

FTCE® - Quiz Questions with Answers

English Language Skills (ELS) (826)

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1.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

After she had drove the car that her father had found for her, she asked him to buy it for her.

had drove

had found

her

No error

Correct answer: had drove

This sentence contains a verb error. The verb “had” calls for the past participle form of the verb “drive,” which is “driven.”

All of the other answer choices are acceptable in standard written English. The answer choice “had found” is the past perfect form of the verb to indicate action completed in the past before the action of the verb in the main clause. The answer choice “her” is the object of the preposition “for.”

2.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper verb usage.

Ten hours is a long workday.

Ten hours have a long workday.

Ten hours are a long workday.

Ten hours have been a long workday.

Correct answer: Ten hours is a long workday.

The sentence that contains appropriate verb usage is: Ten hours is a long workday.

Sentences that contain nouns expressing time, distance, weight, and measurement are singular when they refer to a unit. The verb "is" is singular, while the verbs "have," "are," and "have been" are all plural.

3.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Visiting San Francisco for the first time, the sites most interesting to Justin were Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Palace of Fine Arts.

Visiting San Francisco for the first time, Justin was most interested in Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Palace of Fine Arts.

Visiting San Francisco for the first time, Justin found that the sites most interesting to him were Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Palace of Fine Arts.

Visiting San Francisco for the first time, Justin was most interested in the sites of Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Palace of Fine Arts.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Visiting San Francisco for the first time, Justin was most interested in Alcatraz Island, the Golden Gate Bridge, and the Palace of Fine Arts.

The sentence containing “Justin was most interested in” conveys the meaning with the least wordiness.

The initial sentence’s introductory participial phrase must be eliminated or followed immediately by the word modified. The other two sentence choices add words unnecessary to the meaning of the sentence.

4.

Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word below.

TRANQUIL

agitated

calm

serene

placid

Correct answer: agitated

The opposite of “tranquil” is “agitated.” The word “tranquil” means to be calm, serene, or placid. The word “agitated” is to be upset or disturbed.

5.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

In order to completely appreciate the effects of the process changes, one must measure and analyze the results of the affected area of the organization.

to completely appreciate

effects

affected

No error

Correct answer: to completely appreciate

“To completely appreciate” is incorrect, as the use of an infinitive “to appreciate” should never be split by any adverbial modifier “completely.”

The answer choice “effects” is used in the noun form, and the answer choice “affected,” is used in the adjective form.

6.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

Today's weather consisted of rain sleet snow, and hailstones.

Today's weather consisted of rain, sleet, snow, and hailstones.

Today's weather consisted of rain, sleet, snow and hailstones.

Today's weather, consisted of rain, sleet snow, and hailstones.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Today's weather consisted of rain, sleet, snow, and hailstones.

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: Today's weather consisted of rain, sleet, snow, and hailstones. The comma is used to separate words in a series and takes the place of the word "and" in the series. It is common to use a comma before the final item in a series (snow, and hailstones.); otherwise, the omission of the comma can be confusing.

The word "Today" is showing possession of the word "weather;" therefore, it needs an apostrophe "s."

7.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

The main purpose of deodorants, whether they come in the invisible or solid forms, is to keep your underarms dry.

No error

they come

invisible or solid forms

is

Correct answer: No error

This sentence does not contain an error. The identified answer options are all acceptable in standard written English. The pronoun “they” is plural to agree with its antecedent “deodorants,” and the verb “come” is also plural to agree with its subject “they.”

The answer option “invisible or solid forms” is idiomatic, and the verb “is” is singular to agree with its singular subject “purpose.”

8.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

The age of 18 having been reached, a United States citizen is eligible to vote.

At the age of 18, a United States citizen is eligible to vote.

The age of 18 being reached, a United States citizen is eligible to vote.

When having reached the age of 18, a United States citizen is eligible to vote.

No change is necessary.

Correct answer: At the age of 18, a United States citizen is eligible to vote.

The sentence containing “At the age of 18” eliminates the awkward participial phrase with its passive verb and clearly shows the desired relationship. The original sentence and the other two sentence choices all retain the awkward construction.

9.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream, salsa, and guacamole, hot ham and cheese sandwiches, and fried potatoes with bacon, onion, and garlic.

My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream, salsa, and guacamole; hot ham and cheese sandwiches; and fried potatoes with bacon, onion, and garlic.

My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream; salsa; and guacamole; hot ham and cheese sandwiches; and fried potatoes with bacon; onion; and garlic.

My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream salsa and guacamole, hot ham and cheese sandwiches, and fried potatoes with bacon onion and garlic.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream, salsa, and guacamole; hot ham and cheese sandwiches; and fried potatoes with bacon, onion, and garlic.

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: My favorite foods are tacos with sour cream, salsa, and guacamole; hot ham and cheese sandwiches; and fried potatoes with bacon, onion, and garlic.

A semicolon is used to separate groups of words that already contain commas and commas are used between items in a series. Since this sentence contains three different foods (groups), with varying ingredients (items in a series), the food groups need to be separated by semicolons while the varying ingredients need to be separated by commas.

10.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Director Rod West pointed out, however, that the board had not approved the proposed budget and bonus payouts had hanged on decisions to be made in a month.

had hanged

had not approved

to be made

No error

Correct answer: had hanged

The answer choice “had hanged” should be replaced with “hang.” The use of the past perfect indicates prior past action, but the decisions are not being made for another month. This sentence contains a series of events. First, the board “had not approved” the proposed budget; then, Director West “pointed out” this failure. Therefore, “had hanged” needs to be present tense as this situation still exists, and “to be made” is future action.

11.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper adverb usage.

The new mixer mixes well and runs quietly.

The new mixer mixes better and runs quietly.

The new mixer mixes well and runs more quietly.

The new mixer mixes better and runs most quietly.

Correct answer: The new mixer mixes well and runs quietly.

The sentence that contains appropriate adverb usage is: The new mixer mixes well and runs quietly.

The two adverbs in this sentence (well and quietly) are both in the positive form, while the other sentence options vary between positive, comparative, and superlative forms of adverbs.

12.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct capitalization option.

The Senator from Ohio is being interviewed on NBC tonight.

senator from Ohio ... NBC

Senator from Ohio ... nbc

senator from Ohio ... nbc

No change is necessary

Correct answer: senator from Ohio ... NBC

The correct answer choice is “senator from Ohio ... NBC.” According to the standard capitalization rules, a general term that stands alone or comes before the specific name is not capitalized. The call letters used for a TV station are capitalized.

