

# CAT SENTENCE COMPLETION

#### **Table of Contents**

Sr. No.	Торіс	Pg. No.
1	Introduction to Sentence Completion	1
	<ul><li>1.1 Introduction</li><li>1.2 What is measured?</li><li>1.3 Relevance in entrance tests</li><li>1.4 Types of questions asked</li><li>1.5 Important Facts about Sentence</li><li>Completion</li></ul>	1-8
2	Strategy to Solve Sentence Completion	9
	<ul> <li>2.1 introduction to strategy</li> <li>2.2 Indicators based on transition words</li> <li>2.3 Connotation</li> <li>2.4 Idiomatic Usage</li> <li>2.5 Sentences without transition words</li> <li>2.6 Cloze Test</li> </ul>	9-32
	Practice Exercise 01 (SNAP Based) Answer Key and Explanations	33-38



#### 1. Introduction to Sentence Completion

#### 1.1 Introduction

A sentence completion item consists of a sentence, a part or parts of which have been left out, besides answer choices. You must choose an answer that will complete the sentence by correctly filling in the blank or blanks. Sentence completions are, in part, a test of reading comprehension, but they are also a test of vocabulary. The basic idea of sentence completion is to "fill in the blank." Here are the instructions. Don't try to memorize them; just make sure you understand them.

#### 1.2 What is measured?

These questions check:

- Vocabulary
- Sentence Structure
- · Main idea and logic of the sentence

#### 1.3 Relevance in entrance tests:

Sentence completion or fill in the blank questions are relevant in XAT, SNAP, MAT, and NMAT. The number of questions asked in these tests varies from 2 to 8 questions on an average.

Secure Xtra Edge with the Undisputed Leader in MBA Prep

### **Exclusive Master Classes**

by Ace Trainers



Register Now



7654 0000 42 (Online Courses) ⊕ mba.hitbullseye.com

25+ Years of Excellence in Education | 1 Crore+ Annual Users 2 Lakh+ Students Trained in Physical Centres | 50+ Master Trainers



However, Sentence completion questions have not been asked in CAT for last few years. The number of questions of sentence completion is high in SNAP test.

#### 1.4 Types of questions asked

Sentence completion questions can be:

- One blank
- II. Two blanks
- III. Three Blanks
- IV. A short para with multiple blanks (cloze test)
- V. Grammar-based fill in the blanks

Let's look at the example of each kind:-

#### I. One Blank

1.	Despite	stati	stics	to	prove	tŀ	nat	there	wa	s a
	slowdow	n in	the	eco	nomy	of	the	coun	try,	the
	professo	r was			ab	out	it.			

Actual question

1. in affirmation 2. in denial

3. in protest 4. in shock



#### II. Two Blanks

2.	In response to my friend's request, I decided to
	write her a letter, which I hoped would be honest
	and practical while also serving as a of sorts
	for my own feminist thinking. This book is aof
	that letter, with some details changed
	_

Actual question

- 1. map, version 2. chart, form
- 3. base, fallout 4. guide, precise

#### III. Three Blanks

3. Coral reefs are one of the most \_\_\_\_\_\_, biologically complex, and diverse marine ecosystems on Earth. This ecosystem is one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_ paradoxes of the biosphere: how do clear, and thus nutrient-poor, waters support most \_\_\_\_\_ and productive communities?

Actual question

- 1. common, sensitive, fruitful
- 2. fragile, fascinating, prolific
- 3. deep, strange, exuberant
- 4. frail, unrecognized, wealthy



The same word in multiple blanks

4.	I. The child sat		through the long sermon.		
	II. We have		o receive th	e documents. <i>Actual question</i>	
	1. out	2. quiet	3. quietly	4. still	
IV. A	A short para	with multipl	e blanks (cl	oze test)	
in runde of the house small always	ral areas. A rstand what e countryes of people I towns and ys treated w	Il this trave children wa (7) my tra I meet as willages thatell; an old S	Iling has _ ant to read avels I frequ _(8) there at I visit. In anskrit say	tion I travel(5) (6) me to in different parts uently stay in the e are no hotels in India a guest is ing is Atithi Devo m of a guest.	
<b>5</b> .	1. extensive	ely	2. someho	W	
	3. extremely	у	4. hastily		
6.	1. ensured		2. provided	I	
	3. enabled		4. deprived	I	
7.	1. during		2. since		
	3. from		4. through		

