

Sentence Completion

This Unit is a very important section for any CUCET entrance examination preparation. It is the building block for all your basics in the English language and a useful handbook to help you score well in the paper. Questions pertaining to the usage of the language are asked in almost all examinations and you need to understand the types of questions that could be asked. Completing sentences in grammatically correct English, improving a given sentence or even transforming a sentence into another form without changing its meaning, content or tense can be a very challenging task.

Going through this unit will help you in a big way. However, you can master this art, if you:

- Do all the worksheets on the given section.
- Read, read and read English every day – a good newspaper, newsmagazines, which will help you in your preparation for General Knowledge too, fiction, non-fiction, etc.

Sentence Completion

First things first; before we begin with the sentence completion section, you must have knowledge of how a simple sentence in English is constructed.

A sentence is a group of words that makes complete sense.

A **phrase** is merely a group of words that gives a meaning when used in a sentence.

E.g. “in the morning”. The sun rises **in the morning**.

“of great beauty” – It was a sunrise **of great beauty**.

Thus, a phrase is a part of a sentence. A sentence has a subject, a verb and conveys full meaning.

We can classify sentences according to their **clause structure**. A group of words, which forms a part of a sentence, and contains a subject and a predicate, is called a **clause**. Sentences containing more than one clause are **complex or compound**.

The major types are :

- Simple sentences (one main clause* and no subordinate clause**)
The people spoke about the leader’s inefficiency. (main clause) (no subordinate clause)
- Complex sentences (one main clause and at least one subordinate clause)
Although I passed the examination, I was not very happy.

(‘Although I passed the examination’ is an example of subordinate clause).

- Compound sentences (two or more main clauses)
My father called me in the morning (main clause) **and** I told him (main clause) that I would meet the Principal immediately (sub clause). ‘And’ is the conjunction that connects the two main clauses.

* A **main clause** is an independent clause that has a subject and a predicate and which can stand by itself as a statement.

* A **subordinate clause** is a part of a sentence and has a subject and a predicate but needs a main clause to make it a complete statement.

With these sentence patterns in mind, we can look into the Sentence Completion questions, commonly referred to as “fill in the blanks,” which usually have a sentence with one or two blanks, which you are required to fill in with appropriate word(s) from the choices given.

You must keep in mind that you have to choose the “best” word from a list. So even if more than one word would fit in the sentence grammatically, you must choose the word that is most appropriate or the one that best expresses the meaning and suits the context of the sentence.

While your vocabulary is of prime importance, here you have a context. This is a blessing because it is possible to read an incomplete sentence, and guess, knowing the context, what kind of word *should* be in the blank. Therefore, it allows you to use your natural knowledge of English, the instinctive “feel” which tells you whether a given answer is correct or not.

It is possible to read a sentence through and think of what word or word type you should substitute. Let us work with the sentence:

“In temperament they were a complete contrast: the older man was quiet, courteous, and slightly_____, the younger man was talkative, _____, and quite gregarious.”

And your choices are:

- reserved, brash
- garrulous, asocial
- agitated, friendly
- extrovert, introvert

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There will be **clue words**; words that suggest the correct answer choice. Looking at the second blank first, we can see we need a word that denotes a social, outgoing person. We know this because the words “complete contrast” indicate that the second blank should be a word for someone diametrically different from “quiet and courteous”- someone who is talkative and outgoing. Also, one must infer clues from the context - the second blank should be filled with a word that goes with talkative...similarly the first blank must be filled in context, meaning something along the lines of “quiet and courteous”. Hence, option (a) is correct.

Sometimes the sentence that requires completion may be a difficult one and you will need to delve into the words to understand the tone / the mood that is coming through and use that as a clue to make your choice. Take this sentence: “He boasts that he is a man without prejudices; this _____ itself is a very great _____.”

And your choices are:

- (a) realisation; accomplishment
- (b) statement; achievement
- (c) fact; concession
- (d) concept; feat
- (e) pretension; prejudice

Even if a sentence seems difficult, you can't look at it that way. You've got to consider it and say that there must be clues in those words or phrases which you could infer from, to deduce the correct answer. Here, the word “boasts” is a key word, as is the word “itself” in the latter part of the sentence. So you start by saying that the sentence has a tone of negativity - the person is considered boastful; it is unlikely that the completed meaning will be one of congratulation or respect. Then, there is the word ‘itself’ that gives a clue that there is likely to be a repetition of something said in the first part. Let us take each of the options, one by one:

- (a) Has a positive tone, not what the word ‘boast’ would go well with. We will have to reject it.
- (b) Again, a positive tone that is not fitting.
- (c) While ‘fact’ may seem probable, ‘concession’ means to give in or an allowance and that does not work well with boasting.
- (d) Here, feat gives a positive tone, so we reject it.
- (e) This option seems to fit best – there is a negative meaning of ‘pretension’ and ‘itself’ refers to prejudice in the first part... likely to be the right choice.

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So we are correct in selecting the option (e) by the process of eliminating the wrong ones based on the tone and mood we picked up.

