

ATI TEAS - Quiz Questions with Answers

English & Language Usage: Conventions of Standard English

English & Language Usage: Conventions of Standard English

1.

Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

He was never able to _____ that everyone _____ him had been invited to the dance.

accept; except

accept; accept

except; accept

except; except

Correct answer: accept; except

He was never able to accept that everyone except him had been invited to the dance.

The word accept is a verb that means to receive. The word except can be either a preposition or a verb, meaning to exclude.

2.

Identify the type of sentence.

I don't like sweet peas; I don't like spinach.

Compound

Simple

Complex

Compound-complex

Correct answer: Compound

The given sentence is a compound sentence, as it contains two independent clauses. Compound sentences are comprised of two independent clauses joined by either a semicolon (;) or a comma + coordinating conjunction (and, but, or, for, so, yet, nor). Short sentences, like this one, could be written without the comma: I don't like sweet peas and I don't like spinach. They do, however, require either a semicolon or a coordinating conjunction.

A simple sentence only has one independent clause and no dependent clauses. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one dependent clause for two total clauses. A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and one dependent clause for three clauses total.

3.

Identify the subject of the following sentence.

The kids' grandmother wanted you to know that they, the children, are always well cared for at her home.

grandmother

kids

the children

you

Correct answer: grandmother

Grandmother is the subject of this sentence.

Kids' is a possessive here, meaning it is a modifier (adjective). The children is the subject of the relative clause beginning with that. You is the object of the verb wanted.

4.

Identify the adjectives in the following sentence.

Jerry's purple fish lived by itself in his huge aquarium.

purple; huge

purple; fish

huge; aquarium

fish; lived

Correct answer: purple; huge

Jerry's purple fish lived by itself in his huge aquarium.

Adjectives are words or phrases that describe or modify a noun. Both purple and huge are adjectives and modify the nouns in the sentence. Purple describes the fish, and huge describes the aquarium.

In this sentence, fish is a noun, aquarium is a noun, and lived is a verb.

5.

Identify the type of sentence.

When I buy a lake house, I'm going to enjoy it every weekend.

Complex

Compound

Simple

Compound-complex

Correct answer: Complex

The given sentence is a complex sentence, as it contains one independent clause (I'm going to enjoy it every weekend) and one dependent clause (When I buy a lake house). A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses.

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses. A simple sentence only has one independent clause and no dependent clauses. A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and one dependent clause for three clauses total.

6.

Which of the following sentences is correct?

Katie wanted to take a European vacation: She wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark.

Katie wanted to take a European vacation, she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark.

Katie wanted to take a European vacation she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark.

Katie wanted to take a European vacation. she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark.

Correct answer: Katie wanted to take a European vacation: She wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark.

This question asks about punctuation between two related independent clauses. Because they are independent clauses, the rules for joining independent clauses apply. They may be joined with a comma + coordinating conjunction, semicolon and no capital letter, period and capital letter, or even colon when the second clause amplifies or explains the information preceding the colon. When the information coming after the colon forms an independent clause, that clause has a capital letter clause-initial. "Katie wanted to take a European vacation: She wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark" is the only option that follows all of these rules.

"Katie wanted to take a European vacation, she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark" incorrectly joins the two independent clauses with merely a comma, a common type of error known as a comma splice. "Katie wanted to take a European vacation she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark" incorrectly joins the two independent clauses with no punctuation in between, a common type of error known as a run-on sentence. "Katie wanted to take a European vacation. she wanted to go to Italy, Greece, and Denmark" would be correct except for the lower case letter beginning the second clause, which is incorrect.

7.

Identify the part of speech of *themselves* in the following sentence.

The children were happy with themselves for successfully building a sandcastle.

Pronoun

Noun

Adverb

Adjective

Correct answer: Pronoun

Themselves is a pronoun, as it is being used in the place of “children.” A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

An adjective modifies a noun. An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea.

8.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly for the sentence?

They thought their latest product was cutting edge, but in fact, it was so _____ it was actually obsolete.

archaic

arcack

arcaich

arckaick

Correct answer: archaic

Archaic is spelled correctly for the sentence. The other options are misspelled.

9.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Mike is a fast runner; he is not, however, also good at the high jump.

Mike is a fast runner; he is not, however also good at the high jump.

Mike is a fast runner, he is not however, also, good at the high jump.

Mike is a fast runner, he is not, however, also, good at the high jump.

Correct answer: Mike is a fast runner; he is good at the high jump, too.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: "Mike is a fast runner; he is good at the high jump, too."

Place a semicolon between two independent clauses that are related. Using a comma alone to separate two independent clauses is a sentence error called a comma splice. It is ungrammatical in English.

Place a comma before ending a sentence with the word "too" when it's used as an adverb meaning "also" or "in addition".

Examples:

- *"We're going shopping, out to dinner, and then to a movie, too." This is proper use of a comma before the word "too".*
 - *"I like bananas too." In a simple sentence like this, you do not need a comma before the word "too".*
-

10.

Identify a prepositional phrase in the following sentence.

Jane realized the kittens were running away from dogs.

away from dogs

were running away

Jane realized

the kittens were running

Correct answer: away from dogs

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun, the object of that preposition. Prepositional phrases are usually modifiers.

The given sentence's prepositional phrase is away from dogs. This phrase functions as an adverb and modifies the word running.

The other options are not prepositional phrases. Were running away is a verb phrase. Jane realized is a clause. The kittens were running is a noun clause.

11.

Identify the part of speech of *before* in the following sentence.

A tiger will study his prey before it attacks.

Conjunction

Pronoun

Verb

Adverb

Correct answer: Conjunction

Before can be used as a conjunction to connect two clauses, a preposition when followed by a noun, and an adverb without a following noun. In this sentence, before is used as a conjunction because it connects the clause A tiger will study his prey with the clause it attacks.

A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun (i.e., it). A verb expresses action (i.e., study). An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb.

12.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Whenever I see her at a restaurant, she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad.

Whenever I see her at a restaurant she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad.

Whenever I see her, at a restaurant, she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad.

Whenever I see her at a restaurant; she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad.

Correct answer: Whenever I see her at a restaurant, she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Whenever I see her at a restaurant, she inevitably is eating a vegetable salad. The subordinating conjunction whenever defines the first clause as dependent. In a complex sentence (dependent clause + independent clause), the use of a comma is required after a dependent clause (Whenever I see her at a restaurant) when the dependent clause comes first. This follows the rule that a comma comes after any phrase or clause that precedes the sentence's main subject.

A semicolon is not accurate; it would be used between two independent clauses, not a dependent and an independent clause.

13.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Conceive

Concieve

Conceve

Conceeve

Correct answer: Conceive

Conceive is spelled correctly.

The rule "I before E except after C" applies here. In the spelling of conceive, the -e comes before the -i.