## FREE MBA-CAT SCHOLARSHIP TEST

#### **Perks and Perquisites:**

· Get 80% Fee Waivers

Live Mentorship With Dream Team

All India Percentile Among CAT Aspirants



Mode: Online

Register Now



🐧 7654 0000 42 (Online Courses) - 🌐 mba hitbullseye.com

25+ Years of Excellence in Education | 1 Crore+ Annual Users 2 Lakh+ Students Trained in Physical Centres | 50+ Master Trainers



8. 1. while 2. usual
3. neither 4. often
9. 1. threatens 2. meaning
3. fearing 4. imply
The above type i. e multiple blank questions are generally asked in XAT.

#### V. Grammar-based fill in the blanks

**Directions:** Fill in each of the blanks using a correct word or a correct phrase from the options given below for each sentence.



#### **Solutions:**

Q.	Key	Explanation
No.	2	in denial
2.	1	map, version
3.	2	fragile, fascinating, prolific
4.	3	quietly
5.	1	Travel is usually done in an extensive manner which means to a large extent or in a widespread way, hence option 1. Options 2 is inappropriate as somehow means in some unspecified way. Option 3 seems unfit as to travel extremely is to travel in a severe manner which cannot be possible. Option 4 would not go in the blank as according to the statement in the paragraph, there is no need for one to travel rapidly
6.	3	Options 2 and 4 can be readily eliminated as 'provided me to' is the incorrect expression and deprived (deny) is a negative connotation. Also travelling cannot ensure understanding of an idea. According to the statement in the paragraph, travelling has supported or helped him understand the reading requirements across the country thus enabled is the right option.



7.	1	Since refers to either the starting point of time or to state a reason thus cannot be the suitable option. 'Through' refers to a medium that is why cannot be a suitable fit. From refers to a starting point and not making a right expression as 'from my travels'. Therefore, during is the correct option making the right expression.
8.	4	As the paragraph starts with the mention of author visiting the rural areas quite frequently. Therefore, of all the four options, often seems to be the best one.
9.	2	Old Sanskrit saying Atithi Devo Bhava 'means' God comes in the form of a guest not implies as it strictly refers to something being made clear indirectly. Options 1 and 3 represent a negation, thus cannot be suitable.
10.	2	for
11.	2	neither



#### 1.5 Important Facts about Sentence Completion

- **A.** Sentence completions can be about almost any subject in the world-sports, history, opera, medicine, politics, and so on. But you do not need any special knowledge. The sentence itself will give you all the information you need to complete it. Don't be intimidated by the sentence.
- **B**. There are two things that make sentence completion difficult:-

#### 1. Vocabulary

#### 2. Sentence structure

**C.** Wrong choices are wrong for one of two reasons: one, when inserted in the sentence, the phrase they create is not idiomatic; or two, they fail to support the overall logic of the sentence. First, many answer choices are wrong because the phrasing they would create is not idiomatic i.e. the words just never go together.

**Note**: Needless to say, having a good vocabulary helps in doing better at this question type. You are advised to work on vocabulary simultaneously in order to improve your ability at this question type. However, even if you are caught short in your vocabulary by a particular question, you can still try to solve it with a few strategies given in the next chapter.



#### 2. Strategy to Solve Sentence Completion

#### 2.1 Introduction to Strategy

Every sentence contains hints that will help you select the correct answer. Each of the following strategies will help you decipher those hints, but remember that any given question might require you to use more than one approach:

- 1. **Identify the context:** See what is the sentence talking about
- **2. Break the sentence in parts:** Identify the flow of thought given in the parts of the sentence.
- **3. Understand the context**: You should immediately begin to pick up on the idea the sentence is trying to convey, as well as any suggestions of tone or mood. Understanding the general meaning and nature of the sentence will help you to choose the most logical and stylistically appropriate answer
- **4. Look for clue words/ transition words:** When reading, pay attention to transition words or phrases in the structure of the sentence that indicate a relationship between ideas or tell you where the sentence is going. These indicators will help you anticipate the blank. We have the following indicators:



- a) Descriptive Indicators
- b) Contrast Indicators
- c) Similar Indicators
- d) Cause and Effect Indicators
- **5. Look for key words:** Other than transition words there would be some key words used in the context of the sentence which will help you to predict the answers.
- **6. Anticipate the blanks:** Before you look at the answer choices, try to predict an answer. If your predicted word or words match one of the answer choices, it is most likely the correct choice. Remember that the test writers create incorrect answers in an attempt to distract you—if you predict an answer you are less likely to get caught up on these confusing incorrect answers.
- 7. Shortlist the Answer: Be careful to consider all of the choices before you confirm your answer, even if your predicted answer is among the choices. The difference between the best answer and the second-best answer is sometimes very subtle. When you think that you have the correct answer, read the entire sentence to yourself, using your choice(s) in the blank(s). If it makes sense, mark your answer on the computer screen and move on to the next question.



- **8. Idiomatic Usage:** If you see more than two choices, close check for the idiomatic usage.
- **9. Use Logic:** If you find a sentence with no transition words, check the positive or negative tone or connotation of the sentences. Use logic based on the key words given in the sentence.

#### 2.2 Indicators based on transition words

#### I. Descriptive indicators

Whenever the punctuation "," (comma) appears, followed by a blank in between two sentences, then it means that the synonym of the phrase/word before "," is the meaning of the blank. In simple words, when you find ',' followed by a blank then find the synonym of the word before ',' and check the options to match the synonym of the word.

In the same way, when you find ":"( colon) or ";"( semicolon) in the sentence, they will indicate that the idea coming up is merely an explanation of the earlier idea. So, simply find the synonym of the word/phrase before the punctuation and fill in the blank with the synonym from the options given.





**1.** John is well known for his \_\_\_\_\_, he usually acts with great audacity and recklessness.

A. smartness B. boldness

**C.** sincerity **D.** cunningness

Step 1: Context- John's traits.

**Step 2**: Two parts related- The second part is describing John's traits.

**Step 3:** Clues- "comma" after the blank.

**Step 4**: Keywords- Great audacity & recklessness (negative connotation).

**Step 5:** Anticipate the blanks- a negative adjective and synonym to audacity is required to be used for describing John. Hence boldness is similar to audacity.

Step 6: Look at the options.

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Sol: Boldness.



2. She was a \_\_\_\_\_criminal, her name in every household and her face on every wall.

A. famous B. hardworking C. notorious D. sincere

Step 1: Context- Criminal and her traits.

**Step 2**: Two parts related- The second part is describing how the criminal was.

Step 3: Clues- "comma" after the blank.

**Step 4:** Key words- house hold name and her face (posters) on the wall.

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- She was known to all but in a negative way. Hence we need someone who is well known for negative actions.

**Step 6:** Look in the options- We have famous and notorious. Famous is positive. Hence we will select notorious.

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Sol: notorious



#### II. Contrast indicators

#### Transition clue words/ phrases

Although	Yet	But	In	Despite	On	the
			spite		cont	rary
Ironically	Opposite	Anything but	Than	Far from	Rang	_

#### However

1.	Although	the	term	s t	toad	and	frog	refer	to	two
	different	anim	nals	of	the	san	ne sp	oecies	, n	nany
	students		t	he '	two.					

A. distinguish

B. confuse

C. respect

D. observe

**Step 1:** Context - Frogs, toads & student's interpretation.

**Step 2**: Two parts related- The second part is a response to the first. The response should be opposite to the first idea.

Step 3: Clues- "Although" in the first part of the sentence.

**Step 4:** Key words-different animals of the same species...... many.

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- In this variation; the word 'although' introduces a contrast. What comes after the



comma is the reverse of what comes before. Here, we need a word to indicate that the distinction between toads and frogs is ignored. So, we need words like- not able to identify, cannot distinguish etc.