Clue Words to Remember

Clue words indicate the direction and purpose of a sentence, and help you to guess what kind of word(s) may be put into the blanks in a given sentence.

Typically, clue words are “connecting” words, which link two parts of a sentence, as listed below :

- 1. they can connect/link **similar ideas**,
- 2. they can connect/link **opposing ideas**, or
- 3. they can show **cause** and **effect** in the two parts of a sentence that they link.

Knowing the purpose, or nature of a sentence in this manner is vital for deciding what kind of a word will fit a blank in a given sentence.

- 1. When two parts of a sentence express similar ideas, you will find words like ‘and’, ‘additionally’, ‘furthermore’. These suggest that the same idea / mood / opinion is being carried on. You should look for words in the choice list that support the same.

One type of sentence with similar ideas is the “**synonym sentence**.” In this type of sentence, you must identify the word for which you will choose a synonym from the answer choices. Your common sense and an understanding of vocabulary are essential.

E.g.

Outgoing and _____ by nature, Urmila became even more gregarious at the company party.

- (a) reclusive (b) solitary
- (c) belligerent (d) affable

Notice the word “and.” This is a signal that this may be a synonym sentence (although you could just use common sense). In the above sentence, you must choose the word that is a synonym to ‘outgoing’. ‘Reclusive’ and ‘solitary’ are opposite of ‘outgoing’; and ‘belligerent’ does not go with ‘gregarious’. If you know your meanings, you know that ‘affable’ is the only word that even comes close to ‘outgoing’, therefore it is the answer.

Similar or parallel ideas or synonyms are indicated by words like:

and	also	furthermore	besides	moreover
as well	again	always	never	each
every	must	all	the fact that	in addition
too	additionally	moreover	as well as	indeed

Practice: Make a sentence using each of the words given above.

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2. If there is a sentence with two parts, connected with “but,” then you know that the ideas expressed in the two parts of the sentence must be **contrasting**. Therefore, if the first part of the sentence describes the man as good looking, and the second part has a blank to fill in about this man, you will know that the blank must be filled by a word that describes the man **negatively**, since the clue word “but” tells us that contrasting ideas are expressed in the two parts of the sentence. Words such as “**but, in spite of, yet, despite, nevertheless, ironically, whereas, on the contrary, although, by contrast, however, unfortunately, and on the other hand**” are all examples of words of contrast. Whenever you see such words, your antennae need to go up. They are flipping / changing the direction of that sentence.

Therefore, in a sentence where one of these phrases is used, suppose you are inclined to fill in that word, before you see the “word of contrast”, then chances are that, if the word of contrast is present, the meaning of the sentence will be flipped around, and you will have to use a negative word, and vice-versa.

For instance, in the sentence: “Musharraf was a great looking guy, but he hadn’t taken a bath for a while; so he smelt _____.” The “but” flips around the meaning of the sentence completely. Without the “but” and the second part of the sentence, you would have probably filled in a positive word, such as “divine”, but now you **know** you have to fill in a negative word. Something like “foul” would be a good choice in this context. And of course, in questions of this type where answer choices are given, your task is much easier, because you can get some idea of what the answer is likely to be without even looking at the choices - as described earlier, then once you look at the answers, you can probably eliminate most of the choices, leaving only one or two likely to be the right answer.

An antonym sentence is solved in the same way as a synonym one, except that you have to keep in mind that the words in the blank will be opposites of the other idea in the sentence, not synonyms.

Opposing or contrasting ideas are indicated by words like:

although	however	but	nevertheless	in contrast
in spite of	on the contrary	usually	if	instead
despite	rather than	whereas	yet	even though

Practice: Make a sentence using each of the words given above.

Take this sentence: Although Mrs. Peters _____ an interest in the spiritual well being of the parishioners, in actuality her concern for their welfare was so _____ as to be practically non-existent.

- (a) manifested...exemplary
- (b) simulated...profound
- (c) confessed...circumstantial
- (d) feigned...negligible

Which words give you a clue of the relationship between the first part and the second part of the sentence? Yes, the word, ‘although’ and ‘in actuality’! These tell us that something that we read about in the first part is contradicted ‘in actuality’.

Option (a) gets eliminated outrightly as a ‘manifested’ interest would be ‘exemplary’ and there is no contradiction in it.

Option (b) is also inappropriate for the same reason, as a simulated interest that is profound does not bring out any contradiction. Option (c) or option (d) needs to be considered. The word ‘confessed’ has a tone or feeling of honesty while ‘feigned’ indicates deceit and duplicity, which correctly begins the sentence to later reveal the low or negligible actual interest. Therefore, option (d) is correct.

3. When two parts of a sentence have a cause and effect relation, it is easy to guess the possible answer. This type of problem is fairly simple - you will be given either the cause and you have to figure out the effect, or you will be given the effect, and you will have to figure out the cause.

Let us work this out:

The Health Ministry rejected the experimental medicine after conducting tests for toxicity because the patients who used it experienced _____ effects.

