

## Chapter 8

# Cloze test

A cloze test (also cloze deletion test) is an exercise, test, or assessment consisting of a portion of text with certain words removed (cloze text), where the participant is asked to replace the missing words. Cloze tests require the ability to understand context and vocabulary in order to identify the correct words or type of words that belong in the deleted passages of a text.

**Example 1 : A language teacher may give the following passage to students:**

Today, I went to the \_\_\_\_\_ and bought some milk and eggs. I knew it was going to rain, but I forgot to take my \_\_\_\_\_, and ended up getting wet on the way \_\_\_\_\_.

### Explanation

Students would then be required to fill in the blanks with words that would best complete the passage. Context in language and content terms is essential in most, if not all, cloze tests. The first blank is preceded by "the"; therefore, a noun, an adjective or an adverb must follow. However, a conjunction follows the blank; the sentence would not be grammatically correct if anything other than a noun were in the blank. The words "milk and eggs" are important for deciding which noun to put in the blank; "market" is a possible answer; depending on the student, however, the first blank could either be store, supermarket, shop or market while umbrella or raincoat fit the second.

### HOW TO TACKLE A CLOZE TEST

- Read the text through trying to understanding the general meaning.
- Look at each missing word gap and try to imagine what the correct word should be.
- Decide which part of speech (adjective, noun, gerund, etc.) needs to be used to fill each gap.
- Read the text again, trying to fill a gap as you come to it by imagining what the correct answer should be.
- Read the text another time, this time choose the correct answer from the five answers given.
- If you are unsure of any given answer, try reading the sentence with each of the possibilities.
- Try to eliminate the obvious false choices.
- Always think about the overall meaning of the text (i.e., whether the text is negative, positive, etc.) to make sure that your answer choice fits the context.
- Trust your intuition. If you feel a word is right instinctively, it probably is correct.

## Exercise

**DIRECTIONS :** In each of the following passages, there are blanks each of which has been numbered. These numbers are printed below the passage and against each , some words are suggested, one of which fits the blank appropriately. Find out the appropriate words.

### PASSAGE -1 ( 1 - 15)

The most attractive and unique feature of crossword puzzle is that it is a game one can play alone. There are several kinds of crossword puzzles . One kind is the prize competition in which the (1) who finds the correct answer gets a big prize (2) the answers are very hard to find , since several (3) appear equally appropriate : bad, mad or sad, for (4) in the clue sentence, "people are seldom popular " Such (5) attract people who are fond of gambling , because by (6) a small entry fee , they can win big prizes. The (7) type of crossword puzzle is one in which (8) is only one possible answer to every clue. But (9) answer is elusive and calls for some detective work (10) our part. The clue gives only hints about the

word . A (11) like ' mate changes to flesh for food I (12) elude you till you realise that by changing the (13) of I mate' you getr ' meat ' your comprehension and your (14) knowledge are put to the test. The effort to (15) such crosswords is an intellectual exercise.

- |                     |                  |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. (1) persons      | (2) person       |
| (3) actor           | (4) actors       |
| 2. (1) although     | (2) though       |
| (3) but             | (4) as           |
| 3. (1) words        | (2) letters      |
| (3) alphabets       | (4) letter       |
| 4. (1) illustration | (2) assumption,  |
| (3) example         | (4) examples     |
| 5. (1) puzzles      | (2) competitions |
| (3) races           | (4) competition  |
| 6. (1) buying       | (2) paying       |
| (3) giving          | (4) gives        |
| 7. (1) second       | (2) another      |
| (3) two             | (4) first        |

8. (1) their (2) this  
(3) there (4) that
9. (1) this (2) an  
(3) any (4) another
10. (1) in (2) on  
(3) upon (4) over
11. (1) word (2) clue  
(3) puzzle (4) sports
12. (1) did (2) shall  
(3) will (4) had
13. (1) words (2) spelling  
(3) lettering (4) place
14. (1) overall (2) common sense  
(3) general (4) no need
15. (1) solve (2) think of  
(3) dissolve (4) think

### **PASSAGE -2 (16 - 25)**

Women have (16) made (17) in the corporate workplace but certainly not as much as they had (18) We have new laws, rules and (19) relating to women in the workplace, but what we have not changed much is the male (20) Women have fallen short in their goals because we (21) the potency of the male need to (22) their power. We can abide (23) by the laws and rules we create in order to (24) women an equal opportunity in the corporate workplace and still not (25) the problems that afflicted and eventually capsized the women's raft.

