

Chapter 1

Sentence Completion

Sentence Completion refers to Text Completion and Sentence Equivalence questions. Text Completion questions have one, two, or three words missing, and you choose one word for each blank. Sentence Equivalence questions have one word missing, and you choose two words for the blank.

Half the challenge is interpreting the sentence, and the other half is sorting through the vocabulary. With practice, you learn to easily interpret the sentence, and with exposure, you recognize the commonly-used GRE vocabulary words.

The Problems You'll Work On

When working through the questions in this chapter, be prepared to

- ✓ Look for clues in the sentence to determine its meaning.
- ✓ Recognize irony, figures of speech, and formal diction.
- ✓ Use transition words (“but, however, therefore”) to get the gist of the phrases.
- ✓ Break the sentence into smaller pieces.
- ✓ Check one word blank at a time to eliminate answer choices.

What to Watch Out For

The meaning of the sentence is not always clear, and the vocabulary can be tricky, so watch out for trap word-choice answers that

- ✓ Appear to fit the sentence but don't support its meaning
- ✓ Support the meaning of the sentence but aren't used properly
- ✓ Appear to have one meaning but actually mean something else, such as “condone,” which means “approve”

For questions 1–90, each of the following sentences has a blank indicating that a word or phrase is omitted. Choose the two answer choices that best complete the sentence and result in two sentences most alike in meaning.

1. The crowd applauded the dancer, despite her odd ways, finding brilliance in the _____ of her movements.
[A] offensiveness
[B] anomaly
[C] irregularity
[D] mastery
[E] grotesquery
[F] banality
2. I read every political blog I found to _____ as many facts about the state of the world as I could before my interview with the foreign service.
[A] accrete
[B] eradicate
[C] garner
[D] jettison
[E] comprise
[F] accumulate
3. The dedication highlighted Dr. Carter's Nobel Prize in mathematics as the _____ of his career, which hardly acknowledges the honor of such a distinction.
[A] zenith
[B] apex
[C] plateau
[D] median
[E] pedestal
[F] foundation
4. Tracy thought James was a perfect match for her in every way except for his _____ taste in food, with her palette not as adventurous as his.
[A] humdrum
[B] dazzling
[C] eclectic
[D] lackluster
[E] diverse
[F] inspired
5. Mr. Horton turned beet red after Ricky failed to show the proper _____ at Kim's graduation.
[A] unruliness
[B] tranquility
[C] majesty
[D] violence
[E] decorum
[F] tact
6. Considering how outlandish the pop star's wardrobe is when she is on stage, her gown at the music awards was very _____.
[A] extraordinary
[B] banal
[C] predictable
[D] derivative
[E] conventional
[F] unique

7. As much as Carl wanted to buy the mountain bike, he felt that it wasn't a _____ decision.
- [A] trustworthy
 - [B] risky
 - [C] pragmatic
 - [D] corrupt
 - [E] precarious
 - [F] rational
8. Downhill skiers are some of the most _____ in the Olympics, reaching speeds of up to 80 miles per hour.
- [A] coy
 - [B] plucky
 - [C] tentative
 - [D] egotistical
 - [E] fearless
 - [F] haughty
9. John thought that he and Kim had made amends after the disagreement last week, but based on the way she continued to _____ at him, it was clear John was wrong.
- [A] beam
 - [B] glower
 - [C] contort
 - [D] smirk
 - [E] scowl
 - [F] mope
10. The fact that Nichelle made it into Harvard was _____, considering that she had such a low GPA.
- [A] enlightening
 - [B] furtive
 - [C] incoherent
 - [D] enigmatic
 - [E] explicable
 - [F] mysterious
11. The bistro was known for its lobster bisque, so when the kitchen ran out, the cooks had to come up with a suitable replacement dish to _____ the angry diners.
- [A] annoy
 - [B] placate
 - [C] remedy
 - [D] provoke
 - [E] improve
 - [F] appease
12. The cheating scandal would likely _____ the football team's reputation for a long time.
- [A] extol
 - [B] heighten
 - [C] sully
 - [D] belittle
 - [E] tarnish
 - [F] boost

13. The scene in the stadium was becoming increasingly _____ as the fans grew angrier about calls made against the home team.
- [A] explosive
 - [B] vulnerable
 - [C] tenuous
 - [D] volatile
 - [E] steady
 - [F] weak
14. Tommy's _____ manners were far below Sarah's parents' high-class lifestyle.
- [A] polished
 - [B] plebeian
 - [C] abrasive
 - [D] naughty
 - [E] refined
 - [F] coarse
15. Karen refuses to _____ for a raise.
- [A] crave
 - [B] pray
 - [C] inquire
 - [D] grovel
 - [E] request
 - [F] plead
16. The Jones family acts like it doesn't seek attention, but then it does something wholly _____, such as when Mrs. Jones wore a mink coat to the little league football game.
- [A] modest
 - [B] salient
 - [C] trivial
 - [D] prominent
 - [E] unobtrusive
 - [F] palpable
17. The students loved the teacher's _____ style of teaching because they never knew what the lesson would be like on any given day.
- [A] humdrum
 - [B] knowable
 - [C] trite
 - [D] whimsical
 - [E] capricious
 - [F] innovative
18. Jackie had been saving her frequent flyer miles for ten years, and her patience paid off when she was able to book the _____ suite in Las Vegas fit for a king. There was even a chandelier in the bathroom.
- [A] unique
 - [B] moderate
 - [C] palatial
 - [D] pedestrian
 - [E] lavish
 - [F] unparalleled
19. The _____ of the intervention trial was more than the researchers had hoped for, with results far beyond what they had hypothesized.
- [A] ineptitude
 - [B] efficacy
 - [C] shortcoming
 - [D] tolerability
 - [E] effectiveness
 - [F] acceptability