14.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Recommend

Convneint

Tempermental

Villian

Correct answer: Recommend

Recommend is the only word spelled correctly. The other words should be spelled as follows: convenient, temperamental, villain.

15.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Perceive

Perceeve

Percieve

Perceve

Correct answer: Perceive

Perceive is spelled correctly.

The rule "I before E except after C" applies here. In the spelling of perceive, the -e comes before the -i.

16.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Derangement

Derangment

Derangeament

Derangmint

Correct answer: Derangement

Derangement is spelled correctly.

When adding a suffix (-ment) to a root word that ends in -e (derange), do not drop the -e if the suffix begins with a consonant. In this case, the suffix begins with the letter -m, a consonant, so the -e in the root word derange should stay. The proper spelling of the word is derangement.

17.

Identify a proper noun in the following sentence.

The little dog's name was Weebie.

Weebie

dog's

name

little

Correct answer: Weebie

The little dog's name was Weebie.

A noun is a person, place, thing, or idea. A proper noun is a name used for an individual person, place, or organization, spelled with initial capital letters.

The name of the dog, Weebie, is a proper noun and is capitalized.

Dog's is a possessive pronoun, a type of modifier. Name is a regular noun, not a proper noun. Little is an adjective, used to modify nouns.

18.

Identify the type of sentence.

No, I do not have a spare car, and because I do not want people asking to borrow it, I will not buy one.

Compound-complex

Complex

Compound

Simple

Correct answer: Compound-complex

The given sentence is a compound-complex sentence, as it contains two independent clauses (No, I do not have a spare car, and” and “I will not buy one.) and one dependent clause (because I do not want people asking to borrow it). A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and one dependent clause.

A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one dependent clause. A compound sentence contains two independent clauses. A simple sentence only has one independent clause and no dependent clauses.

19.

Which of the following sentences is correct?

The professor broached the subject of the semester project, but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead.

The professor broached the subject of the semester project; but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead.

The professor broached the subject of the semester project: but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead.

The professor broached the subject of the semester project. But then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead.

Correct answer: The professor broached the subject of the semester project, but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead.

The question asks about proper punctuation for a compound sentence (one that consists of two independent clauses). There are a few ways to join independent clauses: comma + coordinating conjunction, semicolon and no coordinating conjunction, or period and no coordinating conjunction. But is a coordinating conjunction, and therefore not properly placed sentence-initial. The professor broached the subject of the semester project, but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead is the only option that correctly joins two independent clauses.

The professor broached the subject of the semester project; but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead is incorrect because it uses a semicolon + coordinating conjunction. The professor broached the subject of the semester project: but then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead is an improper use of a colon, which is used when the information following the colon amplifies or explains the information preceding the colon and not typically used with a coordinating conjunction. The professor broached the subject of the semester project. But then she switched to discuss the content of the day instead incorrectly uses a period + coordinating conjunction.

20.

Which of the following is **not** a correct use of quotation marks?

For foreign words

To set off quoted passages

For long quotations

To punctuate magazine article titles

Correct answer: For foreign words

Italics, not quotation marks, are used to distinguish foreign words.

Use double quotation marks to set off a direct (word-for-word) quotation. Quotation marks are used to mark individual parts within a greater work, such as book chapter titles, newspaper and magazine article titles, television episode titles, songs from a Broadway show or a music album, and shorter works such as short stories and poems.

21.

Identify a simple sentence.

I must have caught a cold from the sick children on the bus.

I usually don't mind missing work, but this is not fun.

I feel too ill to walk; I feel too ill to talk.

I was too sick to go to school, but I wasn't too sick to go to the dance.

Correct answer: I must have caught a cold from the sick children on the bus.

The option that is a simple sentence is: I must have caught a cold from the sick children on the bus. A simple sentence has only one independent clause, and it has no dependent clause.

The other options are all examples of compound sentences, as they consist of two independent clauses and are most commonly joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.

22.

Identify a compound sentence.

I generally don't mind cooking, but this kitchen is too small to cook in.

When I get to go home, I'm actually going to appreciate it.

If I ever see land again, I'm never stepping a foot off of it again.

My eyes and my nose hurt and look red.

Correct answer: I generally don't mind cooking, but this kitchen is too small to cook in.

The option that is a compound sentence is: I generally don't mind cooking, but this kitchen is too small to cook in. Compound sentences consist of two independent clauses, and they are joined by a comma and a coordinating conjunction or by a semicolon.

Two of the sentence options When I get to go home, I'm actually going to appreciate it and If I ever see land again, I'm never stepping a foot off of it again are complex sentences, as they each contain one independent clause (I'm actually going to appreciate it; I'm never stepping a foot off of it again) and one dependent clause (When I get to go home; If I ever see land again). The other sentence option My eyes and my nose hurt and look red is a simple sentence, as it only contains one independent clause and no dependent clause.

23.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

Some laws have been updated since this publication, so in order to reprint it with current information, some of those points will need to be _____.

elided

extended

arcane

confounded

Correct answer: elided

Elide means crossed out.

Extend means lengthen. Arcane is an adjective meaning mysterious or obscure.

Confound means confuse.

24.

Which of the following is **not** a correct use of a colon?

Between numbers and fractions (twenty:five and four:fifths)

After a salutation (Dear Mr. Cooper:)

For emphasis (He asked the question: He wanted to know now)

Between a title and a subtitle (Bumper: A dog's life)

Correct answer: Between numbers and fractions

Hyphens, not colons, are used between numbers and fractions (i.e., twenty-five or four-tenths).

Colons are used after salutations, between numerals indicating time or ratios, to introduce a quote, and between a title and a subtitle. Within a sentence or paragraph, colons are used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. The formula for colon use is full sentence + colon + list, fragment, or full sentence that amplifies or explains the first full sentence.

25.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Since the car wash was closed on Sunday, not Saturday, nothing was said.

Since, the car wash was closed on Sunday not Saturday, nothing was said.

Since the car wash was closed on Sunday not Saturday, nothing was said.

Since the car wash was closed on Sunday not Saturday nothing was said.

Correct answer: Since the car wash was closed on Sunday, not Saturday, nothing was said.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Since the car wash was closed on Sunday, not Saturday, nothing was said.

Commas should be used on both sides of mid-sentence non-essential information. This sentence makes sense without not Saturday, rendering this phrase non-essential for the sentence. Thus, commas are used on both sides of the phrase.

The other options are incorrect because a comma is not correctly used after a subordinating conjunction (since), and commas need to be used on both sides of a non-essential phrase or clause.

26.

Which of the following words does *loudly* modify?

Darla was in the middle of a speech when she sneezed loudly.

sneezed

speech

when

middle

Correct answer: sneezed

The adverb “loudly” modifies the verb “sneezed” in the given sentence. A modifier helps describe another word. An adverb modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. In this case, the adverb “loudly” is describing Darla’s “sneeze.”

The adverb “loudly” does not modify the words: speech, when, or middle.