16. (1) perhaps (2) seldom  
(3) optimistically (4) not  
(5) undoubtedly
17. (1) progress (2) efforts  
(3) attempts (4) decisions  
(5) automation
18. (1) predisposed (2) prescribed  
(3) expected (4) informed  
(5) encompassed
19. (1) activities (2) cases  
(3) policies (4) problems  
(5) revolutions
20. (1) hatred (2) patterns  
(3) achievements (4) population  
(5) behaviour
21. (a) retaliate (2) respect  
(3) risk (4) minimise  
(5) underestimate
22. (1) maintain (2) know  
(3) absolve (4) evolve  
(5) diminish
23. (1) partially (2) occasionally  
(3) them (4) excessively  
(5) scrupulously
24. (1) share (2) deny  
(3) assure (4) donate  
(5) deprive
25. (1) overcome (2) mentioned  
(3) judge (4) explore  
(5) emphasise

### **PASSAGE -3 (26 - 35)**

Architecture is a unique (26) of art and science that has (27) out of man's primary need for shelter. It is concerned with the design and (28) of buildings in their sociological, technological and environmental context. This field is not only (29) but also provides the (30) of designing and building pleasing and (31) refined structures to serve various needs. (32) the fairly large number of practising architects . the countrywide (33) in the initial earnings in the field are relatively (34) what you make thereafter will depend entirely on your (35).

26. (1) prooess (2) procedure  
(3) blend (4) subject  
(5) portion
27. (1) arisen (2) earned  
(3) contrived (4) fizzled  
(5) drifted
28. (1) appearance (2) repairing  
(3) decoration (4) construction  
(5) painting
29. (1) rewarding (2) vast  
(3) enocouraging (4) strenuous  
(5) fatiguing
30. (1) readily (2) amenities  
(3) infrastructure (4) facility  
(5) satisfaction
31. (1) readily (2) Principally  
(3) aesthetically (4) ideologically  
(5) practically
32. (1) Despite (2) Regarding  
(3) Assuming (4) Having  
(5) considering
33. (1) deterioration (2) spurt  
(3) lethargy (4) slack  
(5) variation
34. (1) exorbitant (2) negligible  
(3) unpredictable (4) modest  
(5) escalating
35. (1) need (2) experience  
(3) expectation (4) appearance  
(5) ambition

### **PASSAGE-4 (36 - 50)**

It was with pleasant surprise that Swaminathan stumbled into his own set, which he had thought was not at school .except Rajam and Mani all were there. Under the huge tama-rind tree they were playing some game Swaminathan joined them with a low, ecstatic cry. The (36) disappointed him . They turned their (37) to him with a faint (38) and returned to their game. What (39) Swaminathatn most was that even the (40) Somu was grim. something seemed to be (41) somewhere. Swaminathan assumed an easy (42) and shouted, " Boys, what about (43) place for me in the (44) ? " Nobody answered this Swaminathan paused and (45) that he was waiting for a (46) in the game. "It is a (47) "There are (48) people who can be very (49) as tails, " said Samuel . The (50) laughed at this, " you said tail, didn't you? " asked Sankar .

36. (1) response (2) answer  
(3) reply (4) attention
37. (1) heads (2) faces  
(3) profiles (4) hands

38. (1) expression (2) assessment  
(3) smile (4) around
39. (1) surprised (2) bewildered  
(3) astonished (4) seen
40. (1) sympathetic (2) hearty  
(3) genial (4) friendly
41. (1) improper (2) wrong  
(3) unreasonable (4) right
42. (1) accent (2) modulation  
(3) tone (4) nothing
43. (1) a little (2) a small  
(3) some (4) few
44. (1) match (2) game  
(3) sport (4) athletics
45. (1) announced (2) reported  
(3) proclaimed (4) shouted
46. (1) situation (2) position  
(3) place (4) going
47. (1) fellow - feeling (2) disaster  
(3) pity (4) condition
48. (1) Suddenly (2) curtly  
(3) briefly (4) accidentally
49. (1) efficient (2) capable  
(3) skilful (4) learned
50. (1) balance (2) remainder  
(3) rest (4) other

#### **PASSAGE -5 (51 - 60)**

Faced with an (51) number and variety of products on the market, managers are finding it more difficult to (52) demand and plan production and orders (53) As a result (54) forecasts are increasing and , along with them , the costs of those errors Many managers today, (55) speed is the (56), have turned to one or another popular production scheduling system. But these tools tackle only part of the problem (57) really needed is a way to (58) forecasts and simultaneously redesign planning processes to (59) the impact of (60) forecasts.