**Step 6:** Look in the options- similar to the word which should mean 'not able to identify' would be confused.

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Sol: Confuse

- 2. The editor expected her reporters to be\_\_\_\_\_\_, but the number of \_\_\_\_\_ in the articles submitted clearly showed that her expectations were often not met.
  - A. impartial ... clichés
  - B. frank ... predictions
  - C. decisive ... facts
  - D. creative ... errors
  - E. accurate ... misquotations

**Step 1**: Context – expectations of the editor



**Step 2**: Two parts related- The second part is a response to the first. The response should be opposite to the first idea.

**Step 3**: Clues-"BUT" in the second part of the sentence after the comma.

Step 4: Key expectations not met.

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- In this variation, the word **but** introduces a contrast. What comes after the comma is the reverse of what comes before. Here, we need a word to indicate that she expected a positive behaviour in the first part. The second part should be the reverse of her expectations. The term "but" indicates a contrast between the editor's expectations of her reporters and their actual performance. It is logical that an editor would expect "accuracy" from her reporters, and "misquotations" are an example of inaccuracy.

**Step 6:** Look at the options-1st blank should be positive, second should have a negative connotation. Hence option E satisfies this combination.

**Step 7**: Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Sol: Accurate.....misquotations



- 3. The two travellers may have chosen ----- routes across the continent, but the starting point was the same for each.
  - A. coinciding
  - B. direct
  - C. charted
  - D. divergent
  - E. intersecting

**Sol:** The phrase "may have" and the term "but" sets up a contrast between the two clauses of the sentence. The fact that the travellers took distinctly different trips is contrasted with the fact that they left from the same place.

Hence Choice (D) is correct. "Divergent" means proceeding from one point in different directions.



#### III. Similar indicators

#### Transition clue words/ phrases

		Addition		
Indeed	Further	As well(as this)	Either (Neither)	Also
Moreover	What is more	As a matter of fact	And	Furthermore
In addition (to this)	Besides (this)	or	In fact	Actually
To say nothing of	Тоо	Let alone	Much less	Additionally
Nor	Alternatively	To tell the truth		

#### **Similarity**

Similarly	In the same	By the same	In a like
	way	token	manner
Equally	Likewise		



1. Just as Henry fooled the audience, his brother too was successful at \_\_\_\_\_others.

**A**. Attracting **B**. mocking

**C.** duping **D**. praising

**Step 1**: Context – Henry & his brother

**Step 2:** Two parts related- Second part is similar in idea

**Step 3:** Clues- "Just as" transition word given in the first part of the sentence another clue word is "too"

Step 4: Key words-fooled

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- In this variation, the word **just as** introduces a similarity in the two ideas. What comes after the comma should be similar to what comes before. Here, we need a word to indicate that his brother is also fooling people. So synonyms of fooling are required- e.g. cheating, duping etc.

**Step 6:** Look at the options, we have 'duping' in the option.

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Sol: Duping



- 2. Archaeology is a poor profession; only \_\_\_\_ sums are available for excavating sites and even more \_\_\_\_ amounts for preserving the excavations.
  - **A.** paltry meager
  - B. miniscule substantial
  - C. average augmented
  - D. judicious penurious
  - E. modest generous
- Step 1: Context Archaeology as a poor profession
- **Step 2**: Two parts related- The second part is similar in idea
- **Step 3:** Clues- "Even more" transition word given in the second part of the sentence
- Step 4: Key words-poor profession
- **Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- In this variation; the word **even more** introduces a similarity in the two ideas. What comes after the comma should be similar to what comes before. Since the first part tells us that there is no money in archaeology, then there will only be small (paltry) amounts for excavating.



**Step 6:** Look at the options- we have 'paltry' in the options.

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option.

Thus, meager also means small, miniscule = tiny; augmented = increased; judicious = wise, just; penurious = poor)

Sol: meagre

#### IV. Cause and Effect

#### **Transition clue words/ phrases**

## as a result consequently hence for this reason because (of in consequence so that accordingly this) as a so much (so) so therefore consequence that



1. The attorney was expert in identifying ----- in contracts, ambiguities that could cause difficulties and therefore needed to be revised.

