

GENERAL ENGLISH

SENTENCE FILLERS

Stem filling or sentence filler is sentence completion with a variance. In a simple sentence completion, you fill the blank with one of the words given as choices. In this format, part of a sentence is given which needs to be completed with one of the various chunks provided as alternatives. The major difference is that now we have a group of words in place of a single word. This requires an understanding of the spirit of the stem of the sentence and the filler part is to be matched with it both in terms of structure and meaning.

We can find a structural clue or a semantic clue or both in the stem part and match the stem with the alternatives one after another. Only one choice will match. Let us see the SFM Technique.

EXAMPLE-1

The doctor warns him that unless he gives up smoking _____

- a) Will he be able to recover
- b) he will not suffer
- c) his health will soon be recovered
- d) he will not recover

'Unless' here demands a 'not' in the filler part. Thus a) and c) are wrong. B) and d) are structurally correct, but according to 'smoking' the expression 'not suffer' is wrong, but 'not recover' is right. Thus d) is the right answer.

EXAMPLE-2

The more we looked at the piece of modern art, _____.

- a) It looked better
- b) the more we like it
- c) we liked it less
- d) the less we liked it
- e) better we liked it.

In the stem part we have structural clue 'the more' and it is a past tense form. The structural demand is that the filler part also must have an expression like 'the more'. Taking this clue, we can eliminate alternatives a), c) and e). Now alternative b) has 'the more' and the alternative d) has 'the less'. These two are correct, but b) is further eliminated because the filler is in the present tense form, d) is the correct answer because it is in the past tense form.

PRACTICE TEST

1. He has no money now_____.
 - a) Although he was very poor once.
 - b) As he has given up all his wealth.
 - c) Because he was very rich once.
 - d) Because he had received huge donations once.
 - e) Because he always spends money with utmost care.
2. He always stammers in public meetings, but his today's speech_____.
 - a) Was fairly audible to everyone present in the hall.
 - b) Was not received satisfactorily.
 - c) Was not liked by the audience.
 - d) Could not be understood properly.
 - e) Was surprisingly fluent.
3. He tames animals because_____.
 - a) Is fond of them.
 - b) Hates them.
 - c) Wants to set them free.
 - d) Is afraid of them.
 - e) Seldom loves them.
4. The value of a work of art is seldom precisely measurable in terms of_____.
 - a) Aesthetic harmony.
 - b) Goods produced, or man hours saved or an increase in the GNP.
 - c) The abstract sense of harmony the work exudes.
 - d) The labour invested in it.
5. The network of blood vessels connects every cell of the body, _____.
 - a) Each of they dependent on blood.
 - b) Each of them dependent on blood.
 - c) One of the dependent on blood.
 - d) Each it dependent on blood.
6. In Asian countries, stiff tariffs and other import barriers, plus undervalued currencies_____.
 - a) Make imported goods very expensive.

- b) Do not encourage smuggling.
- c) Make the economy noncompetitive.
- d) Give rise to sharp economic inequalities.

7. In the third world, the most over-militarized countries tend to be _____.

- a) The oil rich countries.
- b) The ones who have traditionally had a military past.
- c) Neighbours scared of each other.
- d) The ones economically interdependent.

8. Practically, very little work could be completed in the last week as it was _____.

- a) Full of working days.
- b) A very hectic week.
- c) Full of Dasara vacation.
- d) Loaded with work.
- e) A very busy week.

9. Although he is reputed for making very candid statements, _____.

- a) His today's speech was not fairly audible.
- b) His promises had always been realistic.
- c) His speech was very interesting.
- d) People follow whatever he instructs them.
- e) His today's statements were very ambiguous.

10. He is so lazy that he _____.

- a) Always extend help to others to complete their work.
- b) Dislikes to postpone the work that he undertakes to do.
- c) Can seldom complete his work on time.
- d) Can't depend on others for getting his work done.
- e) Can't delay the schedule of completing the work.

11. Even though it is a very large house, _____.

- a) There is a lot of space available in it for children.
- b) There is hardly any space available for children.
- c) The servants take a long time to clean it.
- d) The municipal taxes on it are very heavy.

12. Despite his best efforts to conceal his anger _____.

- a) We could detect that he was very happy.
- b) He failed to give us an impression of his agony.

- c) He succeeded in camouflaging his emotions.
- d) He could succeed in doing it easily.
- e) People came to know that he was annoyed.

13. In order to raise the company's profit, the employees _____.

- a) Demanded two additional increments.
- b) Decided to go on paid holidays.
- c) Requested the management to implement new welfare schemes.
- d) Offered to work overtime without any compensation.
- e) Decided to raise the cost of raw material.

14. Would you please tell me _____.

- a) When does the next train come.
- b) When comes the next train.
- c) When the next train does come.
- d) When the next train comes.

15. Only after food has been dried _____.

- a) That is should be stored for later consumption.
- b) Should it be stored for later use.
- c) It should be stored for later consumption.
- d) It must eat.

16. The Ford Theatre where Lincoln was shot _____.

- a) Must restore
- b) Must be restoring.
- c) Must have been restored.
- d) Must restored.

17. Having been selected to represent the Association of Indian Managers at the International Convention, _____.

- a) The members applauded him.
- b) He gave a short acceptance speech.
- c) A speech had to be given by him.
- d) The members congratulated him.

ANSWERS:

- 1) B, 2) E, 3) A, 4) A, 5) B, 6) D, 7) C, 8) C,
- 9) E, 10) C, 11) B, 12) E, 13) D, 14) A, 15) C, 16) C,
- 17) B