

**READING
BASICS**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Main Idea..... | 2 |
| Supporting Details..... | 6 |
| Word Meaning..... | 10 |
| Reading Basics Assessment..... | 14 |

MAIN IDEA PRACTICE

Nearly all human beings have a fear of something. Most of these fears are normal to have, such as the fear of a nuclear war, death, speaking in public, or the dentist, and most people with these common fears go on living normal lives and face them head-on when needed. On the other hand, some people suffer from irrational fears, which are generally categorized as the types of fears that bring upon intense anxiety on the sufferer, will even alter his or her life, and may not have any logical cause behind them.

A phobia is defined as an irrational fear and can practically paralyze the victim. The sufferers of phobias may clearly understand that their fear is unjustified but simply can't prevent or manage the anxiety. Without professional help, phobias can lead to great life alterations for their victims.

One phobia that regularly plagues sufferers in such a way is called agoraphobia, the fear of public places. Someone with this phobia dreads being trapped in a public place, such as in line at the grocery store, in crowds at the mall, or even on a bridge. It can begin with a seemingly innocent event that causes the sufferer to avoid the place or situation again and can eventually lead to being housebound.

Like agoraphobia, another relatively common life-altering phobia is claustrophobia, the abnormal fear of tight spaces. People suffering from claustrophobia will likely never ride in elevators, panic from being in a room without windows, and under no circumstances wear tight-collared shirts. The need to have an escape is important for these sufferers, so to avoid the symptoms of sweating, rapid heartbeat, hyperventilating, and nausea, they manage their fear by sitting near exits and opening windows. For the roughly 5% of people who have claustrophobia, though, tactics like this will never actually cure the problem.

We all have things or situations that we have no reason to fear, but those suffering from phobias cannot manage the effects. Fearing a thunderstorm or seeing a snake slither across the sidewalk may lead to some discomfort or tension for most of us, but if we cower in a closet or run inside to escape these fears, it may be the start of something uncontrollable.

1. Which of the following statements best describes the main point of the passage?

- A. Seeking professional help for phobias is necessary for living a normal life.
- B. Fears of snakes, death, and the dentist are commonplace.
- C. Common fears and life-altering phobias may exist in people's lives, but managing them is vital.
- D. The effects of agoraphobia can increase over time.

2. The primary function of the fourth paragraph (lines 25-36) is to:

- F. present a percentage of people who suffer from claustrophobia.
- G. enhance the idea that phobias are extremely common.
- H. introduce a specific phobia and symptoms as an example to support the passage.
- J. clarify the similarities between agoraphobia and claustrophobia.

3. The overall purpose of the passage is to:

- A. inform readers about certain phobias and their life-changing effects if left unchecked.
- B. advise readers to seek medical attention if frightened of tight spaces and crowds.
- C. compel readers to courageously face their own fears.
- D. aid in diagnosing phobias from which readers may suffer.

SUPPORTING DETAILS PRACTICE

It's a multi-billion dollar industry, and you may have a few friends who are quite involved in the buying, selling, and trading of sneakers. Limited edition and rare kicks can go for hundreds to thousands of dollars on eBay, and true "sneakerheads" (the slang term for someone who collects sneakers) will wait for days outside a store to get their hands, but not feet, on some rare footwear.

Like any collector, a sneakerhead will keep his shoes mint and never wear the best pairs. Some buy two pairs if they can afford it—one to keep on display and the other to accent shirts, jeans, or caps and truly be the envy of onlookers. Others can never justify breaking in a pair of fresh Jordans and will keep shelves dedicated to the prized pairs. When retail prices of limited edition shoes usually start at least two hundred dollars a pair (if one is lucky enough to get them retail), it's no wonder why certain sneakers never hold a pair of feet.

Forget hundreds for rare sneakers. Can you imagine spending thousands or even tens of thousands on a pair of sneakers? To set itself apart in the sneaker collecting business, one Atlanta store created the most expensive sneaker in the world, but this is no ordinary retail pair. This particular So-Cal (a specialized version of Nike's Air Force One) is worth a whopping \$50,000—the price of a luxury car! This pair has 11 carats of white, yellow, or blue diamonds adorning the exterior. For a fraction of the cost, a collector can try to grab a pair of Air Zoom Kobe I's, a Nike Air laser-inscribed by Kobe Bryant, for \$11,000. Only twenty-five exist, and counterfeits appear on eBay frequently. The third most expensive pair is a limited edition Nike Dunk Low Pro SB's inspired by the French artist Bernard Buffet, which can go from \$5,000 to \$11,000, but good luck finding a pair. There were only 202 pairs created.

If you want to get started collecting sneakers, be sure to have the money to invest. Like any collection, rare pieces will cost a great deal of money, so begin by finding a reputable boutique and get shoes that you like and are in your budget. Buying a pair of So-Cals one day may be any sneakerhead's dream, but start small and grow your collection to suit your style.

1. According to the passage, a sneakerhead's behavior does NOT include:

- A. wearing the only owned pair of rare sneakers.
- B. finding exotic sneakers.
- C. waiting in line for rare sneakers.
- D. displaying a sneaker collection.

2. Based on information in the passage, what makes a pair of So-Cals so expensive?

- F. They come with a luxury car.
- G. They are adorned with diamonds.
- H. There are only twenty-five in existence.
- J. The Atlanta-based artist charges high premiums for his work.

3. The passage states that in order to start collecting sneakers, one should do all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. determine if starting a shoe collection is financially feasible.
- B. locate a trustworthy dealer.
- C. purchase shoes based on personal preference.
- D. find the most exotic pair to start the collection.

WORD MEANING PRACTICE

Recall the time commitment, focus, and frustration spent on those 500 or 1,000 piece puzzles of childhood. Well, students at the University of Economics of Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam may have been pushed to their limits when making history on September 24, 2011, by setting a new record for the world’s largest jigsaw puzzle. Put together inside an enormous stadium by 1,600 participants, the puzzle pictured a lotus flower with six petals. It took the students 17 hours to divide the puzzle into over 3,000 different sections, and then teams of two fabricated their own very small sections. Once pooled, scenes of jubilation occurred—this excitement lasted during the early morning hours in preparation for the bestowing of the Guinness World Records certificate the next day. During this live TV broadcast of the presentation of the certificate, government officials were treated to a production filled with performance and song. The previous record of 212,323 puzzle pieces set in Singapore in 2002 was shattered by a 551,232 piece puzzle, each measuring just under an inch, amassing to the final scope. When all was said and done, the largest jigsaw record wasn’t about the final size of the puzzle (48 ft. by 76 ft.), but the number of pieces. Over a half million tiny bits and an enormous amount of manpower earned students in Vietnam a record that won’t soon be surpassed.

1. As it is used in line 11, the word *pooled* most nearly means:
 - A. saturated.
 - B. compiled.
 - C. filled.
 - D. hoarded.
2. The word *bestowing* (line 14) most nearly means:
 - F. accomplishing.
 - G. establishing.
 - H. synchronizing.
 - J. bequeathing.
3. As it is used in the passage, the phrase “amassing to the final scope” (line 20) refers to:
 - A. the miniscule pieces.
 - B. the vastness of the project.
 - C. the massive program created for live TV.
 - D. the assembled jigsaw.
4. It can be inferred that the author’s use of the word *jubilation* in line 12 is meant to convey:
 - F. the students’ pure elation.
 - G. the sense of relief for the participants.
 - H. the hindrances experienced through the process.
 - J. the anxiety felt during the night.

READING BASICS ASSESSMENT

Nicole walked down the block by herself, nervous and on the edge of shaking. There they stood in the distant blackness, just like they said they would be. They hadn't noticed her coming yet; she still had a chance to
5 turn back. Something didn't feel right about this.

Growing up, Nicole had it sort of rough. She thought so, at least. She grew up to be a good kid, though, and kept herself away from trouble and knew the difference between right and wrong. She had divorced parents
10 and only got to see her dad on special occasions. Her mom had to work two jobs, so she walked home from school alone, made herself a dinner of Lucky Charms or Cheetos, played with her always-excited-to-see-her dog, and only had to make it look like she had done her home-
15 work by opening some books and pulling out the same notebook every night just to avoid the possibility of a hassle. She was a smart kid and once had dreams of being a veterinarian because of her love for animals, but she didn't really put much effort into school anymore, so her
20 grades sat around D's—her mom was too busy to notice bad report cards. Nicole sometimes wondered, was it the grades her mom didn't care about, or was it Nicole?

She could start to see how many there really were as her walking slowed to a crawl, still at least a half
25 a block away from the group. There were about ten people—a lot more than expected—in dark hoodies in front of the house she was destined for. They still hadn't noticed her yet, but she knew they were there for her. Her heart fought through the pounding and warmed for a split
30 second—there were people waiting for her! She couldn't remember the last time even one, let alone ten, people anticipated her arrival.

She never had a knack for making friends; she was the antisocial type. She did her own thing at school
35 and sat at the lunch table with the other rejects, rarely saying anything to those sitting at the other end from her. How embarrassing! She knew what her place was at school, and even though these outcasts invited her over to sit with them, asked her questions about herself from a
40 few seats down, and reached out to her, she wouldn't dare be associated with *those* people any more than she already was. What would everyone else think? She was a closed door and it would have to take someone special to open her back up.

45 Two more people came out from around the side of the house and slammed the door behind them. The
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light from the streetlight caught the side of their faces—she didn't recognize those two guys. In fact, most of the shady figures had builds and heights of guys; only a few
50 were small enough to be girls. This made her even tenser. What was going on? Was she missing something? Was this something more than what she thought?

Nicole felt like she had been missing something for a long time now, so when three of the tougher girls
55 from school came up to her locker and started talking to her, she felt good. Really good. This could be what she was searching for all along. She was told to sit at their table during lunch, and she was happy to do it. She felt anxious to see where this would lead. After a couple
60 weeks, they told her to come by their friend's house late one Saturday to hang out. She felt accepted. She could easily assimilate to these girls with just a bit of effort—dressing like them with baggy sweats and hoodies and acting tough wouldn't be that hard.

65 “What's up?” one of the guys said as the entire group caught notice of her approaching.

“’Sup, Nic.” She knew that voice. It was one of the girls from school.

70 “Hey.” Nicole mustered up the deep, gruff voice she had mastered at the lunch table.

“So we gonna do this?” one of the unknown guys asked the group. “Come on, then. We wasted enough time waiting for her.”

75 Most of the group moved to a few cars parked in the street. Two of the girls from school moved toward Nicole and weakly hugged her. “Listen,” one of them said to Nicole. “They want to know if you're cool, so if you want to hang out with us, you gotta do something to prove you want in.”

80 Nicole's eyes darted to the filling cars, engines roaring and bass rupturing the otherwise serene night. Her fingers worked the house key in her hoodie's front pocket. Was she ready to do what these people told her to do, whatever it was, just to be accepted? Was this the way it
85 worked? Would this be Nicole's story? She clutched the sweaty key in her pocket, thought of her dog sadly waiting for her at home, and hesitated.

1. According to the passage, which of the following occurred?
 - A. The main character refused to join the group in the car.
 - B. The main character's mother purposely neglected her.
 - C. The main character resembled her new friends' look and attitude.
 - D. The main character continually rejected all offers of friendship.

2. The word *assimilate* in paragraph six (lines 53-64) most nearly means:
 - F. conjoin.
 - G. coordinate.
 - H. comply.
 - J. conform.

3. All of the following were clearly identified in the passage as the reactions the main character experiences during and preceding her meeting with her new friends EXCEPT:
 - A. sweaty hands.
 - B. nervous trembling.
 - C. genuine appreciation.
 - D. reduced pace.

4. Which of the following statements best describes the main point of the passage?
 - F. Teens in high school face rejection and prejudice regularly.
 - G. Teens from divorced families face greater challenges with socialization than those with conventional families.
 - H. The attractions of making new friends and feeling wanted can cause teens to do things out of character.
 - J. Groups of teenagers gather at night to commit illegal activities.

5. As it is used in line 81, the word *rupturing* most nearly means:
 - A. dispersing.
 - B. disintegrating.
 - C. disrupting.
 - D. circumventing.

6. The primary purpose of paragraphs two, four, and six is to inform the reader of:
 - F. background information about the main character's life.
 - G. the main character's refusal to make friends at her lunch table.
 - H. information about the main character's family.
 - J. events that have defined the main character.

