



Verbal Reasoning

20 Question Type Tests + 10 Mixed Tests

Kent-format multiple-choice papers · Ages 10–11



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1. Insert a Letter

also known as: Missing Letter (CGP)

In these questions, one letter is missing from two pairs of words. The same letter must finish the word in front of each bracket and also start the word after it, so that all four words are real. Try each answer letter in both gaps and quietly say the words you make. Only one letter works in all four places, and that is the letter to mark.

Worked Practice

W1

coa [?] all mel [?] old

A b

B l

C t

D c

E f

1. The missing letter must end the word before each bracket and begin the word after it: coa_, _all, mel_ and _old.
2. Try b: b gives ball and bold, but 'coab' is not a word, so b fails the first pair.
3. Try c: c gives call and cold, but 'coac' is not a word either, so c fails too.
4. Try t on the first pair: coat and tall, which are both real words!
5. Check t on the second pair as well: melt and told, real words again.
6. Only t makes all four words (coat, tall, melt and told), so the answer is C.

Answer C (t)

W2

shar [?] ark slee [?] ink

A k

B l

C m

D p

E w

1. The same letter must finish 'shar' and start 'ark', then finish 'slee' and start 'ink'.
2. Try k: shark, sleek and kink are all real, but 'kark' is not a word, so k fails one slot.
3. Try l: lark and link are real, but 'sharl' is not a word, so l fails too.
4. Try p: sharp and park both work in the first pair.
5. Now check p on the second pair: sleep and pink, which are both real words.
6. Only p makes all four words (sharp, park, sleep and pink), so the answer is D.

Answer D (p)

Now try these — Test yourself

Time allowed: 7½ minutes (30 seconds per question)

1

expe [?] ilac mote [?] eech

A b

B d

C s

D y

E l

2

floris [?] itle even [?] oured

A e

B l

C t

D p

E s

3

prover [?] owed cobwe [?] lunt

A c

B b

C d

D j

E s

4

tediou [?] talked drool [?] awed

A c

B d

C h

D s

E y

5

flo [?] orth sno [?] rong

A f

B n

C p

D w

E b

6

far [?] etal fir [?] atch

A c

B m

C h

D p

E w

7

ski [?] oise bor [?] ovel

A n

B d

C m

D p

E t

8

awar [?] oor rate [?] ark

A b

B e

C m

D s

E d

9

brin [?] rand rin [?] uest

A b

B d

C g

D k

E q

10

tre [?] njoy quit [?] dge

A k

B e

C o

D s

E y

Test 1

Time allowed: 16 minutes (30 seconds per question)

In these sentences below, a word of four letters is hidden at the end of one word and the beginning of the next word. Find the pair of words that contains the hidden word and mark this answer on the answer sheet.

Example We ate fish and chips by the sea.

- A ate fish
- B fish and
- C and chips
- D chips by
- E by the

Answer fish and (The hidden word is hand (fish and).)

1

Every morning the old horse ate my apples.

- A Every morning
- B morning the
- C the old
- D old horse
- E horse ate

2

Yesterday the piano teacher frowned at every wrong chord.

- A Yesterday the
- B the piano
- C piano teacher
- D teacher frowned
- E frowned at

3

She left her chair once the bell rang.

- A She left
- B left her
- C her chair
- D chair once
- E once the

4

The grand entrance lay hidden behind thick ivy.

- A The grand
- B grand entrance
- C entrance lay
- D lay hidden
- E hidden behind

5

That young actor needs to learn his lines quickly.

- A young actor
- B actor needs
- C needs to
- D to learn
- E learn his

6

We finished this lesson before the bell rang.

- A We finished
- B finished this
- C this lesson
- D lesson before
- E before the

7

We explored the big nature reserve before dark.

- A the big
- B big nature
- C nature reserve
- D reserve before
- E before dark

8

Dad tidied the kitchen shelf on Sunday morning.

- A Dad tidied
- B tidied the
- C the kitchen
- D kitchen shelf
- E shelf on

Read the following information, then find the correct answer to the question and mark it on the answer sheet.

