

Sentence Study

Comprehension

Read these sentences carefully.* The questions that follow are designed to test your comprehension of complex grammatical structures. Select the best answer.

1. Like physical anthropology, orthodontics (dentistry dealing with the irregularities of teeth) tries to explain how and why men are different; unlike anthropology, it also tries to correct those differences for functional or aesthetic reasons.

How does orthodontics differ from physical anthropology?

- a. Physical anthropology is concerned with aesthetics; orthodontics is not.
- b. Physical anthropology deals with the irregularities of teeth.
- c. Orthodontics tries to explain why men are different, anthropology does not.
- d. Anthropology does not try to correct differences among men; orthodontics does.
2. What is most obvious in this book are all those details of daily living that make Mrs. Richards anything but common.
- According to this statement, what kind of person is Mrs. Richards?
- a. She is very obvious.
- b. She is an unusual person.
- c. She is anything she wants to be.
- d. She is quite ordinary.
3. A third island appeared gradually during a period of volcanic activity that lasted over four years. Later, the 1866 eruptions, which brought to Santorin those volcanologists who first began archeological work there, enlarged the new island through two new crater vents.
- What enlarged the third island?
- a. the eruptions of 1866
- b. a four-year period of volcanic activity
- c. the activities of the men who came to study volcanoes
- d. archeological work, which created two new crater vents
4. Just before his tenth birthday John received a horse from his father; this was the first of a series of expensive gifts intended to create the impression of a loving parent.
- Why did John receive the horse?
- a. because he was ten
- b. because his father loved him
- c. because his father wanted to seem loving
- d. because his father wouldn't be able to give him expensive gifts in the future
5. Since industry and commerce are the largest users of electrical energy, using less electricity would mean a reduced industrial capacity and fewer jobs in the affected industries and therefore an unfavorable change in our economic structure.
- According to this sentence, decreasing the use of electricity _____
- a. must begin immediately. c. will cause difficulties.
- b. isn't important. d. won't affect industry.

*For an introduction to sentence study, see Unit 1.

6. The medical journal reported that heart attack victims who recover are approximately five times as likely to die within the next five years as those people without a history of heart disease.

What did this article say about people who have had a heart attack?

- a. They are more likely to die in the near future than others.
- b. They will die in five years.
- c. They are less likely to die than people without a history of heart disease.
- d. They are likely to recover.

7. Few phenomena in history are more puzzling than this one: that men and women with goals so vague, with knowledge so uncertain, with hopes so foggy, still would have risked dangers so certain and tasks so great.

What historical fact is puzzling?

- a. that people had such vague goals
- b. that people took such great risks
- c. that people had foggy hopes and uncertain knowledge
- d. that people completed such great tasks

8. Next he had to uncover the ancient secret—so jealously guarded by the ancients that no text of any kind, no descriptive wall painting, and no tomb inscriptions about making papyrus are known to exist.

What secret did this man want to discover?

- a. how to understand wall paintings
- b. how to read tomb inscriptions
- c. how to read the ancient texts
- d. how to produce papyrus

9. Alexis, ruler of a city where politics was a fine art, concealed his fears, received the noblemen with extravagant ceremonies, impressed them with his riches, praised them, entertained them, bribed them, made promises he had no intention of keeping—and thus succeeded in keeping their troops outside his city walls.

Why did Alexis give money and attention to the noblemen?

- a. because they praised him
- b. in order to prevent their armies from entering the city
- c. in order to impress them with his riches
- d. because they were his friends