7. The passage mentions all of the following as reasons for the main character's lack of friends EXCEPT:
 - A. her antisocial nature.
 - B. her poor grades.
 - C. her concern about others' opinions.
 - D. her own opinion of others.

8. According to the passage, which of these is NOT mentioned as part of the main character's after school routine?
 - F. completing her homework.
 - G. playing with her dog.
 - H. choosing her own dinner.
 - J. using her house key to let herself in.

9. The main idea of the last paragraph (lines 80-87) is to illustrate how:
 - A. the main character successfully conformed to the others in the group.
 - B. the use of rhetorical questions can strengthen the reader's understanding of a situation.
 - C. the main character's dog is her only friend.
 - D. the main character is uncomfortable about her next step.

10. When the author describes the main character as "a closed door" (lines 42-43), he most nearly means that she:
 - F. keeps her door locked when friends come to visit her at her home.
 - G. consistently refuses to let others get to know her.
 - H. half-heartedly rejects friendly advances.
 - J. challenges others to become acquainted with her.



**MAKING
INFERENCES**

Drawing Conclusions.....18

Author’s Approach.....22

Making Inferences Assessment.....26

DRAWING CONCLUSIONS PRACTICE

Wouldn't it be great to figure out just how that guy or girl across the room feels about you without asking? Sometimes it is obvious, especially to those who can see the signs. According to researchers, body language and other nonverbal communication can account for up to 90% of what we're trying to say. Patti Wood, author of *Success Signals: A Guide to Reading Body Language*, explains that body language consists of everything from eye contact and gestures to the way we shake hands. The additional information provided by other forms of nonverbal communication accounts for indications about emotion and intensity typically learned from words.

So what should we be looking for that can tell us if someone is interested? In a first meeting situation, one of the more obvious signs of attraction is prolonged eye contact. Noticing someone looking at you for what is more than a glance may be a good indication of attraction, especially when paired with a smile. If you catch someone looking at you, turning away quickly, and then looking back again, it may reveal a shy interest. To return the message of attraction, turn toward him or her and lock eyes for just a few seconds (any longer may suggest aggressiveness). When you approach the guy or girl, pay attention to the way he or she stands—facing you directly is a good sign. Arms crossed or hands in pockets may suggest disinterest, but be careful, though, because this could also mean that he or she is uncomfortable with him or herself. Also, if a person mirrors your movements, gestures, or expressions, he or she is likely displaying interest.

Overall, look for multiple signals to get a good read of what the other person is feeling. Focusing on a single signal can lead to incorrectly interpreted body language and may result in a missed opportunity with that special someone.

1. According to the passage, which of the following would NOT be considered body language?
 - A. introducing friends
 - B. playing with hair
 - C. crossing legs
 - D. touching an arm
2. It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that knowledge of nonverbal communication:
 - F. is useful only in first encounters.
 - G. begins with reading *Success Signals: A Guide to Reading Body Language*.
 - H. helps enhance understanding in many different scenarios.
 - J. establishes a no-fail system for dating success.
3. The author would most likely agree with all of the following statements EXCEPT:
 - A. Knowledge of body language can have a great effect on a first meeting.
 - B. Staring at an unknown person across a room whenever possible ensures the successful communication of attraction.
 - C. Interpreting multiple body language signals can more accurately identify feelings.
 - D. During a conversation, crossing one's arms can signal a variety of emotions.

AUTHOR'S APPROACH PRACTICE

Curfew laws have been implemented and enforced for as long as teens can remember, but many think that local governments are taking over something that should be decided upon by parents. The biggest changes of late in curfew legislation focus on kids at or under the age of sixteen, with cities like Charlotte and Chicago leading the charge.

Though the exact curfew times vary slightly by age and day of the week, some oppose the more stringent policy. "Why should I have to be in early when it's other kids doing bad stuff? I'm only hanging out with my friends; I'm not doing anything wrong!" expressed one teen from Chicago. The new laws seem unfair to some, but they are necessary in order to keep kids safe. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Rodney Monroe stated, "When you look at the opportunities for our kids to get themselves in trouble either by being a victim of a crime or a perpetrator of a crime, it's between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Unless we look to hold ourselves responsible and parents responsible, bad things are going to continue to happen with our young people."

Teenagers think they are the target of unjust laws that attempt to quell fun and socializing, but crime is reaching younger and younger ages. As Monroe stated, it isn't always about the kids who are breaking the law; laws like this help protect potential victims as well.

1. Considering the passage as a whole, all of the following describe the author's attitude toward curfew laws EXCEPT:
 - A. curfew laws, like those imposed in Charlotte and Chicago, are necessary for citizens.
 - B. curfew laws protect the innocent.
 - C. as more crime is committed by youths, more laws are necessary.
 - D. parents, not local governments, should decide curfew.
2. The author can best be characterized as:
 - F. someone who values teens' safety and well-being.
 - G. a law enforcement official who works with youths.
 - H. the parent of a teenager who has a strict curfew.
 - J. an objective news reporter for the crime section.
3. Which of the following is most likely the author's purpose for offering a quotation from an official (lines 16-21)?
 - A. Teens are more likely to agree to a new curfew law if police approve.
 - B. The reader will be more likely to obey curfew laws.
 - C. Providing the exact words of an official strengthens the author's argument.
 - D. It is an opportunity to blame parents for the misbehavior of youths.

MAKING INFERENCES ASSESSMENT

Organic soy milk, free-range poultry, and kale-cucumber juice, anyone? Certainly eating healthy and staying in shape can help us to avoid diseases and live longer. Nearly all fast food restaurants are moving toward healthier options to help us eat better by including real fruit smoothies, salads, and grilled chicken on their menus, but others have been bucking the trend. It's great to have healthy options, but when visiting a fried chicken restaurant, is our intention really to eat healthy? Can we fault the restaurant for offering fried chicken? Fast food restaurants are facing some of the greatest criticisms for unhealthy offerings while home cooks are innovating some of the most creative foods yet avoiding the media coverage. Those restaurants, critics claim, should bear the brunt of responsibility when it comes to obesity in the country, but it all boils down to our own choices, not availability.

Throw two strips of bacon, two slices of cheese, and some special sauce between two boneless fried chicken breasts and you have the KFC Double Down. Yes, that's fried chicken substituting for bread in this sandwich that seems like it could have come from Frankenstein's kitchen. Though "the Double Down generated more buzz than any test market item in KFC history," according to Yum Brands (parent company to KFC, Pizza Hut, and Taco Bell), the hubbub did not translate into sales. Some speculate that the highly critical media coverage deterred customers from ever trying the culinary creation; others believe that American appetites never wanted the product, preferring healthier options. More likely, it's an item that people indulge in only occasionally for fun.

Maybe Yum Brands learned something from the KFC Double Down test. Its newest innovation at Pizza Hut, the Hot Dog Stuffed Crust Pizza, was only unveiled at UK restaurants; the company has no plans to bring the taste to the US, so if an American wants to try a hot dog stuffed pizza, it may have to be made in one's own kitchen.

Perhaps some critics should take note of just how popular certain fatty food innovations are. People flock to restaurants and stands that fry up desserts, such as the famous fried Twinkie, fried Snickers, or fried pie. Home chefs prepare Krispy Kreme burgers (a burger with a donut bun) and deep fried turkey, so there must be some draw to these fatty masterpieces. The general population isn't eating like this every day; therefore, these uber-fatty

foods are likely considered novelty items. The entertainment value of serving a hot dog/pizza or burger/donut combination or any other crazy food concoction creates a carefree feeling and allows people to play with their food.

One group has created a huge following on YouTube for how it plays with food. With over 6 million subscribers to its channel and over 800 million video views, Epic Meal Time creates the ultimate food monstrosities to satisfy the group's cravings for bacon, candy, and everything in between. Shot in July 2010, their first video, "Fast Food Pizza," showed how "two men created a pizza more disgusting than we ever thought possible in an attempt to take their tastebuds on an incredible journey." The creation consisted of a large cheese pizza acting as a crust for piled-on fries, onion rings, popcorn chicken, three hamburgers, and other fast foods all covered with mozzarella cheese. Epic Meal Time makes it a point to display a running total of fat and calories in its creations (the fast food pizza had 286 grams of fat and 5,210 calories), and with cheers and high fives often seen in the background, the group creates truly epic food events for each of its culinary inventions.

Epic Meal Time has taken unhealthy to the next level, and though its members may eventually regret their eating choices, there is no denying the entertainment value of guys creating and eating monstrosities like fast food lasagna, candy tacos, and a supersized take on the Double Down. Having foods like the Hot Dog Stuffed Crust Pizza available may draw incredible amounts of criticism, but we all have a choice in what we eat. It isn't McDonald's fault that Americans have grown bigger. If you want to eat healthy, enjoy your salad and fruit smoothie. If you want that bacon burger, go ahead and enjoy that, too. Food has become more than nourishment; it's also entertainment and novelty for many people who don't think Double Downs are what's wrong with the world.

1. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that the author would agree with which of the following statements?
 - A. Responsible adults should not choose unhealthy foods.
 - B. It is the fault of the individual consumer for gaining weight.
 - C. Restaurants like KFC should not continue to introduce unhealthy menu items in the US.
 - D. The KFC Double Down is a delicious sandwich.

2. The author's tone throughout the passage can best be described as:
 - F. frantic.
 - G. nostalgic.
 - H. candid.
 - J. desperate.

3. In lines 32-33, the author suggests that Yum Brands learned that:
 - A. to introduce over-the-top menu items in a health conscious nation can be a poor decision.
 - B. the KFC Double Down was unsuccessful in test markets.
 - C. Pizza Hut required a menu item that was as unique as KFC's Double Down.
 - D. American tastes would not enjoy a hot dog and pizza creation.

4. The information in lines 66-67 most strongly implies that members of Epic Meal Time:
 - F. celebrate their creations.
 - G. revel in eating the entire mountain of food.
 - H. show off for the sake of being on YouTube.
 - J. rejoice in eating high calorie foods for subsequent intense work outs.

5. As it is revealed in the passage, the author's attitude toward novelty food is one of:
 - A. faint concern.
 - B. exasperated pleading.
 - C. warm amusement.
 - D. unbridled anticipation.

6. The passage indicates that which of the following is an important factor when creating novelty foods?
 - F. Media coverage.
 - G. Availability to the public.
 - H. Unconventional cooking methods or ingredient combinations.
 - J. Public demand.

7. Based on information in the passage, the most reasonable inference that can be made about the Epic Meal Time group is that:
 - A. they seek fame and fortune.
 - B. they enjoy creating over-the-top foods.
 - C. they are sponsored by fast food companies.
 - D. they provide a fat counter on their videos to caution viewers.

8. The phrase "from Frankenstein's kitchen" (lines 22-23) suggests which of the following?
 - F. The excitement felt by the creators when finished making the Double Down is synonymous with creating life.
 - G. Creating the Double Down produced immediate concern for Yum Brands.
 - H. Using various parts from chicken and pig developed a concoction not suitable for human consumption.
 - J. The creation of the Double Down was an invention of wild imagination.

9. The author's overall message in the passage is that:
 - A. consumers who are obese should avoid fast food.
 - B. Epic Meal Time, though disgusting, is very entertaining.
 - C. consumers should have a choice to eat whatever they want and should not be ostracized.
 - D. novelty food items should be part of every fast food restaurant.

10. The discussion of healthy food choices in the first paragraph (lines 1-17) can function in the passage in all of the following ways EXCEPT:
 - F. It provides the reader with important background about the history of fast food restaurant menu options and where restaurants are now focused.
 - G. It enables the reader to understand the author's disgruntled attitude about health fanatics.
 - H. It helps create a contrast between healthy options and unhealthy ones.
 - J. It provides information that will be drawn upon throughout the article about fast food restaurant criticism.



**RELATING
IDEAS**

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| Cause & Effect..... | 30 |
| Comparative Relationships..... | 34 |
| Sequence..... | 38 |
| Relating Ideas Assessment..... | 42 |

CAUSE & EFFECT PRACTICE

I remember thinking this morning that at the end of the day I would be so happy and relieved that it was all finally over. I remember rehearsing in my head how I would go over to her house, sit her down, and tell her.

5 Sure, I imagined there would be tears, but a hug and a goodbye would be all I would have to do before getting out of there. I'd forget all about those tears, and her, the second I closed the door behind me. I would have a sense of freedom that only birds knew when they escape their
10 cages and fly out the window never to return. The sun would be brighter, the breeze crisper. I would be able to breathe again.

