

PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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QUESTION 1

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

Concerns about global warming have grown into actual efforts sanctioned by non-governmental organizations and governments that not only work to understand global warming and also to prevent it.

A. understand global warming and also to prevent it.

- B. understand global warming but also to prevent it.
- C. understand global warming yet also to prevent it.

D. understand global warming but also to prevent its growth.

E. understand global warming yet also to prevent it\\'s growth.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The original underlined portion is incorrect because of the improper use of the "not only...but also..." structure. Only choice "understand global warming but also to prevent it" and choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" use this structure, but choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" accurately adds "to prevent its growth." The sentence began by discussing growth because global warming is a dynamic problem that has not just stagnated; it continually has changed. Choice "understand global warming but also to prevent its growth" is growth "corrects the structure and also uses the proper possessive form of it (i.e. its).

QUESTION 2

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

Fleeing the horde of zombies on foot, an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

A. an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

- B. the terrified couple spotted a building that looked safe.
- C. a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple.
- D. the terrified couple\\'s luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building.
- E. their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: "an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple", "a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple", "the terrified couple\\'s luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building", and "their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building" are all dangling modifiers. Who was fleeing the horde? The terrified couple was.



QUESTION 3

Identify the error in the following sentence:

If only he had listened to the words of his mother, he wouldn\\'t be in this silly situation.

- A. If only he had
- B. of his mother
- C. he wouldn\\'t be
- D. this silly situation.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

QUESTION 4

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

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

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

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

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

It//'s not my fault that the car has a dent in its rear bumper: the driver behind me failed to stop at the red light.

A. It\\'s

- B. that
- C. its



- D. failed to stop
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The correct answer is "No error" because there is no error in this sentence. This sentence does, however, feature the commonly confused "it\\'s" and "its." Remember that "its" is the possessive form of "it" and "it\\'s" is a contraction of "it is." Whenever you\\'re not sure which word is correct, read the sentence aloud and substitute "it is" for "its" and "it\\'s." Would it make sense to say "It is not my fault" or "the car has a dent in it is rear bumper"? Obviously, "it is" works in the first part of the sentence, but not in the second. "It\\'s" and "its," therefore, are used correctly in this example.

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