

Name:

Hour:

Date:

CERSParagraph – Practice with Second Sentences

Below are unfinished paragraphs. Each is missing a second sentence—the “Part B” sentence. Choose the best second sentence for each paragraph from the choices given. Write the ENTIRE sentence in the space provided within the paragraph.

1. Bottled water is something most city dwellers do not need. _____

For one thing, bottled water is no purer than most city tap water. In fact, many brands of bottled water consist of nothing more than filtered tap water. But regardless of the water’s source, quality requirements for a city’s tap water are often higher than the standards that water bottlers must follow. On top of that, the cost of bottled water is, on average, nearly one thousand percent more than the drinking water that major cities send to their residents. By turning on the tap instead of unscrewing a cap, the majority of thirsty consumers with access to municipal water can save themselves some money without sacrificing quality.

- a. It is an expensive substitute for a similar, low-cost product.
- b. If you have well water, bottled water might be better.
- c. It may come from another state or even another country, which hurts America’s economy.
- d. It is too expensive.

2. The first snowfall of the year is the true start of winter. _____

When the snow begins to fall, the landscape changes in a way unique to the season. Children are pulled to the window as if by a magnetic force, craning their necks to see this new event. The ground turns white, and immediately it is difficult to recall the hottest day of the summer that occurred only weeks before. No matter what the calendar tells us, it is the coming of snow that really impresses upon us that winter has once more arrived.

- a. Thoughts of snowball fights can’t be far away.
- b. It is a more important sign than when the geese fly south.
- c. Drivers had better put snow tires on their automobiles!
- d. It focuses our attention on the next phase of nature’s cycle.

3. A collegiate dictionary is a useful tool for writers. _____

A complete list of its useful features could take pages to explain, but a look at a few of the highlights in a collegiate dictionary should suggest how useful it may be. Within a definition of a word, for example, readers will find parts of speech, languages of origin, and pronunciation explanations. However, there are sections beyond the definitions that explain such things as the parts of a business letter, the uses of punctuation symbols, and even how to address an envelope. In addition, most collegiate dictionaries have a separate section listing famous people and the occupations they are known for, and some even have a section of cities, states, provinces, countries, and other famous geographical locations. While a collegiate dictionary is still a handy way to check spelling, there is more to it that makes it a writer’s reference tool with a considerable number of uses.

- a. It contains important information beyond the spellings of words.
- b. Its weight alone makes clear that it contains many pages.
- c. It makes a perfect gift for any person interested in the study of language.
- d. Many colleges require students to buy one just like any other textbook.

CERS Multiple Paragraphs – Practice with Second Sentences

Below are unfinished multi-paragraph essays. Each is missing a second sentence—the “Part B” sentence. Choose the best second sentence for each paragraph from the choices given. Write the ENTIRE sentence in the space provided within the paragraph.

4. America needs to find new ways to manage its energy consumption. _____

For starters, America’s dependence on oil has major drawbacks. One problem is the reliance on foreign oil, a source that can dry up as a result of natural disaster or man-made decisions. Another problem is the environmental impact of burning this fossil fuel in its many forms—gasoline and home heating oil being two examples. Pollutants continue to be sent throughout our environment through the burning of oil.

Coal is another “dirty” source of power. It is needed to run electricity-generating plants. But it is more polluting than oil.

Natural gas burns more cleanly than coal or oil, but like oil, much of it comes from outside the country. Many Americans rely on it for home heating, which accounts for the high demand for it.

Finally, nuclear power (also used for electricity generation) brings a new kind of problem. While Americans do not need to rely on any other country for this source of energy, the byproduct of every nuclear power plant is radioactive waste. Disposing of such waste is a major health concern.

If Americans continue to use the same energy sources in the same ways they have been, the potential for problems will remain, too. New solutions to energy management problems are urgently needed.

- a. An energy disaster will strike when Americans least expect it.
- b. Recent events in the Middle East show the vulnerability of America’s oil supply.
- c. The best solution is to expand the use of nuclear power.
- d. There are significant problems with the nation’s use of every major energy source.

5. Cable television is a luxury that people are better off without. _____

In the first place, cable television costs a lot for what it delivers. While a customer may receive over one hundred channels in exchange for a monthly fee, many of the channels will be of no interest to the viewer. Even those that are of interest are not commercial free, meaning that a customer partly pays to watch advertising.

In addition, cable viewers tend to watch more TV than if they only had access to traditional over-the-air broadcasts. This may seem natural to a customer who wants to get his or her “money’s worth.” But no one *needs* to watch television, and people are giving up time that they could be spending on more worthwhile activities in order to stare at a television screen.

There are better things to spend money on than cable TV. There are better ways to spend time than watching cable TV, too. With such obvious drawbacks, people would be better off pulling the plug on this unnecessary entertainment option.

- a. It rots people’s minds.
- b. It is a waste of both time and money.
- c. With such important problems in the world, entertainment seems unimportant.
- d. However, many people are employed by the cable TV industry, so Americans should keep watching for the sake of the economy.