A. clauses

**B**. forgeries

C. loopholes

**D**. intervals

E. thresholds

**Step 1**: Context – attorney as expert

**Step 2**: Two parts related- Second part is a response to the first.

**Step 3:** Clues- therefore in the first part of the sentence

Step 4: Key words-ambiguities, needed revision

**Step 5:** Anticipate the blanks- We need a similar to ambiguity and something meaning that it is not right. The outcome we want is that it needs revision. This means the first part should have a negative connotation.

**Step 6:** Look at the options - similar to the word ambiguity

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option

Sol: loopholes

## hitbullseye

2. The formerly \_\_\_\_ waters of the lake have been polluted so that the fish are no longer visible from the surface.

A. muddy B. tranguil C. stagnant

**D.** pellucid **E.** rancid

Step 1: Context – lake water

**Step 2**: Two parts related- Second part is a response to the first.

**Step 3**: Clues- "So that" transition word used in the second part of the sentence.

**Step 4:** Key words- Formerly ......fish are no longer visible

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- So, since now the waters are polluted so that fish cannot be seen, then formerly they must have been unpolluted and clear.

**Step 6:** Look at the options- Clear (pellucid),tranquil = peaceful; stagnant = not moving; pellucid = transparently clear; rancid = stale

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option

Sol: pellucid



**3**. After the accident, the nerves to her arm were damaged and so the muscles \_\_\_\_ through disuse.

A. atrophied B. contracted

**C.** elongated **D.** invigorated **E.** dwindled

**Step 1**: Context – nerves after damaged

Step 2: Two parts related- Second part is an effect

**Step 3:** Clues- "So" transition word used in the second part of the sentence

Step 4: Key words- damaged......disuse

**Step 5**: Anticipate the blanks- The sentence states that the muscles were not used and so we would expect them to waste away.

**Step 6**: Look at the options- 'Atrophied' means wasted away, or withered. Note that 'dwindled' means grew less but could not be used for muscles. (invigorated = energized)

**Step 7:** Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option

Sol: Atrophied



#### 2.3 Connotation

Each word expresses two things: a definition and a connotation. A connotation is a positive, negative, or neutral feeling that is implied by or associated with a word. Although context is the part of a sentence that surrounds a particular word or passage and determines its meaning, connotation refers to the emotion that is suggested by the word itself.

For example, the adjective "thrifty" implies a positive connotation, whereas the adjective "cheap" implies a negative connotation. Both words have similar definitions, but very different connotations. Using connotations can help you determine the correct answer or at least eliminate a few wrong answers.

Here is an example of how to use connotation to select the correct answer:

- 1. Because of his -----, Max's guests felt very welcome and comfortable staying at his house for the weekend.
  - **A**. animosity **B**. hospitality
  - C. determination D. wittiness
  - E. severity



Sol: The best answer is B. The sentence has a positive connotation—Max's guests feel welcome and comfortable. In addition, the transition "because" indicates that something that belongs to Max has caused his guests to feel welcome and comfortable. "Animosity" and "severity" have a negative connotation and "determination" has a neutral connotation. "Hospitality" and "wittiness" both have positive connotations, but "hospitality" best fits the context of the sentence.

#### 2.4 Idiomatic Usage

Idiom refers to the common or everyday usage of a word or phrase. Learn to recognize idiomatic words and phrases, as they might provide additional clues regarding the intended meaning of the sentence. Ask yourself if the completed sentence "sounds" correct, and make sure that the sentence effectively combines words into phrases that express a logical idea. If any portion of the sentence becomes unclear, wordy, or awkward after you insert an answer choice, eliminate that choice.

Here is an example to explain the usage.



- 1. Although adolescent maturational and developmental states occur in an orderly sequence, their timing ----- with regard to onset and duration.
  - A. lasts B. varies C. Falters D. accelerates
- **Sol:** Option B is the best answer. The rest can be eliminated because its substitution would create a phrase that is not idiomatic English: (A) their timing lasts (C) their timing falters (D) their timing accelerates. Try to think of a sentence using one of these words in the phrase in a sentence. All seem very unlikely.

#### 2.5 Sentences without transition words:

In case, where the sentence does not have any of the above mentioned indicators, use logic based on keywords

- 1. His characteristically \_\_\_\_ views on examination methods at the university level have aroused \_\_\_\_ in those who want to introduce innovative and flexible patterns of assessment.
  - **A.** hidebound antagonism **B.** moderate anger
  - **C.** reactionary admiration **D.** rigid support
  - E. accommodating annoyance



Step 1: Context – His views on exam.

