

Sentence Completion

1. She hadn't eaten all day, and by the time she got home she was _____.

- a. blighted
- b. confutative
- c. ravenous
- d. ostentatious
- e. blissful

2. The movie offended many of the parents of its younger viewers by including unnecessary _____ in the dialogue.

- a. vulgarity
- b. verbosity
- c. vocalizations
- d. garishness
- e. tonality

3. His neighbors found his _____ manner bossy and irritating, and they stopped inviting him to backyard barbeques.

- a. insentient
- b. magisterial
- c. reparatory
- d. restorative
- e. modest

4. Steven is always _____ about showing up for work because he feels that tardiness is a sign of irresponsibility.

- a. legible
- b. tolerable
- c. punctual
- d. literal
- e. belligerent

5. Candace would _____ her little sister into an argument by teasing her and calling her names.

- a. advocate
- b. provoke
- c. perforate
- d. lamente

e. expunge

6. The dress Ariel wore _____ with small, glassy beads, creating a shimmering effect.

- a. titillated
- b. reiterated
- c. scintillated
- d. enthralled
- e. striated

7. Being able to afford this luxury car will _____ getting a better-paying job.

- a. maximize
- b. recombinant
- c. reiterate
- d. necessitate
- e. reciprocate

8. Levina unknowingly _____ the thief by holding open the elevator doors and ensuring his escape.

- a. coerced
- b. proclaimed
- c. abetted
- d. sanctioned
- e. solicited

9. Shakespeare, a(n) _____ writer, entertained audiences by writing many tragic and comic plays.

- a. numeric
- b. obstinate
- c. dutiful
- d. prolific
- e. generic

10. I had the _____ experience of sitting next to an over-talkative passenger on my flight home from Brussels.

- a. satisfactory
- b. commendable
- c. galling
- d. acceptable
- e. acute

11. Prince Phillip had to choose: marry the woman he loved and _____ his right to the throne, or marry Lady Fiona and inherit the crown.

- a. reprimand
- b. upbraid
- c. abdicate
- d. winnow
- e. extol

12. If you will not do your work of your own _____, I have no choice but to penalize you if it is not done on time.

- a. predilection
- b. coercion
- c. excursion
- d. volition
- e. infusion

13. After sitting in the sink for several days, the dirty, food-encrusted dishes became _____.

- a. malodorous
- b. prevalent
- c. imposing
- d. perforated
- e. emphatic

14. Giulia soon discovered the source of the _____ smell in the room: a week-old tuna sandwich that one of the children had hidden in the closet.

- a. quaint
- b. fastidious
- c. clandestine
- d. laconic
- e. fetid

15. After making _____ remarks to the President, the reporter was not invited to return to the White House pressroom.

- a. hospitable
- b. itinerant
- c. enterprising
- d. chivalrous
- e. irreverent

16. With her _____ eyesight, Krystyna spotted a trio of deer on the hillside and she reduced the speed of her car.

- a. inferior
- b. keen
- c. impressionable
- d. ductile
- e. conspiratorial

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17. With a(n) _____ grin, the boy quickly slipped the candy into his pocket without his mother's knowledge.

- a. jaundiced
- b. nefarious
- c. stereotypical
- d. sentimental
- e. impartial

18. Her _____ display of tears at work did not impress her new boss, who felt she should try to control her emotions.

- a. maudlin
- b. meritorious
- c. precarious
- d. plausible
- e. schematic

19. Johan argued, "If you know about a crime but don't report it, you are _____ in that crime because you allowed it to happen."

- a. acquitted
- b. steadfast
- c. tenuous
- d. complicit
- e. nullified

20. The authorities, fearing a _____ of their power, called for a military state in the hopes of restoring order.

- a. subversion
- b. premonition
- c. predilection
- d. infusion
- e. inversion

21. The story's bitter antagonist felt such great _____ for all of the other characters that as a result, his life was very lonely and he died alone.

- a. insurgence
- b. malevolence
- c. reciprocation
- d. declamation
- e. preference

22. It is difficult to believe that charging 20% on an outstanding credit card balance isn't _____!

- a. bankruptcy
- b. usury
- c. novice
- d. kleptomania
- e. flagrancy

23. The _____ weather patterns of the tropical island meant tourists had to carry both umbrellas and sunglasses.

- a. impertinent
- b. supplicant
- c. preeminent
- d. illustrative
- e. kaleidoscopic

24. Wedding ceremonies often include the exchange of _____ rings to symbolize the couple's promises to each other.

- a. hirsute
- b. acrimonious
- c. plaintive
- d. deciduous
- e. votive

25. Kym was _____ in choosing her friends, so her parties were attended by vastly different and sometimes bizarre personalities.

