(E) publisher
- I don't have time to ---- with you; I'm here on business.
(A) caucus
(B) palaver
(C) brainstorm
(D) consort
(E) plunder
- Propaganda is a(n) ---- of the truth; it is a mixture of half-truths and half-lies calculated to deceive people.
(A) revision
(B) perversion
(C) inversion
(D) invasion
(E) dispersion
- The ---- conflicts of the civil war have cost untold thousands of lives.
(A) piercing
(B) hallucinatory
(C) international
(D) infinite
(E) internecine
- He had a(n) ---- knowledge of photography; he had learned it entirely by experiment, trial, and error.
(A) esoteric
(B) intimate
(C) sketchy
(D) thorough
(E) empirical

11. ---- in his income caused both feast and famine.
- (A) Reduction
 - (B) Accretion
 - (C) Taxes
 - (D) Fluctuation
 - (E) Amortization
12. The general ---- his order; he had the traitor shot instead of ----.
- (A) reinforced .. hung
 - (B) confirmed .. roasted
 - (C) rescinded .. hung
 - (D) countermanded .. hanged
 - (E) reviewed .. canonized
13. Close examination of the ---- and ---- of the island revealed that no new variety of plant or animal had been admitted for at least fifty years.
- (A) rocks .. minerals
 - (B) tracks .. trees
 - (C) shoreline .. contours
 - (D) flora .. fauna
 - (E) crustaceans .. mollusks
14. The missionary was determined to ---- the islanders; her aim in life was to bring them into the faith.
- (A) educate
 - (B) civilize
 - (C) proselytize
 - (D) protect
 - (E) sterilize
15. The impact of the situation failed to touch him; he remained ---- as a stone.
- (A) oppressive
 - (B) reticent
 - (C) immaculate
 - (D) impassive
 - (E) diffident

Exercise 2

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. If parole boards functioned properly, there would be less ----; more parolees would remain out of jail permanently.
(A) criminals
(B) graft
(C) plea bargaining
(D) recidivism
(E) chauvinism
2. Failure to use the Salk vaccine caused a ---- of polio in isolated communities; many fell ill with it.
(A) renascence
(B) recrudescence
(C) renaissance
(D) redevelopment
(E) revival
3. His uncle was the town drunk; the old ---- had never had a sober day in his life.
(A) lecher
(B) pensioner
(C) voyeur
(D) reprobate
(E) sadist
4. Never did I see a more ---- crowd than at Neumann's funeral; there wasn't a dry eye in the chapel.
(A) bellicose
(B) adipose
(C) lachrymose
(D) comatose
(E) sucrose
5. The Sunday sermon was, as usual, ----; the minister used 4,000 words where 400 would have sufficed.
(A) finite
(B) prolix
(C) prolific
(D) propounded
(E) pontifical
6. The battle finally became a ----; neither side could win.
(A) truce
(B) stalemate
(C) fiasco
(D) rout
(E) debacle
7. With her tarot cards she made a(n) ---- prediction, but it was so veiled in secrecy and mystery that I couldn't fathom it.
(A) illicit
(B) sibylline
(C) aquiline
(D) asinine
(E) bovine
8. No one knows more about the special program than she does; she has been its director since its ----.
(A) operation
(B) inception
(C) culmination
(D) fulfillment
(E) disbandment
9. He was ---- as an administrator, forever arguing with the staff.
(A) unkind
(B) contentious
(C) restive
(D) restless
(E) accepted
10. The desire for peace should not be equated with ----, for ---- peace can be maintained only by brave people.
(A) intelligence .. ignoble
(B) bravery .. stable
(C) cowardice .. lasting
(D) pacification .. transitory
(E) neutrality .. apathetic

