



GRE[®]

Sentence Equivalence Supplement

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Sentence Equivalence

Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning.

1. The exhibit is not so much a retrospective as a _____; the artist's weaker early work is glossed over and any evidence of his ultimate dissolution is absent entirely.
 - paeon
 - philippic
 - tirade
 - panacea
 - eulogy
 - crescendo
2. Unlike the politician's earlier evasions and equivocations, this latest statement is a _____ lie.
 - bald
 - tacit
 - overt
 - didactic
 - rhetorical
 - implicit
3. For most of the 20th century, American political contentions reflected pragmatic rather than ideological differences; candidate debates centered around whether programs were _____ .
 - partisan
 - voluble
 - feasible
 - innocuous
 - prejudiced
 - viable

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4. Only by ignoring Afghanistan's long history as a military quagmire could pundits pontificate that fresh infusions of men and material would lead to _____ victory.
- fleeting
 - contingent
 - expeditious
 - ephemeral
 - swift
 - pyrrhic
5. Geneticists find Iceland a living laboratory for the study of _____ because virtually all of its current 300,000 citizens descend from less than a thousand Icelanders who survived the medieval Black Death.
- diversity
 - revivification
 - therapy
 - history
 - mutation
 - rejuvenation
6. Given the influx of information via social media, the only way that a person can function effectively is to _____, to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.
- delete
 - triage
 - prioritize
 - respond
 - requite
 - eliminate
7. The phrase "gilding the lily" is a late 19th century expression that sneered at the ostentatious gestures of some of the newly rich – such as applying gold gilt to the carved lilies on the entrances of their Beaux Arts homes; for decades, it then served as a shorthand for any _____ behavior.
- gauche
 - eccentric
 - idiosyncratic
 - idiotic
 - irredentist
 - uncouth

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8. In the early 1920's, Paul Cassirer, a Berlin art dealer, was famous not only for his clients, such as Renoir, but also for _____ a credulous art world by correctly exposing several purported Van Gogh works as forgeries.
- deluding
 - apprising
 - counseling
 - depressing
 - indicting
 - misleading
9. Although the system's _____ is not currently in dispute at the national level, increasing local allegations of preferential treatment are threatening to change the situation.
- unfairness
 - solemnity
 - probity
 - equity
 - partiality
 - solicitousness
10. Though the subject of the museum exhibit had been an astute politician and strategist in his day, not even his most vociferous apologists could drum up interest among a modern public for a retrospective of a career so marked by _____ views on social issues.
- erudite
 - erroneous
 - sere
 - scholarly
 - passé
 - archaic
11. From the battle's opening volleys to its bloody conclusion, the forces of destruction razed a path through the city, ultimately leaving behind an eerie stillness where there once had been streets and squares _____ with life.
- flouting
 - assaying
 - teeming
 - stewing
 - abounding
 - vaunting

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12. By framing the new law as a question of urgent safety rather than of privacy, the government obviated the need to pass through the standard channels of legislation, effectively _____ all formal dissent and relegating any would-be naysayer from a position of engaged activist to that of powerless bystander.
- curtailing
 - undermining
 - targeting
 - lobbying
 - instigating
 - facilitating
13. Exactly which bird species fell victim first to the deadly virus is the subject of ongoing controversy; what is known, however, is that it took but a slight mutation in the pathogen's genetic constitution to render it lethal to _____ of related species.
- a contraband
 - a surplus
 - an aurora
 - a myriad
 - a pantheon
 - a plethora
14. The coastline of the region plays home predominantly to a community of cosseted elites: aside from the tolerated presence of a smattering of _____ abodes, the area is practically inundated with opulent estates, which boast a variety of architectural styles from the neo-classical to the Gilded Age.
- ramshackle
 - contiguous
 - archaic
 - garlanded
 - underestimated
 - dilapidated
15. After many hours of debate, things seemed to have reached _____, as neither side was willing to give so much as an inch, and no one had anything new to offer.
- an impasse
 - a pause
 - a timeout
 - a confrontation
 - an engagement
 - a stalemate

