Chapter 4 Practice Exercises

Fill in the Blank

Choose the word that best completes the meaning of the sentence. Answers can be found on page 84.

1. Because Stan had been preoccupied during his dynamite juggling demonstration, the jury felt that he was not _____ for the destruction of the property.
   A) amorphous
   B) nondescript
   C) indiscreet
   D) culpable

2. Sally was full of _____ because Mr. Reeves, our English teacher, filled the margins of her term paper with harsh remarks about her spelling, grammar, and writing style.
   A) omnipotence
   B) volition
   C) beneficence
   D) malaise

3. Da-Shawn and Harry were fired from the stage crew because their constant _____ during the play drowned out the actors and ruined the performance.
   A) vociferations
   B) analogies
   C) monologues
   D) synchronizations

4. The baby kittens were so _____ that the nursery school children were able to pick them up, carry them around by the scruffs of their necks, and dress them up in doll clothes.
   A) antipathetic
   B) chronic
   C) placid
   D) misanthropic

5. The applicant's credentials were _____, but I didn't like the color of his necktie, so I didn't hire him.
   A) credible
   B) anachronistic
   C) analogous
   D) anthropomorphic

6. Walter's skin took on a _____ cast after his exposure to the pool of toxic chemicals.
   A) sophomoric
   B) pathological
   C) luminous
   D) philanthropic

7. The police spent seven months working on the criminal case but were never able to determine the identity of the _____.
   A) nominee
   B) pseudonym
   C) eponym
   D) malefactor

8. The portions at the restaurant were so _____ that immediately after dessert, we drove to another restaurant and ordered a second full meal.
   A) novel
   B) nominal
   C) dignified
   D) verisimilar

Odd One Out

Each row below consists of four words, three of which are related in meaning. Circle or underline the word that does not fit. Answers can be found on page 85.

1.	benevolent	beneficent	benefactor	beneficiary
2.	maleficent	malicious	malcontent	malevolent
3.	ambiguity	clarity	vagueness	equivocality
4.	apathy	sympathy	empathy	kindness
5.	insubordinate	willful	vociferous	intransigent
6.	amoral	apolitical	amorous	atheistic
7.	pathology	antipathy	misanthropy	misogyny
8.	anthropocentric	analogous	anthropomorphic	anthropological
9.	philanthropic	degenerate	magnanimous	generous
10.	sophisticated	sophistic	sophomoric	foolish

Word Relationships

Decide whether each pair of words is roughly similar (S) in meaning, roughly opposite (O) in meaning, or unrelated (U) to each other. Answers can be found on page 86.

1.	analogous	dissimilar	_____
2.	monologue	dialogue	_____
3.	malaise	catalog	_____
4.	eulogy	praise	_____
5.	prologue	logic	_____
6.	prologue	conclusion	_____
7.	chronological	anachronism	_____
8.	chronic	unusual	_____
9.	synchronized	chronicled	_____
10.	credo	creed	_____

Literary Devices

Each passage below contains an example of a literary device. Read the passage and answer the questions that follow. Answers can be found on page 86.

The following passage is an excerpt from Life on the Mississippi *by Mark Twain, published in 1883.*

But I had lost something, too. I had lost something which could never be restored to me while I lived. All the grace, the beauty, the poetry had gone out of the majestic river! I still keep in mind a certain wonderful sunset which I witnessed when steamboating was new to me. A broad expanse of the river was turned to blood; in the middle distance the red hue brightened into gold, through which a solitary log came floating, black and conspicuous...

1. The phrase "A broad expanse of the river was turned to blood" (lines 5–6) is an example of
   A) irony
   B) anecdote
   C) metaphor
   D) hyperbole

Extracting the venom from the rattlesnake could be euphemistically described as "hard." If a rattlesnake gave up its venom easily, it could cause problems for the animal itself (leading to the old joke about the snake biting its tongue). The venom collector's job, therefore, is to give the rattlesnake a simulated prey for it to bite and release venom into. This is when "milking a snake," as it is known, is more of an art than a science.

2. The author's use of quotes around "hard" in line 2 suggests that the author believes the word to be
   A) a contradiction
   B) an exaggeration
   C) an allusion
   D) an understatement