



Trigger Words

Below is a list of some common trigger words and expressions. There are many, many more than these. You don't need to memorize this list, but familiarize yourself with it so you can start to recognize triggers as you are reading. Get in the habit of circling trigger words in the Reading, English or ELA grammar and usage sections of all standardized tests and in the Sentence Completions portion of the Verbal section in the ISEE.

In writing your essays, remember to use triggers generously to emphasize your point (same direction triggers, especially) and to give your writing bite (change direction triggers, especially).

Same-direction triggers

because
and
since
in fact
; : -- (semicolon, colon, parenthetical inserts)
also
in addition
too
therefore
so
then
thus
as well as
like
likewise
for instance
for example
including
similarly
moreover
plus
next
subsequently
as a result
equally

Change-direction triggers

however
although / though
but
in contrast to
rather
despite
yet
while
except
ironically
nevertheless
instead
on the other hand
unfortunately
paradoxically
as opposed to
whereas
surprisingly

Triggers Practice Drill 1

Directions: Cover the answers which follow each question. Circle the trigger words or marks of punctuation in each sentence below. Also, note the direction of the trigger: same or different. Then check to make sure that you got all the triggers and didn't choose any words which aren't triggers. You do not have to find words to fill the blanks.

Question 1. Hoping to _____ the dispute, negotiators proposed a compromise that they felt would be _____ to both labor and management. direction: _____

Answer 1. Hoping to _____ the dispute, negotiators proposed a compromise that they felt would be _____ to both labor and management. direction: same

2. One of the characters in Milton Murayama's novel is considered _____ because he deliberately defies an oppressive hierarchical society. direction: _____

2. One of the characters in Milton Murayama's novel is considered _____ because he deliberately defies an oppressive hierarchical society. direction: same

3. Many economists believe that since resources are scarce and since human desires cannot all be _____, a method of _____ is needed. direction: _____

3. Many economists believe that since resources are scarce and since human desires cannot all be _____, a method of _____ is needed. direction: same

4. Because the photographer believed that wild animals should be _____ only in their various natural surroundings, she _____ often in her career. direction: _____

4 Because the photographer believed that wild animals should be _____ only in their various natural surroundings, she _____ often in her career. direction: same

5. Critics dismissed the engineer's seemingly creative design as being _____, that is, underdeveloped and lacking in sophistication. direction: _____

5. Critics dismissed the engineer's seemingly creative design as being _____ that is, underdeveloped and lacking in sophistication. direction: same

6. The professor commented to other faculty members that Sheila seemed temperamentally suited to the study of logic, given her _____ for _____ intricate arguments. direction: _____

6. The professor commented to other faculty members that Sheila seemed temperamentally suited to the study of logic, given her _____ for _____ intricate arguments. direction: same

7. The writer came to be labeled _____ because she isolated herself in her apartment, shunning outside contact. direction: _____

7. The writer came to be labeled _____ because she isolated herself in her apartment, shunning outside contact. direction: same

8. Fred often used _____ to achieve his professional goals, even though such artful subterfuge alienated his colleagues. direction: _____ / _____

8. Fred often used _____ to achieve his professional goals, even though such artful subterfuge alienated his colleagues. direction: same/different

9. Geysers vary widely: some may discharge _____, whereas others may have only a brief explosive eruption and then remain _____ for hours or days. direction: _____ / _____ / _____

9. Geysers vary widely: some may discharge _____, whereas others may have only a brief explosive eruption and then remain _____ for hours or days. direction: same/different/different

10. Although the administration repeatedly threatened to use its authority in order to _____ the student protestors into submission, they refused to be intimidated. direction: _____

10. Although the administration repeatedly threatened to use its authority in order to _____ the student protestors into submission, they refused to be intimidated. direction: different

11. Only after the campaign volunteers became aware of their candidate's questionable motives could they recognize the _____ statements made in his seemingly _____ speeches. direction: _____

11. Only after the campaign volunteers became aware of their candidate's questionable motives could they recognize the _____ statements made in his seemingly _____ speeches. direction: same

12. No longer narrowly preoccupied with their own national pasts, historians are increasingly _____ in that they often take a transnational perspective. direction: _____/ _____

12. No longer narrowly preoccupied with their own national pasts, historians are increasingly _____ in that they often take a transnational perspective. direction: different/ same

13. Scientific discoveries are often thought of as the result of _____ effort, but many discoveries have, in fact, arisen from _____ or a mistake. direction: _____/ _____/ _____

