

CogAT Verbal

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Confusing Words

1. I (loose/lose) every time I play cards.
2. Nicole has (fewer/less) shoes than Sara.
3. (Affect/Effect) means a result or to cause something to happen.
4. (Forbear/Forebear) means to refrain.
5. I need a (knew/new) car.
6. I was (conscience/conscious) of a guilty feeling over taking the candy bar.
7. (Bated/Baited) means in phrase ‘with bated breath’, i.e. in great suspense.
8. (Accept/Except) means to agree to receive or do.
9. (Aisle/Isle) means a passage between rows of seats.
10. John scored higher on the exam (then/than) I did.
11. (All Ready/Already) means everyone is ready.
12. (Elicit/Illicit) means to draw out a reply or reaction.
13. (Yoke/Yolk) means the yellow center of an egg.
14. Earlier today we walked (to/too) the ice cream parlor.
15. (Feel/Fill) means to perceive through touch.
16. The book is on the table over (their/there/they’re).
17. The library quickly (feel/fill) up with students preparing for finals.
18. (Disinterested/Uninterested) means not interested.
19. (Storey/Story) means a tale or account.
20. (Disinterested/Uninterested) means impartial.

Analogies

Select the best match for each of the following analogies.

21. epic : sweeping :: epigram : _____
 A) concise
 B) massive
 C) elliptical
 D) wordy
22. etc. : abbreviation :: wifi :
 A) antithesis
 B) acronym
 C) poem
 D) quality
23. everywhere : ubiquitous :: forever : _____
 A) impervious
 B) penetrable
 C) endemic
 D) eternal
24. expenses : reimburse :: bill : _____
 A) foot
 B) treat
 C) charge
 D) guarantee
25. expression : face ::
 A) pleasant : smile
 B) appearance : inside
 C) hair : head
 D) façade : building
26. extend : abridge :: establish : _____
 A) uproot
 B) bridge
 C) fix
 D) make
27. fairness : equity :: ignominy : _____
 A) fame
 B) shame
 C) inequality
 D) balance
28. fan : wings :: wheel :
 A) round
 B) air
 C) spokes
 D) cars
29. Faulkner : Wessex :: Yoknapatawpha : _____
 A) Dickens
 B) Hardy
 C) Hawthorne
 D) Sawyer
30. ferry : passenger :: dolly : _____
 A) ticket
 B) ship
 C) camera
 D) ocean
31. fertile : barren :: prolific : _____
 A) withered
 B) blooming
 C) fruitless
 D) stale
32. festoon : chain :: creek : _____
 A) stream
 B) inlay
 C) crook
 D) island
33. feta : Greek :: provolone : _____
 A) salad
 B) Swiss
 C) blue
 D) Italian

34. fetish : fixation :: slight : _____
A) flirt
B) sloth
C) insult
D) confuse
35. fight : reconcile :: procrastinate : _____
A) hurry
B) stall
C) cover
D) shun
36. five : pentagon :: nine : _____
A) nonagon
B) hexagon
C) septum
D) octagon
37. flexible : conciliate :: vengeful : _____
A) ameliorate
B) retaliate
C) ruminant
D) iterate
38. flexible : rigid :: confidence : _____
A) diffidence
B) indifference
C) loose
D) scare
39. flip : impertinent :: dice : _____
A) cut
B) cards
C) bounce
D) gamble
40. flow : stanch :: oscillation : _____
A) corroborate
B) whet
C) validate
D) damp

Sentence Completion

41. Although Josephine Tey is arguably as good a mystery writer as Agatha Christie, she is clearly far less _____ than Christie, having written only six books in comparison to Christie's sixty.
 A) equivocal
 B) pretentious
 C) prolific
 D) coherent
42. To avoid being _____, composer Stephen Sondheim strives for an element of surprise in his songs.
 A) erratic
 B) predictable
 C) informal
 D) sporadic
43. The situation called for _____ measures; the solution would not be simple and straightforward.
 A) unique
 B) firsthand
 C) complex
 D) elementary
44. As the pop star left the stage, he was surrounded by _____ of bodyguards who _____ our attempts to approach him.
 A) an entourage .. interfered with
 B) a debacle .. concurred with
 C) a dearth .. intercepted
 D) a faction .. pertained to
45. Many _____ of the style of painting exemplified by Marcel Duchamp's work focused on Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase* as the _____ of what they detested about modern art.
 A) proponents .. realization
 B) advocates .. embodiment
 C) debunkers .. rejection
 D) critics .. epitome
46. More _____ than her predecessor, Superintendent Reynolds would, many predicted, have a far less _____ term of office.
 A) vigilant .. reputable
 B) empathetic .. compassionate
 C) conciliatory .. confrontational
 D) phlegmatic .. apathetic
47. Nutritionists say that when eating it is important to _____ completely in order for proper _____ to occur.
 A) inhale .. respiration
 B) masticate .. digestion
 C) absorb .. rumination
 D) repose .. relaxation
48. In a revolutionary development in technology, several manufacturers now make biodegradable forms of plastic: some plastic six-pack rings, for example, gradually _____ when exposed to sunlight.
 A) decompose
 B) stagnate
 C) inflate
 D) propagate
49. Although Adam had been unable to sleep the night before, he seemed remarkably _____ when he gave his presentation.
 A) presentable
 B) worn
 C) alert
 D) bred
50. Anne mentioned John's habitual boasting about his wardrobe as an example of his _____ ways.
 A) flexible
 B) egocentric
 C) erratic
 D) tactful