20. Karen was shocked hearing her dad tell friends how proud he was of her, as all he ever did was make _____ comments.
- [A] profane
 - [B] caustic
 - [C] sarcastic
 - [D] encouraging
 - [E] blasphemous
 - [F] supportive
21. Rather than discuss the issues at hand, the speaker _____ all day about how right he was and how wrong everyone else was.
- [A] pondered
 - [B] opined
 - [C] consulted
 - [D] preached
 - [E] deliberated
 - [F] reflected
22. Jason took Carol to dinner and a movie, which she felt was a _____ activity and not impressive at all.
- [A] tasteless
 - [B] imaginative
 - [C] dreary
 - [D] thrilling
 - [E] prosaic
 - [F] pedestrian
23. Having the play produced was the _____ of Charlotte's college career, with the rest of the experience passing by without anything else significant occurring.
- [A] standard
 - [B] makeup
 - [C] quality
 - [D] acme
 - [E] pinnacle
 - [F] peculiarity
24. The success of the hit comedy *Seinfeld* was mainly due to the _____ dialogue between the characters, with each being capable of cleverly delivering humorous lines.
- [A] droll
 - [B] witty
 - [C] obvious
 - [D] dense
 - [E] obtuse
 - [F] classic
25. By _____ the immoral behaviors of celebrity professional athletes, society is sending a negative message to our youth.
- [A] punishing
 - [B] praising
 - [C] condoning
 - [D] lauding
 - [E] rebuking
 - [F] pardoning
26. Trying to get a picture of white storks in migration is tricky because of their _____ travel patterns.
- [A] erratic
 - [B] transparent
 - [C] obvious
 - [D] intermittent
 - [E] foreseeable
 - [F] unimagined

27. Although Johnny Depp is best known as a major Hollywood celebrity, he is also well known for his _____ personality, frequently socializing in the communities where he is shooting films.
- [A] confident
 - [B] gregarious
 - [C] introverted
 - [D] extroverted
 - [E] pompous
 - [F] reluctant
28. The Congressional Medal of Honor is given to exceptionally _____ soldiers who place themselves in the most terrifying situations to save the lives of others.
- [A] proficient
 - [B] resolute
 - [C] established
 - [D] intrepid
 - [E] gallant
 - [F] clever
29. Being confident in your ideas is a good characteristic for a boss, but if you possess a _____ attitude, you hinder your ability to learn from others and improve yourself or the business.
- [A] lenient
 - [B] doctrinaire
 - [C] dogmatic
 - [D] prejudiced
 - [E] generous
 - [F] partisan
30. By providing tax incentives for small business startups, the president _____ economic growth and reduced unemployment.
- [A] engendered
 - [B] obstructed
 - [C] allowed
 - [D] inhibited
 - [E] certified
 - [F] stimulated
31. Google is considered to be the _____ of a positive workplace environment, with ample vacation time and nap pods for every employee.
- [A] deficiency
 - [B] surplus
 - [C] paragon
 - [D] exemplar
 - [E] shortcoming
 - [F] intemperance
32. Because Jordan quickly noticed his wallet was missing, the damage to his bank account was _____, with most of his money remaining untouched.
- [A] microscopic
 - [B] nominal
 - [C] immense
 - [D] significant
 - [E] petite
 - [F] negligible

33. As the semester progressed, the attendance in Professor Landsburg's class diminished due to his _____ character, as the professor often shed tears while reciting poetry.
- [A] composed
 - [B] maudlin
 - [C] mawkish
 - [D] affectionate
 - [E] impassive
 - [F] neurotic
34. St. Mary's Catholic School has been teaching students for more than 100 years, and it takes great pride in the _____ that guide(s) it, in that each day starts and ends the same way, and any student who does not act accordingly is subject to expulsion.
- [A] agendas
 - [B] mores
 - [C] authority
 - [D] strategies
 - [E] norms
 - [F] formulas
35. The coaches agreed to _____ to determine the outcome of the game after the last play was too close for the referees to call.
- [A] analyze
 - [B] dispute
 - [C] concur
 - [D] parley
 - [E] squabble
 - [F] confer
36. Poor grades are _____ among the basketball team players because of all the classes they miss for games.
- [A] endemic
 - [B] native
 - [C] measly
 - [D] sparse
 - [E] exclusive
 - [F] rife
37. The hiker showed _____ by rationing his water for the long hike.
- [A] prudence
 - [B] destiny
 - [C] providence
 - [D] retrospection
 - [E] fortune
 - [F] hindsight
38. The barn cat created _____ with the farmer by keeping mice out of the horse feed, for which the farmer gave it food and water and let it sleep in the barn.
- [A] sovereignty
 - [B] symbiosis
 - [C] enslavement
 - [D] freedom
 - [E] mutualism
 - [F] addiction
39. J. D. Salinger was famous for the way in which he moved into a remote cabin and lived a _____ life; therefore, there are few accounts of his personal life.
- [A] hermetic
 - [B] forsaken
 - [C] lonely
 - [D] derelict
 - [E] deserted
 - [F] reclusive

