

GRE Prep

Sentence Completion 1



Sentence Completion 1

Introduction

The Verbal Reasoning section of the GRE® General Test contains three types of questions:

- **Reading Comprehension**
- **Text Completion**
- **Sentence Equivalence**

Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence questions are independent. At INSPIRUS, we use the nomenclature “**SENTENCE COMPLETION**” to refer to both these question types.

Sentence Completion 1

Text Completion

Text Completion questions *omit crucial words from short passages* and ask the test taker to use the remaining information in the passage as a basis for *selecting words or short phrases* to fill the blanks and create a *coherent, meaningful whole*.

Format:

- A passage composed of one to five sentences
- One to three blanks
- Three answer choices per blank (five answer choices in the case of a single blank)
- The answer choices for different blanks function independently
- All required answers for a question must be right to fetch a score



Sentence Completion 1

Sentence Equivalence

The questions consist of a single sentence with just one blank, and they ask you to find two choices that lead to a complete, coherent sentence while producing sentences that mean the same thing.

Format:

- A single sentence
- One blank
- Six answer choices
- Requires you to select two of the answer choices

No credit for partially correct answers



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Text Completion Sample Question

Known as “*The City of Trees*”, Sacramento has more trees per capita than does Paris, is filled with tree-lined streets and thoroughfares and even has (i)_____ art installation in City Hall. However, recent budget cuts have (ii)_____ the Urban Forestry workforce, causing some concern about the future of Sacramento’s green canopy.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. an arboreal	D. amalgamated
B. an impressionist	E. ameliorated
C. a terrestrial	F. abridged

Answer: A and F



Sentence Completion 1

Strategy for Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence

Inspirus **“RIPE”** strategy

- **R**ead through the sentence/passage to get an overall sense of it.
- **I**dentify the linking words and the key words and understand the central idea of the sentence/passage.
- **P**redict an answer that can fit in the blank and look for a similar word among the options.
- **E**liminate the options that do not match with the predicted answer.

Sentence Completion 1

Similarity Indicators

- and
- likewise
- in the same way
- for instance / for example
- similarly
- furthermore
- as
- same
- specifically
- such as
- just as
- resembles
- like
- also
- semi-colon (;)
- colon (:)



Sentence Completion 1

Similar Ideas

1. The movement in literature known as realism was so named because of its attempt to describe life without idealization or romantic subjectivity; similarly, the realist movement in art had as its intent the (i)_____ of natural forms without (ii)_____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. obfuscation	D. vulgarity
B. rendering	E. embellishment
C. adulteration	F. intrusion



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Contrast Indicators

- although
- but
- despite
- however
- whereas
- on the contrary
- hardly
- ironically
- ostensibly
- yet
- on the other hand
- surprisingly
- unlike
- in contrast
- rather
- instead
- apparently
- seemingly



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Contrast Ideas

2. The student's answer to the opinion essay test was brilliant but _____; the professor was taken aback by its candor and artlessness.

A. anomalous
B. impertinent
C. earnest
D. fastidious
E. ingenuous



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Similarity and Contrast

3. Although the growth of deadly diseases like heart conditions, stroke, cancer and diabetes in developed countries is rampant, many parts of the globe have largely (i) _____ infectious and (ii) _____ diseases as a pervasive threat and that people on an average are living longer.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. strengthened	D. communicable
B. introduced	E. innocuous
C. overcome	F. resistible



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Cause and effect Indicators

- because
- as a result
- thus
- resulting from
- therefore
- consequently
- causes
- leading to
- due to
- so



Sentence Completion 1

Cause and effect

4. The couple thought that the values represented in traditional services were _____, so they decided to write their own, more modern, wedding vows.

A. bigoted
B. ineloquent
C. dogmatic
D. archaic
E. sombre



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Tone

5. While her new novel is (i) _____ and uninspired, her previous work was (ii) _____ and overly self-conscious. These two books, in fact, are poles apart from each other in every other way but their (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. glib	D. bright	G. impetus
B. viscous	E. humorous	H. untruthfulness
C. impartial	F. pedantic	I. mediocrity



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Complementary Ideas

6. The blossoming of India's classical period, whose art works are generally marked by their grandiosity, cannot be (i) _____ by the Sinhala Avadana frieze, which is perhaps the (ii) _____ composition in the history of Indian painting.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. well understood	D. most imposing
B. dated accurately	E. earliest known
C. better represented than	F. most irreverent



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Elimination

7. President Theodore Roosevelt was known (i) _____ president because of his manly hobbies. When he was young, he practiced hand-to-hand combat through kickboxing, karate, and (ii) _____. His aim was not to gain upper arm strength only, so as he grew older, he exhibited (iii) _____ behaviour while walking, hiking, or jogging throughout the land.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. as the coolest	D. pugilism	G. settled
B. as the manliest	E. magnetism	H. mature
C. as the heroic	F. bullying	I. peripatetic



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Choosing Synonyms

8. In World War I, trenches were dug so that the soldiers could avoid the near constant _____ from the other side of the line of battle, but not even a trench could protect a battalion from grenades or aerial bombardment.

A. enfilades
B. provocations
C. fervency
D. imprecations
E. brickbats
F. salvos



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Not Synonym But the Same Outcome

9. Despite tepid reviews from critics, the movie turned out to be a box-office _____, shattering records in the opening weekend and continuing to sell out in theatres for months.

A. debacle
B. fiasco
C. darling
D. obscurity
E. juggernaut
F. medley



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Secondary Meanings

10. After thirty years of television, people have become "speed watchers"; consequently, if the camera lingers, the interest of the audience _____.

