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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.

Study the ancient fighting art of Hapkido and you will learn to avoid directly matching your strength against your opponents.

- A. your strength against your opponents.
- B. yours against your opponent.
- C. your strength against your opponent.
- D. your strength with your opponent.
- E. your opponent's strength against one's own.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "yours against your opponent" doesn't say what's being matched with what. "your strength against your opponent", "your strength with your opponent", and "your opponent's strength against one's own" all have some sort of parallelism error.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence:

If he weren't so mean, Jamal would have agreed to loan his car to his twin brother weeks ago.

- A. he
- B. weren't
- C. would have agreed
- D. to loan
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

The correct answer is "he" because the pronoun "he" has no clear antecedent. In other words, the reader cannot be sure if Jamal or his twin brother is mean. A simple way to correct this problem would be to replace the first "he" with either "Jamal" or "Jamal's twin brother," depending on the writer's intent.

QUESTION 3

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

A consummate gentleman, Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched.

- A. Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched.
- B. Stefan's etiquette and social grace were unmatched.
- C. Stefan's etiquette as well as his social grace were unmatched.
- D. Stefan possessed unmatched etiquette and social grace.
- E. Stefan's social grace was matched only by his etiquette.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: "Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched", "Stefan's etiquette and social grace were unmatched", "Stefan's etiquette as well as his social grace were unmatched", and "Stefan's social grace was matched only by his etiquette" are all dangling modifiers. Choice "Stefan's etiquette and social grace was unmatched" has a verb agreement problem, too.

QUESTION 4

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

At seventeen he shipped as a cabin boy, bound for Liverpool.

- A. No error
- B. a cabin boy; bound
- C. a cabin boy: bound for
- D. a cabin boy -- bound for
- E. a cabin boy -- for bound

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Comma is required to separate the clause.

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Because Juan had never been stung before, he had no way to foresee the life-threatening effect the bee sting would have on him.

- A. had never been stung
- B. he
- C. effect

D. him

E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The correct answer is "No error" because there is no error in this sentence. One commonly misused word found in this example is "effect," which is often confused with "affect." In general, "effect" is a noun and "affect" is a verb. In this sentence "effect" is used correctly as a noun: it is the thing that happened to Juan after he was stung by the bee.

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