- (a) non-toxic
- (b) refreshing
- (c) harmful
- (d) toxic

Notice that the sentence supplies you with the effect, “The Health Ministry rejected the experimental medicine...” Now ask yourself, “What would cause them to reject the medicine?” By using common sense, you can figure out that whatever it is, it must be negative. Now go through the words. You’ll find that the only negative words are “harmful “ and “toxic”. Since the tests were for toxicity, “toxic” is more relevant than “harmful”. There is the possibility that more than one negative word is given in the list of choices, in which case you must use your common sense to figure out which word best fits the given context.

Cause and effect relationships in a sentence are indicated by:

in fact	certainly	of course	surely	by all means
undoubtedly	Similarly	as a result	because	in order to
hence	therefore	consequently	Thus	was caused by
due to	since			

Practice: Make a sentence using each word given above.

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Other tips for Sentence Completion

Structural clues - or clues which you can infer by studying the way the sentence is constructed have been discussed. You have learnt to look for sentences which:

- Link two phrases with support words and phrases (“in addition” and “also”),
- Show contrast or shifts in direction (“instead” and “despite”),
- Signal a turn of events or the unexpected (“ironically” and “surprising”), and
- Show cause and effect.

Let us study some finer points that will make the exercise easier for you:

1. **In Sentence Completion questions with only one blank, if you see exact synonyms among the answer choices, they have to be wrong so eliminate them!**

This is so, because if two words in the choices are exact synonyms, they mean the same thing. That means if one is a correct answer, so is the other. Since you can't have two correct answers, both of them are wrong! Keep in mind that similar words are **not** synonyms. Frequently, different answer choices contain words that are **similar** in meaning, not exactly the same. This is to confuse you - if they are synonyms, both cannot be correct, but if they are **similar** in meaning, then you cannot eliminate both - either of the two answer-choices might be correct.

Take this sentence: Mr Natwarlal is _____ for his evil deeds.

- (a) notorious (b) famous
(c) popular (d) emotional

In the answer choices, all options are in the adjectival form saying something about the subject. Options (b) and (c) are positive in connotation; the word 'evil' in the sentence contradicts the answer-choices. The option (a) 'notorious' fits the blank and (d) is totally out of context as 'evil' and 'emotional' have no relation.

2. **A comma before and after a group of words implies that those words either define or elaborate a point made prior to it. Use this explanation to your advantage.**

In the sentence: Rahul found that Bangalore's infrastructure, its transport system and electric supply, were severely inadequate.

From this sentence, you can deduce that infrastructure includes the transport system and electric supply. So if one of them was a blank, for instance there was a blank in place of 'transport system' or 'electric supply' you would know that the

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blank has to be filled by something that is a part of city infrastructure.

3. **In a two blanks sentence, the choices given can confuse you as in the choice pair, one word will be right (it could fit in) and the other wrong (it could not fit in).**

This is done deliberately. Take each pair and work thoroughly through.

Take this sentence: The law suit was resolved after many years of _____ litigation and the defendant was ordered to pay _____.

- (a) bitter, charges (b) acrimonious, restitution
(c) futile, salaries (d) unnecessary, wages

Here, at first glance option (a) has 'bitter' that relates well with 'litigation'; 'acrimonious' in (b) also means ill feeling; 'futile' in (c) also speaks of a wasted battle since the defendant had to pay back something; and the word 'unnecessary' is out of context.

The second pair of options will help you in focusing on the right choice. While 'charges' in (a) refers to a price, the defendant ordered to pay charges make no sense. The words 'salaries' and 'wages' in (c) and (d) are misleading clues. 'restitution' in (b) means returning or restoring something to its rightful owner. Therefore, if read in this light, we understand that after years of acrimonious litigation, the accused was asked to return or restore something to its rightful owner.

Thus, to answer such questions, each pair of words in the answer options has to be worked upon.

4. **One of the smart tactics that can be applied while attacking sentence completion questions is that you predict an answer when you are doing practice questions.**

You need to mentally fill in with your own words before you see as to what words the test writer has provided. The idea behind this is to give you some idea of what the answer is likely to be - it helps narrow down, eliminate answer choices and save time. For example, in a given sentence, if you decide that the blank must be filled with some word before you look at the answer choices, you can scan the word choices to find the positive word/s there.

Take this sentence: The heat was so intense that people _____ various remedies.

In this example, while reading the sentence itself you can mentally visualize that due to the intense heat people resorted to various means of finding respite. With this picture in mind, words that we can think of to fill the blank could be "tried", "needed", "sought", etc.

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Answer options are:

- (a) sought (b) brought
(c) seek (d) working out

But since the sentence is in the past tense, (a) is the appropriate option.

Collocation

There is a special sentence completion type where you are given a number of sentences and a list of words to complete them. The words given are synonyms or near synonyms, with similar meanings. In English, certain words go together. For instance while you may “make” a mistake, you cannot “make” a crime but can “commit” a crime. Your knowledge of “appropriate” word choice is being tested, only here the options are so close in meaning that you have to pay attention to the precise use of words, understanding of the nuance of a word and the appropriateness of its use.