I had thought about ending it for about a month. Things just got boring and it sure was getting annoying
15 dealing with the same old stuff every day. We'd eat lunch together, talk a bit between classes, walk home together, text each other at night, and do the same thing all over again the next day and the next day and the next. Didn't she see it? Didn't she know she was boring me to death? I
20 couldn't even stand looking at her anymore when we talked. I wanted to have some time to do what I wanted to do. I wanted to talk to whomever I wanted. So what if I wanted to get to know that new girl in English class? Who cares? I wanted to be free!

25 Well, now it's 4 a.m. and I am sick to my stomach. Every ten minutes I hit my phone on the pillow next to me to see what time it is and to see if I got a message from her. From the moment I saw her tears, I regretted making her cry. I regretted my sinister, veiled
30 motives the moment she opened the door with a huge smile on her face, so happy to see me as always. After seeing those tears, I stood up and left like I had prepared myself to do, but the sun was dimmer and the breeze strangled me. I was a bird that flew out the window and
35 regretted leaving my cage—my comfortable, happy home. Now that window is closed and I can't fly back in.

1. The passage suggests that all of the following are reasons for the couple's breakup EXCEPT:
 - A. the monotony of the things done together.
 - B. the narrator's desire for independence.
 - C. the growing dullness of the relationship.
 - D. the girl's incessant crying.
2. The thoughts of ending the relationship caused the narrator to:
 - F. prepare for all possible emotional responses.
 - G. anticipate an emotional release.
 - H. hold back tears.
 - J. talk to the new girl in English class.
3. According to the passage, which of the following is NOT something the narrator experiences after the breakup?
 - A. Illness
 - B. Loss of sleep
 - C. Crying
 - D. Regret
4. It can be most reasonably inferred from the passage that the breeze strangles the narrator (lines 33-34) because:
 - F. the natural world is getting revenge for the narrator's cruel actions.
 - G. the stress of the situation has triggered the narrator's asthma.
 - H. the breakup has the narrator choked up.
 - J. the talk went past midnight and the night air is more humid.

COMPARATIVE RELATIONSHIPS PRACTICE

When a remake of any film hits theaters, it launches a frenzy of activity by fans and critics comparing the newest version to its predecessor. Enthusiasts weigh in on blogs and other web commentaries about the remixed versions of classics like *Superman*, *Spiderman*, and others. Certainly the protagonists remain the same with minor characters filling their own usual roles, but the antagonists can vary depending on who is threatening a city's peace at the time.

Take, for example, the quintessential crazed villain, the Joker, from the Batman franchise. The 1989 Tim Burton-directed *Batman* film portrays a maniacal clown, played by film legend Jack Nicholson, who demands the respect and attention of a city. *The Dark Knight*, the second installment of the most recent take on the Batman legend (directed by Christopher Nolan) augments the criminal mastermind by presenting an anarchist who just wants "to watch the world burn." Likened to the Joker from the '60s *Batman* TV series by critics due to silly clownish behavior complimented by plaid pants and perfect makeup, the Nicholson version comes across as a minor threat to fictional Gotham, especially when compared to the psychotic, mentally unstable, and blemished Joker played by Heath Ledger in the more recent film trilogy. Nolan's version is darker, more disturbing, and frankly more realistic than the previous incarnation, complementing the grittier, bleaker Gotham.

Granted, the film industry has evolved in the last twenty years, and aficionados of Batman all have their reasons for their personal preferences, but all would have to agree that both films, especially with their total gross sales and worldwide obsession by fans, set the world on fire.

- The author of the passage most nearly suggests that in contrast to the setting in *Batman*, *The Dark Knight*'s setting:
 - reflects the comical antics of its Joker.
 - is a more realistic representation of a city in despair.
 - has a lighter atmosphere that highlights the classic '60s Joker.
 - is modeled after the real New York city.
- Details in the passage suggest that the trait Burton's Joker shares with Nolan's Joker is:
 - an inconsistent representation of the TV version.
 - the portrayal of an arch villain in the real world.
 - a ridiculous figure incapable of being a mastermind.
 - an irrational character bent on personal motivations.
- It can most reasonably be inferred that the author compares *Batman* (1989) to *The Dark Knight* because:
 - both directors have altered their shared characters and setting from others in the past.
 - Tim Burton and Christopher Nolan are both renowned directors.
 - The Dark Knight* is worthy of more praise from critics than *Batman*.
 - the *Batman* TV series' Joker should be recognized as a classic character and should not be altered.

SEQUENCE PRACTICE

Facebook announced in 2011 that its new Timeline would be required for all users, but not all users are happy about the mandatory change. In fact, some estimates and polls suggest that 70% of Facebook users do not like the change, while a great deal of those users claim that they will leave Facebook if the feature is implemented. Resistance to change is inevitable, yet Facebook has had to alter itself in the past and faced criticism then as well.

10 The Timeline profile follows a format that most users manipulated when they first joined the site. In 2008, Facebook unrolled a profile page to accommodate a growing audience that wanted to share everything from apps to groups to multiple updates a day all on one page. This was the first move from the original Facebook page that featured only basic information that rarely, if ever, changed. When more users signed on to Facebook and started wanting the ability to update feeds to the most current information and events, Facebook realized its need for change.

Facebook has always had to change to suit its growing membership, but it wasn't always the "sacred" profile page. Long before profiles were open to the public, Facebook itself was originally restricted to students at Harvard when it launched in 2004 before expanding to other Ivy League schools. Gradually, it opened to most American and Canadian universities. The next logical step occurred in 2005 when Facebook opened to high school networks and then certain companies, such as Apple and Microsoft. Everyone over the age of thirteen with a valid email address can now create profiles and connect with others.

Humans are creatures of habit—they like what they know and often shun the newest thing. Facebook users are no different. Facebook will weather the storm, at least until the next change or new social media phenomenon.

1. The passage states that Facebook expanded to users in select companies:

- A. after Timeline was announced.
- B. before the site was opened to the public.
- C. before high schools were invited to use the site.
- D. at the same time as Facebook's expansion to Ivy League universities.

2. In which chronological order did the following events occur?

- I. Facebook users desired the capacity to add more to profile pages.
- II. The majority of Facebook users created their first profiles.
- III. Facebook made its first major change to profile pages.

- F. I, II, III
- G. II, I, III
- H. II, III, I
- J. I, III, II

3. According to the passage, the very first profile page style existed for:

- A. one year.
- B. three years.
- C. four years.
- D. seven years.

RELATING IDEAS ASSESSMENT

All people have experienced weather phenomena that take some explanation to understand. A rainbow, for example, forms in special conditions where the sun is at a specific angle behind the viewer, shining onto billions of raindrops. The raindrops act as miniscule prisms that separate the white light from the sun into a spectrum of color. As rare as it may seem to see a rainbow, other natural phenomena occur only in the most particular conditions and places in the world, often to the fright of the people experiencing them, all while spawning multitudes of theories.

2001. Kerala, India. For nearly two months beginning in July, red rain, also called blood rain, sporadically fell on the southern area of the country. Residents' clothing was dyed pink from the events, and vessels normally used to collect rain water were filled with the mysterious red-hued water. Startled, scientists initially proposed that a meteor burst, blending dust and particles into the precipitation. When the country's government concluded its commissioned investigation in November, it found that the red color was due to a large amount of the spore *Trentepohlia* in the region. During the study, the deep orange or red lichen was found in extreme amounts on the local trees and other objects, though the scientists conceded that the spores from nearly all the lichen would have had to have been released at approximately the same time. This was unlikely, but possible. Even after this scientific conclusion, others focused upon the outlandish theory of extraterrestrial cells and spores floating to the Earth from the supposed meteor, only to excite skeptics a second time. Historical records indicate that blood rain has occurred in past centuries in different areas, most often to the panic of those being soaked, but even stranger things have been known to fall from the sky other than water.

Occurring more often than one would imagine, the phenomenon of raining water creatures like fish and frogs gets press whenever it takes place. History tells of these events throughout the ages, often with portraits of amphibian-flooded fields several inches high or fish-clogged house gutters. Before falling to land, the water creatures plummet from clouds that hold them for up to a few miles with the aid of strong winds. When powerful storms create high winds, small whirlwinds can form, and when these mini-tornadoes move over small bodies of water, they can pick up whatever lightweight objects they encounter, even from under the water. Skeptics involved

in the matter believe that the physics of whirlwinds could not allow for fish or frogs to be picked up from beneath the water and suggest that certain species of fish can actually walk on land and frogs can migrate in armies. While this is certainly a wondrous phenomenon that may warrant a more mystical explanation, supporters of the walking fish theory should not neglect the documented stories of other objects, like tomatoes and coal, hailing to the ground from above.

Often shocking to first time viewers, and bizarre enough to have prompted 911 calls alerting police of imminent invasions, U.F.O. clouds are defined by a smooth outline and flying saucer disk shape. These stationary or slow-moving disk or dome clouds are actually known as lenticular clouds, and they are quite common. When swift airstreams are interrupted by the tops of large geographic formations, wind wave patterns develop on the downward side. At the crests of these waves, moisture in the air condenses and forms a cloud. When the air moves down to the bottom of the wave, water evaporates again and combines with the strong, internal uplift. This develops the characteristic shape of a smooth disk or dome. A weather phenomenon that mimics the classic U.F.O. shape continues to excite those who are not used to such an unusual sight in the sky.

Natural phenomena strike awe and wonder in all, no matter how often they are seen. Mirages appearing on a hot road or lightning branching across the sky still incite amazement. These more common examples may not match the spectacle of witnessing aurora borealis or experiencing the muscle of a hurricane, but they do help to show everyone, including those who want to question everything, just how incredible the natural world can be.

1. It can be reasonably inferred from the fourth paragraph (lines 57-72) that lenticular clouds form:
 - A. near large bodies of water.
 - B. by the release of smoke from air vehicles.
 - C. near mountains or hills.
 - D. as cover for U.F.O.s.

2. According to the passage, blood rain depends on all of the following EXCEPT:
- F. when lichen release spores.
 - G. the location of *Trentepohlia*.
 - H. historical accounts of previous events.
 - J. the amount of lichen and spores.
3. The passage suggests that the phenomenon of creatures falling from the sky is odder than red rain because:
- A. according to historical accounts, blood rain happens more frequently.
 - B. the meteor explosion was unproven.
 - C. water from the sky is a common occurrence.
 - D. rains of fish and frogs get more news attention.
4. The passage most strongly suggests that a theory involving extraterrestrial cells and spores was prompted by which of the following?
- F. Past occurrences of red rain.
 - G. The discovery of space dust in the red rain.
 - H. The improbability of lichen releasing spores at the same time.
 - J. The original theory by scientists of a meteor explosion.
5. The passage likens the raindrops that cause rainbows to:
- A. miniature prisms.
 - B. spectrums of color.
 - C. aurora borealis.
 - D. the sun's white light.
6. According to the passage, in which order did the following events occur during the events involving red rain?
- I. Red lichen was found on local vegetation.
 - II. The pouring of red rain on Kerala ended.
 - III. Government investigations came to a close.
- F. III, II, I
 - G. II, I, III
 - H. I, II, III
 - J. I, III, II
7. According to the passage, which of the following does NOT aid in the formation of lenticular clouds?
- A. Wind speed.
 - B. Moisture in the air.
 - C. Large storm clouds.
 - D. A wave pattern created in the air.
8. In the last paragraph, the author of the passage most nearly suggests that in contrast to lightning, a hurricane is more:
- F. exciting to witness.
 - G. common.
 - H. specific to certain areas.
 - J. infrequent.
9. Which of the following events involving raining water creatures occurs FIRST?
- A. Water creatures are found outside of ponds or lakes.
 - B. Whirlwinds develop over bodies of water.
 - C. Fish and frogs are carried miles by intense winds.
 - D. Strong storms with high winds form.
10. The passage suggests that compared to the scientific community, skeptics:
- F. deliberately spread misinformation among the public.
 - G. declare theories that discount more logical conclusions.
 - H. are truth-seekers who use scientific evidence as fact.
 - J. make claims based on substantiated evidence.



