

Dialogue Completion

Introduction

Dialogue completion is an exercise that requires a student to read and understand the context of a given dialogue and then fill in the missing part. Such questions test a student's ability to use grammar correctly by identifying the best option among the given ones.

GRAMMAR CONCEPTS REQUIRED

Before answering such questions, a student should be thorough with certain rules and concepts in grammar. Some of the important ones are indicated below:

1. Rules for narration (Direct/ Indirect speech)
2. Subject-verb agreement rules
3. Use of tense and voice, as per the suitability of the context
3. Pronoun-antecedent consistency
4. Correct usage of prepositions and conjunctions
5. Rules for using articles and determiners

STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED

To answer questions based on dialogue completion, a student may follow the steps given below:

1. Read the whole dialogue, ignoring the blanks, in one go. Identify the main topic of discussion and context of the dialogue. Remember that a dialogue is essentially written in direct speech.
2. Start working with the individual blanks by picking the easiest one first. Analyse it in the context of what follows and/or what precedes it.
3. Use the given options as clues to reach the correct answer. You may take hints from the punctuation marks that precede or follow the blank.
4. Try to eliminate options which do not fit the blank till you reach the one that is the answer. This is known as working by using the **process of elimination** of wrong options.

A NOTE ON MCQs

Dialogue Completion Examples

Shiva: Oh no! So, you saw me buying those bells? (d)_____ a secret.

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| (a) | i) Where are you going | ii) Where will you go |
| | iii) Where were you going | iv) Where have you gone |
| (b) | i) like to came also | ii) like to come along |
| | iii) like to go with her | iv) like to send for me |
| (c) | i) Are you planned to | ii) Were you planning for |
| | iii) Are you planning to | iv) Have you planning for |

- (d) i) I wanted to keep it ii) I wanted to keeping it
iii) I needed to retained iv) I wish it is

HOW TO SOLVE:

(a) To fill the first blank, we have to read Pammi's answer to the question. As it is in the present continuous tense, the question must also be in the same tense. On analysing all the options, we can see that only option (i) is in the present continuous tense. So, option (i) gives the correct answer.

(b) An infinitive 'to' is always followed by the root form of the verb. As 'to came' is incorrect, option (i) also becomes incorrect. Option (iv) has an idiom 'send for', which means to request or demand someone to come to you.

So, it is incorrect in the context of the dialogue. In option (iii), the usage of 'her' is incorrect as the speaker is talking about her own self. Thus, the correct answer is given by option (ii) as the idiom 'come along' means 'to accompany'.

(c) Notice the first word after the blank (c) and the last word in each of the four options. With the knowledge that an infinitive 'to' is always followed by the root form of the verb, option (ii) and (iv) can be eliminated. As option (i) is wrong in terms of grammar usage, we are left with only option (iii). So, option (iii) gives the correct answer.

(d) Option (ii) cannot be the correct answer because the verb 'keep' is present in its continuous form. Option (iii) cannot replace the blank because both the verbs are in their past tense forms, making the phrase incorrect. The fourth option is incorrect as the clause should have been written as "I wish I were". So, option (i) gives the correct answer.

Answer:

(a) i (b) ii (c) iii (d) i