Practice: Complete the sentences given below with words from this list:

performed practised laboured enacted transacted

- (a) The state recently _____ a law banning cow slaughter.
(b) In all his free time, Leander Paes _____ his serve.
(c) The business was _____ early in the morning as a power failure was expected.
(d) Poornima _____ the operation with minimal nursing support.
(e) Shiv _____ over his assignment, despite being very ill.

To tackle this question you must first fill in the ones of which you are absolutely sure. This will leave you fewer words to choose from. Then, read every sentence with each of the available options, and judge which one suits best.

Next, as shown earlier, look for ‘clue words’ in the sentence. Your reading should give you an idea of which word is associated with another, such as ‘enacted’ and ‘law’ as in No.1.

Leander could not have “performed” his serve – he would have “practised” it. Poornima could not have “laboured” the operation but “performed” it. You know that business is “transacted” and not “laboured” or “performed”. The last word is “laboured” and it fits well in (e) as Shiv was ill.

Let us work out another collocation exercise:

Try and solve it before you read the explanation. That way you will learn from your mistakes, if there are any.

Abolished, eliminated, erased, evaded, circumvented

1. The speech was no longer available as it had been _____ by mistake.
2. Even though dowry has been _____ by the law, in practice it still exists.
3. He has _____ paying his taxes for so long, when the law catches him he will have to pay a heavy price.
4. The team was _____ from the series after they lost to Bangladesh.
5. Any law can be _____ but you cannot always get away with it.

All the words have meanings centred on being ‘**cut off**’ or being ‘**avoided**’. The first sentence has implied in it the fact that the speech was on tape- that is a way a speech can be ‘available’. Otherwise a speech is made or delivered. So you should be able to safely say that ‘**erased**’ would be the fitting word as removal of taped material is called erasing.

In the second statement, use of ‘abolished’ is appropriate as it refers to doing away with laws, regulations, customs, etc. Hence, it is appropriate to use it for the practice of dowry. ‘Evading’ refers to getting around or shirking the law, a duty, etc. Hence, it is appropriate to use it as evading taxes in the third statement. ‘Elimination’ refers to removal from consideration by defeating, as in a contest. Hence, its use is correct in the fourth sentence. ‘Circumvent’ means to avoid by artfulness or deception. Its use is appropriate in the last statement as a law can be avoided by deception at times but not always.



Exercise

This chapter is a revision of what you have done till now. In these type of questions an incomplete sentence is usually given and you have to complete the sentence based on correct grammar usage. Practice the exercise given below.

Exercise-1

Directions for questions 1 to 15: Choose the word or phrase which best completes the sentence. Rely on the choice that would complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. Having finished dinner, ____ .
 - (a) the elders retired to bed
 - (b) they slept
 - (c) the bed was used by the elders
 - (d) a group of elders finished bed
2. I was not the only one, there were people who suffered ____ .
 - (a) more than I can possible imagined
 - (b) more than I can possibly
 - (c) more than can possibly imagine
 - (d) more than I can possibly imagine
3. Shyam has returned ____ .
 - (a) a vehicle back to its original owner
 - (b) to its original owner the vehicle
 - (c) the vehicle its original owner
 - (d) the vehicle to its original owner
4. Some scholars stressed the study of grammar, rhetoric, ____ and poetry.
 - (a) historically
 - (b) learning about history
 - (c) history
 - (d) studying history
5. Lalitha ____ that she could not attend classes next week.
 - (a) told to her professors
 - (b) said her professors
 - (c) said to her professors
 - (d) told her professors
6. Everybody ____ a ticket should stand in line.
 - (a) who have not purchased
 - (b) who has not bring
 - (c) who has not purchased
 - (d) who has not
7. A number of applicants ____ interviewed.
 - (a) are already been
 - (b) has already been
 - (c) have been
 - (d) who have been
8. Anna did not do well at all because ____ .
 - (a) she was not good studywise
 - (b) she studied bad
 - (c) she was a worse student
 - (d) she failed to study properly
9. The more he shouted, ____ .
 - (a) the less he achieved
 - (b) he achieved insufficiently
 - (c) he did not achieve enough
 - (d) he was achieving less
10. ____ , the best car to buy is Maruti.
 - (a) Because of its design and economy
 - (b) Because it has a sleek shape, and it is very economical
 - (c) Because of its design and it is economical
 - (d) Because design and economical wise it is better than all others
11. People all over the country are starving ____ .
 - (a) great in numbers
 - (b) in more numbers
 - (c) more numerously
 - (d) in great numbers
12. Anil entered college ____ .
 - (a) when he had 16 years
 - (b) when 16 years were his age
 - (c) at the age of 16
 - (d) at 16 years age
13. The doctor insisted that the patient ____ .
 - (a) that he not work too hard
 - (b) taking it easy
 - (c) take it easy
 - (d) take some vocations
14. I understand that the government is considering a new proposal ____ .
 - (a) what would clear files rapidly
 - (b) who wants to clear files in a rapid manner
 - (c) that would help in clearing files rapidly
 - (d) to cause files cleared rapidly

