PTCF Sentence Completion Task: Production
(FILL-IN format)

Author: Marilyn A. Nippold, PhD

INTRODUCTION TO THE TASK:

This is a research project on words. We hope to learn more about how well students your age use words in written language. You will see a set of sentences. These sentences contain some missing words. Please complete each sentence by filling in the missing word or words so that the whole sentence makes sense. Each sentence has a clue word that will help you write a good answer. Use a variation of the clue word so that the whole sentence is grammatically correct.

You may use either a pencil or a pen, whichever you prefer.

Please write neatly.

Let’s try some for practice.

Practice sentences:

1. The dogs would have stayed in the backyard if the owner ___________________________ the gate.
   Clue word: close
   A good answer would be had closed; if the owner had closed the gate. Write had closed in the blank space.

2. As soon as the children arrived at the lake, they ______________________________ into the water.
   Clue word: run
   A good answer would be ran; they ran into the water. Write ran in the blank space.

3. If Tina had slipped on the muddy trail, she would ___________________________________ herself.
   Clue word: injure
   A good answer would be have injured; she would have injured herself. Write have injured in the blank space.

NOW YOU WILL COMPLETE THE REST OF THE SENTENCES ON YOUR OWN.

PLEASE TAKE YOUR TIME AND DO YOUR BEST WORK.

READ EACH QUESTION CAREFULLY.

PLEASE ANSWER ALL OF THE QUESTIONS. DO NOT SKIP ANY, EVEN IF YOU ARE UNSURE OF A GOOD ANSWER. JUST TAKE A GUESS.

ALSO, PLEASE DO YOUR OWN WORK. DO NOT SHARE ANSWERS WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS.

DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

YOU MAY BEGIN.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE.
Test sentences:

1. Jennifer would not have been thirsty if she _________________________ all of her water.
   Clue word: drink

2. The children watched the dog as he _________________________ a hole under the fence.
   Clue word: dig

3. Jimmy would have gone to school that day if he _________________________ better in the morning.
   Clue word: feel

4. If Gus had avoided the large rock in the road, he would not _________________________ off his bicycle.
   Clue word: fall

5. The baseball coach watched the young player as he _________________________ into first base.
   Clue word: slide

6. If John had slipped off that ladder, he would _________________________ his arm.
   Clue word: break

7. The children would have enjoyed the camping trip more if they _________________________ in a cabin.
   Clue word: sleep

8. If Roy had seen the clothes rack, he could _________________________ his wet jacket on it.
   Clue word: hang

9. Linda would have arrived at the office on time if she _________________________ the bus.
   Clue word: ride

10. Jenny could not pay for her lunch because she _________________________ her wallet at home.
    Clue word: leave

11. If Gail had waited at the bakery for fresh donuts, she would _________________________ in a long line.
    Clue word: stand

12. Tim would have scored higher on the quiz if his friend _________________________ him the answers.
    Clue word: tell

13. If Jane had owned a bigger garden, she would _________________________ more vegetables.
    Clue word: grow

14. The old house would have looked nicer if the owner _________________________ the front porch.
    Clue word: sweep

15. If the dog had stayed in the house, he would not _________________________ the police officer.
    Clue word: bite

16. If Ben had completed all of the workouts, he would _________________________ faster at the meet.
    Clue word: swim

17. If Karl had not been sick, he would _________________________ better in the chess tournament.
    Clue word: do
18. Beth would have flown to Hawaii if she __________________________ a plane ticket. 
   Clue word: buy

19. If Grace had been paying attention, she would _______________________ the ball to first base. 
   Clue word: throw

20. Unless I am mistaken, the old sailing ship _________________ in the Atlantic Ocean 100 years ago. 
   Clue word: sink