11. The couple had been meeting secretly for years at the hotel, but their ---- were rumored among their friends.
- (A) solipsisms
 - (B) trysts
 - (C) fidelities
 - (D) disputes
 - (E) gambits
12. That judge is ---- enough to accept a bribe any time.
- (A) obsequious
 - (B) venal
 - (C) servile
 - (D) vilifying
 - (E) sanctimonious
13. Don't get involved with ---- politicians; you'll get caught in a(n) ---- from which you'll never extricate yourself.
- (A) promiscuous .. orgy
 - (B) sleazy .. quagmire
 - (C) spurious .. counterfeit
 - (D) felonious .. prison
 - (E) venal .. anathema
14. Algebra I is a ---- for Algebra II; it must be taken first.
- (A) corequisite
 - (B) precursor
 - (C) prerequisite
 - (D) sinecure
 - (E) substitute
15. Most of today's students leave school not a(n) ---- wiser.
- (A) atom
 - (B) parsec
 - (C) inch
 - (D) whit
 - (E) omega

Exercise 3

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. The solution was ----; both parties could live with it.
(A) friable
(B) tenable
(C) reprehensible
(D) trenchant
(E) frangible
2. Benedictine was a ---- treat for the count and countess; they enjoyed a glass of it every evening after dinner.
(A) postponed
(B) postposition
(C) posted
(D) postprandial
(E) posterior
3. He was considered a(n) ---- on things Russian; he claimed to have read every article written about Russia in the past two years.
(A) eclectic
(B) eremite
(C) authority
(D) teacher
(E) source
4. He was ---- as an elder statesman; his colleagues held him in highest esteem.
(A) venereal
(B) venerated
(C) venial
(D) valetudinarian
(E) valedictory
5. The ---- of such crimes between midnight and 6 A.M. has been reduced 30% since April.
(A) threat
(B) circumstance
(C) incidence
(D) graph
(E) fantasy
6. When she was pursued by the press, the film star sought ---- in her palatial home.
(A) refuge
(B) repute
(C) reserve
(D) renown
(E) reference
7. Do not ---- me for giving John a zero in Science; it is my ---- to do so.
(A) chide .. privilege
(B) thank .. trouble
(C) fire .. pleasure
(D) castigate .. prerogative
(E) distrust .. honor
8. He couldn't tell the truth if he wanted to; he was a(n) ---- liar.
(A) misguided
(B) resilient
(C) prevaricating
(D) exorbitant
(E) psychopathic
9. Their flight to escape persecution was a necessary ----; had they remained they would have been killed.
(A) escapade
(B) adventure
(C) diaspora
(D) hegira
(E) genesis
10. Snakebites are not ---- fatal, but they can some-times cause death if not treated immediately.
(A) occasionally
(B) inevitably
(C) ever
(D) never
(E) undubitably

11. The typhoon had ripped every shred of green from the palm tree; it didn't have a ---- left.
- (A) seed
 - (B) stalk
 - (C) blade
 - (D) blossom
 - (E) frond
12. A police officer's ---- job is to prevent crime.
- (A) primary
 - (B) compendious
 - (C) only
 - (D) infrequent
 - (E) ostentatious
13. The rocking of the boat made him feel ----; he soon felt the onset of an attack of ----.
- (A) oily .. anger
 - (B) bionic .. acrimony
 - (C) languid .. panic
 - (D) queasy .. nausea
 - (E) callow .. remorse
14. The soup was served in an antique china ----, which all admired.
- (A) saucer
 - (B) platter
 - (C) pot
 - (D) compote
 - (E) tureen
15. The mosque, from the air, appeared to bristle, with its six ---- pointing toward the heavens.
- (A) gibbets
 - (B) minarets
 - (C) jihads
 - (D) staffs
 - (E) halberds

