

High School HSGQE-Writing

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Question: 1

Select the answer choice that corrects an error in the underlined portion. If there is no error, choose D indicating that no change is necessary.

Given that (A) your thirteen years old, I think you are (B) too old to pay a (C) lower price at the movies.

- A. you're
- B. to
- C. lesser
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The error in the sentence is found in the underlined portion (A) "your thirteen years old." The correct form should be "you're," which is a contraction for "you are." This contraction correctly reflects the intended meaning of the sentence, indicating the present state of being thirteen years old. Here's why the correction is necessary: - "Your" is a possessive adjective used to describe something that belongs to you, e.g., your book, your idea. - "You're" is a contraction of "you are," which is a verb phrase used to describe or state something about the subject (in this case, "you"). None of the other parts of the sentence have errors: - Part (B) "too old" is correct as it indicates being excessively old for something, which in this context is paying a lower price at the movies. - Part (C) "lower price" is correctly used to indicate a reduced price, which is appropriate in the context of ticket pricing based on age. Therefore, the correction needed is in part (A), replacing "your" with "you're." The appropriate answer choice would be the one indicating this change. The explanation for the correction involves understanding the difference between a possessive adjective ("your") and the contraction of the verb to be with the pronoun "you" ("you're"), which reflects the need for expressing the state of being in the sentence.

Question: 2

Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose "No change is necessary."

Mom told Kathy to pick out the color she liked (A) better of all of the colors available in the store. Kathy picked purple because it would look (B) better in her room than blue. Her mother thought that it was the (C) better choice of the two.

- A. best
- B. gooder
- C. more better
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The question involves selecting the appropriate comparative or superlative form of the adjective "good" in the context of multiple choices and comparisons between two options. The key terms to focus on are "better" and "best." Here's an expanded explanation for each part of the sentence in question and the correct use of "better" versus "best":

**** (A) "better of all of the colors" **** - The error here arises from the use of "better" when comparing more than two items. "Better" is the comparative form used for comparisons between two things only. When comparing three or more items, the superlative form "best" is required. Therefore, the phrase should be corrected to "best of all of the colors."

**** (B) "better in her room than blue" **** - This use of "better" is correct because it is used to compare exactly two colors: purple and blue. Here, "better" is appropriately used to show preference between these two options.

**** (C) "better choice of the two" **** - Similarly to part B, this use of "better" is correct. The comparison is again between two choices, making "better" the suitable choice. "Best" would be incorrect here because it is not a comparison among three or more options.

To summarize, the correction needed in the given sentence is in part (A) where "better" should be changed to "best" to correctly reflect the comparison among multiple (more than two) colors available in the store. The usage of "better" in parts (B) and (C) is correct as they involve comparisons between only two items (colors or choices).

**** Additional Notes on Comparative and Superlative Forms: **** - "Better" is the comparative form of "good" used for comparing two things. - "Best" is the superlative form of "good" used for comparing three or more things. - It is grammatically incorrect to use forms like "more better" as "better" already serves as a comparative. Adding "more" creates redundancy and a grammatical error.

This analysis ensures clarity in applying comparative and superlative adjectives correctly based on the number of items being compared, which is a crucial aspect of English grammar.

Question: 3

Select the answer choice that corrects an error in the underlined portion. If there is no error, choose D indicating that no change is necessary.

Charity decided to ask her mother's permission to (A) buy a new dress with the money she had saved. She (B) respectfully asked, "Mom, (C) can I use my savings to get a new dress?"

- A. by
- B. respectably
- C. may
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In the sentence provided, Charity is asking her mother for permission to use her saved money to buy a new dress. The sentence in question is, "Mom, can I use my savings to get a new dress?" Here, the use of "can" focuses on the capability of Charity to buy the dress, not on seeking permission, which is the primary intent of her question. In English, "can" and "may" are often confused; "can" refers to ability or capacity, while "may" is used to request or grant permission. Since Charity's intent is to seek her

mother's permission, the correct word to use would be "may." Therefore, the correct form of the question should be, "Mom, may I use my savings to get a new dress?" This change ensures that the request is polite and appropriately framed as seeking permission rather than implying capability. The other parts of the sentence such as "buy a new dress with the money she had saved" and "respectfully asked," are correctly used. "Buy" is correctly employed as it accurately describes the action of purchasing, and "respectfully" is appropriate as it denotes the manner in which Charity posed her question, showing politeness and deference to her mother. Thus, the answer that corrects an error in the underlined portion (C) is the option that changes "can" to "may." This adjustment not only corrects the grammatical nuance concerning permission but also aligns with the context of the dialogue where Charity is seeking her mother's consent to make a purchase with her savings.