9

A florist put 38 roses into four vases.

The china vase holds four more roses than the glass vase.

The clay vase holds the same number as the glass vase.

The silver vase holds as many as the china and glass vases together.

How many roses are in the silver vase?

- A 12
- B 6
- C 20
- D 16
- E 10

Answers

Part 1 — Question Type Tests

1. Insert a Letter

- 1 E — Only l completes all four words: expel/lilac and motel/leech.
- 2 C — Only t completes all four words: florist/title and event/toured.
- 3 B — Only b completes all four words: proverb/bowed and cobweb/blunt.
- 4 D — Only s completes all four words: tedious/stalked and drools/sawed.
- 5 D — Only w completes all four words: flow/worth and snow/wrong.
- 6 B — Only m completes all four words: farm/metal and firm/match.
- 7 A — Only n completes all four words: skin/noise and born/novel.
- 8 E — Only d completes all four words: award/door and rated/dark.
- 9 C — Only g completes all four words: bring/grand and ring/guest.
- 10 B — Only e completes all four words: tree/enjoy and quite/edge.
- 11 D — Only k completes all four words: pack/kept and break/knew.
- 12 A — Only p completes all four words: deep/plant and trip/peace.
- 13 E — Only f completes all four words: cliff/floors and scarf/fruits.
- 14 C — Only h completes all four words: batch/harmony and booth/harbour.
- 15 D — Only r completes all four words: circular/ribbon and anger/reward.

2. Missing Three Letters

- 1 B — (The word in capitals is HURRICANE.)
- 2 E — (The word in capitals is CAPTAIN.)
- 3 C — (The word in capitals is TOMORROW.)
- 4 D — (The word in capitals is CUPBOARD.)
- 5 B — (The word in capitals is WINDOW.)
- 6 D — (The word in capitals is BUTTERFLY.)
- 7 A — (The word in capitals is SANDWICH.)
- 8 A — (The word in capitals is HOSPITAL.)

- 9 E — (The word in capitals is GOLDFISH.)
- 10 B — (The word in capitals is HAMSTER.)
- 11 E — (The word in capitals is CARPET.)
- 12 A — (The word in capitals is MONKEY.)
- 13 C — (The word in capitals is CALENDAR.)
- 14 D — (The word in capitals is FAVOURITE.)
- 15 B — (The word in capitals is CATERPILLAR.)

3. Hidden Word

- 1 B — The hidden word is omen (shampoo mentions).
- 2 C — The hidden word is lion (chilli onto).
- 3 B — The hidden word is sofa (also fastened).
- 4 C — The hidden word is east (peas tumbled).
- 5 A — The hidden word is fern (offer new).
- 6 B — The hidden word is horn (anchor nearly).
- 7 C — The hidden word is ride (our ideas).
- 8 E — The hidden word is swan (his wand).
- 9 A — The hidden word is oven (volcano vented).
- 10 C — The hidden word is ache (panda chewed).
- 11 E — The hidden word is itch (rabbit chewed).
- 12 A — The hidden word is also (final song).
- 13 E — The hidden word is earn (clear nights).
- 14 A — The hidden word is acre (zebra crept).
- 15 D — The hidden word is thaw (both awards).

4. Move a Letter

- 1 E — (The two new words are grow and went.)
- 2 A — (The two new words are word and hose.)
- 3 D — (The two new words are grid and window.)
- 4 E — (The two new words are plum and huge.)
- 5 A — (The two new words are lint and four.)
- 6 B — (The two new words are sore and hitch.)
- 7 C — (The two new words are nose and pilot.)
- 8 E — (The two new words are rise and moon.)
- 9 B — (The two new words are soil and pray.)
- 10 A — (The two new words are east and brush.)
- 11 C — (The two new words are host and said.)
- 12 D — (The two new words are swam and frizz.)
- 13 B — (The two new words are fail and roar.)
- 14 D — (The two new words are cure and soak.)
- 15 E — (The two new words are spur and stale.)