40. The only reason Henry passed English this fall semester was that his professor was extremely _____, believing every story for why assignments were never finished.
- [A] seasoned
 - [B] credulous
 - [C] gullible
 - [D] immature
 - [E] inept
 - [F] cunning
41. Davis was naïve to think that Ms. Miller would change her _____ behavior, as she was in the middle of a con when he met her.
- [A] stony
 - [B] honorable
 - [C] wily
 - [D] sincere
 - [E] unemotional
 - [F] crafty
42. The sheriff almost fired the deputy for committing such a _____ act, when the deputy ran from the building after discovering the bomb.
- [A] craven
 - [B] feeble
 - [C] valiant
 - [D] heroic
 - [E] pitiable
 - [F] pusillanimous
43. Emily Post is a famous author whose name has become synonymous with _____ after writing a number of books teaching young women how to be respectable ladies in society.
- [A] insolence
 - [B] sympathy
 - [C] audacity
 - [D] propriety
 - [E] sensitivity
 - [F] etiquette
44. Steve Martin made many movies during his career, but despite his serious and dramatic roles, he will be remembered best for his _____ characters in his early comedies.
- [A] irresponsible
 - [B] puerile
 - [C] infantile
 - [D] mature
 - [E] petty
 - [F] wise
45. The comedian was not well liked by the audience, which felt that his _____ jokes were offensive.
- [A] heartfelt
 - [B] duplicitous
 - [C] dishonest
 - [D] sardonic
 - [E] hypocritical
 - [F] mordant

46. Bill's dad had to pay the neighbor \$150 to _____ the disturbance, and Bill wasn't allowed to play drums in the backyard anymore.
- [A] exacerbate
 - [B] redress
 - [C] alleviate
 - [D] recuperate
 - [E] remedy
 - [F] enrich
47. The voters were _____ as they stood in line, primarily because the latest polls had shown that their representative was way ahead of his opponent in the elections.
- [A] cynical
 - [B] sanguine
 - [C] suspicious
 - [D] insistent
 - [E] adamant
 - [F] optimistic
48. The _____ appetite of the Great White Shark causes it to consume almost 500 pounds of food a day, but it can survive for two weeks without eating.
- [A] replete
 - [B] temperate
 - [C] satiated
 - [D] implacable
 - [E] unappeasable
 - [F] abounding
49. Jenny had a style that fit the punk scene, but the preppy kids at school treated her like she was a(n) _____ and barely spoke to her.
- [A] pariah
 - [B] offscouring
 - [C] colleague
 - [D] interloper
 - [E] counterpart
 - [F] expatriate
50. Though initially successful, the art dealer had to close his gallery after word got out that he was a _____, having never seriously studied or worked with fine art to any significant extent.
- [A] proletarian
 - [B] authority
 - [C] specialist
 - [D] dilettante
 - [E] curmudgeon
 - [F] amateur
51. The directors chose Lisa to _____ her former supervisor after they caught the supervisor printing Christmas cards with the company's equipment.
- [A] promote
 - [B] invite
 - [C] terminate
 - [D] coordinate
 - [E] supplant
 - [F] displace

52. No one invites Monty to parties, because he drinks too much and becomes _____, arguing and picking fights.
- [A] surly
 - [B] churlish
 - [C] insubordinate
 - [D] civil
 - [E] polished
 - [F] defiant
53. After the _____ actions of President Nixon involving the Watergate Hotel, the country was shocked and disillusioned, and his impeachment seemed imminent.
- [A] fearsome
 - [B] unconscionable
 - [C] obscure
 - [D] bravura
 - [E] scandalous
 - [F] brilliant
54. The members of the jury couldn't come to a decision because of the defendant's moving testimony, with those believing the _____ of it voting to acquit.
- [A] fraudulence
 - [B] equivocation
 - [C] veracity
 - [D] duplicity
 - [E] directness
 - [F] authenticity
55. The bank cut Tim off after his _____ use of credit cards exceeded the account limits.
- [A] prodigal
 - [B] oblivious
 - [C] heedless
 - [D] selfless
 - [E] philanthropic
 - [F] extravagant
56. The stock market crash of 2008 led to the _____ of most banking activities, including mortgage loans and lending services, due to the levels of bankruptcy and the instability of fund balances.
- [A] upsurge
 - [B] diminution
 - [C] abeyance
 - [D] suspension
 - [E] improvement
 - [F] escalation
57. Although the volcano Haleakala on the island of Maui is usually _____, it has erupted in a lava flow three times during the last 900 years.
- [A] functional
 - [B] destroyed
 - [C] lively
 - [D] fallow
 - [E] immobile
 - [F] dormant
58. The school board was completely unprepared for the _____ by the cafeteria staff, which locked the doors and refused to accept delivery from the food vendor.
- [A] riots
 - [B] insurrection
 - [C] complaints
 - [D] unrest
 - [E] uprising
 - [F] reconciliation

59. The playwright wrote a(n) _____ that depicted his mother as a neurotic control freak who rummages his drawers when he's not home, though he later said that he had exaggerated.
- [A] cartoon
 - [B] tribute
 - [C] lampoon
 - [D] homage
 - [E] satire
 - [F] analysis
60. Training for the marathon while working 60 hours a week left Charlie feeling _____.
- [A] frenzied
 - [B] enervated
 - [C] reinvigorated
 - [D] languid
 - [E] supported
 - [F] prohibited
61. Robin didn't agree with what her competitor said during the debate, but she couldn't help but feel sorry for him after the vicious _____ he received from the judge following his statement.
- [A] docility
 - [B] commendation
 - [C] reticence
 - [D] vituperation
 - [E] condescension
 - [F] opprobrium
62. The _____ explanation Jeannine gave for being late only made her parents more suspicious of her whereabouts; she should have been brief.
- [A] oblique
 - [B] persnickety
 - [C] earnest
 - [D] circuitous
 - [E] punctilious
 - [F] frivolous
63. Henry David Thoreau wrote *Walden* while living in a remote cabin in the woods, and although his philosophy and insights about getting back to nature are quite wise, most of modern society, with all the available indulgences, does not have what it takes to live that type of _____ life.
- [A] monastic
 - [B] zealous
 - [C] equitable
 - [D] clement
 - [E] austere
 - [F] altruistic
64. Cherry tells the truth in such a way that people are taken aback by her _____ remarks.
- [A] sincere
 - [B] amicable
 - [C] hypocritical
 - [D] deceitful
 - [E] ingenuous
 - [F] candid