Exercise 4

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- I could not bear the woodpecker's ---- rhythm; the endless choppy beat aggravated my headache.
(A) melodic
(B) staccato
(C) harmonic
(D) crescendo
(E) stentorian
- She accepted his proposal with alarming ----; she had the "yes" out of her mouth before he finished popping the question.
(A) joy
(B) verve
(C) reserve
(D) celerity
(E) acerbity
- His first novel was ----; in other words, it was dull as well as a waste of time to read.
(A) topical
(B) jejune
(C) historical
(D) platonic
(E) narcissistic
- Despite the judge's ---- to stick to the truth, the defendant perjured herself in her testimony.
(A) adjuration
(B) adjudication
(C) avowal
(D) determination
(E) blandishment
- After the chemical spill we had to drink bottled water; the well water was no longer ----.
(A) risible
(B) potable
(C) supine
(D) viable
(E) tenable
- An item cannot be sent by first-class mail if it ---- 70 pounds.
(A) exceeds
(B) is under
(C) has over
(D) holds
(E) equals
- The company received a ---- from the government to develop new sources of energy.
(A) reward
(B) compendium
(C) subsidy
(D) memorandum
(E) salary
- Because of her long experience in office management, it was ---- that she was the best person for the job.
(A) revealed
(B) assigned
(C) proved
(D) assumed
(E) promulgated
- For many years slums have been recognized for breeding disease, juvenile delinquency, and crime, which ---- not only the welfare of people who live there but also the structure of society as a whole.
(A) rebuild
(B) bolster
(C) undermine
(D) disengage
(E) weld

10. The water just below the falls was sweet, but where it entered the estuary it became ----.
- (A) murky
 - (B) brackish
 - (C) alkaline
 - (D) radioactive
 - (E) potable
11. ---- countries almost never seek military conquest; aggression does not seem to be characteristics of self-governing societies.
- (A) Democratic
 - (B) Despotic
 - (C) Agrarian
 - (D) Autocratic
 - (E) Plebeian
12. He expressed his displeasure to the mayor in ugly and threatening terms; as a result he was charged with sending a ---- communication to a public official.
- (A) pornographic
 - (B) lascivious
 - (C) holographic
 - (D) minatory
 - (E) proscribed
13. You might say that a pupil has ---- to the mind of his teacher; after all, he has the privilege of picking his brain.
- (A) resistance
 - (B) access
 - (C) congruence
 - (D) proclivity
 - (E) deference
14. As the ----, I have a right to change my own will.
- (A) witness
 - (B) peculator
 - (C) testator
 - (D) testifier
 - (E) deceased
15. ---- breathing annoys me; I can't stand snoring.
- (A) Sternal
 - (B) Stertorous
 - (C) Soporific
 - (D) Sublimate
 - (E) Salutatorian

Exercise 5

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- Commencing with radio in 1928, Buck Rogers was the ---- of all the space jockeys who followed.
(A) pariah
(B) prototype
(C) pilot
(D) pioneer
(E) pacemaker
- Her admirers were ----; her novels were translated into thirty-six languages.
(A) frenetic
(B) arcane
(C) hascent
(D) legion
(E) erudite
- Many of the other crew members panicked when the ship ran aground, but she remained ----.
(A) truculent
(B) credulous
(C) amenable
(D) imperturbable
(E) incongruent
- Until recently, *Ars Amatoria* was not studied in high school; the authorities thought it too ----; its more explicit love scenes, ----.
(A) pornographic .. deleted
(B) erotic .. taboo
(C) revealing .. eliminated
(D) pastoral .. rustic
(E) traumatic .. depicted
- His book on smoking was more ---- than ----; it was too “how to” and not enough fire and brimstone.
(A) inspiring .. instructive
(B) pedagogic .. academic
(C) didactic .. inspirational
(D) prescriptive .. descriptive
(E) autobiographical .. graphic
- Juliet, although only 14, was able to dismiss her ---- at will, so as to be alone with Romeo.
(A) stevedore
(B) students
(C) confidante
(D) paramour
(E) duenna
- The old ---- had the temper of a she-bear and the vocabulary of a sailor; she was formidable.
(A) misogynist
(B) sinner
(C) knave
(D) termagant
(E) tar
- Don't name Herbert as your ----; I wouldn't trust him with money!
(A) villain
(B) friend
(C) correspondent
(D) fiduciary
(E) domicile
- His net worth was ----; there was no way of computing how much money he had.
(A) unlimited
(B) imponderable
(C) imposing
(D) waning
(E) assumed
- The 10 years of ---- didn't mellow him; they made him bitter enough to use his freedom for seeking revenge.
(A) penance
(B) incarceration
(C) penitence
(D) extortion
(E) pillage