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15. Srinivas would have studied medicine if he ____ to a medical college.
(a) could be able to enter
(b) was admitted
(c) had been admitted
(d) were admitted
8. Rao contributed Rs. 10, but he wished he could contribute ____ .
(a) one other Rs. 10 (b) the same amount also
(c) another 10 (d) more Rs. 10
9. The manager of this organisation must know ____ .
(a) money management, selling and able to satisfy the shareholders
(b) how to management, selling his idea of being able to satisfy the shareholders
(c) money management, selling the idea of being able to satisfy the shareholders
(d) how to manage money, sell his product, and satisfy the shareholders

Exercise-2

Directions for questions 1 to 20: Choose the word or phrase which best completes the sentence. Rely on the choice that would complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. It is very difficult to stop Parthenium because ____ .
(a) of it grows, carelessly
(b) it doesn't care much to grow
(c) of its growth without attention
(d) it grows well with little care
2. Manufacturers often sacrifice quality ____ .
(a) in place of to earn more money
(b) for a larger profit margin
(c) to gain more quantities of money
(d) and instead earn a bigger amount of profit
3. She ____ before handing it to the director.
(a) must retyping the report
(b) is retype the report
(c) must retype the report
(d) should retyping the report
4. Of the two new workers, one is experienced and ____ .
(a) the other are not
(b) another is inexperienced
(c) the other is not
(d) other lacks experience
5. The facilities of the older canteen ____ .
(a) is as good or better than the new canteen
(b) are as good or better that of the new canteen
(c) are as good as or better that the new canteen
(d) are as good as or better than those of the new canteen
6. ____ , he would have been able to pass the SAT.
(a) If he practised more
(b) If he were practising to a great degrees
(c) Practising more
(d) Had he practised more
7. Here ____ notebook and paper that I promised you last week.
(a) is the (b) are the
(c) was the (d) is a
10. Steel production in the country ____ .
(a) have take slumps and rise in recent years
(b) has been rather erratic lately
(c) has been erratically lately
(d) are going up and down all the time
11. The sight of her in green silk mounted on a tractor ____ more newsworthy ____ .
(a) was considered ... than anything said inside the House
(b) when said ... when inside the House consider
(c) was considered ... that said inside the House
(d) were considered ... of inside the house
12. Neither the ministers ____ appear to have noticed that the Indian farmer has already been killed.
(a) nor the environmentalist
(b) or the environmentalists
(c) nor environmentalists
(d) nor the environmentalists
13. Nothing demonstrates the depth of prejudice so starkly ____ .
(a) as marriage as (b) marriage
(c) as married (d) as marriage
14. The women are disgusted when they find ____ living on pensions.
(a) her new husbands are
(b) their new husbands is
(c) their new husbands are
(d) their new husband are
15. Sarah came across as a decent person and ____ .
(a) my instinct was to trust her
(b) my instinct to trust her
(c) my instinct was to trusted her
(d) my instinct was to trust she

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16. We will be unable to eliminate poverty if we ____ .
 - (a) can control our population more effectively
 - (b) cannot control their population more effectively
 - (c) cannot control our population more effective
 - (d) cannot control our population more effectively
 17. Our ministers __ when it comes to finding reasons to travel to foreign countries at taxpayers' expense.
 - (a) are very imaginative
 - (b) is are very imaginative
 - (c) is very imaginative
 - (d) are very imagination
 18. The Congressional debate showcased how sharply divided ____ .
 - (a) Americans is about China
 - (b) Americans are about of China
 - (c) Americans are about China
 - (d) American are about China
 19. You can never be America's friend ____ .
 - (a) if you murder people as they do in China
 - (b) if murder people as they do in China
 - (c) if you murder was they do in China
 - (d) if you murder people and persons as they do in China
 20. The details vary, but the cases ____ .
 - (a) has a common theme
 - (b) have common theme
 - (c) have a common theme
 - (d) have a common thematic
- Exercise-3**
- Directions for questions 1 to 20:** Choose the word or phrase which best completes the sentence. Rely on the choice that would complete the meaning of the sentence.
1. Upon hearing the ____ words from him, she left the place ____ .
 - (a) wrongful ... abashed
 - (b) misuse ... immediately
 - (c) obnoxious ... abashed
 - (d) acrimonious ... amicably
 2. How can the plans of the government ____ the poor, if they are totally ____?
 - (a) educate ... illiterate
 - (b) help ... impractical
 - (c) benefit ... selfish
 - (d) enrich ... penniless
 3. The ____ that 'A bird in hand is worth two in the bush' is ____ in the present context.
 - (a) metaphor ... cavil
 - (b) adage ... inappropriate
 - (c) talk ... evil
 - (d) sentence ... anomalous
 4. The thought of a nuclear ____ sparked off by a misunderstanding poses an awesome ____ .
 - (a) device ... reverberation
 - (b) holocaust ... spectre
 - (c) liasion ... probability
 - (d) explosion ... calamity
 5. A ____ person is not ____ .
 - (a) dishonest ... untrustworthy
 - (b) handsome ... presentable
 - (c) talkative ... precise
 - (d) healthy ... robust
 6. The ____ reached between the enemies won the ____ of the observers.
 - (a) treaty ... accolade
 - (b) victory ... decoration
 - (c) peace ... hearts
 - (d) pitch ... enimity
 7. ____ persons are ____ .
 - (a) careful ... circumspect
 - (b) violent ... peaceable
 - (c) despondent ... intrepid
 - (d) garrulous ... gluttonous
 8. The rebels sought to overcome the ____ of strength of the police forces by engaging intactics.
 - (a) lack ... divisionary
 - (b) augmented ... peaceful
 - (c) preponderance ... guerilla
 - (d) power ... foolish
 9. Science fiction is a literary ____ which postulates a change from conditions as we know them and follows the implications of these changes to a ____ .
 - (a) piece ... beginning
 - (b) imagination ... fantasy
 - (c) sub-genre ... logical end
 - (d) masterpiece ... logical end
 10. It is extremely difficult to produce a legal definition clear enough so that a ____ could work with it.
 - (a) lawyer
 - (b) cook
 - (c) dancer
 - (d) bartender