65. In the horror movie *Carrie*, bullying hits a(n) _____ when the main character is doused in blood at the prom and is humiliated in front of the entire school.
- [A] infamy
 - [B] crest
 - [C] distinction
 - [D] peak
 - [E] nadir
 - [F] depth
66. Nelson Mandela was held in great _____ by citizens and leaders of the world for his prudence in the fight for equal rights in South Africa, and as a result, more than 4,500 people attended his funeral.
- [A] revulsion
 - [B] deference
 - [C] disdain
 - [D] regard
 - [E] infatuation
 - [F] allure
67. Finishing the book on time wouldn't have been so _____ if the publisher hadn't moved the deadline up by three weeks, causing Jane undue duress.
- [A] convoluted
 - [B] facile
 - [C] onerous
 - [D] extraneous
 - [E] arduous
 - [F] paltry
68. Dale's friends were concerned about him because he'd become _____ since he was left at the altar, staring at the television in his basement day in and day out.
- [A] derisory
 - [B] phlegmatic
 - [C] vigorous
 - [D] apathetic
 - [E] slothful
 - [F] pathetic
69. Although the teacher's _____ abilities come in handy, they can also trap him, as he doesn't always want to be responsible for every problem.
- [A] assiduous
 - [B] perspicacious
 - [C] sagacious
 - [D] pensive
 - [E] erudite
 - [F] introspective
70. Debating the professor was a challenge, as he was such a(n) _____ that he would use the smallest detail of any point to invalidate the entire argument.
- [A] pedant
 - [B] connoisseur
 - [C] obfuscator
 - [D] contender
 - [E] hair-splitter
 - [F] specialist

71. The outrage over the verdict was immense from the crowd, which could not believe that the jury had decided the crime was nothing more than _____ when so many people had been hurt.
- [A] reputable
 - [B] wicked
 - [C] nefarious
 - [D] a peccadillo
 - [E] a misdemeanor
 - [F] culpable
72. The admissions committee was quick to narrow the field to only the most remarkable candidates, rejecting any application that was _____ in tone or content.
- [A] quotidian
 - [B] unexceptional
 - [C] prestigious
 - [D] outlandish
 - [E] phenomenal
 - [F] inconsequential
73. Vera was so offended at her date's chauvinism that she stood up, delivered a _____ remark, and threw her drink in his face before storming off.
- [A] straggling
 - [B] loutish
 - [C] pithy
 - [D] urbane
 - [E] sententious
 - [F] chivalrous
74. King Henry VIII was able to divorce his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, by forcing the clergy of the Catholic church to _____ its power and then claiming the role of supreme head of the church himself.
- [A] congregate
 - [B] abdicate
 - [C] assent
 - [D] diverge
 - [E] renounce
 - [F] disperse
75. Matt shows off that he's a _____ whenever he can, as he spoke French to the cab driver and Portuguese to the hotel concierge, both of whom were American.
- [A] polyglot
 - [B] genius
 - [C] linguist
 - [D] bilingual
 - [E] leader
 - [F] mastermind
76. The planners avoided the big picture by obsessing over _____ details.
- [A] wooly
 - [B] ambiguous
 - [C] incongruous
 - [D] tangential
 - [E] peripheral
 - [F] divergent

77. Mr. Wentworth made his fortune as a(n) _____ businessman; when a farmer was in financial trouble, he would help out for a share of the profits.
- [A] politic
 - [B] astute
 - [C] parsimonious
 - [D] munificent
 - [E] miserly
 - [F] charitable
78. The family searched for even the slightest _____ of something nostalgic from the tornado wreckage, but everything was gone.
- [A] paucity
 - [B] vestige
 - [C] indication
 - [D] plethora
 - [E] trace
 - [F] glut
79. Shelly's _____ belief that she was going to sell her first novel and become a millionaire kept her from considering any other reality.
- [A] recalcitrant
 - [B] quixotic
 - [C] idealistic
 - [D] obliging
 - [E] emphatic
 - [F] malleable
80. A sense of _____ helps one act according to what is right and with respect for others and the truth.
- [A] clemency
 - [B] impiety
 - [C] commiseration
 - [D] malevolence
 - [E] probity
 - [F] integrity
81. It takes some degree of _____ to publish a daily personal blog because not everyone is able to talk about himself prolifically.
- [A] ambivalence
 - [B] narcissism
 - [C] eloquence
 - [D] moderation
 - [E] hypocrisy
 - [F] conceit
82. Everyone who had the _____ to invest in Apple when it was cheap, in the '80s, is a millionaire now.
- [A] circumspection
 - [B] prescience
 - [C] foresight
 - [D] negligence
 - [E] gumption
 - [F] imprudence