PUNCTUATION

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------|
| Apostrophes..... | 46 |
| Commas..... | 50 |
| Semicolons..... | 54 |
| Punctuation Assessment..... | 57 |

APOSTROPHES PRACTICE

The Cubs Curse

Chicago Cubs fans have been waiting since 1908 for another World Series win. Many superstitious **(1) fans'** place the blame not on the players or managers but on a goat. Yes, a goat. According to legend, in 1945, Billy Goat Tavern owner Billy Sianis brought a goat to Wrigley Field, the **(2) Cubs** home field, during a World Series game against the Detroit Tigers. However, fans were disgusted by the goat's odor and park officials ordered **(3) it's** removal. Upon his ejection from the park, Sianis reportedly cursed the Cubs, vowing they would never win another World Series. The Cubs went on to lose the series to the Tigers.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. fan's
C. fans's
D. fans

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. Cub's
H. Cubs'
J. Cubs's

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. its
C. its'
D. it is

Since then, there have been many attempts to break the curse but with little success. In fact, the curse may have been strengthened in 2003. The Cubs were close to a World Series bid when Sam Sianis, **(4) Billy Sianis's** nephew, allegedly brought a goat to Wrigley Field but was denied entry. At that same game, fan Steve Bartman was chastised for reaching out and catching a ball that a Cubs outfielder likely would have caught. Subsequently, the Cubs did not make the World Series that year.

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. Billy Sianis'
H. Billy Sianis
J. Billy Siani's

So, to all the Cubs fans out there, **(5) your** best bet for seeing a World Series might just be to show kindness to goats!

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. you're
C. their
D. they're

COMMAS PRACTICE

Carrot Corp CEO

Most twelve year olds spend their time playing video games or running around outside. **(1) Thomas Suarez, however** is not your typical twelve year old. The sixth grader from Los Angeles, California, recently started an Apps Club at his middle school. He isn't just interested in learning about phone apps, though. He actually has created some of his own.

At the **(2) young age of nine Suarez** taught himself software programs including C, Python, and Java. From there he created his **(3) first app and his parents** put it up for sale on the iPhone store. He used the money he earned from the app to buy his own iPod Touch. Soon thereafter, he created the app that put him **(4) on the map, *Bustin Jieber a game*** built around the pop icon Justin Bieber.

Today, Suarez continues to develop and sell his apps through his own company, Carrot Corp, and inspires millions of kids and adults alike with his TED talks on YouTube. Suarez feels that kids have a desire **(5) to *create innovate and design new things*** if only provided with the right source of inspiration.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. Thomas Suarez however,
C. Thomas Suarez, however,
D. Thomas Suarez however
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. young age of nine, Suarez
H. young age, of nine, Suarez
J. young age of nine Suarez,
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. first app, and his parents
C. first, app and his parents
D. first app and his parents,
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. on the map *Bustin Jieber a game*
H. on the map, *Bustin Jieber, a game*
J. on the map *Bustin, Jieber, a game*
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. to create, innovate and design new things
C. to create, innovate, and design, new things
D. to create, innovate, and design new things

SEMICOLONS PRACTICE

50 Cent Makes a Million

Rapper 50 Cent's name may imply that he's low on **(1) cash; but** his fans know otherwise. What they may not know, however, is that his rap career is only one source of his income. In fact, in 2011, he managed to make \$8.7 million in one weekend without a single record sale.

50 Cent's company, G-Unit Inc., invested heavily in a company called **(2) H & H Imports; the company** distributes 50 Cent's headphones. The stock was only trading at ten cents a **(3) share, when** it comes to stocks, that's usually a bad sign. In fact, the company had barely made any profit. However, that was about to change when 50 Cent sent out a tweet to his 3.8 million Twitter followers urging them to buy the stock. As a result, the stock nearly quadrupled **(4) in price; with** 30 million shares in his name, 50 Cent made millions of dollars virtually overnight while barely lifting a finger.

However, think twice before investing and tweeting. 50 Cent was investigated by the **(5) Securities & Exchange Commission apparently it** is illegal to encourage people to invest in a low-performing stock in order to inflate the price for personal gain. 50 Cent will likely escape unscathed, though, since such intentions are difficult to prove.

1. A. NO CHANGE
 B. cash and
 C. cash, but
 D. cash but;

2. F. NO CHANGE
 G. H & H Imports, the company
 H. H & H Imports, but the company
 J. H & H Imports the company

3. A. NO CHANGE
 B. share when
 C. share for when
 D. share; when

4. F. NO CHANGE
 G. in price with;
 H. in price with
 J. in price, with

5. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Securities & Exchange Commission
 apparently; it
 C. Securities & Exchange Commission,
 apparently; it
 D. Securities & Exchange Commission;
 apparently it

PUNCTUATION ASSESSMENT

The Reign of King James

LeBron James has experienced being both one of the most admired and one of the most hated men in professional sports. **(1) In just nine years he earned** two Olympic **(2) medals one NBA championship countless endorsement deals** and plenty of positive and negative press.

(3) LeBron James's rose from humble beginnings. His mother, Gloria James, became pregnant at age 16. LeBron's biological father, an ex-convict, had no interest in being **(4) a father and left Gloria** to raise young LeBron on her own. Searching for employment, Gloria often had to move LeBron around Akron, Ohio, which at times led to a rather unstable home environment. In fourth grade, LeBron was chronically truant from school. **(5) Frankie Walker, LeBrons football coach,** invited LeBron to live with him and his family. The next year, LeBron earned his school's attendance award.

By sixth grade, six-foot tall LeBron towered over his five-foot-five mother. After shooting up another seven inches the **(6) summer after freshman year** it became clear that LeBron had an athletic advantage over his peers. As a student at Akron's St. Vincent-St. Mary High School, LeBron shined on the basketball court.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. In just, nine years he earned
C. In just nine years, he earned
D. In just nine years he earned
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. medals; one NBA championship; countless endorsement deals;
H. medals—one NBA championship—countless endorsement deals
J. medals, one NBA championship, countless endorsement deals,
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. LeBron James
C. LeBron James'
D. LeBron Jame's
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. a father; and left Gloria
H. a father, and left Gloria
J. a father: and left Gloria
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. Frankie Walker, LeBron's football coach,
C. Frankie Walker; LeBron's football coach;
D. Frankie Walker; LeBrons football coach,
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. summer, after freshman year
H. summer after freshman year,
J. summer after freshman year;

His high school basketball career garnered him national attention. In his sophomore year, he was named **(7) Ohio’s Mr. Basketball** and made *USA Today’s* All-USA **(8) First Team, he was** the first sophomore to earn either title. Junior year he was proclaimed “One of the best high school basketball players in America” by *SLAM Magazine*. Senior year led to the title of Gatorade’s National Player of the Year and the covers of **(9) ESPN The Magazine, and Sports Illustrated.**

By then it was clear that LeBron was **(10) destined for the pros.** He was selected by the Cleveland Cavaliers as the first draft pick in 2003. He made his mark and was named Rookie of the Year. Two years later, the Cavaliers qualified for the playoffs for the first time since 1998. Cleveland had several playoff runs in the **(11) following seasons and LeBron** was named MVP three times, but they could not clinch a championship.

This caused LeBron to have to make a big decision. In July 2010, LeBron became a free agent. After being courted by **(12) many teams scouts,** he finally announced his intentions in a televised special on ESPN titled, “The Decision.” After proclaiming he would be bringing his “talents to South Beach,” LeBron received

7. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Ohios Mr. Basketball
 C. Ohios’ Mr. Basketball
 D. Ohio’s Mr. Basketball,
8. F. NO CHANGE
 G. First Team and he was
 H. First Team; he was
 J. First Team: he was
9. A. NO CHANGE
 B. *ESPN The Magazine*; and *Sports Illustrated*.
 C. *ESPN, The Magazine*, and *Sports Illustrated*.
 D. *ESPN The Magazine* and *Sports Illustrated*.
10. F. NO CHANGE
 G. destined, for the pros.
 H. destined, for the pros’.
 J. destined for the pro’s.
11. All of the following changes to the underlined portion are acceptable EXCEPT:
 A. following seasons, and LeBron
 B. following seasons; and LeBron
 C. following seasons; LeBron
 D. following seasons. LeBron
12. F. NO CHANGE
 G. many teams’ scouts,
 H. many teams’ scouts
 J. many team’s scouts

extensive criticism from the press. His perceived arrogance overshadowed the fact that the televised announcement generated millions of dollars for charity. In addition, Cleveland Cavaliers team owner Dan Gilbert publicly **(13) denounced him some fans** in Cleveland even burned James's jersey.

13. A. NO CHANGE
B. denounced him, some fans
C. denounced him; some fans
D. denounced him; so some fans

Despite the negative publicity, LeBron finished his first season with the Miami Heat ranking second in scoring for the league. LeBron led the Heat to the NBA finals, only to lose to the Dallas Mavericks. The following season, he finally accomplished his goal of winning an NBA Championship. The Heat defeated their **(14) opponents the Oklahoma City Thunder** in four games. The Heat followed their championship with a repeat performance the following season.

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. opponents: the Oklahoma City Thunder
H. opponents' the Oklahoma City Thunder
J. opponents, the Oklahoma City Thunder,

(15) LeBron James future success will likely continue to be marked with both praise and scorn. He was named the sixth-most disliked sports personality as well as the second-most influential athlete. He became the first black man to grace the cover of fashion magazine *Vogue*. In addition, he has expanded his talents to begin the LeBron James Family Foundation, distributing "I Promise" bracelets as a commitment with children and teenagers to graduate from school. Regardless of whether people love him or hate him, "King James" has accomplished more before the age of thirty than most people can dream of in a lifetime.

15. A. NO CHANGE
B. LeBron James's future success
C. LeBron James future success'
D. LeBron James's future, success



| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Subject-Verb Agreement..... | 62 |
| Verb Tense..... | 66 |
| Pronoun-Antecedent Agreement..... | 70 |
| Subject & Object Pronouns..... | 74 |
| Adjectives & Adverbs..... | 78 |
| Grammar Assessment..... | 82 |

SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT PRACTICE

Teenage Dream

One of today's most popular and well-known pop **(1) stars are Katy Perry.** It is surprising, then, that she was not allowed to listen to pop music growing up. Born in 1984 as Katheryn Hudson, Katy grew up in her pastor parents' church, often performing gospel music. The support of **(2) her parents were** a contributing factor in the release of her first album, which focused on gospel music. The album was not very successful, though. Craving a larger stage for her vocal and songwriting talents, she changed her name to Katy Perry and moved to Los Angeles, ready to break onto the pop music scene.

Although a few record labels **(3) were interested** in the singer, at first Katy's search for stardom was slow. Katy finally hit it big with her first pop studio album released in 2008; the album launched three number-one hits for Perry. A string of hits continued, and in 2010 she set a huge record. Her third album, *Teenage Dream*, had five consecutive number-one singles, a streak of hits that **(4) was last accomplished by Michael Jackson.** Perry became the first female artist to set this record. She was also the only musician to spend over a year straight in Billboard's Top Ten. Her fourth album, *Prism*, debuted at number one in many countries including the U.S. with another number-one single with "Dark Horse."

Katy Perry's controversial lyrics, outlandish costumes, and **(5) funky hair continues** to keep people's attention. In addition to her prolific music career, she has launched two fragrances, lent her voice to the *Smurfs* movie, and even released her own theatrical documentary, *Katy Perry: Part of Me*.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. stars is Katy Perry.
C. stars were Katy Perry.
D. stars do include Katy Perry.
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. her parents are
H. her parents was
J. her parents have been
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. was interested
C. is interested
D. were interesting
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. are last accomplished by Michael Jackson.
H. Michael Jackson was last accomplished by.
J. were last accomplished by Michael Jackson.
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. funky hair continue
C. funky hair is continuing
D. funky hair are continued

VERB TENSE PRACTICE

Friday the Thirteenth

Friday is usually a day people look forward to, marking the end of the work or school week and the beginning of a fun, relaxing weekend. However, the upbeat tone of the typical Friday **(1) tended to fade** when the Friday falls on the thirteenth of the month.

The ominous atmosphere of Friday the thirteenth **(2) has been catching on** in the eighteenth century.

Since then, superstitious tales of horrific events taking place on that day **(3) make** many people wary of the date.

For instance, an earthquake in Turkey on Friday, March 13, 1992, killed over 2,000 people. The sinking of the *Costa Concordia* cruise ship on Friday, January 13, 2012,

(4) results in 32 deaths. Legendary rapper Tupac Shakur was pronounced dead on Friday, September 13, 1996.

