



GRE[®]

Text Completions Supplement

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Text Completions

Select one entry for each blank from the corresponding column of choices. Fill in the blank in the way that best completes the text.

1. Once the candidate established herself as the clear frontrunner, it took but a brief interlude in the clamor for all her erstwhile (i) _____ to gather around her and to begin loudly proclaiming their (ii) _____. It seemed, in other words, to cause these newcomers not an iota of discomfort to behave in a manner that a casual observer might have characterized as (iii) _____ outright hypocrisy.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
factotums	reputability	tantamount to
detractors	magnanimity	reciprocal with
zealots	fealty	hinging on

2. Commentators and comedians had a field day with the widespread corruption in politics, so much so that one _____ defined a “gaffe” as a politician accidentally telling the truth.

wag
apologist
diplomat
egoist
transgressor

3. Although they had never met, the two writers felt they were of one mind, each (i) _____ anticipating the contents of the other’s letters; never had two intellectuals been more (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
ominously	providential
anachronistically	shrewd
presciently	simpatico

4. Ironically, the commentator who so roundly condemned personal (i) _____ was (ii) _____ to the point of bankruptcy—he himself was a reflection of an aspect of the ills that, in other areas, he railed against.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
lacunae	profligate
probity	antediluvian
dissipation	ascetic

Text Completions

5. Most readers of Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil* probably remember it as a collection of poetic aphorisms, each standing alone; these readers missed or have forgotten the linear (i) _____ arcing through the work. Interestingly enough, it could be argued that a parallel cognitive gulf pervades the book itself. While Nietzsche rails against the (ii) "_____" of earlier philosophers and contrasts it to the ideal of the "free spirit", unencumbered by religions and prejudices, he then espouses the possibility of (iii) _____—such an ordering of spiritual strength seemingly undercuts the notion of an independent spirit.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
chaos	dogmatism	conjuring seraphs
progression	hedonism	a new philosophy
stasis	morality	constructing a hierarchy

6. As an evolutionary adaptation, cats have developed a mechanism whereby their heads are measuring devices, as their bodies can fit through any space that their heads can, and this physiology is a safeguard that _____ their success as a species.

reproduces
ensures
enhances
mitigates
inundates

7. Modern political campaigns are so full of misrepresentations and worse that candor is an _____.

aphorism
anecdote
effacement
anomaly
overture

8. Crane Brinton argued that the middle phases of revolutions are especially (i) _____ because the unleashed force of social momentum transfers power inexorably from more stable (if oppressive) forces to less temperate ones. Yet, he then goes on to say that the excesses (ii) _____ and a more peaceful period of "Thermidor" ensues.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
brusque	metastasize
berserk	grow
pacific	recede

Text Completions

9. If impact on one's contemporaries is the test of _____, Flann O'Brien's *The Third Policeman* cannot be said to be among the most significant postmodern novels, as it went unpublished and unread for twenty-seven years. The literary theorist Keith Hopper, though, appeals to standards other than _____ when he argues persuasively that *The Third Policeman* is among the most important of early postmodern works, not least because of its deep subversion of both enlightenment and modern traditions in literature.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
eminence	currency
modishness	influence
conversance	dissolution

10. Frederick the Great of Prussia was known for his (i) _____ under fire during his military victories; however, when confronting issues of domestic policy, this equilibrium sometimes failed him and he would vent (ii) _____ tirades towards his ministers.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
intrepidity	fascist
cruelty	mercurial
sangfroid	vainglorious

11. One liberal activist asserts that politicians' tendency to _____ talk of class warfare stems largely from a communal state of denial, a refusal to accept that we already occupy a highly _____ society.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
denigrate	socialized
besmirch	balkanized
declare	politicized

12. At the beginning of the 20th century, wealthy business leaders piteously (i) _____ that child labor laws would ruin them and corrupt the youth; one hundred years later, members of the modern (ii) _____ similarly bemoan that any government intervention will bankrupt them and contribute to the moral (iii) _____ of the less moneyed classes.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
besmirched	oligarchy	rectitude
bleated	hierarchy	scruples
postulated	monarchy	turpitude

Text Completions

13. The library wing was first conceived merely as (i) _____ to address the problem of book overstock until a more permanent solution could be found. Ironically, it was the flimsy nature of the wing itself that attracted such architectural interest and ultimately led to its canonization as a (ii) _____ of its kind. Now a statute exists to protect this originally transient structure in (iii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
a stopgap	paragon	consecration
an ornament	nadir	chronology
a modicum	catalyst	perpetuity

14. Though the negotiation was initially expected to proceed smoothly, it soon became apparent that any appearance of (i) _____ between the parties was disingenuous or, at best, a superficial adherence to certain (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
duplicity	mores
amity	politics
solace	plaudits