83. Egyptian tombs, being _____ and capable of protecting the dead from thieves and vandals, were burial sites for ancient religious figures and leaders.
- [A] sacrosanct
 - [B] spindly
 - [C] inviolable
 - [D] bounteous
 - [E] meager
 - [F] resplendent
84. Frodo Baggins, with the success of his _____ pursuit of his mission to destroy the ring despite every possible obstacle, is an excellent example of fortitude.
- [A] preventable
 - [B] unavoidable
 - [C] inexorable
 - [D] superfluous
 - [E] relentless
 - [F] obligatory
85. The topic of the lecture was interesting, but the audience was lulled into slumber by the speaker's _____ manner of delivery.
- [A] invigorating
 - [B] repellant
 - [C] soporific
 - [D] charismatic
 - [E] restorative
 - [F] monotonous
86. With the job market the way it is, many professionals have _____ résumés, working in a variety of fields that are as different as night and day.
- [A] analogous
 - [B] multifarious
 - [C] uniform
 - [D] synchronized
 - [E] disparate
 - [F] atypical
87. When the pressure of law school is too much, the _____ sounds of Mozart calm one down.
- [A] sedative
 - [B] anguished
 - [C] analgesic
 - [D] heartening
 - [E] sorrowful
 - [F] palliative
88. Stephen King is such a _____ writer that he has to publish under several different names, lest the market become flooded with Stephen King titles.
- [A] learned
 - [B] infertile
 - [C] cultivated
 - [D] fruitless
 - [E] fecund
 - [F] prolific

89. Celestial eclipses are considered special events because they are _____ in certain parts of the world, happening once every 100 years and lasting only a few hours.

- [A] colossal
- [B] infinite
- [C] eternal
- [D] transitory
- [E] ordained
- [F] ephemeral

90. Howard's fan base continues to _____ because of all the new website traffic from his restaurant critiques.

- [A] supplement
- [B] diminish
- [C] engorge
- [D] proliferate
- [E] convoy
- [F] burgeon

For questions 91–115, choose the one entry best suited for each blank from its corresponding column of choices.

91. Celebrities often travel with bodyguards due to the _____ of adoring fans constantly vying for their attention.

- (A) deficiency
- (B) bevy
- (C) tribe
- (D) remainder
- (E) clique

92. The police chief ordered a standard _____ into the actions of the officer who had accusations made against him.

- (A) experiment
- (B) analysis
- (C) application
- (D) observation
- (E) inquest

93. A marathon runner usually takes the day after the race off from work, knowing her body needs (a) major _____ from the strain.

- (A) breather
- (B) repose
- (C) recreation
- (D) agitation
- (E) support

94. The casting director told Tony that although he had a lot of charm, she was looking for someone with a bit more _____ in his demeanor.

- (A) meekness
- (B) panache
- (C) charisma
- (D) complexity
- (E) humility

95. Even on the tenth stop of the tour, the _____ singer meditated for an hour before she could bring herself to go on stage.

- (A) exhausted
- (B) relaxed
- (C) overwrought
- (D) timorous
- (E) tranquil

96. The police arrested two bank tellers after the manager overheard them _____ together to extort millions of dollars.
- (A) professing
 - (B) colluding
 - (C) improvising
 - (D) adjoining
 - (E) fabricating
97. The process Jessica used to _____ her Yorkshire Terrier in the backyard was solemn, after she had spent most of the morning building an ornate box for the occasion.
- (A) inter
 - (B) harvest
 - (C) unearth
 - (D) banish
 - (E) enclose
98. The meatpacking industry faced major changes in the late 20th century due to new restrictions requiring factory owners to _____ the working conditions on their production lines.
- (A) revolutionize
 - (B) develop
 - (C) ameliorate
 - (D) depreciate
 - (E) modernize
99. Wary of the protests of dissenting stakeholders, the CEO convened a meeting with a _____ of the top executives to go forward with the merger.
- (A) cabal
 - (B) subordinate
 - (C) clique
 - (D) sect
 - (E) class
100. The insecure team captain had a reputation for _____, and somehow the best players always got injured.
- (A) trickery
 - (B) seniority
 - (C) machination
 - (D) prowess
 - (E) athleticism
101. Tracy hates spending the holidays at her in-laws because the _____ remarks by her mother-in-law always bruise her self-esteem.
- (A) discordant
 - (B) defamatory
 - (C) amicable
 - (D) pejorative
 - (E) congruous
102. The tell-all book would have sold millions of copies, but because of the _____ marketing, the buzz was over by the time the book hit the shelves.
- (A) resolute
 - (B) dithering
 - (C) remarkable
 - (D) cowardly
 - (E) vacillating
103. The candidate's platform was exactly what the farming community needed. However, because of his _____ manner of speaking, they thought he was a snob.
- (A) diplomatic
 - (B) affectionate
 - (C) vicious
 - (D) bombastic
 - (E) circuitous

