GOUDA ACADEMY

777 QUESTIONS

SUPER PUNCTUATION GUIDE

SAT READING & WRITING

RANDOMIZED EDITION

Mixed practice • Test yourself • Clear explanations



GoudaSAT.com



HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

777 questions. One clear method.

Randomized edition · 8 families · 21 memorable hacks

Start with the sentence.

Find who or what it is about. Find the main action. Decide what job the punctuation must do.

Use the randomized edition.

The questions are mixed, with no family or hack labels beside them. Choose the rule for yourself. Read the explanations and teaching pages after you finish.

Check the reason, not just the letter.

Every question has a full explanation and a reason for rejecting each wrong choice. The key gives the page of that explanation.

Use both books wisely.

These editions contain the same 777 question-and-choice sets. The randomized edition changes their order and question numbers. It does not add 777 more questions.

Practice honestly.

Write your answer and confidence level before checking. If you remember an answer from the other edition, explain the rule in your own words.

What is included.

This edition retains the 260 earlier questions and adds 517 original Gouda Academy practice questions. Apostrophes, possessives, and contractions remain in the separate grammar guide.

What the numbers mean.

The family and hack proportions closely match the 260-question book. Whole-number rounding is necessary. These are teaching allocations, not predictions of SAT frequency.

A note on sources.

The retained collection includes two items that share a passage but offer different punctuation choices. They are distinct practice items. New questions use original classroom scenarios; they are not official SAT items.

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For a short practice set, do any 20 consecutive questions. Check the explanations only after you finish. These are punctuation practice questions, not a full SAT Reading and Writing test.

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

001

A project began as an effort to identify people shown in uncaptioned photographs. Conversations with relatives produced an unexpected _____ collection of family stories that had never been written down, expanding the archive from a set of images into a record of experiences that the photographs alone could not preserve.

A. benefit; a

B. benefit: a

C. benefit. A

D. benefit a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

002

A guide to the reserve recognizes that visitors arrive with different abilities and interests. It describes the coastal path, suitable for experienced _____ garden loop, suitable for beginners seeking a short route; and the river trail, suitable for cyclists, avoiding a single ranking that would treat distance as the only measure of difficulty.

A. walkers the

B. walkers: the

C. walkers; the

D. walkers, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

003

On July 23, 1854, a clipper ship called the Flying Cloud entered San Francisco _____ left New York Harbor under the guidance of Captain Josiah Perkins Creesy and his wife, navigator Eleanor Creesy, a mere 89 days and 8 hours earlier, the celebrated ship set a record that would stand for 135 years.

A. Bay and having

B. Bay. Having

C. Bay, having

D. Bay having

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

004

American writer Edwidge Danticat, who emigrated from Haiti in 1981, has won acclaim for her powerful short stories, novels, and _____ her lyrical yet unflinching depictions of her native country’s turbulent history, writer Robert Antoni has compared Danticat to Nobel Prize–winning novelist Toni Morrison.

A. essays, praising

B. essays and praising

C. essays praising

D. essays. Praising

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

005

Since the nineteenth century, Egyptologists have commonly divided ancient Egyptian history into three primary _____ Old Kingdom (2700–2200 BCE), the Middle Kingdom (2050–1800 BCE), and the New Kingdom (1550–1100 BCE). Some historians, however, criticize the names of these periods for revealing more about the culture of the mainly European Egyptologists than that of ancient Egypt itself.

A. periods. The

B. periods: the

C. periods; the

D. periods, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

006

A pavilion in a public garden was designed to provide shelter without blocking views between neighboring paths. Its broad roof, assembled from lightweight sections, rests on four narrow _____ open sides allow visitors to see the surrounding planting, making the structure appear less substantial than its overall dimensions might suggest.

A. columns, its

B. columns, and, its

C. columns its

D. columns. Its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

007

Architectural records of a small tower appear to contradict one another. The earliest drawings show a pointed _____ photographs show a flat surface in the same location, suggesting either a substantial alteration or a difference between the design originally proposed and the structure that was actually completed.

A. roof, later

B. roof; later

C. roof later

D. roof; and, later

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

008

Many Samoans enjoy a sport called kilikiti. This bat-and-ball game was derived from _____ kilikiti differs from cricket in a few key ways.

A. cricket but:

B. cricket but,

C. cricket, but

D. cricket, but,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

009

As one of aviation’s earliest female stunt performers, Gladys Ingle developed a versatile repertoire of acrobatic feats. Her specialized skills included standing on the wing of a flying aircraft and shooting a bow and arrow at a _____ perfect balance during aerial maneuvers, such as vertical loops; and even walking across the wing as an aircraft flew at full speed beneath a bridge.

A. target. Maintaining

B. target maintaining

C. target, maintaining

D. target; maintaining

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

010

A museum catalog described a set of measuring instruments as complete because its storage case contained no obvious empty compartment. One item was _____ smallest instrument, which an early inventory listed as fitting inside the largest one and therefore would not have required a separate space in the case.

A. missing, though: the

B. missing, though; the

C. missing; though, the

D. missing though the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

011

Equipment intended for field use must be practical to transport as well as accurate during operation. Although it performed well in laboratory trials, the first prototype was too heavy for one person to _____ later version replaced several solid components with a lighter frame, reducing weight without changing the measuring mechanism.

A. carry, and, a

B. carry a

C. carry, a

D. carry. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

012

Generations of mystery and horror _____ have been influenced by the dark, gothic stories of celebrated American author Edgar Allan Poe (1809–1849).

A. writers

B. writers,

C. writers—

D. writers;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

013

The restored clock resembles other examples from the same workshop, many of which display only hours and minutes. What distinguishes this particular instrument _____ second dial that shows the phase of the moon, allowing its owner to follow a much slower cycle without consulting a separate astronomical table.

A. is a

B. is, a

C. is; a

D. is: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

014

Preserving an oral-history project requires planning for events that might damage an entire collection at once. The researcher stored a second copy of each _____ copies were kept in a different building, reducing the likelihood that a single leak, equipment failure, or accident would destroy every version of the interviews.

A. recording. The

B. recording, and, the

C. recording, the

D. recording the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

015

In 2000, Nora de Hoyos Comstock, herself an owner of a successful consulting firm, sought to increase Latina representation in corporate _____ founded Las Comadres para las Americas, an international community that for over two decades has served as a resource and information network for Latina business professionals.

A. settings she

B. settings, she

C. settings and she

D. settings. She

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

016

An interior scene initially appears to show a solitary figure standing near an open door. On closer inspection, the painting includes one detail that changes this interpretation of the _____ second figure reflected in a window, suggesting a presence outside the viewer's direct line of sight and complicating the apparent solitude of the first figure.

A. scene—a

B. scene a

C. scene; a

D. scene. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

017

The ink in a travel journal had faded until several lines were almost indistinguishable from the paper beneath them. Unable to separate the faint letters from discoloration under ordinary _____ researchers photographed the page with equipment sensitive to different wavelengths, revealing strokes that remained invisible in the initial set of images.

A. light, the

B. light; the

C. light. The

D. light: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

018

Historical maps sometimes preserve names after their physical referents have disappeared. Residents recognized a name written beside a bend in the river on an old _____ of them could identify the exact location, suggesting that the name had survived in stories even after the feature itself had ceased to be recognizable.

A. map, but none

B. map, but, none

C. map but: none

D. map but; none

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

019

When using a search engine, many people click just the first one or two results. Click restraint is the practice of scanning a search results page and evaluating what you see before deciding which link _____

A. should you choose.

B. you should choose?

C. should you choose?

D. you should choose.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

020

Although the two stories differ in setting and narrative voice, they organize their central conflicts around a shared _____ difficulty of returning to a familiar place after its relationships have changed, a problem that one narrator recognizes immediately while the other continues to resist until the final scene.

A. theme: the

B. theme the

C. theme. The

D. theme; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

021

A system designed to stop the escape of water must respond to changes quickly without depending entirely on an operator. To address this problem in a remote pumping station, engineer _____ developed a valve that closes when pressure falls, using the behavior of the fluid itself to trigger a protective response.

A. , Dara Mensah

B. Dara Mensah,

C. Dara Mensah

D. : Dara Mensah

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

022

Archaeologists needed to compare a collection of glass beads with objects from neighboring sites. The beads were sorted by color before being _____ beads formed the largest group, a pattern that would have been difficult to recognize from a general description of the collection as a mixture of several colors.

A. counted; clear

B. counted, clear

C. counted; and, clear

D. counted clear

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

023

An apparently undecorated textile had been stored with materials considered unsuitable for exhibition. The fabric looked plain when viewed from a _____ inspection under angled light revealed a pattern of raised threads, prompting the curator to reconsider the relationship between the piece's visual simplicity and the complexity of its construction.

A. distance, and, close

B. distance. Close

C. distance close

D. distance, close

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

024

A collection's present order had long been attributed to the person who donated it, but handwritten labels appeared to come from several people. After comparing inventories and correspondence, the curator still could not determine who arranged the objects as they appeared in the earliest _____

A. photograph.

B. photograph,

C. photograph;

D. photograph?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

025

Understanding a building from drawings requires recognizing that different views represent different relationships. The design packet contained an elevation, showing the outside _____ section, showing the interior structure; and a plan, showing the arrangement of rooms from above, giving readers complementary information that no single view could communicate fully.

A. wall: a

B. wall, a

C. wall a

D. wall; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

026

A harpsichord may look just like a piano, but the difference between the two instruments is easy to hear. When a harpsichord’s keys are pressed, the strings inside the _____ are plucked, not struck.

A. instrument:

B. instrument

C. instrument—

D. instrument,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

027

Home to the city of El Paso, the far western corner of Texas follows Mountain time rather than Central time. As a result, people in El Paso and the surrounding _____ must set their clocks one hour behind those in the rest of the state.

A. areas

B. areas, who

C. areas; they

D. areas,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

028

To test whether storage conditions influenced germination, researchers divided seeds from a single collection between two locations. The _____ had been kept in a cool room sprouted earlier than those stored near a sunny window, even though both groups received identical amounts of water and light once they were planted.

A. seeds; that

B. seeds that

C. seeds, that

D. seeds: that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

029

The proposals for monitoring the shoreline relied on specialized equipment whose cost exceeded the small research program's budget. One plan was _____ volunteer survey using borrowed tools and permanent reference points, an approach that would produce less frequent measurements but still allow changes to be compared systematically over several seasons.

A. affordable; however, a

B. affordable however a

C. affordable, however: a

D. affordable, however; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

030

Replacing a structural timber requires attention to changes that may occur after the new piece is installed. The replacement beam, cut from a tree felled during the _____ allowed to dry before being fitted, reducing the risk that later shrinkage would loosen connections intended to transfer weight to the supporting wall.

A. winter; was

B. winter, was

C. winter—was

D. winter: was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

031

Demonstrations held outdoors were difficult to follow when reflections obscured the instruments being shown. A portable screen—a folding structure covered with pale _____ glare without completely blocking daylight, allowing visitors to see fine markings while the presenter continued to work in conditions closer to those of ordinary field use.

A. fabric, reduced

B. fabric: reduced

C. fabric—reduced

D. fabric; reduced

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

032

Many visitors reach the waterfront by following the broad avenue shown on conventional tourist maps. A recently published walking guide, drawing on routes recorded in neighborhood histories, _____ route that passes through former industrial courtyards and residential streets before reaching the harbor, inviting readers to notice places that the direct approach bypasses.

A. describes, a

B. describes: a

C. describes a

D. describes; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

033

Changes that happen gradually can become visible when images are made under carefully repeated conditions. Over the course of several weeks, photographer _____ recorded shadows across the same wall each morning, creating a sequence that transformed an apparently static architectural surface into a record of shifting relationships between light and structure.

A. Ana Valdez

B. : Ana Valdez

C. , Ana Valdez

D. Ana Valdez,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

034

When particles are suspended in liquid (like pollen in a water glass), they will zigzag randomly through the liquid and collide with one another in perpetuity. This type of random, continuous _____ is known as Brownian motion, can be observed throughout the natural world.

A. movement: which

B. movement, which

C. movement which

D. movement. Which

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

035

Maps can convey uncertainty as well as apparently precise information. In reconstructing journeys described by incomplete travel records, cartographer _____ used a different line style for doubtful routes, enabling readers to distinguish paths supported by direct evidence from connections inferred between locations that the travelers clearly identified.

A. Zain Abbas

B. : Zain Abbas

C. , Zain Abbas

D. Zain Abbas,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

036

A liquid used in a laboratory trial could react with materials introduced directly into it. To avoid changing the conditions being measured, the sensor was attached to the outside of the _____ could record temperature changes through the wall, although the researchers had to account for the delay between internal and external readings.

A. container, and, it

B. container. It

C. container, it

D. container it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

037

Human-made (synthetic) fibers used in clothes and many other consumer products are more durable than most natural plant _____ the manufacture of synthetic fibers requires toxic chemical solvents that can pollute air and water.

A. fibers,

B. fibers but

C. fibers

D. fibers, but

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

038

A storeroom contained nearly identical boxes holding objects at different stages of cataloging. To prevent unprocessed pieces from being confused with those already matched to permanent records, the coordinator showed volunteers where to place objects that had not yet been _____

A. labeled?

B. labeled;

C. labeled,

D. labeled.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

039

Measuring an object without touching it can be essential when the surface is fragile or beyond physical reach. By comparing the time required for reflected signals to return from two locations, the instrument _____ distance between those points, allowing conservators to examine a high ceiling without attaching equipment to its painted surface.

A. measures, the

B. measures: the

C. measures the

D. measures; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

040

According to the original text of the US Constitution, written in 1787, the presidential candidate receiving the second-most Electoral College votes becomes vice president. The 12th amendment, ratified in _____ separated the elections for the two offices.

A. 1804—

B. 1804,

C. 1804:

D. 1804

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

041

Nine months before Rosa Parks made history by refusing to comply with the segregated seating policy on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus, a fifteen-year-old Montgomery girl named Claudette Colvin was arrested for the same _____ to some historians, Colvin’s arrest led to Parks’s action and eventually to the desegregation of Montgomery’s bus system.

A. offense. According

B. offense, according

C. offense according

D. offense and according

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

042

An experimental concert began with a passage quiet enough to be obscured by the sound of people moving to their seats. The last audience members finally _____ conductor raised her hands, waiting for the musicians to acknowledge the cue before beginning a performance in which silence played an unusually prominent role.

A. seated. The

B. seated: the

C. seated, the

D. seated; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

043

Technicians expected a repaired instrument to reproduce earlier results once its damaged housing had been replaced. The measurements collected after the _____ from those recorded before the intervention, prompting a new examination of whether the work had changed the position of an internal component as well as the visible exterior.

A. repairs, however, differed

B. repairs, however; differed

C. repairs: however, differed

D. repairs; however, differed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

044

According to Naomi Nakayama of the University of Edinburgh, the reason seeds from a dying dandelion appear to float in the air while _____ is that their porous plumes enhance drag, allowing the seeds to stay airborne long enough for the wind to disperse them throughout the surrounding area.

A. falling,

B. falling:

C. falling;

D. falling

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

045

Reusing construction material can preserve evidence of an earlier structure within a new one. Benches installed beside the waterfront were made from boards recovered from the old _____ holes show where metal fittings once joined the timbers, leaving traces of the pier's construction visible to people using the new seating.

A. pier, and, small

B. pier, small

C. pier small

D. pier. Small

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

046

The Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville, Connecticut, was founded in 1931 with the goal of showcasing the culture and history of the Mohegan _____ today, nearly a century later, it is the oldest Native-owned and -operated museum in the country.

A. Tribe, and

B. Tribe

C. Tribe and

D. Tribe,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

047

A large stone lintel was raised above an entrance long before powered lifting machines were available. The surrounding ground offered little space for a ramp, and the surviving holes suggest several possible arrangements of ropes and timber supports. How could workers move such a heavy stone without modern _____

A. equipment;

B. equipment.

C. equipment?

D. equipment,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

048

Street repairs unexpectedly exposed evidence of an earlier route through the town. Workers removing the damaged surface discovered a second layer of brick beneath the _____ earlier surface ran at a different angle, suggesting that the road had been realigned rather than merely resurfaced when the surrounding buildings were constructed.

A. pavement the

B. pavement. The

C. pavement, and, the

D. pavement, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

049

Laboratory success does not always predict how equipment will behave during sustained use. An early lifting device raised the specified load without _____ motor became too hot after several minutes, forcing engineers to reconsider a design that had satisfied the project's requirements when evaluated through isolated short trials.

A. difficulty, but its

B. difficulty but: its

C. difficulty, but, its

D. difficulty but; its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

050

A musical work can create unity through contrast as well as through repetition. The final movement, a lively section built around a recurring _____ with the quiet opening, yet its central melodic figure transforms an idea first heard there, connecting passages whose immediate effects on the listener are quite different.

A. rhythm, contrasts

B. rhythm; contrasts

C. rhythm—contrasts

D. rhythm: contrasts

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

051

Inspired by her Haida and Tlingit heritage, artist Vicki Lee Soboleff typically uses red cedar—a durable and flexible _____ craft baskets that are both beautiful and detailed.

A. material: to

B. material; to

C. material—to

D. material. To

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

052

Dong Lai and Diego J. Muñoz’s work on circumbinary disk accretion—a process in which, due to gravity, material from an orbiting disk spirals inward and accumulates onto two stars or black holes—relies heavily on simulations. Lai and Muñoz recognize the need for direct _____ recommending evolving binary star systems as a promising avenue for future study.

A. observation; however,

B. observation, however,

C. observation. However,

D. observation, however;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

053

A field course prepared students to turn observations into records that other people could use. Sessions provided practice in _____ and recording observations, emphasizing the need to connect numerical results with locations that another observer could identify without having accompanied the original team into the field.

A. reading maps, measuring distances,

B. reading maps measuring distances,

C. reading maps; measuring distances,

D. reading maps, measuring distances:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

054

Digital artist Jung (Lulu) Chen primarily uses a suite of software tools to create illustrations for children’s books. To manifest the warm and welcoming atmospheres that are a signature of her _____ she occasionally relies on more traditional art techniques, such as painting with watercolors.

A. work, though,

B. work, though

C. work; though,

D. work, though;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

055

Surveyors working in remote terrain must balance the accuracy of their equipment against the difficulty of carrying it. Designed to fold into a compact _____ instrument could be moved between observation sites without removing its most delicate components, reducing the time required to check its alignment after each journey.

A. case; the

B. case. The

C. case: the

D. case, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

056

Small objects often contain details that are difficult to communicate through labels alone. In a redesigned gallery, the museum placed miniature tools in cases with built-in _____ could examine marks left by their makers without handling the objects, connecting the explanation on each label with evidence visible on the original surface.

A. lenses. Visitors

B. lenses, visitors

C. lenses, and, visitors

D. lenses visitors

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

057

Determining how long people occupied a site requires evidence sensitive to seasonal activities. The team recovered remains showing use of the location in _____ found no clear sign of winter occupation, leaving open whether the settlement was abandoned annually or whether activities during colder months simply left less visible traces.

A. summer and: it

B. summer and; it

C. summer, and, it

D. summer, and it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

058

The catalog illustration made a teaching model appear to be a fixed arrangement of shapes. One part could _____ a circular disk moved independently of the base, enabling an instructor to demonstrate changing relationships that could not be understood from the printed image of a single position.

A. turn; however;

B. turn, however,

C. turn, however;

D. turn however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

059

Researchers compared sites whose soil conditions differed within a relatively small area. Their survey covered the meadow, a location with deep _____ ridge, where shallow deposits lay directly above rock; and the marsh, where standing water persisted, allowing them to examine variation without treating the entire reserve as one uniform habitat.

A. soil the

B. soil, the

C. soil: the

D. soil; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

060

Two solutions were prepared with equal amounts of water, but the labels do not specify how much solid was added to either one. If both are evaporated under identical conditions and the remaining solids are weighed, which sample contains more dissolved _____

A. material?

B. material,

C. material.

D. material;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

061

In 2010, archaeologist Noel Hidalgo Tan was visiting the twelfth-century temple of Angkor Wat in Cambodia when he noticed markings of red paint on the temple _____ the help of digital imaging techniques, he discovered the markings to be part of an elaborate mural containing over 200 paintings.

A. walls, with

B. walls with

C. walls so with

D. walls. With

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

062

A fire destroyed most of the contents of a former workshop, leaving little evidence of the documents once stored there. One object survived almost _____ small stone seal protected beneath the floor, whose carved design offered a connection to the business even though the papers on which it had been used were lost.

A. untouched—a

B. untouched; a

C. untouched. A

D. untouched a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

063

A design workshop asked participants to investigate how a flat sheet could become a self-supporting structure. The activities moved through _____ and weaving, with each technique introducing a different way of controlling the material rather than serving merely as decoration added to an already completed form.

A. sketching folding,

B. sketching, folding,

C. sketching; folding,

D. sketching, folding:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

064

A revised guidebook advertised its map as more detailed than the one it replaced. The map printed in the new _____ several minor paths, making it more informative about buildings and facilities but less useful to readers who wanted to compare alternative walking routes through the less developed parts of the site.

A. guidebook, however, omits

B. guidebook, however; omits

C. guidebook: however, omits

D. guidebook; however, omits

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

065

Po’Pay was a Tewa leader from Ohkay Owingeh, a pueblo located about twenty-five miles north of present-day Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was instrumental in organizing the Pueblo Revolt of _____ as a result of his leadership, the Spanish colonizers were expelled from the region for a time.

A. 1680

B. 1680 and

C. 1680,

D. 1680, and

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

066

A coastal survey identified a location whose significance was easy to underestimate from its small area. The island—an important resting place for migrating _____ beyond the river mouth, where its position provides a stopping point between stretches of exposed water that offer few other places for exhausted animals to land.

A. birds: lies

B. birds; lies

C. birds, lies

D. birds—lies

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

067

Julia Alvarez’s 1994 novel In the Time of the Butterflies, a fictionalized account of the lives of the Mirabal _____ can serve as a starting point for those wanting to explore how the rule of dictator Rafael Trujillo has been represented in Dominican American literature.

A. sisters, and

B. sisters and

C. sisters,

D. sisters

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

068

Two powders recovered from the same object appeared similar when examined without magnification. The second sample—a material collected from the interior of the _____ traces of a different mineral, suggesting that the inside and outside surfaces may have experienced distinct conditions despite their present resemblance.

A. vessel; contained

B. vessel, contained

C. vessel—contained

D. vessel: contained

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

069

Planners expected a wider entrance to remove the main difficulty faced by visitors approaching a public building. One obstacle _____ steep step between the pavement and the doorway, showing that an improvement in width did not by itself make the entire route usable for people who could not negotiate abrupt changes in level.

A. remained however a

B. remained, however: a

C. remained, however; a

D. remained; however, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

070

In Puerto Rico, it's not unusual for a city or town to be known by a nickname that corresponds to one of its notable features, like landscape, _____ or chief exports. For example, the Puerto Rican municipality of Hatillo has also been called "the Blue Coast of Puerto Rico," a nickname that alludes to what the area is well known for: the pristine blue ocean that surrounds it.

A. climate; famous residents;

B. climate, famous residents,

C. climate famous residents,

D. climate famous residents

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

071

A demonstration explored how materials influence the character of a musical sound. The performers used a drum, made from wood and _____ flute, carved from reed; and a bell, cast in bronze, inviting listeners to compare the initial impact of each note with the way it continued after the player stopped.

A. skin: a

B. skin, a

C. skin a

D. skin; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

072

Mia Heavener’s 2019 novel Under Nushagak Bluff, which takes place in a mid-twentieth-century rural Alaskan fishing _____ the story of three Yup’ik women who grapple with the rise of commercial fisheries and other changes affecting their community.

A. village. Tells

B. village tells

C. village: tells

D. village, tells

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

073

To more easily balance the weight of her body on her toes while performing the demanding pointe work that became increasingly common in early 20thcentury ballet, internationally known ballerina Anna Pavlova redesigned her pointe shoes. The modifications she made—adding a stiffened leather sole and hardened toe _____ began the modernization of ballet’s iconic footwear.

A. box:

B. box—

C. box,

D. box

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

074

An early map depicts two routes between a village and a quarry, although later maps show only the road beside the river. If the second route was too steep for loaded wagons and did not shorten the journey, why does the older map show another path across the _____

A. hillside;

B. hillside?

C. hillside,

D. hillside.

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

075

A former channel is visible in aerial images, but its position alone does not indicate when flowing water abandoned it. Sediment samples suggest several possible periods of change. Have researchers established when the river actually changed its _____

A. course.

B. course,

C. course?

D. course;

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

076

A display about conservation emphasized that intervention follows investigation rather than immediately accompanying discovery. It followed discovery, when the object was first _____ when specialists examined its materials; and restoration, when damaged areas were repaired, showing how information gathered during one stage influenced decisions made during the next.

A. recovered study,

B. recovered, study,

C. recovered: study,

D. recovered; study,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

077

Leaving land uncultivated can reveal patterns hidden by repeated planting. The eastern field, a plot left unused for several _____ a wider range of wildflowers than the neighboring fields, though researchers also recorded differences in soil moisture before attributing the entire contrast to the absence of cultivation.

A. seasons; contained

B. seasons—contained

C. seasons, contained

D. seasons: contained

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

078

The published account of an expedition mentioned an unexpected delay but attributed it only vaguely to travel conditions. A later letter offered a _____ damaged wheel on the supply wagon, connecting the interruption to an ordinary mechanical failure rather than to the unusually severe weather emphasized elsewhere in the narrative.

A. reason, however; a

B. reason; however, a

C. reason however a

D. reason, however: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

079

Between 322 and 184 BCE, the Maurya Empire established a complex economic system that, through trade and centralized _____ funded major infrastructure projects throughout the Indian subcontinent. This included the building of many roads, canals, and hospitals.

A. taxation:

B. taxation,

C. taxation—

D. taxation

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

080

Observations from a single location could not establish how widely a species used the surrounding landscape. The survey therefore covered three distinct _____ grassland with little overhead cover, dense woodland where light reached the ground unevenly, and shallow marsh whose water level changed throughout the season, allowing results to be compared across contrasting conditions.

A. habitats. Open

B. habitats: open

C. habitats open

D. habitats; open

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

081

A short written summary could not adequately show where the measurements had been taken or how they related to one another. The report therefore included three supporting _____ map locating the observation sites, a table presenting the measurements in a consistent order, and photographs showing features that would have been difficult to describe precisely in words.

A. documents. A

B. documents; a

C. documents: a

D. documents a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

082

Trail signs indicated two possible approaches to an observation point above a wooded valley. The shorter path blocked by storm-felled _____ hikers followed the signs toward the alternate trail, reaching the same destination by a route that offered fewer views but avoided the damaged woodland.

A. branches: the

B. branches; the

C. branches. The

D. branches, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

083

The first report described the recovered samples as identical, grouping them according to their overall shape and composition. One difference was _____ pale band around the smallest specimen, a feature that became apparent only when the pieces were arranged under the same light rather than examined separately during cataloging.

A. visible; however, a

B. visible, however; a

C. visible however a

D. visible, however: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

084

The new gallery display brings together _____ and tools used by boatbuilders. By placing visual records beside objects involved in the work itself, the exhibition encourages visitors to connect the harbor's changing appearance with the skills and materials that helped produce those changes over several generations.

A. photographs of the harbor, models of sailing vessels,

B. photographs of the harbor models of sailing vessels,

C. photographs of the harbor; models of sailing vessels,

D. photographs of the harbor, models of sailing vessels:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

085

A wooden handle attached to a metal tool looked consistent with the wear visible on the blade. Closer inspection showed that the original handle had broken away from the _____ replacement was attached during an earlier repair, demonstrating that an object's apparently uniform surface can conceal a history of alteration.

A. tool a

B. tool; a

C. tool; and, a

D. tool, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

086

Earlier surveys indicated that birds using the exposed ridge departed before the coldest months, and the team expected the new count to confirm that pattern. One species _____ small finch feeding near the village, where food remained available after the surrounding grassland had ceased to provide an equivalent supply.

A. stayed; however, a

B. stayed, however; a

C. stayed however a

D. stayed, however: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

087

Some cultivated plants respond to environmental sequences rather than a fixed date on the calendar. In a greenhouse trial, one species produced flowers only after a prolonged dry _____ cannot predict its flowering week simply by repeating the planting date, since variations in moisture may delay the conditions that trigger bud development.

A. period, and, gardeners

B. period gardeners

C. period. Gardeners

D. period, gardeners

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

088

A window uncovered during renovation appeared strangely positioned because it faced a solid wall only a short distance away. That wall had been added much _____ unusual arrangement preserves evidence of a former open space, showing why the present relationship between two features may obscure the purpose each originally served.

A. later, and, the

B. later. The

C. later the

D. later, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

089

A newly excavated tablet bore marks that were difficult to distinguish from scratches left by grains of sand. Using a brush with fibers softer than the surrounding _____ conservator removed loose dust from the carved lines, gradually revealing a pattern without scraping away the uneven surface that preserved evidence of the original tool.

A. clay, the

B. clay: the

C. clay. The

D. clay; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

090

The extent of an underground passage was unclear because debris blocked access beyond a small chamber. The initial survey suggested that the tunnel ended beneath the _____ later inspection found a continuation outside the perimeter wall, raising questions about whether the passage served the building alone or connected it to another site.

A. courtyard but: a

B. courtyard, but a

C. courtyard, but, a

D. courtyard but; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

091

Native to the Yangtze River in China, the Chinese river dolphin is one of many species to have recently gone extinct in what some are calling "the sixth great mass extinction" in Earth's history. Far from being caused by humans, though, the five prior such events—the Ordovician-Silurian (440 million years ago, or mya), the Devonian (365 mya), the Permian-Triassic (250 mya), the Triassic-Jurassic (201 mya), and the Cretaceous-Tertiary _____ all predate us.

A. (65 mya)—

B. (65 mya);

C. (65 mya)

D. (65 mya),

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

092

The arrangement of roads around a town had changed enough to make descriptions in an old travel account confusing. The printed map, which was folded into the back of the _____ several routes that no longer exist, allowing researchers to interpret directions that appear impossible when compared only with the modern street network.

A. guidebook: shows

B. guidebook; shows

C. guidebook, shows

D. guidebook—shows

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

093

The layout of a recently surveyed building created an unexpectedly dramatic change in scale for anyone entering it. The entrance _____ space wide enough for only one person at a time, opens into a much larger room, suggesting that the contrast between confined movement and open space formed part of the original design.

A. passage, a

B. passage; a

C. passage: a

D. passage—a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

094

For his mash-up “Smells Like Rockin’ Robin,” DJ Mark Vidler layered Kurt Cobain’s minor-key vocals from “Smells Like Teen Spirit” over the Jackson 5’s major-key blues progression from “Rockin’ _____ by inserting the grunge singer’s vocal line as pitch-shifted “blue notes” within the pop-soul group’s harmonic framework, creates an intensified “bluesy” feeling and subverts the expectations of listeners familiar with either musical source.

A. Robin,” a technique that

B. Robin.” A technique that

C. Robin”—a technique that,

D. Robin”; a technique that,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

095

Preparing a theater for a performance involves several groups whose tasks must be completed in a limited time. While the musicians rehearsed a passage that required close coordination in the main _____ stage crew adjusted the lights above the empty seats, checking that spectators would be able to read their programs without distracting the performers.

A. hall: the

B. hall; the

C. hall. The

D. hall, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

096

The first design for a wetland trail emphasized the use of materials that would blend with the surrounding vegetation. It called for a narrow wooden walkway across the _____ final design used a wider platform on metal posts, accommodating visitors whose mobility needs had not been considered in the original proposal.

A. marsh, but, the

B. marsh but: the

C. marsh but; the

D. marsh, but the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

097

A working machine can be difficult to explain when its most important components are hidden inside a protective housing. The demonstration therefore used a small model of the larger _____ could see how the parts interacted, including movements that were essential to operation but invisible when the full machine was running.