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16. Chris Anderson, editor of *Wired* magazine, has always been a huge _____ of the philosophy that all information “wants to be free”; interesting, then, that his latest book retailed for \$29.99, and *Wired* still charges for subscriptions.
- detractor
 - champion
 - gadfly
 - chump
 - critic
 - proponent
17. Many Enlightenment philosophers viewed Machiavelli’s book as a satire meant to expose and caricature the _____ claims to power of the very figures Machiavelli pretended to endorse.
- sarcastic
 - specious
 - spurious
 - squalid
 - stolid
 - stoic
18. The defendant impressed the jurors as _____ : they did not believe that a woman of her education and experience could possibly be as naïve as she acted.
- disingenuous
 - guileless
 - innocent
 - accomplished
 - artful
 - culpable
19. Two months after the first shots of the American Revolution were fired, the British offered a pardon to any rebels willing to lay down arms, excepting only Samuel Adams and John Hancock, whose offenses the commanding British officer considered too _____ to forgive.
- effectual
 - fruitful
 - flagitious
 - boorish
 - heinous
 - martial

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20. Robert Gottlieb, who otherwise found much to admire in John Steinbeck, argued that he was politically _____, offering an adolescent disaffection in place of settled judgment.

- naïve
- perspicacious
- contemptible
- keen
- callow
- disinterested

21. The Presidential candidate, known not only for the deeply reasoned content of his prepared speeches but also for the fiery brilliance of his delivery, badly miscalculated his ability to perform equally successfully when delivering _____ answers to unexpected queries from the media.

- extemporaneous
- capricious
- lubricious
- disingenuous
- impromptu
- premeditated

22. To avoid a lengthy prison term, the convicted financier signed a binding document delineating the millions in fines and restitution that she must pay, and another legal memorandum in which she _____ her former role and financial interest in the hedge fund she had founded.

- abjured
- jeopardized
- reneged
- deposed
- censured
- forwent

23. *The Thin Blue Line*, a documentary by Errol Morris, is one of a very few movies that has had a tangible effect on the real world; the film managed to _____ its subject, who had been on death row for a crime that Morris proves, fairly definitively, that the man did not commit.

- exculpate
- liberate
- inter
- excuse
- manumit
- vindicate

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24. Multi-level marketing schemes prey on people _____ promises of quick riches, and sales rewards such as fancy cars and vacations.
- aggrieved by
 - beguiled by
 - enamored with
 - obsessed by
 - vexed by
 - possessed by
25. In a way, the environmental movement can still be said to be _____ movement, for while it has been around for decades, only recently has it become a serious organization associated with political parties and platforms.
- an incipient
 - a disorganized
 - a nascent
 - a nebulous
 - an inconsequential
 - an immaterial
26. Einstein's idea that electromagnetic radiation was divided into a finite number of "energy quanta" was purely experiential until it was theoretically _____ by the work of physicists such as Louis de Broglie and Werner Heisenberg.
- bolstered
 - undermined
 - condoned
 - pardoned
 - sabotaged
 - buttressed
27. Oftentimes, when administrators force teachers to cleave too closely to a federal curriculum, those teachers feel _____, because the mandatory curriculum curbs their sense of being creative and dynamic educators.
- crushed
 - confounded
 - thwarted
 - undermined
 - tormented
 - walloped

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28. The Fed knows that a certain level of financial stability can be attained by lowering interest rates, yet if it overuses this power, it risks losing its most reliable means of _____ a crisis.
- interring
 - exacerbating
 - annihilating
 - palliating
 - compounding
 - assuaging
29. Academic freedom does not protect a professor's classroom remarks on matters irrelevant to his subject, though it guarantees the professor considerable liberty of speech about matters _____ to his or her academic work.
- germane
 - indifferent
 - mimetic
 - disinterested
 - congruent
 - pertinent
30. Theology was once regarded as the Queen of the Sciences, because every subject eventually had to meet its demands, but two hundred years ago that honor and title fell to mathematics, which enjoys _____ over not only physical science but social science as well.
- mayhem
 - credence
 - hegemony
 - autonomy
 - dominance
 - independence