51. Fundraising is only effective when _____ individuals are available, showing their concern by their readiness to give.
 A) selfless
 B) popes
 C) meaningful
 D) famous
52. Unlike the Shakespearean plays that lit up the English stage, the “closet dramas” of the nineteenth century were meant to be _____ rather than _____.
 A) sophisticated .. urbane
 B) read .. staged
 C) quiet .. raucous
 D) seen .. acted
53. Though it is often exclusively _____ Brazil, the Amazon jungle actually _____ parts of eight other South American countries.
 A) associated with .. covers
 B) surrounded by .. borders
 C) located in .. bypasses
 D) limited to .. touches
54. The _____ bulldozer soon pushed away from the building site the _____ that remained of the bombed-out factory.
 A) flimsy .. impediments
 B) invincible .. seepage
 C) indestructible .. fragments
 D) indefatigable .. rubble
55. Eduardo was _____ to find that the editorial he had written was _____ by several typographical errors.
 A) intrigued .. enveloped
 B) prepared .. enhanced
 C) embarrassed .. marred
 D) overjoyed .. exacerbated
56. The drunken driver was filled with _____ for having caused the _____ injuries to the child.
 A) consternation .. insensible
 B) remorse .. fatal
 C) tension .. self-inflicted
 D) excuses .. sustained
57. When the _____ turned into a downpour, the baseball game had to be _____.
 A) shower .. resumed
 B) flash flood .. rescheduled
 C) drizzle .. inaugurated
 D) sprinkle .. postponed
58. Ability to speak several foreign languages _____ is _____ to success as a diplomat assigned to the United Nations.
 A) haltingly .. equivalent
 B) occasionally .. unrelated
 C) briefly .. essential
 D) fluently .. requisite
59. The visiting head of state admired the costly decoration that set off the _____ feasts given in her honor.
 A) superficial
 B) length
 C) substantiated
 D) sumptuous
60. As a young physics instructor, Richard Feynman discovered that he had the gift of sharing his _____ his subject and making that excitement _____.
 A) propensity for .. futile
 B) passion for .. contagious
 C) knowledge of .. inaudible
 D) contempt for .. praiseworthy
61. Immersed in the field of plasma physics, Ruth discovered that she had more in common with her _____, with whom she was in daily contact, than with anyone else.
 A) family
 B) constituents
 C) neighbors
 D) colleagues

62. In the absence of native predators to stop their spread, imported deer _____ to such an inordinate degree that they overgrazed the countryside and _____ the native vegetation.
 A) dwindled .. eliminated
 B) propagated .. cultivated
 C) thrived .. threatened
 D) suffered .. abandoned
63. Truculent in defending their rights of sovereignty under the Articles of Confederation, the newly formed states _____ constantly.
 A) acquiesced
 B) conferred
 C) apologized
 D) squabbled
64. Many subatomic nuclear particles are _____ and nearly _____: they are hard to track as well as to detect.
 A) elusive .. imperceptible
 B) unstable .. explosive
 C) minute .. immobile
 D) charged .. reactive
65. Given the _____ nature of wood, the oldest totem poles of the Northwest Coast Indians eventually fell to decay; only a few still stand today.
 A) solid
 B) combustible
 C) perishable
 D) resilient
66. Even though the basic organization of the brain does not change after birth, details of its structure and function remain _____ for some time, particularly in the cerebral cortex.
 A) immutable
 B) static
 C) essential
 D) plastic
67. A discerning publishing agent can _____ promising material from a mass of submissions, separating the good from the bad.
 A) overhaul
 B) winnow
 C) dramatize
 D) finagle
68. K'ang-hsi, emperor of China from 1661 to 1722, expressed his private thoughts with a _____ rarely found in the usually _____ rulers of great empires.
 A) peacefulness .. placid
 B) fairness .. dilatory
 C) peevishness .. irritable
 D) forthrightness .. reserved
69. The purpose of education is not to confirm our _____ but to challenge our assumptions, not to endorse our complacency but to encourage an attitude of _____.
 A) suspicions .. skepticism
 B) beliefs .. altruism
 C) credentials .. self-doubt
 D) biases .. self-questioning
70. In a firm that mistrusted anything _____, Jerry's stubborn adherence to tradition was routinely _____.
 A) modem .. misunderstood
 B) innovative .. questioned
 C) creative .. denigrated
 D) conservative .. deplored
71. Even more interesting than the completed masterpiece can be the _____ work of the artist, the first-draft manuscript, the initial pencil sketches, the symphony rehearsal.
 A) rough
 B) intense
 C) varied
 D) thoughtless

