

SKILL BUILDER IN FOCUS

**Great
Practice
for the
SAT® I**

501

Sentence Completion

Q U E S T I O N S

Master this question type to score higher!

Achieve maximum results with proven practice

Build test-taking confidence—fast!

**Great for the SAT I, GRE, and many other
standardized tests**

Focus Fast on Sentence Completions

501

Sentence Completion Questions

501

Sentence Completion Questions



NEW YORK

Copyright © 2004 LearningExpress, LLC.

All rights reserved under International and Pan-American Copyright Conventions.
Published in the United States by LearningExpress, LLC, New York.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data:
501 sentence completion questions.—1st ed.

p.m.

ISBN 1-57685-511-2 (pbk.: alk. paper)

1. English language—Examinations—Study guides. 2. English language—Sentences—
Problems, exercises, etc. I. Title: Five hundred one sentence completion questions. II.
Title: Five hundred and one sentence completion questions. III. Series: LearningExpress
(Organization)

LB1631.5.A17 2004

428.1'076—dc22

2003027067

Printed in the United States of America

9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

First Edition

ISBN 1-57685-511-2

For more information or to place an order, contact LearningExpress at:

55 Broadway
8th floor
New York, NY 10006

Or visit us at:

www.learnatest.com

The LearningExpress Skill Builder in Focus Writing Team is comprised of experts in test preparation, as well as educators and teachers who specialize in language arts and math.

LearningExpress Skill Builder in Focus Writing Team

Lara Bohlke
Middle School Math Teacher, Grade 8
Dodd Middle School
Cheshire, Connecticut

Elizabeth Chesla
English Instructor
Coordinator of Technical and Professional Communication Program
Polytechnic University, Brooklyn
South Orange, New Jersey

Brigit Dermott
Freelance Writer
English Tutor, New York Cares
New York, New York

Darren Dunn
English Teacher
Riverhead School District
Riverhead, New York

Barbara Fine
English Instructor
Secondary Reading Specialist
Setauket, New York

Sandy Gade
Project Editor
LearningExpress
New York, New York

Melinda Grove
Adjunct Professor
Quinnipiac University and Naugatuck Valley Community College
Math Consultant

Karen Hunter
Project Editor
Elkview, West Virginia

Diane Kampf
Middle School English Teacher, Grade 7
Robert Moss Middle School
North Babylon School District
North Babylon, New York
Adjunct Assistant Professor
Suffolk Community College
Suffolk, New York

Noah Kravitz
Curriculum and Technology Specialist
New York, New York

Kerry McLean
Project Editor
Math Tutor
Shirley, New York

Kimberly Moroz
English Instructor
Wilmington College
New Castle, Delaware

William Recco
Middle School Math Teacher, Grade 8
New York Shoreham/Wading River School District
Math Tutor
St. James, New York

Colleen Schultz
Middle School Math Teacher, Grade 8
Vestal Central School District
Math Tutor and Teacher Mentor
Vestal, New York

Contents

Introduction	ix
Chapter 1	1
Chapter 2	9
Chapter 3	17
Chapter 4	27
Chapter 5	37
Chapter 6	47
Chapter 7	55
Chapter 8	65
Chapter 9	73
Chapter 10	83
Chapter 11	91
Chapter 12	101
Chapter 13	109
Chapter 14	117
Chapter 15	127

501 Sentence Completion Questions

Chapter 16	135
Chapter 17	143
Chapter 18	151
Chapter 19	159
Chapter 20	169

Introduction

Welcome to 501 Sentence Completion Questions! This book is designed to help you prepare for the verbal and reading sections of many assessment and entrance exams. By completing the 501 sample items offered here and by studying their answer explanations, you will develop the skills necessary to tackle each type of sentence completion question. You will also improve your vocabulary and your process of elimination skills.

Sentence completions test your ability to use the information found in complex, but incomplete, sentences in order to correctly complete the sentences. Sentence completions test two separate aspects of your verbal skills: your vocabulary and your ability to follow the internal logic of sentences. These sentences are often quite complex. Fortunately, there are some strategies that will greatly increase your score on these questions. Each of these questions has one blank (or, on some tests, two blanks) within a single sentence. Often the sentences are long and difficult to follow, but with practice you can learn to master them.