Sentence Equivalence Answers

1. Paeon, eulogy. A *retrospective* would be an exhibit that shows the history and progression of the artist’s work, but this exhibit only shows the good parts (it “glosses over” the weaker work and omits the artist’s “dissolution”). Thus, we need a word that has something to do with praising. *Paeon* and *eulogy* are the only matches. Note that a *paeon* is generally a song or speech of praise and is being used a bit metaphorically here. Many people only know *eulogy* as a speech given at a funeral, but can actually refer to any speech (or in this case, art exhibit) of praise.

2. Bald, overt. The earlier “evasions and equivocations” are ways to avoid a question or “flip-flop” on an issue. This “latest statement” is “unlike” the evasions and equivocations because it is an *explicit, clear, or obvious* lie. *Bald* and *overt* are the only matches. Note the trap answers *tacit* and *implicit*, which are synonyms that mean the exact opposite (*hinted at, unspoken*) of what we need.

3. Feasible, viable. We need two words that are like *pragmatic*, which means *practical*. *Feasible* and *viable* relate to the practical considerations of whether the plan is workable or likely to succeed. The only other pair of similar words, *partisan* and *prejudiced*, have the exact incorrect meaning—they are more similar to *ideological* than *pragmatic*.

4. Expeditious, swift. The pivot indicates that the answers will oppose the clue *quagmire*—that is, Afghanistan’s problems are messy and entrenched. So, what kind of victory is *not* likely? A fast or easy one.

5. Diversity, mutation. The geneticists mentioned are studying a population descended from a rather small number of people a rather long time ago. Geneticists—who study genes, of course—would be interested in how this population changed over time (or, *mutated*) and became different from one another (*diversity*). Note that none of the other answers are logical at all.

6. Triage, prioritize. We need two words that match the clue “to metaphorically separate the wheat from the chaff.” (*Chaff* is the inedible part of wheat that is discarded before the wheat can be made into flour.) We can also use the clues regarding “the only way that a person can function” given an “influx of information.” *Delete* and *eliminate* are attractive traps, but doesn’t match the idea of separating “the wheat from the chaff.” Only *triage* (think of what emergency room physicians do) and *prioritize* match.

7. Gauche, uncouth. The two words must match *ostentatious*. Both *gauche* and *uncouth* get across the idea of showing off in a low-class way (as is often associated with the “newly rich”). Remember not to insert your own opinions—*eccentric* and *idiosyncratic* are near-synonyms, but are a trap.

8. Apprising, counseling. Cassirer “correctly” exposed forgeries to a *credulous* (that is, *gullible*) art world. Thus, he was *helping* or *advising* the art world. Only *apprising* and *counseling* match.

9. Probity, equity. There are allegations of preferential treatment or unfairness at the local level, and these are threatening to spill over into criticisms that the system is unfair or partial at the national level. But we are told that the system’s fairness is *not* currently in dispute at that level, so we are looking for synonyms for *fairness* or *impartiality*. The correct answers are *equity* and *probity*.

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10. Passé, archaic. *Apologists* are defenders—in this case, people who are trying to make the politician and strategist seem like a good guy. However, the clues “in his day” and the lack of interest among a “modern public” indicate that the politician’s views are *outdated*. Only *passé* and *archaic* match. (The accent mark on *passé* exists because the word came into English from French.) Note that trap answer *erroneous* just means *wrong* and doesn’t really fit the clues, nor is it appropriate for discussing matters of culture and opinion.

