

Directions: In this section, there is a passage with ten blanks. You are required to select one word for each blank from a list of choices given in a word bank following the passage. Read the passage through carefully before making your choices. Each choice in the bank is identified by a letter. Please mark the corresponding letter for each item on **Answer Sheet 2** with a single line through the centre. You may not use any of the words in the bank more than once.

Overall, men are more likely than women to make excuses. Several studies suggest that men feel the need to appear competent in all 26, while women worry only about the skills in which they've invested 27. Ask a man and a woman to go diving for the first time, and the woman is likely to jump in, while the man is likely to say he's not feeling too well.

Ironically, it is often success that leads people to flirt with failure. Praise won for 28 a skill suddenly puts one in the position of having everything to lose. Rather than putting their reputation on the line again, many successful people develop a handicap—drinking, 29, depression—that allows them to keep their status no matter what the future brings. An advertising executive 30 for depression shortly after winning an award put it this way: "Without my depression, I'd be a failure now; with it, I'm a success 'on hold.'"

In fact, the people most likely to become chronic excuse makers are those 31 with success. Such people are so afraid of being 32 a failure at anything that they constantly develop one handicap or another in order to explain away failure.

Though self-handicapping can be an effective way of coping with performance anxiety now and then, in the end, researchers say, it will lead to 33. In the long run, excuse makers fail to live up to their true 34 and lose the status they care so much about. And despite their protests to the 35, they have only themselves to blame.

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| A) contrary | I) momentum |
| B) fatigue | J) obsessed |
| C) heavily | K) potential |
| D) heaving | L) realms |
| E) hospitalized | M) reciprocal |
| F) labeled | N) ruin |
| G) legacies | O) viciously |
| H) mastering | |