27.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

Sometimes, the prosecution brings in some irrelevant points intended to _____ the fundamental issue of guilt or innocence.

obfuscate

capacious

caprice

abhor

Correct answer: obfuscate

Obfuscate means confuse.

*Capacious is an adjective means spacious. Caprice is a noun meaning whimsy.
Abhor means hate.*

28.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Leisure

Liesure

Lesure

Leishure

Correct answer: Leisure

Leisure is spelled correctly.

The rule "I before E except after C" has numerous exceptions. In the spelling of the word leisure, the E comes before the I. Other words with this exception include neither, caffeine, and weird.

29.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Accommodate

Acommodate

Accomodate

Accommidate

Correct answer: Accommodate

Accommodate is spelled correctly.

No spelling rule applies to this word; you must simply memorize its spelling. A great trick is to remember 2C and 2M.

30.

Identify an indirect object in the following sentence.

The clown showed the crowd his best tricks.

the crowd

the clown

his best tricks

showed

Correct answer: crowd

The given sentence's indirect object is crowd. An indirect object names the thing/person to whom or for whom something is being done. If you can change the sentence and make one of the objects a prepositional phrase (e.g., to the crowd), that is likely to be the sentence's indirect object. Also, indirect objects are optional for most verbs, so if the sentence makes sense without that phrase, that is likely to be the sentence's indirect object.

The word tricks is the sentence's direct object. Direct objects are required by some verbs (these are called transitive verbs). These verbs need something on the other side to complete the thought of the verb. In this case, it is not enough to say The clown showed. The clown showed what? The answer to this what question is the direct object. In this sentence, the direct object is his best tricks.

In this sentence:

Subject: the clown

Verb: showed

Direct object: his best tricks

Indirect object: the crowd

31.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly to complete this sentence?

“Given the patient’s symptoms, I would say she _____ has a serious infection.”

definitely

definately

defiantly

definitively

Correct answer: definitely

“Given the patient’s symptoms, I would say she definitely has a serious infection.”

Definitely is both the correct word and the correct spelling.

Defiantly is an adverb used to describe doing something in a defiant manner. This choice does not fit the context of the sentence. Definitively is an adverb meaning a final end, a perfect example, or most reliable or complete. This choice does not fit the context of the sentence. Definately is an incorrect spelling and is not a word at all.

32.

Which of the following is **not** a correct use of an apostrophe?

To punctuate titles

In contractions

To form plural possessives

To form plurals of single capitalized letters

Correct answer: To punctuate titles

Quotation marks, not apostrophes, are used to punctuate titles (e.g., “Dancing with Wolves”).

Apostrophes are used in contractions, to form possessives of all kinds, and to form plurals of single capital letters (e.g., She got straight A's.)

33.

Identify the subject of the following sentence.

Without a doubt the absolute most prestigious university in the world, Harvard is not easy to get into.

Harvard

without

doubt

university

Correct answer: Harvard

Harvard is the subject of this sentence.

Without is a preposition; subjects must be nouns. Doubt is the object of the preposition. University is the subject of the subordinate clause that precedes the main clause.

34.

Which of the following punctuation marks does **not** complete the sentence correctly?

The bonuses weren't exactly a surprise__ even so, the employees were grateful their organization was so thoughtful.

,

;

:

--

Correct answer: ,

A comma cannot be used to connect two independent clauses when no coordination conjunction (e.g. and, but, or) is present.

A semicolon (;) connects two independent clauses with no coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, but, or), and thus correctly completes this sentence: "The bonuses weren't exactly a surprise; even so, the employees were grateful their organization was so thoughtful."

A colon (:) is used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. The formula for colon use is full sentence + colon + list, fragment, or full sentence that amplifies or explains the first full sentence. When a full sentence is used after the colon, the first letter is capitalized: "The bonuses weren't exactly a surprise: Even so, the employees were grateful their organization was so thoughtful."

A dash (--) can be used in place of a colon: "The bonuses weren't exactly a surprise--even so, the employees were grateful their organization was so thoughtful."

35.

Identify the subject of the following sentence.

The Mississippi River flows from Minnesota to Louisiana in North America.

The Mississippi River

North America

Minnesota

Louisiana

Correct answer: The Mississippi River

The Mississippi River flows from Minnesota to Louisiana in North America.

The given sentence's subject is The Mississippi River. A sentence's subject is the first noun of the sentence's first independent clause when a sentence has multiple clauses. The sentence's subject always comes before the sentence's main verb in English.

The other three options are also nouns. However, Minnesota is the object of the preposition from and together they comprise the prepositional phrase from Minnesota, Louisiana is the object of the preposition to and together they comprise the prepositional phrase to Louisiana, and North America is the object of the preposition in and together they comprise the prepositional phrase in North America.

36.

Which of the following is a correct use of a question mark?

When showing uncertainty

When expressing a strong feeling

When stating something

When indicating the sentence trails off

Correct answer: When showing uncertainty

It is appropriate to use a question mark at the end of a sentence when showing uncertainty.

An exclamation point should be used at the end of a sentence when expressing a strong feeling. A period should be used at the end of a sentence when stating something. An ellipsis should be used at the end of a sentence when indicating the sentence trails off.

37.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Accidentally

Accidently

Acidentally

Acidently

Correct answer: Accidentally

Accidentally is spelled correctly.

If an -ly adverb comes from an -al adjective ("accidental" in this case), the -al has to be in the adverb spelling. Here, accidental gets the suffix -ly, so we retain the -al and add -ly. By contrast, public does not become publical, so when adding -ly, we simply get publicly.

Accident has two c's: one for the [k] sound and the second for the [s] sound. Together we get accident.

38.

Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

My grandmother chose to _____ from Ireland to the United States. It was hard for her to _____ to a new land, but she did it to find a better life.

emigrate; immigrate

emigrate; emigrate

immigrate; emigrate

immigrate; immigrate

Correct answer: emigrate; immigrate

My grandmother chose to emigrate from Ireland to the United States. It was hard for her to immigrate to a new land, but she did it to find a better life.

To emigrate is to leave your country to reside elsewhere. One emigrates from somewhere. To immigrate is to enter and reside in a new country. One immigrates to somewhere.

"My great-grandparents emigrated from Spain. They immigrated to the United States."

- People who emigrate exit a country, and both "emigrate" and "exit" start with "e."*
 - People who immigrate come in, and both "immigrate" and "in" start with the letter "i."*
-

39.

Identify a complex sentence.

When I see my husband again, I'm going to tell him how much I love him.

I generally love to go swimming, but this water is too cold.

The phone was ringing, so I thought about answering it.

Honestly, I've probably eaten three thousand super yummy grilled cheese sandwiches in my short-ish lifetime, with those with fresh avocado at the very top of my long list of favorites.

Correct answer: When I see my husband again, I'm going to tell him how much I love him.

The complex sentence is: When I see my husband again, I'm going to tell him how much I love him. Complex sentences contain one independent clause and one or more dependent clauses. The independent clause is I'm going to tell him how much I love him and the dependent clause is When I see my husband again.