21. Janet would not have been hungry if she _________________________ all of her breakfast. 
   Clue word: eat

22. Even though we were late for the movie, we ______________________ good seats in the theatre. 
   Clue word: find

23. If Jerry had gone fishing in the morning, he would ______________________ more trout. 
   Clue word: catch

24. Before Mike opened his birthday gifts, he __________________________ each one carefully. 
   Clue word: shake

25. Kathy would have won an award if she ____________________________ a stronger essay. 
   Key word: write

26. If Sue had attended her debate class, she would ______________________ about democracy. 
   Clue word: speak

27. Brian would have gone to the concert if his friend ______________________ him there. 
   Clue word: drive

28. The squirrels ran away after they ________________________________ the nuts under the house. 
   Clue word: hide

29. If Alice had purchased enough wood, she would ______________________ a new doghouse. 
   Clue word: build

30. If Mary had seen the fire at school, she would __________________________ the fire alarm. 
   Clue word: ring

31. Guy would have played in the band if his father ______________________ him the drums. 
   Clue word: teach

32. If David had needed money, he would ____________________________ his old piano. 
   Clue word: sell

33. Bob could have reached the kitten in the tree if his brother ____________________ the ladder. 
   Clue word: hold

34. If Father had not left for work so early, he would ____________________ Sarah a ride to school. 
   Clue word: give
35. If Sally had set her alarm clock for 6:00 am, she would ________________ up in time for school.
   Clue word: wake

36. Bill would have won the talent show if he ____________________________ a happier melody.
   Clue word: sing

37. Although the dog was excitable, he ______________________________ quietly next to his master.
   Clue word: sit

38. Tom would have enjoyed his dinner more if he ____________________________ the fried chicken.
   Clue word: choose

39. Joe would not have finished the cake if his mother ______________________________ it away.
   Clue word: take

40. The beach ball would have bounced higher if Jeff ____________________________ more air into it.
   Clue word: blow
**Answer Key:**

**FILL-IN TASK (PRODUCTION):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. HAD DRUNK</th>
<th>21. HAD EATEN</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. DUG</td>
<td>22. FOUND</td>
</tr>
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<td>3. HAD FELT</td>
<td>23. HAVE CAUGHT</td>
</tr>
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<td>4. HAVE FALLEN</td>
<td>24. SHOOK</td>
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<td>5. SLID</td>
<td>25. HAD WRITTEN</td>
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<td>6. HAVE BROKEN</td>
<td>26. HAVE SPOKEN</td>
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<td>7. HAD SLEPT.</td>
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<td>8. HAVE HUNG</td>
<td>28. HID</td>
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<td>9. HAD RIDDEN</td>
<td>29. HAVE BUILT</td>
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<td>10. LEFT</td>
<td>30. HAVE RUNG</td>
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<td>11. HAVE STOOD</td>
<td>31. HAD TAUGHT</td>
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<td>12. HAD TOLD</td>
<td>32. HAVE SOLD</td>
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<td>13. HAVE GROWN</td>
<td>33. HAD HELD</td>
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<td>14. HAD SWEPT</td>
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<td>15. HAVE BITTEN</td>
<td>35. HAVE WOKEN</td>
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<td>16. HAVE SWUM</td>
<td>36. HAD SUNG</td>
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<td>17. HAVE DONE</td>
<td>37. SAT</td>
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<td>18. HAD BOUGHT</td>
<td>38. HAD CHOSEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. HAVE THROWN</td>
<td>39. HAD TAKEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. SANK</td>
<td>40. HAD BLOWN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PTCF SENTENCE COMPLETION TASK: COMPREHENSION  
(MULTIPLE CHOICE format)  
Author: Marilyn A. Nippold, PhD

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This is a research project on words. We hope to learn more about how well students your age use words in written language. You will see a set of sentences. Each sentence is followed by a set of answer choices, lettered A, B, C, D, and E. Each sentence contains one or two missing words. Please complete each sentence by choosing the correct word or words (from choices A, B, C, D, or E) so that the whole sentence makes sense. Draw a circle around the letter of your choice. The best answer should make the whole sentence grammatically correct.

You may use either a pencil or a pen, whichever you prefer.

Please write neatly.