51. (1) equal (2) exact  
(3) eccentric (4) unprecedented  
(5) optimum
52. (1) register (2) accept  
(3) ignore (4) predict  
(5) meet
53. (1) spontaneously (2) positively  
(3) accordingly (4) quickly  
(5) immediately
54. (1) exorbitant (2) inadequate  
(3) frequent (4) buoyant  
(5) inaccurate
55. (1) not withstanding (2) believing  
(3) visualizing (4) neglecting  
(5) consider
56. (1) lacuna (2) outcome  
(3) source (4) answer  
(5) problem
57. (1) what's (2) that's  
(3) one (4) managers  
(5) companies
58. (1) improve (2) negate  
(3) vitiate (4) obtain  
(5) ignore

59. (1) popular (2) counter  
(3) minimize (4) substantiate  
(5) dangerous
60. (1) popular (2) erroneous  
(3) unpredicted (4) absolute  
(5) dangerous

#### **PASSAGE -6 (61 - 70)**

Now-a-days, under the (61) system of education, however good it may be, when a young man comes out of the university, there seems to be this (62) in him that the higher the standard of living rises, the less should a man work. Thus, mathematically, higher the standard of living, according to this misconceived notion, the less the (63) ultimately, what? should be the highest standard of living then? (64) work ! This leads to an unhealthy (65) among the workers . A typist who types over twenty letters a day asks his (66) how many letters he had typed that day. The latter (67) " fifteen". The former thinks , " Tomorrow I should type only fifteen or even (68). This tendency is quite (69) and may ultimately lead to (70) even one's family life may be affected adversely due to such tendency.

61. (1) extinct (2) proposed  
(3) developed (4) modern  
(5) outdated
62. (1) apprehension (2) realisation  
(3) anxiety (4) worry  
(5) misconception
63. (1) work (2) time  
(3) salary (4) energy  
(5) comfort
64. (1) Ample (2) No  
(3) Minimum (4) Less  
(5) Maximum
65. (1) ambition (2) jealousy  
(3) delay (4) dispute  
(5) competition
66. (1) colleague (2) client  
(3) boss (4) subordinate  
(5) employee
67. (1) remembers (2) types  
(3) suggests (4) replies  
(5) does
68. (1) more (2) all  
(3) less (4) some  
(5) few
69. (1) unnatural (2) unfortunates  
(3) healthy (4) heartening  
(5) discouraging
70. (1) retardation (2) denial  
(3) evil (4) complexity  
(5) progress

#### **PASSAGE - 7 (71 - 80)**

In view of the (71) demand for personnel with commerce background, in the post-liberalisation period, cousses in commerce have (72) the attention of students and parents. There is growing (73) for these courses not only in schools but also in colleges. But the (74) of commerce education in schools leaves (75) to be desired. Its popularity, importance and quality, to a large extent, depends much on the teaching methodology being (76) in

schools. Of course, the (77) review and (78) of syllabi also (79). But this aspect is (80) taken care of suitably, by the concerned organisations

71. (1) diminishing (2) exaggerated  
(3) increaseing (4) tremendous  
(5) unreasonable
72. (1) attracted (2) ameliorated  
(3) distorted (4) encouraged  
(5) weighed
73. (1) commotion (2) contempt  
(3) demand (4) dissatisfaction  
(5) urgency
74. (1) awareness (2) quality  
(3) intricacy (4) necessity  
(5) status
75. (1) every thing (2) much  
(3) nothing (4) scope  
(5) short
76. (1) abandoned (2) assimilated  
(3) contemplated (4) practised  
(5) taught
77. (1) expert (2) general  
(3) partial (4) periodical  
(5) unscrupulous
78. (1) formulation (2) discussions  
(3) perusal (4) reduction  
(5) updating
79. (1) desires (2) encompasses  
(3) flourishes (4) matter  
(5) needs
80. (1) being (2) duly  
(3) never (4) often  
(5) seldom