In fact, there is even a scientific name for people who have an intense fear of the number thirteen:

triskaidekaphobics. Some people even **(5) avoid** driving, flying, or working on Friday the thirteenth, choosing to play it safe and stay close to home. However, an

insurance statistics firm reports that there actually are fewer incidents of fire, car accidents, and theft on Friday the thirteenth compared to other Fridays in a month.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. has faded
C. tends to fade
D. had been fading

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. caught on
H. was catching on
J. caught on

3. The underlined portion can be replaced with all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. have made
B. will made
C. often make
D. can make

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. resulting
H. has resulted
J. resulted

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. avoided
C. will be avoiding
D. have been avoiding

PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT PRACTICE

Profanity Prohibited in Public

The use of profanity is certainly frowned upon in schools and in the presence of adults. One Massachusetts town, though, became so offended by the use of profanity in public that **(1) they** decided to make it against the law.

Actually, an ordinance prohibiting the use of curse words had been on the books since 1968 in Middlebury, Massachusetts, but **(2) it** was never enforced. By June of 2012, though, the town's police chief convinced the city council to impose a fine to try to curb loud, profanity-laden conversations held by teenagers in the town's public parks and downtown area.

Since then, residents have expressed mixed reactions. Many adults and small business owners are relieved, hoping that **(3) it** will get through to teenagers and help them to watch their language. Others, however, feel that the law will be ineffective. Many teens in particular feel that **(4) their** age group is being unfairly targeted.

Of course, there is also the issue of constitutionality. Some lawyers anticipate that the law will be questioned on the basis of the First Amendment, which guarantees the right of free speech, and **(5) it is expected of the ordinance** to eventually be reversed.

1. A. NO CHANGE
 B. it
 C. them
 D. he

2. F. NO CHANGE
 G. they
 H. the profanity
 J. OMIT the underlined portion

3. A. NO CHANGE
 B. jail time
 C. the fine
 D. this

4. F. NO CHANGE
 G. its
 H. they
 J. they're

5. A. NO CHANGE
 B. he expects the ordinance
 C. we expect the ordinance
 D. they expect the ordinance

SUBJECT & OBJECT PRONOUNS PRACTICE

The “Robsten” Romance

Bella and Edward: The onscreen chemistry between **(1) them** helped make the four *Twilight* films box office hits. **(2) Us** *Twilight* fans wonder, though, if this chemistry was solely due to the acting chops of the films’ stars, Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson. Perhaps the sparks did not take much acting to generate.

The famous couple, **(3) who fans referred to** as “Robsten,” were not the first pair of actors to find love on the movie set. However, whereas many stars’ relationships find their way into the spotlight, Kristen and Robert tried their best to keep their rumored love private.

In the *Twilight* films there is tension between Edward and Jacob for Bella’s love. Edward ultimately wins, although both **(4) him and Jacob** have Bella’s affection at some point. In real life, though, Kristen Stewart’s heart seemed, for a time, to belong to Robert Pattinson; Stewart admitted that their dating was “obvious,” but both actors were evasive when answering questions about one another.

Of course, it was obvious to **(5) I** and all the other *Twilight* fans that love blossomed between the real life Bella and Edward. Unfortunately, amid rumors of cheating by Stewart, this became more of a story of love lost than everlasting romance.

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1. A. NO CHANGE
 B. they
 C. whom
 D. who
2. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Them
 H. We
 J. Her
3. A. NO CHANGE
 B. whom fans referred to
 C. to them they were known
 D. fans referred to him
4. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Jacob and him
 H. they
 J. he and Jacob
5. A. NO CHANGE
 B. she
 C. me
 D. we

ADJECTIVES & ADVERBS PRACTICE

Roswell, New Mexico

Nowadays, the name Roswell is synonymous with UFOs. How did this **(1) New Mexico quiet town become** the center of extraterrestrial speculation? More importantly, what really happened there?

In the summer of 1947, reports circulated of **(2) mysteriously debris** discovered in the deserts outside of Roswell. Military spokespeople explained that they recovered the remnants of a weather balloon. With that explanation, **(3) the incident in Roswell faded from public interest for decades simply.**

(4) Revivedly interest in Roswell resulted from an interview conducted with Major Jesse Marcel in 1978, who was present at the scene. He described a military cover-up of a crashed alien spacecraft and actual alien cadavers. A decade later, mortician Glenn Davis added his account of secret military-conducted alien autopsies.

A 1995 internal investigation concluded that the recovered object was, in fact, a top secret air balloon. The accounts of alien autopsies **(5) likely were the result** of a blatant hoax or unreliable memories. However, there are still plenty of skeptics who believe that whatever occurred in Roswell was out of this world.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. New Mexico town quiet become
C. quiet New Mexico town become
D. New Mexico town become quietly

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. debris mysteriously
H. mysterious debris
J. debris that was mysterious

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. the simple incident in Roswell faded from public interest for decades.
C. the incident in simple Roswell faded from public interest for decades.
D. the incident in Roswell simply faded from public interest for decades.

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. Interest revived in Roswell resulted
H. Revived interest in Roswell resulted
J. Interest in revived Roswell resulted

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. were the likely result
C. likely resulted
D. like, were the result

GRAMMAR ASSESSMENT

Forward This Email

The classic distribution of chain letters and scams **(1) have become** much easier with the invention of the internet. How often have you come across an email in your inbox that seemed too good to be true, like an **(2) unbelievable photo, a heartbreakingly charity story**, or a promise of a windfall of riches? The internet helps these hoaxes spread like wildfire.

The most sympathetic type of these internet hoaxes **(3) involve** a fake charity donation. For instance, making the rounds since 1997, a popular email promises senders that every time they forward the message, Bill Gates will either donate money to **(4) them** or to various charities. Similarly, those heartbreaking photos of sick children posted on Facebook are usually false. Despite the **(5) captions accompanying**, Facebook does not donate a dollar to help the child every time the photo is reposted.

Other popular internet hoaxes **(6) got popular** because they promise people a huge financial windfall. The Bill Gates email sometimes pledges the recipients of the email a check dependent upon the number of times **(7) he forward** the message. Alas, such a check never arrives.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. having become
C. has become
D. becomed
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. unbelievable photo, a heartbreaking charity story,
H. unbelievably photo, a heartbreaking charity story,
J. unbelievably photo, a heartbreakingly charity story,
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. involving
C. involved
D. involves
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. they
H. whom
J. us
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. captions accompanyingly,
C. accompanying captions,
D. accompanyingly captions,
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. gained popularity
H. grow popular
J. had earned popularity
7. A. NO CHANGE
B. he or she forwards
C. it forwards
D. they forward

Some emails are much more harmful, though.

Variations of the so-called “Nigerian Email Scheme”

(8) have cost unsuspecting Americans billions of dollars.

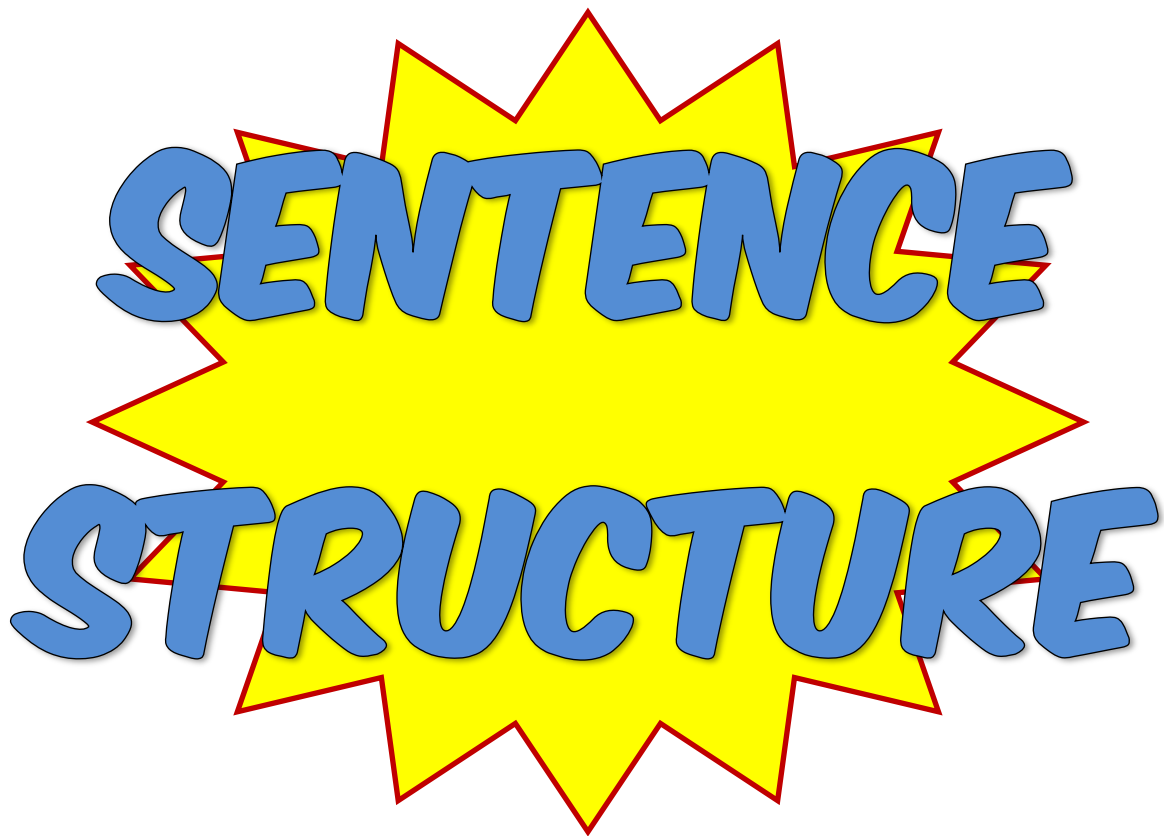
The emails inform **(9) them** that they are owed a large sum of money. The email instructs readers to reply to the message providing their bank account number, social security number, and other **(10) personal sensitive**

information. This information is then used for identity theft. Some people have even found their bank accounts to be **(11) a total drain.**

Often times, though, internet hoaxes **(12) were** simply a contemporary means to spread urban legends. For instance, the Neiman Marcus Cookie Recipe myth, around since the 1940s, has been given new life in recent years. The story goes that a woman **(13) asking** a waiter at the Neiman Marcus Café in Houston for the recipe of the delicious chocolate chip cookie she had just ordered, instructing **(14) her** to add the charge to her bill. She thought the recipe cost \$2.50, but was shocked to receive a bill for \$250. In revenge, supposedly, she wrote an email containing the secret recipe, hoping to expose it to the world for free. **(15) It is** unsubstantiated but lives on through cyberspace.

The internet is certainly an efficient and often entertaining mechanism for distributing information, but when it comes to enticing emails, the old saying, “if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is,” is spot-on.

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. has cost
H. had cost
J. costed
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. us
C. whom
D. him
10. F. NO CHANGE
G. personally sensitive information.
H. sensitively personal information.
J. sensitive personal information.
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. totally drained.
C. drained total.
D. a drain, totally.
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. could be
H. be
J. are
13. A. NO CHANGE
B. asks
C. asked
D. was asking
14. F. NO CHANGE
G. them
H. him
J. he
15. A. NO CHANGE
B. She is
C. They are
D. The story is



**SENTENCE
STRUCTURE**

| | |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Sentence Fragments..... | 86 |
| Run-On Sentences..... | 90 |
| Misplaced Modifiers..... | 94 |
| Sentence Structure Assessment..... | 97 |

SENTENCE FRAGMENTS PRACTICE

The Imposter

Vincent Richardson reported for duty at a Chicago police station. **(1) Telling the other officers that** he was being transferred for the day from another police district. Richardson spent the next five hours on a **(2) typical patrol. Driving around the city** with his new partner, making traffic stops, and even handcuffing a suspect. Just a typical day for a Chicago police officer.

