

Name _____

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SECTION I: Frequently Confused Words.

Write the correct word in the space provided.

1. If you want to _____ (effect/effect) the environment in a positive way, you need to change your wasteful lifestyle.
2. Instead of thinking about the _____ (affect/effect) of her actions, the girl impulsively threw the baseball directly at the window.
3. The film had a profound _____ (affect/effect) on me; it made me think about the broader _____ (affect/effect) poverty has on the economy in general.
4. If _____ (it's/its) not too difficult, please bring me the fire iron from the garage.
5. Behold the mighty chihuahua, how _____ (it's/its) teeth are small but sharp, how _____ (it's/its) bark is high-pitched but fierce.
6. _____ (It's/Its) always a good idea to carry at least some cash on you in case of an emergency.
7. First you put the dirty clothes in the laundry, _____ (then/than) you pour in some detergent.
8. I'd rather go to the park _____ (then/than) the library, and _____ (then/than), after we're done, go grocery shopping.
9. My mother made a birth announcement for my daughter, _____ (then/than) she made a quilt.

10. They claimed that someone had stolen _____ (there/their/they're) money, but they had actually left it in _____ (there/their/they're) hotel room.
11. First _____ (there/their/they're) going to vacation at _____ (there/their/they're) beach house in Malibu, then _____ (there/their/they're) coming home.
12. "_____ (There/Their/They're) is only so much stress I can take!" she screamed, pulling at her hair.
13. If you want _____ (to/too/two) buy a house these days, you need to have _____ (to/too/two) jobs, but that's simply way _____ (to/too/two) much work for one person to handle.
14. "Perhaps I've said _____ (to/too/two) much," he gasped.
15. "First go _____ (to/too/two) the bowling ally, _____ (then/than) go _____ (to/too/two) the amusement park," he said.
16. "_____ (Your/You're) _____ (to/too/two) excited for me to talk to you right now," he told his wife.
17. If you spend all of _____ (your/you're) money on frivolous things, you won't be able to go to Europe with _____ (your/you're) friends in the fall.
18. Talk to _____ (your/you're) supervisor if _____ (your/you're) upset about what _____ (your/you're) coworker said to you.

SECTION 11: Proper capitalization.

Circle the letters that should be capitalized in the following sentences.

1. whenever i go to the city, i see my grandmother, who lives with my uncle george and his girlfriend alice.
2. when i sneezed, i immediately reached for some kleenex, but my aunt judy had taken them all with her into the bathroom.
3. in the fall semester i only took math classes, but this summer i'm taking a foreign language course—spanish, of course—and a nifty course called introduction to anthropological principles.
4. she loves to celebrate christmas and halloween, but when it comes to her own birthday, she prefers not to make a fuss.
5. please take this prescription back to the doctor and tell him that professor johnson said that it's incorrect.
6. i enjoy listening to latin jazz and, of course, the blues.
7. every autumn, she goes to the greater new england craft fair, which is annually sponsored by the united federation of homemakers.
8. when you get to london, make sure to take a photo of big ben for me; i've always wanted to see a great clock tower like that.

SECTION III: Apostrophes.

Add the apostrophes where they belong. Watch out for possessive pronouns.

1. Please give Georges sunglasses to him; its hot outside, and hes been squinting all morning.
2. It doesnt matter if the toy is hers or his; either way, its wrong to hit your siblings.
3. Mr. Thomass nerves were shot; all day long, hed been waiting for the doctors prognosis, and he feared the worst.
4. Id like to get a good nights sleep for once, but its impossible when my childrens tantrums keep waking me up.
5. It walks like a duck, talks like a duck, and looks like a duck, but its definitely not a duck.
6. Both of my parents ex-spouses showed up suddenly at dinner, which was awkward.
7. "Thats not necessary," said the man to the shoeshine boy who had stooped to polish the shoes.
8. Alices hair is the envy of all her friends, who complain behind her back about the way shes always swaying back and forth so her hair will swirl around her face.
9. Ours it the blue car and yours is the red car; don't worry, its easy to get confused.
10. Mildreds father took the dog by its legs and swung it around his head, laughing hysterically.

SECTION 177 Consistent Pronouns.

Fix the following sentences so the pronouns are consistent with the nouns to which they refer. You may rewrite the sentences any way you see fit, so long as it's grammatical.