13.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Bo Jackson was a man who was an American football and baseball player.

Bo Jackson was an American football and baseball player.

The man Bo Jackson was an American football and baseball player.

Bo Jackson, a man who was an American football and baseball player.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Bo Jackson was an American football and baseball player.

The sentence that contains “Bo Jackson was an American” makes the statement in the most direct way possible and represents correct standard use.

The original sentence contains the obvious and redundant words “was a man who.” The other two answer choices are also unnecessarily wordy.

14.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct word choice option.

The speaker cited a verse from the Bible at the site where the children were killed.

No change is necessary

cited ... cite

sited ... site

sited ... cite

Correct answer: No change is necessary

This sentence does not require any changes. The verb "cited" is used to show the speaker quoted a verse from a book. The noun "site" is used to show the location of the incident.

15.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Seeing as how the sun went down, wouldn't you prefer to go indoors for the remainder of the evening?

Since the sun went down, wouldn't you prefer to go indoors for the remainder of the evening?

When the sun goes down, wouldn't you prefer to go indoors for the remainder of the evening?

Being as the sun went down, wouldn't you prefer to go indoors for the remainder of the evening?

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Since the sun went down, wouldn't you prefer to go indoors for the remainder of the evening?

"Since the sun went down" shows correct time sequence and good reasoning.

"Seeing as how" and "Being as" are poor wording. "When" is the wrong time, logically, to go indoors for the remainder of the evening.

16.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

To teach a subject like math or science is one way to understand it; studying math or science is another.

To teach

like

is

No error

Correct answer: To teach

This sentence contains an error with parallelism. The answer choice “to teach” is not parallel with “studying.” “To teach” should be replaced with “Teaching” to make it a parallel clause.

The other answer choices all represent standard usage in written English. The preposition “like” is used to refer to the objects: “math” or “science.” The use of the singular verb “is” is used appropriately in the singular noun phrase.

17.

Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word below.

SUBTLE

obvious

delicate

shrewd

faint

Correct answer: obvious

The opposite of “subtle” is “obvious.” The word “subtle” is to be so slight as to be difficult to detect. The word “obvious” is to be easily perceived or detected.

18.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper pronoun usage.

The pizza the children had baked themselves tasted like charcoal.

The pizza the children had baked theirselves tasted like charcoal.

The pizza the children had baked theyselves tasted like charcoal.

The pizza the children had baked ourselves tasted like charcoal.

Correct answer: The pizza the children had baked themselves tasted like charcoal.

The sentence that contains appropriate pronoun usage is: The pizza the children had baked themselves tasted like charcoal. The reflexive pronoun “themselves” is used to rename the subject it refers to, which is “children.”

The words “theirselves” and “theyselves” are not recognized pronouns. The pronoun “ourselves” is used to reflect a direct object.

19.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper adjective usage.

The second game was more painful and longer to watch.

The second game was more painful and long to watch.

The second game was painful and longer to watch.

The second game was painful and long to watch.

Correct answer: The second game was more painful and longer to watch.

The sentence that contains appropriate adjective usage is: The second game was more painful and longer to watch. The two adjectives in this sentence (more painful and longer) are both in the comparative form, as they are comparing the second game to the first game.

The other sentence options contain varying forms of adjectives that do not agree with the noun that they are describing.

20.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting; "I caught it! I caught it!"

The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting, "I caught it! I caught it!"

The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting: "I caught it! I caught it!"

The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting; "I caught it! I caught it!"

No change is necessary

Correct answer: The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting, "I caught it! I caught it!"

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: The little boy sitting in front of me at the baseball game started shouting, "I caught it! I caught it!"

A comma is used to formally introduce a quotation, and the exclamation point should always be placed inside quotation marks when it punctuates the quotation and outside when it punctuates the main sentence.

21.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper pronoun usage.

He took her new car for a drive.

He took your new car for a drive.

You took her new car for a drive.

He took my new car for a drive.

Correct answer: He took her new car for a drive.

The sentence that contains appropriate pronoun usage is “He took her new car for a drive.” This sentence is the only option that uses the same point of view. “He” and “her” are both third person. “He” is third person, “your” is second person, “you” is second person, “her” is third person, and “my” is first person.

22.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise, after all, my husband can't keep a secret.

My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise; after all, my husband can't keep a secret.

My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise after all, my husband can't keep a secret.

My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise; after all my husband can't keep a secret.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise; after all, my husband can't keep a secret.

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: My birthday presents weren't exactly a surprise; after all, my husband can't keep a secret. A semicolon is used before a transitional phrase with a comma following it when the phrase connects two independent clauses in a compound sentence.

23.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Although Alisha developed an interest in winemaking, she does not grow grapes and has never fermented grape juice.

Although Alisha developed an interest in winemaking, she did not grow grapes and had never fermented grape juice.

Although Alisha developed an interest in winemaking, she hasn't ever grown grapes or having fermented grape juice.

Although Alisha developed an interest in winemaking, she will not grow grapes or fermented grape juice.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Although Alisha developed an interest in winemaking, she did not grow grapes and had never fermented grape juice.

The original sentence uses present tense, and past tense would better follow in sequence with the past tense verb “developed.” Past tense is used correctly in the answer choice that contains “she did not grow grapes and had never fermented grape juice.”

The other two sentence choices introduce unnecessary absolute phrases beginning with “it,” which makes the sentences wordy.

24.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper verb usage.

I heard that the planet Mars is red in color.

I heard that the planet Mars was red in color.

I heard that the planet Mars had been red in color.

I heard that the planet Mars would be red in color.

Correct answer: I heard that the planet Mars is red in color.

A present tense verb (is) should be used with statements of universal truth. The verb "was" is past tense, "had been" is past perfect tense, and "would be" is subjunctive mood.

25.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

Tony's sandwich consisted of an abundance of protein.

sandwich ... abundance ... protein

sandwich ... obundance ... protien

sandwich ... abundance ... protein

No change is necessary

Correct answer: sandwich ... abundance ... protein

The correct spelling option is "sandwich ... abundance ... protein." These are three commonly misspelled words.

When determining if the word "protein" should be spelled with an "ie" or an "ei," remember "i" before "e" except after "c" or when sounding as "a."

26.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper pronoun usage.

Clay himself washed the dishes.

Clay hisself washed the dishes.