Two of the sentence options I generally love to go swimming, but this water is too cold and The phone was ringing, so I thought about answering it are compound sentences, as they contain two independent clauses each. The other sentence option Honestly, I've probably eaten three thousand super yummy grilled cheese sandwiches in my short-ish lifetime, with those with fresh avocado at the very top of my long list of favorites is a simple sentence, as it only contains one independent clause and no dependent clause. This sentence is long, but if you look at it closely, you will find it loaded with adverbs, adjectives, and prepositional phrases (preposition, e.g. with, in, at of, + noun). A clause, even a dependent one, must have both a subject and a verb.

40.

Which of the following plural nouns is spelled correctly?

Loaves

Chieves

Rooves

Halfs

Correct answer: Loaves

Loaves is the correctly spelled word.

When a noun ends in -f or -fe, the rule is that the -f or -fe be changed to -v and add -es. However, there are several exceptions to this rule, where the word-final -f is kept and merely an -s is added to indicate plural. These exceptions must simply be learned individually.

The plural form of chief is chiefs. The plural form of roof is roofs. The plural form of half is halves.

41.

Identify the part of speech of *in* in the following sentence.

Jacob waited in his car for work to begin.

Preposition

Subject

Verb

Object

Correct answer: Preposition

Jacob waited in his car for work to begin.

A preposition is a word that describes relationships between other words. It is always followed by a noun, and shows the relationship between that noun and other parts of the sentence. There are about 150 prepositions in the English language.

Waited is the verb, Jacob is the subject, and work is the object.

42.

Identify an adjective in the following sentence.

The young couple went for a stroll in the park.

young

couple

stroll

for

Correct answer: young

The word young is an adjective, as it is describing the noun couple. An adjective modifies a noun.

The word couple is a noun. The word stroll is a verb. The word for is a preposition.

43.

Identify the adverbs in the following sentence.

Frank ran slowly at the end of his three-mile race, his hand wiping haphazardly at his forehead.

slowly, haphazardly

Frank, his

race, forehead

ran, wiping

Correct answer: slowly, haphazardly

An adverb is a word or phrase that describes or modifies an adjective, verb, or other adverb. Adverbs often end in -ly.

Frank ran slowly at the end of his three-mile race, his hand wiping haphazardly at his forehead.

The word slowly modifies the verb ran, while haphazardly modifies the verb wiping, rendering them both adverbs.

Ran and wiping are verbs, while race and forehead are both nouns. Frank and his are also nouns.

44.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

James is an intelligent and well-versed individual, but he is not a good public speaker.

James is an intelligent and well-versed individual, but, he is not a good public speaker.

James is an intelligent, and well-versed individual but, he is not a good public speaker.

James is an intelligent, and well versed individual but he is not a good public speaker.

Correct answer: James is an intelligent and well-versed individual, but he is not a good public speaker.

The sentence that is punctuated correctly is: James is an intelligent and well-versed individual, but he is not a good public speaker.

The comma is correctly used between two independent clauses, along with a coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, but, or).

A comma is required before the coordinating conjunction (but) and is incorrect if placed after the coordinating conjunction.

A comma is incorrectly placed between elements of a compound noun (intelligent and well-versed).

45.

Which of the following sentences is correct?

I said, “I don’t want to go!” when I was asked about joining them on the cruise.

I said, ‘I don’t want to go!’ when I was asked about joining them on the cruise.

I said that “I don’t want to go!” when I was asked about joining them on the cruise.

I said that ‘I don’t want to go!’ when I was asked about joining them on the cruise.

Correct answer: I said, “I don’t want to go!” when I was asked about joining them on the cruise.

When using a direct quote, it is introduced by either a comma or colon and offset by two quotation marks (") around the direct quotation. I said, “I don’t want to go!” when I was asked about joining them on the cruise is the only option with these requirements.

I said, ‘I don’t want to go!’ when I was asked about joining them on the cruise incorrectly uses apostrophes (') rather than quotation marks. I said that “I don’t want to go!” when I was asked about joining them on the cruise incorrectly introduces the direct quote with that, which is used to denote indirect speech, without using quotation marks, rather than direct speech. I said that ‘I don’t want to go!’ when I was asked about joining them on the cruise has both problems: apostrophes rather than quotation marks, and that to introduce the direct quote.

46.

Identify a verb in the following sentence.

I went out to the forest to see if I could discover what was making the loud squeal.

discover

forest

what

loud

Correct answer: discover

The word discover is a verb. A verb is a word that expresses action. Other verbs used in the sentence include: went, to see, could discover, was making.

Loud is an adjective. Forest is a noun. What is a pronoun.

47.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Susan loves to watch the leaves change color; fall is her favorite time of the year.

Susan loves to watch the leaves change color; and fall is her favorite time of the year.

Susan loves to watch the leaves change color, fall is her favorite time of the year.

Susan loves to watch the leaves change color - fall is her favorite time of the year.

Correct answer: Susan loves to watch the leaves change color; fall is her favorite time of the year.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Susan loves to watch the leaves change color; fall is her favorite time of the year. Place a semicolon between two independent but related clauses. A period would also be correct.

When using a coordinating conjunction (and) between independent clauses, a comma is the correct punctuation.

Using a comma between two independent clauses without a coordinating conjunction is a sentence error called a comma splice. It is ungrammatical in English.

Hyphens are shorter than dashes, and there are no spaces around them. Hyphens are used to glue words together. If this mark were longer to make a dash, this option would also be correct.

48.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Lori attended every class; however, she failed to take notes, resulting in low exam scores.

Yesterday the student was hit by a car; while walking to class.

Rebecca, however frequently cooks in her kitchen.

Erin doesn't draw well: consequently, she could not draw the illustrations for her book.

Correct answer: Lori attended every class; however, she failed to take notes, resulting in low exam scores.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Lori attended every class; however, she failed to take notes, resulting in low exam scores.

This sentence correctly uses both a semicolon and commas. The semicolon is correct when separating two independent clause with a conjunctive adverb (however) beginning the second clause. The comma is correct because it is necessary for clear understanding of the sentence's ideas.

Yesterday the student was hit by a car; while walking to class. This is incorrect because a semicolon joins two independent clauses. While walking to class is a dependent clause. No internal punctuation would make this sentence correct.

Rebecca, however frequently cooks in her kitchen. This sentence is incorrect because it is missing a comma after the conjunctive adverb however. A conjunctive adverb can be placed after the subject, but then it requires commas on both sides of it.

Erin doesn't draw well: consequently, she could not draw the illustrations for her book. A colon is used before information given to clarify or amplify the information in the independent clause preceding the colon, and not with a conjunctive adverb. Consequently is a conjunctive adverb, rendering the colon use incorrect.

49.

Which of the following punctuation marks completes the sentence correctly?

Roger wanted to make sure he packed the following items__ toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream, comb, and contact solution.