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11. When I left school, I saw it as a temporary move — I assumed I'd ____ .
(a) go back (b) return back
(c) go forth (d) go back and come
12. For young people today, there are business opportunities unlike any that have existed ____
(a) after (b) before
(c) now (d) then and here
13. She had been apprehensive initially, not about her work, ____ the audience.
(a) and about (b) but about
(c) but about the (d) but roundabout
14. I don't believe that crying on television is the best way to ____ an interview.
(a) given (b) give take
(c) give out (d) give
15. The boy's death wrenched the hearts of parents ____ the world who easily understood the love that would lead a father to ____ his child from bullets with his own body.
(a) round ... shield (b) around ... shield
(c) around ... shielded (d) around ... shield out
16. The army admitted its mistake, but ____ .
(a) graceless (b) gracefully
(c) gracelessly (d) grace
17. Considering the ____ cost attached to each application forwarded, the student is constrained to apply to a ____ number of universities.
(a) high ... unlimited
(b) low ... limited
(c) high ... though limited
(d) high ... limited
18. The most important element that provides one student an edge over the rest is how his application form ____ his personality.
(a) reflect (b) reflects
(c) reflect off (d) reflects the
19. The fashion industry has long been ____ for the exclusion of black models.
(a) criticize (b) criticism
(c) criticized (d) critic
20. Benazir said that the regime's decision to allow Sharif to walk ____ could ____ be part of a larger game plan or just another corrupt act.
(a) free ... or (b) free ... neither
(c) freed ... either (d) free ... either

Exercise-4

Directions for questions 1 to 20: Choose the word or phrase which best completes the sentence. Rely on the choice that would complete the meaning of the sentence.

1. The military is unable to comprehend the ____ of democratic functioning.
(a) impotent (b) important
(c) importance (d) importing
2. Taxi driver's brains are ____ to help them store a detailed mental map of the city.
(a) adapt (b) adapting
(c) adapted (d) adopted
3. Keeping in view your ____ state of mind, it's with a rather ____ heart that I'm penning down this letter to you.
(a) distress ... heavy
(b) distressed ... heavy
(c) distressed ... heaviness
(d) distressing ... heavy
4. The mess that you have created is entirely your ____ doing.
(a) owned (b) owning
(c) own (d) own up
5. Unknown to her mother, she kept meeting him on the ____ .
(a) sly (b) sty
(c) cry (d) sloth
6. Do you think all this is a ____ of my imagination?
(a) fig (b) figmentation
(c) figment (d) figment leaf
7. When the Board came down ____ on him after his disastrous performance against Australia, he knew that it would ____ him his captancy.
(a) heavily ... cost (b) heavily ... costed
(c) heavily ... costing (d) heavy ... cost
8. I don't need to take lessons in ____ and ethics from such a liar.
(a) moral (b) morality
(c) immorality (d) modality
9. Indecency is when you humiliate and cheat people emotionally, when you use and ____ the people you love, when you lie with a ____ face to everyone when it suits you.
(a) disabuse ... straight
(b) abuse ... straight
(c) abused ... straight
(d) abuse ... straightened

3.10

10. In an article that ran across five pages, you found only two paragraphs objectionable, so I gather that you ___ to my thoughts in the rest of the feature.
(a) prescribe (b) subscribe
(c) subscribes (d) subscribing
11. Scientists say that we are almost certainly the ___ of our own destinies.
(a) master (b) mastering
(c) mastered (d) masters
12. Some people ___ with all sorts of adversities.
(a) dope (b) doped
(c) coping (d) cope
13. Luck is a triumph of nurture over ___ and people's personalities influence how they are treated by ____.
(a) natured ... fate (b) nature ... ill-fate
(c) natural ... fate (d) nature ... fate
14. Internalists believe there is a ___ between them and what happens to them.
(a) connection (b) connect
(c) connections (d) connected
15. Children from ___ backgrounds are more likely to become externalists than children from poor ____, who have had to overcome adversity to succeed.
(a) rich ... background
(b) poor ... backgrounds
(c) poor ... background
(d) rich ... backgrounds