A. system observers

B. system; observers

C. system; and, observers

D. system, observers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

098

Ceramic vessels can break during use or while cooling in a kiln, and the two processes leave different traces. The pattern of fine cracks extending outward from the central depression at the bottom of the clay _____ that the damage occurred during cooling rather than during a later period of everyday use.

A. bowl; suggests

B. bowl, suggests

C. bowl suggests

D. bowl: suggests

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

099

Historic buildings can accommodate new uses while retaining evidence of earlier activities. The central _____ used as a place to dry harvested grain, now serves as an outdoor performance space, with several raised stone edges preserved to show how crops were separated before being moved into the surrounding storerooms.

A. courtyard; once

B. courtyard: once

C. courtyard, once

D. courtyard—once

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

100

An expedition's published account emphasized discoveries and dramatic incidents, offering little information about ordinary days. A private notebook preserved a valuable _____ daily account of weather during the voyage, allowing researchers to compare the narrative's memorable episodes with the less remarkable conditions through which the travelers had also passed.

A. record. A

B. record: a

C. record; a

D. record a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

101

A historical table appeared to omit the quantities needed to calculate the total cost of a shipment. The first surviving copy of the record is _____ second preserves the missing final column, enabling researchers to distinguish information lost through physical damage from information that the original clerk had never included.

A. incomplete; the

B. incomplete, the

C. incomplete; and, the

D. incomplete the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

102

The replacement trail follows a similar route to the older path but changes how visitors can experience the landscape. Halfway through the walk, it provides something the previous route _____ sheltered place to pause beside the river, making the journey more accessible without removing the uneven terrain that gives the site much of its character.

A. lacked. A

B. lacked a

C. lacked; a

D. lacked—a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

103

Several birds regularly gathered near a stand of trees shortly before sunset, but observers could not distinguish individuals by sight. Using lightweight bands that were visible in photographs, the researchers wanted to know _____ birds returned to the same branch on successive evenings or selected a new resting place each time.

A. whether, the

B. whether; the

C. whether the

D. whether: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

104

As British scientist Peter Whibberley has observed, “the Earth is not a very good timekeeper.” Earth’s slightly irregular rotation rate means that measurements of time must be periodically adjusted. Specifically, an extra “leap second” (the 86,401st second of the day) is _____ time based on the planet’s rotation lags a full nine-tenths of a second behind time kept by precise atomic clocks.

A. added, whenever

B. added; whenever

C. added. Whenever

D. added whenever

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

105

An excavation revealed part of a structure whose remaining foundations appeared to extend beneath an active street. Work stopped at the edge of the modern _____ team plans to investigate the unexposed section when scheduled repairs provide access, rather than treating the present limit of excavation as the building's original boundary.

A. road. The

B. road, and, the

C. road the

D. road, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

106

A conference originally placed formal presentations so close together that participants had little time to discuss shared interests. The revised schedule creates a welcome _____ full afternoon for exchanging ideas, providing room for conversations whose value cannot be measured simply by the number of prepared talks delivered to the whole audience.

A. opportunity. A

B. opportunity; a

C. opportunity: a

D. opportunity a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

107

Replacing one component of an optical instrument may improve only part of the resulting image. A new lens produced sharper detail at the _____ near the center looked much the same, suggesting that the original problem arose from the way the lens handled light entering at an angle rather than from a general focusing error.

A. edges. Objects

B. edges, objects

C. edges objects

D. edges, and, objects

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

108

Visitors often encounter handmade objects only after the processes used to create them have been completed. To make those processes visible, a workshop opened its doors for one _____ watched craftspeople demonstrate techniques normally performed away from public view, including decisions that would leave almost no recognizable trace in the finished objects.

A. afternoon. Visitors

B. afternoon, visitors

C. afternoon visitors

D. afternoon, and, visitors

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

109

The forty-seven geothermal springs of Arkansas' Hot Springs National Park are sourced via a process known as natural groundwater recharge, in which rainwater percolates downward through the earth—in this case, the porous rocks of the hills around Hot _____ collect in a subterranean basin.

A. Springs to

B. Springs: to

C. Springs—to

D. Springs, to

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

110

In modern plays, actors typically won't acknowledge the _____ do so breaks the fourth wall, a metaphorical barrier between actors and audiences that allows viewers to suspend the knowledge that they're watching a staged performance.

A. audience. As to

B. audience to

C. audience. To

D. audience, to

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

111

A flexible material may respond differently after repeated exposure to changing temperatures. Materials scientist _____ tested thin sheets through successive cycles of heating and cooling, comparing their ability to bend with that of unused samples rather than assuming that a successful initial trial established long-term reliability.

A. , Arun Patel

B. Arun Patel,

C. : Arun Patel

D. Arun Patel

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

112

The haiku-like poems of Tomas Tranströmer, which present nature-and dream-influenced images in crisp, spare language, have earned the Swedish poet praise from leading contemporary _____ them Nigerian American essayist and novelist Teju Cole, who has written that Tranströmer's works "contain a luminous simplicity."

A. writers. Among

B. writers among

C. writers; among

D. writers, among

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

113

Recent analysis of 32532 Thereus—an outer solar system object orbiting the Sun between Jupiter and Saturn—has determined its color to be gray, suggesting an icy composition. Such interpretations are ultimately _____ the object's gray coloration may be an incidental effect of radiation, solar wind, or collisions with other objects rather than evidence of its physical makeup.

A. speculative, though

B. speculative, though;

C. speculative; though

D. speculative, though,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

114

Roughly 300 nights a year, when the cold air descending from the Andes Mountains meets the warm air rising from Venezuela's coastal Lake Maracaibo, the result is a spectacular lightning storm, its strikes so bright, so localized, and so _____ that it has become known as "Maracaibo's Lighthouse."

A. dependable:

B. dependable;

C. dependable

D. dependable,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

115

In 1959, marine biologist Dr. Albert Jones founded the Underwater Adventure Seekers, a scuba diving _____ that is the oldest club for Black divers in the United States and that has helped thousands of diving enthusiasts become certified in the field.

A. club

B. club,

C. club—

D. club, and

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

116

An old chest appeared to preserve its original construction, but closer examination revealed a more complicated history. The iron clasp, the only metal part of the wooden _____ been replaced during an earlier repair, explaining why its shape resembled fittings produced long after the style of the surrounding woodwork had become uncommon.

A. chest—had

B. chest, had

C. chest: had

D. chest; had

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

117

An initial investigation of shoreline erosion relied on observations from locations accessible by road. Although it documented substantial damage, the first survey covered only the northern _____ second survey extended around the entire lake, allowing researchers to distinguish a local problem near developed areas from a broader pattern affecting the watershed.

A. shore, the

B. shore. The

C. shore the

D. shore, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

118

The poem Beowulf begins with the word “hwæt,” which is an Old English _____ as “hark!” or “listen!” in some versions, the word was playfully rendered as “bro!” by Maria Dahvana Headley in her 2020 translation of the poem.

A. exclamation, translated

B. exclamation and translated

C. exclamation translated

D. exclamation. Translated

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

119

The exhibition included a glass partition that appeared opaque when visitors first entered the room. Unlike an ordinary curtain, which changes position to uncover a view, the protective screen becomes _____ an electric current passes through its outer layer, revealing an object that remains in exactly the same position behind it.

A. transparent when:

B. transparent. When

C. transparent when

D. transparent; when

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

120

Salt carried by wind can affect exposed masonry differently from stone sheltered by neighboring structures. The section of the _____ faces the sea shows more surface damage than the inward-facing sections, providing a comparison that helps researchers separate the effects of orientation from those of the material used in construction.

A. wall that

B. wall: that

C. wall; that

D. wall, that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

121

Viewed from a distance, the installation appears to be a continuous wall with an almost uniform surface. To create an effect that changes as viewers approach, the artist _____ of polished stone with narrow strips of colored glass, placing the reflective materials where light from nearby windows would strike them unevenly.

A. combined; pieces

B. combined, pieces

C. combined pieces

D. combined: pieces

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

122

In crafting her fantasy fiction, Nigerian-born British author Helen Oyeyemi has drawn inspiration from the classic nineteenth-century fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm. Her 2014 novel Boy, Snow, Bird, for instance, is a complex retelling of the story of Snow White, while her 2019 novel _____ offers a delicious twist on the classic tale of Hansel and Gretel.

A. Gingerbread—

B. Gingerbread,

C. Gingerbread

D. Gingerbread:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

123

Layers of sediment sometimes contain material deposited far from its place of origin. While examining a sequence of sandy deposits, geologist _____ identified a thin band of volcanic material, using the contrast between that band and the surrounding grains to investigate an event that may have affected a much wider region.

A. : Imani Cole

B. Imani Cole

C. , Imani Cole

D. Imani Cole,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

124

An estate's surviving papers contained many references to payments but no obvious summary of its accounts. The final notebook, the only volume containing a complete list of _____ discovered among unrelated documents, enabling the researcher to connect scattered receipts with a record that explained how individual purchases fitted into the larger budget.

A. expenses—was

B. expenses; was

C. expenses: was

D. expenses, was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

125

Damage to an old waterway was not distributed evenly along its length. A survey identified several weakened sections of the _____ will begin nearest the reservoir, where a failure could interrupt the supply to every section downstream rather than affecting only a short stretch near the outlet.

A. canal; repairs

B. canal, repairs

C. canal repairs

D. canal; and, repairs

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

126

A field notebook can preserve precise information while omitting details its writer considered obvious. One surveyor's notebook contains extensive measurements but few _____ taken during the same expedition help establish where the instruments stood, allowing later researchers to interpret numbers that would otherwise remain disconnected from the landscape.

A. descriptions photographs

B. descriptions, photographs

C. descriptions, and, photographs

D. descriptions. Photographs

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

127

A composition's final form may preserve changes made in response to performance rather than solely to private revision. The second movement—a quiet section written for three _____ added after the premiere, altering the balance between louder passages that early listeners had described as following one another without sufficient contrast.

A. instruments, was

B. instruments: was

C. instruments; was

D. instruments—was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

128

Both Sona Charaipotra, an Indian American, and Dhonielle Clayton, an African American, grew up frustrated by the lack of diverse characters in books for young people. In 2011, these two writers joined forces to found CAKE Literary, a book packaging _____ specializes in the creation and promotion of stories told from diverse perspectives for children and young adults.

A. company,

B. company that

C. company

D. company, that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

129

The papers recovered from a damp storeroom had fused together so extensively that most could no longer be separated. One document was _____ neatly folded list of expenses protected inside a small metal container, preserving details of ordinary purchases that would otherwise have disappeared with the larger body of records.

A. readable, however; a

B. readable; however, a

C. readable, however: a

D. readable however a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

130

A scholarly edition must balance improved readability with the needs of readers who rely on older references. The new edition reproduces the original page numbers in its _____ can therefore continue using citations from earlier studies, even though the revised typesetting distributes the same text across a different number of pages.

A. margins. Scholars

B. margins scholars

C. margins, and, scholars

D. margins, scholars

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

131

A public seating area is useful only if people can reach it conveniently and remain comfortable once there. Landscape architect _____ placed shaded benches beside the busiest walking route, drawing on observations of how residents crossed the site rather than assuming that the most visually prominent location would attract the most use.

A. : Hugo Silva

B. , Hugo Silva

C. Hugo Silva,

D. Hugo Silva

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

132

Photographs taken before restoration showed an apparently undecorated ceiling, reinforcing the assumption that the room had always been plain. Cleaning uncovered a _____ stars painted beneath a later coating formed a ring around the center, changing the interpretation of both the room's visual design and its relationship to neighboring spaces.

A. pattern; though;

B. pattern, though;

C. pattern, though,

D. pattern though

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

133

In a 2023 study, researchers documented a fascinating behavior in the aquatic plant Elodea densa. When exposed to low levels of light, the plant's _____ the cellular organs that generate energy from light—reshuffled to form a tightly packed, glass-like surface ideal for collecting more light.

A. chloroplasts

B. chloroplasts;

C. chloroplasts,

D. chloroplasts—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

134

Most of a trail was broad enough for two people to walk side by side, and its introductory description emphasized this feature. One section was _____ walkers approaching a ledge beside the waterfall had to pass in single file, a restriction that the general description failed to communicate to prospective visitors.

A. narrow; however;

B. narrow, however;

C. narrow, however,

D. narrow however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

135

When external forces are applied to common glass made from silicates, energy builds up around minuscule defects in the material, resulting in fractures. Recently, engineer Erkka Frankberg of Tampere University in Finland used the chemical _____ to make a glassy solid that can withstand higher strain than silicate glass can before fracturing.

A. compound, aluminum oxide

B. compound aluminum oxide,

C. compound, aluminum oxide,

D. compound aluminum oxide

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

136

The intense pressure found in the deep ocean can affect the structure of proteins in fish's cells, distorting the proteins' shape. The chemical trimethylamine N-oxide (TMAO) counters this effect, ensuring that proteins retain their original _____ is found in high concentrations in the cells of the deepest-dwelling fish.

A. configurations. TMAO

B. configurations TMAO

C. configurations, TMAO

D. configurations and TMAO

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

137

Researchers comparing two buildings examined how construction affected indoor temperature during a hot week. In the older building, thick walls slowed the warming of the _____ air inside remained cool well into the afternoon, even after the temperature outdoors had risen above the level measured in the newer building's shaded rooms.

A. room; the

B. room, the

C. room; and, the

D. room the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

138

In 1943, in the midst of World War II, mathematics professor Grace Hopper was recruited by the US military to help the war effort by solving complex equations. Hopper’s subsequent career would involve more than just _____ as a pioneering computer programmer, Hopper would help usher in the digital age.

A. equations, though:

B. equations, though,

C. equations. Though,

D. equations though

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

139

Psychophysicist Howard Moskowitz was hired by a soda company to determine how much artificial sweetener _____ After conducting consumer taste tests, he found that no such ideal existed: participants expressed a wide range of preferences for different blends of sweetener, carbonization, and flavoring.

A. do most people prefer in a diet drink?

B. do most people prefer in a diet drink.

C. most people prefer in a diet drink?

D. most people prefer in a diet drink.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

140

The original inventory recorded only large pieces of furniture, leaving uncertain how the room had been used in daily life. A revised inventory added a small _____ a carved spoon found inside a drawer suggested food preparation, providing a kind of functional evidence absent from the earlier list of larger objects.

A. object; however;

B. object, however,

C. object, however;

D. object however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

141

Conservators sometimes have to balance protection against changes in an object's appearance. A coating successfully kept water away from the surface of the _____ also made the colors appear darker, requiring the team to decide whether that visual change was acceptable in an object intended for close examination as well as long-term preservation.

A. paper, but it

B. paper, but, it

C. paper but; it

D. paper but: it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

142

A museum planned to show the work of conservation alongside the objects that benefited from it. The restored bell, a small instrument with an unusually low _____ be displayed beside the tools used in its repair, allowing visitors to connect visible changes in the metal with the methods described in the exhibition.

A. tone, will

B. tone: will

C. tone—will

D. tone; will

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

143

Comparing measurements becomes difficult when objects that differ greatly in form are treated as a single group. Before measuring shells collected along the same stretch of beach, students sorted _____ preliminary step allowed them to compare specimens with similar shapes, reducing differences that might otherwise have been mistaken for evidence of growth.

A. them, this

B. them this

C. them, and, this

D. them. This

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

144

Researchers Amit Kumar and Nicholas Epley investigated how _____ In a series of experiments conducted in 2022, they found that people performing small acts of kindness underestimated the positive effect their actions had on others.

A. do people perceive acts of kindness.

B. do people perceive acts of kindness?

C. people perceive acts of kindness?

D. people perceive acts of kindness.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

145

The notebooks of a landscape painter record not only locations but also the time at which each sketch began. They indicate that she usually worked outdoors during the early _____ light at that time produced long shadows, helping her separate features that appeared to merge when viewed under a higher sun.

A. morning, and, the

B. morning. The

C. morning, the

D. morning the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

146

A survey of a crowded region of the sky required repeated observations rather than a single detailed image. The telescope remained pointed at the same area of _____ computer recorded small changes in brightness, allowing the team to identify objects whose behavior would be difficult to distinguish in photographs taken only occasionally.

A. sky, a

B. sky. A

C. sky a

D. sky, and, a

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

147

A portable measuring device was intended for use in locations where a stable support might be difficult to find. It worked reliably on a level _____ readings became inconsistent when the platform tilted, exposing a limitation that repeated trials on a laboratory bench had failed to reveal.

A. surface, but, its

B. surface but; its

C. surface, but its

D. surface but: its

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

148

A building survey initially treated a narrow opening as a window because it no longer reached the present ground level. Photographs taken before later paving raised the street show people passing through it, revealing where the original entrance was _____

A. located;

B. located?

C. located.

D. located,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

149

Repeated trials produced measurements that were consistent but slightly different from the values predicted by the model. After checking the instruments, a final observation revealed the source of the _____ slight tilt in the supporting platform, small enough to escape casual notice but sufficient to affect the arrangement throughout every trial.

A. problem; a

B. problem. A

C. problem—a

D. problem a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

150

Conservation priorities sometimes depend on information carried by only a small part of an object. The damaged page—the only sheet bearing the signature of the original _____ stored separately while repairs proceeded, ensuring that handling the rest of the volume would not further weaken the fragile area that established its provenance.

A. owner; was

B. owner, was

C. owner: was

D. owner—was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

151

An archive received a sealed item whose contents could affect the description of an entire collection. The envelope—the last object listed in the _____ opened in the presence of two archivists, who recorded its condition and arrangement before separating documents whose original order might itself provide useful evidence.

A. inventory; was

B. inventory, was

C. inventory: was

D. inventory—was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

152

Investigators placed sensors upstream and downstream of a drainage pipe to determine whether a factory was affecting the surrounding habitat. A sudden increase in the temperature of the water collected at the sensor nearest the _____ that the pipe is introducing warm water into the stream, even when its flow is difficult to see.

A. outlet: indicates

B. outlet indicates

C. outlet; indicates

D. outlet, indicates

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

153

The city of Amsterdam partnered with consultants to develop Public Eye—an ethical AI-powered crowd-monitoring _____ video streamed from cameras in heavily touristed areas, the AI algorithm determines crowd sizes without, in the interest of protecting individuals' privacy, retaining the footage.

A. system—analyzing

B. system, analyzing

C. system. Analyzing

D. system analyzing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

154

Most of the design on a wooden panel had become difficult to recognize after years of exposure. The blue pigment, which had faded less than the surrounding _____ the restorer trace the original pattern, making one relatively stable material a guide to interpreting areas where other colors had nearly disappeared.

A. colors, helped

B. colors—helped

C. colors: helped

D. colors; helped

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

155

Official records describe the market's layout but reveal little about how people experienced it. A recovered letter contains a rare _____ eyewitness account of a winter morning, recording sounds, exchanges, and temporary stalls that do not appear in plans showing only the permanent buildings around the square.

A. description an

B. description. An

C. description: an

D. description; an

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

156

Floods are often described through measurements of water depth and estimates of property damage. The final chapter of a report based on interviews with longtime residents instead focuses _____ ways that families reorganized everyday activities during the rainy season, including moving workshops upstairs and sharing storage space on higher ground.

A. on, the

B. on: the

C. on the

D. on; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

157

Students investigated how the behavior of a droplet changed with the surface beneath it. The team tested glass, which was _____ which was flexible and absorbent; and stone, which was rough, recording differences while recognizing that the materials varied in several properties rather than in texture alone.

A. smooth: cloth,

B. smooth, cloth,

C. smooth cloth,

D. smooth; cloth,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

158

For his mash-up “Smells Like Rockin’ Robin,” DJ Mark Vidler layered Kurt Cobain’s minor-key vocals from “Smells Like Teen Spirit” over the Jackson 5’s major-key blues progression from “Rockin’ _____ by inserting the grunge singer’s vocal melody as pitch-shifted “blue notes” within the pop-soul group’s harmonic framework, creates an intensified “bluesy” effect and subverts the expectations of listeners familiar with either musical source.

A. Robin,” a technique that

B. Robin.” A technique that

C. Robin”; a technique that,

D. Robin”—a technique that,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

159

The regional archive preserves _____ and songs collected by teachers. These materials describe overlapping places through different forms of experience, allowing researchers to compare a journey recorded by one individual with the more systematic observations of a survey and the memories preserved through performance.

A. diaries kept by travelers maps drawn by surveyors,

B. diaries kept by travelers, maps drawn by surveyors,

C. diaries kept by travelers; maps drawn by surveyors,

D. diaries kept by travelers, maps drawn by surveyors:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

160

A room in an abandoned house contained almost no furniture, making its original purpose difficult to establish. High on one wall, however, it preserved evidence of an earlier _____ row of hooks used for drying plants, suggesting a household activity whose materials had long since disappeared from the otherwise empty space.

A. use. A

B. use a

C. use: a

D. use; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

161

A technical manual first describes the visible movement of a lifting device and then turns to parts concealed beneath its housing. The section accompanying a drawing of the internal linkage explains how a small wheel controls the position and speed of the larger _____

A. platform.

B. platform?

C. platform,

D. platform;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

162

The earliest proposal for a transit stop offered little shelter, emphasizing unobstructed views and a minimal structure. The final design approved by the _____ a covered waiting area, reflecting comments from passengers who placed protection from ordinary weather above the visual simplicity that had guided the first drawings.

A. committee; however, included

B. committee: however, included

C. committee, however; included

D. committee, however, included

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

163

Typically, underlines, scribbles, and notes left in the margins by a former owner lower a book’s _____ when the former owner is a famous poet like Walt Whitman, such markings, known as marginalia, can be a gold mine to literary scholars.

A. value, but

B. value

C. value,

D. value but

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

164

Two samples were heated for the same period and allowed to cool in containers of identical size. The first appeared completely _____ second retained moisture beneath its surface, suggesting that visual inspection alone could not establish whether equal treatment had produced the same condition throughout both pieces of material.

A. dry, however, the

B. dry; however; the

C. dry; however, the

D. dry however, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

165

Alberto Gabriele, author of Reading Popular Culture in Victorian Print, tracks the transnational dissemination of works by author Mary Elizabeth Braddon via the magazine _____ from 1866 to 1899 and distributed throughout the Australian cities of Melbourne, Adelaide, and Hobart; the continental European cities of Brussels, Paris, and Turin; and cities in Turkey, India, and Jamaica, this magazine helped make Braddon’s serialized novels globally available.

A. Belgravia; published

B. Belgravia. Published

C. Belgravia published

D. Belgravia, published

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

166

Some architectural features record everyday activity more clearly than written accounts do. Worn smooth by decades of repeated _____ stone steps near a workshop's entrance reflected light from the open doorway, while the rougher steps leading to a rarely opened storeroom retained the irregular marks left by the original mason.

A. use: the

B. use; the

C. use. The

D. use, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

167

Objects near the surface suggested that a settlement had been occupied for only a brief period. Evidence from the lowest layer of the _____ a much earlier occupation, showing that an interpretation based on the most accessible material would overlook a substantial part of the site's history.

A. excavation; however, suggests

B. excavation, however, suggests

C. excavation: however, suggests

D. excavation, however; suggests

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

168

Restoring a neglected public garden required more than adding new plants. Volunteer teams spent the morning _____ and watering existing beds, concentrating on tasks that would improve conditions for established growth before deciding which empty spaces needed additional planting and which should remain open for access.

A. weeding pruning,

B. weeding; pruning,

C. weeding, pruning,

D. weeding, pruning:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

169

The melody now associated with a village festival is usually performed at a slow, even pace. However, the notes that accompany the earliest surviving version of the _____ a rhythm with alternating long and short beats, raising the possibility that later performers simplified a once more varied pattern.

A. song; describe

B. song, describe

C. song: describe

D. song describe

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

170

Long attributed to Jacques-Louis David, the preeminent Neoclassical painter of his day, the 1801 painting Marie Joséphine Charlotte du Val d'Ognes gained fresh attention in the 1990s when art historians discovered that the painting—which depicts a solitary young woman sketching— was actually the work of little-known French portrait _____ Marie-Denise Villers (1774–1821).

A. artist—

B. artist

C. artist:

D. artist,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

171

A new translation aimed to improve accuracy while preserving features that had become familiar to readers. It corrected several errors in the earlier _____ retained the original chapter arrangement, showing that revising the language of a work need not involve changing the organizational choices inherited from a previous edition.

A. translation, yet it

B. translation yet: it

C. translation, yet, it

D. translation yet; it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

172

After a spate of illnesses as a child, Wilma Rudolph was told she might never walk again. Defying all odds, Rudolph didn't just walk, she _____ the 1960 Summer Olympics in Rome, she won both the 100-and 200-meter dashes and clinched first place for her team in the 4x100-meter relay, becoming the first US woman to win three gold medals in a single Olympics.

A. ran—fast—during

B. ran—fast during

C. ran—fast, during

D. ran—fast. During

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

173

During renovations, workers found signs of moisture damage near the entrance to a nineteenth-century theater. Nevertheless, the wooden supports that extend from the rear wall to the central balcony beneath the upper floor of the old _____ strong, a finding that allowed the restoration team to retain much of the original framework.

A. theater, remain

B. theater; remain

C. theater: remain

D. theater remain

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

174

A former transport route can become almost unrecognizable after its commercial use ends. The narrow channel—a passage once used by boats carrying _____ gradually filled with mud and reeds, although its unusually regular edges still distinguish it from naturally formed waterways in aerial photographs of the surrounding marsh.

A. stone; has

B. stone, has

C. stone—has

D. stone: has

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

175

In 1953, a fellow performer tripped on legendary jazz musician Dizzy Gillespie’s trumpet, bending its bell upward. When Gillespie tested the damaged instrument, he realized that he _____ sound of a bent bell over that of a straight one.

A. preferred; the

B. preferred the

C. preferred, the

D. preferred. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

176

Planting several trays on the same day does not ensure that their seeds will emerge together. The first seedlings appeared near the warmest end of a _____ at the shaded end emerged later, leading the researchers to record local conditions within the building instead of treating the entire space as a uniform environment.

A. greenhouse, and, those

B. greenhouse, those

C. greenhouse those

D. greenhouse. Those

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

177

Lucía Michel of the University of Chile observed that alkaline soils contain an insoluble form of iron that blueberry plants cannot absorb, thus inhibiting blueberry growth. If these plants were grown in alkaline soil alongside grasses that aid in iron solubilization, _____ Michel was determined to find out.

A. could the blueberries thrive.

B. the blueberries could thrive.

C. the blueberries could thrive?

D. could the blueberries thrive?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

178

An exhibition about local manufacturing sought to challenge the assumption that precise work always requires complex machinery. At its center stood a remarkable _____ wooden clock made with hand tools, whose carefully fitted components demonstrated the accuracy a maker could achieve through repeated measurement and adjustment rather than through automated production.

A. object a

B. object: a

C. object; a

D. object. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

179

Increasing the heat on an uncovered boiling pot of water does not increase the temperature of the water. What increases is the rate at which the water turns to _____ a pressure cooker pot, though, an airtight seal traps the vapor in the pot, creating pressure that allows the temperature of the water to increase past its boiling point.

A. vapor. With

B. vapor with

C. vapor, with

D. vapor and with

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

180

The researchers expected temperature to determine where the insects would gather within an experimental enclosure. They predicted a preference for the warmer _____ of the insects moved toward the cooler one, prompting the team to investigate whether differences in humidity had influenced a trial designed primarily around heat.

A. container but; most

B. container, but, most

C. container, but most

D. container but: most

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

181

Early drawings showed the central post resting directly on the ground, encouraging the assumption that the structure had no separate foundation. Excavation revealed a _____ broad stone slab below the post, indicating that the apparently simple arrangement depended on a buried element omitted from the surviving sketches.

A. support, however; a

B. support however a

C. support; however, a

D. support, however: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

182

At an archaeological site, several stones near a shelter differ in size and orientation from those scattered across the surrounding hillside. The arrangement of these stones around a narrow opening at the entrance to the ancient _____ puzzled researchers, who disagree about whether it reflects deliberate construction or the later movement of fallen rock.

A. shelter, has

B. shelter; has

C. shelter has

D. shelter: has

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

183

The receiver continued to lose contact with the transmitter despite repeated checks of its electronic components. A small change in the angle of a reflector mounted above the housing improved the _____ engineers repeated that adjustment on the remaining units, testing whether the same alignment problem explained their inconsistent performance.

A. signal, and, the

B. signal the

C. signal, the

D. signal. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

184

Featuring works by the photographers Lola Álvarez Bravo and Else “Yva” Neuländer-Simon, the 2021 exhibition The New Woman Behind the Camera set out to provide a wide-ranging overview of photography by women in the 1920s through the _____ given the collection’s breadth of more than 120 photos, its efforts were largely successful.

A. 1950s, and

B. 1950s and

C. 1950s

D. 1950s,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

185

Hummingbird flower mites use electroreception to detect electric fields created by flapping hummingbird wings, allowing mites to travel from flower to flower in hummingbird beaks. Both host detection and transportation are electrically _____ when mites move their legs toward the arriving hummingbird, they are pulled by electrostatic force to the bird's modulated electric fields—a process that occurs in milliseconds.

A. mediated,

B. mediated

C. mediated:

D. mediated and

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

186

Researchers studying magnetosensation have determined why some soil-dwelling roundworms in the Southern Hemisphere move in the opposite direction of Earth’s magnetic field when searching for _____ in the Northern Hemisphere, the magnetic field points down, into the ground, but in the Southern Hemisphere, it points up, toward the surface and away from worms’ food sources.

A. food:

B. food,

C. food while

D. food

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

187

In biology, many initially disordered systems will naturally move toward greater order according to the principle of self-organization, a conceptual framework for pattern _____ biologists believe can be used to explain a range of organic phenomena, from population dynamics to the sociality of bees and ants.

A. formation, that some

B. formation. Some

C. formation that some

D. formation; some

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

188

Two containers hold equal volumes of the same liquid at the same starting temperature, yet one exposes a much wider surface to the surrounding air. If material and wall thickness remain constant, how does the shape of the container affect the rate of _____

A. cooling;

B. cooling?

C. cooling,

D. cooling.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

189

The Mission 66 initiative, which was approved by Congress in 1956, represented a major investment in the infrastructure of overburdened national _____ it prioritized physical improvements to the parks' roads, utilities, employee housing, and visitor facilities while also establishing educational programming for the public.

A. parks and

B. parks

C. parks;

D. parks,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

190

Using natural debris, such as dried _____ such as plastic bags; and more traditional art supplies, such as tree glue, Ghanaian artist Ed Franklin Gavua creates his striking Yiiiiikakaii African masks, which he hopes can help viewers rethink how waste is used in their communities.

A. leaves, man-made trash:

B. leaves; man-made trash,

C. leaves, man-made trash,

D. leaves; man-made trash;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

191

Flowers of the same species may open at different times depending on their location within a garden. To make observations from different participants comparable, the instruction sheet asks volunteers to _____ time at which each flower first opens, along with whether it receives direct sunlight during the preceding hour.

A. record the

B. record, the

C. record: the

D. record; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

192

To understand a craft business, visitors needed to see more than its finished products. The class toured the workshop, where objects were _____ storeroom, where supplies were organized; and the gallery, where completed work was displayed, following a sequence that connected the movement of materials with the activities performed in each space.

A. made the

B. made: the

C. made; the

D. made, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

193

An accessible trail must consider opportunities for rest as well as the steepness of its slopes. The restored path includes several places where walkers can _____ resting place offers a view of a different section of the valley, making pauses part of the experience rather than merely interruptions in the journey.

A. stop each

B. stop, each

C. stop, and, each

D. stop. Each

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

194

Identifying an unknown correspondent may depend on habits too small to attract an ordinary reader's attention. A researcher found the same unusual spelling in three _____ repeated detail helped connect documents from separate collections, especially when it appeared alongside the same distinctive abbreviation in passages discussing unrelated events.