**Step 2**: Two parts related- Second part is a response others have on his view.

Step 3: Clues- No transition word used.

**Step 4:** Key words- views.....aroused......flexible.

**Step 5:** Anticipate the blanks- Follow the logic. If his views are flexible the people who want flexible methods will approve. But, if his views are rigid the same people will oppose them.

**Step 6:** Look in the options- Hence, the best fit comes with hidebound (rigid) and antagonism (hostility), (reactionary = ultraconservative; accommodating = flexible).

**Step 7**: Re-read the sentence by fitting the blank with the shortlisted option

**Sol:** The correct answer is option A.



#### 2.6 Cloze Test

#### What is Cloze Test?

It is a form of fill in the blanks question where words are omitted from a paragraph.

You have to fill the blanks with suitable words, either grammatically or context-wise.

#### **Relevance in the Test:**

- 1. Frequently asked in various tests.
- 2. It checks your ability to understand and relate the concepts in the passage.
- 3. It also checks for the application of words-Vocabulary.
- 4. It checks grammatical knowledge, structural recognition and overall comprehension.

#### Strategy to solve the cloze test:

**Step 1**: Read the passage thoroughly

Step 2: Identify the theme of the passage

Focus on the flow of ideas

The tone of the passage

Context



Step 3: Underline the keywords as you read

**Step 4:** Refer to the sentence with the blank. Identify the context, and check for any keywords present.

Step 5: Anticipate your answer

**Step 6:** Refer to the preceding and following sentences

**Step 7:** Check for the options after eliminating the options

#### Let's Try to Solve:-

Fill in each blank with the most appropriate word from the provided options.

Pollination is a crucial process in the reproduction of flowering plants. It involves the transfer of pollen from the male structures to the female structures of flowers, leading to fertilization and the production of seeds. While some plants are self-pollinating, many rely on external agents, known as pollinators, to \_\_\_\_\_(1)\_\_\_\_\_ this process. Bees are among the most well-known pollinators, but other insects, birds, and even bats play \_\_\_\_\_(2)\_\_\_\_ roles. The relationship between plants and their pollinators is often \_\_\_\_\_\_(3)\_\_\_\_; plants provide nectar or pollen as a food source, while pollinators facilitate the reproductive process. This



mutu	mutualistic relationship is vital for the(4) of				
•		pollinator populations are			
		factors, including habitat			
	-	change. The decline in			
-		threat to biodiversity and			
		e need for(6)			
conse	ervation efforts.				
1.	1. initiate	2. hinder			
	3. facilitate	4. prevent			
2.	1. minor	2. insignificant			
	3. limited	4. essential			
3.	1. competitive	2. mutualistic			
	3. parasitic	4. antagonistic			
4.	1. sustainability	2. destruction			
	3. disruption	4. instability			
<b>5</b> .	1. thriving	2. increasing			
	3. declining	4. remaining			
6.	1. reduced	2. effective			
	3. half-hearted	4. superficial			



#### **Solutions:**

Q. No.	Key	Explanation
1.	3	<b>facilitate</b> - This word means to make an action or process easier, fitting the context of pollinators helping with pollination.
2.	4	<b>essential</b> - This word means absolutely necessary, reflecting the crucial role of various pollinators in the pollination process.
3.	2	<b>mutualistic</b> - This word describes a relationship where both parties benefit, fitting the context of plants and pollinators helping each other.
4.	1	<b>sustainability</b> - This word fits because it refers to the maintenance and health of ecosystems, which rely on pollination.
5.	3	<b>declining</b> - This word means decreasing, aligning with the context of pollinator populations being threatened.
6.	2	<b>effective</b> - This word means successful in producing a desired result, emphasizing the need for strong conservation efforts to protect pollinators.



