

PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Ray drives across town and picked up some supplies for the celebratory meal.

- A. Ray
- B. drives
- C. up
- D. celebratory meal.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: In order for this verb to agree with picked, it should be in the past tense: drove.

QUESTION 2

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

Fleeing the horde of zombies on foot, an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.

- A. an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple.
- B. the terrified couple spotted a building that looked safe.
- C. a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple.
- D. the terrified couple's luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building.
- E. their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: "an apparently safe building became visible to the terrified couple", "a safe looking building was spotted by the terrified couple", "the terrified couple's luck changed when they spotted a safe looking building", and "their fear subsided somewhat when the terrified couple would spot a safe looking building" are all dangling modifiers. Who was fleeing the horde? The terrified couple was.

QUESTION 3

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

In countries such as China the government is recognizing the advantages of a capitalist market rather than communism and adjust economic policy accordingly.

- A. capitalist market rather than communism and adjust
- B. capitalist market rather than Communism and adjust
- C. capitalist market rather than a communist market and adjust
- D. capitalist market rather than a communist market and adjusting
- E. Capitalistic market nor a Communist market and adjusting

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is in parallel structure. The test is very particular about being consistent about the forms of words used. So specifically since the sentence refers to a capitalist market, then the sentence must refer to a communist market -- not communism, which is an ideology rather than a market system in this context. Only choices "capitalist market rather than Communism and adjust", "capitalist market rather than a communist market and adjusting" and "Capitalistic market nor a Communist market and adjusting" remain. Choice "Capitalistic market nor a Communist market and adjusting" commits terrible capitalization (neither "capitalist" nor "communist") mistakes and structure errors (where does the "nor" fit in? It does not.) Only choice "capitalist market rather than Communism and adjust" and choice "capitalist market rather than a communist market and adjusting" remain now, but "capitalist market rather than Communism and adjust" mistakenly capitalizes communism and does not change "adjust" to match the parallel verb (i.e. recognizing). Choice "capitalist market rather than a communist market and adjusting" uses the right adjective forms of capitalism and communism, does not make capitalization errors and maintains parallel sentence structure.

QUESTION 4

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 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Julia loves working for that particular company, but finds her actual job duties rather boring, and she thinks she would enjoy transferring to a different department.

- A. company,

- B. actual
- C. boring,
- D. would enjoy transferring
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is "boring," because the comma after "boring" isn't sufficient to join these two independent clauses. The result is a run-on sentence. To correct this example, you could place a period after "boring," remove the next "and," and make the rest a new sentence starting with "She thinks." You could also replace the comma after "boring" with a semicolon and remove the next "and" to join the two parts together correctly and show their close relationship to each other. Remember that adding a comma to a run-on sentence doesn't correct the run-on: it just creates a run-on with a comma.

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