A. letters, and, that

B. letters. That

C. letters, that

D. letters that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

195

The legacy of the Spanish Empire, which once controlled portions of five continents, is evident in Spanish-speaking Honduras, one of many places that reveal their imperial history in their language. Contrast Honduras with Taiwan, which ceased to be part of the empire in _____ the latter's connection to the empire is so attenuated that Spanish is seldom spoken there today.

A. 1642,

B. 1642 and

C. 1642:

D. 1642

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

196

A vessel's surface may reflect practical decisions that are not immediately apparent from its decoration. Although most of the exterior was polished, the potter left the lower section _____ rough surface provided a secure grip, particularly when the vessel was wet, linking a visual contrast with the way the object was handled.

A. unglazed the

B. unglazed, the

C. unglazed. The

D. unglazed, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

197

Comparing copies of a text may reveal losses that no individual manuscript makes obvious. A newly discovered _____ short section missing from all later copies—adds an unexpected detail to the journey, describing a change of route that explains several puzzling references preserved in the better-known versions of the narrative.

A. passage; a

B. passage: a

C. passage—a

D. passage, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

198

In February 1919, following the end of the First World War, women from ten countries around the world convened the Inter-Allied Women’s Conference in Paris. The conference’s goals were _____ ensure women’s participation in the proceedings of the Paris Peace Conference, to secure the right of women to serve in the League of Nations, and to advocate for human rights.

A. threefold: to

B. threefold. To

C. threefold to

D. threefold; to

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

199

Adjusting an instrument's scale without disturbing its position can improve the consistency of repeated measurements. The outer ring, which turns independently of the central _____ users to align the markings with a reference point, while the rest of the device remains fixed against the object whose movement is being recorded.

A. disk; allows

B. disk—allows

C. disk: allows

D. disk, allows

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

200

A railway building acquired a new purpose after passenger services ended. The former ticket office—a room barely large enough for a _____ become an exhibition space, using photographs and a small selection of surviving objects to explain activities that once occupied the much larger building around it.

A. desk: has

B. desk—has

C. desk; has

D. desk, has

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

201

Before the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, many US territories extended voting rights to women, in part to spur westward migration that would help these territories meet population thresholds for statehood. The Territory of Wyoming approved women's suffrage in 1869 before attaining statehood in _____ while eastern states, lacking the same incentive, did not follow suit until after the turn of the century.

A. 1890, for example,

B. 1890, for example:

C. 1890, for example;

D. 1890; for example,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

202

An experiment investigated whether a coating changed when exposed to repeated cycles of heating and cooling. The control sample, kept at a constant temperature throughout the _____ no measurable shift in color, strengthening the case that changes in the treated samples resulted from the cycles rather than from ordinary aging.

A. experiment: showed

B. experiment; showed

C. experiment—showed

D. experiment, showed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

203

Restricting a drama to a single setting can make changes in relationships more visible. Playwright _____ placed the entire second act in an empty railway station, using the characters' different expectations about an approaching train to create tension without introducing a new location or adding further events outside the building.

A. , Amina Bello

B. Amina Bello,

C. : Amina Bello

D. Amina Bello

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

204

Ganga is a folk singing tradition that originated in the Dinaric Alps in southern Europe. Ganga singers sing different melodies at the same time. The clashing notes can echo a long way across the mountains, which is why _____

A. ganga has been used as a communication method?

B. ganga has been used as a communication method.

C. has ganga been used as a communication method.

D. has ganga been used as a communication method?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

205

Winding through the ice atop Norway’s Jotunheim Mountains is the Lendbreen pass, an ancient route that was used by hunters, farmers, traders, and travelers in the Middle Ages before eventually falling into disuse. Recently, archeologists have _____ knives, horseshoes, wool tunics, and thousands of other artifacts from the icy pass.

A. unearthed:

B. unearthed,

C. unearthed—

D. unearthed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

206

Tools designed for different surfaces can require different forms of care even when made from the same metal. The curved blade, an implement used to trim the inside of wooden _____ a different sharpening method from a straight blade, since preserving the edge involves following a shape that cannot rest flat against the stone.

A. bowls: requires

B. bowls; requires

C. bowls, requires

D. bowls—requires

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

207

In 1937, Chinese American screen actor Anna May Wong, who had portrayed numerous villains and secondary characters but never a heroine, finally got a starring role in Paramount Pictures’ Daughter of Shanghai, a film that _____ “expanded the range of possibilities for Asian images on screen.”

A. critic, Stina Chyn, claims

B. critic, Stina Chyn, claims,

C. critic Stina Chyn claims

D. critic Stina Chyn, claims,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

208

In Puerto Rico, it's not unusual for a city or town to be known by a nickname that corresponds to one of its notable features, like landscape, _____ or chief exports. For example, the Puerto Rican municipality of Corozal has also been called "the Cradle of Volleyball," a nickname that alludes to what the area is well known for: being a longtime volleyball powerhouse.

A. climate famous residents,

B. climate famous residents

C. climate, famous residents,

D. climate; famous residents;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

209

Removing a later coating from a painting requires distinguishing the unwanted material from the surface it protects. After testing several methods on small areas, museum conservator _____ removed the discolored layer without disturbing the paint beneath it, revealing details whose earlier appearance could otherwise have been reconstructed only from photographs.

A. , Theo Marin

B. : Theo Marin

C. Theo Marin

D. Theo Marin,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

210

The smallest pieces recovered from an excavation may preserve information absent from larger objects. The remaining fragment, a piece no larger than a _____ carries part of the original painted pattern, helping archaeologists distinguish a deliberately decorated vessel from nearby fragments whose similar coloring resulted from exposure to heat.

A. fingernail, still

B. fingernail; still

C. fingernail—still

D. fingernail: still

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

211

In rural Minnesota, ecologist Leroy Walston conducted a study to determine whether seeding solar panel fields with wildflowers could bolster pollinator populations in nearby food crops. Walston’s findings indicate that—assuming solar panel installers’ _____ practice has the potential to increase the number of native bees in crops near solar fields throughout the Midwest by up to 20 percent.

A. cooperation, this

B. cooperation—this

C. cooperation: this

D. cooperation this

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

212

Two tunes recorded in neighboring communities initially seemed to be versions of the same melody. Both begin with an identical sequence of _____ later sections follow different patterns, suggesting either that a shared opening became attached to separate compositions or that performers transformed the same earlier work in divergent ways.

A. notes, however, their

B. notes however, their

C. notes; however, their

D. notes; however; their

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

213

Joshua Hinson, director of the language revitalization program of the Chickasaw Nation in Oklahoma, helped produce the world’s first Indigenous-language instructional app, Chickasaw _____ Chickasaw TV, in 2010; and a Rosetta Stone language course in Chickasaw, in 2015.

A. Basic; in 2009, an online television network;

B. Basic; in 2009, an online television network,

C. Basic, in 2009; an online television network,

D. Basic, in 2009, an online television network,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

214

An experiment tested whether small movements followed a repeating pattern or occurred unpredictably. To ensure that a changing environment did not create the apparent pattern, the procedure required one controlled _____ constant level of light throughout the observation period, allowing the researchers to compare activity without also accounting for shifts between brighter and dimmer surroundings.

A. condition: a

B. condition. A

C. condition a

D. condition; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

215

A laboratory cabinet contains a lamp that must not operate while its protective cover is open. Designed to alert users who might mistake a partly lowered cover for a fully secured one, the warning light remains _____ the cover is completely closed and the locking mechanism has engaged at both sides.

A. on until:

B. on until

C. on. Until

D. on; until

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

216

A musical passage repeats the same sequence several times, but accents fall in different places and can make each repetition sound as though it begins at a new point. After comparing the score with the recording, can the musicians identify which note actually begins the repeated _____

A. pattern.

B. pattern,

C. pattern;

D. pattern?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

217

Wildlife counts conducted on different dates can reflect seasonal movement as well as differences between locations. To improve comparisons, the annual survey took place on the same weekend at every _____ a common date reduced one source of variation, although observers still had to record differences in weather and visibility.

A. site. Using

B. site, and, using

C. site, using

D. site using

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

218

A textile conservator examining an unusually well-preserved blanket noticed that its border differed from its central panels. The narrow strips of tightly woven fabric that run beneath the decorative stitching along the edge of the _____ keep the loose threads from unraveling, suggesting that the border served a practical as well as an ornamental purpose.

A. blanket; help

B. blanket: help

C. blanket, help

D. blanket help

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

219

A study of environmental change combined instrument readings with knowledge preserved through everyday work. Rather than treating the coastline as a uniform region, researchers compared reports from several fishing _____ community had observed a different pattern, reflecting differences in the places where its members gathered food and repaired their boats.

A. communities each

B. communities. Each

C. communities, and, each

D. communities, each

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

220

Why do children resemble their biological parents in some ways but not in _____ answer requires an understanding of genetics.

A. others, the

B. others. The

C. others? The

D. others the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

221

A gardening association had traditionally invited specialists to give formal lectures at its monthly meetings. Hoping to encourage more participation from experienced local growers, the organizer introduced the next event _____ opportunity to exchange practical ideas, with short demonstrations followed by discussions of problems that participants had encountered in their own gardens.

A. as, an

B. as: an

C. as; an

D. as an

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

222

A reservoir reduced seasonal uncertainty for farms that had relied on an irregular stream. It supplied a more dependable source of _____ its channels demanded more labor than planners expected, showing that improved availability could be accompanied by new maintenance requirements rather than a simple reduction in effort.

A. water, and, maintaining

B. water and; maintaining

C. water, and maintaining

D. water and: maintaining

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

223

Archaeologists have estimated that the pre-Columbian Native American city of Cahokia, located across the Mississippi River from modern-day St. Louis, Missouri, had as many as 20,000 inhabitants in the year 1150 _____ it one of the largest cities in North America at the time.

A. CE making

B. CE. Making

C. CE, making

D. CE; making

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

224

In addition to advocating for South America’s independence in two political treatises, the Cartagena Manifesto and the Letter from Jamaica, Simón Bolívar personally led armies against the Spanish, liberating three South American territories—New Granada (present-day Colombia and Panama), Venezuela, and Quito (present-day _____ from colonial rule.

A. Ecuador,)

B. Ecuador)

C. Ecuador),

D. Ecuador)—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

225

Roger Angell's reputation as one of the greatest baseball writers of all _____ bolstered by dozens of New Yorker essays in which he demonstrated a deep affection for and knowledge of the game, has perhaps overshadowed his remarkable career as a fiction editor: during his decades-long tenure at the New Yorker, Angell helped shape the work of John Updike, Ann Beattie, and other contributors of note.

A. time was

B. time,

C. time had been

D. time, was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

226

The same musical phrase can sound quite different depending on the space in which it is performed. In a comparison using identical recording equipment, the sound faded quickly in the open _____ lasted longer inside a stone passage, where repeated reflections extended notes that had already stopped at their source.

A. field it

B. field; and, it

C. field, it

D. field; it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

227

The engineering class treated revision as part of design rather than as evidence that an initial idea had failed. Its projects proceeded through _____ and revising, with each stage documented so that students could explain how an observation from a trial led to a specific change in the final proposal.

A. planning testing,

B. planning; testing,

C. planning, testing,

D. planning, testing:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

228

Swedish scientists Eva Engvall and Peter Perlmann developed a method for measuring the concentration of different proteins in a biological sample. Their _____ ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay), is used to detect and measure proteins that indicate the presence of certain diseases.

A. method (called

B. method—called

C. method, called

D. method called

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

229

An experimental communication system directs a beam toward a detector by means of a movable reflector. Researchers can vary the reflector's angle while keeping the source and detector in place. What happens to the recorded signal when the reflector turns away from the _____

A. receiver,

B. receiver;

C. receiver?

D. receiver.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

230

A trench exposed a sequence of deposits that looked nearly uniform from a distance. The upper layer of _____ deposit rich in small shell fragments, differed sharply from the darker material below when examined closely, suggesting a change in the conditions under which sediment had accumulated at the site.

A. soil; a

B. soil, a

C. soil: a

D. soil—a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

231

The flood report organizes its findings around _____ and repairs to the bridges. Treating these as related topics allows readers to follow the movement of water through the region while also distinguishing the immediate physical effects from the work required to restore connections between communities.

A. changes in the river damage to the roads,

B. changes in the river; damage to the roads,

C. changes in the river, damage to the roads,

D. changes in the river, damage to the roads:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

232

A revision can make the first published form of a work difficult to encounter. The earliest edition—a volume printed before the author changed the _____ now rarely available outside major libraries, so readers who know only the revised text may be unaware that its final claim was originally expressed quite differently.

A. conclusion; is

B. conclusion, is

C. conclusion—is

D. conclusion: is

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

233

The appearance of a restored building depends partly on which period restorers choose to represent. An exposed layer of paint matched the color visible in old _____ team found a different color underneath, revealing that the apparently authoritative photographs documented only one stage in a longer history of alteration.

A. photographs, yet the

B. photographs yet; the

C. photographs, yet, the

D. photographs yet: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

234

Throughout a novel, the traveler offers conflicting reasons for avoiding the town where the journey began. Some remarks suggest fear, while others imply an obligation that has not been disclosed. Does the final scene explain why the traveler refused to _____

A. return,

B. return.

C. return;

D. return?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

235

The behavior of a river cannot be understood from a visit made during one season. The report compares early spring, when water was _____ when exposed soil became dry; and late autumn, when rainfall increased, showing how measurements taken at the same location can reflect a sequence of quite different conditions.

A. high; midsummer,

B. high midsummer,

C. high: midsummer,

D. high, midsummer,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

236

An automated filling line must position each vessel precisely without damaging its thin walls. Guided by a camera that checks the location of the rim, the mechanical arm lifted the empty _____ it beneath the filling tube, pausing until the sensor confirmed that the opening was centered below the nozzle.

A. container: and placed

B. container and placed

C. container. And placed

D. container; and placed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

237

For scientists to produce new iron nanoparticles of a specific size or strength, they must first be able to monitor reactions between oxygen and existing iron nanoparticles at a near-atomic level of detail. Fortunately, chemistry _____ and his colleagues at Temple University recently developed a new approach that does just that.

A. professor Yugang Sun

B. professor Yugang Sun,

C. professor, Yugang Sun,

D. professor, Yugang Sun

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

238

Fragments of cloth can preserve evidence of manufacture even when their original form is lost. Examining threads recovered from a dry cave, textile researcher _____ compared the direction and tightness of their twists, using these small features to investigate whether apparently similar fragments were made through the same sequence of techniques.

A. , Yara Malik

B. : Yara Malik

C. Yara Malik

D. Yara Malik,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

239

A gardening trial compared plants raised under two schedules of nutrient application. The more frequent treatment produced a greater number of _____ total height changed very little, suggesting that a single measure of growth could obscure differences in how the plants allocated their resources among stems and foliage.

A. leaves and: the

B. leaves, and, the

C. leaves and; the

D. leaves, and the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

240

The city of Dalian, China, first opened its rapid transit _____ in 2003.

A. system: the Dalian Metro

B. system the Dalian Metro,

C. system, the Dalian Metro

D. system, the Dalian Metro,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

241

Conservators needed to measure a surface whose loose particles could be disturbed by ordinary instruments. A newly proposed method offered a major _____ way to record its shape without physical contact, enabling the team to monitor small changes while avoiding an intervention that might itself alter the material being examined.

A. advantage; a

B. advantage. A

C. advantage a

D. advantage: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

242

The difference between a glazed and an unglazed surface can reveal how a material responds to both light and touch. In a series of vessels intended to be handled rather than viewed behind glass, ceramic artist _____ left part of each exterior untreated, encouraging users to compare textures within a single object.

A. , Mina Farouk

B. : Mina Farouk

C. Mina Farouk

D. Mina Farouk,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

243

An instrument used outdoors must tolerate conditions that differ from those of the room in which it was calibrated. Its outer covering serves an important _____ against rapid temperature changes, helping the interior respond gradually rather than allowing brief exposure to sun or shade to alter the measurements immediately.

A. purpose; protection

B. purpose: protection

C. purpose. Protection

D. purpose protection

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

244

The proposed program placed demonstrations back to back, leaving no opportunity for visitors to question the presenters. The revised schedule included a _____ audience members could ask about methods that the demonstrations showed but did not explain, turning the event into an exchange rather than a sequence of uninterrupted performances.

A. pause; however;

B. pause, however,

C. pause however

D. pause, however;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

245

Flooding closed several roads around a lake, and early reports suggested that every route between the two main settlements was unusable. The road along the southern edge of the _____ open throughout the storm, providing a longer alternative whose higher position had protected it from the water affecting the lower crossings.

A. lake; however, remained

B. lake, however; remained

C. lake: however, remained

D. lake, however, remained

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

246

Exhibition catalogs can give a misleading impression of a collection if they include only its most visually impressive objects. A new catalog describes items that were never placed on public _____ of these are ordinary tools, whose worn surfaces document activities that elaborate ceremonial objects reveal less directly.

A. display, and, many

B. display many

C. display. Many

D. display, many

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

247

Damage to books within the same cabinet varied more than the conservator initially expected. The lower shelf, the only part protected from direct _____ the best-preserved volumes, providing a useful comparison with books above it that had experienced similar humidity but substantially greater exposure to light over many years.

A. sunlight; held

B. sunlight, held

C. sunlight: held

D. sunlight—held

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

248

With a blend of traditional design elements, such as arched Gothic ceilings, and modern ones, such as floor-to-ceiling _____ design splits the difference between old and new, a mixture that is increasingly seen in home interiors in the US.

A. windows; transitional

B. windows—transitional

C. windows. Transitional

D. windows, transitional

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

249

For her film I Am Somebody (1970), a documentary about a successful months-long strike held by Black female hospital workers in Charleston, South Carolina, director Madeline Anderson chose a narrator who had participated in the _____ by allowing the narrative to be shaped by one of their own, amplified the agency and power the workers possessed.

A. protest. A decision that

B. protest; a decision that,

C. protest, a decision that,

D. protest a decision that,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

250

A photographic record of chemical reactions can be misleading if automatic camera adjustments alter the appearance of successive images. Students therefore used identical settings for every _____ consistency made differences in color easier to interpret, since changes in exposure were less likely to be mistaken for changes in the samples themselves.

A. photograph, this

B. photograph this

C. photograph. This

D. photograph, and, this

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

251

The first photograph of an exhibition shows objects grouped differently from the arrangement described in the curator's notes. Since assistants moved several pieces during preparation and no installation plan survives, who arranged the objects in the order shown in that earliest _____

A. photograph,

B. photograph.

C. photograph;

D. photograph?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

252

The shortest route to the ridge crossed an exposed slope with few places to refill a bottle. Although a longer path passed several springs, the hikers carried enough water _____ long climb from the valley, choosing the direct route because they needed to reach the observation station before the afternoon clouds arrived.

A. for: the

B. for; the

C. for, the

D. for the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

253

Two trials used the same quantities of material and apparently identical instruments, yet their measurements did not agree. The published summary lists the observations without discussing preparation time or storage conditions. Does the full report explain why the second experiment produced a different _____

A. result.

B. result;

C. result,

D. result?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

254

A new protective fabric was designed to keep a spill from reaching objects beneath it. In a trial, the upper layer absorbed most of the _____ layer below remained almost dry, indicating that the arrangement of materials could matter as much as the total thickness of the protective covering.

A. liquid; and, the

B. liquid, the

C. liquid the

D. liquid; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

255

In paleontology, the term “Elvis taxon” gets applied to a newly identified living species that was once presumed to be extinct. Like an Elvis impersonator who might bear a striking resemblance to the late musical icon Elvis Presley himself, an Elvis taxon is not the real thing, _____ is a misidentified look-alike.

A. however but it

B. however it

C. however, it

D. however. It

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

256

While many video game creators strive to make their graphics ever more _____ others look to the past, developing titles with visuals inspired by the “8-bit” games of the 1980s and 1990s. (The term “8-bit” refers to a console whose processor could only handle eight bits of data at once.)

A. lifelike but

B. lifelike

C. lifelike,

D. lifelike, but

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

257

Approaching a nest can alter the behavior that researchers hope to observe. To document changes while limiting disturbance, a field team photographed the nest from a fixed distance each _____ avoided approaching it during feeding periods, when even a brief interruption might affect the number of visits made by the adults.

A. morning. They

B. morning they

C. morning, they

D. morning, and, they

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

258

The sound of a familiar place can be recreated without reproducing every noise heard there. For a performance set near a waterfront, sound designer _____ combined field recordings with studio-made effects, emphasizing a few recognizable sounds while leaving enough quiet space for the actors' speech to remain clear.

A. , Felix Duarte

B. Felix Duarte,

C. : Felix Duarte

D. Felix Duarte

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

259

The Austronesian language family includes Tagalog, Malagasy, and some 1,200 other languages throughout the Pacific, making it one of the largest language families in the world and of keen interest to _____ of the University of Toronto.

A. linguist, Diane Massam,

B. linguist, Diane Massam

C. linguist Diane Massam

D. linguist: Diane Massam

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

260

Along with carbon dioxide concentration and temperature, light intensity affects the chemical reaction rate of _____ as light intensity increases, so does the rate at which the reactants (water and carbon dioxide) are converted into their products (glucose and oxygen).

A. photosynthesis and

B. photosynthesis,

C. photosynthesis:

D. photosynthesis

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

261

A museum entrance opens onto several doors, some leading to offices and others to rooms intended for visitors. The new signs use the same lettering for every destination but rely on symbols to distinguish their functions. Would a first-time visitor know which door leads to the public _____

A. gallery.

B. gallery;

C. gallery,

D. gallery?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

262

Comparing forms of speech requires material that is similar enough to make differences meaningful. Rather than combining unrelated conversations, linguist _____ recorded speakers telling the same story in several regional varieties, examining how grammatical choices and patterns of emphasis changed even when the events being described remained largely consistent.

A. , Rania Aziz

B. Rania Aziz

C. : Rania Aziz

D. Rania Aziz,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

263

The model contains a broad rotating surface supported by several narrow arms, but its movement is regulated by a much smaller component partly hidden beneath the base. From the diagram showing how the connecting rods change position, can you explain how the small wheel controls the larger _____

A. platform,

B. platform?

C. platform;

D. platform.

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

264

An engineering report identified damage that was not yet severe enough to justify replacing a platform. Instead, it ended with a practical _____ inspections of the joints underneath, where small changes could provide an early warning and allow repairs to begin before deterioration affected the structure's ability to carry its intended load.

A. recommendation: regular

B. recommendation. Regular

C. recommendation; regular

D. recommendation regular

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

265

As jazz singer Sarah Vaughan honed her vocal abilities—acquiring a sophisticated timbre and precise control over pitch, dynamics, and _____ she earned comparisons to opera icon Leontyne Price, one of her personal heroes. The comparisons highlight how Vaughan, a jazz star, had transcended genre boundaries with her singing prowess.

A. vibrato:

B. vibrato,

C. vibrato—

D. vibrato

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

266

The seating plan for an unfamiliar composition did not follow the arrangement normally used by the orchestra. The _____ perform the opening passage sit near the front, where they can exchange visual cues during sections without a steady beat, while players who enter later occupy the spaces behind them.

A. musicians: who

B. musicians, who

C. musicians who

D. musicians; who

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

267

An exhibition project separates objects ready for display from those that still require identification, photography, or conservation. Several newly delivered pieces have completed the first two stages but lack the tags used to connect them with their records. Where should volunteers place objects that have not yet been _____

A. labeled?

B. labeled.

C. labeled;

D. labeled,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

268

Most finds from an excavation consisted of pottery and fragments of building material. The bronze fitting—the only object recovered from the lower _____ sent for specialist analysis, since its composition might help determine whether it belonged to the structure itself or had entered the deposit during a later disturbance.

A. trench: was

B. trench; was

C. trench, was

D. trench—was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

269

A neighborhood garden had to accommodate food production, quiet recreation, and movement between adjacent streets. The plan therefore included four kinds of _____ beds for shared cultivation, shaded paths connecting the entrances, seating areas beside the busiest routes, and a central lawn that could remain open for activities not specified in advance.

A. spaces; vegetable

B. spaces: vegetable

C. spaces. Vegetable

D. spaces vegetable

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

270

A survey team expected the shortest route between two observation sites to cross the bottom of a narrow valley. The valley floor, covered with a thick layer of loose _____ difficult to traverse after heavy rain, forcing the team to follow a longer ridge route that offered more stable footing.

A. stones, was

B. stones—was

C. stones: was

D. stones; was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

271

At first glance, the cable connecting the battery to the motor appears to consist of a single piece of flexible material. In fact, the fine copper wires that run alongside one another inside the protective outer covering of the _____ electricity, while the covering prevents those wires from touching nearby metal components.

A. cable conduct

B. cable; conduct

C. cable, conduct

D. cable: conduct

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

272

In 1727, dramatist Lewis Theobald presented a new play, Double Falsehood, at a London theater. Theobald claimed that his drama was based on a little-known play by William Shakespeare, Cardenio. Many, including poet Alexander Pope, were _____ historians have determined that Shakespeare’s company did perform a play called Cardenio in 1613.

A. skeptical but

B. skeptical, but

C. skeptical,

D. skeptical

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

273

By analyzing the level of radioactive decay within a fossil specimen, scientists can establish the age of that fossil with a high degree of precision. When radioactive elements aren’t present, scientists turn to _____ analysis of Earth’s sediment layers (strata)—to estimate how old a fossil is based on the age of the strata in which the fossil is found.

A. stratigraphy—the

B. stratigraphy (the

C. stratigraphy: the

D. stratigraphy, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

274

In a 2016 study, Eastern Washington University psychologist Amani El-Alayli found that, among the study participants who experienced frisson (a physiological response akin to goosebumps or getting the chills) while listening to music, there was one personality trait that they scored particularly _____ openness to experience.

A. high. On

B. high on;

C. high on

D. high on:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

275

Before the Erie Canal was completed in 1825, transporting goods by wagon between New York City and the Midwest took up to forty-five days and cost one hundred dollars per ton. By linking the Hudson River to Lake _____ canal reduced transport time to nine days and cut costs to six dollars per ton.

A. Erie; the

B. Erie (the

C. Erie, the

D. Erie: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

276

A proposal for a waterside park required attention to construction, public use, and habitat. The committee invited Salma, an _____ a designer experienced in public spaces; and Inez, an ecologist studying riverbanks, bringing together perspectives that could expose problems overlooked if the proposal were evaluated through only one kind of expertise.

A. engineer: Pavel,

B. engineer; Pavel,

C. engineer, Pavel,

D. engineer Pavel,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

277

Readers sometimes assume that unfamiliar names in a translation are oversights rather than deliberate choices. In translating a travel narrative whose geography had changed substantially since its composition, translator _____ retained several original place names, using brief notes to preserve distinctions that modern labels would have erased.

A. Samir Haddad,

B. Samir Haddad

C. , Samir Haddad

D. : Samir Haddad

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

278

While the ancient Celts—Iron Age peoples who inhabited parts of western and central Europe—weren't a single unified group, their art often featured common elements. These included intricate patterns of interlocking spiral lines, which often held symbolic _____ of birds, horses, and other animals; and inlaid enamel accents.

A. significance; depictions

B. significance, depictions

C. significance: depictions

D. significance. Depictions

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

279

Recently unearthed Neronian tools in France dating to 54,000 years ago and attributed to Homo sapiens may provide evidence that interactions between Neanderthals and modern humans occurred 10,000 years earlier than was previously _____ finding that, if true, would overturn current theories about H. sapiens migration during the Upper Paleolithic.

A. supposed; a

B. supposed. A

C. supposed a

D. supposed, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

280

Before testing a device designed to raise a heavy platform, the crew checked _____ and the position of the support posts. Examining these components separately allowed the team to identify weaknesses that might remain hidden if attention were directed only toward whether the platform could be lifted once.

A. the tension in the cables, the condition of the pulleys,

B. the tension in the cables the condition of the pulleys,

C. the tension in the cables; the condition of the pulleys,

D. the tension in the cables, the condition of the pulleys:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

281

A packet of undated correspondence described journeys made by several generations of the same family. The _____ mention the new railway were written later than those describing travel by coach, allowing the archivist to establish a rough sequence before using references to individual stations to narrow the dates further.

A. letters; that

B. letters: that

C. letters that

D. letters, that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

282

A literary festival used spaces chosen to suit different activities rather than placing every event in the same hall. Its venues included the courtyard, used for _____ library, used for readings requiring a quieter setting; and the garden, used for practical demonstrations, allowing the physical surroundings to contribute to the program's variety.

A. performances, the

B. performances: the

C. performances the

D. performances; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

283

A traveling repair program needed equipment that participants could carry between sites without relying on a large workshop. Although the tasks varied, each portable kit contained three basic _____ small hammer for light assembly, a narrow file for smoothing rough edges, and pliers for gripping parts too small to hold securely by hand.

A. tools a

B. tools; a

C. tools. A

D. tools: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

284

The building's lower rooms can be entered directly from the street, but its historic layout limits access to the exhibition upstairs. Visitors who wish to examine the photographs displayed in the upper _____ they climb the narrow staircase beside the entrance can compare them with a model showing the neighborhood before its redevelopment.

A. gallery after:

B. gallery after

C. gallery. After

D. gallery; after

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

285

To serve local families during the Great Depression, innovative New York City librarian Pura Belpré offered storytelling in both English and Spanish, an uncommon _____ celebrated el Día de los Tres Reyes Magos, an important community holiday; and put on puppet shows dramatizing Puerto Rican folktales.

A. practice, at the time

B. practice at the time;

C. practice, at the time,

D. practice at the time,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

286

Customers who are satisfied with how a company resolves a service issue may regard that company more positively than they would if no such issue had occurred. This idea is known as the service recovery _____ research suggests that it has important implications for customer loyalty and retention.

A. paradox,

B. paradox

C. paradox, and

D. paradox and,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

287

A lightweight platform performed well when its test load was placed at the center. Moving the same load toward one edge exposed a serious _____ tendency for the supporting frame to bend unevenly, indicating that the design needed to accommodate not only the total weight but also where that weight might be concentrated.

A. weakness a

B. weakness; a

C. weakness: a

D. weakness. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

288

The short story “Rogue Enchantments” by Isabel Ibañez appears in Reclaim the _____ anthology of fantasy and science fiction written by authors of Latin American descent.

A. Stars. An

B. Stars, while an

C. Stars an

D. Stars, an

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

289

Two groups of seedlings received the same amount of water during their first month, but one group was planted in deeper containers. During a later trial, those seedlings survived the unusually dry _____ their roots had already reached moist soil below the surface, where evaporation removed water more slowly than it did near the top.

A. week. Because

B. week; because

C. week because

D. week because:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

290

Two sheets made from the same material can behave differently when exposed to rain. By comparing droplets on smooth sheets with droplets on sheets covered in microscopic ridges, the experiment demonstrated _____ changes in surface texture can influence whether water spreads into a thin film or gathers into beads that roll away.

A. that; small

B. that small

C. that, small

D. that: small

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

291

A survey team planned to return by the same river crossing it had used at the beginning of the day. The water now too high to cross _____ team followed a longer route along the valley, delaying its return but keeping the instruments away from a current that could have damaged them.

A. safely; the

B. safely. The

C. safely, the

D. safely: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

292

Scientists examining traces of scent needed to prevent outside chemicals from entering the samples during storage. The team kept the specimens in sealed containers away from strong _____ the risk that later analysis would confuse compounds originally present in the material with those absorbed from cleaning products used nearby.

A. odors, limiting

B. odors; limiting

C. odors. Limiting

D. odors, limited

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

293

During the English neoclassical period (1660–1789), many writers imitated the epic poetry and satires of ancient Greece and Rome. They were not the first in England to adopt the literary modes of classical _____ some of the most prominent figures of the earlier Renaissance period were also influenced by ancient Greek and Roman literature.

A. antiquity, however

B. antiquity, however,

C. antiquity, however;

D. antiquity; however,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

294

Restoration changed how a mural interacted with the architecture around it. Previously hidden beneath later paneling, the painting covers an entire wall of the entrance _____ largest figures can now be seen from the street, drawing attention to an interior that passersby had once perceived as an unremarkable doorway.

