

DIAGNOSTIC GRAMMAR TEST

The following test is meant to indicate areas of grammar and mechanics which you may need to review. It will not be graded; your classroom or lab instructor will merely use the results to diagnose your current state of knowledge and application in certain key areas of usage.

SECTION 1 – WORDS OFTEN CONFUSED

Underline the word in parentheses that is correct.

1. I'm getting (to, too) much sleep right now.
2. I watch (alot, allot, a lot) of T.V.
3. That bear could (have, of) eaten me, but it just stared for a minute and then walked on into the night.
4. It's been (quiet, quite) around here tonight.
5. (Their, They're, There) is not much that we can do about the problem until the rain stops.
6. She is taller (then, than) she was last year, but she still considers herself a shrimp.

SECTION 2 – APOSTROPHES

Underline the word in parentheses that has the correct use of apostrophe.

7. (I'am, I'm) afraid of running over toads with the lawn mower.
8. Here is the violin and here is (it's, its) case.
9. Have you seen (Jason's, Jasons', Jasons) hat?
10. Actually, Jason doesn't have any (hats, hat's, hats').

SECTION 3 — FINDING SUBJECTS AND VERBS

Underline the subject once and the verb twice.

11. All day long I thought about the way I write.
12. In the College of Life, there are too many requirements.
13. The collection plate was passed by a small, pale man.

SECTION 4 — GETTING RID OF RUN-TOGETHER SENTENCES

In the space to the left, mark **S** if the item is a sentence, correctly punctuated. If the item is a run-together sentence, mark **RT** in the space.

14. _____ Early in May, warblers migrate through southern Michigan, there are dozens of species singing and flying from tree to tree.
15. _____ If you like Baroque music and chocolate chip ice cream, you will love the Harpsichordists' picnic, and you ought to plan to come.
16. _____ Many new cars feature fuel injection, substituting a small computer for a carburetor.
17. _____ Women sang the songs men hummed the tunes.

SECTION 5 — GETTING RID OF FRAGMENTS

In the space to the left, mark **S** if the item is a sentence. If the item is a fragment, mark **F** in the space.

18. _____ Keep trying.
19. _____ Because I have watched the legislature in session and I know how inattentive most of the representatives are.
20. _____ While we have a good life, others are staring mad-eyed at the moon.
21. _____ Powdered milk biscuits – in the big blue box with a picture of a biscuit on the cover.

SECTION 6 — USING STANDARD ENGLISH VERBS

Underline the word in parentheses that is the standard English usage.

- 22. He came this morning, but he had (did done) his work already.
- 23. She (don't doesn't) always listen to me.
- 24. The coach (insist insists) that I do ten belly flops.
- 25. It had (began begun) to snow by 4:00 P.M.

SECTION 7 — MAKING SUBJECTS, VERBS AND PRONOUNS AGREE CHOOSING THE RIGHT PRONOUN

Underline the word in parentheses that is the correct usage.

- 26. Each of the birds (take takes) its turn in the nest.
- 27. The committee (is are) meeting in the big rowboat.
- 28. (We Us) brothers decided to throw a big party for our father.
- 29. In racquetball savvy, you are about as far from being a genius as (she her).

SECTION 8 — MAKING THE PRONOUN REFER TO THE RIGHT WORD AND GETTING RID OF MISPLACED OR DANGLING MODIFIERS

In the spaces provided, rewrite the following sentences in order to make them clear.

- 30. Joe told his father he would have to take the car to the garage.
- 31. His motorcycle hit a parked car, but it wasn't damaged.
- 32. She was going to dinner with a man who owned a Pinto named Harold.

SECTION 9 — USING PARALLEL CONSTRUCTION

In the spaces provided, rewrite the following sentences in order to eliminate non-parallel construction. If the sentence is parallel already, leave the space blank.

- 33. I like living in Vancouver because I can go fishing, sailing, or take a ski trip without driving very far.
- 34. A writing class helps you in your thinking, organizing, and you begin to see the other person's point of view.
- 35. Before we leave for Toledo, we have to feed the guppies, water the plant and the garbage has to be taken out.

SECTION 10 — AVOIDING SHIFTS IN TIME AND PERSON

- 36. After he wrote the first three essays, he discovers he is in the wrong class.
- 37. I love Michigan because you see so many different kinds of clouds in the sky.

SECTION 11 — COMMAS

- 38. Our language changes slowly but it does change.
- 39. Yes I will empty the ash bucket but I won't fix the faucet today.
- 40. Squirrels who can't cash checks at the A & P should be allowed first crack at the hickory nut harvest.
- 41. She put down the phone picked up her purse and left.

SECTION 12 — PUNCTUATION AND CAPITAL LETTERS

- 42. He said I will go. It's no trouble. I'll be there at six.
- 43. My nose is gummy and my brains are boiling therefore I'd like to go home.

44. My father who hasn't had a vacation for three years is on his way to Puerto Rico.

Add necessary capitals and change unnecessary capitals to lowercase.

45. My Father would never tell me what he did at the Elk's club.
46. We crossed the big river — the Mississippi river.
47. My favorite Month is April; my favorite Day is Tuesday.