11. Among the workers there was complete agreement; on the other hand, there was constant bickering on the part of the ----.
- (A) workforce
 - (B) antagonists
 - (C) enemy
 - (D) disenfranchised
 - (E) managers
12. Few people are more ---- than some city dwellers I know; they think the world begins and ends within city limits.
- (A) cosmopolitan
 - (B) circumspect
 - (C) provident
 - (D) provincial
 - (E) bucolic
13. In city politics a(n) ---- voice will get you further than an honest heart; loudness is more likely to achieve results than ----.
- (A) earnest .. enthusiasm
 - (B) sonorous .. candor
 - (C) talented .. action
 - (D) silky .. shenanigans
 - (E) resounding .. promises
14. If we do identify with an unlikable, evil character in a novel, we probably do so unconsciously, allowing the darker side of our nature to explore evil ----.
- (A) consciously
 - (B) deliberately
 - (C) vicariously
 - (D) conscientiously
 - (E) unconsciously
15. The defendant could almost feel the ---- of the hostile crowd.
- (A) eyes
 - (B) sympathy
 - (C) animus
 - (D) detritus
 - (E) incubus

LEVEL D SENTENCE COMPLETIONS EXERCISES**Exercise 1**

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- Beverly Sills, the opera singer, was given the ---- “Bubbles” because of her sparkling personality.
(A) honorific
(B) soubrette
(C) sobriquet
(D) briquette
(E) role
- We usually buy flowers for ---- reasons; there is really nothing of the ---- in the purchase.
(A) morganatic .. utilitarian
(B) ulterior .. impractical
(C) aesthetic .. practical
(D) lugubrious .. elation
(E) festive .. funereal
- Despite the flawless ---- I was unable to read the letter; it was written in Hungarian.
(A) grammar
(B) spelling
(C) rhetoric
(D) meter
(E) calligraphy
- The beggar smiled ---- as he threw back the nickel, saying, “Here! You must need it more than I do.”
(A) sweetly
(B) blindly
(C) intermittently
(D) sardonically
(E) infinitely
- Most people eat to live; a(n) ---- lives to eat.
(A) aesthete
(B) spartan
(C) trencherman
(D) gourd
(E) alimentarian
- Get those ---- out of my sight; I won’t tolerate a bunch of tattered beggars in front of my restaurant!
(A) muffins
(B) ragamuffins
(C) felons
(D) miscreants
(E) poltroons
- The governor changed her mind at the last minute and granted a pardon; had she remained ----, an innocent person would have died.
(A) committed
(B) uncommitted
(C) governor
(D) exacerbated
(E) adamant
- Augmentation of the deficit caused much ---- for the general manager from the board of directors.
(A) adulation
(B) commendation
(C) approbation
(D) reprobation
(E) felicitation
- Everyone knew that the press secretary had more ---- than his predecessor; he could never be pinned down to a substantive answer.
(A) lubricity
(B) complicity
(C) duplicity
(D) lucidity
(E) temerity