A. hall, and, its

B. hall. Its

C. hall, its

D. hall its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

295

Archaeological evidence indicates that board games have existed in human societies for at least five millennia, with examples discovered in the tombs of ancient Egypt and the ruins of Mesopotamia. The purpose of these ancient games was _____ provide entertainment during leisure time, to reflect cultural beliefs, and to develop strategic thinking skills among players.

A. threefold to

B. threefold. To

C. threefold: to

D. threefold; to

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

296

A reviewer found the novel's ending striking but remained uncertain whether it resolved the conflict established in the opening chapters. Comparing the final conversation with earlier references to an abandoned promise, the reviewer asked whether the closing scene explained why the traveler had refused to _____

A. return,

B. return;

C. return?

D. return.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

297

Extensive radiocarbon dating of reed samples from Caral confirmed Ruth Shady Solís's hypothesis about the Peruvian site's _____ nearly 5,000 years ago, the ancient city preceded the Olmec civilization to the north by a full millennium, a revelation that fundamentally altered our understanding of urban development in the Western Hemisphere.

A. age, built

B. age; built

C. age built

D. age and built

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

298

A restoration project relied on volunteers with a range of experience, so its coordinator assigned tasks according to completed training. Only the _____ had passed the safety course could operate the cutting equipment, while the remaining participants worked on measuring and labeling pieces that trained operators would later prepare.

A. volunteers: who

B. volunteers who

C. volunteers; who

D. volunteers, who

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

299

Plants growing on rocky slopes face a problem that plants in loose soil rarely encounter: large obstacles can block access to moisture. The ability of certain roots to change direction when they encounter stones buried in the _____ the plants to reach water-filled crevices that roots growing straight downward would miss.

A. soil: allows

B. soil, allows

C. soil allows

D. soil; allows

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

300

The radial velocity method, a means of indirect planetary discovery, has detected previously unknown exoplanets at vast distances from _____ the gas giant 55 Cancri d; at 60 light-years away, the Neptune-like planet Pi Mensae d; and, as of 2023, over 1,000 other exoplanets that are too far away and dim to be observed directly.

A. Earth at 41 light-years away:

B. Earth: at 41 light-years away,

C. Earth, at 41 light-years away,

D. Earth at 41 light-years away,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

301

Pedestrians traveling between the railway station and the waterfront had to follow a road with heavy traffic. The proposed footpath—a route connecting the station to the riverside _____ allow walkers to bypass that road, linking existing public spaces without requiring them to make the longer journey through the commercial center.

A. park; would

B. park, would

C. park—would

D. park: would

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

302

Emperor Ashoka ruled the Maurya Empire in South Asia from roughly 270 to 232 BCE. He is known for enforcing a moral code called the Law of Piety, which established the sanctity of animal _____ the just treatment of the elderly, and the abolition of the slave trade.

A. life

B. life;

C. life:

D. life,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

303

Examining how the parts of an object were joined can reveal a sequence of production hidden by its finished appearance. A small bell was cast separately from its _____ metal pin connected the pieces, allowing the maker to combine components that would have been difficult to produce together in a single mold.

A. handle. A

B. handle, and, a

C. handle, a

D. handle a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

304

An acoustic study required samples in which calls could be measured without competing human voices. The _____ include background conversation were excluded from the analysis, even when the birds were clearly audible, because overlapping sounds could alter measurements in ways that listeners might not notice during an ordinary playback.

A. recordings: that

B. recordings that

C. recordings, that

D. recordings; that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

305

Horsepower is a unit of measurement used to determine how much power a vehicle produces. The measurement is based on how much and how quickly weight can be _____ one unit of mechanical horsepower is equivalent to the amount of power it takes to lift 550 pounds one foot off the ground in one second.

A. moved, for example,

B. moved,

C. moved; for example,

D. moved

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

306

A subseasonal weather forecast attempts to predict weather conditions three to four weeks in _____ its predictions are therefore more short-term than those of the seasonal forecast, which attempts to predict the weather more than a month in advance.

A. advance,

B. advance

C. advance;

D. advance and

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

307

Two riverbanks that appeared similar on a map showed a marked difference during fieldwork. The survey recorded a striking _____ vegetation on one bank and exposed soil on the other, prompting researchers to examine differences in recent land use before attributing the pattern entirely to the direction of sunlight.

A. contrast. Dense

B. contrast: dense

C. contrast dense

D. contrast; dense

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

308

A traveler's account described memorable encounters but left the route between them uncertain. A separate notebook lists expenses for each day of the _____ entries allow historians to reconstruct movements between settlements, using purchases of food and lodging as evidence for locations that the more polished narrative never names.

A. journey those

B. journey; and, those

C. journey; those

D. journey, those

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

309

An intended voyage left little evidence because preparations ended before the ship departed. The final letter—a brief message written on reused _____ the only direct reference to its cancellation, allowing historians to connect abandoned purchases and unfinished repairs that had previously seemed unrelated within the surviving business records.

A. paper, contains

B. paper—contains

C. paper: contains

D. paper; contains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

310

One neighborhood group emphasized the needs of children walking to school, while another focused on older residents visiting nearby shops. Despite these different priorities, the shared goal that emerged from their meetings _____ safer crossing near the public library, where a wide road interrupted several frequently used walking routes.

A. was; a

B. was a

C. was: a

D. was, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

311

Inspecting damage inside a narrow cavity required a view that ordinary equipment could not provide. The smallest camera, which could fit through the inspection _____ areas beyond the reach of the larger device, revealing that cracks visible near the entrance extended farther into the structure than the first survey had established.

A. opening: recorded

B. opening; recorded

C. opening, recorded

D. opening—recorded

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

312

Repairing buried pipes can threaten trees whose roots extend beyond the area visible above ground. A survey recorded the position and approximate canopy size of more than a hundred _____ resulting map helped planners identify where excavation would require special care, linking underground work with features that earlier engineering drawings had omitted.

A. trees, the

B. trees the

C. trees. The

D. trees, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

313

Jamaican British artist Willard Wigan is known for his remarkable _____ so small that they are best viewed through a microscope, Wigan’s sculptures are made from tiny natural materials, such as spiderweb strands.

A. microsculptures creations

B. microsculptures, creations

C. microsculptures. Creations

D. microsculptures and creations

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

314

Earlier accounts attributed nearly all feeding visits at a particular nest to one adult bird. The evidence gathered from images recorded at regular intervals during repeated observations of the nesting _____ the idea that both adults contribute, although their visits occur at different times and are therefore easily missed during brief observations.

A. pair supports

B. pair, supports

C. pair: supports

D. pair; supports

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

315

The team adjusted one component of an optical apparatus while leaving all other positions unchanged. At each angle, researchers recorded what happened to the signal as the reflector gradually turned away from the _____

A. receiver;

B. receiver?

C. receiver,

D. receiver.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

316

Following the bebop era of the 1940s, cello jazz emerged as yet another innovative style in jazz _____ larger ensembles than those of their predecessors, cool jazz composers like Dave Brubeck emphasized smooth melodies in their works.

A. music, to feature

B. music. Featuring

C. music, featuring

D. music to feature

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

317

Differences between instruments are not always obvious when each performs a different tune. During a demonstration designed to isolate those differences, the audience listened _____ recording of the same short melody played on three instruments, concentrating on how each sound began, continued, and faded after the player stopped.

A. to, a

B. to a

C. to: a

D. to; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

318

Paintings by the renowned twentieth-century US _____ were featured in Artist to Artist, an exhibition at the Smithsonian Art Museum that paired the works of artists whose career trajectories intersected in meaningful ways.

A. artists: Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock,

B. artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

C. artists Thomas Hart Benton, and Jackson Pollock,

D. artists, Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

319

Louise Bennett (1919–2006), also known as “Miss Lou,” was an influential Jamaican poet and folklorist. Her innovative poems _____ the use of Jamaican Creole (a spoken language) in literature.

A. popularized;

B. popularized,

C. popularized

D. popularized:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

320

The purpose of a room can sometimes be inferred from its relationship to the spaces around it. The upper chamber, a room with no windows facing the _____ probably used for storing valuable materials, since access required passing through areas that could be watched from the main occupied rooms below.

A. street; was

B. street—was

C. street: was

D. street, was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

321

Some walking routes preserve the shape of structures whose original function is no longer apparent. A narrow path through the gardens follows the edge of a former irrigation _____ sections of its stone lining remain visible, revealing how water once reached plots that now appear to be separated by ordinary footpaths.

A. channel, some

B. channel. Some

C. channel some

D. channel, and, some

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

322

Located in the northern United States, the Great Lakes Basin contains roughly 35,000 islands. Lake Superior has Grand Island, for example. Lake Michigan has Belle Isle. Lake Huron, though, is home _____ the largest island of them all: Manitoulin Island.

A. to;

B. to—

C. to

D. to,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

323

A plant guide intended for use throughout the growing season cannot rely exclusively on flowers that are visible for only a short period. Illustrator _____ therefore drew each plant at two stages, showing how leaves and stems could help readers identify a specimen before the most familiar features appeared.

A. Owen Park,

B. Owen Park

C. : Owen Park

D. , Owen Park

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

324

Restoring access after a landslide required more than clearing fallen material from a walking route. The river path—closed for several months after the _____ when workers completed a protective barrier, allowing visitors to return without assuming that removal of the visible debris alone had eliminated the underlying risk.

A. landslide—reopened

B. landslide, reopened

C. landslide: reopened

D. landslide; reopened

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

325

Shelters built on exposed ground must balance protection from bad weather with access to light. The new structure faces away from the strongest prevailing _____ entrance receives sunlight during the cooler morning hours, reflecting a design that responds to more than one environmental condition at the same time.

A. winds; its

B. winds; and, its

C. winds its

D. winds, its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

326

A community workshop welcomed beginners but restricted access to machines with exposed cutting blades. Even after completing an introductory course and demonstrating that they understood the written instructions, students could use the workshop _____ if a trained supervisor was present to monitor their work and respond immediately if a piece became caught.

A. equipment only:

B. equipment. Only

C. equipment; only

D. equipment only

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

327

Pollen can remain trapped in sediment long after the plants that produced it have disappeared. The unusually thick layer of pollen grains found between two bands of mineral deposits near the bottom of the _____ evidence of a prolonged flowering season rather than a single brief event, according to the researchers examining the sample.

A. core, provides

B. core provides

C. core: provides

D. core; provides

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

328

Official records describe the movement of goods along a trade route but rarely explain how travelers experienced the journey. The archive maintained by a local historical society _____ written by merchants and messengers, whose accounts of delays, weather, and unfamiliar customs offer a more personal view of travel between distant settlements.

A. contains; letters

B. contains: letters

C. contains, letters

D. contains letters

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

329

Photosynthesis, the mechanism by which plants use sunlight to turn carbon dioxide and water into _____ is fueled in part by an enzyme called Photosystem II that harvests energy-giving electrons from water molecules.

A. nutrients

B. nutrients and

C. nutrients,

D. nutrients—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

330

An exhibition about collecting practices begins with an event designed to place individual objects in a broader context. The opening lecture, an introduction to the history of the _____ take place in the museum auditorium, where projected images will show storage arrangements and earlier displays that visitors cannot examine in the present galleries.

A. collection, will

B. collection: will

C. collection—will

D. collection; will

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

331

A garden study examined whether pale flowers received visitors at times when human observers were unlikely to be present. Insects gathered near several plants shortly after _____ camera recorded their visits throughout the night, revealing a pattern of activity that differed substantially from the one documented during daytime observations.

A. sunset. A

B. sunset a

C. sunset, a

D. sunset, and, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

332

In Puerto Rico, it’s not unusual for a city or town to be known by a nickname that corresponds to one of its notable features, like landscape, climate, famous residents, or chief export. For example, the Puerto Rican municipality of Aibonito is well known for its lush _____ this distinction has earned it the fitting nickname of “the Garden of Puerto Rico.”

A. greenery

B. greenery,

C. greenery and

D. greenery;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

333

A ruined structure has walls too low to show clearly how high the original building stood. Several recesses might have supported beams, but similar openings can also occur in single-story buildings. Is there additional evidence that the structure once had a second _____

A. floor;

B. floor.

C. floor,

D. floor?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

334

A paved courtyard concealed traces of a building that did not appear in the surviving plans. By comparing changes in soil color with the positions of buried stones, archaeologist _____ located the edge of an earlier floor, establishing a starting point for investigating a structure whose walls had been almost completely removed.

A. Sofia Neri,

B. : Sofia Neri

C. Sofia Neri

D. , Sofia Neri

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

335

Preserving a building's outward appearance can conceal extensive changes in its use. The town retained the brick exterior of the former _____ interior was rebuilt as a public library, replacing machinery and partitioned work areas with open rooms whose arrangement bears little resemblance to the original industrial spaces.

A. factory, and, the

B. factory, and the

C. factory and: the

D. factory and; the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

336

Two wind instruments can resemble one another closely while producing noticeably different sounds. Beyond their similar length and material, these examples differ in one visible _____ shape of the opening near the top, a feature that the accompanying demonstration invites listeners to connect with differences they hear when the same notes are played.

A. way. The

B. way; the

C. way the

D. way: the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

337

The city of Pompeii, which was buried in ash following the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 CE, continues to be studied by archaeologists. Unfortunately, as _____ attest, archaeological excavations have disrupted ash deposits at the site, causing valuable information about the eruption to be lost.

A. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn,

B. researchers, Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn

C. researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn

D. researchers Roberto Scandone, and Christopher Kilburn

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

338

The containers used during an excavation differed in size for practical reasons that were not recorded on their exterior labels. The largest one—a shallow tray with a tightly fitting _____ samples from the deepest deposit, keeping together pieces whose relationship would have been difficult to reconstruct if they had been packed separately.

A. lid: held

B. lid; held

C. lid, held

D. lid—held

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

339

An excavation team expected a tray of material from a damaged window to contain only fragments of glass. It held something _____ a small metal tag bore a date earlier than the window's presumed installation, prompting researchers to reconsider whether the debris had accumulated during more than one episode of repair.

A. else; however;

B. else, however,

C. else however

D. else, however;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

340

Histories of the pottery workshop often end with the retirement of its founder, whose name appeared on many of its best-known products. However, recently cataloged payroll records indicate _____ workshop continued operating for several years under different management, producing unmarked objects that earlier collectors had attributed to other makers.

A. that: the

B. that the

C. that; the

D. that, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

341

The capital city of the Aztec empire, Tenochtitlan, was built on an island in a lake. Because of the marshy conditions, the Aztec people _____ floating farms called “chinampas.”

A. created

B. created:

C. created,

D. created;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

342

The experiment compared the behavior of particles carried through tubes with different inner surfaces. To ensure that variation in speed did not obscure the effect of surface texture, it required a steady flow of water through each _____ small pump maintained that flow while sensors recorded the movement of the suspended material.

A. tube, a

B. tube a

C. tube. A

D. tube, and, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

343

Identifying objects donated without labels often requires knowledge that no single curator possesses. The team of volunteers with expertise in local crafts and responsibility for labeling the museum _____ every Saturday to compare photographs, family records, and recollections, gradually replacing uncertain descriptions with accounts supported by several independent sources.

A. collection meets

B. collection: meets

C. collection, meets

D. collection; meets

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

344

Field equipment delivered by boat had to be brought ashore without exposing delicate parts to waves. The sheltered inlet—a stretch of calm water behind the rocky _____ a suitable landing place, even while conditions beyond the headland remained too rough for the crew to work safely beside the vessel.

A. headland; provided

B. headland: provided

C. headland, provided

D. headland—provided

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

345

A description of an experimental apparatus suggested that all its parts were fixed in position once assembly was complete. One component could _____ narrow plate above the main opening, allowing the operator to alter the amount of material passing through without dismantling the device or changing its other settings.

A. move, however: a

B. move, however; a

C. move however a

D. move; however, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

346

Fernando Palma Rodríguez creates robotic sculptures that combine mechanical elements with materials like feathers, soil, and seeds. The artist is from a rural farming community outside Mexico City, and he studied engineering in college. The natural and mechanical _____ highlight these two aspects of his background.

A. materials that Palma Rodríguez uses in his art,

B. materials that Palma Rodríguez uses in his art

C. materials, that Palma Rodríguez uses in his art,

D. materials, that Palma Rodríguez uses in his art

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

347

Researchers initially interpreted a wooden panel as a single undivided surface. The last photograph, taken with light directed almost parallel to the wood, revealed an overlooked _____ faint line across one edge, suggesting a joint that ordinary illumination had concealed and raising the possibility that the panel had once formed part of a larger assembly.

A. detail; a

B. detail: a

C. detail. A

D. detail a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

348

Traveling to India between 1935 and 1952, African American intellectuals Sue Bailey Thurman, Blanche Wright Nelson, and Sadie T.M. Alexander met with Mahatma Gandhi, an influential proponent of nonviolent resistance, and forged meaningful connections with local Indian women as part of an effort to promote women's _____ but also around the world.

A. empowerment—not only in India—

B. empowerment not only in India,

C. empowerment, not only in India,

D. empowerment—not only in India

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

349

In 1977, legendary Puerto Rican performer Rita Moreno won an Emmy Award, making her one of the rare talents to earn the highest honors in television, music, film, and stage entertainment—the Emmy, Grammy, Oscar, and Tony _____ the achievement is known as “winning the EGOT.”

A. awards, respectively;

B. awards; respectively

C. awards, respectively—

D. awards, respectively,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

350

Documenting a three-dimensional object requires more than photographing its most recognizable face. The rotating platform—a device controlled by a small electric _____ the photographer record every side from a fixed camera position, producing a sequence in which changes of angle can be compared without changes in scale or lighting.

A. motor: lets

B. motor—lets

C. motor; lets

D. motor, lets

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

351

Materials scientist Marie-Agathe Charpagne and her colleagues believed they could improve on the multicomponent alloy NiCoCr, an equal-proportions mixture of nickel (Ni), cobalt (Co), and chromium (Cr), by replacing chromium with ruthenium _____ the alloy that resulted, NiCoRu, turned out to be an unsuitable replacement for NiCoCr.

A. (Ru)

B. (Ru) but

C. (Ru),

D. (Ru), but

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

352

Arms outstretched, right wrist over left with both hands dangling, South Korean musician Psy galloped from one foot to the other in the iconic dance of his 2012 international hit song “Gangnam Style.” Later, a statue depicting Psy’s arm-positioning during the dance was erected in the place that inspired the song’s _____ Gangnam District in Seoul, South Korea.

A. name;

B. name.

C. name

D. name—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

353

Award-winning cinematographer James Wong Howe was known for his innovative filming techniques. While filming a boxing match for the movie Body and Soul _____ Howe had a handheld camera operator wear roller skates. This allowed the operator to move smoothly around actors in a boxing ring, creating an immersive experience for viewers.

A. (1947), and

B. (1947),

C. (1947) and

D. (1947)

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

354

The inspection platform was accessible only by a steep ladder inside the tower, making bulky equipment difficult to transport. Carrying only the tools needed for the _____ engineer climbed to the upper level, where measurements taken at several joints would determine whether a larger repair team needed to return.

A. inspection, the

B. inspection; the

C. inspection. The

D. inspection: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

355

A solution stored in a sealed container gradually turned blue, although samples kept in glass vessels remained clear. After ruling out exposure to light and changes in temperature, the laboratory team attributed the unexpected color change _____ reaction between the liquid and the metal lid, whose protective coating had begun to wear away.

A. to: a

B. to a

C. to; a

D. to, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

356

Water entered a library from above, but the extent of damage did not correspond neatly to the distance of each shelf from the ceiling. Some high shelves were heavily stained while lower ones remained almost unaffected. Why were the lower shelves less damaged than the upper _____

A. shelves.

B. shelves;

C. shelves,

D. shelves?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

357

Key-value pairs are an important aspect of JavaScript Object Notation (JSON), an electronic file format for storing and transmitting data. Keys function as labels, while values contain the actual information. In a JSON file storing data about fire belly _____ instance, you could encounter a key such as “species” with the associated value of “Cynops orientalis.”

A. newts. For

B. newts, for

C. newts: for

D. newts; for

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

358

Translating a poem requires decisions about features that may not transfer equally well between languages. An early translation emphasized the literal meaning of the _____ later version preserved more of the rhythm, enabling readers to compare two interpretations that reproduced different aspects of the same original text.

A. words a

B. words, a

C. words. A

D. words, and, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

359

In forecasting weather events, meteorologists sometimes discuss the role of atmospheric rivers. What are atmospheric rivers, and how _____ Part of the water cycle, atmospheric rivers are narrow channels of moisture moving through the atmosphere. In certain conditions, these “rivers” can release some of their moisture as precipitation.

A. do they affect our weather.

B. they do affect our weather.

C. do they affect our weather?

D. they do affect our weather?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

360

Seneca sculptor Marie Watt’s blanket art comes in a range of shapes and sizes. In 2004, Watt sewed strips of blankets together to craft a 10-by-13-inch _____ in 2014, she arranged folded blankets into two large stacks and then cast them in bronze, creating two curving 18-foot-tall blue-bronze pillars.

A. sampler later,

B. sampler;

C. sampler,

D. sampler, later,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

361

A walking guide describes a route along the river as suitable for visitors seeking a level path. The introductory description calls the entire route _____ sections rise steeply where the path crosses rocky outcrops, so a reader relying only on the summary might underestimate demands that become clear in the detailed map.

A. level, however, several

B. level; however; several

C. level; however, several

D. level however, several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

362

A damaged field recording preserves a song performed by a musician whose repertoire was never written down. The melody remains clear enough for others to _____ makes several spoken words impossible to identify, limiting what researchers can infer about the introduction while leaving much of the musical material available for study.

A. follow, but noise

B. follow but; noise

C. follow but: noise

D. follow, but, noise

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

363

Books stored within the same cabinet showed unexpectedly different levels of fading, even though their paper and bindings were similar. By comparing the position of a nearby window with the angles at which light entered the room, a conservator investigated why lower shelves were less affected than upper _____

A. shelves;

B. shelves,

C. shelves?

D. shelves.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

364

Walkers using two routes through a valley reported very different conditions even when they traveled at the same hour. The northern path, a narrow track that follows the base of the _____ shaded for most of the day, while the more exposed route becomes warm enough to dry quickly after rainfall.

A. cliff, remains

B. cliff; remains

C. cliff—remains

D. cliff: remains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

365

A missing document may leave traces in records prepared for purposes other than preserving its contents. The handwritten index, compiled by an unknown clerk years _____ several references to papers no longer present, helping researchers establish that gaps in the collection reflect losses rather than topics that its creators never recorded.

A. later: contains

B. later—contains

C. later, contains

D. later; contains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

366

Different flowers in a school garden appeared to attract different visitors, but casual observations were difficult to compare. Eager to learn which plants attracted the greatest variety of _____ class kept a daily record of visits, noting both the time of observation and whether each flower was fully open.

A. insects. The

B. insects; the

C. insects: the

D. insects, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

367

Maintaining a stable temperature can require more than a single layer of insulation. In a laboratory apparatus designed to measure gradual changes, the outer container prevented the solution from cooling _____ inner container held the liquid being tested, separating the task of controlling conditions from the task of containing the sample.

A. rapidly the

B. rapidly, the

C. rapidly; the

D. rapidly; and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

368

In the 1980s, Latino filmmakers Luis Valdez, Gregory Nava, and Ramón Menéndez helped expand on-screen representation of Latino Americans with the films Zoot Suit _____ and Stand and Deliver (1988), respectively.

A. (1981) El Norte (1983),

B. (1981)—El Norte (1983)—

C. (1981), El Norte (1983),

D. (1981) El Norte (1983)

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

369

Visitors who entered the chamber through a narrow opening reported finding nothing inside it, and later descriptions repeated their account without further inspection. One object _____ sealed wooden box concealed behind a low partition, where it would have been invisible to anyone who remained close to the entrance.

A. remained; however, a

B. remained, however; a

C. remained, however: a

D. remained however a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

370

A class collected equal volumes of water from locations above and below a mineral-rich spring. After filtering out suspended particles and allowing the water to evaporate, students compared the residues to determine which sample had contained a greater quantity of dissolved _____

A. material;

B. material?

C. material,

D. material.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

371

An inspection suggested that the storeroom had no entrance apart from the large doorway facing the street. A second survey revealed an _____ it had been hidden by shelves installed against an interior wall, explaining why people examining only the visible exterior had overlooked a connection to the neighboring room.

A. entrance; however;

B. entrance, however,

C. entrance, however;

D. entrance however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

372

At 1,280 meters, the Golden Gate Bridge in the United States is one of the longest suspension bridges in the _____ the Tsing Ma Bridge in China, at 1,377 meters, is even longer.

A. world but

B. world, but,

C. world,

D. world, but

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

373

A class compared vessels that differed in width but were made from the same material. By recording temperature at regular intervals after adding equal volumes of heated water, the experiment tested how container shape affected the rate of _____

A. cooling.

B. cooling,

C. cooling;

D. cooling?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

374

A scanning project sought to make a fragile collection available without repeatedly exposing the originals to handling. While photographing pages whose corners had become particularly brittle, volunteers kept the sheets _____ that the edges would not bend, using supports positioned outside the image rather than pressing the documents beneath a heavy glass plate.

A. flat so:

B. flat so

C. flat; so

D. flat. So

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

375

Reflections in moving water can disappear within seconds as wind changes the surface of a canal. Standing beneath an overhanging roof that sheltered the camera from rain, the photographer waited for the fog to _____ the reflection of the bridge before a passing boat broke the smooth surface into overlapping waves.

A. clear; and captured

B. clear: and captured

C. clear. And captured

D. clear and captured

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

376

For his mash-up “Smells Like Rockin’ Robin,” DJ Mark Vidler layered Kurt Cobain’s minor-key vocals from “Smells Like Teen Spirit” over the Jackson 5’s major-key blues progression from “Rockin’ _____ by inserting the grunge singer’s vocal melody as pitch-shifted “blue notes” within the pop-soul group’s harmonic framework, creates an intensified “bluesy” feeling and subverts the expectations of listeners familiar with either musical source.

A. Robin”—a technique that,

B. Robin”; a technique that,

C. Robin,” a technique that

D. Robin.” A technique that

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

377

In early 1700s England, it was legal for shops to sell prints of artists’ engravings without the artists’ permission. This changed in 1735 with the passage of the Engravers’ Copyright _____ gave engravers control over the distribution and sale of all prints made from their designs.

A. Act, which

B. Act; which

C. Act. Which

D. Act

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

378

Floodwater may remove fine particles from one part of a field while depositing them in another. After the water that had covered the lowest plots for nearly a week retreated from the _____ inspected the soil, comparing newly exposed roots with nearby deposits to identify areas where erosion had been most severe.

A. fields, farmers

B. fields; farmers

C. fields: farmers

D. fields. Farmers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

379

A core extracted from a lake bed contained layers that differed only slightly in appearance. Comparing samples collected from carefully measured _____ scientists identified a gradual shift in mineral content, suggesting that the water entering the lake had changed over time even though no single layer marked an abrupt transition.

A. depths. The

B. depths; the

C. depths: the

D. depths, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

380

The Limón technique, developed by Mexican-born dancer and choreographer Jose Limón, is known for its emphasis on breath control and its interplay of weight and _____ dancers may explore, for example, the moment of mid-air suspension at the top of a jump.

A. weightlessness

B. weightlessness which

C. weightlessness,

D. weightlessness;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

381

A reference in an old article mentioned a report whose title did not appear in the library's electronic records. Unable to find the document in the main _____ librarian searched handwritten indexes prepared before the collection was reorganized, eventually locating it under a subject heading that modern researchers would be unlikely to use.

A. catalog. The

B. catalog, the

C. catalog; the

D. catalog: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

382

Records of industrial work often emphasize output while saying little about the routines through which workers coordinated their tasks. Oral historian _____ interviewed retired shipyard employees, comparing their accounts of signals, informal training, and shared responsibilities with the more standardized descriptions preserved in official operating manuals.

A. : Maya Ellis

B. , Maya Ellis

C. Maya Ellis,

D. Maya Ellis

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

383

In 2008, two years after the death of science fiction writer Octavia Butler, the Huntington Library in _____ received a collection of more than 8,000 items, including Butler’s private notes, research materials, manuscripts, photos, and drawings. Today, the Octavia E. Butler Collection is one of the most researched archives at the library.

A. California,

B. California:

C. California—

D. California

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

384

Santa Clara Pueblo artist Roxanne Swentzell’s sculpture Mud Woman Rolls On consists of five human figures made of clay and plant fiber and arranged in descending size; each figure holds the smaller one in front of it. The arrangement of the figures, according to _____ represents her idea that “we all come from the Earth, generation after generation.”

A. Swentzell

B. Swentzell,

C. Swentzell:

D. Swentzell—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

385

A compact optical device used a series of surfaces to guide a signal through a confined space. The glass panel—a surface coated with a thin reflective _____ light toward the detector, enabling the instrument to fit inside a housing too small for the direct path used in an earlier prototype.

A. layer—directs

B. layer; directs

C. layer: directs

D. layer, directs

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

386

That the expansionist appetites of colonial European powers had their sights set on his country was evident to Siam’s King _____ deterring those ambitions through international diplomacy and domestic reform was perhaps his foremost achievement. Though his reign ended roughly twenty years before Siam became known by its modern name of Thailand, King Chulalongkorn is often credited with ushering the nation into modernity.

A. Chulalongkorn;

B. Chulalongkorn that

C. Chulalongkorn,

D. Chulalongkorn

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

387

A festival timetable initially allowed almost no interval between acts, although the performers used equipment of very different sizes. The revised schedule provides extra time between _____ stage crew can reposition larger objects safely, reducing the need to choose between beginning on time and completing essential checks before the next act.

A. performances; the

B. performances the

C. performances, the

D. performances; and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

388

After the United Kingdom began rolling out taxes equivalent to a few cents on single-use plastic grocery bags in 2011, plastic-bag consumption decreased by up to ninety _____ taxes are subject to what economists call the “rebound effect”: as the change became normalized, plastic-bag use started to creep back up.

A. percent, such

B. percent and such

C. percent. Such

D. percent such

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

389

Vegetation on two sides of a valley differed even though the soil developed from similar underlying rock. The southern slope—exposed to sunlight for most of the _____ fewer moisture-loving plants than the shaded slope, suggesting that small-scale differences in exposure influenced which species could persist within the same general climate.

A. afternoon—supported

B. afternoon: supported

C. afternoon, supported

D. afternoon; supported

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

390

A map is not simply a record of physical features; it also reflects decisions about what its users need to know. The difference between the detailed preliminary drawing and the simplified final printed _____ a decision to emphasize walking routes rather than the property boundaries that had dominated the earlier version.

A. map; reflects

B. map: reflects

C. map, reflects

D. map reflects

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

391

Appearance can offer a misleading guide to the strength of an object. The experimental shell looks fragile because of its thin _____ curved form distributes pressure across the surface, allowing it to support loads that a flat sheet of the same material and thickness would not withstand.

A. edges; however; its

B. edges; however, its

C. edges, however, its

D. edges however, its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

392

Repeated observations are useful only when the measuring equipment remains consistent from one trial to the next. Despite the apparent precision of the recorded values, the team rejected the first set of _____ the reference scale had shifted during the experiment, changing the relationship between each reading and the actual position of the sample.

A. measurements because:

B. measurements because

C. measurements. Because

D. measurements; because

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

393

Books carried on a ship can reveal how practical knowledge circulated among successive crews. A recovered vessel's inventory included a small library for the _____ of its volumes contained notes from earlier voyages, allowing later readers to compare printed instructions with observations recorded by people who had tested them at sea.

A. crew, some

B. crew, and, some

C. crew some

D. crew. Some

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

394

While conducting an interview for her book Latina Authors and Their Muses, editor Mayra Calvani asked Margo Candela, author of the young adult novel The Brenda Diaries, what _____ Candela's response was The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster.