1. When your child is sick, you must take them to the doctor.

2. A stamp collector always looks after their collection carefully.

3. If a student is serious about getting good grades, they will study hard and make sure to attend every one of their classes.

4. To be a successful athlete, one must do ones best to train with their team, instead of adopting an independent attitude.

5. She was frustrated with her children; it's always difficult when your instructions are unheeded.

SECTION V: Correct pronouns.

Circle the incorrect pronouns in the sentences below, and write the correct pronoun in its place.

1. Mary wanted to accompany George and _____ (me, I) to the park, but she hadn't been invited.
2. Alfred and _____ (he, him) went on a road trip across the country.
3. My brother can play the banjo better than _____ (me, I).
4. The company tried to sue my wife and _____ (me, I), even though they didn't have a legitimate case.
5. Fred and _____ (me, I) have a very serious problem with you and _____ (she, her).
6. I said that she and _____ (me, I) will be happy to attend the ballet with my aunt and _____ (he, him).
7. There's a very strong bond between us and _____ (they, them).
8. _____ (Me, I) will give the money to you and _____ (she, her), but only if you promise to return it to _____ (me, I)

SECTION VI. Vague pronouns.

Rewrite the following sentences to eliminate vague pronouns.

1. At the restaurant, my wife ordered egg rolls for herself and noodles for the children. This is her favorite thing to order when we eat out.

2. She's abrupt, rude, inconsiderate, and smelly. This makes me resent her.

3. I like to read all kinds of book—fiction, autobiography, poetry. It relaxes me.

4. The sunburn gave Margaret blisters all over her shoulder, which hurt badly until she put ointment on them.

5. The loud construction work echoed off the buildings, which gave me a headache.

SECTION VII: Complete sentences.

After each sentence, identify it as a run-on or fragment. Rewrite the sentence so it is complete. You may do this in any way you see fit, so long as your solution is grammatical.

1. According to legend, the ghost always appeared on June fourth, it appeared only to people who weren't immediate family members. (run-on/fragment)

2. When he returned from the war years later to help his mother move. He dug for the box exactly where he had buried it. (run-on/fragment)

3. Wearing a bright green dress, walking to the library. To take out books. To read. (run-on/fragment)

4. In the middle of the summer you can always find my brother sitting on the porch he is always drinking rum and Coke that's his favorite drink. (run-on/fragment)

5. The director stood behind the curtain. Whispering the actors' lines under his breath. Fingers crossed behind his back. (run-on/fragment)

6. I like to read as much as anyone however romance novels just aren't my thing (run-on/fragment)

7. Because it was happy to see her. The dog wagged its tail and drooled. (run-on/fragment)

8. He was so happy. Since he'd gotten a raise. (run-on/fragment)

9. Of course I'd like to have a pony moreover I'd like a ranch and my own helicopter too that's never going to happen. (run-on/fragment)

10. Sometimes to correct a run-on sentence all you need is a semicolon that's a punctuation mark that connects independent clauses. (run-on/fragment)

SECTION VIII: Commas, semicolons, and colons.

In each of the following sentence, insert commas, semicolons, and colons as necessary.

1. Please go to the store and pick up some milk eggs and bacon.
2. "You've really got a hold on me" the mother sang to her baby.
3. Lima beans which always grow wildly in my garden are a family favorite for us.
4. Please meet my Uncle Larry who's sixty-two my Aunt Mildred who's sixty and their golden retriever Fido who's seventy in dog years.
5. Here are the things that bother me about you your chronic tardiness, you temper tantrums, and your miserliness.

SECTION IX: Dashes and parentheses.

In each of the following dashes and parentheses as necessary.

1. I really wanted to ride the roller coaster I love roller coasters even though people said this one was unsafe.
2. She looked out the window and saw that there was nine feet of snow on the ground nine feet!
3. I offered him my blanket it was clean, of course.
4. There are times when I need to be totally alone when I need to hear my own thoughts.
5. She had been coughing for five minutes, so I asked her if she wanted a glass of water and can you believe this? she said she didn't want any water.

OBJECTIVE: Shifting verb tense and verb agreement.

Rewrite each of the following sentences so the verb agrees with its subject.

1. Either the contestant from Alabama or the contestant from Georgia have won the beauty pageant.

2. The flowery pattern of the curtains in the dining room are typical of Southern interior decorating.

3. Adding thousands of different special effects in movies are not uncommon these days.

4. Several of the students always comes in late.

5. Each of the contributors receive a handbag embroidered with flowers.