- a. indispensable
- b. indiscriminate
- c. commensurate
- d. propulsive
- e. indisputable

26. Phillip's _____ tone endeared him to his comical friends, but irritated his serious father.

- a. aloof
- b. jesting
- c. grave
- d. earnest
- e. conservative

27. Brian's pale Irish skin was _____ to burn if he spent too much time in the sun.

- a. prone
- b. urbane
- c. eminent
- d. erect
- e. daunted

28. A fan of historical fiction, Joline is now reading a novel about slavery in the _____ South.

- a. decorous
- b. rogue
- c. droll
- d. antebellum
- e. onerous

29. Over the years the Wilsons slowly _____ upon the Jacksons' property, moving the stone markers that divided their lots farther and farther onto the Jacksons' land.

- a. encroached
- b. jettisoned
- c. conjoined
- d. repudiated
- e. teemed

30. Mary became _____ at typing because she practiced every day for six months.

- a. proficient
- b. reflective

- c. dormant
- d. redundant
- e. valiant

31. To find out what her husband bought for her birthday, Susan attempted to _____ his family members about his recent shopping excursions.

- a. prescribe
- b. probe
- c. alienate
- d. converge
- e. revere

32. Juan's friends found him in a _____ mood after he learned he would be homecoming king.

- a. jovial
- b. stealthy
- c. paltry
- d. gullible
- e. depleted

33. His suit of armor made the knight _____ to his enemy's attack, and he was able to escape safely to his castle.

- a. vulnerable
- b. churlish
- c. invulnerable
- d. static
- e. imprudent

34. Choosing a small, fuel-efficient car is a _____ purchase for a recent college graduate.

- a. corrupt
- b. tedious
- c. unhallowed
- d. sardonic
- e. judicious

35. Such a _____ violation of school policy should be punished by nothing less than expulsion.

- a. copious
- b. flagrant
- c. raucous

- d. nominal
- e. morose

36. With all of the recent negative events in her life, she felt _____ forces must be at work.

- a. resurgent
- b. premature
- c. malignant
- d. punctilious
- e. antecedent

37. The _____ rumors did a great deal of damage even though they turned out to be false.

- a. bemused
- b. prosaic
- c. apocryphal
- d. ebullient
- e. tantamount

38. When her schoolwork got to be too much, Pam had a tendency to _____, which always put her further behind.

- a. dedicate
- b. rejuvenate
- c. ponder
- d. excel
- e. procrastinate

39. Racha's glance was a _____ invitation to speak later in private about events of the meeting.

- a. trecherous
- b. scintillating
- c. tactful
- d. tacit
- e. taboo

40. She reached the _____ of her career with her fourth novel, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

- a. harbinger
- b. apogee
- c. metamorphosis
- d. dictum
- e. synthesis

41. The _____ townspeople celebrated the soldier's return to his home by adorning trees with yellow ribbons and balloons.

- a. somber
- b. jubilant
- c. pitiless
- d. cunning
- e. unsullied

42. The governor-elect was hounded by a group of _____ lobbyists and others hoping to gain favor with her administration.

- a. facetious
- b. abstruse
- c. magnanimous
- d. fawning
- e. saccharine

43. The mock graduation ceremony—with a trained skunk posing as the college president—was a complete _____ that offended many college officials.

- a. tempest
- b. epitome
- c. quintessence
- d. travesty
- e. recitative

44. The busy, _____ fabric of the clown's tie matched his oversized jacket, which was equally atrocious.

- a. mottled
- b. bleak
- c. credible
- d. malleable
- e. communicable

45. Kendrick's talent _____ under the tutelage of Anya Kowalonek, who as a young woman had been the most accomplished pianist in her native Lithuania.

- a. bantered
- b. touted
- c. flourished
- d. embellished
- e. colluded

46. The children were _____ by the seemingly nonsensical clues until Kinan pointed out that the messages were in code.

- a. censured
- b. striated
- c. feigned
- d. prevaricated
- e. flummoxed

47. As the _____ in Romeo and Juliet, Romeo is a hero able to capture the audience's sympathy by continually professing his love for Juliet.