A. was her favorite book!

B. was her favorite book?

C. her favorite book was.

D. her favorite book was?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

395

A sculptor wanted a work to appear substantial from one angle and almost transparent from another. Rather than combining materials with different colors, the artist chose one material for the entire _____ wire bent into overlapping loops, creating density through repeated lines while allowing light and the surrounding space to remain visible between them.

A. sculpture; thin

B. sculpture. Thin

C. sculpture: thin

D. sculpture thin

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

396

As the fourteenth US librarian of Congress, Carla Hayden has many responsibilities. These include overseeing the Library of Congress’s collections, which boast more than 162 million _____ the US Copyright Office, which registers copyright claims and advises Congress on copyright law; and appointing the US poet laureate.

A. items managing

B. items, managing

C. items; managing

D. items. Managing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

397

The Mesoamerican city of Teotihuacan featured a uniquely egalitarian urban housing infrastructure. Built between the first and seventh centuries CE, Teotihuacan housed its residents (as many as 200,000, by some _____ in a complex of comfortable apartments of comparable size.

A. estimates)

B. estimates),

C. estimates—

D. estimates

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

398

An earlier survey recorded no flowering plants on the ridge, where thin soil and strong winds appeared unfavorable. A later visit found one _____ its tiny white blossoms opened soon after rainfall, suggesting that the timing of the first survey had concealed a plant that remained present but inconspicuous for much of the year.

A. species; however;

B. species, however,

C. species however

D. species, however;

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

399

A tray of seeds from one plant contained considerable variation in size. The largest seed, almost twice the width of the smallest _____ the longest time to sprout, a result that challenged the assumption that the biggest visible specimen would necessarily produce the earliest growth under the same conditions.

A. one; took

B. one: took

C. one—took

D. one, took

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

400

Monitoring small movements in a model bridge required equipment that would not substantially increase its weight. The new sensor, a device designed to detect very small _____ attached to the underside of the frame, where it could record bending that remained invisible in photographs taken from the observation platform.

A. movements; was

B. movements—was

C. movements: was

D. movements, was

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

401

Angus Maddison’s The World Economy: Historical Statistics includes estimated total market values for the world’s largest economies dating back to 1 CE. This comprehensive resource was first published in _____ its release, gaps in historical records hindered researchers’ ability to analyze economic trends across centuries.

A. 2003. Revolutionizing the field of economic research before

B. 2003, revolutionizing the field of economic research. Before

C. 2003, revolutionizing the field of economic research before

D. 2003, revolutionizing the field of economic research, before

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

402

Shipping records can establish what passed through a harbor without explaining why merchants changed their routes. Seeking to connect movements of goods with commercial decisions, historian _____ compared official cargo lists with private letters, finding that the correspondence described uncertainties absent from the orderly columns of quantities and destinations.

A. : Elias Chen

B. Elias Chen,

C. , Elias Chen

D. Elias Chen

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

403

Two bridges connect different parts of a village to roads beyond the river. The _____ crosses the eastern branch remains closed while its wooden deck is replaced, requiring travelers headed in that direction to use the western crossing and follow a longer route along the opposite bank.

A. bridge: that

B. bridge, that

C. bridge that

D. bridge; that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

404

Many mechanical calculators were powered by a notched cylinder mechanism called the Leibniz wheel. Leibniz wheel calculators were popular in the first half of the twentieth _____ these ingenious devices were eventually replaced by electronic calculators.

A. century

B. century,

C. century, but

D. century that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

405

A community seed exchange allows gardeners to share varieties that are rarely sold commercially. Because packets bearing the same common name may contain plants with quite different growing requirements, the success of the exchange depends _____ records of where each batch originated and how its parent plants responded to local conditions.

A. on careful

B. on; careful

C. on: careful

D. on, careful

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

406

A translation may preserve the basic events of a story while changing its tone. To examine how this happens, students compared a recent translation of a travel narrative _____ version published nearly a century earlier, paying particular attention to passages in which the narrator describes people whose customs differ from his own.

A. with: a

B. with, a

C. with a

D. with; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

407

Official accounts of the fishing village describe its exports in detail but say little about meals prepared in ordinary households. The small collection of handwritten recipes that an archivist assembled from notebooks donated by local _____ a glimpse of how residents adapted imported ingredients to the foods available near the coast.

A. families; offers

B. families offers

C. families: offers

D. families, offers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

408

The field of geological oceanography owes much to American _____ Marie Tharp, a pioneering oceanographic cartographer whose detailed topographical maps of the ocean floor and its multiple rift valleys helped garner acceptance for the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift.

A. geologist,

B. geologist

C. geologist;

D. geologist:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

409

Industrial sites can develop new ecological roles after commercial activity ceases. The abandoned quarry—a deep hollow now partly filled with _____ plants rarely found in the surrounding woodland, creating a contrast that reflects differences in moisture and exposure rather than a simple return to the landscape that existed before excavation.

A. water—supports

B. water: supports

C. water, supports

D. water; supports

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

410

A series of unusually consistent results initially suggested that the measuring device was exceptionally reliable. To test whether consistency might instead reflect a fixed error, the researcher checked calibration before each _____ routine revealed a small drift that would have remained hidden if the team had compared only successive measurements with one another.

A. trial. This

B. trial, this

C. trial, and, this

D. trial this

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

411

Textile decoration can depend on the interaction between a material and the light in which it is viewed. The silver thread, which reflects light more strongly than the surrounding _____ the pattern visible from a distance, while details made with darker thread emerge only when viewers approach the surface more closely.

A. fabric; makes

B. fabric—makes

C. fabric: makes

D. fabric, makes

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

412

The curator displayed related works in two rooms with different levels of foot traffic. The _____ were placed in the entrance hall attracted more visitors than those in the smaller room, making it difficult to determine whether differences in attention reflected the works themselves or the places where people encountered them.

A. paintings: that

B. paintings, that

C. paintings; that

D. paintings that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

413

Two groups were asked to develop a support capable of holding an uneven load while using the same limited materials. The first approached the problem through _____ second began by listing possible solutions, producing contrasting records of how an idea moved from an initial suggestion to a form that could be tested.

A. diagrams the

B. diagrams; the

C. diagrams; and, the

D. diagrams, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

414

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) tracks comparative price list data for its thirty-eight member countries. For instance, in July 2021, a hypothetical basket of goods priced at 100 US dollars (USD) in the United States would have cost 62 USD and 110 USD in fellow OECD _____ and Luxembourg, respectively.

A. nations, Chile

B. nations; Chile

C. nations: Chile

D. nations Chile

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

415

A bias toward studying birds and mammals over fish was one of the many shortcomings researcher Sonia Llorente-Culebras and her team _____ analyzing nearly 400 biodiversity studies from around the globe.

A. discovered. While

B. discovered, while

C. discovered while

D. discovered: while

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

416

The first computerized spreadsheet, Dan Bricklin’s VisiCalc, improved financial recordkeeping not only by providing users with an easy means of adjusting data in spreadsheets but also by automatically updating all calculations that were dependent on these _____ to VisiCalc’s release, changing a paper spreadsheet often required redoing the entire sheet by hand, a process that could take days.

A. adjustments prior

B. adjustments, prior

C. adjustments. Prior

D. adjustments and prior

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

417

A story can alter the meaning of an earlier event by revealing information much later. The final scene—a conversation between characters who never meet earlier in the _____ how the audience interprets the opening, turning what first appeared to be a casual remark into evidence of an unspoken agreement.

A. play: changes

B. play—changes

C. play, changes

D. play; changes

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

418

A stream that once crossed an open field now passes beneath a road through a narrow _____ sometimes collects at the entrance, restricting flow in a location that is difficult to inspect from above and making the structure's maintenance more important than its modest appearance might suggest.

A. tunnel, debris

B. tunnel; debris

C. tunnel; and, debris

D. tunnel debris

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

419

A coastal habitat can change rapidly without any permanent alteration to its physical structure. Researchers collected observations during both high and low _____ at the site differed considerably between the two periods, affecting which organisms were visible and illustrating why a single visit could give an incomplete picture of the community.

A. tide, and, conditions

B. tide, conditions

C. tide. Conditions

D. tide conditions

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

420

The small ceramic object resembles vessels that were once used for preparing food, but its interior shows no traces of repeated heating. On the basis of its fragile construction and the elaborate imagery around its rim, the curator refers to it _____ ceremonial vessel rather than an everyday cooking pot.

A. as; a

B. as, a

C. as a

D. as: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

421

A winter garment need not contain an unusually large amount of material to provide effective insulation. The tiny pockets of air held between the loosely arranged fibers in the inner lining of the _____ the rate at which heat escapes, helping explain why compressing that lining can make the garment less effective.

A. coat reduce

B. coat: reduce

C. coat; reduce

D. coat, reduce

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

422

Using satellite remote sensing, Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, director of NASA’s Harvest Africa initiative, gathers important data on crop health. Nakalembe doesn’t just compile the _____ she also shares her findings with African farmers, enabling them to make data-driven decisions about managing critical food crops.

A. information, though;

B. information, though,

C. information; though

D. information though,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

423

Hegra is an archaeological site in present-day Saudi Arabia and was the second largest city of the Nabataean Kingdom (fourth century BCE to first century CE). Archaeologist Laila Nehmé recently traveled to Hegra to study its ancient _____ into the rocky outcrops of a vast desert, these burial chambers seem to blend seamlessly with nature.

A. tombs. Built

B. tombs, built

C. tombs and built

D. tombs built

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

424

Several travel diaries describe delays at a river, yet they rarely specify whether travelers waited for a ferry or for work on a bridge to finish. By comparing those accounts with toll records, a historian sought to establish when the village began using the new _____

A. crossing,

B. crossing?

C. crossing.

D. crossing;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

425

Several implements in an uncataloged collection resemble one another but were intended for different stages of woodworking. The _____ has a curved wooden handle belongs with the set used for carving shallow bowls, a classification supported by wear on its blade as well as by its overall form.

A. tool that

B. tool; that

C. tool: that

D. tool, that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

426

The first design for a public waiting area emphasized views of the garden but left visitors exposed during rain. The revised plan added _____ broad roof extending beyond the entrance, creating a sheltered zone without fully enclosing the space or blocking the paths that crossed it.

A. protection, however; a

B. protection; however, a

C. protection however a

D. protection, however: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

427

A chamber ensemble had little time to prepare after one of its members became unavailable. The second _____ had joined the group only a week earlier, played the unfamiliar passage confidently, using markings in a borrowed score to coordinate a sequence that the other players had rehearsed together many times.

A. violinist; who

B. violinist, who

C. violinist: who

D. violinist—who

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

428

Paint applied during successive renovations can conceal features that once helped people understand a building's purpose. Hidden beneath several layers of cream-colored _____ original sign remained almost completely intact, preserving not only the name of the former workshop but also an illustration of the tools associated with its trade.

A. paint, the

B. paint: the

C. paint; the

D. paint. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

429

Scala is referred to as a compiled programming language because it typically incorporates a compiler—a tool that translates lines of code into executable commands. Compiling isn’t exclusive to certain programming _____ any language can incorporate this tool.

A. languages. However,

B. languages; however,

C. languages, however,

D. languages, however;

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

430

For the past 20 million years, Earth’s magnetic poles in the far north and far south have remained roughly where they are today. This has not always been the _____ throughout geologic history, Earth’s magnetic poles have swapped places several times through a process called polar wandering.

A. case, though

B. case, though,

C. case; though,

D. case, though;

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

431

The novel's account of labor at the waterfront contains unusually detailed descriptions of tools, shift changes, and the sounds of repair work. Although the author never worked at the docks herself, she drew inspiration _____ told by relatives who had spent much of their lives repairing ships there.

A. from; stories

B. from stories

C. from, stories

D. from: stories

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

432

A history of the town stated that no witnesses had recorded the demolition of its old market hall. One description _____ brief entry in a private diary, which noted the sequence of work and the reaction of onlookers even though its writer had no apparent intention of producing a public historical account.

A. survived, though: a

B. survived; though, a

C. survived, though; a

D. survived though a

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

433

A public garden was redesigned to engage visitors through more than visual displays. One bed was reserved for plants with fragrant _____ can gently touch selected specimens during guided tours, comparing scents released by contact and learning why the same plant may seem almost odorless when observed from a distance.

A. leaves visitors

B. leaves, and, visitors

C. leaves. Visitors

D. leaves, visitors

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

434

The broken pottery recovered from a collapsed storeroom appeared at first to be an undifferentiated mass of reddish fragments. Before attempting to reconstruct any vessel, volunteers divided the pieces _____ groups based on thickness, surface color, and the direction of visible tool marks, making possible matches easier to identify.

A. into; several

B. into several

C. into: several

D. into, several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

435

According to the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, aloha ‘āina is “a recognition, commitment, and practice sustaining the ea—or life breath” between the Hawaiian people and their natural environments. The concept has been proudly embodied _____ Native Hawaiians for generations, contributing to the lush flora and renowned beauty of the islands.

A. by;

B. by:

C. by,

D. by

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

436

It is generally true that technological change is a linear process, in which once-useful technologies are replaced by new and better _____ the reawakening of interest in the steam engine (from advocates of carbon-neutral rail travel) reminds us that ostensibly obsolete technologies may be brought back into service to address society’s changing needs.

A. ones, even so;

B. ones even so,

C. ones; even so,

D. ones, even so,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

437

An installation used surfaces whose apparent colors varied with the direction of reflected light. The artist arranged the panels at slightly different _____ saw the colors change as they walked past, experiencing a sequence that could not be captured adequately in a single photograph taken from the center of the room.

A. angles. Visitors

B. angles, visitors

C. angles visitors

D. angles, and, visitors

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

438

Choreographers George Balanchine and Martha Graham both contributed sections to the dance piece Episodes, which premiered at New York’s City Center of Music and Drama in 1959. This cross-genre collaboration brought together the distinct features of Balanchine’s neoclassical ballet and Graham’s modern _____ the stylistic diversity and creative innovation within the dance world.

A. dance, it showcased

B. dance. Which showcased

C. dance, showcasing

D. dance. Showcasing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

439

The algaita is a double reed wind instrument from West Africa. The reed of a wind instrument is the mouthpiece _____ A double reed contains two pieces of cane that vibrate and produce sound as air passes between them.

A. where sound is made?

B. where is sound made.

C. where sound is made.

D. where is sound made?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

440

Repetition in a poem can change meaning when the surrounding language changes. In a work whose sections describe different stages of a journey, poet _____ used the same line at each transition, allowing a phrase that initially expressed confidence to acquire uncertainty as the speaker encountered unfamiliar places and conflicting accounts.

A. : Luca Sato

B. Luca Sato

C. Luca Sato,

D. , Luca Sato

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

441

A route that looks shorter on a map may not reduce the effort required to travel it. The newly marked trail shortened the distance between two _____ required crossing a steeper ridge, making it useful for some travelers while remaining less practical for those carrying heavy loads or moving slowly.

A. villages, but it

B. villages, but, it

C. villages but; it

D. villages but: it

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

442

Temperature fluctuations can affect the results of an experiment even when they are too small for a person to notice. If the temperature inside the chamber where the samples are stored rises above the selected _____ cooling system switches on automatically, bringing conditions back within the range specified by the research team.

A. limit; the

B. limit. The

C. limit: the

D. limit, the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

443

In her two major series “Memory Test” and “Autobiography,” painter Howardena Pindell explored themes _____ healing, self-discovery, and memory by cutting and sewing back together pieces of canvas and inserting personal artifacts, such as postcards, into some of the paintings.

A. of

B. of,

C. of—

D. of:

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

444

A proposed renovation had attracted strong support from both staff and residents, and the committee had already agreed on its main objectives. Nevertheless, members postponed their final _____ two important cost estimates had not yet arrived, making it impossible to compare the long-term expenses associated with the competing designs.

A. decision; because

B. decision because:

C. decision because

D. decision. Because

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

445

The setting changes repeatedly across the poem, yet one visual detail connects its otherwise separate scenes. The poet returns to the same _____ lighted window viewed from an empty street, allowing a familiar object to suggest welcome in one passage and exclusion in another without changing its basic physical description.

A. image. A

B. image a

C. image; a

D. image: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

446

The location of an observatory affects the quality of its measurements as much as some features of its instruments do. The new facility stands well above the surrounding _____ location reduces interference from streetlights, although researchers must still distinguish variations caused by atmospheric conditions from changes in the objects they observe.

A. towns its

B. towns, and, its

C. towns. Its

D. towns, its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

447

Repairing a bridge can interrupt activities well beyond the structure itself. Because the damaged components were beneath the vehicle lanes, the bridge remained open to walkers during the _____ crossed the river by a different route, increasing traffic through neighborhoods that had previously been bypassed by most travelers.

A. repairs vehicles

B. repairs. Vehicles

C. repairs, vehicles

D. repairs, and, vehicles

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

448

Robin Wall Kimmerer of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation is a bryologist, a plant scientist who specializes in mosses. To Kimmerer, mosses are Earth’s most adaptable plants: they can clone _____ enter a dormant state in times of drought, and grow in areas that don’t have soil.

A. themselves;

B. themselves,

C. themselves. And

D. themselves

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

449

A study of housing along a floodplain found that residents did not all respond to rising water in the same way. The _____ lived closest to the river developed movable storage systems, while those farther inland relied more heavily on raised thresholds and channels intended to divert brief periods of surface runoff.

A. families; who

B. families: who

C. families, who

D. families who

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

450

Machinists must account for multiple parameters—including material properties, cutting tool geometry, and machine capabilities—when setting up a machining project. Experienced _____ that tool speed and workpiece feed rate recommendations from manufacturer charts are only the first considerations, learn to balance these competing factors by adjusting their parameters based on specific variables, such as the cutting depth, desired surface finish and workpiece rigidity.

A. operators; have recognized

B. operators recognize

C. operators, recognizing

D. operators can recognize

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

451

Historical documents often contain spellings that differ from those used in modern records, and hurried handwriting can introduce further uncertainty. Before the volunteers began entering the handwritten shipping lists into a searchable _____ agreed on a common method for marking doubtful readings so that later researchers could distinguish transcription decisions from the original wording.

A. database. They

B. database; they

C. database, they

D. database: they

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

452

That Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales inspired imitators is evident from the existence of three near-contemporary “continuations” of the collection: The Siege of Thebes, which purports to be a new tale told during the pilgrims’ _____ The Tale of Beryn, which depicts the pilgrims as tourists; and The Ploughman’s Tale, which features a minor character from the original work.

A. return.

B. return

C. return;

D. return,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

453

The city of Delhi, India, first opened its rapid transit _____ in 2002.

A. system the Delhi Metro,

B. system, the Delhi Metro,

C. system: the Delhi Metro

D. system, the Delhi Metro

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

454

Emperor penguins don’t waddle out of the ocean. They launch themselves at such a high speed that they travel up to two meters before landing. How _____ A layer of microbubbles on their plumage reduces friction as the penguins speed to the surface.

A. they are able to move so fast!

B. are they able to move so fast.

C. they are able to move so fast.

D. are they able to move so fast?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

455

While light is known as one of the fastest-moving substances, it slows down when passing through some types of matter. One such type of matter is a form of cooled, condensed gas called a Bose-Einstein condensate _____ Dutch physicist Lene Hau famously used a BEC to slow a beam of light to a complete halt.

A. (BEC),

B. (BEC) and

C. (BEC);

D. (BEC)

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

456

Before constructing their final models, students practiced _____ and joining flat surfaces. Repeating these operations on inexpensive materials allowed them to distinguish problems caused by an unfamiliar technique from problems in the design itself, making later changes more deliberate than a series of guesses about what had gone wrong.

A. drawing curved lines, cutting straight edges,

B. drawing curved lines cutting straight edges,

C. drawing curved lines; cutting straight edges,

D. drawing curved lines, cutting straight edges:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

457

The delivery robot normally follows a route marked on the floor of the laboratory, where people and equipment frequently cross its path. Even when its destination is only a short distance away, the machine will stop _____ the sensor detects an obstacle, remaining still until the space in front of it is clear.

A. moving if

B. moving; if

C. moving if:

D. moving. If

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

458

Regional collections often include related objects that have never been displayed together. The new catalog, a project supported by several small _____ photographs of items held in private collections, making it possible to compare forms and decorative patterns without assuming that museum holdings alone represent everything that survives.

A. museums—includes

B. museums: includes

C. museums, includes

D. museums; includes

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

459

Conditions around a single building can vary enough to affect the choice of plants beside it. The western wall receives intense afternoon _____ eastern wall remains shaded by neighboring structures, making it difficult to use the same planting scheme on both sides without differences in watering and maintenance.

A. sunlight; however; the

B. sunlight; however, the

C. sunlight, however, the

D. sunlight however, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

460

Following the swing era of the 1930s, cool jazz emerged as yet another innovative style in jazz _____ larger ensembles than those of their predecessors, cool jazz composers like Chico Hamilton emphasized smooth melodies in their works.

A. music. Featuring

B. music, featuring

C. music, to feature

D. music to feature

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

461

In her book The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts, author Maxine Hong Kingston examines themes _____ childhood, womanhood, and Chinese American identity by intertwining autobiography and mythology.

A. of:

B. of

C. of—

D. of,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

462

A field station needed temporary accommodation on ground that became saturated during seasonal rains. Built on a platform supported by narrow posts driven into the wet _____ shelter stayed dry even when water collected beneath it, allowing the researchers to continue their observations without repeatedly moving equipment to a different location.

A. ground: the

B. ground. The

C. ground; the

D. ground, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

463

A movement designed for a broad performance area may create a different effect when transferred to a smaller space. Dancer _____ adapted a traditional step for a narrow stage, reducing the distance traveled while preserving the changes in weight and timing that made the movement recognizable to experienced viewers.

A. Rosa Vega

B. Rosa Vega,

C. : Rosa Vega

D. , Rosa Vega

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

464

With the development of new technologies that use natural resources more efficiently, the overall consumption of those resources might be expected to decrease. Economists have observed that improvements in efficiency often correlate negatively with resource _____ efficiency gains, lowering the cost of use, may increase demand to the extent that resource consumption ultimately rises.

A. conservation, though,

B. conservation; though

C. conservation, though;

D. conservation, though

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

465

Listeners usually encounter a composition in the order in which its sections are performed, but that order may differ from the sequence of its creation. One composer's sketches show the final movement preceding the opening _____ dated notebook reveals this unexpected sequence, challenging an account that treated the piece as a continuously developing draft.

A. section. A

B. section, and, a

C. section a

D. section, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

466

Dolores Huerta’s advocacy on behalf of farmworkers was rooted in her experience as a schoolteacher in Stockton, California, in the early 1950s. Hoping to help her students and their families outside the _____ Huerta left teaching to start the Stockton chapter of the Community Service Organization, a group focused on the needs of local farmworkers.

A. classroom.

B. classroom;

C. classroom,

D. classroom

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

467

A repair that stabilizes a book today may complicate future conservation if it cannot be reversed. With that possibility in mind, bookbinder _____ repaired a damaged spine using removable materials, preserving access to the original structure so that later specialists could examine or replace the intervention without sacrificing historic evidence.

A. Noah Kim,

B. , Noah Kim

C. Noah Kim

D. : Noah Kim

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

468

An unused lot became a productive space through an arrangement linking residents with a local food program. The community garden, maintained entirely by neighborhood _____ fresh herbs for a nearby kitchen, while the kitchen returns suitable plant waste to a composting area that supports the next season's planting.

A. volunteers: provides

B. volunteers; provides

C. volunteers—provides

D. volunteers, provides

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

469

Repairing a historic building involves more than matching the appearance of its original surface. The choice of materials that conservators use to fill gaps in the damaged section of the _____ how the structure responds to seasonal temperature changes, since materials that expand at different rates can place pressure on one another.

A. wall: affects

B. wall; affects

C. wall, affects

D. wall affects

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

470

Several sections of a riverside path looked undamaged after a storm, even where fast-moving water had removed soil beneath the paving. Before reopening the park, staff reminded visitors _____ portions of the route remained closed until engineers could determine whether the apparently intact surfaces still had adequate support.

A. that: some

B. that, some

C. that some

D. that; some

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

471

Individual references to wells appeared scattered throughout property records and household accounts. When those references were placed on a common map, they revealed a significant _____ concentration along the edge of an abandoned riverbed, suggesting that access to buried water had influenced settlement even after the surface channel disappeared.

A. pattern; a

B. pattern. A

C. pattern a

D. pattern: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

472

Individual satellite images can make the gradual expansion of woodland difficult to detect. A series of photographs taken from the same hill at intervals over several _____ how small patches of trees eventually joined together, transforming what had once been separate groves into an almost continuous belt of forest.

A. decades shows

B. decades: shows

C. decades; shows

D. decades, shows

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

473

A structure demolished before detailed documentation may survive in the memories of people who observed its construction. The surviving witness—a resident who watched the bridge being _____ the arrangement of its timber supports, supplying details that could be compared with faint outlines visible in an otherwise uninformative photograph.

A. built: described

B. built—described

C. built; described

D. built, described

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

474

An abandoned railway corridor separated two neighborhoods whose residents had few convenient ways to travel between them. After reviewing pedestrian counts and consulting businesses along the former line, city planners _____ proposal to convert the corridor into a public path while retaining several structures that documented its industrial history.

A. considered; a

B. considered: a

C. considered a

D. considered, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

475

Changes made for one purpose can have unintended effects on a building's interior. The west-facing window, which had been sealed during an earlier _____ reopened to admit afternoon light, reducing the need for electric lighting in a room whose unusually dark appearance had mistakenly been treated as an original architectural feature.

A. renovation: was

B. renovation, was

C. renovation—was

D. renovation; was

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

476

The hiking route usually stays well above traffic, passing through woodland and crossing several small streams on footbridges. Near a rocky outcrop that constricts the valley, however, the new path follows the old _____ the valley becomes too narrow for separate routes, returning to higher ground once the slopes become less steep.

A. road where:

B. road; where

C. road. Where

D. road where

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

477

A workshop converts bottles that would otherwise be discarded into decorative tiles. The process of sorting the glass by composition and melting it into molds designed for kitchen _____ careful control of both temperature and cooling time, because pieces that appear similar may respond differently when they are heated together.

A. walls, requires

B. walls requires

C. walls: requires

D. walls; requires

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

478

The route described in a travel account remained uncertain because several settlements shared similar names. An inscription on a recently cataloged object supplied the missing _____ name of a village farther upstream, allowing researchers to connect the account's references to a sequence of places that had previously seemed geographically inconsistent.

A. clue the

B. clue; the

C. clue. The

D. clue: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

479

A building's dedication can distinguish the person who financed it from those who designed or used it. The translated inscription—a short message carved above the _____ the donor, correcting an earlier interpretation that had treated the same name as evidence of the architect responsible for the structure's unusual form.

A. doorway; identifies

B. doorway, identifies

C. doorway—identifies

D. doorway: identifies

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

480

How a folktale begins depends largely on the language in which it _____ folktales told in the Korean language open with a phrase that roughly means "on an old day, in the old times." English-language folktales, on the other hand, often begin with "once upon a time."

A. originates. Many

B. originates, many

C. originates many

D. originates many,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

481

The date of a patent does not necessarily establish when an idea first appeared. The newly identified instrument—a portable device for measuring wind _____ in a drawing produced decades before the application, suggesting that its later legal recognition followed a longer period of experimentation or informal use.

A. speed: appears

B. speed—appears

C. speed; appears

D. speed, appears

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

482

A course on travel writing compared texts produced at different distances from the events they describe. Its reading list included a diary, written during a _____ report, prepared soon after the return; and a poem, composed years later, allowing students to consider how purpose and hindsight shaped accounts of related experiences.

A. voyage: a

B. voyage a

C. voyage; a

D. voyage, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

483

While one requires oxygen and one does _____ and anaerobic respiration are both forms of cellular respiration—that is, they are processes by which cells break down glucose to use as energy.

A. not aerobic

B. not. Aerobic

C. not, aerobic

D. not; aerobic

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

484

Eli Eisenberg, a genetics expert at Tel Aviv University in Israel, recently discovered that _____ have a special genetic ability called RNA editing that confers evolutionary advantages.

A. cephalopods, ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish

B. cephalopods—ocean dwellers—that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish,

C. cephalopods, ocean dwellers that include: the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish,

D. cephalopods—ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

485

During the decades-long movement to codify the rights of Latinos in the US, certain events were pivotal: the founding of social justice group the League of United Latin American Citizens in _____ Katzenbach v. Morgan court decision in 1966, which affirmed the rights of Latino voters, is another such event.

A. 1929. For one, the

B. 1929, for one, the

C. 1929 for one, the

D. 1929, for one. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

486

The earliest surviving recipe listed no ingredient capable of producing the mixture's characteristic red color. A later version named _____ powdered fruit supplied the color, although the amount specified was too small to contribute much flavor, clarifying a feature that earlier attempts to reconstruct the recipe had left unexplained.

A. one, however;

B. one; however;

C. one, however,

D. one however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

487

To estimate the distance traveled by a sound, a team compared recordings made by microphones placed at separate locations. The signal reached the more distant microphone slightly _____ time difference supplied information that its loudness alone could not provide, since obstacles between the source and each device also affected the recorded volume.

A. later, the

B. later the

C. later, and, the

D. later. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

488

Organizers wanted a festival to draw visitors through several parts of the town rather than concentrate activity in one square. The program included _____ and a dance performance in the park, creating a route that connected spaces normally associated with different forms of public gathering.

A. a concert in the square a reading in the library,

B. a concert in the square, a reading in the library,

C. a concert in the square; a reading in the library,

D. a concert in the square, a reading in the library:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

489

A standard Argo float, a type of autonomous robot, measures temperature and salinity in the upper regions of ice-free oceans. More advanced floats can measure a wider range of _____ and monitor seasonal ice zones.

A. variables: travel to greater depths

B. variables, travel to greater depths,

C. variables travel to greater depths,

D. variables, travel to greater depths;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

490

Where _____ Interestingly, it was invented by an author. It first appears in the novel Through the Looking Glass by English author Lewis Carroll.

A. did the word “chortle” come from.

B. the word “chortle” did come from?

C. did the word “chortle” come from?

D. the word “chortle” come from.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

491

The publication history of a book can reveal how its author responded to readers. Unlike the first edition, the second contains a much longer _____ author used this section to address questions raised in early reviews, clarifying several claims without rewriting the chapters in which those claims originally appeared.

A. introduction the

B. introduction. The

C. introduction, the

D. introduction, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

492

Rock layers on opposite sides of a valley were difficult to compare because afternoon shadows concealed much of one face. Taken from the sheltered side of the _____ photographs showed the exposed strata in more consistent light, allowing researchers to trace a thin band that appeared interrupted in earlier images.

A. valley. The

B. valley, the

C. valley; the

D. valley: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

493

Historical data become easier to search after transcription, but greater accessibility does not guarantee accuracy. Volunteers checked every number in a digitized _____ entries were corrected after comparison with the original page, demonstrating how a small reading error could otherwise become a widely repeated claim once the data were available online.

A. table, and, several

B. table several

C. table, several

D. table. Several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

494

Visitors entering a converted industrial building often mistook a staff corridor for the route into its exhibition space. A revised set of signs, tested with people unfamiliar with the layout, now shows visitors which door leads to the public _____

A. gallery,

B. gallery;

C. gallery?

D. gallery.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

495

Repairs changed the way an old instrument sounded without replacing its main body. It now has a distinctive _____ soft tone followed by a faint metallic echo, an effect the restorer traced to the interaction between the original material and a newly fitted component that vibrates after the initial note.

A. sound. A

B. sound; a

C. sound: a

D. sound a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

496

The first tour of a restored house remained entirely on the ground floor because the staircase required repairs. The revised route included another _____ recently reopened room above the entrance hall, allowing guides to discuss domestic activities that the formal spaces downstairs represented only indirectly.

