

ENGLISH

The English sections test your proficiency in the English language, as indicated, among other things, by your vocabulary and your ability to read and understand complex sentences and texts on an academic level.

At the beginning of each English section you will find instructions, including information on the number of questions that appear in the section and the amount of time allotted for answering them. For example:

This section contains 22 questions.

The time allotted is 20 minutes.

The following section contains three types of questions: Sentence Completion, Restatement and Reading Comprehension. Each question is followed by four possible responses. Choose the response **which best answers the question** and mark its number in the appropriate place on the answer sheet.

The Sentence Completion and Restatement questions are arranged in ascending order of difficulty. The Reading Comprehension questions appear in the order in which the subject matter appears in the text.

General explanations about the three types of questions in the English sections, along with sample questions and explanations about how to solve them, appear below.

SENTENCE COMPLETIONS

At the beginning of the sentence completion questions you will find the following instructions:

This part consists of sentences with a word or words missing in each. For each question, choose the answer **which best completes the sentence**.

These questions consist of a sentence with a missing word or set of words. You must complete the sentence using the most appropriate response. A logical sentence is obtained only if the correct response is chosen. This type of question tests your English vocabulary and grammar and your ability to understand the internal logic of a sentence.

To solve these questions, pay attention to sentence structure and try to understand the relationship between the parts of the sentence. Take note of grammatical cues such as verb tenses and conjunctions. For example, words such as "although," "despite," and "but" indicate that a qualification or contrast is being expressed; words such as "also" and "in addition to" indicate that one part of the sentence adds something to the other part.

No single approach will apply to all questions of this type; each question must be examined separately. However, you should always read the entire sentence before examining the possible responses. You can try to fill in the missing part with your own word (or words), and then read the possible responses and see if one of them has the same meaning as the word that you thought of. After selecting the response, read the entire sentence to make sure that it is logical and coherent.

1. Most psychologists today believe that adopted children should be permitted and even _____ to learn about their biological parents.

- (1) encouraged
- (2) endured
- (3) enriched
- (4) enclosed

The most important cue in the sentence is the pair of words "and even," which indicates that the missing word does not contradict the word "permitted," but rather reinforces and supplements it. In other words, not only should adopted children be permitted to learn about their biological parents, they should also be _____ to do so. A logical completion of the sentence would be, for example, "helped" or "encouraged." Indeed, the correct response is (1), "encouraged." Still, it is important to examine all of the possible responses before choosing one of them.

Response (2), "endured," means to bear, to suffer, to persist. If it is inserted in the sentence, we obtain "Adopted children should be permitted and even 'endured' to learn about their biological parents." This sentence makes no sense. Therefore, response (2) is incorrect.

If the word "enriched" in response (3) is inserted in the sentence, it reads, "... adopted children should be permitted to learn about their biological parents, and they should even be enriched to do so." This makes no sense, and therefore (3) is not the correct response.

The word "enclosed," response (4), would make no sense, either: "... they should even be enclosed to do so." Therefore, response (4) is not the correct response, either.

Thus, response (1) best completes the sentence and is therefore the correct answer.

2. Olive trees are noted for their _____ ; some are over 2,000 years old.

- (1) longevity
- (2) abundance
- (3) compassion
- (4) magnitude

The two parts of this sentence are separated by a semicolon and the key to choosing the correct response lies in understanding how the two parts are related. We can infer from the sentence structure that the first part refers to a characteristic for which olive trees are noted, while the second part illustrates, or gives an example of, this quality. We can infer from the second part of the sentence – "some are over 2,000 years old" – that the characteristic noted in the first part of the sentence must be related to great age. The only response in any way related to great age is the word "longevity," response (1).

A look at the other possible responses shows how important it is to ensure that the chosen response conforms to the logic of the sentence.

The word "abundance," response (2), could make sense for the first part of the sentence, as it is possible to refer to an abundance of olive trees, but the idea of abundance would not be illustrated by what is stated in the second part of the sentence – that "some of them are over 2,000 years old."