72. The legislation facing Congress was so _____ that it threatened to shatter the governing body's fragile bipartisanship.
 A) concordant
 B) repetitive
 C) rhetorical
 D) divisive
73. If the Titanic had hit the iceberg head on, its watertight compartments might have saved it from _____, but it swerved to avoid the iceberg, and in the collision so many compartments were opened to the sea that disaster was _____.
 A) foundering .. inevitable
 B) buoyancy .. unavoidable
 C) sinking .. escaped
 D) damage .. limited
74. Once his integrity had been _____, the mayoral candidate was quick both to _____ these attacks and to issue counterattacks.
 A) debunked .. buttress
 B) vitiated .. avoid
 C) impugned ... repudiate
 D) revoked .. relinquish
75. The controversial tax fueled a sustained _____ that could not be _____ by the Prime Minister's impassioned speeches.
 A) denial .. restrained
 B) rebellion .. challenged
 C) uprising .. quelled
 D) interrogation .. fortified
76. By dint of much practice in the laboratory, the anatomy student became _____ and was able to manipulate her dissecting tools with either hand.
 A) ambivalent
 B) ambidextrous
 C) tricky
 D) ambiguous
77. After having worked in the soup kitchen feeding the hungry, the volunteer began to see her own good fortune as _____ and her difference from the _____ as chance rather than destiny.
 A) an omen .. homeless
 B) a fluke .. impoverished
 C) a threat .. destitute
 D) a reward .. indigent
78. Although I am not an ardent admirer of the work of George Eliot, simple justice demands a prefatory _____ her many admirable qualities.
 A) skepticism regarding
 B) effusion over
 C) denial of
 D) tribute to
79. Much of our knowledge of dinosaurs comes from excavated bones, which, in _____ other clues such as fossilized tracks and eggs, help us to _____ the evolution of these creatures.
 A) convergence with .. supplant
 B) conjunction with .. trace
 C) divergence from .. decode
 D) dependence on .. belie
80. For those who admire realism, Louis Malle's recent film succeeds because it consciously _____ the stuff of legend and tells _____ story as it might actually unfold with fallible people in earthly time.
 A) emulates .. an ethereal
 B) exaggerates .. a mythic
 C) shuns .. an unembellished
 D) anticipates .. an antiquated

Synonyms and Antonyms Matching

Find the word matching each synonym group, then find the word matching each antonyms.

81. A) barren
B) feeble
C) ingenuous
D) insolvent
E) momentous

Synonyms:

1. indigent, destitute
2. weak, frail
3. desolate, sterile
4. notable, eventful
5. undisguised, naive

Antonyms:

1. damp, fertile
2. trivial, insignificant
3. wealthy, solvent
4. strong, robust
5. wily, craftly

82. A) cheap
B) falter
C) lavish
D) occult
E) sycophant

Synonyms:

1. stumble, demur
2. parasite, flatterer
3. latent, ambiguous
4. abundant, excessive
5. competitive, inexpensive

Antonyms:

1. dear, unreasonable
2. devoted, loyal
3. intelligible, transparent
4. persist, endure
5. scarce, deficient

83. A) callous
B) gloomy
C) languid
D) liberal
E) opaque

Synonyms:

1. obscure, shady
2. magnanimous, generous
3. sluggish, apathetic
4. bleak, cloudy
5. insensitive, indurated

Antonyms:

1. gay, bright
2. energetic, spirited
3. stingy, malicious
4. kind, merciful
5. transparent, bright

84. A) bawdy
B) contrary
C) hideous
D) insipid
E) modest

Synonyms:

1. humble, courteous
2. erotic, coarse
3. dissimilar, conflicting
4. tasteless, vapid
5. frightful, shocking

Antonyms:

1. delicious, luscious
2. decent, moral
3. attractive, alluring
4. similar, alike
5. arrogant, pompous

Confusing Words

85. He (lead/led) the class in test scores last week.
86. (Palate/Palette) means the roof of the mouth.
87. We were always (close/clothes/cloths) friends, even as children.
88. (Altar/Alter) means to change.
89. (Piece/Peace) is a state of agreement and well-being with the world.
90. (Flaunt/Flout) means to disregard a rule.
91. That is not (quiet/quite) the right thing to do.
92. (Your/You're) sitting on the sofa.
93. We went (two/too/to) the beach.
94. (Complement/Compliment) is praise.
95. (Through/Threw) means in one side and out the other.
96. (Allowed/Aloud) means permitted to happen.
97. The child is (allowed/aloud) to stay up late on weekends.
98. (Militate/Mitigate) means to be a powerful factor against.
99. (Loose/Lose) means not fastened or unbound.
100. I (advice/advise) you to study before tests.
101. The cat chased (its/it's) tail.
102. (Appraise/Apprise) means to inform someone.
103. (Dual/Duel) means having two parts.
104. (Draw/Drawer) means a sliding storage compartment.
105. (Loath/Loathe) means to hate.
106. (Loose/Lose) is to be unable to find or to not win.

107. (Bare/Bear) means to carry; to put up with.
108. (Principal/Principle) means a fundamental rule or belief.
109. The (principle/principal) law in the United States is the Constitution.
110. (Aural/Oral) means relating to the mouth; spoken.
111. (Complement/Compliment) means to add to so as to improve; an addition that improves something.
112. It is lovely (hear/here) in the sunshine.
113. (Tortuous/Torturous) means full of pain or suffering.
114. A (hole/whole) is an empty place or opening.
115. (breath/breathe) is air that you take in.
116. (Desert/Dessert) means a waterless, empty area; to abandon someone.
117. I was out of (breath/breathe) after running.
118. (Their/There/They're) was only one hotel on the island.
119. (Dual/Duel) means a fight or contest between two people.
120. (Broach/Brooch) means a piece of jewelry.
121. (Militate/Mitigate) means to make less severe.
122. I (choose/chose) my puppy last week.
123. (Curb/Kerb) means (in British English) the stone edge of a pavement.
124. The two nations settled their differences when they agreed to a (piece/peace) treaty.

Answer Key

- | | | |
|-------------------|--|--|
| 1. lose | 42. B | 80. C |
| 2. fewer | 43. C | 81. syn key: D B A E C
ant key: A E D B C |
| 3. Effect | 44. A | 82. syn key: B E D C A
ant key: A E D B C |
| 4. forbear | 45. D | 83. syn key: E D C B A
ant key: B C D A E |
| 5. new | 46. C | 84. syn key: E A B D C
ant key: D A C B E |
| 6. conscious | 47. B | 85. led |
| 7. bated | masticate: chew | 86. palate |
| 8. accept | 48. A | 87. close |
| 9. aisle | 49. C | 88. alter |
| 10. than | 50. B | 89. Peace |
| 11. All ready | egocentric: boastful;
self-centered | 90. flout |
| 12. elicit | 51. A | 91. quite |
| 13. yolk | 52. B | 92. You're |
| 14. to | 53. A | 93. to |
| 15. Feel | 54. D | 94. Compliment |
| 16. there | 55. C | 95. Through |
| 17. filled | 56. B | 96. Allowed |
| 18. uninterested | 57. D | 97. allowed |
| 19. story | 58. D | 98. militate |
| 20. disinterested | 59. D | 99. Loose |
| 21. A | 60. B | 100. advise |
| 22. B | 61. D | 101. its |
| 23. D | 62. C | 102. apprise |
| 24. A | 63. D | 103. dual |
| 25. D | 64. A | 104. drawer |
| 26. A | 65. C | 105. loathe |
| 27. B | 66. D | 106. Lose |
| 28. C | 67. B | 107. bear |
| 29. B | 68. D | 108. principle |
| 30. C | 69. D | 109. principal |
| 31. C | 70. D | 110. oral |
| 32. A | 71. A | 111. complement |
| 33. D | 72. D | 112. here |
| 34. C | 73. A | 113. torturous |
| 35. A | 74. C | 114. hole |
| 36. A | 75. C | 115. Breath |
| 37. B | 76. B | 116. desert |
| 38. A | 77. B | |
| 39. A | 78. D | |
| 40. D | 79. B | |
| 41. C | | |

- 117. breath
- 118. There
- 119. duel
- 120. brooch
- 121. mitigate
- 122. chose
- 123. kerb
- 124. peace