10. The shark's ---- hold on life is unrivaled; it can remain viable even after half a day out of water.
- (A) constant
 - (B) tenacious
 - (C) relative
 - (D) tenuous
 - (E) transient
11. His ---- smile indicated to me that he was guilty as sin, but I would be absolutely unable to prove it in court.
- (A) sardonic
 - (B) sympathetic
 - (C) affable
 - (D) schizophrenic
 - (E) paranoiac
12. Fountains are ---- in Rome; you can hardly turn a corner without spotting one.
- (A) vicarious
 - (B) ubiquitous
 - (C) meticulous
 - (D) vacuous
 - (E) insidious
13. I will grant them ---- when they can govern themselves.
- (A) federation
 - (B) release
 - (C) autonomy
 - (D) autocracy
 - (E) hegemony
14. There was a three-year ---- in her education; she missed second, third, and fourth grades because of illness.
- (A) vacation
 - (B) surplus
 - (C) deficiency
 - (D) hiatus
 - (E) relapse
15. Beneath the thin ---- of civilization lies the ---- in humans, feral and vicious.
- (A) layer .. psyche
 - (B) history .. superego
 - (C) veneer .. beast
 - (D) protection .. subconscious
 - (E) frosting .. id

Exercise 2

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. You cannot be present in fifth-century Britain, but you can experience it ---- by reading Joy Chant's *The High Kings*.
(A) directly
(B) reminiscently
(C) vicariously
(D) subliminally
(E) infinitely
2. If my house were to ---- yours, you'd be complaining constantly about my stereo.
(A) face
(B) approach
(C) affront
(D) abut
(E) equal
3. Catherine, a passionate woman, agreed to marry a rich, ---- neighbor even though she loved a(n) ----, uneducated orphan.
(A) sophisticated .. orphaned
(B) indigent .. impoverished
(C) opulent .. unschooled
(D) affluent .. untutored
(E) educated .. poor
4. An erstwhile friendly argument degenerated into a(n) ---- that led to blows.
(A) debacle
(B) altercation
(C) litigation
(D) fisticuffs
(E) rhubarb
5. Don't deal with that ----; he's no more a doctor than Satan is a saint!
(A) devil
(B) cherub
(C) seraph
(D) quack
(E) sage
6. Those were ---- days; we didn't have a worry in the world!
(A) fraternal
(B) prewar
(C) early
(D) halcyon
(E) spartan
7. Physics was Einstein's ----; he did not claim to be a great mathematician.
(A) bugaboo
(B) forte
(C) hobby
(D) avocation
(E) Waterloo
8. There should be no ---- between them; neither has done anything to make the other bitter.
(A) matrimony
(B) acrimony
(C) alimony
(D) testimony
(E) litigation
9. As much as we tried to throw him off balance, he remained ----.
(A) equilibrated
(B) offset
(C) immaculate
(D) imperturbable
(E) disproportionate
10. I wish they wouldn't go around attempting to ---- my people, who are happy with the religion they have.
(A) persecute
(B) orient
(C) proselytize
(D) baptize
(E) secularize

11. Art was merely his ----; although he could paint and did, he remained best known for his political prowess.
- (A) profession
 - (B) calling
 - (C) weakness
 - (D) preference
 - (E) avocation
12. The villagers had nothing but ---- for their lord; he protected them from bandits and shared his land with them.
- (A) mitigation
 - (B) adulation
 - (C) tribulation
 - (D) trepidation
 - (E) consternation
13. Even a trip to the ---- would not take him far enough away from me; the world is not big enough for both of us!
- (A) continent
 - (B) pole
 - (C) antipode
 - (D) tropics
 - (E) arctic
14. There had been no ----; the cards were honestly dealt, and I lost the hand.
- (A) diamonds
 - (B) chicanery
 - (C) knaves
 - (D) elation
 - (E) contusion
15. There was a(n) ---- in the party; one group decided to back Smith and the other, Garcia.
- (A) hiatus
 - (B) concordat
 - (C) entente
 - (D) ambiguity
 - (E) schism

