Text Completion: two blanks

A two-blank sentence is two puzzles sharing one logic

Lesson grev.tc.C3

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The idea

A two-blank sentence is two puzzles sharing one logic. Solve each blank on its own signal first — do not let a graceful-sounding pairing tempt you before you have checked both halves.

What does each blank need on its own, and does the connective make the two blanks agree or oppose?

Predict blank (i) and blank (ii) separately from their signals; then find the one pair correct in BOTH.

Watch every step

Signal: 'so ___ that ... pausing to untangle clauses within clauses' fixes (i) as ornate/convoluted and (ii) as hard to parse.

Her prose was so (i)___ that readers accustomed to plainer fare found it (ii)___, forever pausing to untangle clauses nested within clauses.

- **A.** (i) baroque, (ii) impenetrable
- **B.** (i) baroque, (ii) tedious ✗ *right-direction-wrong-word*
- **C.** (i) baroque, (ii) evocative ✗ *ignores-signal*
- **D.** (i) literary, (ii) impenetrable ✗ *topic-attractive*
- **E.** (i) spare, (ii) impenetrable ✗ *opposite-charge*

Why A — "(i) baroque, (ii) impenetrable." Select the pair whose (i) and (ii) each match their predictions.

Now a harder one

Signal: 'Beneath a ___ exterior lay an ambition so ___ that rivals who dismissed him as harmless were outmaneuvered.' (i) mild, (ii) relentless.

Beneath a (i)___ exterior lay an ambition so (ii)___ that rivals who dismissed him as harmless were repeatedly outmaneuvered.

A. (i) genial, (ii) inscrutable ✗ *ignores-signal*

B. (i) ambitious, (ii) unrelenting ✗ *topic-attractive*

C. (i) genial, (ii) unrelenting

D. (i) truculent, (ii) unrelenting ✗ *opposite-charge*

E. (i) genial, (ii) considerable ✗ *right-direction-wrong-word*

Why C — "(i) genial, (ii) unrelenting." Select the pair whose (i) and (ii) each match their predictions.

The method, in one line

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Predict blank (i) and blank (ii) separately from their signals; then find the one pair correct in BOTH.

Did I verify BOTH blanks, or did a right first word make me overlook a wrong second one?

Watch out: two traps to dodge

⚠ opposite-charge
The pair reverses the required charge or meaning of one blank — an antonym of what that blank's logic demands.

⚠ right-direction-wrong-word
One word in the pair has the correct general charge but the wrong specific sense for its 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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