15. While some feel that the author's (i) _____ late in his life (ii) _____ his reputation, others felt that his dissolution added a certain glamour to his biography and credibility to his libertine tales.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
vitiation	derogated from
debauchment	bedizened
deterioration	aggrandized

16. The children's story—seemingly a simple tale of animals gathering for a picnic in the forest—took _____ turn at the end, admonishing readers to always be honest.

a generous
a cynical
a jocular
an irate
a didactic

17. The biography, a (i) _____ account of a (ii) _____ life, was a gripping read, though hardly appropriate for young readers.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
faux-naif	callow
no holds barred	stonewalled
dyed-in-the-wool	storied

Text Completions

18. Although this historical figure had been (i) _____ politician and a brilliant inventor, the professor found himself unable to (ii) _____ the interest of his students in the career of a man with such anachronistic views.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
a clandestine	whet
a deft	accrue
an effete	tout

19. Though the industry leader faces prosecution while the smaller company is legally shielded from consequences due to a crafty system of hiring outside firms to do its dirty work, the smaller firm is clearly (i) _____ with the larger one, (ii) _____ the larger firm's plans to dominate the industry through illegal labor practices and offshore dumping.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
at loggerheads	colluding
in cahoots	stymying
preoccupied	abetting

20. The organizer of the university's series of public debates commented that it is difficult to find a suitable adjudicator for debates on certain controversial matters, as there exist topics in regards to which no one is _____.

pellucid
disinterested
solipsistic
jocular
subjective

21. It was difficult to tell whether his tirade in fact had force of fact, whether his forceful (i) _____ was mere (ii) _____, motivated by malice, or whether it ranked as reportorial (iii) _____ of which the committee ought take notice.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)	Blank (iii)
fulmination	sophistry	muckraking
desecration	boosterism	calumny
ululation	aspersion	prattle

Text Completions

22. Her grandparents valued seemliness above all else, and were (i) _____ at her incorrigibly (ii) _____ behavior.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
loquacious	mutinous
agog	indelicate
nonchalant	tortuous

23. It was apparent to everyone present that upon receiving the medal, a decoration long past due, the superannuated veteran adopted a mood of exaggerated hilarity, almost as if the unexpected resolution of a lifetime of injustice came as a _____ surprise.

sanctimonious
risible
parsimonious
prodigal
plangent

24. Notwithstanding the mishmash of worn tools littering every surface of the artist's studio, the place exuded a certain sense of order manifest through the clutter: the decor was, if (i) _____, (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
unkempt	largely unsophisticated
dire	positively callous
arduous	surprisingly deliberate

25. Two years after the legislature's (i) _____ approval of the community edifice, construction came to an equally public standstill, largely due to the unforeseen hemorrhaging of the (ii) _____ funds at the hands of spendthrift leaders.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
scorned	adduced
heralded	adumbrated
ratified	appropriated

26. Incensed, and perhaps spooked, by the implications of the bureau's purportedly (i) _____ inquisitions, the Hollywood film director shuttered his studios, suspended production of numerous projects, and (ii) _____ with his wife to Europe.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
suspicious	immigrated
benign	absconded
risqué	pandered

Text Completions

27. The relationship between the two leaders has gone from positively (i) _____ to chilly at best, not least because the recent arms scandal threatens to (ii) _____ the mutual trust that has been held on both sides for years.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
parsimonious	bolster
reverent	erode
congenial	fester

28. The seemingly pious minister, known for his (i) _____ pontifications, actually frequently indulged an unseemly (ii) _____.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
lascivious	ceremony
virtuous	vice
prudish	era

29. Americans who were the first to fight Fascism in Spain during the Spanish Civil War were not allowed to join the US army later, as their initiative led to the American government labeling them “_____ anti-fascists”, and thus undesirable.

violent
erroneous
premature
prescient
communist

30. _____ the law had little impact, but it was _____ by subsequent legislation providing funding and enforcement.

Blank (i)	Blank (ii)
Justifiably	rendered moot
Unbelievably	given teeth
Initially	kept at bay

Text Completions Answers

1. Detractors, fealty, tantamount to. “Erstwhile” means “past” or “former,” indicating that those who are now gathering around the candidate were once doing something different—that is, criticizing, or *detracting*. They are gathering around her proclaiming their “loyalty,” or *fealty*, in a way that is deeply inconsistent with their past actions, or “hypocritical.” *Tantamount to*, which means “much as the same as” or “equivalent to,” is best here.