Exercise 3

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- Dreyfus was ---- after Zola presented proof of his innocence.
(A) indicted
(B) proliferated
(C) exonerated
(D) exasperated
(E) prolific
- You would not be so ---- if you worked out at the gym; you have loose fat all over!
(A) flaccid
(B) placid
(C) pliant
(D) complacent
(E) gaunt
- She was known for her ----; no one was more ---- than she.
(A) communism .. conservative
(B) economy .. profligate
(C) virtue .. wanton
(D) conservatism .. leftist
(E) altruism .. selfless
- Being a stickler for punctuality is just one of my ----; you'll have to accept this little fault as part of me.
(A) aversions
(B) peccadillos
(C) armadillos
(D) perversions
(E) weaknesses
- A few ---- lectures would be greatly appreciated; any change from your usual long-windedness would be welcome.
(A) prolix
(B) pithy
(C) abrogated
(D) protracted
(E) verbose
- Ancient Greek authors believed that literature should contain a perfect balance between the social and the personal, objectivity and ----, ---- and emotion.
(A) selectivity .. passion
(B) subjectivity .. reason
(C) subjection .. rationality
(D) passion .. socialism
(E) personality .. sociability
- I think this is gobbledygook. Can you ---- it?
(A) smell
(B) taste
(C) touch
(D) sense
(E) understand
- The IRS is doing its best to make a ---- of me; it takes every cent I have!
(A) millionaire
(B) mendicant
(C) mentor
(D) manager
(E) manatee
- Fiedler always conducted with great ----; his brilliance was unrivaled for over fifty years.
(A) eclat
(B) elan
(C) elite
(D) eclair
(E) encomium
- Whenever I got home late I was greeted with a ---- from both parents on the dangers of the night; it would last for hours.
(A) monologue
(B) screed
(C) chat
(D) brevet
(E) premonition

11. The ancient tomb was a shambles, all dug up and pillaged; some ---- had got there before us.
- (A) relatives
 - (B) undertakers
 - (C) ghouls
 - (D) morticians
 - (E) bureaucrats
12. Your ---- is inopportune; I am not in the mood for riddles at this time.
- (A) opposition
 - (B) leniency
 - (C) conundrum
 - (D) lemma
 - (E) equation
13. He took such a(n) ---- position that nothing could change it.
- (A) tenable
 - (B) inalienable
 - (C) entrenched
 - (D) fractious
 - (E) refectory
14. The ---- committed by the invading troops was complete; not a single house or a blade of grass remained standing.
- (A) defoliation
 - (B) spoliation
 - (C) depravity
 - (D) postmortem
 - (E) asceticism
15. His troubles were not ----; they were more of the spirit.
- (A) illusory
 - (B) clerical
 - (C) lay
 - (D) personal
 - (E) somatic

Exercise 4

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

1. If you act ---- at their party, you won't be asked back; they don't want spiteful and irritating people at their affairs.
(A) contrite
(B) passionate
(C) frenetic
(D) frantic
(E) splenetic
2. The ---- from the factory stack was ----; the thick, black smoke was evil-smelling and noxious.
(A) outflow .. aromatic
(B) overflow .. salubrious
(C) view .. provoking
(D) effluvium .. noisome
(E) effluent .. redolent
3. The ---- of a Stradivarius violin is unique; no known technology can duplicate its tone.
(A) string
(B) pitch
(C) timbre
(D) wood
(E) bridge
4. The candidate's ---- was carefully planned; she traveled to six cities and spoke at nine rallies.
(A) pogrom
(B) itinerary
(C) adjournment
(D) apparition
(E) diet
5. The cavern was so ---- that the children huddled together in terror around the feeble torches.
(A) stalactic
(B) ferocious
(C) tenebrous
(D) cold
(E) located
6. Their ---- abated as the causes of the bitterness began to disappear, one by one.
(A) storm
(B) banter
(C) forensics
(D) apathy
(E) acerbity
7. To put off until tomorrow what you should do today is to ----.
(A) prorate
(B) procrastinate
(C) premeditate
(D) proscribe
(E) prevaricate
8. The novel was advertised as a ---- romance of unbridled passions and burning desire.
(A) gossamer
(B) torrid
(C) dulcet
(D) gelid
(E) pristine
9. Her fortune was now secured; nobody could ---- it from her.
(A) preempt
(B) litigate
(C) wrest
(D) coax
(E) embezzle
10. The sails, touched by the westerly ----, slowly drew the ship landward.
(A) storm
(B) nimbuses
(C) sirocco
(D) zephyrs
(E) gales

