Analogies

A **word analogy** draws a relationship between two words by comparing them to two other words.

When you write, it is important to understand how words are related. A **word analogy** shows how word pairs are related. Once you determine how the two words are related, you find the same relationship among the pairs in the answer choices.

There are different kinds of analogies:

Synonyms	**Car : automobile : : world : earth**
Antonyms	**Happy : sad : : beautiful : ugly**
Part/whole relationship	**House : room : : book : chapter**
Category	**Animal : horse : : plant : tomato**

In a story, an author describes crowded buildings and a packed harbor. *Crowded* and *packed* are related in the same way that *wrecked* and *ruined* are related: they are synonyms, or words that have the same or similar meanings. So we can put these two word pairs together in a **synonym analogy**.

crowded : packed : : wrecked : ruined (you read this as, "crowded is to packed as wrecked is to ruined" – in other words, *crowded* is similar to *packed* in the same way that *wrecked* is similar to *ruined*)

Smile and *frown* are related in the same way that *mountain* and *valley* are related: they are antonyms, or opposites. So we can put these two word pairs together to form an **antonym analogy**.

smile : frown : : mountain : valley

In a **part/whole analogy**, the first word in each pair names a part of what the second word names. An *article* is a part of a *newspaper*. A *chapter* is a part of a *book*.

article : newspaper : : chapter : book

Category analogies show a relationship between a category and something that resides within that category. An *insect* is the category under which a *bumblebee* falls. The *nervous system* is the category that contains the *brain*.

insect : bumblebee : : nervous system : brain

Exercise A

Decide what the relationship is between the first two words in each analogy. Then complete the analogy with one of the words in parentheses. If you are unsure of a word's meaning, consult a dictionary for clarification. Write answers on a separate piece of paper. **DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER.**

Example: wrong : right : : sky : _____ (toy, fly, earth)
Answer: wrong : right : : sky : earth

1. begin : end : : open : _____ (reach, unlock, close)
2. detective : inspector : : teacher : _____ (professor, student, child)
3. incognito : disguised : : foolish : _____ (smart, funny, senseless)
4. insect : mosquito : : dog : _____ (cat, bone, collie)
5. nose : face : : elbow : _____ (arm, wrist, knee)
6. intelligence : stupidity : : beautiful : _____ (glamorous, ugly, pretty)
7. bird : parrot : : vermin : _____ (poison, animal, mouse)
8. tires : ambulance : : knob : _____ (horn, door, typewriter)
9. clue : hint : : cup : _____ (mug, saucer, drink)
10. boy : girl : : day : _____ (sun, night, star)

Exercise B

Decide what the relationship is between the first two words in each analogy. Then complete the analogy with one of the words in parentheses. If you are unsure of a word's meaning, consult a dictionary for clarification. Write answers on a separate piece of paper. **DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER.**

1. pick : select : : couch : _____ (window, ladder, sofa)
2. center : middle : : sea : _____ (ocean, fish, land)
3. neighborhood : city : : pupil : _____ (game, class, end)
4. want : desire : : find : _____ (discover, remain, fall)
5. top : bottom : : large : _____ (huge, small, many)
6. flour : bread : : water : _____ (soup, salad, eat)
7. hear : listen : : see : _____ (feel, watch, smell)
8. angry : calm : : clean : _____ (neat, lost, dirty)
9. win : succeed : : push : _____ (shove, lose, find)
10. soldier : army : : player : _____ (ball, field, team)

Exercise C

In the following section, try to define the relationship between the first pair of words given below. From the four answer choices, choose the pair of words that has the same relationship as the original pair of words. Write answers on a separate piece of paper. **DO NOT WRITE ON THIS PAPER.**

_____ 1. Ensue : follow : :
A. run : lead
B. pursue : chase
C. permit : play
D. object : quit

_____ 2. Chamber : room : :
A. diary : record
B. garage : house
C. privacy : property
D. title : book

_____ 3. Chaos : order : :
A. stinginess : strictness
B. regulation : rule
C. moisture : droplets
D. courage : cowardice

_____ 4. Astound : amaze : :
A. blend : separate
B. postpone : delay
C. afford : sell
D. excel : surprise

_____ 5. Dwindle : shrink : :
A. begin : start
B. grow : plant
C. forego : choose
D. attend : disappear

_____ 6. Omen : future : :
A. entertainment : shows
B. weather : patterns
C. clouds : rain
D. knowledge: ignorance

_____ 7. Haughty : arrogant : :
A. timid : unfriendly
B. impatient : mad
C. happy : relaxed
D. frank : sincere

_____ 8. Ravage : destroy : :
A. tarnish : soil
B. instigate : riot
C. purify : pollute
D. defend : decorate

_____ 9. Silhouette : portrait : :
A. wall : building
B. fingerprint : identification
C. paintbrush : painting
D. style : contrast

_____ 10. Insolent : rude : :
A. spoiled : cranky
B. outrageous : shocking
C. careless : selfish
D. generous : rich