501 Sentence Completion Questions

Many standardized tests—including high school and college entrance exams and civil service exams—use sentence completion questions to test vocabulary and logic. Some of the “alphabet soup” of exams that contain sentence completions are the:

- SAT I exam
- PSAT/NMSQT exam
- GRE General test
- TOEFL/TOEIC exams
- ISEE
- GRT

You might wonder what kinds of strategies you can use to master sentence completions. When it comes to sentence completions, the word that does *not* appear is the key to the meaning of the sentence. The words that *do* appear offer *clues* to the missing word. If you can find out how the words that appear are connected, you can find the correct answer. This means that you must know more than just the meaning of the words involved. You must also understand the logic of the sentence. Here is a sampling of strategies:

- Read the entire sentence saying “blank” for the blank(s). This gives you an overall sense of the meaning of the sentence and helps you figure out how the parts of the sentence relate to each other. If an answer occurs to you before you even look at the choices, you may have a synonym for the answer or the answer itself.
- Pay special attention to introductory and transitional words—*but, although, however, yet, even though*—because they are key to forming the logical structure of the sentence.
- Be sure your choice is both logical and grammatically correct.
- If you don’t know some words, use elimination and educated guessing, which means you are able to eliminate

501 Sentence Completion Questions

one or more of the choices as definitely wrong; or guessing from context when you know a related word.

There are several types of sentence completions:

- restatement
- comparison
- contrast
- cause and effect

Here is an example of a cause-and-effect sentence completion question:

After a brief and violent _____ that ousted the president, General Monsanto declared himself the dictator of the country.

- a. nuance
- b. coup
- c. solicitation
- d. upbraiding
- e. lament

The answer is choice **b**. A *coup* (n.) is a sudden and decisive change of leadership illegally or by force, a takeover. What (the cause) led the general to declare himself dictator (the result)? Something *brief and violent, that ousted the president*, a coup.

Here is an example of a restatement question:

The city council formed a committee to simplify several dozen _____ city ordinances that were unnecessarily complicated and out-of-date.

- a. feckless
- b. empirical
- c. byzantine
- d. slovenly
- e. pedantic

501 Sentence Completion Questions

The answer is choice **c**, *byzantine*, an adjective that means “highly complicated and intricate.” Here, you are looking for a restatement of the clue words *complicated* and *out-of-date*, and for something that needs *simplifying*.

As you practice sentence completions, you may discover *signal* words and phrases—clues that help you choose the correct answer. Here are common signal words and an example for each kind of question:

Restatement: *namely, in other words, in fact, that is*

Example: The pickpocket was a trickster, *in other words*, a _____.
(The answer, which restates “trickster,” might be *knave* or *scoundrel*.)

Comparison: *likewise, similarly, and, just as, as _____ as, for example, as shown, as illustrated by*

Example: Anna was cleared of all charges; *similarly*, Sam was _____.

(The answer compares to being “cleared of all charges,” so perhaps Sam was *vindicated*.)

Contrast: *though, although, however, despite, but, yet; on the other hand, but, however, despite, or on the contrary*

Example: *Although* the tiger is a solitary beast, its cousin the lion is a _____ animal.

(The answer is something that contrasts with “solitary,” such as *gregarious* or *sociable*.)

Cause and effect: *thus, therefore, consequently, and because* and phrases such as *due to, as a result, leads to*

Example: A truck stole her parking spot; *consequently*, Sally’s _____ look showed her displeasure.

(The answer would be a look caused by someone stealing Sally’s parking spot, maybe *scowling* or *sullen*.)

501 Sentence Completion Questions

The sentence completion question sets in this book increase in difficulty as you practice your way through them—from easy to intermediate to advanced. These divisions may reflect how challenging the vocabulary is or how complex the sentence structure is or how challenging the logic of the sentence is.

The 501 Skill Builder in Focus exercises will help you prepare for an exam in several ways. First, you will become familiar with the question format. You will get used to identifying the relationships of words within a sentence. The more comfortable you are with the question format and the more familiar you are with the range of sentence completion types, the easier the verbal or reading section of your test will be.

Second, your performance on these questions will help you assess your vocabulary strengths and weaknesses. For example, you may find that you do very well with words that are cognates (words from a common original form, such as *asteroid* and *astronomy*), but not so well on foreign words, such as *ennui* or *angst*.

Third, you will learn, through practice, to spot and disregard wrong answer choices. You may also discover a pattern to your wrong answers. (Are you weak on cause-and-effect questions?)

In addition to this book, look for other sources of vocabulary growth: software, audio and online courses, and books. One helpful resource is LearningExpress's *Vocabulary and Spelling Success in 20 Minutes a Day*, which helps boost your vocabulary and your verbal test scores.