Clay itself washed the dishes.

Clay myself washed the dishes.

Correct answer: Clay himself washed the dishes.

The sentence that contains appropriate pronoun usage is: Clay himself washed the dishes. The reflexive pronoun “himself” is used to rename the subject of an indirect object such as “Clay.”

The pronouns “myself” and “itself” are used to reflect direct objects, and “hissself” is not a recognized pronoun.

27.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Three-fourths of American teenagers are unsure of when World War II takes place.

Three-fourths of American teenagers are unsure of when World War II took place.

Three-fourths of American teenagers are unsure of when World War II had taken place.

Three-fourths of American teenagers are unsure of when World War II have taken place.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Three-fourths of American teenagers are unsure of when World War II took place.

This sentence requires the simple past tense verb “took” because World War II happened in a fixed time period in the past. The other sentence options fail that test.

The original sentence is present tense and does not logically fit the facts. The option containing “have taken place” is the present perfect tense, which suggests a continuous action from the past to the present. The option containing “had taken place” suggests a continuing action from one time in the past to another in the more recent past.

28.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

She did not call herself a singer, she told people she sang songs.

She did not call herself a singer; she told people she sang songs.

She, did not call herself a singer, she told people she sang songs.

She did not call herself a singer she told people she sang songs.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: She did not call herself a singer; she told people she sang songs.

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: She did not call herself a singer; she told people she sang songs. A semicolon is used to join two or more closely related independent clauses not connected with a coordinating conjunction.

29.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Young children often protest about the shoveling of snow in the winter months.

Young children often protest the shoveling of snow in the winter months.

Young children often protest whether they should shovel snow in the winter months.

Young children often protest whether or not they should shovel snow in the winter months.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Young children often protest the shoveling of snow in the winter months.

The sentence containing “the shoveling of” is the best choice, because it avoids awkward wordiness and use of the unnecessary preposition “about.”

The other sentence options include unnecessary words, and two of them use the pronoun “they” that has no clear antecedent.

30.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Some pieces of the material, in spite of Betty's ironing, are still wrinkled and probably will never be smooth.

No change is necessary

Some pieces of the material, in spite of Betty's ironing, is wrinkled still but never smoothed.

Some pieces of the material, in spite of Betty's ironing, probably will be wrinkly and never smooth.

Some pieces of the material, in spite of Betty's ironing, are still probably wrinkly and to never be smooth.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence is correct. It has two concepts: pieces are wrinkled and pieces will probably never be smooth.

The answer choice that contains "is wrinkled still" contains a singular verb "is." The answer choice that contains "probably will be wrinkly" indicates that the pieces "probably will be" wrinkled, which is not the problem. The answer choice that contains "are still probably wrinkly" indicates that the pieces are "probably" wrinkled, which is illogical because the pieces either are or are not wrinkled.

31.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Many of the gas stations have not reduced their gas prices in spite of the fact that the cost of crude oil has decreased significantly.

Many of the gas stations have not reduced their gas prices even though the cost of crude oil has decreased significantly.

Many of the gas stations have not reduced their gas prices even in view of the fact that the cost of crude oil has decreased significantly.

Many of the gas stations have not reduced their gas prices when it was clear that the cost of crude oil has decreased significantly.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Many of the gas stations have not reduced their gas prices even though the cost of crude oil has decreased significantly.

The original sentence choice, along with the sentences containing “even though” and “even in view of the fact that” are all good candidates. However, the sentence choice containing “even though” clearly makes its point in fewer words and is the best choice.

The sentence choice containing “when it was clear that” does not as strongly indicate the contrast between the two clauses as the other choices.

32.

Read the passage, then identify which sentence is irrelevant.

Sentence 3

Sentence 2

Sentence 4

Sentence 1

Correct answer: Sentence 3

Sentence 3 is an irrelevant sentence. How long Courtney and her boyfriend have been dating does not have any relevance to her pregnancy, the topic of this paragraph.

33.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper verb usage.

My trousers are too small again.

My trousers is too small again.

My trousers was too small again.

My trousers has become too small again.

Correct answer: My trousers are too small again.

The sentence that contains appropriate verb usage is: My trousers are too small again. Some sentences that contain nouns that are plural in form but singular in meaning (trousers) take a plural verb (are). The verbs “is,” “was,” and “has become” are all singular.

34.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

Hershey, our energetic chocolate lab, joined our family when he was eight weeks old.

No change is necessary

Hershey, our energetic chocolate lab; joined our family when he was eight weeks old.

Hershey our energetic chocolate lab, joined our family when he was eight weeks old.

Hershey, our energetic chocolate lab joined our family when he was eight weeks old.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence is punctuated correctly. Commas are used to set off appositives, which are explanatory words or phrases (our energetic chocolate lab).

The sentence does not require the use of a semicolon because it does not contain two independent clauses in need of joined, traditional phrases or separate groups that contain commas.

35.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Only with continuous home improvement projects can we renovate the house we live in.

Only with continuous home improvement projects can we renovate the house in which we live.

Only with continuous home improvement projects can we renovate the house in which we live in.

Only with continuous home improvement projects can we renovate the living in this house.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Only with continuous home improvement projects can we renovate the house in which we live.

The sentence ending with “house in which we live” is the correct answer.

Since the sentence should not end with a preposition, sentences ending with “house we live in” and “house in which we live in” are eliminated. The sentence ending with “living in this house” introduces a new concept and should be eliminated.

36.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

The county engineers decided to install medians so as to discourage drivers from turning left.

The county engineers decided to install medians to discourage drivers from turning left.

The county engineers decided to install medians with the desire to discourage drivers from turning left.

The county engineers decided to install medians thereby discouraging drivers from turning left.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: The county engineers decided to install medians to discourage drivers from turning left.

The sentence containing “to discourage” adequately conveys the reason for installing the medians with the least wordiness.

The original sentence and the sentence containing “with the desire to discourage” both contain unnecessary words. The sentence containing “thereby discouraging” has a dangling participial phrase.

37.

Choose the word that is similar in meaning to the word below.

LUCID

articulate

disjointed

incoherent

illogical

Correct answer: articulate

The word similar to “lucid” is “articulate.” The word “lucid” is defined as one who is easily understood.

The words “disjointed,” “incoherent,” and “illogical” are all opposite in meaning to the word “lucid.”

38.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper verb usage.

Alisha wore the coat that she had purchased.

Alisha wore the coat that she was purchasing.