Let’s try some for practice.

Practice sentences:
1. The dogs would have stayed in the backyard if the owner ___________________________ the gate.
   A. have closed  
   B. closed  
   C. close  
   D. closing  
   E. had closed
   The best answer is E, had closed. The dogs would have stayed in the backyard if the owner had closed the gate. Circle letter E.

2. As soon as the children arrived at the lake, they ______________________________ into the water.
   A. run  
   B. runned  
   C. ran  
   D. had run  
   E. had ran
   The best answer is C, ran. As soon as the children arrived at the lake, they ran into the water. Circle letter C.

3. If Tina had slipped on the muddy trail, she would ___________________________________ herself.
   A. injure  
   B. have injured  
   C. injured  
   D. had injured  
   E. injuring
   The best answer is B, have injured. If Tina had slipped on the muddy trail, she would have injured herself. Circle letter B.

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DO YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS?

YOU MAY BEGIN.

PLEASE TURN THE PAGE.
Test sentences:

1. The children watched the dog as he __________________________ a hole under the fence.
   A. dug
   B. digged
   C. had dug
   D. dig
   E. had digged

2. If Gail had waited at the bakery for fresh donuts, she would ______________________ in a long line.
   A. stand
   B. have standed
   C. standed
   D. stood
   E. have stood

3. If Gus had avoided the large rock in the road, he would not _____________________ off his bicycle.
   A. fall
   B. have fell
   C. felled
   D. fell
   E. have fallen

4. Before Mike opened his birthday gifts, he ________________________________ each one carefully.
   A. shook
   B. shooked
   C. shake
   D. shaked
   E. had shook

5. The old house would have looked nicer if the owner _________________________ the front porch.
   A. swepted
   B. had swepted
   C. swept
   D. sweep
   E. had swept

6. If Alice had purchased enough wood, she would ______________________________ a new doghouse.
   A. built
   B. builded
   C. have built
   D. have builded
   E. build
7. Joe would not have finished the cake if his mother ____________________________ it away.
   A. taked
   B. took
   C. had took
   D. tooked
   E. had taken

8. Jenny could not pay for her lunch because she ____________________________ her wallet at home.
   A. leave
   B. left
   C. leaved
   D. had left
   E. had leaved

9. Kathy would have won an award if she ________________________________ a stronger essay.
   A. wrote
   B. had written
   C. write
   D. writed
   E. had wrote

10. Bill would have won the talent show if he ____________________________ a happier melody.
    A. sang
    B. singed
    C. had sung
    D. sung
    E. had sang

11. Even though we were late for the movie, we ____________________________ good seats in the theatre.
    A. had found
    B. find
    C. finded
    D. had founded
    E. found

12. If the dog had stayed in the house, he would not ____________________________ the police officer.
    A. bite
    B. have bitten
    C. bited
    D. bitten
    E. have bit
13. If Jerry had gone fishing in the morning, he would ________________________ more trout.
   A. catch
   B. caught
   C. have caught
   D. have caughted
   E. catched

14. If Grace had been paying attention, she would __________________________ the ball to first base.
   A. throw
   B. have thrown
   C. threw
   D. have threw
   E. threwed

15. The children would have enjoyed the camping trip more if they _____________________ in a cabin.
   A. had slepted
   B. slepted
   C. slept
   D. had slept
   E. sleep

16. If Karl had not been sick, he would __________________________ better in the chess tournament.
   A. have did
   B. did
   C. do
   D. done
   E. have done

17. If David had needed money, he would _________________________________ his old piano.
   A. sold
   B. sell
   C. have sold
   D. selled
   E. have selled

18. Although the dog was excitable, he _____________________________ quietly next to his master.
   A. sit
   B. sat
   C. had sit
   D. sitted
   E. had sat
19. If Jane had owned a bigger garden, she would ___________________________ more vegetables.