- a. protagonist
- b. enigma
- c. facade
- d. activist
- e. catechist

48. The chess master promised to _____ havoc upon his opponent's pawns for taking his bishop.

- a. wreak
- b. warrant
- c. ensue
- d. placate
- e. endow

49. I have always admired Seymour's _____; I've never seen him rattled by anything.

- a. aplomb
- b. confluence
- c. propriety
- d. compunction
- e. nostalgia

50. The soldiers received a military _____ to inspect all their vehicles before traveling.

- a. allotment
- b. dominion
- c. affectation
- d. calculation
- e. mandate

ANSWERS

1. **c.** Ravenous (adj.) means extremely hungry.
2. **a.** Vulgarity (n.) means offensive speech or conduct.
3. **b.** Magisterial (adj.) means overbearing or offensively self-assured.
4. **c.** Punctual (adj.) means arriving exactly on time.
5. **b.** To provoke (v.) is to incite anger or resentment; to call forth a feeling or action.
6. **c.** To scintillate (v.) means to emit or send forth sparks or little flashes of light, creating a shimmering effect; to sparkle.
7. **d.** To necessitate (v.) means to make necessary, especially as a result.
8. **c.** To abet (v.) means to assist, encourage, urge, or aid, usually an act of wrongdoing.
9. **d.** Prolific (adj.) means abundantly creative.
10. **c.** Gallingly (adj.) means irritating, annoying, or exasperating.
11. **c.** To abdicate (v.) means to formally relinquish or surrender power, office, or responsibility.
12. **d.** Volition (n.) means accord; an act or exercise of will.
13. **a.** Malodorous (adj.) means having a foul-smelling odor.
14. **e.** Fetid (adj.) means having a foul or offensive odor, putrid.
15. **e.** Irreverent (adj.) means lacking respect or seriousness; not reverent.

16. **b.** Keen (adj.) means being extremely sensitive or responsive; having strength of perception.
17. **b.** Nefarious (adj.) means wicked, vicious, or evil.
18. **a.** Maudlin (adj.) means excessively and weakly sentimental or tearfully emotional.
19. **d.** Complicit (adj.) means participating in or associated with a questionable act or a crime.
20. **a.** Subversion (n.) means an overthrow, as from the foundation.
21. **b.** Malevolence (n.) means ill will or malice toward others; hate.
22. **b.** Usury (n.) is the lending of money at exorbitant interest rates.
23. **e.** Kaleidoscopic (adj.) means continually changing or quickly shifting.
24. **e.** Votive (adj.) means dedicated by a vow.
25. **b.** Indiscriminate (adj.) means not discriminating or choosing randomly; haphazard; without distinction.
26. **b.** Jest (adj.) means characterized by making jests; joking; playful.
27. **a.** Prone (adj.) means a tendency or inclination to something.
28. **d.** Antebellum (adj.) means belonging to the period before a war, especially the American Civil War.
29. **a.** To encroach (v.) means to gradually or stealthily take the rights or possessions of another; to advance beyond proper or formal limits; trespass.
30. **a.** Proficient (adj.) means well versed in any business or branch of learning; adept.
31. **b.** To probe (v.) is to examine thoroughly; tentatively survey.
32. **a.** Jovial (adj.) means showing hearty good cheer; marked with the spirit of jolly merriment.

33. **c.** Invulnerable (adj.) means incapable of being damaged or wounded; unassailable or invincible.

34. **e.** Judicious (adj.) means being wise or prudent; showing good judgment; sensible.

35. **b.** Flagrant (adj.) means conspicuously and outrageously bad, offensive, or reprehensible.

36. **c.** Malignant (adj.) means disposed to cause distress or inflict suffering intentionally; inclining to produce death; an injurious infiltration.

37. **c.** Apocryphal (adj.) means of questionable authenticity or doubtful authority; fictitious, false.

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8. **e.** To procrastinate (v.) is to put off from day to day.

39. **c.** Tacit (adj.) means unspoken yet understood.

40. **b.** Apogee (n.) means the highest or farthest point, culmination; the point in its orbit where a satellite is at the greatest distance from the body it is orbiting.

41. **b.** Jubilant (adj.) means rejoicing; expressing joyfulness; exulting.

42. **d.** Fawning (adj.) means attempting to win favor or attention by excessive flattery, ingratiating displays of affection, or servile compliance; obsequious.

43. **d.** Travesty (n.) means a parody; a grotesque imitation with the intent to ridicule.

44. **a.** Mottled (adj.) means blotched or spotted with different colors or shades.

45. **c.** To flourish (v.) is (of artists) to be in a state of high productivity, excellence, or influence; to grow luxuriously, thrive; to fare well, prosper, increase in wealth, honor, comfort or whatever is desirable; to make bold, sweeping movements.

46. **e.** To flummox (v.) is to confuse, perplex, bewilder.

47. **a.** A protagonist (n.) is the main character in a drama.

48. **a.** To wreak (v.) means to inflict, as a revenge or punishment.

49. **a.** Aplomb (n.) is self-assurance, composure, poise, especially understrain.

50. **e.** Mandate (n.) is a command or authoritative instruction.