

Directions:

Each sentence below has one or two blanks, each blank indicating that something has been omitted. Beneath the sentence are five words or sets of words labeled A through E. Choose the word or set of words that, when inserted in the sentence, best fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole.

1. A discerning publishing agent can ----- promising material from a mass of submissions, separating the good from the bad.

- (A) supplant
- (B) dramatize
- (C) finagle
- (D) winnow
- (E) overhaul

2. The practice of storytelling for entertainment and instruction was at one time so widespread that it was virtually ---- .

- (A) rigorous
- (B) universal
- (C) elevating
- (D) uncommon
- (E) unknown

3. Although some think the terms "bug" and "insect" are ---- , the former term actually refers to ---- group of insects.

- (A) parallel . . an identical
- (B) precise . . an exact
- (C) interchangeable . . a particular
- (D) exclusive . . a separate
- (E) useful . . a useless

4. The advertised property, which ---- vast and unspoiled stretches, will undoubtedly ---- potential buyers who yearn for seclusion.

- (A) spans . . interfere with
- (B) abuts . . appeal to
- (C) overlooks . . infuriate
- (D) precludes . . assemble
- (E) erodes . . inspire

5. The novel's protagonist, a pearl diver, naïvely expects that the buyers will compete among themselves to pay him the best price for his pearl, but instead they ---- to ---- him.

- (A) venture . . reward
- (B) pretend . . praise
- (C) conspire . . reimburse
- (D) refuse . . cheat
- (E) collude . . swindle

6. The addition of descriptive details to the basic information serves to ---- the book by producing a fuller account.

- (A) invalidate
- (B) objectify
- (C) incite
- (D) celebrate
- (E) enrich

Answers:

1. D. To winnow is to sort through and select the desirable part of something or to get rid of the unwanted or undesirable part. If the publishing agent goes through the submissions, "separating the good from the bad," then he or she can be said to be "winnowing promising material from a mass of submissions."
2. B. The word that fits into the blank space must expand on the idea of the practice of storytelling being widespread. The only word that expands on the idea of something being very widespread is the word in Choice (B), universal.
3. C. The word "although" indicates that the two parts of the sentence contrast with each other: although most people think about the terms one way, something else is actually true about the terms. Choice C is correct because it presents a situation where most people think of the two terms as interchangeable, but the first of the two terms, bugs, actually refers to particular group of insects.
4. B. Since the property is somehow associated with "vast and unspoiled stretches," it is most likely to appeal to or inspire potential buyers who yearn for seclusion. In terms of the second blank alone, only choices (B) or (E) fit the sentence; when the first terms of these two choices are substituted for the first blank, only choice (B) produces a sentence that makes sense: property that abuts (or borders on) vast, unspoiled stretches of land is likely to appeal to buyers seeking seclusion.
5. E. The sentence states that the pearl diver expected one kind of behavior from the buyers, but instead they behaved in a different way. Since the pearl diver expected the buyers "to compete among themselves to pay him the best price," the correct answer must be two words that make the last clause describe an opposite situation. Choice (E) is the answer, because with these words inserted in the sentence, the last clause now states that the buyers "collude" (or conspire) to "swindle" him.
6. E. The addition of descriptive detail to basic information is something that most likely would expand, enhance, or enrich a book; this interpretation is reinforced by the conclusion of the sentence, which refers to "a fuller account" as the result of that addition.