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QUESTION 1

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then tried to act as I did so on purpose.

- A. Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then
- B. Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I
- C. I fell down the stairs yesterday, I
- D. After I fell down the stairs yesterday; I
- E. Falling down the stairs; I

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I" and "I fell down the stairs yesterday, I" are run-ons. D and E misuse their semicolons: the parts before them are not independent clauses.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

To who should I mail the payment for our new refrigerator and stove?

- A. who
- B. I
- C. and
- D. stove?
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The correct answer is "who" because "who" is the object of this sentence. Remember that "who" is the correct pronoun choice for the subject of a sentence, while "whom" is always an object. While the object generally comes closer to the end of most sentences, questions are often structured with the object near the beginning. To correct this sentence, just substitute "whom" for "who." Another hint that this sentence requires "whom" rather than "who" is that the word falls after the preposition "to." Therefore, even if you didn't recognize "who" as the object of the sentence, you could still see that it's the object of a preposition and needs to be changed to "whom."

QUESTION 3

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

In order a great leader to be, a man must first be able to master himself.

- A. No error
- B. Such as a great leader,
- C. The man is a great leader,
- D. Ordering great leaders,
- E. In order to be a great leader,

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This version restores the sense to the sentence.

QUESTION 4

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

"I'm not sure about that," he said. "I can't really remember."

- A. No error
- B. about that," he said! "I can't
- C. about that." He said. "I can't
- D. about that," he said, "I can't
- E. about that" he said. "I can't

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The original sentence is correct.

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Driving to school is one of the special privileges of being an upperclassman in high school; however, concerns many parents and teachers who fear the dangers of the road.

- A. is
- B. being
- C. concerns
- D. who
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: This sentence is flawed because the sentence clause following "however" is not independent. If a sentence is separated by a semi-colon, then both "sides" of the sentence must be independent (which means they could be sentences on their own). When a transition such as "however" is used as it is here (preceded by a semi-colon and followed by a comma) it is created a division that demands two separate, independent clauses. The second clause has a verb (i.e. concerns) but it lacks a subject like "it" or "teen driving" before "concerns." What concerns people? Whatever it is, MUST be properly identified. Choice

"concerns" must be modified, so it is the right answer.

QUESTION 6

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although Paloma did her very best on the test, she was disappointed to find that she had gotten several questions wrong because of simple multiplication errors.

- A. very best
- B. to find
- C. she
- D. wrong
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is "very best" because "best" is an absolute adjective. Some adjectives, including superlative adjectives like "best," cannot accept modifiers. When you think about the phrase "very best," it is redundant: if something is the best, then it can't be any more than that. It's already at the top of its category or class with no way to get better.

QUESTION 7

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Hector was known as "Slim", because of his gaunt appearance.

- A. No error
- B. known as "Slim because
- C. known as "Slim" because
- D. known as Slim because
- E. known as "Slim"; because

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A comma is not necessary, but if it is used it should be inside the quotation marks.

QUESTION 8

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Natural disasters have been increasingly effecting nearly every part of the world in the past decade with catastrophic tornadoes, hurricanes and tsunamis.

- A. have been increasingly effecting
- B. has been increasingly effecting
- C. have been increasingly affecting
- D. will be increasingly effecting
- E. will be increasingly affecting

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The only problem with the underlined portion of this sentence is the use of the word "effecting" instead of "affecting." When an object/s undergoes changes, these changes are effects such as in the following sentence: John's excellent attendance at school has had positive effects on his education. However, in the verb form, "effects" turns into "affects" such as in the following sentence: John's excellent attendance has affected his education. Noun (effect) vs. verb (affect). Only choice "have been increasingly affecting" and choice "will be increasingly affecting" properly used "affecting" but choice "will be increasingly affecting" uses the future tense when the sentence clearly describes an occurrence of the past ("...in the past decade...").

QUESTION 9

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Then he dropped them both, and the big one landed first ?which he had thought it would do, and the little one landed second, which he had thought it would do.

- A. No error
- B. one landed first, which
- C. one landed first: that
- D. one landed first; which
- E. one landed first ?that

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The punctuation should be the same for both of the parallel clauses.

QUESTION 10

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Even though I worked all day to clean the house and leave it in immaculate condition, my mother was not satisfied about the job that I completed diligently.

- A. leave
- B. immaculate
- C. about
- D. diligently
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The proper idiom is "to be satisfied with" and not "to be satisfied about." Knowing this proper idiom, one can see why choice "about" is erroneous. It is okay to say, "leave it..." because it is in the same infinitive form as "to clean" so pick choice "about".

QUESTION 11

Identify the error in the following sentence: "Turn off your lights!" he shouted at there father.

- A. "Turn
- B. lights!"
- C. there
- D. father.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The word their should be used rather than there.

QUESTION 12

Identify the error in the following sentence:

He wasn't going to not say anything, until it became clear that this would be impossible.

- A. wasn't
- B. say anything
- C. it became

D. impossible

E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: This word creates an improper double negative in the sentence.

QUESTION 13

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although the lion's share of oil wells is owned by large oil companies, there are individuals who earn their living by selling the oil from their own, private wells.

A. is

B. there

C. who

D. their

E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The correct answer is "No error" because this sentence contains no errors. Although the phrase "lion's share of oil wells is" may sound strange because "is" doesn't agree with "wells," it is grammatically correct. The true subject of the sentence is not the plural "wells": it's the singular "share." "Of oil wells" is simply a prepositional phrase that modifies "lion's share."

QUESTION 14

Identify the error in the following sentence:

These brief setbacks despite being annoying, did not dissuade Leonard from his long-term goal.

A. setbacks despite

B. annoying,

C. Leonard

D. long-term goal.

E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: There should be a comma after setbacks.

QUESTION 15

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Its very important to read and absorb the stories of classic dramas written by the Greek and English playwrights for the universal messages of humanity and ambition.

- A. Its
- B. written by
- C. playwrights
- D. messages of
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Part A is wrong as it is the incorrect form of it/its/it's. "Its" is the way to discuss possession. For example, if you were talking negatively about your local government you could say "Its last two years in office were spent drowning in corruption and inefficiency." However, if you use "it's" then you are using the contracted form (when an apostrophe and s are used) to mean "it is." This contract form is necessary here because the sentence should read "It is very important..."

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