The word "compassion," in response (3) is a human quality and is not used in reference to trees. Thus, the first part of the sentence does not make sense and therefore this response is incorrect.

Response (4), "magnitude," is also unrelated to great age. Therefore, this is not the correct response.

Response (1) best completes the sentence, and is therefore the correct answer.

3. Real estate prices have soared recently and, _____ , few people can now afford to buy an apartment.

- (1) regardless
- (2) otherwise
- (3) consequently
- (4) remarkably

This question, too, requires that we examine the internal logic of the sentence in order to choose the correct response. This is actually a compound sentence constructed from two statements. The first is "Real estate prices have soared recently," and the second, " few people can now afford to buy an apartment." They are separated by a blank. We can assume that the missing word describes the relationship between the two parts of the sentence. A close reading of the entire sentence shows that the logical connection between the two parts of the sentence is one of cause and effect. The second part of the sentence is the outcome of the first: the price of real estate has soared, and as a result few people can now afford to buy an apartment. The missing word should express this connection. The only appropriate possibility is the word "consequently." Therefore, (3) is the correct response. However, it is still important to examine the other possibilities before deciding on the correct response.

Response (1), which states that few people can afford to buy an apartment "regardless" of the soaring prices creates an illogical statement, because the fact that few people can now afford to buy an apartment *is* directly related to the soaring prices. Therefore, response (1) is incorrect.

The word "otherwise," response (2), also creates an illogical statement in terms of the relationship between the two parts of the sentence: "Real estate prices have soared recently and 'otherwise' few people can now afford to buy an apartment." Thus, response (2) is incorrect.

Since there is nothing "remarkable" about the fact that few people can afford to buy an apartment after real estate prices have soared, there is no logic to this sentence, and therefore response (4) is incorrect.

Response (3) is thus the most appropriate word and therefore is the correct answer.

4. The abacus – a counting _____ invented thousands of years ago – is still widely used in Asia.

- (1) barrier
- (2) hazard
- (3) outlet
- (4) device

You do not have to know the meaning of "abacus" to answer this question. It is enough to understand that the word refers to something used for counting. The only word that is appropriate is "device," response (4). However, it is still important to examine all the possible responses before deciding which response is correct.

Response (1) is incorrect, as "counting barrier" is a meaningless phrase.

Response (2) is also incorrect, as "counting hazard" makes no sense.

A "counting outlet" has no logical meaning, either. Therefore, response (3) is also incorrect.

Response (4) thus best completes the sentence.

5. After an American firm called Peapod _____ the sale of groceries over the Internet, many other companies began to offer the service.

- (1) pioneered
- (2) repaired
- (3) disturbed
- (4) treasured

We understand from the sentence that after one company did something, other companies began to do the same thing. In other words, Peapod was the first. Therefore, we are looking for a word that means to be first in doing something, with others following suit. The only word that expresses this idea is "pioneered," in response (1).

Here, too, we will examine the other possible responses. Response (2) cannot be correct because it makes no sense to say that a company "repaired" the sale of groceries.

Response (3) is incorrect because in the given context there is no logic to the statement that a firm "disturbed" the sale of groceries, and even if it were logical, it would not make sense to say that this resulted in other companies following suit and offering a similar service.

Response (4) is incorrect because the sale of products is not something that is "treasured." Therefore, (4) is not the correct response.

Response (1) thus best completes the sentence.

6. Many insects and reptiles _____ new surroundings by changing their coloring or appearance.

- (1) assist in
- (2) collide with
- (3) descend from
- (4) adapt to

First, it is important to note that the second part of the sentence, "by changing ..." describes **how** "many insects and reptiles _____ new surroundings." The word "by" tells us this. Another important word, "new," indicates that the missing phrase refers to some kind of change in reaction to new surroundings. The missing phrase should express the concept of fitting into or becoming accustomed to; this is the meaning of "adapt to," in response (4). However, it is still important to examine all of the responses before deciding which one is correct.