13. Scientific discoveries are often thought of as the result of _____ effort, but many discoveries have, in fact arisen from _____ or a mistake. direction: different/ different/ same

14. Nations that share a border are, by definition, _____. direction: _____

14. Nations that share a border are, by definition _____. direction: same

15. Much of this author's work, unfortunately, is _____, with _____ chapter often immediately following a sublime one. direction: _____

15. Much of this author's work, unfortunately is _____, with _____ chapter often immediately following a sublime one. direction: different

16. The aspiring writer, who remained _____ even after being rejected by several major publishers, felt certain of achieving literary _____. direction: _____

16. The aspiring writer, who remained _____ even after being rejected by several major publishers, felt certain of achieving literary _____. direction: different

17. Common garlic has _____ properties; during the First World War British medics saved thousands of lives by wrapping wounds with garlic-soaked bandages. direction: _____

17. Common garlic has _____ properties; during the First World War British medics saved thousands of lives by wrapping wounds with garlic-soaked bandages. direction: same

18. In her poems, Alice Walker retrieves and _____ parts of Black culture that some have been all too quick to _____ the past as fossilized artifacts. direction: _____ / _____ / _____

18. In her poems, Alice Walker retrieves and _____ parts of Black culture that some have been all too quick to _____ the past as fossilized artifacts. direction: same/ different/ same

19. The modest acceptance speech of the Academy Award winning actress revealed a ----- that contrasted with her uninhibited screen performances. direction: _____

19. The modest acceptance speech of the Academy Award winning actress revealed a _____ that contrasted with her uninhibited screen performances. direction: different

20. Because howler monkeys rarely come out of the trees in their arboreal habitat, the continued well-being of the rain forest is _____ to their survival. direction: _____

20. Because howler monkeys rarely come out of the trees in their arboreal habitat, the continued well-being of the rain forest is _____ to their survival. direction: same

21. Doug was both _____ and _____: he possessed penetrating acuity and discernment and was also extremely humble. direction: _____

21. Doug was both _____ and _____: he possessed penetrating acuity and discernment and was also extremely humble. direction: same

22. The Mona Lisa, shipped in a private cabin and received by important dignitaries, was treated more like _____ than a painting upon its arrival in the United States. direction: _____ / _____

22. The Mona Lisa, shipped in a private cabin and received by important dignitaries, was treated more like _____ than a painting upon its arrival in the United States. direction: same/different

23. Despite its patent _____, this belief has become so _____ that no amount of rational argument will suffice to eradicate it. direction: _____ / _____

23. Despite its patent _____, this belief has become so _____ that no amount of rational argument will suffice to eradicate it. direction: different/same

24. The charlatan's seemingly frank and open demeanor was actually a _____ means of enlisting his patient's confidence. direction: _____ / _____

24. The charlatan's seemingly frank and open demeanor was actually a _____ means of enlisting his patient's confidence. direction: same/different

25. The celebrants at the _____ party for Cinco De Mayo were understandably _____ by the spectacle of the mariachi bands and the colorful piñatas for the children. direction: _____

25. The celebrants at the _____ party for Cinco De Mayo were understandably _____ by the spectacle of the mariachi bands and the colorful piñatas for the children. direction: same

26. "Hawaii" refers both to the group of islands known as the Hawaiian islands and to the largest island in that _____. direction: _____

26. "Hawaii" refers both to the group of islands known as the Hawaiian islands and to the largest island in that _____. direction: same

27. Given the exponential growth of scientific knowledge, medicine is far less _____ unsubstantiated fads than it used to be; its record of folly, however, remains an undeniable _____. direction: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____

27. Given the exponential growth of scientific knowledge, medicine is far less _____ unsubstantiated fads than it used to be; however its record of folly remains an undeniable _____. direction: different/ different/ same (for the two clauses as a whole)/ different

Triggers Practice Drill 2

Directions: On this and the following pages, read the passages in black, circling the trigger words and marks of punctuation as you read, considering the direction of the trigger: same or different. Then check the blue text to see how closely your trigger collection matches the annotated passages. Pay close attention to triggers in the introduction and conclusion of passages, as they are often instrumental in delivering the author's point.

Passage 1

It is striking how our culture has wholeheartedly adopted the recycling ethic. Most parents have probably received humbling lectures from their children after tossing a glass jar or newspaper in the trash can. But the popularity of recycling is even more surprising considering the inconveniences associated with it. Who hasn't experienced the annoyance of trying to satisfy complicated rules about what can and cannot be recycled? Glass jars—but not their tops? Plastics number 1 and 2—but not number 3? Still there is no sign that the public is becoming impatient, so convinced are people of the virtues of recycling.