- 104.** Naomi Judd eventually had to stop performing because of the severe _____ she felt as part of her chronic fatigue syndrome.
- (A) lassitude
 - (B) dexterity
 - (C) ingenuity
 - (D) apathy
 - (E) ineptitude
- 105.** As the popularity of Black Friday sales increases, the safety of shoppers decreases, as crowds of _____ shoppers rush past each other in search of the best deals.
- (A) serene
 - (B) distracted
 - (C) fervent
 - (D) frenetic
 - (E) listless
- 106.** The mountain pine beetle has wiped out more than 1.5 million acres of forest in Colorado by creating a _____ on pine and spruce trees in the Rocky Mountains.
- (A) misfortune
 - (B) defacement
 - (C) blight
 - (D) infirmity
 - (E) affliction
- 107.** New York Mayor Bloomberg proposed a ban on large-sized sodas to help promote better health in the city, but despite the good intentions behind it, critics were quick to _____ his plan due to its infringements on personal freedoms.
- (A) commend
 - (B) sanction
 - (C) vilify
 - (D) slander
 - (E) deride
- 108.** The seniors at McCarren High School held such _____ that the younger students had no say in school-related affairs.
- (A) inferiority
 - (B) constraint
 - (C) hegemony
 - (D) evaluations
 - (E) expertise
- 109.** It was bad enough that the rest of the team was upset with Joe for missing the last question at the quiz bowl, but when the coach _____ him in front of everyone, he really felt like a failure.
- (A) branded
 - (B) violated
 - (C) congratulated
 - (D) castigated
 - (E) desecrated
- 110.** The harsh way that Kelly depicted the people of her community in her book shed light on why she never talked to anyone or left her house. Before her book came out, everyone had thought the _____ was just quiet.
- (A) misanthrope
 - (B) skeptic
 - (C) pessimist
 - (D) curmudgeon
 - (E) idealist
- 111.** The government often refuses to address issues of the masses because of _____ attitudes of certain lawmakers, which can motivate actions such as the woman's suffrage and the civil rights movements.
- (A) malleable
 - (B) obstinate
 - (C) desultory
 - (D) amenable
 - (E) methodical

112. The president angered many of his supporters when he read his _____ in his public address and deeply criticized Congress's stance on the bill.
- (A) homily
(B) polemic
(C) opus
(D) proposal
(E) masterpiece
113. Japanese honeybees efficiently protect themselves from the predatory hornet by forming a _____ around the hornet and literally cooking it to death with the heat generated from the mass of vibrating wings.
- (A) legion
(B) cohort
(C) phalanx
(D) throng
(E) consortium
114. Marie was finally ready to buckle down and pursue a career; however, because she used to chronically _____, she found she could not get any letters of recommendation from her former employers.
- (A) hesitate
(B) meander
(C) tarry
(D) acquiesce
(E) malingering
115. According to Aristotle, in order for a dramatic character to be a tragic hero, one must be able to juxtapose the magnitude of the character's downfall with the manner in which he was previously _____ by society, thus creating a pitying effect.

- (A) praised
(B) decried
(C) spurned
(D) lionized
(E) eulogized

For questions 116–150, choose the one entry best suited for each blank from its corresponding column of choices.

116. Cornelius Holtorf, an archaeologist whose theories often generate controversy in the scientific sphere, received great (i) _____ for his adverse statements that the past is a renewable resource in that it is never lost but is always being (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

- (A) contempt
(B) criticism
(C) acclaim

Blank (ii)

- (D) buried
(E) wasted
(F) created

117. Juniper was always chosen first for teams in gym class because of her (i) _____ nature and the fact that she was so (ii) _____ in her participation.

Blank (i)

- (A) idle
(B) sportive
(C) eccentric

Blank (ii)

- (D) ardent
(E) dispassionate
(F) furtive

- 118.** Manuel was tired of always covering for his friends with the teacher because they never showed any appreciation. The (i) _____ never did anything nice for him to (ii) _____ his kindness.

Blank (i)

- (A) allies
- (B) champions
- (C) ingrates

Blank (ii)

- (D) ignore
- (E) perceive
- (F) reciprocate

- 119.** The bawdy disc jockey took the (i) _____ phrase from the song and turned it into a rudimentary babble. His antics and lack of appreciation for such poignancy are indications of his (ii) _____ character.

Blank (i)

- (A) garbled
- (B) confident
- (C) eloquent

Blank (ii)

- (D) congenial
- (E) sordid
- (F) hostile

- 120.** Margaret clearly demonstrated her (i) _____ nature when she steered her cousins toward the less expensive restaurant for dinner. Her uncle paid for her meal as a sign of (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

- (A) hasty
- (B) judicious
- (C) discreet

Blank (ii)

- (D) obligation
- (E) gratitude
- (F) vulgarity

- 121.** The animal rights group set up a booth every year at the state fair next to the barn to promote its (i) _____ of no harm to animals. The hunters hold a lot of (ii) _____ for them.

Blank (i)

- (A) dedication
- (B) verdict
- (C) dogma

Blank (ii)

- (D) esteem
- (E) mockery
- (F) disdain

- 122.** The wacky mirror at the carnival (i) _____ June's reflection so that June appeared ten times her normal size. This effect was contrary to her (ii) _____ nature.

Blank (i)

- (A) constricted
- (B) exposed
- (C) dilated

Blank (ii)

- (D) vain
- (E) futile
- (F) humble

- 123.** Everyone could tell that the speaker wasn't really educated about the subject. He just used a lot of (i) _____ that people already knew, which made him a (ii) _____ in Paula's eyes.

Blank (i)

- (A) mantras
- (B) axioms
- (C) expertise

Blank (ii)

- (D) maverick
- (E) charlatan
- (F) conformist

- 124.** Although Chad can be a (i) _____ in the way he insults people, he tends to have luck with employers, who seem to enjoy the bold and (ii) _____ side of his personality.

Blank (i)

- (A) boor
- (B) patrician
- (C) wretch

Blank (ii)

- (D) foolhardy
- (E) audacious
- (F) impudent

- 125.** No one could believe the boys were twins; not only did they look nothing alike, but one was excessively (i) _____, always showing a certain artistry in his gestures and speech, whereas the other was more (ii) _____, showing little energy in his demeanor.