11. Teeming, abounding. This terrible battle seems to have killed everything (“razed,” “eerie stillness”). In contrast, the streets and squares were once *full of* or *bustling with* (that is, *teeming* or *abounding* with) life.

12. Curtailing, undermining. By “obviating,” or “getting around,” the traditional channels of legislation, the government is making formal dissent impossible. In other words, it is *curtailing* or *undermining* such dissent—words which both mean to “prevent” or “undercut.”

13. Myriad, plethora. The virus spread to a large number (a *myriad*, a *plethora*) of bird species. Watch out for trap answer *surplus*, which means “an excess” and would not be appropriate to describe bird species.

14. Ramshackle, dilapidated. The key to this question is the phrase “tolerated presence,” which indicates that the “abodes,” or houses, are different from the “opulent estates.” The pivot phrase “aside from” also provides a nice clue. *Ramshackle* and *dilapidated*, which both mean “run-down,” are best. *Archaic*, meaning “old” or “old-fashioned,” is close, but doesn’t possess the same connotations of disrepair or neglect that the two correct answers do.

15. An impasse, a stalemate. If neither side of the debate is willing to give an inch to the other, then it would be impossible for a solution to be found. So the debate is more or less frozen. Both *a confrontation* and *an engagement* imply some kind of clash, but the sentence implies that any kind of serious clashing is now over (“no one had anything new to offer”). *An impasse* and *a stalemate* reflect the static nature of the conflict.

16. Champion, proponent. The second half of this sentence (after the semicolon) tells us that Chris Anderson charges money for his products, and is introduced by an ironic “interesting.” This makes it likely that he *supports* the idea of information being free. *Champion* and *proponent* both imply support (*detractor* and *critic* are a pair with the opposite meaning of what we want).

17. Specious, spurious. If Machiavelli only “pretended” to endorse the claims to power, and if they were subject to exposure and caricature, they must have been not only illegitimate but ridiculous. None of the answers suggests ridiculousness, but two answers—*specious* and *spurious*—mean the claims are false. While not synonyms, both words describe claims that are superficially attractive, but in fact false.

18. Disingenuous, artful. We want a word that means “not as naïve as one pretends.” *Disingenuous* mean precisely that, and one meaning of *artful* is “deceptive.” This sentence is difficult because the word *impressed* is used to refer to making an impression in a negative way. Finally, *culpable* means “guilty” and is an attractive trap, but goes further than the clues in the sentence allow us. The clues clearly indicate that we need words that mean “not naïve.”

19. Flagitious, heinous. First, we read that in the view of the commanding British officer, Adams and Hancock had committed “offenses,” so we might anticipate a word like “offensive.” Second, they were the only rebels whom he would not pardon or forgive, so he considered their behavior “unpardonable, unforgivable.” If we put these all

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together we'll get something like "unforgivably offensive." Both *flagitious* and *heinous* match this meaning. *Boorish* means something like "crude," but is much too weak a word to fit this sentence.

20. Naïve, callow. "Otherwise" suggests that Gottlieb did not find Steinbeck's political views admirable. "Adolescent disaffection" suggests that he found Steinbeck's views in some sense immature, so let's look for negative words that mean something like "immature." *Naïve* and *callow* are the best options. *Perspicacious* and *keen* both suggest insight, nearly opposite of what we've anticipated. *Contemptible* is negative, but with no suggestion of immaturity—make sure to use the clues provided without adding your own ideas. (Note that *naïve* is sometimes written with two dots over the "i," as in the original French, and sometimes without.)

21. Extemporaneous, impromptu. "Badly miscalculated" indicates that there are two opposing parts of the sentence: the candidate's "prepared speeches" are good, but some other type of answers are bad. We need two words that mean *improvised* or *off-the-cuff*. Note that *lubricious* and *disingenuous* form a pair relating to dishonesty that is unrelated to the clues and might be a trap (if you insert your own, negative ideas about politicians). *Premeditated* is the opposite of what we want.