2. Wag. The sentence concerns “commentators and comedians.” Since defining a gaffe (a mistake) as a politician accidentally telling the truth is meant to be funny, we need a meaning closer to *comedian*. A *wag* is a joker, although not necessarily a professional one.

3. Presciently, simpatico. *Presciently* means “seeing into the future” (or as though seeing into the future). *Simpatico* matches the idea of being “of one mind.”

4. Dissipation, profligate. “Ironically” is a good clue here—the commentator condemned a quality that he himself actually possessed! Both words should be negative, similar in meaning, and matching the idea of “bankruptcy.” *Dissipation* and *profligate* are both related to wastefulness or irresponsible living.

5. Progression, dogmatism, constructing a hierarchy. The first blank must contrast “standing alone” and complement the clue “linear.” The second blank contrasts “free spirit.” Since Nietzsche “rails against” the word in the second blank, we would also expect that word to be negative. *Dogmatism* matches perfectly. For the third blank, the dash and the use of “such” indicate that our choice must match the idea of “ordering.” A *hierarchy* is a well-defined ordering of different levels or ranks.

6. Enhances. We simply need a word here that means *helps*. Don’t fall for *ensures*, which is too extreme. Having a head that can measure spaces is cool, but hardly guarantees the success of a species.

7. Anomaly. We are told that politicians lie so much that *candor* (truth) is an _____. We need a word that means *exception* or *something unusual*.

8. Berserk, recede. Transferring power to “less temperate” forces would cause chaos. We also have the clue at the end—a “more peaceful” period comes later. So, we need a pretty extreme opposite of “peaceful” in the first blank. Only *berserk* works. In the second sentence, excesses *recede* (reduce, pull back), allowing a more peaceful phase.

9. Eminence, influence. Borrowing another word from the sentence, our first word should be something like “significance.” The closest option is *eminence*, which suggests great importance. If Hopper argues that the book was “among the most important” in spite of the fact that it cannot have had an impact on O’Brien’s contemporaries, then he must appeal to some standard other than “impact.” *Influence* is the word most nearly synonymous with “impact.” Because “currency” echoes the concern about how widely read the book was, it might appeal, but it isn’t the meaning we’d anticipate here.

10. Sangfroid, mercurial. A tricky structure—while the second blank is opposite of the clue “equilibrium” (because of the “however”), the first blank should actually have the same meaning as *equilibrium*.

Text Completions

11. Denigrate, balkanized. Beginning with the second blank, the clue is “class warfare”. A society with class warfare is divided into hostile groups, or *balkanized*, but it need not be either *socialized* or *politicized*. This means that politicians try to dismiss or belittle talk of class warfare, or *denigrate* it. *Besmirch* means to attack the honor or something—although the word is negative, it isn’t quite appropriate here.

12. Bleated, oligarchy, turpitude. “Piteously” is the clue for the first blank. *Bleated* is used metaphorically here—to *bleat* is to make the noise of a sheep, goat, or calf—a weak, wavering cry. Basically, saying that someone is bleating is calling his complaints pathetic (this matches with the clue “piteously,” as well as the later “bemoan”). The part of the sentence after the semicolon matches the first part in structure—the second blank parallels “wealthy business leaders”, and the third mirrors “corrupt the youth” (*turpitude* is depravity or immorality).

13. Stopgap, paragon, perpetuity. The implication of the phrase “a more permanent solution” is that the original building was not permanent: it was a *stopgap*, or a temporary fix. To “canonize” something literally means to “declare to be a saint,” but in its figurative sense it mean to “hold up as an exemplar,” or as a *paragon*. The third blank gets its clue from “originally,” indicating that we are looking for an opposite of “transient.”

14. Amity, mores. The pivot word *though* tells us that the negotiation did not actually proceed smoothly. The first blank comes after “appearance of,” which indicates fake behavior. The word *disingenuous* backs up that meaning. We need something positive—the parties are showing false *amity*, or friendliness, out of a “superficial” adherence to customs or rules—*mores*.

15. Debauchment, derogated from. Our clue is the author’s “dissolution”—he may have turned to drugs, promiscuity, crime, or just letting his life fall apart. “Libertinous” has a similar meaning, as does the correct word *debauchment*. In the second blank, we want something negative (to contrast with the opinion of the “others” who “felt that his dissolution added a certain glamour to his biography”).

16. Didactic. The children’s story ended with a moral—“always be honest.” The word *didactic* can mean *morally instructive* (it can also just mean *instructive*—this book is a *didactic* work).

17. No holds barred, storied. We are told that the biography is gripping, but not appropriate for young people. So, it’s exciting—and probably full of sex, violence, or both. *No holds barred* and *storied* are the only choices that could even remotely match—surely the biography isn’t pretending to be naive (*faux-naïf*) or unwilling to change (*dyed-in-the-wool*), and the “life” isn’t immature (*callow*) or stalled (*stonewalled*).