Response (1) is incorrect because it makes no sense to say that insects and reptiles "assist in" new surroundings by changing their coloring. This is, therefore, not the correct response.

Response (2) is incorrect because here, too, it makes no sense to say that insects and reptiles "collide with" new surroundings by changing their coloring.

Response (3) is incorrect because it makes no sense to say that insects and reptiles "descend from" new surroundings.

Response (4) thus best completes the sentence.

RESTATEMENTS

At the beginning of the restatement questions you will find the following instructions:

This part consists of several sentences, each followed by four possible ways of restating the main idea of that sentence in different words. For each question, choose the one restatement **which best expresses the meaning of the original sentence**.

These questions are designed to test your ability to understand sentences in English.

In order to answer the questions, read the original sentence carefully, and then read each of the answers, paying close attention to key words and the relationships between them, as well as to verb tenses.

EXAMPLES AND EXPLANATIONS

1. Analysts claim that an increase in exports is responsible for Poland's economic recovery.

- (1) Analysts suggest that growth in Poland's economy can be achieved by increasing exports.
- (2) Analysts believe that only if Poland's economy recovers will the country be able to export large amounts of goods.
- (3) According to analysts, the improvement in Poland's economy is the result of increased exports.
- (4) According to analysts, the recent growth in Poland's economy will encourage the export of more goods.

Several aspects of the original sentence are worth noting. First, the sentence implies that Poland is now in a state of economic recovery. Secondly, the use of the word "recovery" indicates that this state was preceded by a period of economic decline. Finally, the sentence states that according to analysts, an increase in imports is "responsible" for the economic recovery.

In response (1), the state of Poland's economy is connected to an increase in exports, as in the original sentence. But there is an important difference between the two sentences. According to the original sentence, Poland is **already** in a state of economic recovery. Response (1), however, suggests how Poland **can achieve** economic growth in the future. Therefore, response (1) is incorrect.

In response (2), as in the original sentence, there is a connection between Poland's economic recovery and exports. However, in the original sentence, an increase in exports is the **reason** for Poland's economic recovery, whereas in response (2), exporting will be a **result** of the recovery. Furthermore, according to response (2), Poland has not yet made an economic recovery. Therefore, response (2) is incorrect.

Response (3), like the original sentence, implies that Poland's economy has improved. Moreover, the analysts note that the reason for this is the increase in exports. Therefore, response (3) is correct.

Response (4), like the original sentence, states that Poland's economy has improved. However, unlike in the original sentence, it is stated here that the improvement will lead to an increase in exports. The original sentence claims the opposite: the increase in exports is what led to economic recovery. Therefore, response (4) is incorrect.

Response (3) is thus closest to the content of the original sentence and is, therefore, the correct answer.

2. Early nineteenth-century German writer Bettina von Arnim was virtually alone in her admiration for the works of her contemporary, the great poet Friedrich Hölderlin.
- (1) Bettina von Arnim thought Friedrich Hölderlin's work was the only early nineteenth-century poetry worthy of admiration.
 - (2) Almost no one in the early nineteenth century appreciated Friedrich Hölderlin's poetry, except for German writer Bettina von Arnim.
 - (3) Hölderlin and von Arnim were considered by their contemporaries to be the greatest German writers of the early nineteenth century.
 - (4) Von Arnim admired Hölderlin's poetry because it expressed the loneliness felt by many early nineteenth-century German writers.

The words "her contemporary" in the original sentence indicate that the two authors lived at the same time – in the early nineteenth century. The sentence also implies that Friedrich Hölderlin's poetry was not admired at that time.

Since response (1) mentions von Arnim's admiration of Hölderlin's works, it seems to be the correct answer. However, unlike the original sentence, this sentence states that von Arnim admired **only** Hölderlin's works. Furthermore, response (1) does not mention other people's opinions of Hölderlin's poetry and is, therefore, incorrect.