#### **PASSAGE - 8 (81 - 90)**

Many parents greet their children's teenage years with needless dread. While teens (81) assault us with heavy-metal music, (82) outlandish clothes and spend all (83) time with friends, such behaviour (84) adds up to full-scale revolt. Teenage (85), according to psychologist Laurence Steinberg, has been (86) exaggerated. Sociologist Sanford Dornbusch agrees. "The (87) that teenagers inevitably rebel is a (88) that has the potential for great family (89)," says Dornbusch. He believes the notion can (90) communication during this critical time for parents to influence youngsters.

81. (1) can (2) must  
(3) may (4) should
82. (1) show (2) dress  
(3) put (4) flaunt
83. (1) her (2) his  
(3) their (4) our
84. (1) sporadically (2) always  
(3) infrequently (4) scarcely
85. (1) rebellion (2) subversion  
(3) mania (4) revolution
86. (1) always (2) never  
(3) greatly (4) hardly
87. (1) complaint (2) surmise  
(3) accusation (4) idea

88. (1) myth (2) story  
(3) fact (4) reality
89. (1) ruin (2) downfall  
(3) harm (4) defeat
90. (1) destroy (2) suffocate  
(3) damage (4) injure

#### **PASSAGE - 9 (91 - 100)**

All writers are vain, selfish and lazy, and at the very (91) of their motives there lies a mystery. Writing a book is a horrible, exhausting struggle, like a long (92) of some painful illness. One would never undertake such a thing if one were not (93) by some demon whom one can neither (94) nor understand. For all one knows that demon is simply the same (95) that makes a baby (96) for attention. And yet it is also true that one can write nothing readable unless one constantly struggles to (97) one's own personality. Good prose is like a window pane. I cannot say with certainty which of my motives are the strongest, but I know which of them deserve to be followed. And (98) through my work, I see that it is (99) where I lacked a political purpose that I wrote lifeless books and was (100) into purple passages, sentences without meaning, decorative adjectives and humbug generally.

91. (1) mention (2) bottom  
(3) idea (4) consideration
92. (1) bout (2) feeling  
(3) source (4) condition
93. (1) driven but (2) driven for  
(3) driven on (4) driven at
94. (1) help (2) resist  
(3) like (4) conquer
95. (1) feeling (2) sense  
(3) desire (4) instinct
96. (1) squall (2) play  
(3) desire (4) look
97. (1) overcome (2) change  
(3) efface (4) deface
98. (1) looking in (2) looking for  
(3) looking at (4) looking back
99. (1) interestingly (2) seldom  
(3) constantly (4) invariably
100. (1) inspired (2) betrayed  
(3) moved (4) introduced

#### **PASSAGE - 10 (101 - 110)**

Fundamentally, all human (101) possess combinations of fixed inherited traits. All men possess the (102) highly developed nervous system, backbones, erect posture, hair etc. Therefore, (103) among men arise only in (104) changes of this (105) pattern. Racial (106) represent one of the finest distinctions and are based on certain (107) differences. Two races may be (108) in hair colour, in eye colour but (109), in stature while two others may be (110) in stature but differ in the colour of eyes and hair.

101. (1) animal (2) beings  
(3) mind (4) society  
(5) thinking
102. (1) same (2) large  
(3) natural (4) different  
(5) biological
103. (1) growth (2) sameness  
(3) substance (4) variations  
(5) naturalness

104. (1) no (2) large  
(3) minor (4) artificial  
(5) fundamental
105. (1) mad (2) basic  
(3) maddening (4) fluctuating  
(5) picturesque
106. (1) hatred (2) clashes  
(3) tolerance (4) sameness  
(5) differences
107. (1) neat (2) minor  
(3) massive (4) clearcut  
(5) unnoticeable
108. (1) alike (2) different  
(3) beautiful (4) untouched  
(5) mismatched
109. (1) same (2) tall  
(3) close (4) matched  
(5) different
110. (1) ugly (2) tall  
(3) same (4) short  
(5) uncouth

### PASSAGE - 11 (111 - 120)

Broadly speaking letters may be said to (111) into two classes: the formal and (112) Formal letters (113) of official or business matters and are (114) to an employer, officials of a department or institutions. Letters to the (115) of a newspaper also belong to this class. In fact all (116) using formal pattern is of this category. The (117) has to be precisely stated. It must be (118) in style and quite (119) No (120) element has any place in it.

