Text Completion: single blank — read the logical...

A single-blank Text Completion is solved by the sentence's own logic, not by which...

Lesson grev.tc.C1

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The idea

A single-blank Text Completion is solved by the sentence's own logic, not by which word sounds impressive. First find the signal that tells you how the blank relates to the rest of the sentence: contrast words (although, but, far from, yet) demand a word opposite in meaning to the clue; continuation and cause words (because, since, indeed, and the dash of definition) demand a word that agrees with it.

What is the blank's role, and what signal (contrast, cause, definition, continuation) tells you what must go there?

From the clue, predict a word or at least its charge (+/-) BEFORE looking at the options. Then match, and eliminate opposite-charge, off-topic, and wrong-specific-meaning words.

Watch every step

Signal: 'turning a tense standoff into a riot' tells us the remarks made the anger worse.

Rather than calming the crowd, the mayor's dismissive remarks only ___ their anger, turning a tense standoff into a riot.

A. belittle ✗ *right-direction-wrong-word*

B. vindicate ✗ *ignores-signal*

C. mobilize ✗ *topic-attractive*

D. assuage ✗ *opposite-charge*

E. exacerbate

Why **E** — "exacerbate." Choose the option closest to your prediction.

Now a harder one

Signal: 'shirked every task he could plausibly postpone' defines the blank — habitually lazy.

They mistook his ___ air for serene detachment, but the truth was simpler: he shirked every task he could plausibly postpone.

A. assiduous ✗ *opposite-charge*

B. languid ✗ *right-direction-wrong-word*

C. indolent

D. phlegmatic ✗ *ignores-signal*

E. aloof ✗ *topic-attractive*

Why C — "indolent." Choose the option closest to your prediction.

The method, in one line

Text Completion: single blank — read the logical signal

From the clue, predict a word or at least its charge (+/-) BEFORE looking at the options. Then match, and eliminate opposite-charge, off-topic, and wrong-specific-meaning words.

Does my word obey the signal (although/because/the dash)? Is the charge right? Is it the specific meaning the clue demands, not merely a word about the same topic?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ opposite-charge
Selects a word whose meaning runs opposite to what the sentence's logic requires — often a positive word where the clue calls for a negative one, or vice versa.

⚠ right-direction-wrong-word
Selects a word with the correct general charge but the wrong specific meaning for the blank.

Name the trap before you pick — most wrong answers are one of these two.

Try it, then watch the walk-through

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