According to response (2), Bettina von Arnim, an early nineteenth-century German writer, was among the few people of her time who admired Hölderlin's poetry. This is also the meaning of the original sentence. Thus, response (2) appears to be correct. However, it is still important to read **all** of the possible responses before deciding.

According to response (3), Hölderlin and von Arnim were admired in their day. But according to the original sentence, von Arnim was virtually the only one at that time who admired Hölderlin's works. Moreover, the original sentence says nothing about von Arnim's works being admired, only Hölderlin's. Therefore, response (3) is incorrect.

Response (4) explains why von Arnim admired Hölderlin's poetry. The original sentence, however, does not indicate the reason for von Arnim's admiration of Hölderlin's poetry. Response (4) is thus incorrect. Note that while the original sentence contains the word "alone," which is related to the word "loneliness," each of these two words refers to something different. In the original sentence, it refers to the fact that von Arnim was virtually "alone," or almost the only one who admired Hölderlin's poetry, whereas in response (4) it refers to the "loneliness" felt by German writers at the time. Thus, response (4) is incorrect. This is a good example of the importance of noting the precise meaning of key words in the original sentence.

Response (2) most closely expresses the meaning of the original sentence and is thus the correct answer.

3. Three wilderness areas were recently designated as U.S. national monuments, thereby protecting them from mining.

- (1) Mining is now allowed in three areas that were once protected as U.S. national monuments.
- (2) It has been suggested that three areas formerly used for mining be designated as U.S. national monuments.
- (3) Three U.S. national monuments have recently been built in areas protected from mining.
- (4) Mining will not be permitted in three areas that have just been named U.S. national monuments.

It is always important to pay attention to the **tenses of the verbs** in the sentence. Since "were designated" is in the past tense, the sentence is stating that the designation has already taken place. In addition, the sentence implies that there is a connection between this designation and the fact that these areas are "protected from mining," in other words, that mining is not permitted there. Even if you are not completely sure of the meaning of the conjunction "thereby," it can be understood from the context that mining is not permitted in areas designated as national monuments.

Response (1) states that mining is now allowed in three areas in the U.S. that had once been protected as national monuments. The original sentence, however, does not state that mining will be allowed in three areas, but that it will **not be allowed**. Furthermore, response (1) states that, as national monuments, these areas were protected in the **past** whereas the original statement says that these areas were designated as national monuments only "recently." Therefore, response (1) is incorrect.

Response (2) states that a proposal has been made to designate as national monuments three areas previously used for mining. However, according to the original sentence, this designation **has already taken place**. Moreover, response (2) mentions that mining was done in these areas in the past, whereas the original sentence makes no mention of whether or not these areas were used for mining in the past. Therefore, response (2) is incorrect.

Response (3), like the original sentence, refers to areas protected from mining. However, response (3) states that the monuments were **built**, which implies that the word monument means a structure, rather than an area, as it means in the original sentence. Even more importantly, according to response (3), national monuments were built in areas where mining was **already** forbidden. Therefore, response (3) is incorrect.

Response (4), like the original sentence, states that three areas have been named (which is similar in meaning to "designated") national monuments. In addition, this sentence, too, states that mining will not be permitted in these areas.

Response (4) is thus closest in meaning to the original sentence and is therefore the correct answer.

READING COMPREHENSION

At the beginning of the Reading Comprehension texts you will find the following instructions:

This part consists of two passages, each followed by several related questions. For each question, **choose the most appropriate answer based on the text.**

Reading comprehension questions test your ability to read and understand texts. Each English section contains two texts, each followed by several questions. It is important to read the entire text before attempting to answer the questions.

The questions test your ability to understand the texts and to recognize the relationship between the ideas and arguments expressed in them. The questions may involve words or details appearing in the text, connections between sections of the text, inferences based on the text, and so on.

