



# PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION<sup>Q&As</sup>

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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**QUESTION 1**

Identify the error in the following sentence:

If he weren\\'t so mean, Jamal would have agreed to loan his car to his twin brother weeks ago.

- A. he
- B. weren\\'t
- C. would have agreed
- D. to loan
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

The correct answer is "he" because the pronoun "he" has no clear antecedent. In other words, the reader cannot be sure if Jamal or his twin brother is mean. A simple way to correct this problem would be to replace the first "he" with either "Jamal" or "Jamal\\'s twin brother," depending on the writer\\'s intent.

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**QUESTION 2**

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In the last fifty years, those who from the ground up built the business have been replaced by a new generation.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

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**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:

The scandals surrounding steroid use in sports has not subsided even though time has passed because of continued use, increased media exposure and deteriorating values.

- A. surrounding
- B. has
- C. time has
- D. deteriorating
- E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The writer refers to "scandals," a plural noun. So the verb describing such plurality must match. "Scandals...have not subsided" would be more appropriate. Just as you would not say "The other girls in my school has become more cooperative..." you must not say "...scandals...has not subsided." Sound sentences out, and the errors will jump out at you.

#### QUESTION 5

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



For homes in typically colder geographic regions, it is particularly important to have effective and efficient heating systems.

- A. For homes in typically colder geographic regions
- B. For people in homes in typically colder geographic regions
- C. For homes in typically cold geographic regions
- D. People in typically colder geographic regions
- E. Homes in typically colder geographic regions

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it makes sense conversationally but not in written English. You cannot just say "colder geographic regions" when there is no object of comparison. Colder compared to what? An area can easily be identified as cold without a prior standard (such as the southern regions or areas near the equator) but not "colder." Also, it is wrong to refer to people as the subject of this sentence because the second clause states that "it is particularly important to have ... heating system." People cannot have heating systems usually. Therefore, choice "For homes in typically cold geographic regions", which uses a descriptive rather than comparative term, is the best choice.

#### QUESTION 6

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Every farmer knows that baling wet grass is dangerous because heat can build in a tightly packed bale and starts a fire.

- A. Every
- B. baling
- C. tightly
- D. starts
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is "starts" because the tense of the verb "starts" doesn't agree with the rest of the sentence, even though it may seem to agree with "knows" at first glance. Note, however, that "know" has to agree with "farmer" while "starts" describes the action of "heat" and must agree with that noun instead. Changing "starts" to "start" will correct the problem.

#### QUESTION 7

Identify the error in the following sentence:

It is ineffective for high school administration to make policy without even asking for student input; banning flip flops and enforcing strict dress codes has merit but there must be a happy medium in school policy.

- A. ineffective



B. administration

C. student

D. has

E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

### QUESTION 8

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

During the summer, many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity.

A. summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity.

B. Summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity.

C. summer many students go away to camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity.

D. summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and maintaining integrity.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Only choice "summer many students go away to camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity" corrects the redundancy error in this sentence of writing "...summer camps..." after already stating that this event occurs "During the summer..." Choice "summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity", "Summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and integrity" and "summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and maintaining integrity" suffer such redundancy. Choice "summer many students go away to summer camps that teach them skills about camaraderie, perseverance and maintaining integrity" also breaks the list's parallelism (values such as camaraderie and perseverance that should be followed simply by "integrity").

### QUESTION 9

Identify the error in the following sentence: "Turn off your lights!" he shouted at there father.

A. "Turn

B. lights!"

C. there



D. father.

E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The word their should be used rather than there.

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### QUESTION 10

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

"I\\'m not sure about that," he said. "I can\\'t really remember."

A. No error

B. about that," he said! "I can\\'t

C. about that." He said. "I can\\'t

D. about that," he said, "I can\\'t

E. about that" he said. "I can\\'t

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The original sentence is correct.

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### QUESTION 11

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Asking for directions when you are lost is the properly course of action.

A. Asking

B. for directions

C. you are lost

D. properly

E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The adjectival form rather than the adverbial form should be used here.

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### QUESTION 12



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 13

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Him and his sister ran and ran, but they could not seem to get away from the pack of dogs.

- A. Him and his sister
- B. ran and ran
- C. could not seem
- D. pack of dogs.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The correct form would be he and his sister.

### QUESTION 14

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The defeated baseball team sat down to his and her supper with heavy hearts.

- A. The defeated



- B. sat down
- C. his and her
- D. heavy hearts.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The word "their" should be used here.

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#### QUESTION 15

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.

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