

GRE Prep

Sentence Completion 2



Sentence Completion 2

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 2

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 2

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



Sentence Completion 2

Text Completion Sample Question

Despite giving an impression of being unobservant, the professor was actually quite (i)_____. He was so abundant in this quality that he could tell that the deceitful student was (ii)_____ the true reason behind his being late.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. perspicacious	D. justifying
B. rude	E. dissembling
C. perspicuous	F. simulating

Answer: A and E

Sentence Completion 2

Strategy for Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence

Inspirus *“RIPE”* strategy

- **Read** through the sentence/passage to get an overall sense of it.
- **Identify** the linking words and the key words and understand the central idea of the sentence/passage.
- **Predict** an answer that can fit in the blank and look for a similar word among the options.
- **Eliminate** the options that do not match with the predicted answer.



Sentence Completion 2

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 2

Similar Ideas

1. She was roundly condemned for her _____; she betrayed the woman to whom she owed her success.

A. truculence
B. perfidy
C. serendipity
D. pragmatism
E. discernment



Sentence Completion 2

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



Sentence Completion 2

Contrast Ideas

2. In the British theatre, young people under thirty-five have not had much _____ getting recognition onstage, but offstage – in the ranks of playwrights, directors, designers, administrators – they have mostly been relegated to relative obscurity.

A. predicament
B. satisfaction
C. curiosity about
D. success at
E. petrification about



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Similarity and Contrast

3. The (i) _____ nature of Athenian classical tragedy belies the modern view of tragedy; according to the modern conception, tragedy is an austere and minimalist art form whose compressed representation of ideological and emotional conflicts leaves nothing (ii) _____ for time to erode.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. unadorned	D. inalienable
B. harmonious	E. exigent
C. multifaceted	F. extraneous



Sentence Completion 2

Cause and effect Indicators

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



Sentence Completion 2

Cause and effect

4. Because they had various meanings in nineteenth-century biological thought, "mechanism" and "vitalism" ought not to be considered (i) _____ terms; thus, I find the recent insistence that the terms had single definitions to be entirely (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. problematic	D. quizzical
B. univocal	E. erroneous
C. ostentatious	F. anachronistic



Sentence Completion 2

Tone

5. The parliamentary session degenerated into (i) _____ with politicians (ii) _____ each other and refusing to (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. mayhem	D. trading banter with	G. escalate the situation
B. obsolescence	E. sharing mockery with	H. challenge the opposition
C. authoritarianism	F. hurling invectives at	I. reach a consensus



Sentence Completion 2

Complementary Ideas

6. Even the most cursory perusal of the manuscript version of Captain Clark's journals reveals the Captain as one of the most (i) _____ spellers ever to write in English, but this (ii) _____ attitude towards orthographical rules never renders Clark unclear.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. indefatigable	D. cavalier
B. fastidious	E. outlandish
C. defiant	F. pretentious



Sentence Completion 2

Elimination

7. Our grandfather was an entertaining (i) _____; he used to (ii) _____ us with marvellous anecdotes that we, in our childlike simplicity, (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. philanthropist	D. regale	G. debated ferociously
B. raconteur	E. intimidate	H. accepted unquestioningly
C. curmudgeon	F. mollycoddle	I. debunked readily



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Strategy for Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence

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- **I**dentify the linking words and the key words and understand the central idea of the sentence/passage.
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- **E**liminate the options that do not match with the predicted answer.

Sentence Completion 2

Choosing Synonyms

8. That the nightmarish depictions common to most 20th century dystopian novels are exaggerated should by no means diminish the _____ power of these works, for many of the visions they conjure up are reflected, albeit in less vivid form, in many totalitarian governments today.

A. sustained
B. relevant
C. comprehensive
D. political
E. revelatory
F. prophetic



Sentence Completion 2

Not Synonym But the Same Outcome

9. Owing to her innate _____ and infectious optimism, Cassie succeeded not just in transcending her own physical disability but also in helping many others to overcome similar challenges.

A. buoyancy
B. altruism
C. empathy
D. resiliency
E. stubbornness
F. adaptability



Sentence Completion 2

Secondary Meanings

10. The critic applauded the book for its wit but decried the one-dimensional nature of its characters. Upon reading the review, the novelist railed against the _____ of critics who failed to notice the fact that those characters are supposed to be one-dimensional.

A. perfidy

B. obtuseness

C. denseness

D. ignorance

E. treachery

F. inexorableness



Sentence Completion 2

Practice Exercise 1

11. Many creative photographers were delighted to find in instant photography a mode that encouraged them to stop viewing photography as _____ and start viewing it as something they could handle with spontaneity, even derision.