:

;

-

,

Correct answer: :

A colon (:) is the punctuation mark that best completes the sentence. Roger wanted to make sure he packed the following items: toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream, comb, and contact solution. Colons are used following an independent clause to introduce a list.

Semicolons (;), hyphens (-), and commas (,) are not used to introduce a list. Semicolons separate two independent clauses, hyphens glue words together, and commas have many uses, though none of them is to introduce a list.

50.

Identify the part of speech of *poverty* in the following sentence.

During the early 1950s, many Americans lived in poverty.

Noun

Verb

Adverb

Adjective

Correct answer: Noun

Poverty is a noun. It names an idea or feeling.

A verb expresses action or a state of being (i.e., lived). An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. An adjective modifies a noun (i.e., early).

51.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious even though the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it.

The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious: even though, the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it.

The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious, even though, the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it.

The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious, even though the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it.

Correct answer: The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious even though the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: "The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious even though the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it."

This is a complex sentence with an independent clause ("The dinner that Karen cooked was very delicious") followed by a dependent clause ("even though the kitchen looks like a tornado hit it"). The dependent clause is marked by the subordinating conjunction "even though", which renders the clause dependent. In a complex sentence, when the independent clause comes before the dependent clause, no comma is used between the clauses. However, when the dependent clause comes before the independent clause, a comma is placed after the dependent clause. This follows the rule of placing a comma after information that precedes the sentence's subject.

Colons are used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. They are not used with subordinating conjunctions.

Commas are incorrect when joining a dependent clause to an independent clause, and do not offset subordinating conjunctions ("even though") with commas on both sides.

Commas are incorrectly used before subordinating conjunctions ("even though") in complex sentences when the independent clause comes first and the dependent clause comes second.

52.

Identify the type of sentence.

I must have got some sun from working outside all day.

Simple

Compound

Complex

Compound-complex

Correct answer: Simple

The given sentence is a simple sentence, as it contains only one independent clause and no dependent clause.

A compound sentence contains two independent clauses. A complex sentence contains one independent clause and one dependent clause two total clauses. A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses and one dependent clause for three clauses total.

53.

Identify the prepositional phrase(s) in the following sentence.

One time, in the winter of '82, my grandpa took me fishing in the old stream near his house.

in the winter, of '82, in the old stream, near his house

One time, in the winter, in the old stream

One time, in the winter, my grandpa, took me fishing

of '82, my grandpa, in the old stream, near his house

Correct answer: in the winter, of '82, in the old stream, near his house

A prepositional phrase begins with a preposition and ends with a noun. This sentence has four: in the winter, of '82, in the old stream, near his house.

One time, my grandpa, and took me fishing do not have prepositions.

54.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Enforcing

Stareing

Posturring

Resembleing

Correct answer: Enforcing

Enforcing is spelled correctly.

When adding a suffix to a root word that ends in -e (enforce), drop the -e if the suffix begins with a vowel. This suffix -ing begins with the letter -i, a vowel, so the -e in the root word enforce should be dropped.

There are a few exceptions to this rule such as due + ly = duly, peace + able = peaceable, true + ly = truly.

The proper spelling for the incorrect answer choices is staring, posturing, and resembling.

55.

Identify the subject in the following the sentence.

She went to the park after work.

she

work

park

after

Correct answer: She

A subject is the main noun of a sentence. In a sentence with multiple clauses, it is the subject of the first independent clause. The subject of this sentence is she.

She went to the park after work.

A verb is a word that describes an action or state of being. Went is the verb. A preposition is a word that describes relationships between other words. After is the preposition. A noun is used to identify people, places, or things. Park and work are nouns.

56.

Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

You should take _____ test before _____ past the deadline and it's too late.

your; you're

your; your

you're; you're

you're; your

Correct answer: your; you're

You should take your test before you're past the deadline and it's too late.

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but have different meaning and usually different spelling.

Your is a possessive pronoun. Use your when talking about something you have, and before a noun [your house]. If you're talking about something that belongs to you, then your is the correct form. You're is a contraction meaning you are. Use you're when you want to shorten you are [you're right]. If you can replace the term with you are, then you're is the correct form.

57.

Which of the following punctuation marks completes the sentence correctly?

Roger wanted to make sure he packed the following items__ toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream, comb, and contact solution.

:

;

-

,

Correct answer: :

A colon (:) is the punctuation mark that best completes the sentence. Roger wanted to make sure he packed the following items: toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, razor, shaving cream, comb, and contact solution. Colons are used following an independent clause to introduce a list.

Semicolons (;), hyphens (-), and commas (,) are not used to introduce a list. Semicolons separate two independent clauses, hyphens glue words together, and commas have many uses, though none of them is to introduce a list.

58.

Which of the following sentences is correct?

I'd like to have several kinds of dogs: Chihuahuas, German Shepherds, and Poodles.

I'd like to have several kinds of dogs; Chihuahuas, German Shepherds, and Poodles.

I'd like to have several kinds of dogs: Chihuahuas: German Shepherds: and Poodles.

I'd like to have several kinds of dogs: including Chihuahuas, German Shepherds, and Poodles.

Correct answer: I'd like to have several kinds of dogs: Chihuahuas, German Shepherds, and Poodles.

A colon is a punctuation mark used after a full sentence or independent clause to introduce something that illustrates, clarifies, or amplifies what the previous clause said. When a list follows a colon, commas are used to separate those items.

59.

Identify a preposition in the following sentence.

I found the lost stuffed animal under the bed.

under

found

lost

bed

Correct answer: under

The word under is the preposition in this sentence. A preposition is a word or group of words used before a noun, pronoun, or noun phrase to show direction, time, place, location, spatial relationships, or to introduce an object. A prepositional phrase is simply a group of words that consists of a preposition and the object of the preposition. It can also include words that modify the object. Normally, the modifier will be a noun or the infinitive or gerund form of the linking verb.

Found is a verb. Lost is used as an adjective. Bed is a noun.

60.

Identify the part of speech of *away* in the following sentence.

The children were running away from the snake.

Adverb

Conjunction

Preposition

Pronoun

Correct answer: Adverb

Away is an adverb. It means in a different direction. Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, or other adverbs. Here, it modifies the verb running.

A conjunction connects individual words, phrases or clauses. An preposition is always followed by a noun and shows the relationship of that noun to another part of the sentence. A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

61.

Identify a preposition in the following sentence.

I found the lost stuffed animal under the bed.

under

found

lost

bed

Correct answer: under

The word under is the preposition in this sentence. A preposition is always followed by a noun and together they comprise a prepositional phrase. Prepositional phrases give additional information about some part of the sentence.

Found is a verb. Lost is used as an adjective. Bed is a noun.

62.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly for the sentence?

The boss was generally quite _____, which made most of us a little afraid of her.

brusque

brusk

brisque

brusck

Correct answer: brusque

Brusque is spelled correctly. The other options are misspelled.