Upon returning to the station, though, another officer became suspicious of the fact that Richardson did not have a badge or gun. Soon after, **(3) the shocking discovery** that Vincent Richardson was not a Chicago police officer. **(4) In fact, he was not even an adult. Only fourteen years old!**

It was later discovered that Richardson had been part of a police cadet program for Chicago youth. Perhaps he enjoyed the experience so much that he wanted to play the role of a police officer for a day. However, impersonating a police officer is a serious crime. **(5) Causing Richardson to serve a month in jail, and he was sentenced to probation thereafter.**

By the time he was seventeen years old, Richardson had several more encounters with the police, including arrests for grand theft auto and possession of illegal firearms.

funACTprep.com

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. He told the other officers that
C. Seeing as how
D. The fact that

2. F. NO CHANGE
G. typical patrol; driving around the city
H. typical patrol, and driving around the city
J. typical patrol, driving around the city

3. A. NO CHANGE
B. police made the shocking discovery
C. discovered and shocked,
D. OMIT the underlined portion

4. All of the following alternatives to the underlined portion are acceptable EXCEPT:
F. In fact, he was not even an adult: only fourteen years old!
G. In fact, he was not even an adult; he was only fourteen years old!
H. In fact, he was not even an adult—he was only fourteen years old!
J. In fact, at only fourteen years old, he was not even an adult!

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. Causing Richardson to serve a month in jail and sentenced to probation thereafter.
C. Which caused Richardson to serve a month in jail. He was sentenced to probation thereafter.
D. This caused Richardson to serve a month in jail, and he was sentenced to probation thereafter.

RUN-ON SENTENCES PRACTICE

Fearless

Country cross-over artist Taylor Swift combines girl-next-door charm **(1) with country roots and catchy tunes.** After moving with her family to Nashville at age fourteen, Swift became the youngest songwriter hired by Sony/ATV Music. Soon after, she released **(2) her debut album the single “Our Song”** made her the youngest singer-songwriter of a #1 country song. In 2006, Swift was also nominated for a Grammy for Best New Artist.

Two years later, Swift released her **(3) second album, *Fearless* and she went on** to become the youngest Grammy winner ever for Album of the Year. *Fearless* became the most-awarded country album in history. Her acceptance speech after becoming the first country artist to win an MTV Video Music Award was overshadowed by **(4) Kanye West’s interruption Swift maintained** her poise and won even more fans.

Taylor Swift shows no signs of slowing down. Her third album, *Speak Now*, sold one million copies in its first week. *Red* and *1989* have been smash, number-one records, and she has also **(5) ventured into films and even released** her own fragrance, Wonderstuck. Taylor Swift made her mark on the world at a young age and will likely continue to inspire her fans for years to come.

- A. NO CHANGE
B. with country roots, and catchy tunes.
C. with country roots. And her catchy tunes.
D. with country roots, and she writes catchy tunes.
- Which of the following changes to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

F. her debut album; the single “Our Song”
G. her debut album, and the single “Our Song”
H. her debut album. The single “Our Song”
J. her debut album, the single “Our Song”
- A. NO CHANGE
B. second album, *Fearless*, and she went on
C. second album, *Fearless*; and she went on
D. second album, *Fearless*. And she went on
- The underlined portion can be replaced with all of the following EXCEPT:

F. Kanye West’s interruption, but Swift maintained
G. Kanye West’s interruption; however, Swift maintained
H. Kanye West’s interruption, Swift maintained
J. Kanye West’s interruption, though Swift maintained
- A. NO CHANGE
B. ventured into films, and even released
C. ventured into films and she even released
D. ventured into films; even released

MISPLACED MODIFIERS PRACTICE

Hungry for *The Hunger Games*

The Hunger Games series has taken the nation by storm. The popular trilogy of books has enchanted teenage and adult fans alike and has even spawned a series of movies. **(1) Created by author Suzanne Collins, readers are captivated by the action sequences, romance, and fantasy world.** One fascinating aspect of the series that people may overlook, though, is how much it resembles real life.

The story takes place in the fictional land of Panem. **(2) The people of twelve districts by the Capitol are controlled and oppressed.** In fact, the Capitol forces one boy and one girl from each district **(3) to literally fight in the annual Hunger Games competition to the death,** which is watched by the population nation-wide, live on television.

(4) Flipping through the channels on her television, the author has said that the inspiration for the story came from blurring together images from reality competitions and news footage of war zones.

The Hunger Games is more than young adult fiction; it is indirectly a commentary on war, starvation, oppression, and the extent to which our culture values violence as entertainment. Although the fictional world of the books makes it easy for readers to dismiss these real issues, it is important to study the series as a reflection of the very real world around us.

1.

A. NO CHANGE
B. Readers are captivated by the action sequences, romance, and fantasy world created by author Suzanne Collins.
C. Readers, created by author Suzanne Collins, are captivated by the action sequences, romance, and fantasy world.
D. Author Suzanne Collins, created by the action sequences, romance, and fantasy world, readers are captivated.
2.

F. NO CHANGE
G. By the Capitol of twelve districts the people are controlled and oppressed.
H. Controlled and oppressed, the twelve districts are by the people of the Capitol.
J. The people of twelve districts are controlled and oppressed by the Capitol.
3.

A. NO CHANGE
B. to fight in the literally Hunger Games competition to the death,
C. to literally fight to the death in the annual Hunger Games competition,
D. in the annual Hunger Games competition to fight to the death literally,
4.

F. NO CHANGE
G. The author has said that the inspiration for the story came from flipping through the channels on her television, blurring together images from reality competitions and news footage of war zones.
H. The author has said that the inspiration for the story came from blurring together images from reality competitions and news footage of war zones flipping through the channels on her television.
J. The author has said that the inspiration for flipping through the channels on her television came from blurring together images for the story from reality competitions and news footage of war zones.

SENTENCE STRUCTURE ASSESSMENT

Paranormal Investigators

When detectives set out to solve a crime, they conduct extensive **(1) investigations. Gathering evidence, collecting clues, and interviewing witnesses.** Those who believe in the supernatural follow a similar approach. Their hope is to establish a case for the existence of ghosts in haunted places.

Popularized by reality television shows like *Ghost Adventures* and *Paranormal State*, **(2) viewers, otherwise known as paranormal investigation, have an increasing fascination with ghost hunting.** These programs show investigators' attempts to prove the **(3) existence of ghosts through the use of tools** including electromagnetic field meters, digital thermometers, night vision camcorders, and audio equipment.

Typically, ghost hunters will begin by traveling to a location that is **(4) believed to be haunted they will research** the history of the location and interview witnesses. From there, they will conduct their own investigation. **(5) A team of investigators will search the premises for clues.**

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. investigations; gathering evidence, collecting clues, and interviewing witnesses.
C. investigations gathering evidence, collecting clues, and interviewing witnesses.
D. investigations and gathering evidence, collecting clues, and interviewing witnesses.
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. viewers, having an increasing fascination with paranormal investigation, are otherwise known as ghost hunters.
H. paranormal investigators, otherwise known as ghost hunters, have increased viewers' fascination with the supernatural.
J. paranormal investigators, having an increasing fascination with ghost hunting, are otherwise known as ghost hunters.
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. existence of ghosts. Through the use of tools
C. existence of ghosts; through the use of tools
D. existence of ghosts, through the use of tools
4. The underlined portion can be corrected by all of the following options EXCEPT:
F. believed to be haunted; they will research
G. believed to be haunted, where they will research
H. believed to be haunted. They will research
J. believed to be haunted and they will research
5. The writer would like to add the phrase "that indicate the presence of ghosts." This phrase should be placed:
A. after the word *investigators*
B. after the word *clues*
C. after the word *team*
D. after the word *premises*

These encounters are usually recorded using special night-vision cameras. **(6) Special audio equipment of the typical human is also used to try to detect sounds that are out of the range.** Moreover, ghost hunters also use meters to detect the presence of unexplained electromagnetic **(7) fields. As well as digital thermometers** to measure sudden cold spots. When the team gathers multiple unexplained **(8) pieces of evidence, they are often confident** that they have, in fact, witnessed the presence of the supernatural.

(9) Despite the popularity of this television genre, there is currently no scientific evidence that proves the existence of ghosts. In fact, some scientists have attempted to debunk the “evidence” found by ghost hunters. Whereas some ghost hunters cite low electromagnetic fields, unexplained cool spots, and sudden movements and vibrations **(10) as indications of the paranormal. Others** argue that these natural phenomena simply make people subconsciously feel frightened and nervous.

(11) A scientist in England, to prove this theory, Dr. Richard Lord set out to create his own experiment. During a concert, unbeknownst to the audience, scientists filled the concert hall with inaudible sound waves during several of the songs. Many audience

6. F. NO CHANGE
 G. Special audio equipment is also used to try to detect sounds of the typical human that are out of the range.
 H. Special audio equipment is also used to try to detect sounds that are out of the range of the typical human.
 J. Special audio equipment is also used of the typical human to try to detect sounds that are out of the range.
7. A. NO CHANGE
 B. fields as well. As digital thermometers
 C. fields as well as digital thermometers
 D. fields; as well as digital thermometers
8. F. NO CHANGE
 G. pieces of evidence. They are often confident
 H. pieces of evidence; they are often confident
 J. pieces of evidence, and they are often confident
9. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Despite the popularity of this television genre;
 C. The popularity of this television genre.
 D. Despite the popularity, this television genre
10. F. NO CHANGE
 G. as indications of the paranormal, others
 H. as indications of the paranormal, but others
 J. as indications of the paranormal; others
11. A. NO CHANGE
 B. To prove this theory, a scientist in England set out to create his own experiment, Dr. Richard Lord.
 C. A scientist in England, setting out to create his own experiment, Dr. Richard Lord proved this theory.
 D. To prove this theory, Dr. Richard Lord, a scientist in England, set out to create his own experiment.

members reported feeling uneasy, chilly, and frightened during the times when the sound waves were used.

(12) The audience could not hear the sound waves and were not fully aware of their presence, they could subconsciously feel that something in the room was different. Dr. Lord and his team concluded that the

reason people suddenly feel frightened may have more to do with the presence of sound waves more so than the

(13) presence of ghosts perhaps places believed to be “haunted” simply have more undetectable waves, magnetic pulls, or temperature changes. However, the results of this study and those like it only suggest an alternative to **(14) the presence of ghosts. But do** not dismiss their existence entirely.

(15) While scientific evidence supporting the existence of ghosts may be weak, polls show that approximately one-third of Americans believe that ghosts exist. In addition to watching the search for the paranormal on their televisions, those interested in the supernatural can embark on ghost tours offered in cities nationwide. Some tours allow participants to not only visit haunted places, but to use equipment similar to that used by professional ghost hunters. Even people who are a bit skeptical can find these tours to be at the very least amusing and perhaps spookier than they anticipated.

12. The sentence can be corrected by all of the following EXCEPT:

- F. Adding the word *Although* to the beginning of the sentence (lowercasing *the*)
- G. removing the comma after *presence*
- H. inserting the conjunction *but* after the word *presence* (leaving the comma in place)
- J. replacing the comma after *presence* with a semicolon, then adding the word *however*,

13. A. NO CHANGE
B. presence of ghosts; perhaps places
C. presence of ghosts, perhaps. Places
D. presence of ghosts, perhaps places

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. the presence of ghosts; but do
H. the presence. Ghosts do
J. the presence of ghosts but do

15. All of the following changes to the underlined portion are acceptable EXCEPT:

- A. Scientific evidence supporting the existence of ghosts may be weak, but polls show
- B. Though scientific evidence supporting the existence of ghosts may be weak, polls show
- C. Though scientific evidence supporting the existence of ghosts may be weak, but polls show
- D. Scientific evidence supporting the existence of ghosts may be weak; however, polls show



**STYLE &
RHETORIC**

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Adding, Revising, & Deleting Information..... | 102 |
| Organization..... | 106 |
| Wordiness & Redundancy..... | 110 |
| Word Choice & Tone..... | 114 |
| Style & Rhetoric Assessment..... | 117 |

ADDING, REVISING, & DELETING INFORMATION PRACTICE

Disney Discoveries

The pre-teen and teenage years can have their fair share of embarrassments **[1]**. Fortunately, most of us go through these times away from the public eye. But the transitional years of many of today's biggest stars have been well-documented thanks to the network that gave them their big break: The Disney Channel.

What do Christina Aguilera, Britney Spears, and Justin Timberlake have in common? Besides scoring top pop hits in the early 2000s, they also began their show business careers on *The Mickey Mouse Club*. **[2]** Now the three have branched out from pop music, with Aguilera and Spears serving as judges on reality singing competitions and Timberlake concentrating on acting. **[3] Ryan Gosling is another well-known celebrity.** The *Mickey Mouse Club*, then, can be attributed to the success of many well-known actors and musicians.

