

GENERAL ENGLISH

Sentence completion exercises

We have seen in detail the KE method which is useful to answer the exercises on sentence completion in our previous session. By recollecting the clues that have been suggested in the last session let us practice some exercises.

1. The villagers _____ the death of their leader by keeping all the shops closed.

- a) Consoled b) avenged c) mourned d) protested

Here the answer is (C), 'mourned' because the word in use for expressing sorrow over the death of someone is 'mourn'. This is a matter of usage.

2. While on a routine flight, the aircraft was hit by a missile and _____ into flames

- a) Shot b) burst c) caught d) blew

Here the answer is (B), 'burst' because all other words are not in keeping with 'into' and thus they are eliminated at the first stage- structure.

3. Authority _____ when it is not supported by the moral purity of its users.

- a) Empowers b) crumbles c) prevails d) waits

The answer is (B), 'crumbles' because other alternatives are eliminated at Stage 2-meaning. 'Empower' is opposite in meaning, 'prevails' is also opposite in meaning and 'waits' is not in accord with the meaning. Thus the only choice left is 'crumbles'.

4. He did not register a _____ to the proposal.

- a) Dissent b) disfavor c) divergence d) deviation

The answer is (A), 'dissent', because other alternatives may have similar meanings, but 'dissent', is the word in use for showing disagreement to an idea or a proposal. So other alternatives are eliminated at Stage 3.

5. No sooner had he entered the room ____ the light went out and everyone started talking loudly.

- a) But b) than c) if d) and

The answer is (B). Here the rule of grammar operates.

6. When I saw him through the window _____

- a) I have run out to open the door b) I ran out to open the door

c) I am running out to open the door d) I should run out to open the door

The answer is (B). Here the rule of tense operates.

7. He congratulated me _____ my success.

a) On b) for c) at d) in

The answer is (A). 'On'. It is a rule of preposition.

8. I prefer drinking Tea ____ Coffee.

a) Than b) to c) over d) as

The answer is (B), 'to' it is rule of preposition.

9. The school festival is always of a very high order because the students have a number of _____ before any performance.

a) Practices b) exercise c) rehearsals d) repetitions

Here the answer is (C), 'rehearsals'. Here the point to remember is common usage, for preparations done beforehand for performances in dance, drama and theatre the word in common usage is 'rehearsal'.

10. I read 'Trojan War' because it was _____ by my friend who said it was very exciting.

a) Recommended b) exhorted c) motivated d) commended

Here the answer is (A), 'recomm-ended'. The word commonly used in such a context is 'recommended'.

11. His German was roughly _____ with my English, so communication was rather difficult.

a) in accordance with b) at par c) in time d) in tune

Here the answer is (B), 'at par'. The correct phrase with the required meaning is 'at par'.

12. I could not _____ what he wanted to say.

a) Make up b) make out c) make in d) make away

Here the correct phrase is 'make out' and thus the answer is (B).

13. A committee has been set up to _____ on the problem of unemployment in this region.

a) Investigate b) inquire c) research d) report

Here the answer can be either 'investigate' or 'report'. Since the connecting word is 'on', the choice will be report.

14. We can't eat this food; it is ____.

- a) Rotten b) old c) bad d) rancid

Here the answer is (A), 'rotten', because this word has the required nuance of meaning.

15. Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru were leaders of the same period; they were _____

- a) Contemporary b) colleague c) associate d) co-writers

Here the word 'contemporary' stands for the expression of the same period and thus (A) is the answer.

16. Ramu has been nominated as the person to settle the dispute between the two warring parties; he is the _____

- a) Judge b) advocate c) arbitrator d) barrister

Here the answer is (C), 'arbitrator' because this is the substitute word.

17. He has been winning the election, but this time his popularity is on the _____ he may not win this time.

- a) Rise b) wane c) ascendance d) increasing

Here the answer is (B), 'wane' as an antonym is required.

18. Do not _____ him; he has done no harm to any of you.

- a) Accuse b) admire c) discuss d) refer

Here the answer is (A), 'accuse', as an antonym is required.

19. I ____ him because of his ____ .

- a) Love, impertinence b) hate, rudeness
c) admire, hypocrisy d) detest, generosity

Here the answer is (B); in the first option one cannot love because of impoliteness, we love someone for their good quality not for a bad trait, in the same way in option C we cannot admire if one has double standards and in the last option to hate someone because of generosity is not correct so the answer is B.

20. The influence of the environment on man is revealed by an ____ study.

- a) Anthropological b) ecological c) epigraphic d) ecumenical

Here the answer is (B). It is a word used to indicate a branch of study.

Practice test

1. The lawyer was threatened _____ dire consequences.
a) From b) by c) with d) of
2. Richa is not _____ for this kind of job.
a) Cut in b) cut up c) cut through d) cut out
3. A good teacher-student relationship helps create a _____ and peaceful atmosphere where there is no room for any _____ of educational activity.
a) Harmonious, interruption b) congenial, development
c) quiet, confusion d) delightful, exaggeration
4. It is indeed _____ that 65 years after independence, we have failed to _____ a suitable education or examination system.
a) Bad, produce b) improper, create
c) sad, evolve d) objectionable, present
5. The meeting was presided _____ by the President.
a) very b) upon c) over d) on
6. The girl you met yesterday is in class _____.
a) Fifth b) the five c) the fifth d) five
7. The data entry operator is very efficient. He is _____ to his firm.
a) A credit b) a blessing c) an asset d) a boon
8. The soldiers were instructed to _____ restraint and handle the situation peacefully.
a) Control b) prevent c) exercise d) enforce
9. If I _____ a doctor, I would _____ you free.
a) Were, treat b) am, see c) was, examine d) be, advice
10. Not to _____ of milk, even _____ was not there.
a) Talk, bread b) mention, rice c) speak, water d) discuss, tea
11. In _____ of international matters, there is always an element of risk in _____ one might do.
a) View, whichever b) many, doing c) defence, wrong d) case, whatever

12. These essays are intellectually _____ and represent various levels of complexity.
a) Revealing b) modern c) superior d) demanding
13. Anita is _____; she weighs all options before making a decision.
a) Careless b) bold c) thoughtful d) educative
14. The _____ of meat in your refrigerator doesn't necessarily indicate that you are _____.
a) Presence, hungry b) absence, vegetarian
c) taste, carnivorous d) amount, herbivorous
15. My Violin teacher dislikes _____ music. For this reason she only teaches _____ music.
a) Traditional, old b) contemporary, classical
c) modern, popular d) new, recent
16. Unlike the misleading television documentary, the biography was _____.
a) Phony b) interesting c) accurate d) attractive
17. After our team _____ the game, everybody _____.
a) Tied, smiled b) lost, cheered c) won, celebrated d) watched, laughed
18. Mina felt _____; the committee rejected her proposal.
a) Pleased b) overjoyed c) miserable d) delighted
19. The _____ shopkeeper _____ us; we certainly won't buy anything from him again.
a) Sleepy, excited b) greedy, overcharged
c) generous, welcomed d) polite, thanked
20. Customer satisfaction and meeting customers' needs are two _____ but _____ goals.
a) Definite, trivial b) different, important
c) similar, unimportant d) analogous, petty

Answers

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|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1) c | 2) d | 3) a | 4) c | 5) c | 6) d | 7) c | 8) c |
| 9) a | 10) c | 11) d | 12) a | 13) c | 14) b | 15) b | 16) c |
| 17) b | 18) c | 19) b | 20) b | | | | |