Passage 2

Mandatory recycling programs aren't good for posterity. They offer mainly short-term benefits to a few groups—like politicians and waste-handling corporations—while diverting money from genuine social and environmental problems. Recycling programs actually consume resources. They require extra administrators and a continual public relations campaign explaining what to do with dozens of different products—recycle milk jugs but not milk cartons, index cards but not construction paper. Collecting a ton of recyclable items is three times more expensive than collecting a ton of garbage because crews pick up less material at each stop. Recycling may be the most wasteful activity in the modern United States: a waste of time and money, a waste of human and natural resources.

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Mandatory recycling programs aren't good for posterity. They offer mainly short-term benefits to a few groups ~~—like~~ politicians and waste-handling corporations ~~—while~~ diverting money from genuine social and environmental problems. Recycling programs ~~actually~~ consume resources. They require extra administrators ~~and~~ a continual public relations campaign explaining what to do with dozens of different products ~~—~~ recycle milk jugs ~~but~~ not milk cartons, index cards ~~but~~ not construction paper. Collecting a ton of recyclable items is three times ~~more~~ expensive ~~than~~ collecting a ton of garbage ~~because~~ crews pick up less material at each stop. Recycling may be the most wasteful activity in the modern United States, a waste of time ~~and~~ money, a waste of human ~~and~~ natural resources.

Passage 1

Cloning creates serious issues of identity and individuality. The cloned person may experience concerns about his or her distinctive identity, not only because the person will be in genotype (genetic makeup) and appearance identical to another human being, but, in this case, because he or she may also be twin to the person who is the “father” or “mother”—if one can still call them that. What would be the psychic burdens of being the “child” or “parent” of your twin? The cloned individual, moreover, will be saddled with a genotype that has already lived. He or she will not be fully a surprise to the world.

People will likely always compare a clone’s performance in life with that of the original. True, a cloned person’s nurture and circumstances in life will be different; genotype is not exactly destiny. Still, one must also expect parental and other efforts to shape this new life after the original—or at least to view the child with the original vision always firmly in mind. Why else then would they clone from the star basketball player, mathematician, and beauty queen—or even dear old dad—in the first place?

Since the birth of Dolly, there has been a fair amount of doublespeak on this matter of genetic identity. Experts have rushed in to reassure the public that the clone would in no way be the same person, or have any confusions about his or her identity; they are pleased to point out that the clone of film star Julia Roberts would not be Julia Roberts. Fair enough. But one is shortchanging the truth by emphasizing the additional importance of the environment, rearing, and social setting: genotype obviously matters plenty. That, after all, is the only reason to clone, whether human beings or sheep. The odds that clones of basketball star Larry Bird will play basketball are, I submit, infinitely greater than they are for clones of jockey Willie Shoemaker.

Passage 2

Given all the brouhaha, you’d think it was crystal clear why cloning human beings is unethical. But what exactly is wrong with it? What would a clone be? Well, he or she would be a complete human being who happens to share the same genes with another person. Today, we call such people identical twins. To my knowledge no one has argued that twins are immoral. “You should treat all clones like you would treat all monozygous [identical] twins or triplets,” concludes Dr. H. Tristram Engelhardt, a professor of medicine at Baylor and a philosopher at Rice University. “That’s it.” It would be unethical to treat a human clone as anything other than a human being.

Some argue that the existence of clones would undermine the uniqueness of each human being. “Can individuality, identity, and dignity be severed from genetic distinctiveness, and from belief in a person’s open future?” asks political thinker George Will. Will and others have fallen under the sway of what one might call “genetic essentialism,” the belief that genes almost completely determine who a person is. But a person who is a clone would live in a very different world from that of his or her genetic predecessor. With greatly divergent experiences, their brains would be wired differently. After all, even twins who grow up together are separate people—distinct individuals with different personalities and certainly no lack of Will’s “individuality, identity, and dignity.”

But what about cloning exceptional human beings? George Will put it this way: “Suppose a clone of basketball star Michael Jordan, age 8, preferred violin to basketball? Is it imaginable? If so, would it be tolerable to the cloner?” Yes, it is imaginable, and the cloner would just have to put up with violin recitals. Kids are not commercial property. Overzealous parents regularly push their children into sports, music, and dance lessons, but given the stubborn nature of individuals, those parents rarely manage to make kids stick forever to something they hate. A ban on cloning wouldn’t abolish pushy parents.

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