A. stop, however; a

B. stop, however: a

C. stop however a

D. stop; however, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

497

Unexpected success can require verification just as unexpected failure does. The first trial satisfied every condition specified in the test _____ researchers repeated it using a separately prepared sample, checking whether the result reflected the proposed method rather than an unnoticed feature of the materials used on that occasion.

A. plan yet; the

B. plan yet: the

C. plan, yet the

D. plan, yet, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

498

A study led by scientist Rebecca Kirby at the University of Wisconsin–Madison found that black bears that eat human food before hibernation have increased levels of a rare carbon isotope, _____ due to the higher ^{13}C levels in corn and cane sugar. Bears with these elevated levels were also found to have much shorter hibernation periods on average.

A. carbon-13, (^{13}C)

B. carbon-13 (^{13}C)

C. carbon-13, (^{13}C),

D. carbon-13 (^{13}C),

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

499

The award recognized reporting that connected technical decisions with their consequences for everyday life. It honored a series of articles about local water _____ journalist had spent a year interviewing residents and engineers, using those conversations to explain why neighboring households could experience the same network so differently.

A. supplies, the

B. supplies. The

C. supplies the

D. supplies, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

500

A laboratory procedure required workers to document the position of each component before disconnecting any part of the apparatus. The final measurements of the distance between the light source and the detector _____ technicians switched off the equipment, leaving a record that would allow another team to reproduce the arrangement later.

A. recorded. The

B. recorded: the

C. recorded, the

D. recorded; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

501

In 2021, Mexican biologist Martha Lydia Macías-Rubalcava led a review of the scientific literature related to endophytic fungi (i.e., fungi that live inside a host _____ researching 120 endophytic fungi–produced compounds, she found that their phytotoxicity can make them viable alternatives to chemical herbicides for controlling weeds.

A. plant). By

B. plant), by

C. plant) and by

D. plant) by

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

502

The edges of a damaged manuscript were too fragile to withstand ordinary handling, yet several pages needed to be moved before repairs could begin. The conservation team protected those edges _____ them with a thin layer of removable paper, a temporary support that could be taken away after the underlying fibers were stabilized.

A. by covering

B. by; covering

C. by, covering

D. by: covering

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

503

Instructions for a craft procedure can prevent errors that are difficult to reverse once work begins. The revised manual emphasizes one _____ need to keep the cutting surface dry, since moisture can allow a sheet to move slightly under pressure even when its initial position appears secure and correctly aligned.

A. precaution; the

B. precaution: the

C. precaution. The

D. precaution the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

504

An anniversary program sought to reflect the reading interests of people who used the library rather than only the preferences of its staff. The public reading—a performance organized for the library _____ poems chosen by residents, placing widely known works alongside pieces whose significance emerged through the readers' explanations.

A. anniversary: included

B. anniversary, included

C. anniversary—included

D. anniversary; included

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

505

A sculpture that appeared stable in a drawing behaved differently when its parts were assembled in three dimensions. The sculptor checked the balance before casting the full design in _____ small adjustment to the base prevented the model from tipping, preserving the visual effect while changing the distribution of weight beneath the overhanging section.

A. metal a

B. metal, and, a

C. metal, a

D. metal. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

506

Written music does not capture every decision made during a performance. A recording of a composer's own ensemble preserves a brief pause before the final _____ printed score does not indicate this pause, leaving later performers to decide whether the recorded detail represents an essential feature or a choice made on that occasion.

A. note, the

B. note; the

C. note; and, the

D. note the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

507

Differences in appearance among related paintings may reflect their treatment after completion rather than their original design. The central panel—a work restored more recently than its _____ brighter because a discolored coating has been removed, complicating attempts to compare its present colors directly with those of the surrounding panels.

A. neighbors; appears

B. neighbors—appears

C. neighbors: appears

D. neighbors, appears

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

508

Refined safflower oil reaches its smoke point at around 510 degrees Fahrenheit. At this temperature, the substance cannot absorb any more heat _____ will begin to combust, emitting smoke.

A. energy, it

B. energy and

C. energy. And

D. energy it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

509

In her analysis of Edith Wharton’s The House of Mirth (1905), scholar Candace Waid observes that the novel depicts the upper classes of New York society as “consumed by the appetite of a soulless _____ an apt assessment given that The House of Mirth is set during the Gilded Age, a period marked by rapid industrialization, economic greed, and widening wealth disparities.

A. materialism”; and

B. materialism” and

C. materialism,”

D. materialism”

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

510

As a behavioral economist, Katy Milkman of the University of Pennsylvania recognizes that people sometimes make irrational economic decisions. Milkman’s research can thus address anomalies that neoclassical economic _____ assume that people are consistently rational decision-makers—cannot explain.

A. models—which

B. models, which

C. models which

D. models which—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

511

Humans were long thought to have begun occupying the Peruvian settlement of Machu Picchu between 1440 and 1450 CE. However, a team led by anthropologist Dr. Richard Burger used accelerator mass spectrometry to uncover evidence that it was occupied _____ 1420 CE, according to Burger, humans were likely inhabiting the area.

A. earlier. In

B. earlier, in

C. earlier, which in

D. earlier in

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

512

Collecting observations from a remote site required a system that could operate without daily visits. The monitoring station—a small hut powered by solar _____ temperature readings to the laboratory each hour, while storing a local copy in case weather or equipment problems interrupt the connection between the two locations.

A. panels: sends

B. panels—sends

C. panels; sends

D. panels, sends

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

513

A study of anonymous correspondence compares letter forms, recurring abbreviations, and patterns of word choice rather than relying only on references to shared events. Its final section considers what evidence supports attributing two letters from different collections to the same _____

A. person;

B. person,

C. person?

D. person.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

514

Footprints along a riverbank may change shape as wet sediment dries, making even familiar animals difficult to recognize. During a field workshop, students learned how to _____ tracks by comparing the spacing of successive impressions with the direction of travel, rather than relying exclusively on the outline of a single print.

A. identify, the

B. identify the

C. identify; the

D. identify: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

515

A research voyage had to prepare for routine work as well as delays that could extend the time between visits to port. The vessel carried several types of _____ food that could remain usable without refrigeration, fresh water for drinking and cleaning, spare rope for damaged fittings, and tools for repairs beyond the reach of shore-based assistance.

A. supplies. Dried

B. supplies; dried

C. supplies dried

D. supplies: dried

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

516

In 1955, Indian Bengali filmmaker Satyajit Ray released his first movie, Pather _____ quiet black-and-white drama about a family in rural India, Ray’s film was quite different from the loud, colorful action-romance movies that were popular at the time.

A. Panchali a

B. Panchali, which was a

C. Panchali, a

D. Panchali. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

517

A damaged window contained enough surviving glass to establish its main decorative scheme. Across the restored surface, the design repeatedly returns to one _____ six-pointed star assembled from colored pieces, with variations in the surrounding borders allowing the same basic figure to connect panels that are not otherwise identical.

A. shape: a

B. shape. A

C. shape; a

D. shape a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

518

A popular walking route passed close to a nesting site that visitors could not easily see. Drawing on observations made throughout the previous breeding season, park staff moved the path farther from the _____ the disturbance caused by groups who had previously stopped within a few meters of the hidden nests.

A. area; reducing

B. area, reducing

C. area. Reducing

D. area, reduced

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

519

By analyzing ice cores from Greenland and Antarctica, a research team at Sweden’s Lund University discovered evidence of a solar storm that occurred 9,200 years ago. Scientists had previously thought the Sun to be in a relatively “quiet” phase at that _____ the Lund team’s finding suggests otherwise.

A. time but

B. time, but

C. time,

D. time

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

520

A trail may look so different across the year that hikers fail to recognize places they have previously visited. To address this problem, a guidebook pairs photographs taken in different _____ can compare the bare winter slopes with dense summer vegetation, using permanent rock formations to identify features concealed by seasonal growth.

A. seasons readers

B. seasons. Readers

C. seasons, readers

D. seasons, and, readers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

521

The researchers reported a consistent difference between two groups of fragments, but they were careful not to treat the pattern as universal. Their experiment had one clear _____ small number of samples available for comparison, which made it difficult to determine whether the observed variation represented the full range within either group.

A. limitation: the

B. limitation; the

C. limitation the

D. limitation. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

522

The construction workshop selected materials that would require participants to adapt their methods. Students worked with clay, which could be shaped by _____ which required cutting tools; and wire, which could be bent into frames, comparing how a design changed when the properties of its material made one operation possible and another difficult.

A. hand; wood,

B. hand, wood,

C. hand wood,

D. hand: wood,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

523

The Arctic-Alpine Botanic Garden in Norway and the Jardim Botânico of Rio de Janeiro in Brazil are two of many botanical gardens around the world dedicated to growing diverse plant _____ fostering scientific research; and educating the public about plant conservation.

A. species, both native and nonnative,

B. species, both native and nonnative;

C. species; both native and nonnative,

D. species both native and nonnative,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

524

In 2017, artists Isabel and Ruben Toledo redesigned the costumes and sets for The Miami City Ballet’s production of The _____ to reviewers, the Toledos’ designs helped infuse the production with elements of Miami’s Latin American culture.

A. Nutcracker according,

B. Nutcracker, according

C. Nutcracker according

D. Nutcracker. According

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

525

The changing depth of water around a temporary platform affected when workers could reach its supports. The level fell steadily throughout the _____ on the posts showed how high it had been earlier, providing a reference that helped the team distinguish a normal daily cycle from a longer decline.

A. afternoon. Marks

B. afternoon, and, marks

C. afternoon marks

D. afternoon, marks

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

526

Named for the year in which it was detected by English astronomers, SN 2016aps was a supernova (the explosion of a massive _____ in the constellation Draco, 3.6 billion light-years from Earth, the transient yet powerful blast propelled particles and debris into space at extremely high speeds.

A. star). Occurring

B. star) occurring

C. star) and occurring

D. star), occurring

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

527

The Balkan nation of Bosnia and Herzegovina does not have one president but _____ as members of the office of the presidency, one representing the nation’s Bosniaks, one its Serbs, and one its Croats, these elected officials take turns serving as the office’s chairperson.

A. three, known

B. three. Known

C. three who are known

D. three, who are known

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

528

Seasonal markets often adapt existing public spaces rather than requiring permanent buildings. In one town, the market that occupied an open riverside street during summer moved to a covered square in _____ new location protected produce from rain while allowing sellers to continue using the same portable stalls throughout the year.

A. winter, the

B. winter the

C. winter, and, the

D. winter. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

529

A workshop for beginning woodworkers emphasized habits that would remain useful across different projects. Instead of organizing the course around the completion of one object, its instructor focused on three practical _____ accurately before changing a material, cutting safely with the appropriate support, and joining pieces securely without concealing weaknesses beneath a finished surface.

A. skills. Measuring

B. skills measuring

C. skills: measuring

D. skills; measuring

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

530

An oral-history interview produced several dates that appeared inconsistent with written records. Rather than immediately replacing the speaker's account with the documentary version, the researcher repeated the interview a month _____ second conversation clarified which events the speaker had combined, preserving useful testimony while resolving the apparent contradiction.

A. later; the

B. later the

C. later, the

D. later; and, the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

531

Many companies have simplified their products' packaging designs in recent years, but _____ Researcher Lan Anh Nu Ton and her colleagues designed a research study to find out.

A. consumers actually do prefer this simpler style.

B. do consumers actually prefer this simpler style?

C. do consumers actually prefer this simpler style.

D. consumers actually do prefer this simpler style?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

532

A procession used changes in sound to coordinate performers spread across a long route. The second performer, who carried a drum suspended from a shoulder _____ the rhythm, providing a cue that remained audible when turns in the street prevented those behind from seeing the dancers at the front.

A. strap: set

B. strap—set

C. strap; set

D. strap, set

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

533

Aerial photographs revealed a faint line that did not correspond to any path shown on current maps. Comparing those images with estate plans and written accounts of land use, the researcher asked why an older map showed a second route across the _____

A. hillside;

B. hillside?

C. hillside.

D. hillside,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

534

The redesign of a public garden considered ways of experiencing plants without relying entirely on sight. Several features were chosen for visitors with limited _____ of the plants can be recognized by scent or texture, allowing guided activities to explore differences that conventional displays often leave unmentioned.

A. vision; many

B. vision, many

C. vision many

D. vision; and, many

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

535

For thousands of years, humans have used domesticated goats (Capra hircus) to clear land of unwanted vegetation. When it comes to their diets, goats are notoriously _____ they will devour all kinds of shrubs and weeds, leaving virtually no part of any plant unconsumed.

A. indiscriminate and

B. indiscriminate,

C. indiscriminate

D. indiscriminate:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

536

The fabric of a building may record repairs that written accounts do not describe. The outer wall—a structure rebuilt several times over the _____ stones of noticeably different sizes, with abrupt changes in their arrangement marking sections where later workers joined new material to portions that remained intact.

A. centuries; contains

B. centuries, contains

C. centuries: contains

D. centuries—contains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

537

How do scientists determine what foods were eaten by extinct hominins such as Neanderthals? In the past, researchers were limited to studying the marks found on the fossilized teeth of skeletons, but in 2017 a team led by Laura Weyrich of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA tried something _____ the DNA found in Neanderthals' fossilized dental plaque.

A. new: sequencing

B. new; sequencing

C. new, sequencing:

D. new. Sequencing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

538

After immigrating from Mexico and obtaining U.S. citizenship, Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo entered politics, earning a reputation for being a fervent defender of Hispanic civil rights. In 1919 Larrazolo was elected governor of _____ in 1928 he became the nation's first Hispanic U.S. Senator.

A. New Mexico and

B. New Mexico,

C. New Mexico, and

D. New Mexico

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

539

Excavators expected rooms in a hillside complex to share decorative features, but the evidence varied. The first _____ space carved directly into soft rock—contains no surviving traces of paint, leaving uncertain whether it had always been undecorated or whether conditions near the entrance caused its surface treatment to disappear.

A. chamber; a

B. chamber: a

C. chamber—a

D. chamber, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

540

It was long thought that maize was domesticated solely from parviglumis—a subspecies of teosinte, a wild grass—in Mexico's lowlands about 9,000 years ago. However, a 2024 analysis has revealed that between 15 and 25 percent of maize's genes can be traced to a second _____ highland subspecies of teosinte that was hybridized with maize around 4,000 years after the initial domestication.

A. ancestor; mexicana, a

B. ancestor: mexicana, a

C. ancestor mexicana a

D. ancestor, mexicana. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

541

Animals moving through urban areas encounter barriers and opportunities that differ from those in nearby undeveloped land. Wildlife biologist _____ tracked foxes along the city's edge, comparing their routes with gaps in fences and strips of vegetation that connected apparently isolated patches of habitat.

A. , Jonah Reed

B. Jonah Reed,

C. Jonah Reed

D. : Jonah Reed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

542

In discussing Mary Shelley’s 1818 epistolary novel Frankenstein, literary theorist Gayatri Spivak directs the reader’s attention to the character of Margaret Saville. As Spivak points out, Saville is not the protagonist of Shelley’s _____ as the recipient of the letters that frame the book’s narrative, she’s the “occasion” of it.

A. novel

B. novel,

C. novel; rather,

D. novel, rather,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

543

The names in a merchant's correspondence were often abbreviated, making it difficult to determine whether different letters referred to the same people. To resolve these uncertainties, the historian searched the town _____ the names with those in private letters, using occupations and street addresses to distinguish residents who shared a surname.

A. registers and compared

B. registers: and compared

C. registers; and compared

D. registers. And compared

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

544

Repairing a wooden viewing platform required a sequence of tasks that preserved support while damaged sections were taken away. Workers were responsible for _____ and sealing exposed joints, checking connections at each stage rather than assuming that a completed surface alone demonstrated the safety of the structure beneath it.

A. removing damaged boards, fitting new supports,

B. removing damaged boards fitting new supports,

C. removing damaged boards; fitting new supports,

D. removing damaged boards, fitting new supports:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

545

In 1976, the Inuit rock group Sikumiut recorded the album People of the Ice. Though only their first record, it shows a band already skilled at the difficult task of making music that sounds easy and fun. On songs like “Utirumavunga,” Lucassie Koperqualuk’s guitar riffs effortlessly _____ Charlie Adams’s delightfully catchy vocal melodies.

A. blend, with

B. blend. With

C. blend; with

D. blend with

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

546

Though they are in different countries, the towns of Entebbe, Uganda, and Booue, Gabon, _____ They are among the rare places that sit almost directly on the equator.

A. do have something in common?

B. do they have something in common

C. do they have something in common?

D. do have something in common.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

547

Ecologists wanted to distinguish the effects of grazing from those of seasonal weather. The experimental _____ fenced area protected from grazing animals—developed denser vegetation than nearby land, providing a comparison within the same climate while leaving researchers to consider whether the barrier also changed other local conditions.

A. plot; a

B. plot—a

C. plot: a

D. plot, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

548

Repair work sometimes combines parts whose individual histories are more varied than the finished object suggests. The rebuilt engine, a machine assembled from components of several damaged _____ its inspection on the first attempt, although the accompanying records carefully identified which parts had been retained, replaced, or adapted to fit.

A. units: passed

B. units, passed

C. units—passed

D. units; passed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

549

Faint marks on a damaged surface could not be recorded clearly under normal photographic conditions. The team used a long exposure to capture the _____ camera had to remain perfectly still, since even slight movement during the exposure would blur details that the extended collection of light was intended to reveal.

A. markings; and, the

B. markings; the

C. markings the

D. markings, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

550

That the geographic center of North America lay in the state of North Dakota was conceded by all _____ establishing its precise coordinates proved more divisive.

A. involved:

B. involved,

C. involved

D. involved;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

551

A landing place looked suitable for unloading equipment, and earlier photographs suggested that boats had approached it regularly. Yet the team still lacked one essential piece of _____ depth of the narrow channel beside the landing, without which the crew could not determine whether its more heavily loaded vessel could approach safely.

A. information: the

B. information. The

C. information the

D. information; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

552

Archaeologists expected the contents of a collapsed storeroom to have deteriorated after years of exposure. Instead, a layer of sand carried through a narrow opening had protected the floor of the storage _____ tools beneath that layer retained traces of their wooden handles, providing evidence that was missing from objects found nearby.

A. chamber several

B. chamber, and, several

C. chamber. Several

D. chamber, several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

553

Farm management sometimes requires attention to organisms that are not part of the crop itself. To provide food when few cultivated plants were flowering, a farmer planted a narrow strip beside the _____ flowers supported visiting insects during a gap in the crop cycle, connecting habitat management with the timing of agricultural work.

A. field. The

B. field, the

C. field, and, the

D. field the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

554

A dark surface can make a painting appear less varied than the artist intended. During conservation, the team removed a later coating that had discolored across the _____ bright details became visible, prompting a reassessment of relationships between figures that had previously seemed to merge into the background.

A. painting; several

B. painting several

C. painting, several

D. painting; and, several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

555

Though they are in different countries, the towns of Jamame, Somalia, and Nyahururu, Kenya, _____ They are among the rare places that sit almost directly on the equator.

A. do they have something in common.

B. do have something in common?

C. do they have something in common?

D. do have something in common.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

556

A rotating mechanism was moving too rapidly for observers to distinguish one complete turn from the next. The team painted a reference line on the _____ line made full rotations easier to count in a slow-motion recording, providing a measurement that could be compared with the speed indicated by the motor's control system.

A. wheel the

B. wheel. The

C. wheel, and, the

D. wheel, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

557

Pieces of translucent material can appear identical when examined separately but reveal differences when viewed together. Arranged in order of increasing _____ samples showed a steady change in color, helping the designer distinguish the effect of adding material from the effect of changing the pigment mixed into it.

A. thickness; the

B. thickness, the

C. thickness: the

D. thickness. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

558

Printed books sometimes preserve evidence of their readers' intentions as well as the text selected by their publishers. Searching shelves for an early edition of a frequently revised _____ student noticed a volume containing handwritten corrections, several of which anticipated changes that did not appear in print until much later.

A. poem, the

B. poem; the

C. poem: the

D. poem. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

559

Separating fragments before further analysis can make an otherwise laborious task much more efficient. A newly designed machine sorts pieces according to their _____ wider than the selected opening move into a separate tray, while narrower pieces continue along the belt toward a second stage that classifies them by surface color.

A. width, and, objects

B. width, objects

C. width. Objects

D. width objects

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

560

Successive rebuilding projects changed the level of a street leading into the historic district. The limestone arch, the oldest part of the surviving _____ several meters above the modern road, indicating that the entrance once belonged to a different ground level rather than to an unusually tall doorway of the present street.

A. gateway—stands

B. gateway, stands

C. gateway; stands

D. gateway: stands

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

561

Most letters in the collection concern routine business, and the catalog describes the correspondence entirely in commercial terms. One letter addresses a personal _____ its writer asks for news of a relative whose whereabouts are unknown, revealing a concern that cannot be reconstructed from the transactions summarized in the official description.

A. matter; however;

B. matter, however,

C. matter however

D. matter, however;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

562

Students comparing plants grown under different conditions needed more than a general impression that one group looked larger. They recorded _____ and the number of flowers on each plant, using the same procedure throughout the study so that changes in method would not be mistaken for changes in growth.

A. the shape of each leaf the length of each stem,

B. the shape of each leaf, the length of each stem,

C. the shape of each leaf; the length of each stem,

D. the shape of each leaf, the length of each stem:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

563

A field team needed to return from a site after rain had made several familiar crossings unusable. The landscape offered only one safe _____ narrow ridge above the flooded valley floor, requiring a slower journey but allowing the team to keep its equipment away from unstable banks and fast-moving water.

A. route. A

B. route: a

C. route; a

D. route a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

564

A musical work can connect its ending to its beginning without repeating an entire passage. In a composition built from contrasting movements, composer _____ based the final section on a melody first heard in the opening, changing its rhythm so that listeners encountered a familiar sequence of pitches in an unexpectedly energetic form.

A. Mateo Solis

B. , Mateo Solis

C. : Mateo Solis

D. Mateo Solis,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

565

Sociologist Alton Okinaka sits on the review board tasked with adding new sites to the Hawai‘i Register of Historic Places, which includes Pi‘ilanihale Heiau and the ‘Ōpaeka‘a Road Bridge. Okinaka doesn’t make such decisions _____ all historical designations must be approved by a group of nine other experts from the fields of architecture, archaeology, history, and Hawaiian culture.

A. single-handedly, however;

B. single-handedly; however,

C. single-handedly, however,

D. single-handedly however

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

566

Consider the mechanics of the pinhole camera: light passes through a small hole, resulting in a focused projected image. A ray diagram reveals how this _____ the hole’s small size restricts light to a single ray, all light passing through the hole can only arrive at a single destination, eliminating diffraction and ensuring a clear image.

A. works because

B. works. Because

C. works, it’s because

D. works: it’s because

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

567

The relationship between genomes and epigenomes reveals how cells with identical DNA develop different _____ whereas the genome in each cell contains a complete DNA sequence, the epigenome consists of chemical compounds that determine which traits in the sequence will be expressed.

A. functions

B. functions,

C. functions and,

D. functions:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

568

To investigate how severe weather affects a wetland community, ecologists installed recording devices at several points around a lake. A comparison of bird calls that the devices recorded during the weeks immediately before and after the _____ a change in the number of species using the area, even where the vegetation appears unchanged.

A. storm: reveals

B. storm; reveals

C. storm reveals

D. storm, reveals

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

569

An exhibition about navigation examined instruments that also supported other activities aboard a vessel. It featured a compass, used for _____ scale, used to weigh cargo before departure; and a clock, used to organize periods of watch, connecting travel with the routines that made a long journey manageable.

A. navigation, a

B. navigation: a

C. navigation; a

D. navigation a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

570

Journalists have dubbed Gil Scott-Heron the “godfather of rap,” a title that has appeared in hundreds of articles about him since the 1990s. Scott-Heron himself resisted the godfather _____ feeling that it didn’t encapsulate his devotion to the broader African American blues music tradition as well as “bluesologist,” the moniker he preferred.

A. nickname, however

B. nickname, however;

C. nickname, however,

D. nickname; however,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

571

To investigate whether concentration changed during preparation, the experiment involved _____ and recording its color. Performing the operations in a fixed order made it easier to compare successive trials, though the researchers also recorded the time between steps because delay could introduce another source of variation.

A. heating the liquid measuring its volume,

B. heating the liquid; measuring its volume,

C. heating the liquid, measuring its volume:

D. heating the liquid, measuring its volume,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

572

In 1986, conceptual artist Sophie Calle asked twenty-three people, all of whom had been born without sight, to describe “their image of beauty” in rich detail. Calle paired excerpts of these conversations with photographs—both of interviewees and the items they _____ to powerful effect in her exhibition The Blind.

A. described, from hair to grass to sculptures

B. described, from hair to grass to sculptures—

C. described—from hair to grass to sculptures,

D. described: from hair to grass to sculptures

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

573

An initial plan for a community garden devoted every available area to planting and circulation. The completed garden included _____ curved bench beneath the oldest tree, reflecting comments from residents who wanted a place to remain in the garden rather than merely pass through it on the way elsewhere.

A. seating; though, a

B. seating, though: a

C. seating, though; a

D. seating though a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

574

Readings from a sensor varied even when the measured conditions appeared stable. After checking the software and repeating the calibration, researchers identified a likely source of the _____ loose connection between the sensor and its recording unit, which sometimes interrupted the signal without causing the device to stop operating altogether.

A. error; a

B. error: a

C. error. A

D. error a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

575

A machine's enclosed housing protected its moving parts but made routine maintenance difficult. The revised design introduced a useful _____ removable panel that provided access to the motor, allowing technicians to inspect and adjust the mechanism without taking apart components whose alignment had to remain carefully controlled.

A. feature. A

B. feature a

C. feature; a

D. feature: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

576

Known for her massive photorealistic paintings of African American figures floating or swimming in pools, Calida Garcia _____ was the logical choice to design the book cover for Ta-Nehisi Coates’s The Water Dancer, a novel about an African American man who can travel great distances through water.

A. Rawles—

B. Rawles:

C. Rawles,

D. Rawles

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

577

A study followed the same group of plants through an entire growing season. The cabinet contained seeds, collected in _____ collected during summer growth; and fruit, collected in autumn, keeping evidence from successive stages available for comparison rather than treating each visit as a separate investigation with unrelated samples.

A. spring; leaves,

B. spring leaves,

C. spring: leaves,

D. spring, leaves,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

578

An old drawing portrays a building with two levels, although the surviving walls seem to enclose only one. Rather than assuming the image recorded a completed structure, the survey examined whether beam sockets and changes in masonry supported the existence of a second _____

A. floor?

B. floor.

C. floor,

D. floor;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

579

Photographs of growing plants can be misleading if differences in camera position alter their apparent size. Throughout the study, the researcher kept the lens at a fixed height above the _____ images whose scale remained consistent even as leaves extended beyond the boundaries they had occupied during earlier visits.

A. ground, producing

B. ground; producing

C. ground. Producing

D. ground, produced

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

580

A map flattened for exhibition appeared to have been made as a single sheet rather than as a portable object. The restorer traced faint pressure marks and areas of worn fiber along the _____ original fold lines that showed how the map had once fitted inside a small case carried by travelers.

A. paper; revealing

B. paper, revealing

C. paper. Revealing

D. paper, revealed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

581

Beatrix Potter is perhaps best known for writing and illustrating children’s books such as The Tale of Peter Rabbit (1902), but she also dedicated herself to mycology, the study of _____ more than 350 paintings of the fungal species she observed in nature and submitting her research on spore germination to the Linnean Society of London.

A. fungi; producing

B. fungi. Producing

C. fungi producing

D. fungi, producing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

582

Scholars long assumed that the final paragraph of a travel narrative was a later addition because the earliest available copies omitted it. Those copies end before that _____ newly discovered manuscript includes it, raising the possibility that the familiar shorter version reflects a loss during copying rather than the author's original conclusion.

A. paragraph, nevertheless, a

B. paragraph; nevertheless; a

C. paragraph; nevertheless, a

D. paragraph nevertheless, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

583

A storage inventory initially gave priority to the largest containers, which appeared most likely to hold significant objects. The smaller containers at the back of the _____ the most valuable samples, demonstrating that the amount of space occupied by a collection was a poor guide to the importance of the evidence it preserved.

A. storeroom: however, held

B. storeroom; however, held

C. storeroom, however; held

D. storeroom, however, held

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

584

Within Earth’s biomes, there are four main types of desert: arid, semiarid, coastal, and cold. The roughly _____ is classified as an arid desert.

A. 200,000 km² Puntland Desert,

B. 200,000 km², Puntland Desert

C. 200,000 km² Puntland Desert

D. 200,000 km², Puntland Desert,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

585

”Coalition” is the term for a group of male lions, and across the Greater Kruger National Park in South Africa, many coalitions vie for territory. Between 2006 and 2012, the lions of the Mapogo _____ including Kinky Tail, Mr. T, and Makhulu—thrived within a part of the park called the Sabi Sands.

A. coalition—

B. coalition,

C. coalition

D. coalition;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

586

A collection of correspondence arrived at a library without the labels that had once identified its contents. The papers had been packed into several unmarked _____ spent months establishing dates through references to public events, gradually reconstructing a sequence that could not be recovered from the physical order of the documents.

A. boxes, volunteers

B. boxes. Volunteers

C. boxes volunteers

D. boxes, and, volunteers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

587

After the printing press was introduced in 1440, handwritten manuscripts from Europe’s medieval period were often destroyed and the paper used for other purposes. In one instance, pages _____ a collection of Norse tales dating to 1270 were discovered lining a bishop’s miter (hat).

A. from:

B. from,

C. from

D. from—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

588

On March 23, 2021, a gust of wind wreaked havoc on global trade. Ever Given, an international shipping container vessel, became lodged in Egypt’s Suez Canal, a major shipping route between Europe and Asia. The vessel took six days to _____ it’s as heavy as two thousand blue whales when fully loaded.

A. dislodge in part due to its sheer size,

B. dislodge, in part due to its sheer size:

C. dislodge, in part due to its sheer size,

D. dislodge, in part, due to its sheer size

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

589

Repairing a wooden hull requires distinguishing joints that merely look worn from those that can no longer carry a load. Guided by an experienced _____ apprentices learned to recognize weakened connections by comparing the movement of adjacent timbers, developing skills that photographs of the same joints had not adequately conveyed.

A. boatbuilder, the

B. boatbuilder; the

C. boatbuilder: the

D. boatbuilder. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

590

Comparing measurements made on successive days requires a stable reference that observers can locate repeatedly. The survey team returned to the same marker each _____ a fixed starting point reduced variation caused by small differences in setup, allowing the remaining changes to be examined as possible evidence of movement in the surrounding ground.

A. morning, using

B. morning. Using

C. morning, and, using

D. morning using

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

591

An artwork's setting can change after its main form has already been decided. The sculptor initially intended to display the piece in an enclosed _____ finished work was installed in an open courtyard, where changing sunlight emphasized surfaces that had been relatively inconspicuous under the steady lighting of the studio.

A. room, but, the

B. room, but the

C. room but; the

D. room but: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

592

An archive's transfer involved materials with different needs for support and protection. After the bound volumes and loose papers had been removed, the final box held the most delicate _____ group of thin glass photographic plates, each of which preserved an image on a surface vulnerable to both breakage and abrasion.

A. material: a

B. material. A

C. material a

D. material; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

593

On sunny days, dark rooftops absorb solar energy and convert it to unwanted heat, raising the surrounding air _____ a light-colored covering to an existing dark roof, either by attaching prefabricated reflective sheets or spraying on a paint-like coating, helps combat this effect.

A. temperature; by adding

B. temperature, adding

C. temperature. Adding

D. temperature by adding

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

594

Visitors examining a reconstructed monument often focus on the size of its stones rather than the sequence of operations used to position them. Using a small model to demonstrate changes in support and leverage, the guide described how workers could move a heavy stone without modern _____

A. equipment,

B. equipment;

C. equipment?

D. equipment.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

595

A documentation project required clear responsibility for decisions that might otherwise be made inconsistently. The team assigned three roles: organizer, held by _____ held by Tomas and responsible for written observations; and photographer, held by Noor, ensuring that the notes and images collected at separate locations could later be connected reliably.

