

English Assessment Practice/Sentence Skills

http://college.hmco.com/devenglish/resources/writing_ace/students/index.html

(used for questions 1-29)

Commas: Select the sentence in which all the commas are correct.

1.
 - a. If you wanted to come why didn't you say so?
 - b. If, you wanted to come, why didn't you say so?
 - c. If you wanted to come, why didn't you say so?

2.
 - a. Brooke's car which is eleven years old still runs just fine.
 - b. Brooke's car, which is eleven years old, still runs just fine.
 - c. Brooke's car, which is eleven years old still runs just fine.

3.
 - a. Diana will be in Ankara this September and by the way she can visit your uncle then.
 - b. Diana will be in Ankara this September, and by the way she can visit your uncle, then.
 - c. Diana will be in Ankara this September, and, by the way, she can visit your uncle then.

Conjunctive Adverbs: Select the words and punctuation that make the sentence correct

4. That wound is _____ we must treat it.
 - a. infected, therefore
 - b. infected; therefore,
 - c. infected; therefore

5. I do not need your _____.
 - a. help; however,
 - b. help; however
 - c. help, however

6. Vickie is not _____ we still have to finish the project.
 - a. cooperating, nevertheless,
 - b. cooperating; nevertheless
 - c. cooperating; nevertheless,

*Answers: Question 1 (c), Question 2 (b), Question 3 (c),
Question 4 (b), Question 5 (c), Question 6 (c)*

Consistent Person: Select the word or words that make the sentences correct.

7. An enrollee must demonstrate _____ qualifications for the program.
a. their
b. your
c. his or her
8. This new computer program gives designers much more control over _____ creations.
a. your
b. his or her
c. their

Consistent Tense: Select the sentence in which the verb tenses are correct.

9.
a. Geri drove fast, so we arrive ahead of time.
b. Geri had driven fast, so we arrived ahead of time.
c. Geri drove fast, so we arrived ahead of time.
10.
a. Years ago I liked camping out, but now I like a hot shower.
b. Years ago I like camping out, but now I like a hot shower.
c. Years ago I liked camping out, but now I liked a hot shower.

Parallelism: Select the word or words that give the sentence a parallel structure.

11. We requested, pleaded, and _____ her to change her mind.
a. we begged
b. we also begged
c. begged
12. Some attendees eagerly participated, some listened silently, and _____.
a. some fell asleep.
b. some went to sleep in their chairs.
c. some were sleeping.
13. The woodchuck cautiously entered the garden, _____, and carefully returned to his burrow.
a. ate as many plants as he could
b. quickly ate many plants
c. was quick to eat many plants

Answers: Question 7 (c), Question 8 (c), Question 9 (c), Question 10 (a), Question 11 (c), Question 12 (a), Question 13 (b)

Subject and Verb

Select the word or group of words that is the subject of the sentence.

14. The corn gets very tall in August.

- a. August
- b. corn
- c. tall

15. Julia and her friend will meet us at the theatre.

- a. at the theatre
- b. Julia
- c. Julia and her friend

16. By the time the train arrived, the children were asleep.

- a. children
- b. train
- c. time

Select the word or group of words that is the complete verb of the sentence.

17. In the end, she had completed the course with distinction.

- a. had completed
- b. with distinction
- c. In the end

18. What could have caused our computer to make all those strange sounds?

- a. could have
- b. could have caused
- c. to make

Semicolons: Select the words and punctuation that make the sentence correct.

19. Do not underestimate _____ won first prize last time.

- a. Kiyoshi; he
- b. Kiyoshi; He
- c. Kiyoshi he

Pronouns: Select the best way to fill in the blank.

20. I wanted to take Nat and _____, but she wouldn't go.

- a. she
- b. her
- c. them

*Answers: Question 14 (b), Question 15 (c), Question 16 (a), Question 17 (a),
Question 18 (b), Question 19 (a), Question 20 (b)*

21. If any attendee wishes to leave, _____ must first get permission.
- a. he or she
 - b. him or her
 - c. they

22. Are you as experienced at this job as _____?
- a. she
 - b. them
 - c. her

Relative Pronouns: Select the best way of joining the two sentences, using relative pronouns.

23. Tara's computer is very fast. It can get this done in time.
- a. Tara's computer which is very fast, can get this done in time.
 - b. Tara's computer, which is very fast, can get this done in time.
 - c. Tara's computer which is very fast can get this done in time.

Run-ons/Splices: Select the words and punctuation that make the sentences correct.

24. Although this office is crowded _____ are not many people working here.
- a. crowded. There
 - b. crowded there
 - c. crowded, there

Past Participle : Select the word or words that make the sentence correct.

25. I was concerned because Kota _____ about the appointment.
- a. have forgot
 - b. had forgot
 - c. had forgotten

26. He had _____ the ball too far.
- a. throw
 - b. throwed
 - c. thrown

Progressive Tenses: Select the best word or words that make the sentence correct.

27. Soriya _____ her homework when they left.
- a. finishing
 - b. was finishing
 - c. were finishing

Answers: Question 21 (a), Question 22 (a), Question 23 (b), Question 24 (c), Question 25 (c), Question 26 (c), Question 27 (b)

ING Modifiers :

28. The brothers went camping this weekend. They had a great time.

- a. The brothers had a great time camping this weekend.
- b. The brothers went camping this weekend they had a great time.
- c. Went camping this weekend, the brothers had a great time.

29. The children enjoyed the workshop. They were painting pictures and making sculptures.

- a. The children, enjoying the workshop, painting pictures, and making sculptures
- b. Painting pictures and making sculptures, the children enjoyed the workshop.
- c. Painting pictures and making sculptures and enjoying the workshop the children were.

Construction Shift-Rewrite the sentence in your head, following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given you.

30. Everyone else's favorite novel by Julia Alvarez is *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, but I like *Saving the World* the best.

Rewrite, beginning with

I like *Saving the World*, by Julia Alvarez,...

- a. even though everyone else
- b. besides everyone else
- c. everyone else
- d. because everyone else

31. The best place to eat ice cream used to be next to the best restaurant in town, but a new place that opened up two blocks down from here is even better.

Rewrite, beginning with

The new ice cream place that opened up two blocks down...

- a. is even better than
- b. is still the best
- c. better than
- d. is next to

Answers: Question 28 (a), Question 29 (b), Question 30 (a), Question 31 (a)

32. Damage is caused to the respiratory tract by the high levels of air pollution found in urban locations.

Rewrite, beginning with

Urban locations contain high levels of air pollution...

- a. and damage is caused
- b. causing damage
- c. that causes damage
- d. which are damaging to

33. The professor, who is still too tired to be teaching this morning, is unusually difficult to follow.

Rewrite, beginning with

The professor is unusually difficult to follow...

- a. , and he is still
- b. because he is still
- c. still, he is too
- d. , but he is still too

Answers: Question 32 (d), Question 33 (b)