Question: 4

Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose "No change is necessary."

Today is the most coldest day of the year. It is even colder than this time last year. We had better put on our warmest clothes when we go outside.

- A. coldest
- B. more colder
- C. warmer
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: A

Explanation:

The original sentence in the question states, "Today is the most coldest day of the year." The error in this sentence lies in the use of the phrase "most coldest." This construction is problematic because it redundantly combines "most," which is used with superlative adjectives, and "coldest," which is already the superlative form of the adjective "cold." The correct superlative form to describe something as being at the utmost degree of coldness is simply "coldest." Here's a breakdown of the correction: - The adjective "cold" has three degrees of comparison: positive ("cold"), comparative ("colder"), and superlative ("coldest"). - The superlative "coldest" is used when comparing more than two items or situations to indicate the one that exhibits the highest degree of the quality (in this case, coldness). - Adding "most" to "coldest" is redundant and grammatically incorrect because "coldest" already implies the highest degree of coldness. The second sentence in the passage, "It is even colder than this time last year," correctly uses the comparative form "colder." This form is appropriate because it is used to compare the coldness of two specific days (today and the same day last year). The third sentence, "We had better put on our warmest clothes when we go outside," correctly uses the superlative form "warmest." This is appropriate because it suggests selecting clothing that provides the highest degree of warmth from among all possible options. In summary, the correct answer is to replace "most coldest" with "coldest." This correction eliminates the grammatical redundancy and preserves the intended meaning of the sentence, which is to indicate that today is the coldest day of the year so far.

Question: 5

Which of the following sentences is structured correctly?

- A. Eat your cereal or I'll tell your mother.
- B. Over the moon and around the sun.
- C. When pigs fly.
- D. Right after we wash the car, clean the windows and take out the trash.

Answer: A

Explanation:

To determine which of the given sentences is structured correctly, we need to understand the basic elements that constitute a complete sentence. A complete sentence must have, at a minimum, a subject and a predicate (verb). It must also express a complete thought. 1.

Eat your cereal or I'll tell your mother. - This sentence is a complete sentence. It is structured as a command, where the implied subject is "you" (common in imperative sentences). The predicate here is "Eat your cereal or I'll tell your mother." The sentence expresses a complete thought, providing a clear directive and consequence. The structure is correct and coherent. 2. Over the moon and around the sun. - This sentence lacks a clear subject and verb, which makes it a phrase rather than a complete sentence. It describes a location or a path but does not express a complete thought with a subject performing an action. 3. When pigs fly. - This is a dependent clause. It cannot stand alone as a complete sentence because it does not express a complete thought independently. It is conditional and requires additional information or an independent clause to complete the thought. 4. Right after we wash the car, clean the windows and take out the trash. - This sentence, while containing verbs and a subject, is also a dependent clause because it starts with "Right after," indicating it depends on another clause to complete its meaning. Without an independent clause to follow, it does not form a complete sentence. Therefore, the sentence "Eat your cereal or I'll tell your mother" is the only option that is structured correctly as a complete sentence. It is an imperative sentence, giving a command, where the implied subject is "you." The sentence is grammatically complete and makes sense on its own, clearly conveying a threat or a consequence if the action (eating the cereal) is not performed.

Question: 6

Which of the following is correct?

- A. Didn't make enough money.
- B. When we get to the park, let's sit and rest for a while.
- C. When the stars are out and the moon is full and the air is cool.
- D. Crazy about you!