Alisha wore the coat that she is purchasing.

Alisha wore the coat that she would have purchased.

Correct answer: Alisha wore the coat that she had purchased.

The sentence that contains appropriate verb usage is: Alisha wore the coat that she had purchased. A past perfect tense verb (had purchased) should be used for an earlier action mentioned in a later action. First, Alisha purchased it, then she wore it.

39.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct word choice option.

All of the department managers excepted the invitation to the meeting accept one.

accepted ... except

excepted ... except

accepted ... accept

No change is necessary

Correct answer: accepted ... except

The correct answer choice is “accepted ... except.” The verb “accepted” is used to show the department managers “took the offer” to attend the meeting. The preposition “except” is used to show that everyone but one agreed to attend the meeting.

40.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper pronoun usage.

We adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing.

Us adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing.

Them adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing.

Whom adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing.

Correct answer: We adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing.

The sentence that contains appropriate pronoun usage is: We adults enjoyed the historical movie that was playing. The nominative pronoun “we” is used when it is the subject of the sentence. The objective pronouns “us,” “them,” and “whom” are used when they are the direct object of a sentence.

41.

Read the passage, then identify which sentence is irrelevant.

Sentence 4

Sentence 1

Sentence 3

Sentence 5

Correct answer: Sentence 4

Sentence 4 is an irrelevant sentence. The writer of the passage is ignoring the issue. The writer argues that: "Sharon is a smart nurse, therefore, she will not get the flu." The writer believes that just because Sharon is smart, she will not get the flu; however, Sharon's smartness may or may not prevent her from getting the flu.

42.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

The beliefs upon which European religion is built are formed from Christianity and not ones derived from the Muslim religion.

No error

upon which

is built

are

Correct answer: No error

This sentence does not contain an error.

The prepositional phrase "upon which" is correct. The phrase "is built" agrees with its subject, "religion." The word "are" agrees with its subject, "beliefs."

43.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Unless John learns to control his speeding habit, he would still have more speeding tickets.

Unless John learns to control his speeding habit, he will still have more speeding tickets.

Unless John learns to control his speeding habit, he might have had still more speeding tickets.

Unless John learns to control his speeding habit, he would have still more speeding tickets.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Unless John learns to control his speeding habit, he will still have more speeding tickets.

The correct sentence contains “will still have.” This choice uses the correct tense, indicating future action.

The other sentence choices do not show the correct future verb construction.

44.

Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word below.

WANE

wax

diminish

decrease

fade

Correct answer: wax

The opposite of “wane” is “wax.” The word “wane” is to decrease, diminish, fade, or decline in size, amount, intensity, or degree.

The word “wax” is to increase gradually in size, amount, intensity, or degree.

45.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

Tom decided to seceed his membership from the club in order to have more liesure time.

secede ... leisure

sesede ... liesure

succeed ... leisure

No change is necessary

Correct answer: secede ... leisure

The correct answer choice is “secede ... leisure.” The verb “secede” is used to show that Tom is withdrawing his membership from the club. There are only three words in the English language that end in –ceed: proceed, succeed, and exceed.

When determining if words should be spelled with an “ie” or an “ei,” remember “i” before “e” except after “c” or when sounding as “a.”

46.

Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word below.

VIRULENT

gentle

infectious

strong

spiteful

Correct answer: gentle

The opposite of “virulent” is “gentle.” The word “virulent” is to be extremely infectious, harmful, poisonous, or hostile. The word “gentle” is to be soft or gentle, not harsh or severe.

47.

Read the passage, then identify which sentence is irrelevant.

Sentence 4

Sentence 1

Sentence 2

Sentence 3

Correct answer: Sentence 4

Sentence 4 is irrelevant to the passage. The writer of the passage leaps to the wrong conclusion: "Jordan has lived in Australia for three years; he must see kangaroos all the time."

Just because kangaroos are widespread in Australia and Jordan lives in Australia does not mean he must see kangaroos all the time.

48.

Choose the word that is similar in meaning to the word below.

AUSTERE

severe

placid

moderate

temperate

Correct answer: severe

The word similar to “austere” is “severe.” The word “austere” is defined as one who is strict or severe in discipline.

The words “placid,” “moderate,” and “temperate” are all opposite in meaning to the word “austere.”

49.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

The happyness shared with the children was unforgettable.

happiness ... unforgettable

happyness ... unforgettable

happyness ... unforgettable

No change is necessary

Correct answer: happiness ... unforgettable

The correct spelling option is “happiness ... unforgettable.” These are two commonly misspelled words.

When “y” is the last letter in a word (happy) and is preceded by a consonant, change the “y” to “i” before adding any suffix except those beginning with “i.” When a multi-syllable word (forget) ends in a consonant (t) preceded by one vowel (e), the accent is on the last syllable and the final consonant should be doubled.

50.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

During the blizzard, the family nailed a piece of plywood to the opening of the barn, and they thereby blocked the animals from the snow and wind.

During the blizzard, the family nailed a piece of plywood to the opening of the barn, thereby blocking the animals from the snow and wind.

During the blizzard, the family nailed a piece of plywood to the opening of the barn, by which the snow and wind were therefore blocked from the animals.

During the blizzard, the family nailed a piece of plywood to the opening of the barn and therefore blocking the animals from the snow and wind.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: During the blizzard, the family nailed a piece of plywood to the opening of the barn, thereby blocking the animals from the snow and wind.

The sentence containing “barn, thereby blocking the animals from the snow and wind” is the shortest and clearest of all the choices.

The original sentence is too wordy. The sentence containing “barn, by which the snow and wind were therefore blocked from the animals” complicates the idea unnecessarily. The sentence containing “barn and therefore blocking the animals from the snow and wind” does not use the appropriate conjunctive adverb; “thereby” is more precise than “therefore” when referring to an event.

51.

Choose the word that is **opposite** in meaning to the word below.

CORDIAL

aloof

pleasant

genial

warm

Correct answer: aloof

The opposite of "cordial" is "aloof." The word "cordial" is one who is warm, pleasant, genial, and sincere. The word "aloof" is one who is distant or reserved.

52.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Whether the students actually passed the exam or did not pass the exam remains uncertain, but they all studied hard.

That the students actually passed the exam remains uncertain, but they all studied hard.

Whether in actuality the students passed the exam or not remains uncertain, but they all studied hard.