63.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Hiding

Hideing

Hyding

Hidying

Correct answer: Hiding

Hiding is spelled correctly.

When adding a suffix to a root word that ends in -e (hide), drop the final -e if the suffix begins with a vowel. In this case, the suffix begins with the letter -i which is a vowel, so the -e in the root word hide should be dropped. The proper spelling of this word is hiding.

There are a few exceptions to this rule such as due + ly = duly, peace + able = peaceable, true + ly = truly.

64.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

The author stated, “I will not write a word that I do not believe.”

The author stated “I will not write a word that I do not believe.”

The author stated, “I will not write a word that I do not believe”.

The author stated: “I will not write a word that I do not believe”.

Correct answer: The author stated, “I will not write a word that I do not believe.”

The correctly punctuated sentence is: The author stated, “I will not write a word that I do not believe.”

The sentence requires a comma after the word stated because commas (or colons) are used before directly quoted dialogue. When using a direct quote, the author’s exact words need to be in quotation marks. For direct quotes, periods should always be placed inside quotation marks in U.S. usage.

65.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

That cafeteria is just for the _____; it contains the _____ lounge.

students; students'

students; students

student's; students'

students'; students

Correct answer: students; students'

The correctly punctuated sentence is: That cafeteria is just for the students; it contains the students' lounge. In English, plural nouns do not get apostrophes, ever. Possessive nouns get apostrophes. The first occurrence of students is a plural noun, so no apostrophe is correct usage. The second clause talks about their lounge. Thus, it is plural possessive. An apostrophe needs to be on the noun to mark possessiveness. Use an apostrophe on the end of a plural word to indicate possessiveness.

Placing the apostrophe before the final -s (student's) indicates singular possessiveness--a thing that belongs to one single student. This sentence is not discussing possessiveness in the first blank but rather plural students. Thus, no apostrophes are used. The second blank indicates plural possessive, so an apostrophe comes after the plural indicator -s.

66.

Identify an adjective in the following sentence.

The big bug crawled slowly across the floor.

big

slowly

bug

floor

Correct answer: big

The big bug crawled slowly across the floor.

*An adjective is a word or phrase that modifies a noun. The adjective **big** modifies the noun, **bug**.*

Slowly is an adverb describing how the bug crawled. Bug is a noun. Floor is also a noun.

67.

Which of the following is a correct use of an exclamation point?

When expressing a strong feeling

When showing uncertainty

When requesting something

When making a normal statement

Correct answer: When expressing a strong feeling

It is appropriate to use an exclamation point at the end of a sentence when expressing a strong feeling.

A question mark should be used at the end of a sentence when the sentence shows uncertainty. A period should be used at the end of a sentence when the sentence makes a normal statement.

68.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

Her 20-point presentation slide was intended to help clarify the issue, but in fact, it merely _____ it.

confounded

floundered

condoned

congealed

Correct answer: confounded

Confound means confuse.

Flounder means thrash about wildly. Condone means allow. Congeal means changing from liquid to solid state, such as by a cold environment.

69.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I named her that) is a spoiled cat who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I name her that.) is a spoiled cat who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I name her that.) is a spoiled cat, who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I name her that) is a spoiled cat, who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

Correct answer: My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I named her that) is a spoiled cat who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: My cat Pumpkin (I'm not sure why I named her that) is a spoiled cat who likes to sleep on my feet at night.

A period is used at the end of sentences that make a declarative statement or give a mild command.

The other options are incorrect because it is incorrect to place a period after and within a parenthetical statement within a larger sentence. It is incorrect to place a comma after cat: the following clause modifies the word before it, cat, and is essential to the meaning of the sentence.

70.

Identify a compound sentence.

Cheryl went to the grocery store, but Alex decided to go to the market instead.

Although Tina and Mark wanted to ride the bus to class, they did not have the required bus fare.

Katy worked hard to complete her exam.

Because Harry was late for school, he was unable to take the test.

Correct answer: Cheryl went to the grocery store, but Alex decided to go to the market instead.

Cheryl went to the grocery store, but Alex decided to go to the market instead. This is an example of a compound sentence because two independent clauses have been joined using a coordinating conjunction (but).

Although Tina and Mark wanted to ride the bus to class, they did not have the required bus fare. This sentence is complex; it has one dependent clause (Although Tina and Mark wanted to ride the bus to class) and one independent clause (they did not have the required bus fare.)

Because Harry was late for school, he was unable to take the test. This sentence is complex. It has one dependent clause (Because Harry was late for school) and one independent clause (he was unable to take the test).

Katy worked hard to complete her exam. This is a simple sentence. It has one independent clause.

71.

Which of the following is spelled correctly when adding the suffix *-ful* to the word *beauty*?

Beautiful

Beautyful

Beautyiful

Beautifull

Correct answer: Beautiful

Beautiful is spelled correctly.

When adding a suffix to a root word ending in -y directly preceded by a consonant, change the -y to -i unless the suffix begins with -i. This root word, beauty, ends in -y preceded by a consonant -t which would indicate a change of -y to -i. The suffix is -ful which does not begin with -i. Therefore, you would change the -y to -i to spell the word as beautiful.

As always, there are a few exceptions to this rule. For example, memory + ize = memorize.

72.

Identify a noun in the following sentence.

Oliver went to the hospital when he broke his leg.

hospital

went

when

broke

Correct answer: hospital

The word hospital is a noun. A noun names a person, a place, a thing, or an idea. Other nouns in the given sentence include the words Oliver and leg.

Went is a verb. When is a conjunction in this sentence. Broke is a verb.

73.

Which of the following is a correct use of a colon?

Dad has several toys: a tractor, a motorcycle, and a boat.

Dad has: a sore foot.

Dad watches a television show: a tractor, a motorcycle, and a boat.

Dad's new tractor has: I left my phone inside.

Correct answer: Dad has several toys: a tractor, a motorcycle, and a boat.

Within a sentence or paragraph, colons are used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. The formula for colon use is full sentence + colon + list, fragment, or full sentence that amplifies or explains the first full sentence.

Dad has: a sore foot. is incorrect because a sore foot is the direct object of the verb has. This is an incorrect use of a colon.

Dad watches a television show: a tractor, a motorcycle, and a boat. is incorrect because the information after the colon, while a list of items, has nothing to do with the information before the colon.

Dad's new tractor has: I left my phone inside. is incorrect because the information after the colon has nothing to do with the information before the colon, and because the verb has has no object, which is incorrect in English.

74.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

Type 1 diabetes is considered to be _____, while Type 2 diabetes is acquired during the life experience and typically connected to diet.

congenital

ascertain

conciliatory

comorbid

Correct answer: congenital

Congenital means from birth.

Ascertain is a verb meaning to find out with certainty. Conciliatory means intended to gain goodwill. Comorbid means a medical condition existing simultaneously.

75.

Identify a compound-complex sentence.

