

PSAT Writing and Language Practice Test 5: Knowledge of Language

1. Identify the direct object in the following sentence.

Paulo accidentally locked his keys in his car.

- A. Paulo
- B. accidentally
- C. his keys
- D. his car

2. Select the word that is an object of the underlined verb.

The graduates held lit candles.

- A. The
- B. graduates
- C. lit
- D. candles

3. Select the verb that acts on the underlined direct object in the following sentence.

We have no choice but to sit here and wait for these cows to cross the road!

- A. have
- B. sit
- C. wait
- D. cross

4. Which modifier, if any, modifies the underlined word in the following sentence?

We always visit the bakery on the corner when we are in town.

- A. always
- B. on the corner
- C. when we are in town
- D. No modifier describes it.

5. Identify the dangling or misplaced modifier, if there is one.

Having been repaired, we can drive the car again.

- A. Having been repaired
- B. we can drive
- C. the car again
- D. There is no dangling or misplaced modifier.

6. Which ending does not create a sentence with a dangling modifier?

Trying to earn some extra money, ____.

- A. the new position paid more.
- B. he got a second job.
- C. the job was difficult.
- D. it was an extra shift.

7. Select the "understood" subject with which the underlined verb must agree.

Watch out!

- A. You
- B. He

C. I

D. Out

8. How many verbs must agree with the underlined subject in the following sentence?

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, my favorite basketball player, dribbles, shoots, and scores to win the game!

A. 0

B. 1

C. 2

D. 3

9. Select the correct verb to complete the following sentence.

Our family ____ staying home for the holidays this year.

A. is

B. be

C. am

D. are

10. Fill in the blank with the correct subordinating conjunction.

You cannot go to the movies with your friends ____ you finish your homework.

A. If

B. Once

C. Since

D. Unless

11. Identify the dependent clause in the following sentence.

We decided to take our dog to the park although it was hot outside.

- A. We decided to take our dog
- B. to the park
- C. although it was hot outside
- D. to take our dog

12. Identify the independent clause in the following sentence.

After eating dinner, the couple went on a stroll through the park.

- A. After eating dinner
- B. The couple went on a stroll through the park
- C. Through the park
- D. Went on a stroll

13. Which of the following is an example of a simple sentence?

- A. Tamara's sporting goods store.
- B. Tamara has a sporting goods store in town.
- C. Tamara has a sporting goods store it is in town.
- D. Tamara's sporting goods store is in town, and she is the owner.

14. Which of the following uses a conjunction to combine the sentences below so the focus is on puppies requiring a lot of work?

Puppies are fun-loving animals. They do require a lot of work.

- A. are fun-loving animals; they do require a lot of work.
- B. Puppies are fun-loving animals, so they do require a lot of work.
- C. Since puppies are fun-loving animals they do require a lot of work.
- D. Although puppies are fun-loving animals, they do require a lot of work.

15. Which of the following options would complete the above sentence to make it a compound sentence?

The class of middle school students _____.

- A. served food at.
- B. served food at a soup kitchen.
- C. served food at a soup kitchen, and they enjoyed the experience.
- D. served food at a soup kitchen even though they weren't required to.

ANSWER KEY

1. **C.** *His keys* is the direct object of the verb *locked*. **See Lesson: Direct Objects and Indirect Objects.**
2. **D.** *Candles* is the direct object of the verb *held*. **See Lesson: Direct Objects and Indirect Objects.**
3. **D.** *The road* is a direct object of the verb *cross*. **See Lesson: Direct Objects and Indirect Objects.**
4. **B.** *On the corner* modifies *bakery*. **See Lesson: Modifiers.**
5. **A.** *Having been repaired* is placed where it references *we*, but it should reference *the car*. **See Lesson: Modifiers.**
6. **B.** Of these choices, *trying to earn some extra money* can only reference *he*. **See Lesson: Modifiers.**
7. **A.** In a command like this one, the "understood" subject is *you*. **See Lesson: Subject and Verb Agreement.**
8. **D.** The verbs *dribbles*, *shoots*, and *scores* must agree with the subject *Kareem Abdul-Jabbar*. **See Lesson: Subject and Verb Agreement.**

9. A. The subject *family* is singular and takes the verb *is*. **See**

Lesson: Subject and Verb Agreement.

10. D. Unless. The word “unless” signifies the beginning of a dependent clause and is the only conjunction that makes sense in the sentence. **See**

Lesson: Types of Clauses.

11. C. Although it was hot outside. It is dependent because it does not express a complete thought and relies on the independent clause. The word “although” also signifies the beginning of a dependent clause. **See**

Lesson: Types of Clauses.

12. B. The couple went on a stroll through the park. It is independent because it has a subject, verb, and expresses a complete thought. **See**

Lesson: Types of Clauses.

13. B. This is a simple sentence since it contains one independent clause consisting of a simple subject and a predicate. **See Lesson: Types of Sentences.**

14. D. The subordinate conjunction “although” combines the sentences and puts the focus on puppies requiring a lot of work. **See**

Lesson: Types of Sentences.

15. C. This option would make the sentence a compound sentence. **See**

Lesson: Types of Sentences.

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