   A. grow  
   B. growed  
   C. have grew  
   D. have grown  
   E. grew

20. The beach ball would have bounced higher if Jeff ____________________ more air into it.

   A. blowed  
   B. had blew  
   C. blew  
   D. had blown  
   E. blowed

21. Tim would have scored higher on the quiz if his friend ____________________ him the answers.

   A. telled  
   B. had telled  
   C. had told  
   D. told  
   E. tell

22. Brian would have gone to the concert if his friend _____________________ him there.

   A. drove  
   B. drived  
   C. had drove  
   D. drive  
   E. had driven

23. The squirrels ran away after they ______________________ the nuts under the house.

   A. hid  
   B. had hid  
   C. hidden  
   D. had hidden  
   E. hided

24. If Mary had seen the fire at school, she would _________________________ the fire alarm.

   A. ring  
   B. have rung  
   C. ringed  
   D. rang  
   E. have rang
25. Tom would have enjoyed his dinner more if he ___________________ the fried chicken.

A. had chosen  
B. chose  
C. had choosed  
D. choosed  
E. choose

26. If Sue had attended her debate class, she would ___________________ about democracy.

A. speak  
B. spoke  
C. have spoken  
D. have spoke  
E. spoke

27. Janet would not have been hungry if she ___________________ all of her breakfast.

A. had eaten  
B. ate  
C. eaten  
D. had ate  
E. eated

28. If Sally had set her alarm clock for 6:00 am, she would ___________________ up in time for school.

A. wake  
B. have waked  
C. woked  
D. waked  
E. have woken

29. Bob could have reached the kitten in the tree if his brother ___________________ the ladder.

A. held  
B. hold  
C. holded  
D. had held  
E. had holded

30. Unless I am mistaken, the old sailing ship ___________________ in the Atlantic Ocean 100 years ago.

A. sunk  
B. sank  
C. sink  
D. had sunk  
E. had sank
31. Guy would have played in the band if his father ____________________ him the drums.
   A. taught
   B. had taught
   C. teach
   D. had taught
   E. taught

32. The baseball coach watched the young player as he ____________________ into first base.
   A. slid
   B. slide
   C. slipped
   D. had slid
   E. had slipped

33. Beth would have flown to Hawaii if she ________________________ a plane ticket.
   A. bought
   B. buyed
   C. had bought
   D. buy
   E. had buyed

34. If Father had not left for work so early, he would ____________________ Sarah a ride to school.
   A. have given
   B. give
   C. gave
   D. have gave
   E. gived

35. Linda would have arrived at the office on time if she _____________________ the bus.
   A. rode
   B. ride
   C. rided
   D. had ridden
   E. had rode

36. If Roy had seen the clothes rack, he could ____________________ his wet jacket on it.
   A. have hung
   B. hang
   C. hung
   D. have hanged
   E. hanged
37. If John had slipped off that ladder, he would __________________________ his arm.
   A. break  
   B. broke  
   C. have broken  
   D. have broke  
   E. breaked

38. If Ben had completed all of the workouts, he would ______________________ faster at the meet.
   A. swim  
   B. have swam  
   C. swummed  
   D. have swum  
   E. swum

39. Jimmy would have gone to school that day if he _______________________ better in the morning.
   A. felt  
   B. feeled  
   C. had feeled  
   D. had felt  
   E. feel

40. Jennifer would not have been thirsty if she ____________________________ all of her water.
    A. drank  
    B. had drunk  
    C. drink  
    D. had drank  
    E. dranked
ANSWER KEY:

MULTIPLE-CHOICE TASK (COMPREHENSION)

1. A 
2. E 
3. E 
4. A 
5. E 
6. C 
7. E 
8. B 
9. B 
10. C 
11. E 
12. B 
13. C 
14. B 
15. D 
16. E 
17. C 
18. B 
19. D 
20. D 
21. C 
22. E 
23. A 
24. B 
25. A 
26. C 
27. A 
28. E 
29. D 
30. B 
31. D 
32. A 
33. C 
34. A 
35. D 
36. A 
37. C 
38. D 
39. D 
40. B