That the students may actually have passed the exam remains uncertain, but they all studied hard.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: That the students actually passed the exam remains uncertain, but they all studied hard.

The original sentence presents an incomplete comparison and redundancy: "Whether," "or did not," and "remains uncertain." The sentence choice beginning with "That the students actually passed the exam" eliminates both problems clearly.

The sentence choice that starts with "Whether in actuality the students passed the exam or not" is just as unclear as the original sentence. The sentence choice that starts with "That the students may actually have passed the exam" contains a clearer syntax, but still contains redundancy: "may actually have" and "remains uncertain."

53.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

In the last two decades, we have added more varieties of grapes to our vineyard than those you recommended in the beginning.

No change is necessary

In the last two decades, we have added more varieties of grapes to our vineyard than the ones we began with.

In the last two decades, we have added more varieties of grapes to our vineyard beginning with your suggestion.

In the last two decades, we have added more varieties of grapes to our vineyard which you recommended in the beginning.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence is correct. The use of “than those” clarifies the fact that more grape varieties have been added.

The sentences containing “your suggestion” and “which” do not contain the idea of adding more varieties of grapes. The sentence containing “than the ones we began with” ends with a redundant preposition.

54.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

The little girl showed a likness to the godess in the story.

likeness ... goddess

likness ... godess

likeness ... godess

No change is necessary

Correct answer: likeness ... goddess

The correct spelling option is "likeness ... goddess." These are two commonly misspelled words.

If a word ends with a silent "e" (like), do not drop the "e" when the suffix begins with a consonant (ness). When a one-syllable word (god) ends in a consonant (d) preceded by one vowel (o), double the final consonant before adding a suffix that begins with a vowel (ess).

55.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

In 1998, Queen Ruby of Paradise Island, along with her family, were saved from a tropical storm by a passing ship headed for dry land.

were saved

along with

for

No error

Correct answer: were saved

“Were saved” is a plural verb; since the subject is Queen Ruby, a singular proper noun, the verb should be “was saved.”

The intervening phrase of “along with her family” does not change the singular subject. The word “for” is idiomatically correct in this particular sentence.

56.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Safety in work environments can sometimes be related more to compassion than to lawsuits.

No change is necessary

Safety in work environments can sometimes be related more to compassion as well as lawsuits.

Safety in work environments can often be related to compassion as to lawsuits.

Safety in work environments can be related more to compassion rather than to lawsuits.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence reads well and is perfectly balanced.

The sentence choice that contains “sometimes be related more to compassion as well as lawsuits” introduces an incomplete comparison: “more” but no “than.” The sentence choice that contains “often be related to compassion as to lawsuits” awkwardly uses “as to.” The sentence choice that contains “be related more to compassion rather than to lawsuits” is scrambled by the introduction of illogical structure.

57.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

When additional orders are placed during the holidays, temporary employees are hired, and they do this to keep the orders from being late.

When additional orders are placed during the holidays, temporary employees are hired to keep the orders from being late.

When additional orders are placed during the holidays, temporary employees are hired, and then their orders won't be late.

When additional orders are placed during the holidays, temporary employees are hired, and they keep their orders from being late.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: When additional orders are placed during the holidays, temporary employees are hired to keep the orders from being late.

The sentence that contains "to keep the orders from being late" correctly expresses the reason for the temporary employees being hired.

The original sentence and the other two answer choices contain "and," which suggests the two clauses joined by "and" are equal and does not show the subordinate relationship of the second to the first. These three answer choices also contain the ambiguous pronouns "they" or "their," for which there is no antecedent and fails to show the relationship of the ideas expressed.

58.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

And, since your father does not have the keys (he told me when he called), you'll have to call your sister to see if she has them.

No change is necessary

And, since your father does not have the keys (He told me when he called.), you'll have to call your sister to see if she has them.

And, since your father does not have the keys (he told me when he called,) you'll have to call your sister to see if she has them.

And, since your father does not have the keys (he told me when he called); you'll have to call your sister to see if she has them.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence is punctuated correctly.

Parentheses are used when placing a full sentence within another sentence, but it is not capitalized, nor is a period placed inside the parentheses. A comma, instead of a semicolon, is used to set off the introductory clause: "since your father does not have the keys."

59.

Choose the word that is similar in meaning to the word below.

CRAVEN**cowardly**

confident

intrepid

audacious

Correct answer: cowardly

The word similar to “craven” is “cowardly.” The word “craven” is defined as one who acts cowardly. The words “confident,” “intrepid,” and “audacious” are all opposite in meaning to the word “craven.”

60.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct word choice option.

Justin's ascent of the rock wall required his mother's assent.

No change is necessary

ascent ... ascent

assent ... assent

assent ... ascent

Correct answer: No change is necessary

This sentence does not require any changes.

The noun "ascent" is used to show Justin climbed the rock wall. The noun "assent" is used to show Justin received his mother's consent to climb the rock wall.

61.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct capitalization option.

It has been rumored that the Ice Age started during the Winter months.

Ice Age ... winter

ice age ... winter

ice age ... Winter

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Ice Age ... winter

The correct answer choice is "Ice Age ... winter." According to the standard capitalization rules, historical periods should be capitalized, but seasons should not be capitalized.

62.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

In *French Kiss*, Meg Ryan portrays a woman with aviophobia who overcomes her fear and flies across the world to save her relationship inadvertently falling in love with a Frenchman.

In *French Kiss*, Meg Ryan portrays a woman with aviophobia who overcomes her fear and flies across the world to save her relationship and inadvertently falls in love with a Frenchman.

In *French Kiss*, Meg Ryan portrays a woman with aviophobia who overcomes her fear and flies across the world to save her relationship afterward she inadvertently falls in love with a Frenchman.

In *French Kiss*, Meg Ryan portrays a woman with aviophobia who overcomes her fear and flies across the world to save her relationship when she inadvertently falls in love with a Frenchman.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: In French Kiss, Meg Ryan portrays a woman with aviophobia who overcomes her fear and flies across the world to save her relationship and inadvertently falls in love with a Frenchman.

The correct sentence has a compound verb “overcomes” and “falls in love.” The woman overcomes her fear first, then meets and falls in love with the Frenchman.

The original sentence has a misplaced participial phrase and sounds as if either her fear or her relationship is in love with the Frenchman. The sentence containing “afterward she inadvertently falls in love with” produces a run-on sentence. The sentence choice containing “when she inadvertently falls in love with” has an unclear tense.