22. Abjured, forwent. Since the hedge fund founder is doing something to avoid a long prison term, and because of the clue "former role," we know that she *gave up* that role. *Abjured* and *forwent* both work here. Be precise—*renege* means to break a promise. A leader can be *deposed*, but you don't *depose* a role. The hedge fund founder may be being *censured* (probably worse), but it doesn't make sense for her to *censure* (disapprove of, reprimand) her role.

23. Exculpate, vindicate. This sentence tells us that Morris' film proves that its subject did not commit the crime in question. This implies that the film proved his innocence. Both *exculpate* and *vindicate* mean to "clear someone of blame or suspicion." *Liberate* and *manumit* are close, but both have the idea of freedom without freeing from blame (and *manumit* is technically only used for when someone is freed from slavery). *Excuse* means "to lessen the blame" or "forgive someone for a fault," but not to prove they were not at fault in the first place.

24. Beguiled by, enamored with. For the schemes to "prey" on people, those people would need to want what is being advertised. *Beguiled by* and *enamored with* mean lured by or infatuated with. *Obsessed by* and *possessed by* go too far. *Aggrieved by* and *vexed by* are negative (if you were *vexed* by quick riches and fancy trips, you wouldn't be easy prey, and also you'd be really weird).

25. An incipient, a nascent. While the environmental movement is said to have been around awhile, the second half of the sentence says that it "only recently" become "a serious organization." This means that the answer choices *disorganized* and *nebulous* don't quite work. The other pair, *inconsequential* and *immaterial*, is needlessly negative. *Incipient* and *nascent* capture the idea that, while the movement has been around for a while, it is only just now becoming a serious and relevant organization.

26. Bolstered, buttressed. It is critical to work out here whether the physicists mentioned at the end of the sentence were for or against Einstein's theory. We know that the idea went from "purely experiential" to "theoretically" something. There's a contrast here, and the contrast is not between right and wrong. It is between something that has been shown by experiment and something that has been understood theoretically. This means the later scientists are providing support for Einstein. *Undermined* and *sabotaged* are negative, while *condoned* and *pardoned* don't make much sense. Only *bolstered* and *buttressed* correctly express the idea of support.

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27. Thwarted, undermined. The end of this sentence makes it clear that the teachers in question are not happy about having to stick to a prescribed curriculum. *Crushed*, *confounded*, *walloped*, and *tormented* are all negative, but all of them miss the meaning of the sentence (and no two of them make a good pair). *Crushed* means emotionally devastated and tends to apply to things that happen all at once—a breakup, not getting a promotion, etc.

28. Assuaging, palliating. The first half of the sentence explains that lowering interest rates can create financial stability, so this would allow the Fed to make a crisis *better*. *Exacerbating* and *compounding* are the opposite of what we want, and *annihilating* goes too far. Only *palliating* and *assuaging* correctly fit our meaning here.

29. Germane, pertinent. “Though” implies that the matters about which a professor enjoys liberty are opposite those “irrelevant to his subject.” So we might anticipate an answer like “relevant.” *Germane* and *pertinent* are the best synonyms. *Mimetic* and *congruent* are slightly related to the idea at hand—the former means copying (like a mime, for instance) and the latter means something like “standing in a similar relation.”

30. Hegemony, dominance. Just as once “every subject eventually had to meet (theology’s) demands,” now “not only physical science but social science” must meet mathematics’ demands. This suggests that mathematics enjoys something like “rule” over these fields; the phrase “Queen of the Sciences” suggests the same, and perhaps a sort of “autocratic rule.” *Hegemony* usually describes the dominance of one state over others, but can also mean the dominance of one social group, political party, etc. *Dominance* will also work. If we anticipated precisely the word “autocratic,” “autonomy” might be attractive, but it doesn’t actually work: “autocratic” describes government by a single person with unlimited powers, while “autonomy” means “self-governance.”