A. Rina: recorder,

B. Rina recorder,

C. Rina, recorder,

D. Rina; recorder,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

596

A machine assembled correctly can still fail to operate as intended if its adjustable parts are poorly aligned. The instructions described the order of assembly in considerable _____ did not explain how to set the tension afterward, leaving users with a complete structure but no clear method for preparing it for use.

A. detail but: they

B. detail, but, they

C. detail but; they

D. detail, but they

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

597

Latin America is known to have dozens, if not hundreds, of popular dance forms. Only five of these dances are included in international ballroom dance _____ rumba, samba, cha-cha-cha, paso doble, and jive—the last of which is grouped with the other Latin dances despite not having Latin roots.

A. competitions, however:

B. competitions, however,

C. competitions, however;

D. competitions; however,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

598

The 1977 play And the Soul Shall Dance depicts two Japanese American farming families in Depression-era Southern California. Critics have noted the way pioneering _____ compares the experiences of issei (Japanese nationals who emigrated to America) and nisei (their American-born children).

A. playwright, Wakako Yamauchi,

B. playwright, Wakako Yamauchi

C. playwright Wakako Yamauchi,

D. playwright Wakako Yamauchi

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

599

A field instrument can gain one advantage while losing another. The smaller device requires less _____ cannot collect measurements as frequently as the larger model, making it useful for extended monitoring but less suitable for observations in which brief changes matter more than the overall length of the recording period.

A. electricity; however; it

B. electricity however, it

C. electricity; however, it

D. electricity, however, it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

600

Testing a mechanism does not always require using the materials intended for its final construction. The first prototype—a model made from inexpensive cardboard and _____ the students examine how the parts moved, revealing a problem with the geometry before they invested time in producing more durable components.

A. wire; helped

B. wire—helped

C. wire: helped

D. wire, helped

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

601

A performance designed for a circular room used the building itself to shape the audience's experience. Musicians entered through doors at different points around the _____ movement made the music seem to arrive from every direction, an effect that depended as much on the performers' positions as on the notes they played.

A. hall. Their

B. hall, their

C. hall, and, their

D. hall their

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

602

Many specimens in a teaching collection still carried paper tags that had become discolored and difficult to read. The old labels carefully _____ volunteers attached new tags printed on acid-free paper, copying the original information without silently correcting spellings that might help future researchers trace the history of individual specimens.

A. removed: the

B. removed; the

C. removed, the

D. removed. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

603

Detroit natives Timothy Paule and Nicole Lindsey have combined their two passions, Detroit and beekeeping, to improve the health of their city’s flowers and other vegetation. In 2017, the couple converted a vacant lot in the city into an _____ in the years that followed they acquired nine additional lots and established more than 35 hives.

A. apiary,

B. apiary, and

C. apiary and

D. apiary

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

604

The 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to three pioneers in the field of click chemistry: two-time Nobel laureate Barry Sharpless, who coined the term “click chemistry” in 1998; Carolyn Bertozzi, founder of the Bertozzi Group at _____ and Morten Meldal, a professor at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

A. Stanford

B. Stanford,

C. Stanford:

D. Stanford;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

605

Butterfly is a 1988 painting by the Japanese artist Ay-O. Like many of Ay-O's paintings, Butterfly, which portrays a swimmer performing the butterfly stroke, attempts to make use of the entire visual light _____ sporting rainbow-striped goggles, the rainbow-hued swimmer splashes through a wavy rainbow of water.

A. spectrum

B. spectrum:

C. spectrum while

D. spectrum, while

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

606

A touring group discovered that the space available at one venue differed substantially from the stage on which it had rehearsed. The performers faced an unusual _____ platform too narrow for their normal movements, requiring them to preserve the timing and relationships of the choreography while changing the distances between successive positions.

A. challenge; a

B. challenge. A

C. challenge: a

D. challenge a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

607

In his Naturalis historia, Pliny the Elder praised Hipparchus's star catalog, a second-century BCE list of roughly 850 different stars' celestial positions. For centuries, scholars dreamed about locating a copy of this legendary lost _____ fantasy (partially) became reality in 2022, when researchers uncovered traces of the star catalog on a palimpsest, a reused parchment.

A. work, that

B. work that

C. work. That

D. work and that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

608

Archivists often preserve materials that appear secondary to the documents they accompany. One collection keeps envelopes with their _____ sometimes supply dates absent from the enclosed pages, helping researchers establish the order of a correspondence even when its writers omitted dates or referred vaguely to events mentioned in earlier messages.

A. letters. Postmarks

B. letters, and, postmarks

C. letters, postmarks

D. letters postmarks

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

609

Researchers examining two fragments from the same excavation initially assumed that both had received the same treatment. The samples appeared identical under ordinary room _____ special lamp revealed differences in their coatings, showing that similarities visible to the unaided eye did not necessarily indicate a shared history of conservation.

A. lighting, yet a

B. lighting, yet, a

C. lighting yet; a

D. lighting yet: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

610

In the 1950s, novel audio technologies allowed the addition of another instrument to jazz and swing _____ relatively quiet instrument, its full range of sound was finally audible alongside the blaring brass instruments of the time, allowing flautists like Bennie Maupin and Bobbi Humphrey to perform with other jazz greats.

A. music, the flute, a

B. music. The flute, a

C. music; the flute, a

D. music: the flute. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

611

In ancient Greece, an Epicurean was a follower of Epicurus, a philosopher whose beliefs revolved around the pursuit of pleasure. Epicurus defined pleasure as “the absence of pain in the body and of trouble in the _____ that all life’s virtues derived from this absence.

A. soul,” positing

B. soul”: positing

C. soul”; positing

D. soul.” Positing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

612

Comparing recordings can reveal decisions that a finished score does not document. The first recording, made while the musicians were still _____ a version of the ending that was later abandoned, giving scholars evidence of an intermediate stage between the composer's preliminary sketch and the arrangement used at the public performance.

A. rehearsing, preserves

B. rehearsing: preserves

C. rehearsing; preserves

D. rehearsing—preserves

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

613

A travel narrative may devote unequal attention to journeys that lasted similar lengths of time. One manuscript describes the outward _____ says almost nothing about the return, a contrast that may reflect the writer's changing priorities rather than the relative difficulty or duration of the two stages.

A. journey, but it

B. journey, but, it

C. journey but; it

D. journey but: it

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

614

A study published by Rice University geoscientist Ming Tang in 2019 offers a new explanation for the origin of Earth’s _____ structures called arcs, towering ridges that form when a dense oceanic plate subducts under a less dense continental plate, melts in the mantle below, and then rises and bursts through the continental crust above.

A. continents geological

B. continents: geological

C. continents; geological

D. continents. Geological

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

615

The main doorway of a historic house was moved when a street was widened, leaving its earlier position uncertain. Although surviving plans show several proposed layouts rather than the completed building, do photographs taken before the alteration reveal where the original entrance was _____

A. located;

B. located,

C. located.

D. located?

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

616

Researcher Lin Zhi developed a process for increasing the tensile strength—measured in gigapascals, or GPa—of silkworm _____ dissolving and reweaving the silk in a solution of iron metal ions, zinc, and sugar, Zhi increased the amount of force required to stretch it from approximately 0.5 GPa to 2 GPa.

A. silk, by

B. silk by

C. silk and by

D. silk. By

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

617

A historical recipe instructs cooks to leave a mixture undisturbed but gives little explanation for the delay. The recipe calls for the mixture to rest before _____ pause allows dry ingredients to absorb liquid more evenly, changing the mixture's texture without requiring an additional ingredient or a different method of combining its components.

A. baking this

B. baking, and, this

C. baking. This

D. baking, this

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

618

A cutting tool broke during ordinary use, although the operator had applied no unusual pressure. The technician examined the fractured end under _____ a small region of earlier damage that suggested a crack had gradually spread before the final break made the weakness visible to someone using the tool.

A. magnification; identifying

B. magnification. Identifying

C. magnification, identified

D. magnification, identifying

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

619

Some trees in a restored woodland grew rapidly, while others of the same species remained small. To distinguish the effects of competition from those of soil conditions, the study examined the relationship _____ amount of shade reaching each sapling and its growth during the period before the surrounding vegetation became fully established.

A. between, the

B. between: the

C. between the

D. between; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

620

Transporting delicate measuring devices required protection from changes that might affect their calibration. The insulated box—a container designed for fragile _____ the contents at a nearly constant temperature, reducing the amount of adjustment needed after arrival while leaving the team responsible for checking alignment before beginning new measurements.

A. instruments; kept

B. instruments: kept

C. instruments—kept

D. instruments, kept

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

621

In 2018, the innovative works of Congolese sculptor and architect Bodys Isek _____ were featured in City Dreams, a solo exhibition at New York’s Museum of Modern Art.

A. Kingelez;

B. Kingelez,

C. Kingelez

D. Kingelez:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

622

Changes in a region's population can leave traces in maps even after buildings disappear. A survey map preserves the names of several abandoned _____ names do not appear on modern road signs, but references in household records suggest that some remained in local use long after official maps stopped including them.

A. settlements those

B. settlements. Those

C. settlements, and, those

D. settlements, those

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

623

A basket recovered from a dry storage chamber appeared rigid until a conservator examined the way its components overlapped. Made from thin strips of flexible _____ vessel could expand slightly when filled, a feature that allowed it to accommodate irregularly shaped produce while retaining a relatively narrow opening at the top.

A. wood; the

B. wood, the

C. wood: the

D. wood. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

624

Accounts of the same journey can differ in details that reveal how texts were copied and adapted. The newly translated passage, a description of travel across the _____ a settlement absent from the other versions, prompting researchers to consider whether later copyists omitted a stop that had become unfamiliar to their readers.

A. desert, mentions

B. desert; mentions

C. desert—mentions

D. desert: mentions

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

625

For nearly nine years, Swedish runner Gunder Hägg held the world record for the mile, a record that stood at 4:01.4 until it was broken in 1954 by an English medical _____ who ran the first sub-four-minute mile.

A. student, Roger Bannister

B. student Roger Bannister

C. student Roger Bannister,

D. student, Roger Bannister,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

626

Jetties—long, narrow structures that extend from a landmass into the water—are often constructed to protect coastlines from erosion. Jetties can sometimes have the opposite _____ obstructing the natural flow of sand along the shore can lead to increased erosion in some areas.

A. effect, though;

B. effect, though

C. effect; though

D. effect, though,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

627

A discussion of environmental history required expertise that no single discipline could provide. The panel included Asha, a _____ a geologist whose work concerned sediment layers; and Mei, a historian specializing in land records, bringing evidence about living plants, past landscapes, and human decisions into the same conversation.

A. botanist; Luis,

B. botanist Luis,

C. botanist: Luis,

D. botanist, Luis,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

628

In the novel Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe, Okonkwo is a leader of Umuofia (a fictional Nigerian clan) and takes pride in his culture’s traditions. However, when the arrival of European missionaries brings changes to Umuofia, the novel asks a central question: How _____

A. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected.

B. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected.

C. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected?

D. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

629

The life spans of rockfish vary greatly by species. For instance, the colorful calico rockfish (Sebastes dallii) can survive for a little over a _____ the rougheye rockfish (Sebastes aleutianus) boasts a maximum life span of about two centuries.

A. decade: while

B. decade. While

C. decade; while

D. decade, while

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

630

A play gradually reveals that its central character has concealed important information from her companions. The opening scene presents the traveler as an experienced _____ following scene shows that she has never visited the region, encouraging the audience to reinterpret confident statements that had initially seemed to establish her reliability.

A. guide, but the

B. guide but; the

C. guide, but, the

D. guide but: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

631

New Mexico governor _____ the first woman to serve in that role in the state's history—took office on January 1, 2011.

A. Susana Martinez:

B. Susana Martinez

C. Susana Martinez,

D. Susana Martinez—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

632

Quantum particles of light—photons—provide an unhackable means of transmitting encryption keys over networks, as attempts to observe particles in quantum states will invariably alter the particles _____ dismantle any information they transmit.

A. and in the process,

B. and, in the process,

C. and in the process—

D. and, in the process

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

633

The first prototype used separate mechanisms for actions that occurred in sequence, leading observers to expect that a revised design would add still more components. The second version of the _____ fewer moving parts, combining those actions through a shared linkage whose geometry made several earlier connections unnecessary.

A. model; however, required

B. model, however, required

C. model: however, required

D. model, however; required

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

634

Residents had heard about plans for a new park but lacked a clear sense of how the proposal would affect nearby streets. The local newspaper therefore printed a drawing of the proposed _____ could comment before construction began, responding to visible features rather than trying to interpret technical descriptions alone.

A. park; and, residents

B. park; residents

C. park residents

D. park, residents

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

635

Researchers comparing plants on a hillside wanted to distinguish differences associated with location from differences between species. The _____ grow beside the stream have broader leaves than members of the same species farther upslope, suggesting that the contrast cannot be explained simply by the presence of different kinds of plants.

A. plants; that

B. plants, that

C. plants: that

D. plants that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

636

Readers often treat the ending printed in modern anthologies as the only form in which a poem circulated. The oldest surviving copy of the _____ a different conclusion, suggesting that a passage now regarded as essential to the work's meaning may reflect a later revision rather than its earliest recorded state.

A. poem, however; contains

B. poem, however, contains

C. poem: however, contains

D. poem; however, contains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

637

The fine, powdery substance that covers the Moon’s surface is called regolith. Because regolith is both readily available and high in oxygen _____ scientists have wondered whether it could be used as a potential source of oxygen for future lunar settlements.

A. content and

B. content,

C. content

D. content, and

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

638

Most instruments displayed in the gallery were made from imported materials that reflected long-distance commercial connections. One used local _____ small flute carved from a fallen branch, drawing attention to a form of manufacture that could leave little evidence in records concerned primarily with purchases and trade.

A. wood, however; a

B. wood; however, a

C. wood, however: a

D. wood however a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

639

A scientific report can be difficult to evaluate when proposed causes are presented as though they were directly observed. In its final version, the report separated measurements from suggested _____ could therefore identify which statements described recorded events and which depended on interpretations that further experiments might support or overturn.

A. explanations, readers

B. explanations readers

C. explanations, and, readers

D. explanations. Readers

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

640

An early railway proposal survives as a map with several overlapping annotations. The red line, which marks the route selected by the original _____ at the edge of the steepest slope, while a later pencil line continues beyond it, recording a revision that may have depended on a different approach to construction.

A. surveyors: ends

B. surveyors—ends

C. surveyors; ends

D. surveyors, ends

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

641

Cy Twombly, a US painter and sculptor, created many large-scale abstract works, such as his 10-painting series Fifty Days at Iliam. In these works, Twombly’s artistic style is exemplified by his use of graffiti-like _____ often incorporate words or phrases from poetry and mythology.

A. scribbles: that

B. scribbles that

C. scribbles; that

D. scribbles. That

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

642

Two unsigned letters refer to the same event but use different spellings and were found in separate collections. Their shared subject therefore cannot by itself establish common authorship. What additional evidence supports the claim that both letters were written by the same _____

A. person;

B. person,

C. person.

D. person?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

643

Researchers designed a cooling experiment to isolate the effect of a container's shape. Each trial began with identical amounts of liquid at the same temperature in every _____ the shape of the vessels varied, allowing differences in cooling rate to be compared without also having to account for unequal starting conditions.

A. container, and, only

B. container. Only

C. container, only

D. container only

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

644

An early recording contained the only known performance of a song that had disappeared from the local repertoire. Since the original disc was too damaged to play _____ specialists used detailed images of its grooves to reconstruct the sequence of vibrations, producing an approximation of sounds that ordinary playback equipment could no longer recover.

A. safely; the

B. safely: the

C. safely. The

D. safely, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

645

Museum labels reflect the information available when they are written, not necessarily everything that will eventually be known about an object. A replacement label gives the date of the _____ older label records only the location, preserving evidence of an earlier stage in the effort to establish the object's history.

A. excavation an

B. excavation; an

C. excavation; and, an

D. excavation, an

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

646

Over twenty years ago, in a landmark experiment in the psychology of choice, professor Sheena Iyengar set up a jam-tasting booth at a grocery store. The number of jams available for tasting _____ some shoppers had twenty-four different options, others only six. Interestingly, the shoppers with fewer jams to choose from purchased more jam.

A. varied:

B. varied,

C. varied, while

D. varied while

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

647

Nigerian author Buchi Emecheta’s celebrated literary oeuvre includes The Joys of Motherhood, a novel about the changing roles of women in 1950s _____ a television play about the private struggles of a newlywed couple in Nigeria; and Head Above Water, her autobiography.

A. Lagos, A Kind of Marriage,

B. Lagos; A Kind of Marriage,

C. Lagos, A Kind of Marriage:

D. Lagos; A Kind of Marriage

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

648

The part of a compound that determines the compound’s color is _____ the chromophore. One example of a chromophore is hemoglobin, which gives human blood its red color.

A. called,

B. called

C. called—

D. called;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

649

A group of ecologists led by Axel Mithöfer at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology in Germany examined the defensive responses of two varieties of the sweet potato _____ TN57, which is known for its insect resistance, and TN66, which is much more susceptible to pests.

A. plant.

B. plant;

C. plant

D. plant:

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

650

The Kaiparowits Formation is a fossil-rich layer of sedimentary rock in the Grand Staircase, a colossal sequence of rock layers stretching from Utah’s Bryce Canyon to Arizona’s Grand Canyon. The sandstones and mudstones of the Kaiparowits Formation were deposited _____ the Late Cretaceous, preserving many species from that time.

A. during:

B. during;

C. during,

D. during

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

651

Detecting change in the sky requires careful comparison with conditions that can themselves vary between observations. Astronomer _____ examined repeated images of a faint region, using nearby objects of stable brightness as references to distinguish possible changes in the target from differences caused by the atmosphere or the instrument.

A. : Lina Costa

B. Lina Costa,

C. Lina Costa

D. , Lina Costa

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

652

The carved decoration above a doorway was almost entirely lost when part of the building collapsed. Working from photographs taken while the surrounding structure was still intact and before the entrance was _____ restorers recreated the pattern, distinguishing the newly made sections from surviving fragments with marks visible only at close range.

A. damaged: the

B. damaged. The

C. damaged; the

D. damaged, the

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

653

The final session in a recording project involved several attempts at a passage whose rhythm had troubled the ensemble. The recording at last _____ musicians packed their instruments, leaving the engineer to compare the different takes and identify any sections in which background noise interfered with the quietest parts of the performance.

A. complete, the

B. complete; the

C. complete. The

D. complete: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

654

Travelers complained that isolated bright spots made the spaces between platform lights difficult to see. The replacement lamps were positioned at regular intervals along the _____ an even level of illumination that kept signs legible without increasing the amount of electricity used by the system as a whole.

A. platform; providing

B. platform. Providing

C. platform, provided

D. platform, providing

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

655

In 2018, a team of researchers led by Dr. Caitlin Whalen compiled every available measurement of ocean mixing rates from the past two decades. With this novel data set, the team was able to determine how current-driven mixing varies across _____ and what impact it has on the distribution of heat and nutrients in the ocean.

A. regions,

B. regions:

C. regions;

D. regions

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

656

A town archive occupied a building close to a river whose level rose sharply during seasonal storms. Located beyond the reach of ordinary _____ storage room protected the records through several periods of heavy rain, although staff continued to monitor moisture because high humidity could damage paper even without direct contact with water.

A. floodwater; the

B. floodwater: the

C. floodwater, the

D. floodwater. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

657

Plans made during several renovations disagreed about how people originally entered a historic building. A gap uncovered behind later masonry answered a long-standing _____ location of the first entrance, revealing a route that connected rooms in an order quite different from the path followed by visitors today.

A. question; the

B. question the

C. question: the

D. question. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

658

An exhibition of classroom projects showed how lightweight materials could represent more substantial structures. Its models included a bridge, built from strips of _____ tower, assembled from metal rods; and a boat, shaped from folded paper, emphasizing the relationship between arrangement and stability rather than the resemblance of each material to its full-sized counterpart.

A. wood, a

B. wood: a

C. wood; a

D. wood a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

659

The manuscript's paper and binding suggest a single period of production, but its writing is less uniform. Several passages inserted between the original lines appear in a second _____ additions may have been made by a later owner, complicating efforts to treat every statement in the volume as evidence of its first author's intentions.

A. handwriting, those

B. handwriting, and, those

C. handwriting. Those

D. handwriting those

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

660

Adapting a theatrical work for a traveling company requires decisions about more than the size of its scenery. The original production, with its extended musical passages and numerous scene changes, lasted nearly three _____ touring version omitted two scenes, creating a different pace without changing the order of the central events.

A. hours, the

B. hours, and, the

C. hours the

D. hours. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

661

A proposed roof would protect a courtyard from rain but might also reduce the light reaching nearby windows. Watching the shadows shift across the _____ architect studied a scale model under a movable lamp, comparing several roof shapes before deciding which design offered shelter without leaving the interior rooms unnecessarily dark.

A. courtyard; the

B. courtyard, the

C. courtyard: the

D. courtyard. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

662

As water in oceans, lakes, and rivers is heated by the Sun, it turns into water vapor and rises into the atmosphere, where it cools and forms clouds before falling back to Earth as rain or _____ process is called the water cycle.

A. snow this

B. snow? This

C. snow, this

D. snow. This

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

663

Differences in building materials can help identify phases of construction that written records do not mention. The outer layer of a wall contains unusually small _____ blocks form the foundation below it, suggesting that a later rebuilding project retained part of an earlier structure rather than replacing the wall entirely.

A. stones, larger

B. stones. Larger

C. stones larger

D. stones, and, larger

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

664

An archive received a box labeled only with the name of a building scheduled for demolition. Beneath routine correspondence, the newly opened box contained a surprising _____ miniature bridge model made from folded paper, whose arrangement of supports differed from both the surviving structure and the design shown in the official construction drawings.

A. object: a

B. object. A

C. object; a

D. object a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

665

Visitors to a design exhibition could easily mistake an unsuccessful prototype for a poorly made final product. To make the development process clear, the curator divided the exhibition into three _____ experiments that tested uncertain ideas, working models that demonstrated selected mechanisms, and finished designs that incorporated results from the earlier stages.

A. sections. Early

B. sections early

C. sections: early

D. sections; early

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

666

During the late nineteenth century, agricultural chemist George Washington Carver revolutionized farming practices in the American _____ promoting systematic crop rotation techniques that replenished essential nitrogen in depleted soils.

A. South, by

B. South by

C. South; by

D. South: by

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

667

The book examines why similar settlements developed different approaches to managing a limited water supply. Its first chapter introduces the central _____ chapters explore records from individual regions, showing how local institutions shaped decisions that might otherwise appear to be direct responses to climate alone.

A. question. Later

B. question, later

C. question later

D. question, and, later

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

668

Metal fragments recovered from several rooms may have belonged to objects made at different times. Yet the remarkable consistency of the shallow marks left along the edges of the recovered metal _____ that a single type of tool was used, providing a possible connection among objects whose original purposes remain uncertain.

A. pieces; suggests

B. pieces suggests

C. pieces, suggests

D. pieces: suggests

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

669

The audience for a poem may change substantially without any alteration to its wording. The poem first appeared in a small regional _____ reached a wider readership after its inclusion in an anthology, where its placement beside works from other regions encouraged critics to interpret its local references in a broader context.

A. newspaper it

B. newspaper, and, it

C. newspaper, it

D. newspaper. It

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

670

A proposed redesign of neighborhood walking routes relied on residents' experiences as well as traffic counts. The survey asked about _____ and the improvements they wanted, enabling planners to compare visible patterns of movement with concerns that might not be apparent to an observer visiting the area only briefly.

A. the paths they used, the places they avoided,

B. the paths they used the places they avoided,

C. the paths they used; the places they avoided,

D. the paths they used, the places they avoided:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

671

A bias toward studying diversity at a local rather than a continental scale was one of the many shortcomings researcher Sonia Llorente-Culebras and her team _____ analyzing nearly 400 biodiversity studies from around the globe.

A. discovered: while

B. discovered, while

C. discovered while

D. discovered. While

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

672

In 1959, the film industry debuted Smell-O-Vision. Theaters were fitted with specialized vents that emitted odors at specific points in a _____ as the scent of roses when roses appeared in a scene. Smell-O-Vision failed to impress, however, with one reviewer declaring it “briefly weird and not very interesting.”

A. movie such

B. movie; such

C. movie. Such

D. movie, such

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

673

An unfamiliar rhythmic pattern caused singers to lose their place whenever the tempo increased. The choir therefore practiced the passage at a slower _____ the pattern became comfortable, the conductor gradually increased the tempo while preserving the relationships between the beats, allowing the ensemble to reach performance speed without changing the phrasing.

A. speed, once

B. speed once

C. speed. Once

D. speed, and, once

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

674

An archive expanded through gifts whose significance reflected the interests of individual residents. The catalog lists Omar, a former _____ a retired musician who preserved performance programs; and Priya, a business owner who donated commercial records, illustrating how a public collection can emerge from private habits of keeping apparently ordinary documents.

A. teacher; Elena,

B. teacher, Elena,

C. teacher: Elena,

D. teacher Elena,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

675

Chondrites are stony meteorites that are undifferentiated—that is, their contents have not melted and separated into distinct layers. They are hardly _____ many chondrites experience aqueous alteration as a result of exposure to fluids, as well as fracturing, veining, and localized melting due to collisions with other objects.

A. pristine, though

B. pristine, though;

C. pristine; though

D. pristine, though,

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

676

Restoring a building to an earlier appearance requires evidence that distinguishes original features from later changes. The earliest sketch, which shows the structure without its subsequent _____ a useful guide, particularly where the present walls conceal openings that the drawing represents as entrances to rooms no longer accessible from outside.

A. additions, provides

B. additions; provides

C. additions—provides

D. additions: provides

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

677

Museum staff wanted to demonstrate an unusually large drum without placing unnecessary strain on its aging frame. Carefully balanced on a low wooden _____ instrument could be played without a supporting strap, while removable cushions prevented the stand from pressing directly against areas that had weakened during years of storage.

A. stand. The

B. stand, the

C. stand; the

D. stand: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

678

After a period of intense rainfall, residents expected water to collect beside a recently restored marsh. Instead, a network of shallow channels that branch around raised patches of vegetation throughout the _____ excess rainwater toward the river, allowing the surrounding ground to drain without the construction of additional concrete outlets.

A. wetland; carries

B. wetland: carries

C. wetland carries

D. wetland, carries

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

679

Aerial images can reveal the outlines of buried structures while concealing smaller features. The first photographs suggested a continuous _____ examination of the site revealed narrow openings near its base, changing the interpretation from a barrier intended to exclude movement to a structure that may have directed it.

A. wall but; closer

B. wall, but, closer

C. wall but: closer

D. wall, but closer

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

680

Several containers in a storage room held liquids whose labels had become unreadable. The _____ held the darkest solution was placed in a separate tray for further inspection, distinguishing it from the lighter samples without assuming that color alone could establish either its composition or the purpose for which it had been prepared.

A. container, that

B. container that

C. container; that

D. container: that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

681

While constructing the Limyra Bridge, ancient Roman builders relied on temporary wooden beams to support the stone and brick structure. These temporary supports, a construction system known as _____ were removed when the bridge was completed.

A. falsework;

B. falsework

C. falsework,

D. falsework:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

682

With some 16,000 in attendance, the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and _____ or FESTAC ‘77, as the event was more commonly known—became the largest pan-African event on record. FESTAC drew people from around the world to Lagos, Nigeria, for a monthlong celebration of Black and African art, scholarship, and activism.

A. Culture:

B. Culture—

C. Culture,

D. Culture

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

683

A committee evaluating a renovation could not rely on a single kind of evidence. Its members reviewed _____ and estimates from builders, comparing personal accounts of how the building was used with technical assessments of its condition and projections of the costs associated with different repair methods.

A. letters from residents notes from inspectors,

B. letters from residents; notes from inspectors,

C. letters from residents, notes from inspectors,

D. letters from residents, notes from inspectors:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

684

A study showed that a solar park caused nearby land to cool, though the ecological impact of this temperature decrease isn’t yet known. Before the park’s construction, the surface temperature 30 meters outside of the park boundary was 0.1°C cooler than that of a control _____ construction, the temperature 30 meters outside of the boundary was 1.7°C cooler than that of the control area.

A. area after

B. area after,

C. area. After

D. area, after

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

685

To humans, it does not appear that the golden orb-weaver spider uses camouflage to capture its _____ the brightly colored arachnid seems to wait conspicuously in the center of its large circular web for insects to approach. Researcher Po Peng of the University of Melbourne has explained that the spider’s distinctive coloration may in fact be part of its appeal.

A. prey, rather,

B. prey rather,

C. prey, rather;

D. prey; rather,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

686

Philosopher Peter Kivy was a leading figure in musical _____ evidenced by his belief that instead of evoking particular emotions, such as sadness or joy, compositions elicit a listener’s emotional response to the structure and artistry of the music itself, Kivy’s approach to the study of music was decidedly formalist.

A. aesthetics as

B. aesthetics and as

C. aesthetics, as

D. aesthetics. As

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

687

Entering the harbor required boats to follow a narrow channel that shifted as sediment accumulated near the river mouth. Painted in contrasting colors visible from a great _____ marker helped sailors identify the current approach, even when the shoreline behind it was partly obscured by haze or difficult lighting.

A. distance, the

B. distance. The

C. distance: the

D. distance; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

688

The transparent panel protected the display from rain but developed cracks when strong winds caused its frame to twist. Rather than making the frame heavier, engineers replaced the panel _____ lighter material that could bend slightly under pressure, preserving visibility while reducing the likelihood of similar damage during future storms.

A. with a

B. with, a

C. with; a

D. with: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

689

Residents supported improvements to the public square but disagreed about how much space should remain available for informal gatherings. Taking account of comments collected at meetings and through written submissions, the committee reviewed the proposed _____ a revised plan to the neighborhood council, retaining a larger open area than the original design had provided.

A. changes and sent

B. changes: and sent

C. changes. And sent

D. changes; and sent

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

690

Wildlife observers tried to watch a family of foxes without entering the open space near its den. Looking through a narrow gap beneath a damaged rail in the _____ children recorded the young animals' movements, discovering that periods of energetic play alternated with much longer intervals in which the foxes remained out of sight.

A. fence, the

B. fence. The

C. fence; the

D. fence: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

691

A climbing plant appeared in scattered patches along a river, leaving uncertain whether its distribution reflected movement by water or repeated planting by people. To distinguish between these possibilities, botanist _____ mapped the patches and compared their locations with flood deposits, abandoned gardens, and stretches of bank that had remained largely undisturbed.

A. Leila Rahman

B. Leila Rahman,

C. , Leila Rahman

D. : Leila Rahman

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

692

Nigerian American artist Toyin Ojih Odutola uses black-ink pens to create highly detailed drawings of human figures. Her portrait of novelist Zadie _____ is displayed in the National Portrait Gallery in London.

A. Smith:

B. Smith—

C. Smith

D. Smith,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

693

A temporary platform had to remain usable while river levels changed during the survey season. The wooden structure, supported by posts driven deep into the _____ level through the spring floods, although movable steps connecting it to the bank needed frequent adjustment as the distance to dry ground changed.

A. riverbed: remained

B. riverbed; remained

C. riverbed, remained

D. riverbed—remained

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

694

Installing the final span of a pedestrian bridge required coordination between workers on opposite banks of a stream. When the section that would connect the two unfinished approaches was lowered into _____ workers checked that both ends rested securely on their supports before releasing the cables that had held it above the water.

A. place; the

B. place, the

C. place: the

D. place. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

695

A shallow depression remained dry during most visits to a grassland study site. The pond that formed _____ temporary body of water supplied by winter rain, supports several species of breeding insects, showing why surveys restricted to the dry season could overlook a significant part of the local community.