#### **Practice Exercise 01 (SNAP based)**

1.	His remarks were filled with which sounded lofty but presented nothing new to the audience.		
	(a) aphorisms	(b) platitudes	
	(c) bombast	(d) adages	
2.	• .	a nation, free men feel the and are prepared to throw	
	(a) optimistic	(b) autocratic	
	(c) eccentric	(d) energetic	
3.	A great literary or artist	ic work is known as	
	(a) par excellence	(b) bete noire	
	(c) peccadillo	(d) magnum opus	
4.	The carriage foundered in a snowdrift and it two hours to it.		
	(a) exert	(b) pillage	
	(c) exacerbate	(d) extricate	



5.	The influence of the revealed by an stu	e environment on man is udy.
	a) anthropological	(b) ecological
	(c) epigraphic	(d) numismatic
6.	Alexander Solzhepitsyn's works will beevery lover of liberal thought and they will brind home to him how restrictive freedom is in the Russian system.	
	(a) rejected	(b) skimmed
	(c) compiled	(d) perused
7.		leas has not only us, but us to the last date for
	(a) overwhelmed, exten	nd
	(b) enjoyed, stretch	
	(c) dismayed, decide	
	(d) scared, scrap	

## hitbullseye

(a) mimic

8.	The high cutoff marks this year have college admission seekers to either for lesser known colleges or change their subject preferences.
	(a) cajoled, ask
	(b) pressured, sit
	(c) forced, settle
	(d) strained, compromise
9.	Architects define a physical structure as a set of

	(d) dislodge	(e) demonstrate
10.	Only if business	continues to expand can it
	enough new jobs	to make up for those that will be -
	by automatio	n.

materials arranged in such a way that these

(b) resist (c) amplify

materials can ----- the downward pull of gravity.

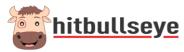
- (a) produce ... required (b) invent ... introduced
- (c) create ... eliminated (d) repeal ... reduced
- (e) formulate ... engendered



#### **Answer keys & Explanations**

#### **Practice Exercise 01**

Q. No	Key	Explanations
1.	b	An aphorism is a short witty sentence (not lofty) which expresses a general truth or observation.  Bombast is the use of long, important sounding words with little meaning in an attempt to impress others.  An adage is something which people often say and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life.  Platitude means something that has been said so often that it is no longer interesting and shows a lack of imagination.
2.	b	<b>Autocratic</b> -An autocratic ruler concentrates all power in himself. He makes decisions without asking anyone else's advice
3.	d	Magnum means 'big' (or great). (Hence a magnifying glass makes things appear big.)  Opus means 'work'. (When you operate something, a computer, for example, you make it work). Combining the two, we get magnum opus great work. But it is used only in the sense of "a great literary or artistic work".
4.	d	When a ship founders, it fills with water and sinks. Similarly, the carriage foundered (that is,



		sank) in the snowdrift (a deep pile of snow formed by the wind). The trapped (sunk) carriage then had to be freed from the snowdrift. In other words, it had to be extricated.
5.	b	Ecology is the pattern of relations of plants, animals and people to each other and their surroundings (environment).  Anthropology is the scientific study of the human (Greek anthropos = man) race, including its different types and its beliefs, social habits and organisation, etc.  Epigraphy is the study of inscriptions. An inscription is writing carved into something made of Stone or metal, for example, a gravestone, monument, or medal.  Numismatics is the study of coins or medals. 'Ecumenical activities, ideas, and movements try to unite different Christian Churches
6.	d	Peruse means to read. A perusal (reading) of "Solzhenitsyn's works" will "bring home to him" (make him understand) the truth about "Freedom" in Russia — that freedom is only nominal; it is, in fact, "restrictive".  Note that Russia here is a part of the USSR, not the post-1991 Russia.  Option (c) gives the sense of reading hurriedly"



7.	а	overwhelmed - extend
8.	С	forced – settle
9.	b	"Resist" means to withstand the force or effect of. The term "resist" logically completes this sentence because a building that cannot withstand gravitational force will collapse.
10	С	"Create" means to produce. "Eliminated" means done away with. The clue word here is "only" and we need a contrasting set of words to complete the sentence. Therefore, option c is an appropriate choice. The phrase "make up for" indicates that the action expressed by the first missing term must counter the effect of the action described by the second term. This sentence makes sense because producing new jobs would counter the effect of doing away with jobs.