111. (1) describe (2) fall  
(3) escape (4) rise
112. (1) affectionate (2) abusive  
(3) personal (4) flattering
113. (1) consist (2) apprise  
(3) contain (4) comprise
114. (1) addressed (2) prayed  
(3) respected (4) typed
115. (1) printer (2) publisher  
(3) salesman (4) editor
116. (1) writings (2) columns  
(3) correspondence (4) letters
117. (1) language (2) content  
(3) criticism (4) objection
118. (1) lucid (2) florid  
(3) high (4) descriptive
119. (1) creative (2) objective  
(3) critical (4) subjective
120. (1) unifying (2) divisive  
(3) malicious (4) personal

### PASSAGE - 12 (121 - 130)

Dhritrashtra, the elder brother of the Pandu, was blind by birth. When he grew young, he was married to Gandhari. She loved him so (121) that she (122) up her own eyes with a cloth. A hundred sons were born to Dhritrashtra and Gandhari. They were called Kauravas. Duryodhana was the (123) son of Dhritrashtra, who was quite obstinate by nature. When Kunti (124) to Hastinapur

with her five sons, Duryodhana did not (125) it. He wanted that the Pandavas should live in the forest with their mother, Kunti. In fact he wanted to rule (126) Hastinapur without any interference in his affairs, although outwardly he made a (127) of happiness. His mother Gandhari consoled Kunti but her son Duryodhana did not like this at all. Pandavas were so good and (128) that every one who saw them (129) them. The people of Hastinapur began to give greater (130) to the Pandavas than to the Kauravas.

121. (1) closely (2) deeply  
(3) keenly (4) excessively
122. (1) closed (2) folded  
(3) bound (4) blinded
123. (1) eldest (2) greatest  
(3) dearest (4) loveliest
124. (1) refuted (2) retracted  
(3) receded (4) returned
125. (1) concede (2) approve  
(3) understand (4) like
126. (1) on (2) over  
(3) upon (4) from
127. (1) show (2) pretention  
(3) face (4) pretext
128. (1) feeble (2) attractive  
(3) innocent (4) noble
129. (1) glorified (2) praised  
(3) respected (4) applauded
130. (1) importance (2) praise  
(3) consideration (4) admiration

### PASSAGES - 13 (131 - 140)

I want to avoid violence. Non-violence (131) the first article of my faith. It is also the (132) article of my creed. But I had to (133) my choice. I had either to submit (134) a system which I considered (135) done irreparable harm to my country, (136) incur the risk of the mad fury (137) my people bursting forth, when they (138) the truth from my lips. I (139) that my people have sometimes (140) mad. I am deeply sorry for it.

131. (1) was (2) be  
(3) is (4) being
132. (1) last (2) common  
(3) simple (4) unique
133. (1) make (2) select  
(3) prepare (4) do
134. (1) over (2) in  
(3) against (4) to
135. (1) is (2) was  
(3) had (4) has
136. (1) nor (2) but  
(3) or (4) and
137. (1) with (2) by  
(3) in (4) of
138. (1) listen (2) get  
(3) understood (4) understand
139. (1) know (2) knows  
(3) knew (4) known
140. (1) going (2) gone  
(3) goes (4) went

**PASSAGE - 14 (141 - 150)**

Some people believe that marriages are made in heaven. One cannot say (141) this is true or not. However, in America now many (142) who get married seek to evolve a fool proof (143) to ensure that the marriage survives. However, the idea of married persons (144) the burden of domestic chores, instead of all the dirty work being dumped on the woman has (145) been propagated by the feminist (146) and it has gradually, if grudgingly, been (147) This arrangement may work on a temporary basis but taking (148) of a particular domestic work on a permanent basis will pose problems of its own. For instance, taking out the rubbish may (149) make a refreshing change from washing baby's nappies. However, a contract is a contract and must be (150) You may not like it but this is what life is coming out to be in the most modern of the countries in the world.