Yes, I have a bad cold, and because I need to get better, I won't go back to work just yet.

I won't complain about my cold, although I might start complaining about how cold it is in here.

I don't want to wash dishes; I don't want to dry dishes.

The dishes can remain dirty.

Correct answer: Yes, I have a bad cold, and because I need to get better, I won't go back to work just yet.

The compound-complex sentence is: Yes, I have a bad cold, and because I need to get better, I won't go back to work just yet. A compound-complex sentence contains two independent clauses (Yes, I have a bad cold, and I won't go back to work just yet) and one dependent clause (because I need to get better).

One sentence option I won't complain about my cold, although I might start complaining about how cold it is in here is a complex sentence, as it contains one independent clause and one dependent clause. The sentence I don't want to wash dishes; I don't want to dry dishes is a compound sentence, as it contains two independent clauses (joined by a semicolon). The last sentence option The dishes can remain dirty is a simple sentence, as it contains only one independent clause and no dependent clause.

76.

Identify the main verb in the following sentence.

Whether or not he actually believed what she needed him to believe in order to pull off the tremendous surprise she'd been planning for months was less relevant than getting him to show up at the appointed place and time for the party in his honor to occur.

was

believed

needed

getting

Correct answer: was

The sentence has several verbs, but most verbs are embedded within other clauses. Each main clause has only one verb, and each sentence has (at least) one main clause. This sentence has only one main clause. The clause "Whether or not he actually believed what she needed him to believe in order to pull off the tremendous surprise she'd been planning for months" is all part of a noun clause that forms the subject of the sentence. The main verb is "was".

"Believed", "needed" and "getting" are all verbs within subordinate clauses.

77.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Quentin, Patrick, and Derek went camping this weekend.

Lindsay called her mom, to tell her, she will be graduating the following June.

Ben Karen and Erin, forgot to go to the grocery store.

Sam bought his girlfriend a necklace, for her birthday; Pamela didn't know which day Christmas fell on this year.

Correct answer: Quentin, Patrick, and Derek went camping this weekend.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Quentin, Patrick, and Derek went camping this weekend. Items in a list of three or more are separated by commas, with the final comma being optional.

Ben Karen and Erin, forgot to go to the grocery store. Items in a list of three or more are separated by commas, with the final comma being optional. No commas belong between subject and verb.

Lindsay called her mom, to tell her, she will be graduating the following June. This sentence uses two commas incorrectly. This sentence would be correct with no commas.

Sam bought his girlfriend a necklace, for her birthday; Pamela didn't know which day Christmas fell on this year. This sentence incorrectly uses a comma before the prepositional phrase that modifies the previous information, and incorrectly uses a semicolon to connect two unrelated sentences.

78.

Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

I was looking over _____ when I saw _____ new car.

there; their

there; there

their; their

there; they're

Correct answer: there; their

I was looking over there when I saw their new car.

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but have different meaning and usually different spelling.

There is an adverb referring to a specific place. If you can say over there or here and the sentence makes sense, there is the correct form. Their is a possessive pronoun, meaning something belongs to them. It comes before a noun to indicate possession--to indicate whose item something is. If you can replace their with specific people's names [Ann and Jim's car], then their is the correct form. They're is a contraction meaning they are. If you can say they are in place of they're, then they're is the correct form.

79.

Which of the following punctuation marks completes the sentence correctly?

I wanted to scream out his name__ but I couldn't find my voice.

,

;

.

:

Correct answer: ,

A comma (,) is the punctuation mark that best completes the sentence. I wanted to scream out his name, but I couldn't find my voice. A comma is used between two independent clauses joined by a coordinating conjunction (e.g. and, but, or).

A semicolon (;) would be used to join the two independent clauses when a transitional phrase or a conjunctive adverb is used, not when a coordinating conjunction is used. Sentences do not properly begin with a coordinating conjunction, so use of a period here is incorrect. A colon (:) is used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. The information in the but phrase contradicts the information in the independent clause, does not amplify, clarify, or illustrate, rendering a colon incorrect here.

80.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good, M.D.

Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good, M.D..

Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good, MD.

Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good MD.

Correct answer: Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good, M.D.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: Derrick was looking for the door that displayed the name Benjamin Good, M.D.

A period is used at the end of a sentence that makes a statement and is used after initials or abbreviations.

The other options are incorrect because an abbreviation should contain periods (M.D.), a comma should be used to set off the individual's name from credentials, and only one period should be used at the end of a sentence.

81.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer? – and her husband, Clay.

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer – and her husband, Clay.

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer – and her husband Clay?

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer? – and her husband Clay.

Correct answer: I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer? – and her husband, Clay.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer? – and her husband, Clay.

A question mark should be used with a short question within dashes, the dashes are used appropriately to set off the short question, the comma is used appropriately to set off nonessential information, and the statement should end with a period.

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer – and her husband, Clay. This is incorrect because a question mark is needed for the short question between dashes mid-sentence.

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer – and her husband Clay? This is incorrect because a question mark is needed for the short question between dashes mid-sentence and the statement is a declarative, not a question, so should end in a period.

I'm pleased to introduce Marianne – did I mention that she's a lawyer? – and her husband Clay. This is incorrect because a comma is needed before the nonessential information, Clay.

82.

Which of the following punctuation marks completes the sentence most correctly?

During a recent speech, Darla stated__ “I am the only individual who has achieved perfection.”

:

;

.

-

Correct answer: :

A colon (:) is the punctuation mark that best completes the sentence. During a recent speech, Darla stated: “I am the only individual who has achieved perfection.” A colon can be used to introduce a direct quote.

Semicolons (;), hyphens (-), and periods (.) are not used to introduce a quotation.

83.

Which of the following plural nouns is spelled correctly?

Duos

Vetos

Antennaes

Potatos

Correct answer: Duos

Duos is spelled correctly.

When a noun ends in an -o preceded by a vowel, the noun is made plural by adding only an -s. Therefore, duos is the correct plural spelling of duo.

If the word-final -o is preceded by a consonant, that noun is made plural by adding -es. Both veto and potato end in an -o preceded by the consonant -t. Thus, the plural for veto is vetoes. The plural for potato is potatoes.

Antenna is a medieval Latin word and can follow its original plural rule from Latin or an English plural rule. It is made plural by either adding an -e or an -s, antennae or antennas, but not both as in the option given.

84.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

The embezzler _____ about the wrongs of stealing.

canted

courted

averred

dissented

Correct answer: canted

Cant means to talk hypocritically. Court means to seek to gain or achieve. Aver means to declare positively. Dissent means to differ in opinion.

85.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly for the sentence?

Most people found his _____ a positive trait, but it equated to submission.

acquiescence

aquiescence

acquiessence

aquiessence

Correct answer: acquiescence

Acquiescence is the correctly spelled word. All other words are misspelled.

86.

Choose the correct word to fill in the blank.