The Disney Channel continues to discover stars who soon become anxious to leave their squeaky-clean images behind. Miley Cyrus went from co-starring with her father on *Hannah Montana* **(4) to appearing in controversial photo shoots, making sultry red carpet appearances, and even getting engaged to *Hunger Games* actor Liam Hemsworth at the young age of nineteen.** Selena Gomez, formerly of *Wizards of Waverly Place*, has released her own music and garnered attention for her high-profile romance with Justin Bieber. Demi Lovato, who starred in the Disney Channel movie *Camp Rock*, is also a pop singing sensation as well as a judge on *The X Factor* **[5] (alongside former Disney Channel alum Britney Spears)**. Zac Efron, Vanessa Hudgens, and even Anne Hathaway and Shia LaBeouf also owe their humble beginnings to the Disney Channel.

- The addition of the following information: (*growth spurts, awkward phases, and cringe-worthy wardrobe choices*) serves what purpose in the sentence?
 - Adds relevant examples of the potential humiliations of adolescence
 - Explains why today's biggest stars wish they had not appeared on The Disney Channel
 - Distracts readers from the main idea of the passage
 - Includes unnecessary details focused on regular teenagers, not celebrities
- Should the author add the following statement? *Rumor has it that Justin Timberlake and Britney Spears were one another's first kiss.*
 - YES, because it details the two stars' romance
 - YES, because it provides a juicy tidbit of gossip
 - NO, because it distracts from the paragraph's focus on the three pop stars' early careers
 - NO, because the information is not credible
- NO CHANGE
 - Like Timberlake, Ryan Gosling is a famous actor.
 - Even Hollywood heartthrob Ryan Gosling was a Mouseketeer in his youth.
 - OMIT the underlined portion
- The underlined portion does all of the following EXCEPT:
 - explains why Miley Cyrus has lost her fan base
 - provides examples of Miley Cyrus's increasingly adult-like behavior
 - serves as a contrast between Cyrus's innocent childhood years versus her more mature image
 - exemplifies child stars' desire to grow up quickly and leave their youthful appearance in the past
- Should the author remove the underlined portion from the passage?
 - YES, because Spears was already mentioned earlier in the passage
 - YES, because Spears is an older Disney Channel alum, whereas Lovato represents the younger generation
 - NO, because the statement reinforces the passage's theme of the prevalence of Disney Channel stars in Hollywood
 - NO, because the underlined portion explains what *The X Factor* is and who stars on the show

ORGANIZATION PRACTICE

Zombie Task Force

[Paragraph 1]

[1] Yes, the CDC made headlines when it published a blog post in 2011 titled “Preparedness 101: Zombie Apocalypse.” [2] Others were more alarmed, though. [3] Some people thought the article was a joke. [4] There was speculation that the credible agency’s acknowledgement of zombies lent weight to the theory that perhaps zombies could become more than fictional figures in folklore and movies. 1

1. The most logical order for the sentences in paragraph 1 is:

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. 2, 3, 4, 1
- C. 1, 3, 2, 4
- D. 3, 1, 4, 2

[Paragraph 2]

[1] However, the post was neither a hoax nor a serious warning to the public. [2] Upon closer examination, the article provided practical advice for preparing for realistic calamities like natural disasters or disease outbreaks, under the guise of giving tips to ward off zombies. [3] If anything, the article gave these real issues more attention from the public and even made disaster preparedness somewhat cool. 2

2. The best topic sentence for Paragraph 2 is:

- F. Sentence 1
- G. Sentence 2
- H. Sentence 3
- J. Any of the sentences would be acceptable.

[Paragraph 3]

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is a government agency that provides information and services to the public. Its website contains a wide range of resources, including information on preparing for disasters like disease outbreaks, natural disasters, and even a zombie apocalypse. 3

3. The most logical order for the paragraphs in this passage is:

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. 2, 1, 3
- C. 3, 2, 1
- D. 3, 1, 2

WORDINESS & REDUNDANCY PRACTICE

Dream On

Have you ever had a dream that felt real, that you thought about all day? Have you ever had a reoccurring dream **(1) that reappeared often**? Dreams are extremely common, yet can have a profound impact on how we **(2) think, act, and behave.**

Dreams are a combination of images, pictures, ideas, emotions, and sensations that occur involuntarily in our sleep. Dreams **(3) mainly occur primarily** during rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep, in which the brain is very active. Dreams can range from only several seconds to upwards of 20 minutes. People average 3-5 dreams per night.

Dreams can be very vivid, which leads us to wonder what their purpose is. **(4) Many ancient cultures viewed dreams as messages from the spiritual world, often prophetic and predicting the future.** Psychoanalysts like Sigmund Freud believed that dreams revealed our subconscious fears and desires. His protégée, Carl Jung, urged dreamers to find clues in their dreams to help them to resolve unsettled issues.

Some contemporary scientists theorize that all mammals have the capability to dream **(5) since they experience REM sleep.** According to the threat-stimulation theory of dreaming, then, dreams have an evolutionary purpose: to help us to strategize difficult situations as well as face our fears in the safety of the dream world before we encounter them in real life.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. that repeated itself over and over again
C. replaying in your mind every single night
D. OMIT the underlined portion
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. think.
H. think and act.
J. think, meditate, act, and behave.
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. occur mainly and primarily
C. primarily occur
D. main occurrence occurs primarily
4. F. NO CHANGE
G. Many of the past's ancient cultures viewed dreams as prophetic messages from the spiritual world.
H. Many ancient cultures viewed dreams as prophetic messages from the spiritual world that could predict the future.
J. Many ancient cultures viewed dreams as prophetic messages from the spiritual world.
5. A. NO CHANGE
B. due to the fact that they are known to experience REM sleep
C. because, according to scientists, they can supposedly experience REM sleep just like humans do
D. OMIT the underlined portion

WORD CHOICE & TONE PRACTICE

Gorging for the Gold

Olympic athletes are viewed as the pinnacle of health, devoting four years to rigorous training to become the best in the world in their sport. If athletes exemplify wellness, then why do they **(1) pig out on** thousands of calories a day, often from fast food?

(2) Swimmer Michael Phelps famously ate up to 12,000 calories a day from a variety of sources in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing. Granted, he was spending five hours a day in the pool. His American rival, Ryan Lochte, reportedly consumed the majority of his calories from McDonald's, sometimes eating there three times a day. Lochte went on to win four medals in 2008, but he couldn't **(3) kick Phelps's butt**. After changing his diet to reduce fast food and focus on more nutritious choices, Lochte managed to defeat Phelps and won gold in several races at the 2012 Olympics in London.

Phelps and Lochte's 2012 freestyle relay teammates, Ricky Berens and Conor Dwyer, celebrated their gold medal finish with a special dinner at McDonald's. Berens **(4) said** that he ate so healthily in preparation for the competition that he finally wanted to treat himself. He did not finish his 3,300 calorie, 160 grams of fat meal, though.

British chef and health activist Jamie Oliver thinks that athletes should not endorse fast food, believing that athletes should serve as health role models. Many agree with Oliver, yet for athletes training intensely for hours each day, the occasional splurge may not seem **(5) like a big deal**.

1.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. chow down on
 - C. consume
 - D. inhale

2. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would be LEAST acceptable?
 - F. Swimming legend
 - G. Gold medal winner
 - H. World-renowned athlete
 - J. "Aqua Man"

3.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. surpass Phelps.
 - C. destroy Phelps.
 - D. steal Phelps's thunder.

4. The underlined portion can be replaced with all of the following EXCEPT:
 - F. commented
 - G. exclaimed
 - H. remarked
 - J. stated

5.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. like anything to get excited about.
 - C. detrimental in the long run.
 - D. all that bad.

STYLE & RHETORIC ASSESSMENT

Legend Has It

[Paragraph 1]

[1] In the past few decades, urban legends have increased in popularity. [2] As the stories circulate, certain details may change. [3] Specific identifying details may be difficult to pin down. [4] Like other entertaining stories, urban legends often involve characters, suspenseful plots, and elements of fear, anticipation, or even humor. [5] In many cases, urban legends serve as an entertaining and indirect means to address modern-day fears and to heed warnings. 1

[Paragraph 2]

One widely-spread urban legend, (2)proliferated by the horror movie *Scream* in the 1990s, is the story known as “The Babysitter.” Watching a group of small children at a neighbor’s house, the babysitter (usually a teenage girl) receives a disturbing phone call in which all she hears is heavy breathing. The phone calls continue and become more and more (3) threatening. The babysitter calls the police, who order her to stay put and lock all the doors and windows. Unfortunately, the police trace the phone calls—they are coming from inside the house! The babysitter has just locked herself and the children in with the (4) trespassing intruder.

1. The author is considering adding the following statement after sentence 1:

Urban legends are stories that may or may not be believed by an audience, but for one reason or another continue to be preserved and shared.

Should this addition be made?

- A. YES, because it explains what urban legends are and their prevalence in modern society.
- B. YES, because it reflects the author’s skepticism over the validity of these stories.
- C. NO, because everyone knows what urban legends are.
- D. NO, because the statement does not explain why urban legends are continually shared.

2. If the author were to delete the underlined portion, the passage would primarily lose:

- F. an unnecessary detail about an old movie no one cares about anymore
- G. a glaring distraction from the main idea of the passage
- H. a subtle reinforcement of the idea that urban legends are prevalent in modern culture
- J. an indication of the author’s preference for the horror film genre

3. Which of the following replacements for the underlined portion is LEAST acceptable?

- A. intimidating
- B. menacing
- C. hostile
- D. crazy

4. F. NO CHANGE
G. intruding trespasser.
H. threatening stranger.
J. bad guy.

[Paragraph 3]

[1] She becomes **(5) frightened** when she notices the same car following her very closely. [2] Similarly, another popular tale tells of a teenage girl driving home at night. [3] Trying to lose the follower, she turns down some out-of-the-way streets, but the car continues to stay close. [4] As her brother approaches the other car, the driver quickly explains that he meant no harm, but only wanted to keep a close eye on the girl to warn her about the man hiding in her back seat. [5] She decides to drive to the house of her brother, who is a police officer. **6**

[Paragraph 4]

(7) One well-known urban legend has even alarmed law enforcement. The story goes that a man or woman meets a new acquaintance at a hotel and invites the stranger to his or her room. In the morning, the victim is shocked to find himself or herself **(8) submerged beneath ice** with a long scar along the abdomen. The stranger, now gone, leaves behind a note and a phone near the bathtub, instructing the victim to call the hospital, as his or her kidney has been stolen by an organ theft ring. **9**

[Paragraph 5]

[1] While many urban legends are scary and even gruesome, some are actually quite humorous (and slightly gross, too). [2] The legend goes that a couple on vacation finds a small abandoned dog on the street.

5. The underlined portion can be replaced with all of the following EXCEPT:

- A. alarmed
- B. nervous
- C. annoyed
- D. uneasy

6. The most logical order for the sentences in Paragraph 3 is:

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. 1, 3, 4, 2, 5
- H. 2, 3, 5, 1, 4
- J. 2, 1, 3, 5, 4

7. What is likely the author's purpose for including this statement?

- A. to express how urban legends can alarm a wide range of people
- B. to inform how urban legends can be used to catch criminals
- C. to argue that urban legends should always be believed
- D. to suggest that law enforcement officials are easily fooled

8. **F. NO CHANGE**
G. underneath ice
H. covered in icy frozen water
J. below a cold mountain of ice

9. The author is considering adding the following statement to the end of Paragraph 4:

This story is a frightening, although extreme, reminder not to trust strangers.

Should the author make this addition?

- A. YES, because it provides a valuable lesson.
- B. YES, because it explains the message behind the story.
- C. NO, because the author should not add personal opinions.
- D. NO, because the story is only intended to entertain.

[3] They decide to adopt the dog and bring it home with them. [4] After friends remark that they have never actually heard the dog bark, the couple brings the animal to a veterinarian, who reveals that their darling “dog” is actually a giant rat! **10**

[Paragraph 6]

Another urban legend **(11) rooted in humorous origins** also involves a vacationing family. A family visiting a foreign country **(12) abroad** finds that their hotel room has been burglarized. Many possessions have been stolen, but the thieves leave behind their camera and toothbrushes. After developing their vacation photos, the family is **(13) grossed out** to find pictures of the burglars using their toothbrushes! Although these stories allow an opportunity for audiences to squeal and squirm, they also subtly hint at our apprehensions about encountering the unknown or unfamiliar in a foreign land.