Blank (i)

- (A) ostentatious
- (B) diffident
- (C) florid

Blank (ii)

- (D) despondent
- (E) pallid
- (F) exultant

- 126.** Sarah knew that moving to a big city to be more alone was a (i) _____, but it was easier to (ii) _____ her nature among so many strangers than in the small town where she grew up.

Blank (i)

- (A) paradox
- (B) farcicality
- (C) enigma

Blank (ii)

- (D) dissemble
- (E) secrete
- (F) articulate

- 127.** The hardest part of a(n) (i) _____ life is making and leaving so many friends, but it can be nice getting to (ii) _____ a new version of oneself in each new place.

Blank (i)

- (A) orthodox
- (B) rousing
- (C) itinerant

Blank (ii)

- (D) simulate
- (E) fashion
- (F) parody

- 128.** The referee's comments could not be heard over the (i) _____ of voices from the opposing side of the field, but his (ii) _____ was sufficient to express the penalty.

Blank (i)

- (A) melodiousness
- (B) cacophony
- (C) scarcity

Blank (ii)

- (D) demeanor
- (E) gesticulation
- (F) carriage

- 129.** In only stating key concepts once before moving on, the professor was so (i) _____ in his lectures that the students were afraid there would be a (ii) _____ in their knowledge of the subject matter.

Blank (i)

- (A) laconic
- (B) predictable
- (C) interminable

Blank (ii)

- (D) dearth
- (E) precision
- (F) surfeit

- 130.** Part of serving as a diplomat requires being (i) _____ when greeting visiting leaders, regardless of how much one (ii) _____ their political agendas.

Blank (i)

- (A) doleful
- (B) robust
- (C) ebullient

Blank (ii)

- (D) reveres
- (E) espouses
- (F) abominates

- 131.** Cory's parents couldn't understand why their couch was suddenly giving off a (i) _____ stench until they found the rotten orange stuck behind the couch cushion. The way it was shoved in there suggested that it was intentional, meaning some (ii) _____ guest did it.

Blank (i)

- (A) fetid
- (B) despicable
- (C) affable

Blank (ii)

- (D) nefarious
- (E) rancorous
- (F) benevolent

- 132.** The manager looked embarrassed after realizing his receptionist's (i) _____ about how he treated her had been emailed to the entire office. After that, his coworkers looked at him with (ii) _____.

Blank (i)

- (A) diatribe
- (B) dissertation
- (C) sermon

Blank (ii)

- (D) savagery
- (E) approbation
- (F) derision

133. The Dalai Lama's (i) _____ about living the simple life seems easy enough to follow, but many people find this notion (ii) _____ to their cushy lifestyles.

Blank (i)

- (A) dictum
- (B) cliché
- (C) mandate

Blank (ii)

- (D) opportune
- (E) incommodious
- (F) imprudent

134. Parent-teacher night at Jeff's school was particularly contentious; his teachers hated that Jeff was so (i) _____, refusing to do what he was supposed to, and they blamed his parents, who were thought of in the community as (ii) _____ because of their constant rejection of the town customs.

Blank (i)

- (A) licentious
- (B) scrupulous
- (C) depraved

Blank (ii)

- (D) iconoclasts
- (E) mutineers
- (F) fundamentalists

135. Richard put the wood through the steam press to (i) _____ it so that he could shape it into the hull of the boat. Because the birch was so (ii) _____, it required several passes to become pliable.

Blank (i)

- (A) pacify
- (B) mollify
- (C) congeal

Blank (ii)

- (D) permeable
- (E) unequivocal
- (F) durable

136. It is easy to tell when someone is driven by (i) _____. First, he digresses from topic to topic, and second, when he finally returns to his speaking point, he is so (ii) _____ that he speaks with wild abandon.

Blank (i)

- (A) facetiousness
- (B) levity
- (C) intransience

Blank (ii)

- (D) garrulous
- (E) taciturn
- (F) forthcoming

137. Ivy League legacies are more common in families with a long history of wealth than those with more (i) _____ riches; however, if a student is not (ii) _____ in his studies, a legacy won't help him meet the standards of these schools.

Blank (i)

- (A) entrenched
- (B) nascent
- (C) moribund

Blank (ii)

- (D) industrious
- (E) vehement
- (F) languid

- 138.** The Weather Underground Organization (i) _____ the resistance movement in the '70s by creating a (ii) _____ faction from a once unified, peaceful movement.

Blank (i)

- (A) disseminated
- (B) bifurcated
- (C) amassed

Blank (ii)

- (D) purposive
- (E) tractable
- (F) pugnacious

- 139.** More than 200 homes burn down each year from fires caused by Christmas trees that (i) _____ over time and become great kindling for the heat of the lights. Simply keeping these trees hydrated and healthy could thwart these (ii) _____ incidents.

Blank (i)

- (A) desiccate
- (B) evanesce
- (C) wane

Blank (ii)

- (D) innocuous
- (E) injurious
- (F) harmless

- 140.** A typical successful pop star is surrounded by nauseatingly (i) _____ assistants who do not want to fall from the pop star's good graces, yet despite the lack of (ii) _____ in their positions, they still look down on others who lack the association with stardom.

Blank (i)

- (A) tentative
- (B) obsequious
- (C) unctuous

Blank (ii)

- (D) nobility
- (E) ignominy
- (F) rectitude

- 141.** Although bees are (i) _____ to people, they are vital to farming. Yet, because of the (ii) _____ of the bee population, the world's food supply is becoming (iii) _____.