63.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct capitalization option.

President Bush is registered as a Republican.

No change is necessary

president Bush ... Republican

president Bush ... republican

President Bush ... republican

Correct answer: No change is necessary

This sentence does not require any changes.

According to the standard capitalization rules, an official title used with a name is capitalized and political groups are capitalized.

64.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

When my mother and I saw the new doctor, we wished that both of us could be a patient of his.

a patient

I

we

No error

Correct answer: a patient

This sentence contains a nominative agreement error. The word “patient” is a predicate nominative in the subordinate noun clause, and it must agree in number with the plural subject of the clause, the pronoun “both” to which it refers. Therefore, the noun clause should read: “that both of us could be patients of his.”

The pronoun, “I,” is part of the compound subject of the introductory adverb clause and is used appropriately. The plural pronoun, “we,” agrees with its compound antecedent, “mother and I,” and is in the nominative case because it is the subject of the verb “wished.”

65.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Having maximum exposure to video games when they were children, most college students chose to play sports than to play video games.

chose

Having maximum exposure

to play video games

No error

Correct answer: chose

This sentence contains an error with past verb tense. The answer choice “chose” should be replaced with “choose.” The context clue “most college students” “were” is in the past, which suggests they no longer do so now. They must then “choose” what they do now.

The answer choice “Having maximum exposure” is questionable, but the present participial phrase suggests coincidence with the time “most college students” “were children.” It is, therefore, correct. The answer choice “to play video games” is correctly an infinitive that is parallel to “to play sports.”

66.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Because he is recognized as the first man to walk on the moon, Neal Armstrong is seldom recognized today for being a university professor and an officer in the U.S. Navy.

No change is necessary

Owing to the fact that he was recognized for walking on the moon, Neal Armstrong is seldom recognized today for being a university professor and an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Having walked on the moon that was recognized, Neal Armstrong is seldom recognized today for being a university professor and an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Being the astronaut of the recognized first walk on the moon, Neal Armstrong is seldom recognized today for being a university professor and an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence is correct in standard written English.

The sentence starting with "Owing to the fact" introduces unnecessary words that add nothing to the meaning and make the sentence awkward and wordy. The other two sentence choices are awkward and unnecessarily wordy.

67.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Her antipathy with heights made crossing a bridge an unpleasant experience for her and one that she tried to evade.

with

for her

one

No error

Correct answer: with

This sentence contains an idiomatic error. The appropriate preposition to follow “antipathy” is “to,” not “with.”

The other answer options are acceptable in standard written English. The prepositional phrase, “for her,” is modifying “experience.” The pronoun “one” is appropriate to refer to its antecedent “experience.”

68.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper pronoun usage.

The people who voted for the new law were happy when it passed.

The people which voted for the new law were happy when it passed.

The people that voted for the new law were happy when it passed.

The people where voted for the new law were happy when it passed.

Correct answer: The people who voted for the new law were happy when it passed.

The sentence that contains appropriate pronoun usage is: The people who voted for the new law were happy when it passed. The relative pronoun “who” is used to refer to people, “which” is used to refer to things and places, “where” is used to refer to places, and “that” is used to refer to places or things.

69.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct word choice option.

Maria's father adviced her to save money for vacation, but she did not listen to the advise she was given.

advised ... advice

adviced ... advise

adviced ... advice

No change is necessary

Correct answer: advised ... advice

The correct answer choice is "advised ... advice." The verb "advised" is used to show Maria's father counseled her on the need to save money. The noun "advice" is used to show Maria didn't listen to her father's opinion on what to do.

70.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper adjective usage.

The youngest sister is the nicest and most helpful of all.

The youngest sister is the nice and more helpful of all.

The youngest sister is the nicer and most helpful of all.

The younger sister is the nicest and more helpful than the older sister.

Correct answer: The youngest sister is the nicest and most helpful of all.

The sentence that contains appropriate adjective usage is: The youngest sister is the nicest and most helpful of all.

The three adjectives in this sentence (youngest, nicest, and most helpful) are all in superlative form, while the other sentence options vary between positive, comparative, and superlative forms of adjectives.

71.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct capitalization option.

A pilot flew a Boeing 707 over Eastern Europe.

Boeing 707 ... eastern Europe

boeing 707 ... Eastern Europe

boeing 707 ... eastern Europe

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Boeing 707 ... eastern Europe

The correct answer choice is “Boeing 707 ... eastern Europe.” According to the standard capitalization rules, names of aircraft and regions of countries should be capitalized in specific instances.

72.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Although she had lived in the desert and she had been neither a swimmer or a surfer, Darla caught on quickly when she moved to the ocean.

or

had lived

had been

No error

Correct answer: or

This sentence contains an error with the correlative conjunction. The correlative conjunction that should follow “neither” is “nor,” not “or.”

The other answer choices all represent standard usage in written English. The answer choice “had lived” is idiomatically acceptable, and the answer choice “had been” is in the past perfect tense to indicate that the actions occurred before the action mentioned in the main clause.

73.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

The items on the agenda for the school meeting is identifying drug use and counseling drug abusers, so the meeting will focus on drugs.

is

counseling

will focus

No error

Correct answer: is

The use of the singular verb “is” is incorrect. The plural verb “are” should be used in order to agree with the compound subject, “identifying” and “counseling.”

The answer choice “counseling” is parallel with “identifying.” The answer choice “will focus” is idiomatically correct.

74.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Refusing to eat because the person is sick is understandable; to refuse because he or she is trying to lose weight is not.

to refuse

is

he or she

No error

Correct answer: to refuse

This sentence contains an error in parallelism. The answer choice “to refuse” should be replaced with “refusing.” Because “refusing” is a gerund, the infinitive to “refuse” should be replaced with “refusing” to make the construction parallel.

The verb “is” agrees in number with its subject “refusing.” The answer choice “he or she” is singular to agree with its antecedent, “person,” and indicates no sexual preference.

75.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Employees who do the same job every day often tire of the continual repetitious work that they perform.

continual

who

that

No error

Correct answer: continual

This sentence contains an error with an adjective used in place of an adverb. The word “continually” is needed to modify the adjective “repetitious;” “continual” is an adjective and does not correctly modify another adjective.

The other answer choices all represent standard usage in written English. The pronoun “who” correctly refers to its antecedent “employees;” and the pronoun “that” correctly refers to its antecedent “work.”

76.

Read the passage, then identify which sentence is irrelevant.