18. A deft, whet. Due to the “although,” we can infer that the first blank must be something positive—only *deft* works. In the second blank, *whet* means *stimulate*. *Tout* is a bit of a trap—the professor could *tout* the historical figure as a fun thing to learn about, but he can’t *tout* someone’s interest.

19. In cahoots, abetting. The “Though” at the beginning of the sentence tells us that the second part of the sentence will oppose the idea of the big firm (the “industry leader”) being punished while the small firm gets away with something. Indeed, the small firm is working with the larger one to do wrong—it is *in cahoots*. In the second blank, we need a word that means *complicit in* or *helping (in a bad way)*. Only *abetting* works. Watch out for the trap answer *colluding*. This word does mean to cooperate in order to commit a wrong, but doesn’t fit for grammatical reasons—you can’t *collude plans*. Rather, you collude *with* X to do Y (*collude* with a competitor to raise prices).

Text Completions

20. Disinterested. We need a word that means *unbiased* (a good quality for a debate judge or moderator). *Disinterested* does not mean *uninterested*—rather, it means not having a “personal interest” in the topic, and therefore being unbiased.

21. Fulmination, aspersion, muckraking. “It was difficult to tell whether his tirade in fact had force of fact” means that it was difficult to tell whether someone’s angry speech (*fulmination*) was actually true. It is hard to tell whether his speech is “motivated by malice” (that is, malicious lies, or *aspersion*) or “reportorial” information (*muckraking*—exposing corruption) that should actually be listened to. Note that *calumny* is similar to *aspersion* and cannot work in the third blank—while the second blank describes negative speech meant to cause harm to others, the third blank describes negative speech that exposes the truth.

22. Agog, indelicate. The sentence has two good clues—the grandparents value *seemliness*, the state of being proper and appropriate. The woman’s behavior is *incorrigible* (resistant to correction), which definitely has a bad connotation.

23. Risible. The clue phrase here is “exaggerated hilarity,” letting us know that the veteran thought the situation was funny or amusing. (*Superannuated* tells us that he was extremely old, thus exaggerating the impact of “a lifetime of injustice.”) *Risible*, which means “laughable” and carries cognates in both French and Spanish, is most appropriate.

24. Unkempt, surprisingly deliberate. The tricky blank structure masks what is ultimately a not-so-tricky word relationship: that of opposites. Clues for this relationship can be found in the words “notwithstanding” and “if.” Essentially, the right answers will be words that mean, first, “cluttered,” and second, “ordered.”

25. Heralded, appropriated. The phrase “equally public” gives us a clue that the legislator’s approval was also highly publicized, or *heralded*. *Ratified*, which means “officially approved,” would be redundant in this context. For the second blank, we aren’t given much of a clue about what the meaning should be. When this happens, only one answer choice will make sense (and usually that correct choice won’t add much to the sentence), while the other, incorrect answer choices will drastically change the meaning. Here, *appropriated*, which means “allocated” or “assigned,” fits nicely and doesn’t add any unintended meaning. Neither *adduced*, which means “cited as evidence,” nor *adumbrated*, which means “reported in an outline,” is fitting.

26. Benign, absconded. The first blank hinges on the meaning of the word *purport*, which mean to “pretend to be,” or to “masquerade as.” The sentence implies that the bureau is pretending to be harmless, or *benign*. For the second blank we are looking for a word that means to “leave hurriedly”; *absconded* fits. Notice that *immigrated*, though close in meaning, isn’t quite right because it means to “arrive at” a country or region rather than to “leave from” it. *Pandered*, which means “indulged another’s desire,” is not appropriate in this sentence.

27. Congenial, erode. When a relationship goes from something to “chilly at best,” we can surmise that the relationship used to be warm or cordial: *congenial* fits best here. Knowing that the relationship has devolved allows us to turn to the second blank and determine that there has been an undermining, or an *eroding*, of “mutual trust.”

28. Virtuous, vice. The first blank must mirror “pious.” The pivot words “seemingly” and “actually” indicate that the second blank contrasts “pious”—a *vice* is a very bad habit.

29. Premature. The clues are “first” and “initiative.” We don’t know if these fighters were violent or erroneous—avoid opinions or outside knowledge.

Text Completions

30. Initially, given teeth. For the first blank, we need to contrast with “subsequent.” Thus, we need a word that means “at first.” In the second blank, we need something that will contrast with having “little impact” and will match the idea of a law now gaining funding and enforcement. Only *given teeth* has this (obviously metaphorical) meaning.