



PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

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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.

A shockingly indelible moment, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I found out that Kurt Cobain had died.

- A. A shockingly indelible moment,
- B. A shocking, indelible moment,
- C. It was a shocking and indelible moment;
- D. Shocked and indelible,
- E. Shocking and I will never forget it,

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: "A shockingly indelible moment," "A shocking, indelible moment," "Shocked and indelible," and "Shocking and I will never forget it," all have dangling modifier errors, because they aren't describing what comes after the comma.

Indelible means not able to be erased; you wouldn't say that about a person in this context.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although Neal loves almost everything about living in the forest, he does dislike raking the tree's leaves that blanket his lawn each fall.

- A. Although
- B. does
- C. tree's
- D. fall
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is "tree's" because there are many trees that shed all those leaves each fall. To show that a singular noun owns something, the apostrophe goes in front of the "s." To show that a plural noun own something, the apostrophe goes in after of the "s." Changing "tree's" to "trees'" would correct the error in this sentence by reflecting that the leaves in Neal's yard come from many trees, not just one.

**QUESTION 3**

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

For every song that is a hit, it is critical to have a quality "beat" and quality lyrics; however, music companies hire professional producers and song writers.

- A. however
- B. therefore
- C. nevertheless
- D. and
- E. yet

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The underlined portion of this sentence is wrong because the conjunction "however" needs to properly reflect the supporting nature of the second clause--NOT a contrasting relationship. Choice "however", "nevertheless" and "yet" all reflect a contrasting relationship when a supporting and united relationship should be here. Choice "therefore" and "and" are left. Choice "therefore" is best because the initial clause creates a premise (the requirements for a good song) that the second clause needs to support (how the requirements are met); therefore is the ideal transition for this type of cause-effect relationship.

QUESTION 4

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 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

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

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

Correct Answer: C

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

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