You have already taken an important step toward improving your score. You have shown your commitment by purchasing this book. Now what you need to do is complete each exercise, study the answers, and watch your ability to solve sentence completions increase. Good luck!

Chapter 1

1. She hadn't eaten all day, and by the time she got home she was _____.
 - a. blighted
 - b. confutative
 - c. ravenous
 - d. ostentatious
 - e. blissful

2. The movie offended many of the parents of its younger viewers by including unnecessary _____ in the dialogue.
 - a. vulgarity
 - b. verbosity
 - c. vocalizations
 - d. garishness
 - e. tonality

501 Sentence Completion Questions

3. His neighbors found his _____ manner bossy and irritating, and they stopped inviting him to backyard barbeques.
- a. insentient
 - b. magisterial
 - c. reparatory
 - d. restorative
 - e. modest
4. Steven is always _____ about showing up for work because he feels that tardiness is a sign of irresponsibility.
- a. legible
 - b. tolerable
 - c. punctual
 - d. literal
 - e. belligerent
5. Candace would _____ her little sister into an argument by teasing her and calling her names.
- a. advocate
 - b. provoke
 - c. perforate
 - d. lamente
 - e. expunge
6. The dress Ariel wore _____ with small, glassy beads, creating a shimmering effect.
- a. titillated
 - b. reiterated
 - c. scintillated
 - d. enthralled
 - e. striated
7. Being able to afford this luxury car will _____ getting a better-paying job.
- a. maximize
 - b. recombinant
 - c. reiterate
 - d. necessitate
 - e. reciprocate

501 Sentence Completion Questions

8. Levina unknowingly _____ the thief by holding open the elevator doors and ensuring his escape.
- a. coerced
 - b. proclaimed
 - c. abetted
 - d. sanctioned
 - e. solicited
9. Shakespeare, a(n) _____ writer, entertained audiences by writing many tragic and comic plays.
- a. numeric
 - b. obstinate
 - c. dutiful
 - d. prolific
 - e. generic
10. I had the _____ experience of sitting next to an over-talkative passenger on my flight home from Brussels.
- a. satisfactory
 - b. commendable
 - c. galling
 - d. acceptable
 - e. acute
11. Prince Phillip had to choose: marry the woman he loved and _____ his right to the throne, or marry Lady Fiona and inherit the crown.
- a. reprimand
 - b. upbraid
 - c. abdicate
 - d. winnow
 - e. extol
12. If you will not do your work of your own _____, I have no choice but to penalize you if it is not done on time.
- a. predilection
 - b. coercion
 - c. excursion
 - d. volition
 - e. infusion

501 Sentence Completion Questions

- 13.** After sitting in the sink for several days, the dirty, food-encrusted dishes became _____.
- a. malodorous
 - b. prevalent
 - c. imposing
 - d. perforated
 - e. emphatic
- 14.** Giulia soon discovered the source of the _____ smell in the room: a week-old tuna sandwich that one of the children had hidden in the closet.
- a. quaint
 - b. fastidious
 - c. clandestine
 - d. laconic
 - e. fetid
- 15.** After making _____ remarks to the President, the reporter was not invited to return to the White House pressroom.
- a. hospitable
 - b. itinerant
 - c. enterprising
 - d. chivalrous
 - e. irreverent
- 16.** With her _____ eyesight, Krystyna spotted a trio of deer on the hillside and she reduced the speed of her car.
- a. inferior
 - b. keen
 - c. impressionable
 - d. ductile
 - e. conspiratorial

501 Sentence Completion Questions

- 17.** With a(n) _____ grin, the boy quickly slipped the candy into his pocket without his mother's knowledge.
- a. jaundiced
 - b. nefarious
 - c. stereotypical
 - d. sentimental
 - e. impartial
- 18.** Her _____ display of tears at work did not impress her new boss, who felt she should try to control her emotions.
- a. maudlin
 - b. meritorious
 - c. precarious
 - d. plausible
 - e. schematic
- 19.** Johan argued, "If you know about a crime but don't report it, you are _____ in that crime because you allowed it to happen."
- a. acquitted
 - b. steadfast
 - c. tenuous
 - d. complicit
 - e. nullified
- 20.** The authorities, fearing a _____ of their power, called for a military state in the hopes of restoring order.
- a. subversion
 - b. premonition
 - c. predilection
 - d. infusion
 - e. inversion
- 21.** The story's bitter antagonist felt such great _____ for all of the other characters that as a result, his life was very lonely and he died alone.
- a. insurgence
 - b. malevolence
 - c. reciprocation
 - d. declamation
 - e. preference