Sentence 5

Sentence 1

Sentence 3

Sentence 4

Correct answer: Sentence 5

Sentence 5 is an irrelevant sentence. The writer of the passage is arguing against a person, not an idea. The writer argues that: "Reese will not be able to hold a job because he is too lazy to work." The fact is, Reese may be able to hold a job when he starts earning money, but for now, he knows that his mom will ask his brother if he ignores her.

77.

Read the passage, then identify which sentence is irrelevant.

Sentence 4

Sentence 2

Sentence 3

Sentence 5

Correct answer: Sentence 4

Sentence 4 is an irrelevant sentence. This passage discusses Gary's current financial and health-related conditions. His parents' property has nothing to do with Gary's situation and is, therefore, irrelevant to this particular paragraph.

78.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Now the cashiers, doing more than checking out customers, must help to make displays for end caps, signs for damaged merchandise, and spacing for new merchandise.

spacing for

to make

damaged

No error

Correct answer: spacing for

The answer choice “spacing for” needs to be replaced with “space for” in order to complete the parallelism: “displays for,” “signs for,” and “space for.”

“To make” is an infinitive phrase followed by noun objects: “displays” and “signs.” The answer choice “damaged” is used as a participle to modify merchandise.

79.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

If you are disappointed by the standard cellphone, then you may want to get a job and save your money for a more advanced smartphone.

disappointed by

save

more advanced

No error

Correct answer: disappointed by

The use of “disappointed by” is incorrect, as one is “disappointed by” a person or action but is “disappointed in” something that is not satisfactory.

The answer choice “save” is parallel with “get.” The answer choice “more advanced” is comparing the two types of phones.

80.

Read the sentence then choose the correct spelling option.

The hygiene habits of the new employee were unacceptable.

hygiene ... unacceptable

hygene ... unacceptible

higiene ... unacceptable

No change is necessary

Correct answer: hygiene ... unacceptable

The correct spelling option is “hygiene ... unacceptable.” These are two commonly misspelled words.

81.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Which restaurant is the most expensive, the Spaghetti Warehouse in Columbus or the Crab Shack in Daytona?

most expensive

is

or

No error

Correct answer: most expensive

This sentence contains an error in comparison. The comparison of two restaurants requires the comparative form “more expensive.”

All of the other answer options are acceptable in standard written English. The verb “is” agrees with its singular subject “restaurant,” and the conjunction “or” is used to join the names of the two restaurants.

82.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices contains an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

A wealthy and influential man, Bob Jones was a carpenter before he became president of the corporation upon the marriage to his wife.

was

A wealthy and influential

upon the marriage

No error

Correct answer: was

In this sentence, two past actions are mentioned: “was” and “before.” The first past action “was” should be indicated by past perfect tense and replaced with “had been.”

The answer choice “A wealthy and influential” contains two adjectives as part of an appositive phrase modifying the subject and is used appropriately. The answer choice “upon the marriage” is idiomatically correct.

83.

Choose the word that is similar in meaning to the word below.

PAROCHIAL

narrow

tolerant

permissive

modern

Correct answer: narrow

The word similar to “parochial” is “narrow.” The word “parochial” is defined as one who has a narrow or restricted outlook.

The words “tolerant,” “permissive,” and “modern” are all opposite in meaning to the word “parochial.”

84.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

As you are aware, I am easily swayed by dark chocolate, and while milk chocolate pleases you, it is not as healthy.

As you are aware, I am easily swayed by dark chocolate, and while milk chocolate is pleasing, it is not as healthy.

As you are aware, I am easily swayed by dark chocolate, and while milk chocolate pleases a person, it is not as healthy.

As you are aware, I am easily swayed by dark chocolate, and while milk chocolate pleases people, it is not as healthy.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: As you are aware, I am easily swayed by dark chocolate, and while milk chocolate is pleasing, it is not as healthy.

The sentence is written in the first person point of view with “I,” so the sentence choice containing “milk chocolate is pleasing” is the only possible correct answer.

The original sentence and the other two answer choices all contain a noun or pronoun that is not consistent with “I”: “you,” “a person,” and “people.”

85.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Some employers make a weightier effort to lecture their employees about the mistakes being made than training them how to do their job correctly.

training

weightier

their

No error

Correct answer: training

This sentence contains an error in parallelism. The answer choice “training” should be replaced with “to train,” an infinitive parallel with “to lecture.” Both infinitives modify the noun “effort.”

The other answer choices all represent standard usage in written English. The answer choice “weightier” is the comparative form of the adjective, correctly used to compare two items. The answer choice “their” is a plural possessive pronoun agreeing in number with its plural antecedent “employers.”

86.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper verb usage.

Nine divided by three equals three.

Three subtracted from nine equal six.

Nine divided by three equal three.

Three subtract from nine equal six.

Correct answer: Nine divided by three equals three.

The sentence that contains appropriate verb usage is: Nine divided by three equals three.

Sentences that contain mathematical expressions of subtraction and division require singular verbs (equals). Sentences that contain mathematical expressions of addition and multiplication take either singular or plural verbs (equals or equal).

87.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct punctuation option.

The children were supposed to have school today but it snowed during the night.

The children were supposed to have school today, but it snowed during the night.

The children, were supposed to have school today, but it snowed, during the night.

The children were supposed to have school today but it snowed, during the night.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: The children were supposed to have school today, but it snowed during the night.

The sentence that uses punctuation correctly is: The children were supposed to have school today, but it snowed during the night. A comma needs to be used when a sentence contains more than two subjects and verbs, and the two clauses are joined by a conjunction (but).

The other two sentence options contain unnecessary comma use, as they are not being used for purpose, clarity, or effect.

88.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Both professional and amateur botanists, individuals that study plants, know the scientific or general names of plants.

Both professional and amateur botanists, individuals who study plants, know the scientific or general names of plants.

Both professional and amateur botanists, individuals which study plants, know the scientific or general names of plants.

Both professional and amateur botanists, the study of plants, know the scientific or general names of plants.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Both professional and amateur botanists, individuals who study plants, know the scientific or general names of plants.

The sentence containing “individuals who study plants” is correct, as it correctly uses the personal relative pronoun “who.”

The sentence containing “the study of plants” can be eliminated, as either an inappropriate or awkward appositive to “botany” instead of “botanists.” The original sentence contains the relative pronoun “that,” which should be used when relating to objects, not individuals. The sentence containing “individuals which study plants” tends to be limited to nonrestrictive clauses, unlike this one.