A. autonomous
B. ephemeral
C. malleable
D. egalitarian
E. sacrosanct



Sentence Completion 2

12. Though many medieval women possessed devotional books that had belonged to their mothers, formal written evidence of women bequeathing books to their daughters is scarce, which suggests that such bequests were (i) _____ and required no (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. covert	D. documentation
B. spurious	E. approval
C. customary	F. rationalization



Sentence Completion 2

13. The cultivation of the emotion of natsukashii, interpretable as "pleasant sorrow," brings Japanese to Kyoto in the spring, not to (i)_____ the cherry blossoms in full bloom but to (ii)_____ the fading, falling flowers.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. mourn	D. exclaim over
B. savour	E. rejoice over
C. honor	F. grieve over



Sentence Completion 2

14. When editing manuscripts, literary scholars must remain acutely aware of textual (i) _____; the differences among extant versions of the same work - resulting from printing errors, editing demands, or constant revisions - often make it (ii) _____ for scholars to publish truly (iii) _____ texts.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. conformities	D. pejorative	G. cosmetic
B. congruities	E. daunting	H. innovative
C. anomalies	F. banal	I. authoritative



Sentence Completion 2

15. Many 17th century buildings that are still in existence have been so (i) _____ by successive owners that the original layout is no longer (ii) _____ beneath the sometimes much-needed, but usually (iii) _____ attempts to personalize or improve.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. Preserved	D. discernible	G. adept
B. transmogrified	E. extant	H. grotesque
C. decimated	F. enshrouded	I. tasteful



Sentence Completion 2

16. Their air of cheerful self-sacrifice and endless complaisance won them undeserved praise, for their seeming gallantry was wholly motivated by a _____ wish to avoid conflict of any sort.

A. pusillanimous

B. commendable

C. plaintive

D. laudable

E. craven

F. poignant



Sentence Completion 2

17. One of the vocalists who auditioned for a leading part in the local production of Sweeney Todd seemed to prefer _____ to any attempt at producing a melody; a more unpleasant voice was hard to imagine.

A. warbling

B. imitating

C. improvising

D. shrieking

E. vocalising

F. caterwauling



Sentence Completion 2

Practice Exercise 2

18. Freud derived psychoanalytic knowledge of childhood indirectly: he (i) _____ childhood processes from adult (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. incorporated	D. experience
B. reconstructed	E. behavior
C. inferred	F. memory



Sentence Completion 2

19. There are as yet no vegetation types or ecosystems whose study has been (i) _____ to the extent that they no longer (ii) _____ ecologists.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. exhausted	D. benefit
B. perfected	E. interest
C. prevented	F. challenge



Sentence Completion 2

20. In keeping with his own (i) _____ in international diplomacy, Churchill proposed a personal meeting of heads of government, but the effort was (ii) _____, as the temper of the times was (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. peccadilloes	D. doomed to failure	G. amicable
B. aversions	E. instantly accepted	H. auspicious
C. predilections	F. considered worthwhile	I. inimical



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21. Applications of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) have fared best in contexts in which habitat condition is closely linked to species condition and the cause of habitat degradation is easily identified. The achievements of the ESA in those contexts, however, have (i) _____ that other uses of the act can (ii) _____ that record even where such favorable conditions do not (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. quelled the conviction	D. mitigate	G. diverge
B. presaged the uncertainty	E. duplicate	H. pertain
C. fostered the misconception	F. elucidate	I. diminish



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22. Lee's film fails to dispel the notion that African Americans are not quite American. "These United States of America", referred to in the film's dedication, thus emerge as a deeply troubled site in which the relative protections of national citizenship remain (i) _____ all but a privileged few. The long history of African American (ii) _____ - placing a large proportion on race and class prejudice - means that America's black population plays a (iii) _____ role in illuminating the national drama of exclusion.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
A. accessible to	D. disenfranchisement	G. central
B. elusive for	E. displacement	H. imperceptible
C. feasible for	F. dissolution	I. clandestine



Sentence Completion 2

23. Cezanne's delicate watercolor sketches often served as a(n) _____ of a subject, a way of gathering fuller knowledge before the artist's final engagement of the subject in an oil painting.

A. abstraction

B. exploration

C. synthesis

D. reconnaissance

E. discovery

F. enhancement



Sentence Completion 2

24. Inspired interim responses to hitherto unknown problems, New Deal economic strategies became _____ as a result of bureaucratization, their flexibility and adaptability destroyed by their transformation into rigid policies.

A. rigidified

B. consolidated

C. politicized

D. ungovernable

E. marginalized

F. ossified



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Additional Questions

25. One of Buddha's messages to the world was to give up the way of the _____ and instead adopt an austere way of life, like that of a monk.

A. sybarite
B. frugal
C. ferocity
D. spartan
E. severity



Sentence Completion 2

26. Broadway audiences have become inured to (i) _____ and so (ii) _____ to be pleased as to make their ready ovations meaningless as an indicator of the quality of the production before them.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
A. mediocrity	D. reluctant
B. sentimentality	E. desperate
C. histrionics	F. ambivalent



Sentence Completion 2

27. The town's air was consistently _____: depending on the breeze, one might be greeted with the sour effluvia of twenty breweries, choking fumes from the coal factory, or brackish smells from the nearby river.

A. toxic
B. malodorous
C. noisome
D. maleficent
E. redolent
F. anodyne



Sentence Completion 2

28. The science of astronomy was begun by amateurs and today remains dependent on their contributions, which are incisive by virtue of being _____ by the a priori assumptions that often vitiate the work of professional research scientists.

A. accredited
B. unencumbered
C. bolstered
D. gainsaid
E. galvanised



Sentence Completion 2

29. Although David was severely critical of his wife, he did not dare treat her with _____.

A. panache

B. mendacity

C. superciliousness

D. insularity

E. disapprobation



Sentence Completion 2

30. Although the discipline maintained by the CEO of the company was highly admirable, her _____ ended up annoying even the most effective employees.

A. taciturnity

B. obsequiousness

C. officiousness

D. perfidy

E. bumptiousness

F. complaisance





Thank you