A. broadens
B. dwindles
C. begins
D. flags
E. clears
F. varies



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Practice Exercise 1

11. By divesting himself of all regalities, the former king _____ the consideration that customarily protects monarchs.

A. merited
B. forfeited
C. debased
D. concealed
E. extended



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12. The sociologist responded to the charge that her new theory was _____ by pointing out that it did not in fact contradict accepted sociological principles.

A. mundane
B. superficial
C. unproven
D. complex
E. heretical



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13. Experienced employers recognize that business students who can (i) _____ different points of view are ultimately more effective as managers than are the brilliant and original students who (ii) _____ dogmatically to their own formulations.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. discredit	D. adhere
B. impose	E. revert
C. assimilate	F. incline



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14. The book covers planetary research from the times of the Babylonians and Ancient Greeks through those of Kepler, Galileo and Newton to the modern era of space exploration. It (i) _____ the key observational discoveries and theoretical developments in their historical context, covering not only the numerous (ii) _____ but also the main (iii) _____ .

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. outlines	D. shortcomings	G. failures
B. illuminates	E. outdated and unsuccessful events	H. geniuses
C. discovers	F. successes	I. inventors



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15. Before she applied for the position, Laura thought her qualifications might be considered (i) _____. However, when she learned of the financial (ii) _____ the company was facing, she hoped that her lack of experience might be made up for by her willingness to accept a/an (iii) _____ salary.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. exemplary	D. distress	G. peremptory
B. inadequate	E. approbation	H. commensurate
C. esoteric	F. abundance	I. opulent



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16. Education advocates argued that the free school lunch program was vital to creating a school environment _____ to learning.

A. conducive
B. inimical
C. substantial
D. appropriate
E. beneficial
F. hostile



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17. While athletes usually expect to achieve their greatest feats in their teens or twenties, opera singers don't reach the _____ of their vocal powers until middle age.

A. harmony

B. terminus

C. acme

D. zenith

E. nadir

F. cessation



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18. Under ethical guidelines recently adopted by the National Institutes of Health, human genes are to be manipulated only to correct diseases for which _____ treatments are unsatisfactory.

A. similar
B. medical
C. scientific
D. uncommon
E. alternative



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19. Since 1813 reaction to Jane Austen's novels has oscillated between (i) _____ and condescension; but in general, later writers have esteemed her works more highly than did most of her literary (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. approbation	D. disciples
B. indifference	E. contemporaries
C. dismissal	F. precursors



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20. The theory of cosmic evolution states that the universe, having begun in a state of simplicity and (i) _____, has (ii) _____ into great variety.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. homogeneity	D. modulated
B. intelligibility	E. accelerated
C. equilibrium	F. differentiated



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Practice Exercise 2

21. While the modern concept of the robot is often (i) _____ to the American science fiction writer Isaac Asimov, the word was actually brought into usage by Karl Capek, a Czech writer. Capek wrote about a servant class of creatures who looked almost (ii) _____ to humans, but were actually artificial clones. Capek noted in his late papers that his brother had contributed the word “robot”, deriving it from a Czech word for “slave”. Robots, to Capek, did not symbolize the dream of a future technologically- advanced era, but rather the horror of his current world, filled with the (iii) _____ of fascist dictatorships and mass production.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. proposed	D. identical	G. nuisances
B. attributed	E. amenable	H. actualities
C. queried	F. comely	I. scourges



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22. Young Tyco's ancestors and relatives had for generations been (i) _____ who served the Danish kings with (ii) _____ who knew how to maintain a position of (iii) _____ amid shifting factions at court and to even regain that position if temporarily lost through some stroke of misfortune.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. cruel followers	D. pride and arrogance	G. influence
B. fanatic challengers	E. consummate skill and loyalty	H. crookedness
C. powerful leaders	F. humbleness and brutality	I. inferiority



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23. As a writer known for his prolixity and inscrutability, Thompson, in this slim collection of short stories, may finally be intent on making his ideas more _____ to a readership looking for quick edification.

A. enlightening

B. prescient

C. palatable

D. inaccessible

E. transcendent

F. delectable



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24. If animal parents were judged by human standards, the cuckoo would be one of nature's more _____ creatures, blithely laying its eggs in the nests of other birds, and leaving the incubating and nurturing to them.

A. mettlesome

B. incompetent

C. wild

D. intrepid

E. feckless

F. feral



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Additional Questions

25. Louis was so painfully shy that his friends had to cajole him not to _____ even the smallest social gathering.

A. shun

B. subdue

C. flout

D. confront

E. attend



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26. His offhand, rather (i) _____ remarks (ii) _____ a character that was really rather serious and not at all superficial.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. pernicious	D. betrayed
B. flippant	E. masked
C. controversial	F. revealed



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27. Many people were inordinately interested in questioning the _____ new guest, who refused to reveal his profession or even the origin of his exotic accent.

A. acerbic
B. mysterious
C. insightful
D. trenchant
E. intrepid
F. inscrutable



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28. Although the scientific debate about the importance of kin selection – a dominant theory of animal cooperation, some twenty years ago – is quite _____ now, the majority of the evolutionary biologists continue to believe in that idea.

A. obsolete
B. antiquated
C. unconvincing
D. absurd
E. sequestered



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29. The senator's reputation, though (i) _____ by false allegations of misconduct, emerged from the ordeal (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. destroyed	D. unscathed
B. tarnished	E. sullied
C. exacerbated	F. unhinged



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30. It may be true that everyone likes flattery, but a good manager is not unduly persuaded by it, and thus not taken in by _____, who use wheedling and fawning to get ahead.

A. myrmidons

B. aesthetes

C. tyros

D. lackeys

E. anchorites

F. novices





Thank you