Answer: B

Explanation:

To correctly answer the question "Which of the following is correct?" and to explain why "When we get to the park, let's sit and rest for a while." is the correct answer, we must analyze each option for grammatical completeness, specifically looking for the presence of a subject and a predicate that together express a complete thought. 1. "Didn't make enough money." - This phrase does not form a

complete sentence because it lacks a clear subject. It's unclear who or what didn't make enough money. The verb "didn't make" requires a subject to be complete, hence this is a sentence fragment. 2. "When we get to the park, let's sit and rest for a while." - This is a complete sentence. It has a clear subject ("we") and a compound predicate ("get to the park" and "let's sit and rest"). The sentence starts with a dependent clause ("When we get to the park"), which sets the condition, followed by an independent clause ("let's sit and rest for a while") that stands as a complete thought. Therefore, it qualifies as a grammatically correct sentence. 3. "When the stars are out and the moon is full and the air is cool." - This sentence, although descriptive, is technically a fragment because it is a dependent clause lacking an independent clause to complete the thought. It sets a scene or a condition but does not follow up with an action or statement that resolves or complements the condition, leaving the reader expecting more information. 4. "Crazy about you!" - This phrase, often used as an exclamatory sentence in informal contexts, technically lacks a subject and a full predicate, making it a fragment in formal grammatical terms. The implied subject (the person who is crazy about "you") is not explicitly stated. In summary, the correct answer, "When we get to the park, let's sit and rest for a while," is the only option that forms a complete, standalone sentence according to standard grammatical rules. It includes both a dependent clause that sets up a situation and an independent clause that provides a complete idea, making it a properly constructed sentence.

Question: 7

To whom does the underlined portion of the sentence refer? If it is not in the sentence, choose "Not in the sentence."

Mr. Bradley and his son, Cal, went to see the teacher because he wasn't doing too well in algebra this school year.

- A. Mr. Bradley
- B. Cal
- C. the teacher
- D. Not in the sentence.

Answer: B

Explanation:

The question asks to identify to whom the underlined portion of the sentence refers. The sentence in question is: "Mr. Bradley and his son, Cal, went to see the teacher because he wasn't doing too well in algebra this school year." In this sentence, the pronoun "he" is ambiguous without context. However, from the information provided, we can infer the probable reference. The sentence mentions three male individuals: Mr. Bradley, Cal, and the teacher. Among these, the most logical reference for "he" in the context of struggling in algebra would be Cal, Mr. Bradley's son. This inference is based on the following points: 1. **Context of the Visit**: The sentence states that the visit to the teacher was due to the fact that "he wasn't doing too well in algebra." It is typical for parents to meet with teachers if their children are experiencing academic difficulties. 2. **Exclusion by Role**: Mr. Bradley, being an adult and likely not a current student, would not ordinarily be struggling in a school subject, hence he is an unlikely candidate for "he." Similarly, it is not typical for the sentence structure to imply that the teacher himself is struggling to teach the subject; instead, it suggests a concern about a student's performance. 3. **Clarity and Grammar Conventions**: In English grammar, pronouns typically refer to the nearest preceding singular noun that fits logically into the context. Here, "Cal" is the nearest suitable reference

before the pronoun "he." Given these observations, the correct interpretation of "he" in the sentence is that it refers to Cal. This conclusion is supported by the logical analysis of the roles and actions of the individuals involved in the narrative context provided by the sentence. Therefore, in an expanded explanation or any corrective action for clarity, replacing "he" with "Cal" would eliminate ambiguity and directly clarify that Cal is the person who is struggling with algebra.

Question: 8

Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose "No change is necessary."

When Mrs. Gordon punished William (A) she said that it would hurt (B) her as much as (C) he.

- A. its
- B. she
- C. him
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: C

Explanation:

In the provided sentence, the key issue revolves around the correct grammatical use of pronouns. The sentence reads: "When Mrs. Gordon punished William (A) she said that it would hurt (B) her as much as (C) he." The underlined part that needs scrutiny is (C) "he". Grammatical rules dictate that when pronouns are used in comparisons, they must agree in case with the function they serve in the implied context. Here, the pronoun "he" follows the phrase "as much as". This phrase is part of a comparison that implies a full clause that is not fully expressed: "[it would hurt] him." In English, the pronoun that serves as the object of a verb or preposition should be in the objective case. Therefore, "he" should be changed to "him" because it is the object of the implied verb "hurt" in the clause. The correct sentence should therefore read: "When Mrs. Gordon punished William, she said that it would hurt her as much as him." This correction ensures that the pronoun is correctly in the objective case, aligning with grammatical standards. The corrected option, "him," properly reflects that it is the object of the comparison being made in terms of who is hurt by the action. The other parts of the sentence, labeled as (A) and (B), do not contain any grammatical errors and therefore require no changes. Thus, the correct answer is "him," ensuring that all pronouns in the sentence are appropriately and grammatically used.

