



PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

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

- A. setbacks despite
- B. annoying,
- C. Leonard
- D. long-term goal.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: There should be a comma after setbacks.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Until you sit down and talk to a person, you don\\'t really know them.

- A. No error
- B. you don\\'t know them really.
- C. you do not really know them.
- D. you do not really know him.
- E. you don\\'t really know him or her.

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: A person is singular, so the words him or her are appropriate.

QUESTION 3

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

Learning a new language can be difficult for people after one reaches a certain age; abilities needed to retain and apply new linguistic information deteriorate with time.

- A. after one reaches a certain age
- B. after they reach a certain age



C. after they reaches certain ages

D. after it reaches a certain age

E. after you reach a certain age

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The underlined portion of this sentence is wrong because the sentence refers to people in general. Because a plural third person form of a pronoun is needed (because of the reference to "people"), "one", "it", and "you" are all inappropriate responses. Choice "after one reaches a certain age", "after it reaches a certain age" and "after you reach a certain age" are all incorrect. Choice "after they reach a certain age" is better than choice "after they reaches certain ages" because of the implied logic. People can reach a defined age; it is odd to say that multiple people are simultaneously reaching multiple ages -what is certain then? It's almost an oxymoron to say certain ages in this context, although it is perfectly fine in other situations (i.e. This board game is only for people of certain ages). Yet the more defining difference is the singular verb form of choice "after they reaches certain ages" (i.e. reaches) mistakenly in place of the plural verb form of choice "after they reach a certain age" (i.e. reach).

QUESTION 4

Identify the error in the following sentence:

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

A. Its

B. written by

C. playwrights

D. messages of

E. No error

Correct Answer: A

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

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

After the brilliant team that developed the atomic bomb for the United States government finished testing and realized the apocalyptic consequences of use, each member of the team felt remorseful and adamant urged the government to reach peace.

A. that



B. apocalyptic

C. use

D. adamant

E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: This sentence tests your knowledge of adverbs. Adverbs alter and describe the meaning of a verb, hence the name adverb as it represents an "adjective" for a "verb." Adverbs are most easily recognized by an "-ly" at the end such as "quickly," "shrewdly" and "nicely." In this sentence because the scientists "urged" against use of the atomic bomb, the adjective "adamant" must be modified to an adverb and be "adamantly."

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