11. The old ---- had a bad word for everyone in her company; she was the consummate shrew.
- (A) virago
 - (B) imago
 - (C) bear
 - (D) senator
 - (E) codger
12. If he continues to ---- liquor at this rate, he will end up as an alcoholic.
- (A) buy
 - (B) imbibe
 - (C) secrete
 - (D) accumulate
 - (E) cache
13. The professor was in high ----; someone had put glue on his seat, and now he couldn't rise!
- (A) mass
 - (B) gear
 - (C) anxiety
 - (D) dudgeon
 - (E) humor
14. The soldiers ---- their spears; the enemy troops, feeling the threat, backed away.
- (A) threw
 - (B) showed
 - (C) sharpened
 - (D) burnished
 - (E) brandished
15. Let's keep away from the populated part of the ----; the smaller islands are more attractive and unspoiled.
- (A) commonwealth
 - (B) sound
 - (C) archipelago
 - (D) bay
 - (E) peninsula

Exercise 5

Select the word or word pair that best completes each sentence. Mark the letter that appears before your answer.

- The farce was so ---- I couldn't stop laughing.
(A) dispirited
(B) obscure
(C) pitiful
(D) titillating
(E) mirthless
- His writing was replete with ---- like "miserably wretched" or "an original prototype."
(A) hyperboles
(B) apologies
(C) tautologies
(D) metonymies
(E) synecdoches
- In the face of an uncooperative Congress, the President may find himself ---- to accomplish the political program to which he is committed.
(A) impotent
(B) equipped
(C) neutral
(D) contingent
(E) potent
- The treaty cannot go into effect until it has been ---- by the Senate.
(A) considered
(B) debated
(C) ratified
(D) tabled
(E) voted on
- The financially strapped city managed to get a ---- on repaying the principal of its municipal bonds; the grace time saved it from bankruptcy.
(A) lien
(B) foreclosure
(C) moratorium
(D) crematorium
(E) cancellation
- The living room was a ---- of furniture ranging from 18th century to glass-and-steel modern.
(A) museum
(B) potpourri
(C) plethora
(D) prolix
(E) diaspora
- His behavior was strictly ----; he was acting like a child.
(A) kittenish
(B) playful
(C) puerile
(D) febrile
(E) senile
- Out of sheer ---- she kept putting money into a business that had proved a lost cause.
(A) wealth
(B) adversity
(C) valiance
(D) perversity
(E) pragmatism
- After the quarrel he sent flowers as a ---- gesture.
(A) rueful
(B) conciliatory
(C) sartorial
(D) stringent
(E) benevolent
- Getting a 90 in the history test ---- him with confidence.
(A) titillated
(B) reviled
(C) inflated
(D) imbued
(E) reimbursed

11. It would be ---- to ask for a raise now; the boss is in no mood to grant us a boon.
- (A) propitious
 - (B) improper
 - (C) impetuous
 - (D) impolitic
 - (E) fortuitous
12. Do not undertake a daily program of ---- exercise such as jogging without first having a physical checkup.
- (A) light
 - (B) spurious
 - (C) hazardous
 - (D) strenuous
 - (E) token
13. The police received a(n) ---- call giving them valuable information that led to an arrest. The caller refused to give his name out of fear of reprisals.
- (A) anonymous
 - (B) asinine
 - (C) private
 - (D) candid
 - (E) obscene
14. It is not the function of a newspaper to reflect on ---- but simply to record ----, leaving ethical judgments to the individual reader.
- (A) causes .. opinions
 - (B) morality .. events
 - (C) deeds .. values
 - (D) accuracy .. stories
 - (E) validity .. hearsay
15. Your teacher can't control everything; she's not ----.
- (A) omnipresent
 - (B) germane
 - (C) ambivalent
 - (D) redundant
 - (E) omnipotent