Question: 9

Read the entire passage carefully and then answer the question.

(1) Perhaps no other stories have ever been told so often or listened to with so much pleasure as the classic tales of ancient Greece. (2) Greece is a country in southeastern Europe. (3) For many ages, these stories have been a source of delight to young people and old, to the ignorant and the learned, to all who love to hear about and contemplate things mysterious, beautiful, and grand. (4) They have become so incorporated into our language and thought, and so interwoven with our literature, that we could not do away with them now if we would. (5) They are a portion of our heritage from the distant past, and they form perhaps as important a part of our intellectual life as they did of that of the people among

whom they originated. (6) That many of these tales should be read by children at an early age no intelligent person will deny.

Which numbered sentence is least relevant to the passage?

- A. sentence 1
- B. sentence 2
- C. sentence 5
- D. sentence 6

Answer: B

Explanation:

The question asked is to identify which numbered sentence is least relevant to the passage. This type of question is common in reading comprehension exercises, where the goal is to determine which part of the text does not contribute effectively to the main idea or theme of the passage. From the information provided, sentence 2 is highlighted repeatedly as the least relevant. The explanation given is that "It does not matter to this passage where Greece is located." This implies that sentence 2 likely contains geographical information about Greece, which, according to the context provided in the explanations, does not contribute to the main discussion or theme of the passage. The passage appears to focus on the appeal and relevance of classic Greek tales globally, including their impact on children. Therefore, the main theme revolves around the literary and cultural significance of these tales rather than the geographical details of Greece. Each explanation points out that all other sentences except sentence 2 contribute to this central theme by emphasizing the importance and interest in Greek tales. In essence, if sentence 2 merely provides geographical information about Greece, it does not enhance the understanding or appreciation of Greek tales' literary and cultural value. Consequently, this makes it irrelevant in the context of a passage centered on the significance of Greek storytelling. To summarize, the relevancy of sentences in a passage depends on how well they support the central theme or main idea being discussed. In this case, any sentence that deviates by offering unrelated information (such as geographical details in a literary discussion) would be considered least relevant.

Question: 10

Choose the option that corrects an error in the underlined portion(s). If no error exists, choose "No change is necessary."

I am going to save up enough money to buy those shoes, and after I do, I will have gone to the store to buy them.

- A. have gone
- B. will have been going
- C. will go
- D. No change is necessary.

Answer: C

Explanation:

To answer the given question, it's important to understand the error in the tense usage and to select the option that best corrects this error. Let's break down the sentence and analyze the options provided.

Original Sentence: "I am going to save up enough money to buy those shoes, and after I do, I will have gone to the store to buy them." - **Error Analysis:** The phrase "I will have gone to the store to buy them" incorrectly uses the future perfect tense ("will have gone"). The future perfect tense is used for actions that will be completed before another action or time in the future. However, in this context, the action of going to the store is not intended to be completed before another future action or time but is the next planned action after saving money.

Options Analysis:

- 1. "have gone"** - This retains the original error of using the future perfect tense.
- 2. "will go"** - This corrects the error by using the simple future tense, which is appropriate here because it directly states an intention or plan to perform an action in the future (going to the store), after saving enough money.
- 3. "will have been going"** - This option uses the future perfect continuous tense, which implies an ongoing action that will be completed at some point in the future. This is not suitable as the sentence needs to express a straightforward future action.
- 4. "No change is necessary"** - This option keeps the original incorrect tense.

Correct Option: - **"will go"** - This is the correct choice because it uses the simple future tense, aligning accurately with the future action described. The sentence should say: "I am going to save up enough money to buy those shoes, and after I do, I will go to the store to buy them." This correction clearly indicates that the action of going to the store is what will happen after the money is saved, which fits the context and meaning intended by the sentence. Therefore, the option "will go" is the most appropriate correction for the sentence, addressing the tense error and providing clarity to the intended future actions.

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