Sentence Completion

16. People who categorize themselves as lucky tend to be optimists, extroverts and ____.
(a) risk-taker (b) risk-takers
(c) risk-makers (d) risky-takers
17. Eventually, if you ___ at enough of the right people under the ___ circumstances, one will smile back at you.
(a) smile ... right (b) smiling ... right
(c) smile ... wrong (d) smile ... rightly
18. I don't socialize with the people I work ____, I have my own set of friends and I intend to keep some sort of ___ between my friends and my work.
(a) on ... differentiation
(b) off ... differentiation
(c) with ... differentiate
(d) with ... differentiation
19. I have my own set of friends, who have access to my home and my ___ thoughts and feelings, I don't let just about anyone invade that ____.
(a) inner ... privacy (b) outer ... privacy
(c) inner ... private (d) inane ... privacy
20. When I joined college, I was ___ at the lack of discipline, I saw a lot of kids bunk and go to discos. Why ___ to parents to go and have a good time? And why during study hours?
(a) shocked ... lied (b) shocked ... lying
(c) shock ... lie (d) shocked ... lie



Answer Key

Exercise-1

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (d) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (a)
 11. (d) 12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (c) 15. (c)

Exercise – 2

1. (d) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (d) 10. (b)
 11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (d) 14. (c) 15. (a) 16. (d) 17. (a) 18. (c) 19. (a) 20. (c)

Exercise – 3

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (a) 7. (a) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (a)
 11. (a) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (d)

Exercise – 4

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (b)
 11. (d) 12. (d) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (d) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (d)



Explanations

Exercise-1

1. a Option (c) and (d) are absurd. (a) is the appropriate option.
2. d Option (a) is incorrect due to the usage of 'possible imagined'. Option (b) and (c) are incomplete. Thus, option (d) is correct.
3. d Options (a) and (b) are incorrect grammatically and option (c) is incomplete. Correct option is (d).
4. c The sentence mentions some subjects like grammar poetry etc. So the best option to fit in here is (c).
5. d There is incorrect usage of 'to' in (a) and (c). (b) is incomplete. The correct option is (d).
6. c (a) is wrong as it has plural verb form.
7. c Here 'applicants' is the subject which is plural. The sentence is in passive voice and hence, 'have been' should be used.
8. d Options (a), (b) and (c) are absurd. The correct option is (d).
9. a (a) is the correct option because it starts with 'the'-parallelism.
10. a According to the rules of parallelism, the best option is (a).
11. d All the options apart from (d) are grammatically incorrect.
12. c Options (a), (b) and (d) are all absurd options. Correct option is (c).
13. c Option (a) does not make any sense. Option (b) sounds incomplete. The most appropriate option is (c).
14. c In option (a) use of 'what' is wrong and same is the case with (b) where 'who' is wrong. Option (d) is totally absurd and grammatically incorrect. Option (c) is the correct option.
15. c Correct usage is 'had been'.

Exercise-2

1. d Option (a) sounds absurd and incorrect. Option (b) and (c) do not fit in the sentence. (d) is the correct option.
2. b In (a) 'in place of to' is wrong, while in (c) it says quantities of money which is wrong. The best option is (b).
3. c In (a) and (c) the word 'retyping' is used which is incorrect usage here while in (b) it says is 'retype' which is also incorrect usage. The correct option thus is (c).

3.12

4. c (a) is incorrect because in the sentence it is singular while here it signifies plural. Option (c) is correct.
5. d In options (b) and (c) better that is used which is grammatically incorrect. The appropriate option is (d).
6. d Option (b) is very absurd as it is totally incorrect grammatically. Option (d) is the correct option.
7. b (b) is the correct option. Options (a) and (c) are incorrect because they use the singular 'is' for the plural subjects.
8. c (a) is incorrect because it uses one with ten rupees. Similarly, (b) is incorrect because of the use of also. Correct option is (c).
9. d (d) is the correct option - parallelism.
10. b (c) is absurd because of the usage of 'erratically lately'. The option that fits best is (b).
11. a 'Was' has to follow 'tractor' because of being singular and after 'newsworthy', 'than' has to follow because it implies comparison.
12. d Option (a) is not fit as it uses 'environmentalist' which is singular. Option (b) is not correct because 'or' cannot be used with 'neither'. Thus the correct option is (d).
13. d Option (a) ends with as so is incorrect. Option (b) is incomplete and option (c) uses the wrong tense. So the correct option is (d).
14. c Option (a) is incorrect because it uses here which is singular. Same is the case with (b) which uses 'is'. In option (d) husband is singular that also being incorrect. Thus, the correct option is (c).
15. a Option (b) sounds incomplete while option (c) uses trusted so is incorrect. In option (d) the case of the pronoun has been changed thus making it incorrect. The correct option is (a).
16. d Option (a) is incorrect because it starts with 'can'. Option (b) is wrong because it uses 'their' with 'we'. The correct option is (d).
17. a Option (b) is absurd as it uses 'is are' together. Option (c) uses 'is' which is singular thus making it also incorrect. The best option is (a).
18. c In option (a) it uses 'is' which denotes singular which is wrong here. The correct option is (c).
19. a Options (a), (c) and (d) are absolutely absurd and meaningless. Correct option is (a).
20. c Option (a) starts with 'has' which is singular and does not go with 'cases'. The correct option here is (c).