Three of my near neighbors were playing their own music loudly at the same time.
The _____ gave me a headache.

cacophony

cadge

burlesque

bulwark

Correct answer: cacophony

Cacophony is harsh or jarring sound.

*Cadge is a verb meaning to beg or sponge. Burlesque is mockery by caricature.
Bulwark is a strong support or protection.*

87.

Which of the following punctuation marks completes the sentence most correctly?

The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why.

The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why?

The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why!

The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why:

Correct answer: The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why.

The questions that we need to ask our boss are how and when, not why. The sentence should end with a period, as it is making a declarative statement.

The sentence should not end with a question mark because the sentence is not a question. (When sentences begin with how, when or why, they are questions.) The sentence should not end with an exclamation point because the sentence is not expressing a strong feeling. A colon is not a proper ending for a sentence.

88.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Caffeine

Caffiene

Caffeen

Caffieen

Correct answer: Caffeine

Caffeine is spelled correctly.

The rule "I before E except after C" has many exceptions. In the spelling of the word caffeine, the -e comes before the -i. Other words with this exception include neither, leisure, and weird.

89.

Identify a conjunction in the following sentence.

The man quit eating his dinner so he would have room for a piece of pie.

so

his

piece

would

Correct answer: so

The word so is a conjunction. So is a coordinating conjunction, used to join two independent clauses.

The word his is a pronoun (noun). The word piece is a noun. The word would is a verb.

90.

Which of the following is a correct use of commas?

Pitt, B., and Johnson, D., are two popular movie stars.

Pitt, B. and Johnson, D. are two popular movie stars.

Pitt B. and Johnson D. are two popular movie stars.

Pitt, B., and Johnson, D. are two popular movie stars.

Correct answer: Pitt, B., and Johnson, D., are two popular movie stars.

The sentence that demonstrates the correct use of commas is: Pitt, B., and Johnson, D., are two popular movie stars. Commas should be used after initials and names that follow a surname.

The other options are incorrect usages of the comma in this context.

91.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Accommodate

Acommodate

Accomodate

Accommidate

Correct answer: Accommodate

Accommodate is spelled correctly.

No spelling rule applies to this word; you must simply memorize its spelling. A great trick is to remember 2C and 2M.

92.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Achieve

Acheive

Acheeve

Acheve

Correct answer: Achieve

Achieve is spelled correctly.

This follows the "I before E" rule.

93.

Identify a pronoun in the following sentence.

He ran over the bike with a yellow truck.

He

Bike

Yellow

Over

Correct answer: He

He ran over the bike with a yellow truck.

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun. In this case, the word He replaces the name of the person who ran over the bike.

In this sentence, bike is a noun, yellow is an adjective, and over is a preposition.

94.

Which of the following plural nouns is spelled correctly?

Sheep

Deers

Bisons

Meese

Correct answer: Sheep

Sheep is the correct plural form and spelled correctly.

Some nouns are the same form in both singular and plural. The plural of deer is deer. The plural of bison is bison. The plural of moose is moose.

95.

Which of the following sentences is punctuated correctly?

I do not call myself an author: I haven't written anything famous.

I do not call myself an author: consequently, I haven't written anything famous.

I do not call myself an author - I haven't written anything famous.

I do not call myself an author, because I haven't written anything famous.

Correct answer: I do not call myself an author: I haven't written anything famous.

The correctly punctuated sentence is: "I do not call myself an author: I haven't written anything famous."

Within a sentence or paragraph, colons are used to say, "Here's what I mean." They follow an independent clause and amplify, clarify, or illustrate the information before the colon. The formula for colon use is full sentence + colon + list, fragment, or full sentence that amplifies or explains the first full sentence. The given sentence consists of two independent clauses and contains no conjunctive adverb (e.g. therefore, however, consequently). The second clause amplifies or clarifies the information in the first clause. For these reasons, the colon is correct here.

When using a conjunctive adverb ("consequently"), a semicolon is the correct punctuation, not a colon.

Hyphens are short lines with no spaces around them, used to glue words together. The use of a hyphen is incorrect here because it is not gluing words together. If the hyphen were extended to form a dash, the sentence would be grammatically correct. But with a hyphen, it's incorrect.

A comma is incorrect here because the subordinating conjunction "because" makes this sentence complex, with the independent clause preceding the dependent clause. When the independent clause comes first in a complex sentence, no comma follows it. A comma is used in a complex sentence when the dependent clause precedes the independent clause.

96.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly for the sentence?

The British thesis is _____ with the US dissertation.

commensurate

commenssurate

comensurate

commenssurate

Correct answer: commensurate

Commensurate is spelled correctly. All other options are misspelled.

97.

Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

Josh wanted to take the time to _____ about the _____ of passage that had come to him when he was _____ about changes in his world.

write; rite; right

write; right; rite

right; rite; write

right; write; rite

Correct answer: write; rite; right

Josh wanted to take the time to write about the rite of passage that had come to him when he was right about changes in his world.

Homophones are words that are pronounced the same but have different meaning and usually different spelling.

When you put words together on paper or a word processor, you write. Write is a verb. The to before the first blank indicates that what comes next is either a verb or a destination. Rite is a noun that refers to a ceremony or ritual such as the "last rites" given by the clergy of some churches. Right is an adjective or a noun; as an adjective it can refer to the direction opposite of left, appropriate, straight, or correct.

98.

Identify the part of speech of *longer* in the following sentence.

The second exam was longer and more tiresome than the first.

Adjective

Adverb

Noun

Pronoun

Correct answer: Adjective

Longer is an adjective. Here, it is describing the noun exam. An adjective modifies a noun.

An adverb modifies a verb, adjective, or another adverb. A noun names a person, place, thing, or idea (i.e., exam). A pronoun is a word used in place of a noun.

99.

Which of the following words is spelled correctly?

Flipping

Fliping

Flipps

Fliped

Correct answer: Flipping

Flipping is spelled correctly.

In a one-syllable word ending in one consonant preceded by one vowel, double the final consonant letter (never double -w, -x, or -y) to add a suffix.

Flip ends with a consonant preceded by a vowel. So to add a suffix, the final consonant -p must be doubled.

100.

Identify the sentence-structure mistake in the following sentence.

Catherine and Tim danced at their wedding, Catherine's friend took pictures.

Comma splice

Sentence fragment

Compound sentence

Run-on sentence

Correct answer: Comma splice

A comma splice is a sentence error involving the use of only a comma to connect two independent clauses. Either adding a coordinating conjunction (e.g., and, but, or, so) or a semicolon in place of the comma would fix this sentence.

A sentence fragment cannot stand alone as a sentence. It is either a dependent clause, or a phrase that is missing either a noun or verb.

A compound sentence is not a sentence error, but a type of sentence. It contains two independent clauses properly punctuated with a semicolon (;) or a comma + coordinating conjunction.

A run-on sentence is a sentence in which two or more independent clauses are joined without any appropriate punctuation or a conjunction separating the clauses. (Example: It is nearly half past six we cannot reach town before dark.)
