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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although James would rather walk to work then ride the bus, the sidewalks in his neighborhood were still covered with ice from the most recent winter storm.

- A. would rather
- B. then
- C. were still covered
- D. most recent E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is "then" because the word "then" has been used instead of "than." Though many people use these words interchangeably, the two words have different functions and cannot be used in place of each other in grammatically correct writing. "Then" is a measure of time; it tells the reader when something will occur. For example, I'll eat lunch and then go to the store. "Than" is used to compare people or things. For example, Mary likes Pedro more than Edward. To correct the sentence above, change "then" to "than" to show the comparison between walking to work and riding the bus.

QUESTION 2

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

The final two competitors were Susan, that was considered the challenger, and Gail, the defending champion.

- A. No error
- B. Susan, whom was considered the challenger,
- C. Susan, which was considered the challenger,
- D. Susan, considered the challenger,
- E. Susan, who was considered the challenger,

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: Susan is a person, so the appropriate pronoun is who.

QUESTION 3

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

In the last fifty years, those who from the ground up built the business have been replaced by a new generation.



- A. No error
- B. those whose business was ground up
- C. those who built the business from the ground up
- D. in which the business was built from the ground up
- E. those who built the business ground

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Although the sentence as it is written is not technically incorrect, version "those who built the business from the ground up" is easier to read because it puts the verb clause who built the business in front of the relative clause from the ground up.

QUESTION 4

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 5

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

Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.

- A. Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.
- B. Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes.
- C. Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes.



D. Jewelry is accessorized by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.

E. Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes which includes watches, necklaces and wearing earrings.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is the misplacement of the clause that describes jewelry. By placing "...including watches, necklaces, and earrings." after "classes" the reader gets the impression that the classes involves different types of jewelry. By moving the clause, choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes" and choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes" improve the sentence. However, choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes" commits the error of using a plural form of "to be" (i.e. are) to refer to a collective noun like jewelry that demands a singular verb (i.e. is). Only choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes" places the clause correctly after "jewelry" and ensures that the verb agrees with the subject.

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