Accuplacer Reading and Sentence Skills Practice

Placement for English and Reading is based upon a combination score of the Reading Comprehension Test and Sentence Skills Test. The scores are combined in such a way to weight READING more than Sentence Skills.

The Reading comprehension test has 20 questions:

- Students read passages that are followed by questions
- Students answer a question or respond to a statement that describes and relates two underlined sentences.

**Sample questions for reading comprehension test.**
Directions: Read each group of sentences and then select the best answer. Check yourself by reviewing answers at the end of the test.

You have heard about “fuel-efficient” cars. They use fuel efficiently and conserve energy. An efficient worker is one who does his or her job well and on time. Efficiency, then is the ability to perform with the minimum amount of effort, expense, or waste.

1. The first three sentences
   a. Contrast the term in the last sentence
   b. Provide examples
   c. List reasons
   d. Repeat themselves

Unlike Japan and the Western European countries, Canada has been relatively removed from the balance of terror debate.

2. The second part of the sentence above shows
   a. An effect
   b. Comparison
   c. Contrast
   d. An example

To determine whether you will vote for a particular presidential candidate, you should first examine his or her philosophy of government.

3. This sentence contains
   a. Time order
   b. An effect
   c. An example
   d. Contrast
“Natural selection” refers to a theory developed by Charles Darwin in the 1850s. Also called “survival of the fittest,” this theory postulates that over time, living things best suited to their environment tend to survive.

4. The second sentence
   a. Contains an example
   b. Contradicts the first
   c. Explains an effect
   d. Defines the term in the first

Read the following paragraphs and then select the best answer.

People migrate for two broad reasons. The first, called push factors, are the reasons for leaving a place. Although there may be any number of personal reasons for leaving, the underlying reasons are mostly political and economic. For instance, during the nineteenth century the failure of the potato crop in Ireland “pushed” thousands of Irish to the United States. Pull factors, on the other hand, are the forces that attract migrants to a place, such as a congenial government or good weather conditions. Push and pull factors work together. People being pushed from one place will, if they have a choice, go to places that have many pull factors.

5. The main idea is that
   a. Political and economic reasons push people to move away
   b. Push factors are more influential than pull factors
   c. People migrate due to either push factors or pull factors
   d. Pull factors affect push factors

Dogs can be pretty good communicators. A yelp is easy to recognize as a sound of distress. Growls are obvious. A whine, coupled with a scratch at the door, may just keep the carpet clean and dry.

6. The author of this passage implies that
   a. The sounds dogs make are not always easily distinguishable
   b. Dogs bark for reasons we do not understand
   c. Dogs’ communication may prevent accidents
   d. Communication skills are learned behaviors, even for dogs

To understand the nature of denotative and connotative meaning, consider a word such as death. To a doctor this word might mean, or denote, the point at which the heart stops beating. To a doctor, death is a word signifying an objective description of an event’ the word is basically denotative. To a mother whose son has just died the word means much more. It recalls the son’s youth, his ambitions, his family, his illness, and so on. To her the word is emotional, subjective, and highly personal. These emotional, subjective, and personal reactions are the word’s connotative meanings.

7. The paragraph specifically explains
   a. That a word’s connotation evokes emotional reaction
   b. How connotative and denotative meanings can be the same
   c. The ambiguity of certain words used in different contexts
   d. That the denotation is easier to understand that a word’s connotation
There are potential disadvantages to group therapy. Many psychologists feel that the interactions in group situations are too superficial to be of much benefit. A patient with deep-seated conflicts may be better treated by a psychotherapist in individual therapy; the therapist can exert consistent pressure, refusing to let the patient avoid the crucial issues, and she or he can control the therapeutic environment more effectively. Another criticism of groups is that they are too powerful. If the group starts to focus on one individual’s defense mechanisms- which are used for a reason, remember-that individual might break down. If no trained therapist is present-which is often the case in encounter groups-the result can be disastrous.

8. The author of this passage expresses bias
   a. Towards the use of psychotherapy in group situations
   b. Against encouraging interaction among group therapy members
   c. In favor of group therapy
   d. Against group therapy

Scholarly journals are publications by professional societies or college and university presses that report developments and research in a particular academic discipline. For example, in the field of psychology, scholarly journals include American Journal of Psychology, Journal of Abnormal Psychology, and Psychological Bulletin. Articles published in scholarly journals are usually peer reviewed. That is, before an article is published, other professionals in the field read the article and confirm that is legitimate, accurate, and worthwhile.

9. From this paragraph the reader may infer that
   a. Professional societies always review publications to ensure they are legitimate.
   b. Some journal articles may not be legitimate, accurate, or worthwhile.
   c. There is a lot of questionable content in psychology articles.
   d. Peer reviewed articles provide more in-depth research, implication, and conclusions.

Movies from the United States are seen worldwide. Consumer products made in the United States are sold in most countries throughout the world. Many clothing styles that become popular in foreign countries first begin in the U.S. American restaurant chains like McDonald’s exist even in Communist countries. U.S. television shows are routinely translated and broadcast in non-English speaking countries. American music is played by radio stations across the globe and American pop stars enjoy fame in other continents.

10. Which statement best expresses the main idea?
   a. American culture positively affects consumerism in other countries.
   b. American products and trends have a broad impact on other parts of the world.
   c. Consumers in communist countries resist the influence of American culture.
   d. Foreign countries attempt to copy American culture.

