7. Money has been used for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases are made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all of their banking on the Internet rather than going to the bank in person.

The author of the passage probably assumes that
A. cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
B. using cash will become popular again
C. paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
D. societies that do business online will struggle

8. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

According to the passage, it is wrong to
A. use first aid on an accident victim without medical training
B. attempt to help an accident victim without permission
C. help a victim before an ambulance arrives
D. call for an ambulance instead of helping the victim

9. Dr. Ellen Ochoa is an inventor and is also the first female Hispanic astronaut. Her inventions include technology to help robots inspect equipment in space to maintain safety and quality control on spacecraft. Before retiring, she logged more than 1,000 hours in space across several space missions.

According to the passage, Dr. Ochoa is the first
A. Hispanic person to travel into space
B. inventor to travel into space
C. woman to travel into space
D. Hispanic woman to travel into space

10. Dogs and cats make very different types of pets. Before deciding whether to buy or adopt a dog or a cat, prospective owners need to carefully consider their own lifestyles and personalities. Dogs may make more affectionate companions, but they require more care and attention. They must be taken out several times a day and should not be left alone for more than a few hours. Larger dogs require significant exercise to remain fit and healthy. Cats are usually more independent in nature and interact less with their owners. Also, a cat can be left on its own all day, or even for several days, as long as it has food and clean water to drink.

From this passage a reader can conclude that
A. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
B. people who are away from home during the day should not own a cat
C. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
D. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog

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**ESL Sentence Meaning**

The ESL Sentence Meaning test measures how well you understand the meaning of sentences in English. It assesses the understanding of word meanings in one- or two-sentence contexts. The sentences are drawn from the subject areas of natural science, history/social studies, arts/humanities, psychology/human relations, and practical situations. There are four content areas measured: (a) Particle, Phrasal Verbs, Prepositions of Direction; (b) Adverbs, Adjectives, Connectives Sequence; (c) Basic Nouns and Verbs; and (d) Basic and Important Idioms.

**ESL Sentence Meaning Sample Questions**

Directions for questions 1–8

The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes the sentence meaningful and correct.

1. Shikibu Murasaki, who wrote almost a thousand years ago, was one of the world’s _______ novelists.
   A. most early
   B. too early
   C. more early
   D. earliest

2. The Chang children _______ their parents by making sandwiches for the whole family.
   A. helped out
   B. helped with
   C. helps for
   D. helps to

3. As demonstrated by his last album, which was released after his death, Ibrahim Ferrer _______ one of the most beautiful voices in Latin music.
   A. had
   B. have
   C. have had
   D. having
4. After we saw the play, we had different opinions ______
   Vincent’s performance.
   A. about  
   B. at  
   C. for  
   D. to

5. Having recorded many of the most beloved songs of the
   1940s, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald _______ one of the most
   prominent musical performers of her time.
   A. had been  
   B. has been  
   C. was  
   D. will be

6. As we drove through the darkness, we saw another car
   coming ______ the bend in the road.
   A. through  
   B. under  
   C. over  
   D. around

7. Sonia is so determined and stubborn that she never ______
   until she gets exactly what she wants.
   A. gives up  
   B. gives out  
   C. gave in  
   D. gave away

8. At only 43, John F. Kennedy was the _______ American
   president ever to be elected.
   A. most young  
   B. more young  
   C. youngest  
   D. younger

Directions for questions 9–15

Each problem contains one or two sentences followed by
a question. Choose the correct answer to the question.

9. Elena found a tomato that was much bigger than all the
   others in the garden.
   How did the tomato compare to the others in the garden?
   A. It was the smallest.
   B. It was not very large.
   C. It was larger than some.
   D. It was the largest.

10. When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the
    Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.
    When will the festival likely take place?
    A. Tonight
    B. Tomorrow
    C. Next week
    D. Many weeks later

11. Jasmine is never late to meet her friends, and sometimes
    arrives a few minutes early.
    Which best describes Jasmine?
    A. Lonely  
    B. Punctual  
    C. Talkative  
    D. Tardy

12. Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel
    Dracula, which was published in 1897.
    What did Bram Stoker do?
    A. He was a doctor.  
    B. He was a merchant.  
    C. He was a writer.  
    D. He was an engineer.

13. Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay
    up past 9 p.m.
    What did Judy do at 9 p.m.?
    A. Leave work  
    B. Come home from the airport  
    C. Get on an airplane  
    D. Go to bed

14. Eliot sleeps late whenever he can, leaves work early, and
    never does anything unless he absolutely has to.
    Which best describes Eliot?
    A. Boring  
    B. Lazy  
    C. Selfish  
    D. Tired.

15. Juanita rushed to her dance class and burst through the door
    in the nick of time.
    When Juanita got to her dance class, she was
    A. very early  
    B. very late  
    C. nearly late  
    D. a little late