Below you will find an example of a text and questions, as well as explanations for the responses.

- (1) One afternoon in 1993, an American gem expert named Benjamin Zucker received an unexpected visit from a Swiss gem dealer. The dealer placed a plain box on Zucker's desk and casually opened it, revealing 23 pearls, so large and of such a brilliant orange color that Zucker thought they could not possibly be genuine. The largest was 32 millimeters in
- (5) diameter – bigger than a robin's egg. Zucker had seen few pearls of that size and had never seen an orange pearl of any kind. The Swiss dealer knew nothing of the pearls' history, except that they had been purchased in Vietnam and were said to have come from the imperial treasury. Though the pearls were not for sale, Zucker became determined to trace their origins.
- (10) Zucker brought the pearls to Kenneth Scarratt at the Gemological Institute of America. Scarratt confirmed that the pearls were real and that they were almost definitely from Vietnam. Scarratt had seen one such pearl several years before and had traced it to a type of shell found in Vietnamese waters. He reported that only four orange pearls had ever been documented, all in the past 30 years and all from Vietnam. He was astounded to see such a large collection.
- (15) Scarratt's information suggested to Zucker that, indeed, the pearls must have belonged to Vietnamese royalty: in a country like Vietnam, where wealth and power had been concentrated for generations in the hands of the emperors, no one else could have acquired such an extraordinary collection. Scarratt also told Zucker that the pearls were probably hundreds of years old. He based his conclusion on a pattern of tiny wear marks, which
- (20) indicated frequent handling over a long period of time.
- Zucker set out to learn everything he could about pearls in Vietnamese art and history. He found that many 18th- and 19th-century Vietnamese royal objects featured a pearl with a flaming tail, often pursued by a dragon, the symbol of the Vietnamese emperor. This suggested to Zucker that the Vietnamese emperors had indeed owned flame-colored – that is,
- (25) orange – pearls. Zucker then traveled to Vietnam, where he met with scholars and with people who had been close to the royal family. None of them had seen or even heard of such pearls. Nor could he find any record of the collection. Nonetheless, Zucker remains convinced that the pearls were once the treasure of the emperors of Vietnam.

Sample Questions and Explanations:

1. According to the first paragraph, when Zucker first saw the pearls, he thought that they were -

- (1) Vietnamese
- (2) not for sale
- (3) stolen
- (4) not real

In order to answer the question, you must understand the information provided in the first paragraph regarding Zucker's thoughts when he first saw the pearls. The relevant information is in line 4 of the text: "Zucker thought they could not possibly be genuine." In other words, Zucker thought that they were fake or artificial. The correct response is therefore (4): "not real."

Responses (1), "Vietnamese," and (2), "not for sale," are incorrect because they relate to what Zucker was told about the pearls, not to his own thoughts about them. Response (3), "stolen," is incorrect because there is nothing in the text to indicate that the pearls were stolen.

2. The second paragraph is mainly about -

- (1) how Scarratt first found the royal pearls
- (2) what Zucker told Scarratt about the pearls
- (3) what Zucker learned at the Gemological Institute about the pearls
- (4) how the Vietnamese emperors acquired the pearls

This question relates to the entire second paragraph, which deals with the information that Zucker was given by Kenneth Scarratt of the Gemological Institute. The correct response is (3): "what Zucker learned at the Gemological Institute about the pearls."

Response (1) is incorrect because Scarratt did not **find** the pearls, and also because how he first learned about the pearls is mentioned only in the first sentence of the paragraph: "Zucker brought the pearls to Kenneth Scarratt..."

Response (2) is incorrect because the paragraph does not discuss what Zucker told Scarratt, but rather, what Scarratt told Zucker.

Response (4) is incorrect because nothing is mentioned in the paragraph about how the pearls were acquired by the Vietnamese emperors. What is mentioned is Zucker's theory that the pearls must have once belonged to the Vietnamese royal family.