The wedding is a tradition that most young adults still value. Most engaged couples carefully plan their wedding and regard it as an important occasion in their life. Couples also are very concerned that their ceremony follows rules of etiquette and that everything is done “just so.” Most give a great deal of attention to personalizing their ceremony, including their own vows, songs, and symbols.
11. According to the paragraph
   a. Wedding traditions change over time to reflect society’s rules of etiquette.
   b. Engaged couples should personalize their wedding ceremony to make it more special.
   c. The couple’s own vows, songs, and symbols make a wedding ceremony more persona.
   d. Following wedding traditions is an important rule of etiquette.

A circle graph, also called a pie chart, is used to show whole/part relationships or to show how parts of a unit have been divided or classified. They illustrate what part of a total a particular variable represents. Circle graphs often emphasize proportions or emphasize the relative size or importance of various parts. The whole circle represents 100 percent or the total amount of something. The pieces of the pie show the relative size or proportion of particular parts of that whole. The larger the piece of the pie, the larger portion of the total it represents.

12. The tone of this paragraph is
   a. Biased
   b. Informational
   c. Enthusiastic
   d. Persuasive

People’s acceptance of a product is largely determined by it package. The very same coffee taken from a yellow can was described as weak, from a dark brown can too strong, from a red can rich, and from a blue can mild. Even our acceptance of a person may depend on the colors worn. Consider, for example, the comments of one color expert “If you have to pick the wardrobe for your defense lawyer heading into court and choose anything but blue, you deserve to lose the case...” Black is so powerful it could work against the lawyer with the jury. Brown lacks sufficient authority. Green would probably elicit a negative response.

13. The main idea here is that
   a. Colors influence how people think, act, and respond.
   b. A product’s package affects its level of acceptance.
   c. Color experts believe blue is the best color to wear.
   d. Wardrobe colors speak louder than one’s performance.

Despite conventional thinking, gangs are not anarchies. They can be highly structured, with codes of honor and discipline. For many members, the gang serves as family, as the only place where they find fellowship, respect, a place to belong. You often hear the word “love” among gang members. Sometimes the gang is the only place where they can find it.

14. This paragraph implies the author’s
   a. Support of conventional thought about gangs.
   b. Defiance of gang involvement.
   c. Membership in a gang.
   d. Positive views about gang membership.
Schizophrenia was originally thought to be confined to North America and Western Europe. We now understand that the disorder (or varieties of the disorder) can be found around the world at the same rate: about 1 percent of the population (Alder & Gielen, 1994; Bloom et al., 1985). People in developing countries tend to have a more acute (intense, but short-lived) course – and a better outcome – of the disorder than do people in industrialized nations. In the United States, schizophrenia accounts for 75 percent of all mental health expenditures. Schizophrenia occurs at the same rate for both sexes, but symptoms are likely to show up earlier in males, and males are more likely to be disabled by the disorder.

15. The writer of this paragraph intends to
   a. Inform us about the incidence and types of schizophrenia.
   b. Urge people with schizophrenia to seek professional help.
   c. Downplay the negative connotation associated with schizophrenia.
   d. Compare schizophrenia with other mental health conditions.

ANSWERS to the Reading Section
   1. B
   2. C
   3. A
   4. D
   5. C
   6. C
   7. A
   8. D
   9. B
   10. B
   11. C
   12. D
   13. A
   14. D
   15. A
Sample questions for the Sentence Skills test.

Directors for questions 1-5
*Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.*

1. Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.
   a. being a hobby that is
   b. is a hobby because it is
   c. which is a hobby
   d. is a hobby.

2. Knocked sideways, the stature looked as if it would fall.
   a. Knocked sideways, the statue looked
   b. The statue was knocked sideways, looked
   c. The statue looked knocked sideways
   d. The statue, looking knocked sideways,

3. To walk, biking, and driving are Pat’s favorite ways of getting around.
   a. To walk, biking, and driving
   b. Walking, biking, and driving
   c. To walk, biking, and to drive
   d. To walk, to bike and also driving

4. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this is an example of jaywalking.
   a. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this
   b. You cross the street in the middle of the block, this
   c. Crossing the street in the middle of the block
   d. The fact that you cross the street in the middle of the block

5. Walking by the corner the other day, a child, I noticed was watching for the light to change.
   a. a child, I notice, was watching
   b. I noticed a child watching
   c. a child was watching, I noticed,
   d. there was, I noticed, a child watching

Directions for questions 6-10

*Rewrite the sentence in your head following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.*
6. It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.
Rewrite the sentence beginning with:

Unlike liquids
The next words will be
a. it is easy to
b. we can easily
c. solid objects can easily be
d. solid objects are easy to be

7. Although the sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light, it will bravely resist any force that threatens its nest.
Rewrite the sentence beginning with:

The sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light.
The next words will be
a. but it will bravely resist
b. nevertheless bravely resisting
c. and it will bravely resist
d. even if bravely resisting

8. If he had enough strength, Todd would move the boulder.
Rewrite the sentence beginning with:

Todd cannot move the boulder
The next words would be
a. when lacking
b. because he
c. although there
d. without enough

9. The band began to play, and then the real party started.
Rewrite the sentence beginning with:

The real party started
The next words will be
a. after the band began
b. and the band began
c. although the band began
d. the band beginning
10. Chris heard no unusual noises when he listened in the park.

Rewrite the sentence beginning with

*Listening in the park.*

The next words will be

a. no unusual noises could be heard
b. then Chris heard no unusual noises
c. and hearing no unusual noises
d. Chris heard no unusual noises

**SENTENCE SKILLS ANSWERS**

1. D
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. C
7. A
8. B
9. A
10. D