

## PSAT Reading Practice Test 3: Craft and Structure

**1. Which of the following sentences uses the MOST informal language?**

- A. The house creaked at night.
- B. I ate dinner with my friend.
- C. It's sort of a bad time.
- D. The water trickled slowly.

**2. In which of the following situations would it be best to use informal language?**

- A. In a seminar.
- B. Writing a postcard.
- C. Talking to your boss.
- D. Participating in a professional conference.

**3. Which of the following sentences uses the MOST formal language?**

- A. Thanks for letting me know.
- B. I want to thank you for telling me.
- C. Thank you for telling me about this issue.
- D. I appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention.

**Read the passage below and answer questions 4-6.**

The train was the most amazing thing ever even though it didn't go "choo choo." The toddler pounded on the railing of the bridge and supplied the sound herself. "Choo choo! Choo choooooo!" she shouted as the train cars whizzed along below.

In the excitement, she dropped her favorite binky.

Later, when she noticed the binky missing, all the joy went out of the world. The wailing could be heard three houses down. The toddler's usual favorite activities were garbage—even waving to Hank the garbage man, which she refused to do, so that Hank went away looking mildly hurt. It was clear the little girl would never, ever, ever recover from her loss.

Afterward, she played at the park.

**4. Which adjectives best describe the tone of the passage?**

- A. Ironic, angry
- B. Earnest, angry
- C. Ironic, humorous
- D. Earnest, humorous

**5. Which sentence from the passage is clearly ironic?**

- A. “Choo choo! Choo choooooo!” she shouted as the train cars whizzed along below.
- B. Later, when she noticed the binky missing, all the joy went out of the world.
- C. The wailing could be heard three houses down.
- D. Afterward, she played at the park.

**6. The author of the passage first establishes the ironic tone by:**

- A. describing the child's trip to play at the park.
- B. calling the train “the most amazing thing ever.”
- C. pretending that the child can make the sounds “choo choooooo!”
- D. claiming inaccurately that the lost binky was the child's “favorite.”

**7. What is the most likely purpose of a popular science book describing recent advances in genetics?**

- A. To decide
- B. To inform
- C. To persuade
- D. To entertain

**8. Which phrase describes the set of techniques an author uses to support an argument or develop a main idea?**

- A. Points of view
- B. Logical fallacies
- C. Statistical analyses
- D. Rhetorical strategies

**9. What is the most likely purpose of an article that claims some genetic research is immoral?**

- A. To decide
- B. To inform
- C. To persuade
- D. To entertain

#### **ANSWER KEY**

**1. C.** *It's sort of a bad time.* The sentence has contractions and uses informal and slang words. **See Lesson: Formal and Informal Language.**

**2. B.** *Writing a postcard.* It is an informal mode of communication between close friends and relatives. **See Lesson: Formal and Informal Language.**

**3. D.** *I appreciate you bringing this issue to my attention.* The sentence uses the most formal and polite vocabulary. **See Lesson: Formal and Informal Language.**

4. **C.** This passage ironically is a humorous description of a toddler's emotions, written by an adult who has enough experience to know that a toddler's huge emotions will pass. **See Lesson: Tone and Mood, Transition Words.**
5. **B.** Authors use irony when their words do not literally mean what they say. The joy does not really go out of the world when a toddler loses her binky—but it may seem that way to the child. **See Lesson: Tone, Mood, and Transition Words.**
6. **B.** This passage establishes irony in the opening sentence by applying the superlative phrase “the most amazing thing ever” to an ordinary occurrence. **See Lesson: Tone, Mood, and Transition Words.**
7. **B.** If a book is describing information, its purpose is to inform. **See Lesson: The Author's Purpose and Point of View.**
8. **D.** The techniques an author uses to support an argument or develop a main idea are called rhetorical strategies. **See Lesson: The Author's Purpose and Point of View.**
9. **C.** An article that takes a moral position is meant to persuade. **See Lesson: The Author's Purpose and Point of View.**

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