

Sentence Completion Questions Chapter 2

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

26. b. Jestering (adj.) means characterized by making jests; joking; playful.

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

27. a. Prone (adj.) means a tendency or inclination to something.

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

28. d. Antebellum (adj.) means belonging to the period before a war, especially the American Civil War.

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

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

- a. proficient
- b. reflective
- c. dormant
- d. redundant
- e. valiant

30. a. Proficient (adj.) means well versed in any business or branch of learning; adept.

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

31. b. To probe (v.) is to examine thoroughly; tentatively survey.

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

32. a. Jovial (adj.) means showing hearty good cheer; marked with the spirit of jolly merriment.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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. 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

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

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

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

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

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

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

49. a. Aplomb (n.) is self-assurance, composure, poise, especially under strain.

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

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

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