Sentence Completion

Exercise-3

1. c In the first blank the word that best fits is 'obnoxious' as it means unpleasant and the word that fits in the second blank is 'abashed' as it means ashamed or embarrassed.
2. b The word that best suits with 'plan' here is 'impractical'. Thus, the correct option is (b).
3. b (b) is the correct option as 'an adage' is an old saying which fits well in the first blank.
4. b The best word that fits here in the first blank is holocaust as it means great destruction or loss of life. Also the second word spectre fits appropriately as it means mental image of something unpleasant or menacing.
5. c The pair of words that fits best are talkative and precise because a talkative person is not precise.
6. a Because the word between is used in the sentence so the best word that fits here is treaty. Thus, the correct option is (a).
7. a Options (b) and (c) are antonyms so are ruled out. While in option (d) garrulous means talkative while gluttonous means greedy so that does not match. Thus, correct option is (a) as both of them are synonyms.
8. c The correct option is (c) as preponderance means 'greater in force, weight or influence' so it very well goes with strength.
9. c Genre means a category of artistic work. So sub-genre is the best option that fits here. Thus, (c) is the correct option.
10. a As the sentence mentions the word 'legal' so we can easily deduce that the answer is 'lawyer'.
11. a (b) is wrong because return and back means the same thing. (c) is logically wrong and (d) is incorrect. Thus, the correct usage is (a).
12. b The sentence uses 'have existed' which means past tense thus the correct option would be 'before'.
13. b (c) is incorrect because 'the' would be repeated twice. The correct option is (b).
14. d (b) cannot be used because both the words are antonyms and cannot be used together.
15. b The most appropriate words that would fit in both the blanks are 'around' and 'shield'.

Sentence Completion

3.13

16. c The correct option is (c) because there is a 'but' in the sentence which signifies negative. That is why the option is (c).
17. d Because of the word 'constrained' used in the sentence we can easily infer that the cost is high. Because of the word 'a' before the blank 'unlimited' and 'though limited' cannot be used.
18. b Grammatically the correct option is the singular 'reflects'.
19. c The past form of the verb - 'Criticised' is the best option that fits here.
20. d 'Free' fits in the first blank and because 'or' is used in the sentence we cannot use 'neither'. The right words to be used is 'either'.
10. b The appropriate option is (b) - 'subscribe' which means to 'feel or express hearty approval'.
11. d 'Masters of our own destinies' is the correct phrase. So, option (d) is the answer.
12. d The word 'dope' has altogether a different meaning and it means 'drug'. So it cannot be used here. The correct word that fits here is 'cope'.
13. d The words that fit here are 'nature' and 'fate'.
14. a 'Connection' is the right usage of the word 'connect' that should be used here.
15. d The first blank would be 'rich' because there is a comparison given and the compared word is 'poor'. So the other word has to be its antonym. Regarding the second blank 'backgrounds' has been mentioned in the line before so it will again be used.

Exercise-4

1. c (a) cannot be used here because it has altogether a different meaning.
2. c The most suitable word that fits in the blank is 'adapted'- which means 'fit for a specific situation or use'.
3. b The words that fit best in the sentence are 'distressed' and 'heavy'.
4. c Logically and grammatically the best option is 'own'.
5. a The correct option is 'sly' because 'on the sly' means in a secretive manner.
6. c In daily use we use the term 'figment of imagination'.
7. a Option (d) is eliminated because the adverb 'heavily' fits in the first blank perfectly. For the second blank 'cost' is the most appropriate word. Therefore, the correct answer is option (a).
8. b 'Morality' is the best option that fits here.
9. b The word 'abuse' is usually used with 'use'. And usually when people lie they lie with a straight face. Thus, the correct option is (b).
16. b Because the other descriptions given are in their plural form that is why the answer would also be in the same format. Thus, the answer is (b).
17. a The form of the word used here for the first blank is 'smile' while for the second blank 'right' is appropriate.
18. d We socialise 'with' people and not 'on' or 'off'. Thus, the correct option for the first blank is 'with'. The correct option for the second blank would automatically be 'differentiation'.
19. a Thoughts and feelings are always inside a person that is why the correct option is 'inner'. The correct option for the second blank is 'privacy'.
20. d Because it talks in past tense 'was' that is why correct option is 'shocked'. And the second option is 'lie'.