

# PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION<sup>Q&As</sup>

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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### QUESTION 1

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

Sports commentators often provide informative and witty insight during games that enhance the sports-watching experience.

- A. enhance the sports-watching experience.
- B. enhance the experience.
- C. enhances the sports-watching experience.
- D. enhances the sports-watching experience for fans.
- E. have enhanced the sports-watching experiences for fans.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that the second action verb (i.e. enhance) needs to be singular (i.e. enhances) because this verb refers to "insight." Some readers may believe that because there are two characteristics to the insight (i.e. informative and witty) there should be a plural form of the verb. Choice "enhances the sports-watching experience" and choice "enhances the sports-watching experience for fans" correct this agreement error of the verb; however, choice "enhances the sports-watching experience for fans" is wordy. Obviously, fans are the ones who watch sports, so why restate this. Choice "enhances the sports-watching experience" therefore is most direct and grammatically sound.

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### QUESTION 2

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

Even though I have seen the movie countless times, I still laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.

- A. laughed when the sheriff throws his mug.
- B. laugh when the sheriff throws his mug.
- C. laugh when the sheriff threw his mug.
- D. laughed whenever the sheriff throws his mug.
- E. laugh when the sheriff will throw his mug.

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: "laughed when the sheriff throws his mug", "laugh when the sheriff threw his mug", "laughed whenever the sheriff throws his mug", and "laugh when the sheriff will throw his mug" all have verb tense mismatches.

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### QUESTION 3

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Asking for directions when you are lost is the properly course of action.

- A. Asking
- B. for directions
- C. you are lost
- D. properly
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The adjectival form rather than the adverbial form should be used here.

#### QUESTION 4

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

Plenty of high school students spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

- A. spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- B. spend his time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- C. spend one's time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- D. spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and senior citizens.
- E. spend their time involving in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: By breaking the parallelism (continuity of a pattern, in this case), the underlined portion of this sentence must be changed. By simply changing "also helping senior citizens" to "senior citizens" the list is clearly discussing people in the community from various age groups. Each other choice besides "spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and senior citizens" uses incorrect pronouns (i.e. his) and/or parallel structure (i.e. also helping senior citizens).

#### QUESTION 5

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

Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then tried to act as I did so on purpose.

- A. Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then

B. Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I

C. I fell down the stairs yesterday, I

D. After I fell down the stairs yesterday; I

E. Falling down the stairs; I

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I" and "I fell down the stairs yesterday, I" are run-ons. D and E misuse their semicolons: the parts before them are not independent clauses.

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