141. (1) whether (2) still  
(3) however (4) that  
142. (1) pairs (2) men  
(3) couples (4) women  
143. (1) method (2) project  
(3) plan (4) system  
144. (1) executing (2) dividing  
(3) undertaking (4) sharing  
145. (1) long (2) sometimes  
(3) always (4) occasionally  
146. (1) group (2) lobby  
(3) section (4) faction  
147. (1) affirmed (2) approved  
(3) accepted (4) favoured  
148. (1) control (2) care  
(3) charge (4) duty  
149. (1) occasionally (2) often  
(3) intermittently (4) rarely  
150. (1) respected (2) executed  
(3) maintained (4) obeyed

**PASSAGE - 15 (151 - 160)**

We will be crushed if civil (151) is started. It will be a (152) to the clock. The technique of (153) against it has been (154) We may have to wait (155) a year or more, for a suitable (156) to be created. Any hasty (157) may result in complete (158) Labour troubles will (159) to violence and there will be (160) discord.

151. (1) riot (2) disturbance  
(3) war (4) disobedience  
152. (1) damage (2) reversal  
(3) setback (4) rewinding  
153. (1) defence (2) protection  
(3) fighting (4) guarding  
154. (1) learnt (2) practised  
(3) rehearsed (4) perfected  
155. (1) at least (2) minimum  
(3) for (4) approximately  
156. (1) condition (2) climate  
(3) atmosphere (4) weather  
157. (1) decision (2) work  
(3) deed (4) action  
158. (1) demoralization (2) doom  
(3) disobedience (4) disaster  
159. (1) draw (2) take  
(3) lead (4) grow  
160. (1) labour (2) communal  
(3) religious (4) community

**ANSWER KEY**

1	(2)	2	(3)	3	(1)	4	(3)	5	(2)	6	(2)	7	(1)	8	(3)
9	(2)	10	(2)	11	(3)	12	(2)	13	(2)	14	(3)	15	(1)	16	(5)
17	(1)	18	(3)	19	(3)	20	(5)	21	(2)	22	(1)	23	(4)	24	(3)
25	(1)	26	(3)	27	(1)	28	(4)	29	(2)	30	(3)	31	(3)	32	(1)
33	(2)	34	(4)	35	(2)	36	(1)	37	(1)	38	(3)	39	(1)	40	(3)
41	(2)	42	(3)	43	(1)	44	(4)	45	(3)	46	(3)	47	(3)	48	(3)
49	(2)	50	(3)	51	(4)	52	(4)	53	(3)	54	(5)	55	(2)	56	(4)
57	(1)	58	(1)	59	(3)	60	(2)	61	(4)	62	(5)	63	(1)	64	(2)
65	(1)	66	(3)	67	(4)	68	(3)	69	(5)	70	(1)	71	(3)	72	(1)
73	(3)	74	(2)	75	(2)	76	(4)	77	(4)	78	(3)	79	(4)	80	(5)
81	(3)	82	(4)	83	(3)	84	(2)	85	(1)	86	(3)	87	(4)	88	(4)
89	(1)	90	(2)	91	(2)	92	(1)	93	(4)	94	(2)	95	(3)	96	(1)
97	(3)	98	(4)	99	(4)	100	(3)	101	(2)	102	(1)	103	(4)	104	(3)
105	(2)	106	(5)	107	(4)	108	(1)	109	(5)	110	(3)	111	(2)	112	(3)
113	(1)	114	(1)	115	(4)	116	(3)	117	(1)	118	(1)	119	(2)	120	(4)
121	(2)	122	(3)	123	(1)	124	(4)	125	(4)	126	(2)	127	(1)	128	(4)
129	(2)	130	(1)	131	(3)	132	(1)	133	(1)	134	(4)	135	(3)	136	(3)
137	(4)	138	(2)	139	(1)	140	(2)	141	(1)	142	(3)	143	(4)	144	(4)
145	(1)	146	(2)	147	(3)	148	(3)	149	(1)	150	(1)	151	(4)	152	(3)
153	(3)	154	(1)	155	(1)	156	(3)	157	(4)	158	(4)	159	(3)	160	(2)