3. The tiny marks mentioned in line 19 helped Scarratt determine the pearls' -

- (1) owners
- (2) country of origin
- (3) value
- (4) age

In order to answer the question, you must see what the text says about the tiny marks and Scarratt's conclusion. The relevant information is found in lines 18-20: "Scarratt also told Zucker that the pearls were probably hundreds of years old. He based his conclusion on a pattern of tiny wear marks ..." In other words, the marks helped Scarratt arrive at a conclusion about the **age** of the pearls. Thus, response (4) is correct. The other possible responses – owners, country of origin and value – are not mentioned in the text with regard to the tiny marks and are therefore incorrect.

4. It can be understood from the last paragraph that people in Vietnam told Zucker that -

- (1) they had read about orange pearls
- (2) someone in their family had worn orange pearls
- (3) the Vietnamese emperors had owned orange pearls
- (4) they did not know anything about orange pearls

In order to answer this question, you must see what can be inferred from the specific information provided in the last paragraph. The paragraph states that Zucker traveled to Vietnam where he met with various people, none of whom had ever seen or heard about the pearls. It also states that he found no written record of the pearls. In other words, the people Zucker spoke to in Vietnam were totally unaware of the pearls' existence. Thus, the correct response is (4), which states that none of the people that Zucker met knew anything about orange pearls. The other responses indicate that the people knew something about orange pearls; therefore, these responses are incorrect.

5. "Nonetheless" (line 27) could be replaced by -

- (1) Even though Vietnamese scholars believe that he is right
- (2) Even though he remains convinced that the pearls are from Vietnam
- (3) Even though he found no evidence in Vietnam to support his theory
- (4) Even though the dragon was a symbol of the Vietnamese emperor

To answer this question, it is important to understand the meaning of "nonetheless" in **this context**. "Nonetheless" has the same meaning as "even though" or "despite." It indicates a contrast or contradiction between what came before and what came after it. If you look at the text, you see that the sentence "Nonetheless, Zucker remains convinced" appears after the sentence which states that Zucker traveled to Vietnam but was unable to find any living or written record about the existence of the pearl collection. In other words, Zucker is still convinced that the pearls originated with the Vietnamese emperors, in spite of the fact that he found no proof in Vietnam to support his theory. Therefore, (3) is the correct response.

Response (1) is incorrect for two reasons: First, nowhere does the text mention that the experts believed Zucker was right. Secondly, it would not make sense to say that someone remains convinced **even though** people believe he is right, because the two are neither contradictory nor opposite.

Response (2) makes no sense. If inserted in the text, the sentence will say "Even though he remains convinced ... he remains convinced."

Response (4) presents information that is correct in and of itself, but in this context does not have the same meaning as the word "nonetheless." There is no connection between the fact that the dragon was a symbol of the Vietnamese emperor and the fact that Zucker remains convinced.

6. A good title for the text would be -

- (1) Orange Pearls in Vietnamese Art and History
- (2) Benjamin Zucker, American Gem Expert
- (3) Vietnamese Royal Objects of the 18th and 19th Centuries
- (4) Tracing the Origins of a Mysterious Treasure

A question about an appropriate title is a way of asking about the main subject or purpose of a text. The above text deals with Zucker's repeated attempts to trace the origin of the rare and mysterious orange pearls. The correct response is therefore (4), "Tracing the Origins of a Mysterious Treasure."

Similar wording is found in lines 8-9, to introduce further developments: "Zucker became determined to trace their origins."

Response (1) is incorrect because the text deals with a specific collection of orange pearls that is apparently connected to Vietnam, and not with orange pearls in general as they appear in Vietnamese art, or with the significance of orange pearls in Vietnamese history.

Response (2) is not an appropriate title because the text focuses on Zucker's attempts to solve the mystery of the orange pearls; it does not deal with Zucker's life or career as a gem expert.

Response (3) is incorrect because the text does not deal with the general topic of items belonging to the Vietnamese royal family.