Blank (i)

- (A) delinquents
- (B) traitors
- (C) menaces

Blank (ii)

- (D) decimation
- (E) phylogeny
- (F) reversion

Blank (iii)

- (G) abolished
- (H) preserved
- (I) imperiled

- 142.** When the budget cuts forced a number of public schools in Chicago to close, the fallen districts were forced to (i) _____ with the remaining schools, which caused a significant (ii) _____ due to a lack of resources caused by overcrowding. This change also required students to travel great distances, sometimes more than 30 miles, to go to school, which (iii) _____ their ability to participate in after-school programs due to transportation issues. If students missed the bus, their parents would be responsible for making the lengthy commute.

Blank (i)

- (A) secede
- (B) coalesce
- (C) separate

Blank (ii)

- (D) burden
- (E) obstruction
- (F) benefit

Blank (iii)

- (G) impeded
- (H) improved
- (I) postponed

- 143.** The coach did his best to keep the assignment of players to teams (i) _____ so that each team in the league had the same chance as the others to get the best players. Yet, inevitably, one team always seemed to be (ii) _____ with the best players, as if they were magnets drawn to each other, which made the parents suspect (iii) _____ in the decision-making process.

Blank (i)

- (A) irrational
- (B) imbalanced
- (C) arbitrary

Blank (ii)

- (D) teeming
- (E) vacant
- (F) laden

Blank (iii)

- (G) neutrality
- (H) preference
- (I) justice

- 144.** At the end of the phone interview, the manager told Stacy that they would choose two finalists within the next week, but that was three weeks ago. The (i) _____ after the interview made Stacy very impatient. Her desperation for a job and interest in this particular position led her to make the (ii) _____ move of calling the manager, which only infuriated the manager and (iii) _____ him against choosing Stacy as a finalist.

Blank (i)

- (A) inertia
- (B) headway
- (C) stasis

Blank (ii)

- (D) adlibbed
- (E) impetuous
- (F) premeditated

Blank (iii)

- (G) predisposed
- (H) confined
- (I) prejudiced

- 145.** The cuts and bruises from Justin's motorcycle accident are (i) _____ but the phobia caused by his near-death crash is (ii) _____, and it is unclear whether he will ever ride his motorcycle again. Knowing how much riding means to Justin, his family wants him to see a therapist to (iii) _____ his apprehension.

Blank (i)

- (A) evanescent
- (B) succinct
- (C) everlasting

Blank (ii)

- (D) relenting
- (E) perpetual
- (F) procuring

Blank (iii)

- (G) annihilate
- (H) motivate
- (I) quell

- 146.** The loss of the championship game had him reeling, and Thom (i) _____ his misfortune for a number of weeks after it was over. His team was undefeated going into the game, so the loss was (ii) _____. To make matters worse, he had already planned a victory celebration, so seeing the party decorations only (iii) _____ his anguish after the game.

Blank (i)

- (A) gloated
- (B) rejoiced
- (C) bemoaned

Blank (ii)

- (D) debauched
- (E) astounding
- (F) sensational

Blank (iii)

- (G) defended
- (H) disregarded
- (I) amplified

- 147.** Despite John's best attempts to reveal his affection for Millie, she remained (i) _____ to his advances, showing no interest in return. It wasn't that she didn't like John, but her feelings were (ii) _____ compared to his, and she didn't want to lead him on by giving (iii) _____ to his feelings for her.

Blank (i)

- (A) impervious
- (B) compliant
- (C) disloyal

Blank (ii)

- (D) unreceptive
- (E) considerable
- (F) subdued

Blank (iii)

- (G) skepticism
- (H) credence
- (I) tenacity

- 148.** The paparazzi have the ability to make or break a celebrity's career, but they don't take this responsibility seriously. In one moment, they (i) _____ a star's latest box office success for his style and popularity, but at the first chance, they turn the tables and print (ii) _____ that turn popular opinion away from the same celebrity. It is disgraceful how they (iii) _____ without any regard to the effect on someone's personal life.

Blank (i)

- (A) venerate
- (B) summon
- (C) spurn

Blank (ii)

- (D) invectives
- (E) panegyrics
- (F) liabilities

Blank (iii)

- (G) wield their power
- (H) brandish their weapons
- (I) employ their benevolence

- 149.** The attack on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese in 1941 (i) _____ the United States' entry into World War II. Prior to this attack, the U.S. government had only provided aid to European allies, but had not actually fought, due to the (ii) _____ sentiment of the American public against intervening in the overseas conflict. However, when the conflict landed on U.S. soil, that sentiment (iii) _____, and war was officially declared on Japan the very next day.

Blank (i)

- (A) encumbered
- (B) precipitated
- (C) abridged

Blank (ii)

- (D) inescapable
- (E) pervasive
- (F) gratuitous

Blank (iii)

- (G) besmirched
- (H) abated
- (I) warped

- 150.** Gandhi was a (i) _____ among men, staunchly abiding to his ideals of nonviolent protests and modest living, and he often fasted as a form of protest for civil rights and social reform. This level of discipline helped him remain (ii) _____ in the face of adversity and personal suffering. His willpower, determination, and compassion for people have made him a symbol of (iii) _____ in the history of civil rights.

Blank (i)

- (A) Spartan
- (B) brute
- (C) warrior

Blank (ii)

- (D) stalwart
- (E) biddable
- (F) pusillanimous

Blank (iii)

- (G) belligerence
- (H) philanthropy
- (I) affability