89.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Because of the jalapeños and Cajun pepper, neither Sandy nor Barb were especially fond of the chili soup.

were

neither

nor

No error

Correct answer: were

This sentence contains an error in subject-verb agreement. A compound subject joined by “or” or “neither ... nor” calls for a verb that agrees in number with the second part of the compound subject, which, in this sentence, is singular. The correct choice is the verb “was,” not “were.”

All of the other answer choices are acceptable in standard written English. The answer choices “neither” and “nor” are correlative conjunctions.

90.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct word choice option.

Sarah's plans to marry John were altered during the recitation of her vows at the altar.

altered ... altar

altared ... alter

altared ... altar

No change is necessary

Correct answer: altered ... altar

The correct answer choice is "altered ... altar." The verb "altered" is used to show Sarah changed her plans to marry John. The noun "altar" is used to show that Sarah and John were standing in front of the stand, used in religious rites, stating their vows.

91.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct capitalization option.

The girl scouts identified the Big Dipper on their camping trip.

Girl Scouts ... Big Dipper

girl scouts ... big dipper

Girl Scouts ... big dipper

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Girl Scouts ... Big Dipper

The correct answer choice is "Girl Scouts ... Big Dipper." According to the standard capitalization rules, organizations and astronomical bodies should be capitalized.

92.

Read the sentence, then determine which of the answer choices is an error in diction, usage, idiom, or grammar.

Understanding that we had saved our money to buy the game system, our parents told Judy and I that they would buy a game for it.

I

understanding

had saved

No error

Correct answer: I

This sentence contains an error in the nominative case. The word "I" should be replaced with "me" because the words "Judy" and "I" serve as indirect objects in the sentence, and the pronoun should be in the first person objective form.

"Understanding" is a participle introducing an introductory participial phrase, which is modifying "parents." The verb "had saved" is in the past perfect tense because the action in the phrase was done before the action in the main clause happened.

93.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

There new marketing idea was brilliant.

Their ... brilliant

There ... brilliant

They're ... brilliant

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Their ... brilliant

The correct spelling option is "Their ... brilliant." These are two commonly misspelled words. The word "their" is the possessive form of "they." The word "there" is used to show a place or introduce a clause or sentence. The word "they're" is the contraction for "they are."

94.

Choose the word that is similar in meaning to the word below.

SUNDER**separate**

joint

enroll

reach

Correct answer: separate

The word similar to “sunder” is “separate.” The word “sunder” means to break or wrench apart.

The words “joint,” “enroll,” and “reach” are all opposite in meaning to the word “sunder.”

95.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Having command of her voice, body, as well as audience, Carrie Underwood received the CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

Because of her command of voice, body, and audience, Carrie Underwood received the CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

Having command of voice, body, and her audience, Carrie Underwood received the CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

With her command of voice and body and her audience, Carrie Underwood received the CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Because of her command of voice, body, and audience, Carrie Underwood received the CMA Entertainer of the Year award.

The sentence containing “Because of her command of voice, body, and audience” clearly shows the cause and contains three parallel nouns.

The original sentence contains an inadequate causal relationship and non-parallel structure. The sentence containing “With her command of voice and body and her audience” is unnecessarily wordy. The sentence containing “Having command of voice, body, and her audience” is not parallel.

96.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Being that you have more furniture than I do, it is only fitting you should have the bigger bedroom.

Because you have more furniture than I do, it is only fitting you should have the bigger bedroom.

When more furniture is owned by you than me, it is only fitting you should have the bigger bedroom.

If you are moving in more furniture than me, it is only fitting you should have the bigger bedroom.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Because you have more furniture than I do, it is only fitting you should have the bigger bedroom.

“Because” is the correct word to use in the cause-and-effect relationship in this sentence.

“Being that” and “than me” are not grammatically correct. “Is owned by you” is in the passive voice and not as direct as “Because you have.”

97.

Choose the sentence option that demonstrates proper adverb usage.

The valedictorian studied hard but tested well.

The valedictorian studied more hardly but tested well.

The valedictorian studied most hard but tested better.

The valedictorian studied hardly but tested best.

Correct answer: The valedictorian studied hard but tested well.

The sentence that contains appropriate adverb usage is: The valedictorian studied hard but tested well.

The two adverbs in this sentence (hard and well) are both in positive form, while the other sentence options vary between positive, comparative, and superlative forms of adverbs.

98.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

When she reached the age of 21, the American college student Tanya Jones took her first airplane ride to Las Vegas, Nevada.

No change is necessary

The age of 21 having been reached, the American college student Tanya Jones took her first airplane ride to Las Vegas, Nevada.

When having reached the age of 21, the American college student Tanya Jones took her first airplane ride to Las Vegas, Nevada.

At 21, when she reached that age, the American college student Tanya Jones took her first airplane ride to Las Vegas, Nevada.

Correct answer: No change is necessary

The original sentence shows clearly that the cause-effect relationship is, rather, a time relationship.

The sentence choices containing “The age of 21 having been reached” and “When having reached the age of 21” both suggest causal relationships between the parts of the sentence that do not belong. The sentence choice containing “At 21, when she reached that age” has garbled syntax.

99.

Read the sentence, then choose the correct spelling option.

JoAnn was able to excede her ten-pound goal for wieght loss.

exceed ... weight

excede ... wieght

exceed ... wieght

No change is necessary

Correct answer: exceed ... weight

The correct answer choice is “exceed ... weight.” The word “exceed” is one of the three words that end in “-ceed.” When determining if words should be spelled with an “ie” or an “ei,” remember “i” before “e” except after “c” or when sounding as “a.”

100.

Choose the option that produces a clear and precise sentence from the words below.

Twilight is the brand of a book publishers would like to publish because it would earn them recognition.

Twilight is the kind of book publishers would like to publish because it would earn them recognition.

Twilight is the sort of book publishers would like to publish because it would earn them recognition.

Twilight is the category of book publishers would like to publish because it would earn them recognition.

No change is necessary

Correct answer: Twilight is the kind of book publishers would like to publish because it would earn them recognition.

The answer choice containing, "the kind of book," is the correct answer choice. The use of "a" should be removed from the original sentence. The original sentence containing "the kind of a book" is incorrect grammatical structure.

The answer choice containing "the category of book" introduces a new concept. The answer choice containing "the sort of book" is poor wording.