[Paragraph 7]

Therefore, urban legends serve many purposes in our **(14) modern** culture. These tales certainly entertain, but they also reflect the fears, apprehensions, and cautions of the twenty-first century.

[Paragraph 8]

Despite the prevalence of these stories, true accounts of these incidents have never been substantiated. However, they continue to be shared and adapted in part because they provide relevant and important warnings about safety, surroundings, and strangers. **15**

10. The author wishes to add the following sentence to paragraph 5:

Take the variations of the Mexican hairless dog story.

The best placement for this statement is after sentence:

- F. 1
- G. 2
- H. 3
- J. 4

- 11.** A. NO CHANGE
B. that originally began with humor
C. with a foundational basis in humor
D. embedded with humor
- 12.** F. NO CHANGE
G. overseas
H. that was alien to them
J. OMIT the underlined portion

13. Which of the following phrases would best express the family’s shock and disgust?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. ready to puke
- C. horrified
- D. flabbergasted

14. The underlined portion can be replaced with all of the following EXCEPT:

- F. urban
- G. contemporary
- H. present-day
- J. current

15. Assuming the rest of the paragraphs in this passage are in the correct order, the best placement for Paragraph 8 is:

- A. after Paragraph 1
- B. after Paragraph 3
- C. after Paragraph 4
- D. after Paragraph 5



**FINAL
ASSESSMENTS**

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Reading Final Assessment..... | 122 |
| English Final Assessment..... | 125 |

READING FINAL ASSESSMENT

How do you play your video games? Long before the *Halo*, *Call of Duty*, and *Grand Theft Auto* franchises saturated the video game console market of today, characters like Mario, Sonic, and Link ushered in the golden age of home gaming. And even before Nintendo and Sega ensured that children of the '80s hijacked the living room TV, kids and teens who wished to play a video game likely took a trip with pockets jangling with quarters to the neighborhood arcade. The transition from arcades to home systems was not easy for some arcade rats to resist; the change was inescapable, much like the changes slowly taking place today. Gamers today have so many choices when it comes to what they want to play and on what console they want to play it, but with the prevalence of smartphones and tablets, a new breed of video game technology threatens to take over the market in the coming years. It's quite likely that you have already supported the change with a purchase or free download on your phone.

Apps like *Angry Birds* may not cost much to download, and social games like *Draw Something* don't charge much for in-game extras, but the profits app companies are seeing are astronomical compared to the cost of producing one of these digital downloads. The relatively simple process of creating an app doesn't require an enormous studio and team of developers working for years on a product like console game companies do. This allows for more and more small businesses and everyday people to develop apps, which means a growing market and endless ideas. This is starting to cut into sales of major video game production companies like EA and Rockstar as well as Nintendo, Microsoft, and Sony by creating a new market of casual gamers who are content with being entertained for a couple of minutes a few times a day on phones instead of hours at a time stuck in front of a TV or computer.

As app platforms (smartphones and tablets) move into more hands and houses, video game companies are taking notice. Rumors exist that Nintendo lowered the price of its handheld 3DS due to Apple's increasing encroachment on the gaming market with the iPhone and iPad. Though there can be a number of reasons why prices on a handheld or console might decrease, it is interesting to note the prevalence of smartphones and the emergence of significant app growth at similar times. (Simply look at the camera industry. Sales are shrinking in this market, and the reason for it is largely suspected to

be that the general public doesn't need video or still cameras anymore—people have this technology on the phones they already have in their pockets.) A casual gamer may think twice about the purchase of a handheld system and the cost of games if he or she already has a smartphone when a game only costs 99 cents, thus leading to the uneasiness of video game companies.

For a while, there were rumors that in order to keep hold of their shrinking revenues, Microsoft and Sony would block the resale of games in their Xbox One and PS4 consoles. Game developers applauded the buzz, while Paul Raines, CEO of the used video game store GameStop, hoped the rumor had no teeth. Luckily for gamers, their voice changed the companies' minds. Another reasonable theory for lost revenue is that as technology advances, more and more games are being illegally pirated and copied. One game in particular, *Minecraft*, is said to have been illegally downloaded more than 106 million times. If the cost of games increases, as they generally do with each new console generation, and the app market continues taking larger percentages of the market, video companies we have grown to love may actually have to make drastic changes to stay alive.

Change is inevitable, and just as arcades became vacant, that home console sitting under your TV may become a memory. Now, just as parents who grew up with *Pac-Man* tell of the old arcade, this generation will regale its children with stories of a wired controller and discs that fit into a machine. The next generation will likely pull out their phones and play a game of *Madden NFL 2025* while walking down the street.

1. The main purpose of the passage is to show that:
 - A. beginning an app company can be profitable.
 - B. change happens in all industries.
 - C. the video game industry is in the early stages of a major transformation.
 - D. casual gamers are taking over the video game market.

2. According to the passage, all of the following are directly related to the profits of major video game companies EXCEPT:
- F. video game piracy.
 - G. the reduction in price of handheld video game units.
 - H. the cost to produce an app.
 - J. the increasing number of casual gamers.
3. As it is used in line 60, the phrase “*had no teeth*” most nearly means:
- A. there is nothing to support a claim.
 - B. something cannot hurt those involved.
 - C. something will be painful.
 - D. something will devour competition.
4. It can be most reasonably inferred that the author compares cameras to handheld gaming units because:
- F. as phone technology advances, cameras in phones are becoming more high tech.
 - G. hand held gaming units must improve graphics to stay competitive with smartphones.
 - H. hand held gaming units have cameras built in.
 - J. hand held gaming units are becoming obsolete.
5. Which of the following statements represents a conclusion drawn by the author of the passage rather than a simple statement of fact?
- A. The development of an app is less expensive than creating a console game.
 - B. Camera sales have declined in recent years.
 - C. The home console will soon be obsolete.
 - D. Smartphones are becoming more prevalent.
6. It can be reasonably inferred from the first paragraph (lines 1-19) that the decline of the arcade began when:
- F. gamers beat the arcade game *Pac-Man*.
 - G. Mario, Link, and Sonic were introduced to the home TV.
 - H. arcade patrons ran out of quarters.
 - J. vermin infested the properties.
7. The passage most strongly suggests that Microsoft and Sony may block used games on their next generation consoles in response to:
- A. increased sales at video game resale stores.
 - B. the alarming rate of piracy.
 - C. the encouragement of game developers.
 - D. the predicted increase in price for next generation games.
8. In this passage, the author was most likely attempting to:
- F. inform readers of the dangers of downloading apps.
 - G. encourage readers to play their video games on their smartphones and tablets.
 - H. persuade readers to help stop the changing video game industry.
 - J. inform readers of the changing video game industry.
9. The use of the word *rats* (line 11) most nearly means:
- A. those who inform authorities.
 - B. rodents known to live in dingy places.
 - C. an expression of disappointment.
 - D. kids who frequent a location.
10. It can be reasonably inferred from the passage that video game piracy:
- F. will continue to rise in the future if no interventions are instituted.
 - G. occurs when the availability of a game is low.
 - H. cannot be stopped as digital downloads become the norm.
 - J. will be reduced when the next generation consoles are introduced.

ENGLISH FINAL ASSESSMENT

Some Work and All Play

[Paragraph 1]

When searching for a job, many people's primary focus is in on potential salary. **(1) Other aspects such as benefits insurance and vacation time** also are important factors. One element of a potential career that is often overlooked, though, is workplace environment. **(2) In fact**, some of America's most successful companies can feel more like playgrounds than places of employment.

[Paragraph 2]

One of the world's most profitable and well-known companies **(3) is Google engineers** and programmers work demanding, high-powered jobs, and they are rewarded with lucrative salaries. However, what could be a cutthroat, high-pressure environment is actually quite the opposite. Google **(4) aimed** to create workplaces that foster creativity and encourage camaraderie among employees. For instance, the company takes care of many needs that often draw people away from the office. Instead of racing out during lunch to stop by a café or rushing to drop off dry-cleaning after work, Google offers **(5) employees'** complimentary laundry services and unlimited food from its many dining halls. Not only do these perks reduce the stresses of

- A. NO CHANGE
B. Other aspects such as, benefits, insurance and vacation time
C. Other aspects, such as benefits, insurance, and vacation time
D. Other aspects, such as benefits, insurance, and vacation time,
- Which replacement for the underlined portion would best express the belief that work and play are often not closely associated with one another?

F. Of course,
G. Surprisingly,
H. Obviously,
J. Undoubtedly,
- A. NO CHANGE
B. is Google, engineers
C. is Google. Its engineers
D. is Google; where engineers
- F. NO CHANGE
G. was aiming
H. aims
J. had aimed
- A. NO CHANGE
B. employees
C. employee's
D. employe's

everyday chores, they also encourage employees to stay at the office with their co-workers, **(6) continual interacting** with one another.

[Paragraph 3]

Google's worldwide offices more closely resemble playgrounds than traditional office spaces. There are the famous "nap pods" for rest and relaxation. The Zurich office has a slide running through the middle, the Boulder location contains an indoor rock-climbing wall, and the Netherlands site is marked by an indoor bike lane. California employees are entertained by the goats that live on the lawn that keep it neat and trim. 7

[Paragraph 4]

Another notable company is online retailer Zappos.com. Paying an average of \$13 an hour for call center employees, jobs at **(8) this company is not** nearly as lucrative as those at Google. However, employees likely enjoy their jobs just as much. Co-workers are encouraged to recognize one another's accomplishments by being provided with a \$50 bonus **(9) he awards** to a peer. From there, executives award one person an unconventional Employee of the Month award. The lucky employee is rewarded with a parade around the office in his or her honor, a special parking spot, a \$150 gift certificate, a superhero cape, and the title of "Hero of the Month."

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. continual interaction
H. continuous interacting
J. continually interacting

7. The author is considering adding the following statement to Paragraph 3:

Bocce courts, a bowling alley, a soccer field, two tennis courts, a putting green, and a roller hockey rink on the Google premises all allow employees to recharge and boost their creativity.

Should the author make this addition?

- A. YES, because it might motivate the audience to apply for a job at Google.
B. YES, because it provides specific details that illustrate Google's playground-like environment.
C. NO, because these examples are unrelated to Google's success as a company.
D. NO, because these examples are not as exciting as the ones already provided in the paragraph.
8. F. NO CHANGE
G. these companies are not
H. this company are not
J. this company isn't
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. they award
C. they awards
D. he or she awards

[Paragraph 5]

Of course, Zappos doesn't expect just anyone to become a "hero." The company screens potential workers very carefully, with an emphasis on individuality and creativity. During the two week training period for **(10) potential hires. CEO Tony Hsieh** offers trainees \$2000 to quit the company. He would rather spend \$2000 to get rid of an unmotivated person than invest time **(11) and cash** training someone who is not fully motivated to work for the company.

[Paragraph 6]

Many businesses are following the lead of Google and **(12) Zappos, by adding** unconventional perks to keep employees motivated and happy. For instance, online retailer ThinkGeek.com has a game room full of videogames, arcade games, and a foosball table. Social network development company Ning, meanwhile, allows workers unlimited vacation time as long as they meet their deadlines. **(13) When finished working for the day, three free pints of frozen yogurt, sorbet, and ice cream are given to employees at Ben and Jerry's.** **(14) Whoever** would pass that up?! 15

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. potential hires; CEO Tony Hsieh
H. potential, hires CEO Tony Hsieh
J. potential hires, CEO Tony Hsieh
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. and a few bucks
C. and money
D. OMIT the underlined portion
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. Zappos; by adding
H. Zappos. By adding
J. Zappos by adding
13. A. NO CHANGE
B. Three free pints of frozen yogurt, sorbet, and ice cream, when finished working for the day, are given to employees at Ben and Jerry's.
C. At Ben and Jerry's, employees are given three free pints of frozen yogurt, sorbet and ice cream when they are finished working for the day.
D. Ben and Jerry's three free pints of frozen yogurt, sorbet, and ice cream, when finished working for the day, are given to employees.
14. F. NO CHANGE
G. Who
H. Whom
J. Whomever
15. Assuming the rest of the paragraphs in this passage are in the correct order, the best placement for Paragraph 6 is:
A. where it is now
B. after Paragraph 1
C. after Paragraph 3
D. after Paragraph 4