A. there; a

B. there: a

C. there, a

D. there—a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

696

The play ends before the audience learns whether a message reaches its intended recipient. Rather than resolving the disagreement that drove the action, the final scene leaves a troubling _____ misunderstanding that none of the characters can correct, since each is acting on information that the others do not know is incomplete.

A. possibility: a

B. possibility a

C. possibility. A

D. possibility; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

697

Collecting rainfall from a roof can influence the form of a building as well as the operation of its garden. For a small public pavilion, architect _____ designed sloping surfaces that directed water toward planted channels, making a normally hidden drainage process visible to visitors moving between the covered and open spaces.

A. Nora Okafor,

B. : Nora Okafor

C. , Nora Okafor

D. Nora Okafor

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

698

Accounts from neighboring settlements mention a wooden bridge, but they disagree about when it replaced the ferry that previously carried travelers across the river. If the construction records describe repairs rather than initial installation, when did the village actually begin using the new _____

A. crossing.

B. crossing,

C. crossing?

D. crossing;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

699

A local history project relied on resources distributed across several organizations. It involved the library, which stored the _____ museum, which supplied objects associated with the same period; and the school, which organized volunteers, linking written records with material evidence and the work needed to document both consistently.

A. documents; the

B. documents: the

C. documents, the

D. documents the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

700

At eight paragraphs long, the preamble to the constitution of _____ country in Western Asia—is much longer than the one-paragraph preamble to the United States Constitution.

A. Bahrain—a

B. Bahrain, a

C. Bahrain a

D. Bahrain: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

701

For decades, the small building beside the railway housed workers responsible for maintaining the nearby tracks. After its restoration, the structure now serves _____ meeting place for musicians and local historians, bringing together groups whose activities help preserve different aspects of the community's cultural life.

A. as: a

B. as, a

C. as; a

D. as a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

702

A museum planned to move large objects into rooms that had never been used for public display. Before the rearrangement could proceed, the plan depended on one practical _____ safer way to transfer heavy pieces between floors, since the existing staircase was too narrow for several objects that the new exhibition was intended to include.

A. improvement a

B. improvement: a

C. improvement; a

D. improvement. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

703

A local collection developed through informal contributions rather than a planned program of acquisition. The village archive, a project begun by a retired _____ photographs donated by families across the district, including views of ordinary streets that professional photographers rarely selected for the postcards and illustrated histories now more widely available.

A. teacher; contains

B. teacher: contains

C. teacher, contains

D. teacher—contains

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

704

On November 2, 1772, amid rising tensions with Great Britain, Boston colonists formed the Boston Committee of Correspondence. By 1774, what had started as a local means of mobilizing support for the Patriot cause had grown into something far more _____ network of such committees that, facilitating communication among the colonies, helped lay the groundwork for the Continental Congress.

A. extensive: a

B. extensive; a

C. extensive, it was a

D. extensive. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

705

Accounts of performances in an old theater mention effects that its surviving fixtures do not appear capable of producing. The building had no permanent stage _____ lamps were brought into position before each performance, suggesting that the absence of fixed equipment does not necessarily indicate an absence of elaborate lighting.

A. lighting portable

B. lighting, portable

C. lighting, and, portable

D. lighting. Portable

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

706

Restoring carved details required a material that could reproduce narrow grooves without breaking during shaping. The replacement was easier to work than the original _____ did not withstand outdoor conditions as well, forcing the team to weigh convenience during construction against the likely need for additional maintenance later.

A. stone but: it

B. stone, but, it

C. stone, but it

D. stone but; it

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

707

On April 12, 1985, the space shuttle Discovery blasted off into space, commencing Mission _____ six days and twenty-three hours, the mission ended when the shuttle landed at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

A. STS-51-D, it lasted

B. STS-51-D, lasting

C. STS-51-D lasting

D. STS-51-D. Lasting

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

708

Technologies such as microphones and inkjet printers are made using piezoelectric materials, which generate an internal electric field when pressure is applied to them. The toxic nature of some of these materials recently led a team from the University of Sheffield to investigate how _____

A. could their use be better regulated?

B. their use could be better regulated.

C. their use could be better regulated?

D. could their use be better regulated.

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

709

Azulejos, mosaics made of glazed ceramic tiles, can be found throughout Portugal. These mosaics beautify places such as _____ stations, and public squares.

A. libraries train

B. libraries: train

C. libraries—train

D. libraries, train

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

710

In their 2019 study of butterfly diversity at Rupa Lake in Nepal, researcher Hari Adhikari and his colleagues counted eight Paris peacock _____ to the Papilionidae family, the Paris peacock (Papilio paris) is known to be rare.

A. butterflies, belonging

B. butterflies. Belonging

C. butterflies and belonging

D. butterflies belonging

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

711

Technological change does not always lead to the immediate disappearance of older equipment. The old waterwheel, a structure assembled largely from local _____ operating after newer mills opened nearby, serving customers whose needs could still be met by a slower system with fewer specialized parts to replace.

A. timber—continued

B. timber; continued

C. timber, continued

D. timber: continued

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

712

An urban planting project transformed a narrow vacant lot into a small public garden. Surrounded by buildings considerably taller than its enclosing walls on three _____ garden received direct sunlight only around midday, prompting the designers to choose plants that could tolerate long periods of shade without losing their distinctive foliage.

A. sides, the

B. sides: the

C. sides; the

D. sides. The

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

713

Traditional boatbuilding depends on skills that are often passed from one generation to another through observation rather than written instructions. Filmed over the course of an entire winter, the documentary _____ group of apprentices as they learn to recognize damaged joints and select replacement timbers that will bend without splitting.

A. follows, a

B. follows: a

C. follows a

D. follows; a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

714

Before allowing visitors aboard the restored research vessel, the crew inspected equipment that had remained unused throughout the winter. Following procedures developed for spaces where a power failure could leave passengers in complete darkness, the crew tested the emergency _____ every battery that failed to maintain the required brightness for the full inspection period.

A. lights. And replaced

B. lights; and replaced

C. lights: and replaced

D. lights and replaced

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

715

A long-running observation project recorded both the arrival dates of seabirds and the locations of their nests. The birds returned to the island at the expected time of _____ selected higher ground farther inland, suggesting that consistency in migration timing did not guarantee consistency in their response to conditions at the breeding site.

A. year, but they

B. year but: they

C. year, but, they

D. year but; they

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

716

On a regional map, two streams begin so close together that their different destinations seem surprising. A narrow ridge separates their drainage _____ falling on opposite sides of this modest rise eventually reaches different rivers, showing that the height of a feature alone does not determine its importance to the surrounding water system.

A. areas, and, rain

B. areas, rain

C. areas. Rain

D. areas rain

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

717

A flat map shows the routes of streams but can make the surrounding slopes difficult to imagine. Students therefore built a watershed model from layers of _____ threads marked the main waterways, helping them explain how water falling in different parts of the model would move toward the same outlet.

A. cardboard colored

B. cardboard, and, colored

C. cardboard. Colored

D. cardboard, colored

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

718

Photographs without supporting information can be difficult to interpret even when their subjects are recognizable. For each image added to a community archive, volunteers recorded three details for every _____ date or estimated period, its location, and the name of its photographer, distinguishing documented facts from details supplied through later recollections.

A. photograph; its

B. photograph. Its

C. photograph: its

D. photograph its

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

719

Humor can be especially difficult to translate when it depends on an expression with several meanings. Two translators agreed about the event described in the final _____ chose different ways to reproduce its comic effect, one preserving a reference to the setting and the other emphasizing the narrator's mistaken interpretation.

A. sentence but: they

B. sentence but; they

C. sentence, but, they

D. sentence, but they

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

720

Fans of science fiction will _____ multiple references to classic sci-fi stories in Janelle Monáe’s song lyrics, including her recurring nods to the plot of the 1927 sci-fi film Metropolis.

A. appreciate the

B. appreciate. The

C. appreciate, the

D. appreciate: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

721

The movement of floating markers changed abruptly even though the water level remained steady. After comparing observations from nearby sites, the team favored the simplest _____ change in the direction of the prevailing wind, which could account for the markers' behavior without requiring an unobserved alteration in the channel beneath them.

A. explanation: a

B. explanation a

C. explanation; a

D. explanation. A

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

722

A museum activity asked visitors to match everyday objects with the processes used to make them. The instructions translated into several _____ museum could offer the activity to a broader audience, enabling participants to focus on the objects themselves rather than on unfamiliar words in the accompanying explanation.

A. languages, the

B. languages: the

C. languages. The

D. languages; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

723

Engineers normally expected the recording made during the public performance to be the best source for a published release. The version made during the _____ a clearer account of the spoken introduction, which was partly obscured at the concert by audience noise near the microphone used for the announcement.

A. rehearsal: however, captured

B. rehearsal, however, captured

C. rehearsal, however; captured

D. rehearsal; however, captured

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

724

A renovation can conceal the methods used to construct the building it aims to preserve. To retain evidence of earlier workmanship, the repair crew left one section of the original floor _____ exposed area shows how different materials were joined, allowing visitors to compare the historic construction with the new surface around it.

A. visible the

B. visible, the

C. visible. The

D. visible, and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

725

A traditional song remained popular even after its wording had changed through repeated performance. The melody was familiar to almost everyone in the _____ listeners recognized the older words used by the singer, creating an experience in which musical familiarity contrasted with uncertainty about parts of the text.

A. audience, but, few

B. audience, but few

C. audience but; few

D. audience but: few

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

726

Astronomers studying a faint cluster needed to distinguish its smallest visible members from the light of nearby objects. Equipped with a detector that collects light more efficiently than the earlier instrument, the new telescope is capable _____ objects that disappeared into the background of previous images, improving estimates of the cluster's size.

A. of; detecting

B. of detecting

C. of: detecting

D. of, detecting

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

727

A community program invited teachers and artists to develop activities together over several months. Rather than treating its success as the number of objects produced, the workshop pursued a simple _____ stronger connection between local artists and public schools, one that could support further projects after the initial series of meetings had ended.

A. goal. A

B. goal; a

C. goal a

D. goal: a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

728

A conceptual artist and designer embraced by both the art world and the fashion _____ Mary Ping was chosen to curate the exhibition Front Row: Chinese American Designers for the Museum of Chinese in America.

A. world

B. world:

C. world;

D. world,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

729

Preparations for a community festival required several groups to share a limited number of indoor spaces. The usual rehearsal room unavailable that _____ choir practiced in a library meeting room, adjusting the distance between singers after discovering that the smaller space made some voices much more prominent than others.

A. afternoon. The

B. afternoon: the

C. afternoon, the

D. afternoon; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

730

A recent study tracked the number of bee species present in twenty-seven New York apple orchards over a ten-year period. _____ found that when wild growth near an orchard was cleared, the number of different bee species visiting the orchard decreased.

A. Entomologist Heather Grab:

B. Entomologist, Heather Grab,

C. Entomologist Heather Grab

D. Entomologist Heather Grab,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

731

A city's familiar landmarks can disappear before anyone thinks to document them systematically. The oldest surviving photograph—a blurred view of the market _____ a fountain later removed during construction, providing the only known image of its position relative to buildings whose facades are still recognizable today.

A. square; shows

B. square, shows

C. square—shows

D. square: shows

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

732

A waterfront redevelopment preserved little of the machinery once used to move cargo between boats and warehouses. The old ferry landing is now part of a riverside _____ small sign describes how goods passed through the area, helping visitors connect an otherwise unremarkable stretch of paving with the district's commercial past.

A. park a

B. park. A

C. park, and, a

D. park, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

733

In her large-scale sculpture Casa-Isla, artist Edra Soto included references to her childhood in Puerto Rico. For example, the sculpture’s steel panels have a crisscrossing pattern inspired by the iron gates _____

A. Soto would see in her neighborhood?

B. Soto would see in her neighborhood.

C. would Soto see in her neighborhood.

D. would Soto see in her neighborhood?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

734

A study of neighborhood change combined evidence gathered at different intervals and through different methods. Researchers used photographs, taken at fixed _____ recorded each morning at selected locations; and interviews, conducted after the observation period, comparing visible changes with numerical patterns and accounts of how residents experienced them.

A. intervals: measurements,

B. intervals; measurements,

C. intervals measurements,

D. intervals, measurements,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

735

Most entries in the notebook listed distances without identifying the points from which they had been measured. The clue that ultimately allowed researchers to connect those measurements to a particular location _____ small sketch of the bridge viewed from the south bank, showing an arrangement of arches absent from later maps.

A. was a

B. was; a

C. was: a

D. was, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

736

An abandoned channel cuts across fields far from the river's present location. By comparing dated material from deposits inside the old channel with records of flooding downstream, researchers have established approximately when the river changed its _____

A. course.

B. course?

C. course,

D. course;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

737

The Lion Light system, developed by Kenyan inventor Richard Turere, consists of LED lights installed around the perimeter of livestock pastures. Powered with _____ the blinking LEDs keep lions away at night, thus protecting the livestock without risking harm to the endangered lions.

A. energy collected, by solar panels, during the day

B. energy collected by solar panels during the day

C. energy collected by solar panels during the day,

D. energy, collected by solar panels during the day,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

738

As cheesemaking practices spread throughout Europe and Asia during and after the Neolithic, divergent strategies for preserving milk _____ whereas rennet-coagulated cheesemaking became key to milk preservation in Europe and Southwest Asia, acid-heat coagulation methods became common among nomadic herding populations of the northeastern Eurasian steppe.

A. emerged

B. emerged and

C. emerged:

D. emerged,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

739

How a folktale begins depends largely on the language in which it _____ folktales told in the Pashto language open with a phrase that roughly means "there was this work that." English-language folktales, on the other hand, often begin with "once upon a time."

A. originates. Many

B. originates, many

C. originates many

D. originates many,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

740

The opening of a dance piece seemed irregular because the strongest accent did not coincide with the beginning of its recurring sequence. During rehearsal, the musicians discussed which note began the repeated _____

A. pattern.

B. pattern;

C. pattern?

D. pattern,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

741

A trail through the valley appears unnecessarily indirect on a map, repeatedly turning away from the shortest line between two settlements. During the walk, the guide explained _____ trail followed the shaded slope: the exposed opposite slope became difficult to cross during hot weather and offered almost no shelter from sudden storms.

A. why: the

B. why; the

C. why, the

D. why the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

742

Gardeners expected the plants nearest a masonry wall to flower first because the surface retained warmth after sunset. Those growing beside the most shaded section of the _____ flowers later, suggesting that reduced access to light outweighed the temperature advantage that had initially seemed most important.

A. wall; however, produced

B. wall: however, produced

C. wall, however, produced

D. wall, however; produced

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

743

About 70,000 meteorites have been found on Earth. Although most meteorites are fragments of _____ hundred have been identified as being from the Moon or Mars.

A. asteroids. Several

B. asteroids, several

C. asteroids; several

D. asteroids: several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

744

Replacing mature trees can leave an urban street exposed long before new planting provides comparable cover. The proposed scheme addresses this common _____ loss of shade when older trees must be removed, using staged replacement and temporary structures to maintain comfortable walking conditions during the years when the new trees remain small.

A. problem; the

B. problem. The

C. problem the

D. problem: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

745

Maps made before aerial photography often relied on observations taken from ships, whose crews could not approach every part of a coastline. Although the oldest chart in a recently cataloged collection omits several small offshore _____ accurately shows the shape of the mainland, including shallow bays that later mapmakers represented less precisely.

A. islands: it

B. islands, it

C. islands; it

D. islands. It

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

746

The pedagogy of the Suzuki method is rooted in several central _____ by Japanese violinist Shinichi Suzuki, who sought to parallel the linguistic learning environment, the method emphasizes playing instruments from a very young age and teaches students as young as three to play simple classical pieces such as “March in G.”

A. tenets. Developed

B. tenets developed

C. tenets that, developed

D. tenets, developed

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

747

Luci Tapahonso is the inaugural poet laureate of the Navajo Nation. Her book Sáanii Dahataal/The Women Are Singing—a combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and _____ serves as a testament to her versatility as a writer.

A. prose;

B. prose

C. prose,

D. prose—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

748

Polyphenols are organic compounds _____ among their many roles, provide pigment that helps protect plants against ultraviolet radiation from sunlight.

A. that—

B. that;

C. that,

D. that:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

749

A proposal to repair a public hall received broad support because the building served groups with few alternative meeting places. The committee supported the central aims of the _____ members questioned its timetable, pointing out that the sequence of repairs could close the hall during the period when it was used most heavily.

A. proposal but; several

B. proposal, but, several

C. proposal but: several

D. proposal, but several

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

750

An initial laboratory trial gave a value that later researchers could not reproduce. After comparing preparation notes from both procedures, the report explains how an unnoticed difference in the interval between mixing and measurement caused the second experiment to produce a different _____

A. result?

B. result;

C. result.

D. result,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

751

Conditions measured in a sheltered location may not represent those across a larger body of water. A small pool behind a rocky barrier stayed calm during a windy _____ moved across the lake beyond the rocks, reminding observers that the appearance of the nearest surface could conceal substantial differences farther away.

A. afternoon ripples

B. afternoon. Ripples

C. afternoon, and, ripples

D. afternoon, ripples

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

752

The team needed a location where instruments could remain steady while recording small changes in water temperature. After several hours of travel through an area exposed to strong winds, the research vessel crossed the shallow _____ beside the sheltered island, where its crew began lowering sensors from the side facing away from the current.

A. bay and anchored

B. bay; and anchored

C. bay: and anchored

D. bay. And anchored

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

753

A conservation team needed to examine a painted panel that had been displayed near an unshaded window for decades. Because the outer layer that protected its surface had become brittle after prolonged exposure to _____ technicians handled the panel with padded tools, avoiding pressure that could detach small flakes of the original paint.

A. sunlight, the

B. sunlight. The

C. sunlight; the

D. sunlight: the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

754

A maker's mark and a distinctive arrangement of internal parts allowed museum staff to identify the creator of an unusual _____ date of its construction remained uncertain, since the workshop had continued using the same mark and nearly identical components for a much longer period than earlier catalogs had assumed.

A. instrument, yet the

B. instrument yet: the

C. instrument, yet, the

D. instrument yet; the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

755

In the seventeenth century, market-savvy British greenhouses scrambled to cultivate _____ the small group of wealthy consumers who could afford to import them from the Caribbean, the fruits had become a status symbol.

A. pineapples for

B. pineapples, which for

C. pineapples, for

D. pineapples. For

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

756

A route mentioned in several historical records could not be located during the first archaeological survey. That investigation found no trace of the earlier _____ later survey detected buried stones in a line, providing a possible location while leaving researchers to establish whether the feature actually belonged to the documented route.

A. road; nevertheless; a

B. road; nevertheless, a

C. road nevertheless, a

D. road, nevertheless, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

757

Extensive radiocarbon dating of reed samples from Caral confirmed Ruth Shady Solís’s hypothesis about the Peruvian site’s _____ nearly 5,000 years ago, the ancient city preceded the Olmec civilization to the north by a full millennium, a revelation that fundamentally altered our understanding of urban development in the Western Hemisphere.

A. age, built

B. age: built

C. age and built

D. age built

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

758

Instrument makers can produce the same pitch using bodies that differ greatly in shape and composition. During a demonstration, two instruments produced similar _____ tones nevertheless differed because their materials reinforced different parts of the sound, allowing listeners to identify the instruments even when each played exactly the same melody.

A. notes; their

B. notes; and, their

C. notes their

D. notes, their

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

759

Structures installed for human activity can also create unfamiliar habitats for other organisms. Investigating the shaded surfaces beneath floating docks, marine ecologist _____ compared the animals living there with those on nearby rocks, asking whether shelter and orientation explained patterns that could not be attributed simply to the material of the supports.

A. , Tessa Morgan

B. Tessa Morgan,

C. Tessa Morgan

D. : Tessa Morgan

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

760

Recordings of live performances sometimes eliminate sounds that engineers regard as distractions. In a deliberate departure from that approach, the new recording includes the audience entering the _____ detail helps listeners imagine how the room gradually became quiet, making the opening notes feel like part of an event rather than an isolated musical selection.

A. hall that

B. hall. That

C. hall, that

D. hall, and, that

Answer: ____ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

761

Storm damage across a wooded region reflected differences in exposure as well as the strength of individual trees. Many branches broke along the open _____ in the sheltered valley suffered little damage, illustrating why a report based on only one location could misrepresent the effect of the same weather event across the region.

A. coast, but trees

B. coast but; trees

C. coast but: trees

D. coast, but, trees

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

762

Gathering accurate data on water flow in the United States is challenging because of the country’s millions of miles of _____ the volume and speed of water at any given location can vary drastically over time.

A. waterways and the fact that,

B. waterways, and the fact that,

C. waterways, and, the fact that

D. waterways and the fact that

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

763

An old guidebook claimed that none of a building's original decoration had survived successive renovations. A single detail was _____ painted border beneath a window, preserved where later construction covered the surface rather than removing it and therefore absent from photographs taken when the room was fully in use.

A. intact however a

B. intact, however: a

C. intact, however; a

D. intact; however, a

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

764

The Alvarez theory, developed in 1980 by physicist Luis Walter Alvarez and his geologist son Walter Alvarez, maintained that the secondary effects of an asteroid impact caused many dinosaurs and other animals to die _____ it left unexplored the question of whether unrelated volcanic activity might have also contributed to the mass extinctions.

A. out but

B. out, but

C. out

D. out,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

765

Stomata, tiny pore structures in a leaf that absorb gases needed for plant growth, open when guard cells surrounding each pore swell with water. In a pivotal 2007 article, plant cell _____ showed that lipid molecules called phosphatidylinositol phosphates are responsible for signaling guard cells to open stomata.

A. biologist, Yuree Lee

B. biologist Yuree Lee,

C. biologist Yuree Lee

D. biologist, Yuree Lee,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

766

The frogfish's sophisticated hunting strategy relies on a modified dorsal spine called the illicium that features a specialized terminal appendage at its _____ potential food items, like worms, shrimp, or small fish, the appendage evolved to function as a fishing rod to lure prey.

A. tip, mimicking

B. tip mimicking

C. tip and mimicking

D. tip. Mimicking

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

767

The term "retroflex" derives from Latin and means "bent back," an apt descriptor for the branch of consonants—retroflex consonants—pronounced with the tongue curling up and back in the mouth. In many languages, including English, these consonants are _____ in some dialects of Mandarin, however, four such consonants ("ch," "sh," "zh," and "r") are relatively common.

A. rare and

B. rare,

C. rare

D. rare;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

768

The Egyptian calendar _____ three seasons: Akhet (the inundation season), Peret (the growing season), and Shemu (the harvest season).

A. had—

B. had

C. had,

D. had;

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

769

The element carbon has the highest melting point _____ all the elements on the periodic table—3,500 degrees Celsius.

A. of

B. of—

C. of,

D. of:

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

770

The workshop adopted machinery that increased the speed at which it could make standardized parts. Metal components could now be produced in large _____ wooden handle still required individual shaping, preserving a stage of skilled handwork within a process whose other stages had become increasingly uniform.

A. numbers and; each

B. numbers and: each

C. numbers, and each

D. numbers, and, each

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

771

In 2009, researchers determined that pottery fragments from a cave in China were close to 18,000 years old. These are some of the oldest _____ of pottery ever found.

A. pieces:

B. pieces,

C. pieces

D. pieces—

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

772

Sociologist Todd Gitlin co-opted the term “recombinant,” normally used in reference to genetic engineering, to describe serialized television shows of the 1980s. Gitlin’s use of the term referenced TV studios’ practice of repackaging successful narrative formulas as new _____ even shows that varied only slightly from other shows still attracted sizeable audiences.

A. content, in that era

B. content; in that era,

C. content in that era,

D. content, in that era,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

773

An experiment examined whether exposure to light altered the appearance of a dye used in textiles. The team kept a control sample in _____ other samples received light for different periods, providing a comparison that helped separate the effects of illumination from changes that might occur simply as the material aged.

A. darkness the

B. darkness; the

C. darkness, the

D. darkness; and, the

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

774

In Puerto Rico, it's not unusual for a city or town to be known by a nickname that corresponds to one of its notable features, like landscape, _____ or chief exports. For example, the Puerto Rican municipality of Santa Isabel has also been called "the Land of Champions," a nickname that alludes to what the area is well known for: its rich sports traditions, especially in baseball.

A. climate famous residents

B. climate, famous residents,

C. climate; famous residents:

D. climate famous residents,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

775

Philosopher Gottlob Frege (1848-1925) explored how multiple names can be used to refer to the same object or person yet still have different meanings. For instance, the fictional character Clark Kent and his alter ego Superman are the same person, yet the two personas are distinct. For Frege, this raises further questions about how _____

A. we can hold contradictory beliefs about a single thing?

B. can we hold contradictory beliefs about a single thing.

C. we can hold contradictory beliefs about a single thing.

D. can we hold contradictory beliefs about a single thing?

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

776

A museum guide sought to connect an unfamiliar object with the people who produced and used it. Its account explains _____ and why it was preserved, combining evidence from the object's surface with information recorded during excavation rather than presenting the piece as an isolated example of decorative craftsmanship.

A. how the object was made where it was found,

B. how the object was made; where it was found,

C. how the object was made, where it was found:

D. how the object was made, where it was found,

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

MIXED PRACTICE

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

777

From afar, African American fiber artist Bisa Butler’s portraits look like paintings, their depictions of human faces, bodies, and clothing so intricate that it seems only a fine brush could have rendered them. When viewed up close, however, the portraits reveal themselves to be _____ stitching barely visible among the thousands of pieces of printed, microcut fabric.

A. quilts, and the

B. quilts, the

C. quilts; the

D. quilts. The

Answer: ___ Confidence: 1 / 2 / 3

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q1–72 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
1	B	210	25	D	234	49	A	258
2	C	211	26	B	235	50	A	259
3	B	212	27	A	236	51	C	260
4	D	213	28	B	237	52	B	261
5	B	214	29	C	238	53	A	262
6	D	215	30	B	239	54	A	263
7	B	216	31	C	240	55	D	264
8	C	217	32	C	241	56	A	265
9	D	218	33	A	242	57	D	266
10	A	219	34	B	243	58	C	267
11	D	220	35	A	244	59	D	268
12	A	221	36	B	245	60	A	269
13	A	222	37	D	246	61	D	270
14	A	223	38	D	247	62	A	271
15	D	224	39	C	248	63	B	272
16	A	225	40	B	249	64	A	273
17	A	226	41	A	250	65	D	274
18	A	227	42	C	251	66	D	275
19	D	228	43	A	252	67	C	276
20	A	229	44	D	253	68	C	277
21	C	230	45	D	254	69	B	278
22	A	231	46	A	255	70	B	279
23	B	232	47	C	256	71	D	280
24	A	233	48	B	257	72	D	281

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q73–144 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
73	B	282	97	B	306	121	C	330
74	B	283	98	C	307	122	C	331
75	C	284	99	C	308	123	B	332
76	D	285	100	B	309	124	D	333
77	C	286	101	A	310	125	A	334
78	D	287	102	D	311	126	D	335
79	B	288	103	C	312	127	D	336
80	B	289	104	D	313	128	B	337
81	C	290	105	A	314	129	C	338
82	D	291	106	C	315	130	A	339
83	D	292	107	A	316	131	D	340
84	A	293	108	A	317	132	B	341
85	B	294	109	C	318	133	D	342
86	D	295	110	C	319	134	B	343
87	C	296	111	D	320	135	D	344
88	B	297	112	D	321	136	A	345
89	A	298	113	B	322	137	A	346
90	B	299	114	C	323	138	A	347
91	A	300	115	A	324	139	D	348
92	C	301	116	B	325	140	C	349
93	A	302	117	B	326	141	A	350
94	C	303	118	D	327	142	A	351
95	D	304	119	C	328	143	D	352
96	D	305	120	A	329	144	D	353

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q145–216 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
145	B	354	169	D	378	193	D	402
146	B	355	170	B	379	194	B	403
147	C	356	171	A	380	195	C	404
148	C	357	172	D	381	196	C	405
149	C	358	173	D	382	197	C	406
150	D	359	174	C	383	198	A	407
151	D	360	175	B	384	199	D	408
152	B	361	176	D	385	200	B	409
153	C	362	177	D	386	201	A	410
154	A	363	178	B	387	202	D	411
155	C	364	179	A	388	203	D	412
156	C	365	180	C	389	204	B	413
157	D	366	181	D	390	205	D	414
158	D	367	182	C	391	206	C	415
159	B	368	183	D	392	207	C	416
160	C	369	184	A	393	208	C	417
161	A	370	185	C	394	209	C	418
162	D	371	186	A	395	210	A	419
163	A	372	187	C	396	211	B	420
164	C	373	188	B	397	212	C	421
165	B	374	189	C	398	213	C	422
166	D	375	190	B	399	214	A	423
167	B	376	191	A	400	215	B	424
168	C	377	192	C	401	216	D	425

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q217–288 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
217	A	426	241	D	450	265	C	474
218	D	427	242	C	451	266	C	475
219	B	428	243	B	452	267	A	476
220	C	429	244	D	453	268	D	477
221	D	430	245	D	454	269	B	478
222	C	431	246	C	455	270	A	479
223	C	432	247	B	456	271	A	480
224	D	433	248	D	457	272	B	481
225	B	434	249	C	458	273	A	482
226	D	435	250	C	459	274	D	483
227	C	436	251	D	460	275	C	484
228	C	437	252	D	461	276	B	485
229	C	438	253	D	462	277	B	486
230	B	439	254	D	463	278	A	487
231	C	440	255	D	464	279	D	488
232	C	441	256	C	465	280	A	489
233	A	442	257	A	466	281	C	490
234	D	443	258	D	467	282	D	491
235	A	444	259	C	468	283	D	492
236	B	445	260	C	469	284	B	493
237	A	446	261	D	470	285	B	494
238	C	447	262	B	471	286	C	495
239	D	448	263	B	472	287	C	496
240	D	449	264	A	473	288	D	497

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q289–360 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
289	C	498	313	C	522	337	C	546
290	B	499	314	A	523	338	D	547
291	C	500	315	D	524	339	D	548
292	A	501	316	B	525	340	B	549
293	C	502	317	B	526	341	A	550
294	B	503	318	B	527	342	C	551
295	C	504	319	C	528	343	A	552
296	D	505	320	D	529	344	D	553
297	B	506	321	B	530	345	A	554
298	B	507	322	C	531	346	B	555
299	C	508	323	B	532	347	B	556
300	B	509	324	A	533	348	D	557
301	C	510	325	A	534	349	A	558
302	D	511	326	D	535	350	B	559
303	A	512	327	B	536	351	D	560
304	B	513	328	D	537	352	D	561
305	C	514	329	C	538	353	B	562
306	C	515	330	A	539	354	A	563
307	B	516	331	A	540	355	B	564
308	C	517	332	D	541	356	D	565
309	B	518	333	D	542	357	B	566
310	B	519	334	C	543	358	C	567
311	C	520	335	B	544	359	C	568
312	C	521	336	D	545	360	B	569

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q361–432 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
361	C	570	385	A	594	409	A	618
362	A	571	386	A	595	410	A	619
363	D	572	387	A	596	411	D	620
364	A	573	388	C	597	412	D	621
365	C	574	389	A	598	413	B	622
366	D	575	390	D	599	414	D	623
367	C	576	391	B	600	415	C	624
368	C	577	392	B	601	416	C	625
369	C	578	393	D	602	417	B	626
370	D	579	394	C	603	418	B	627
371	C	580	395	C	604	419	C	628
372	D	581	396	C	605	420	C	629
373	A	582	397	A	606	421	A	630
374	B	583	398	D	607	422	A	631
375	D	584	399	D	608	423	A	632
376	A	585	400	D	609	424	C	633
377	A	586	401	B	610	425	A	634
378	A	587	402	D	611	426	D	635
379	D	588	403	C	612	427	B	636
380	D	589	404	C	613	428	A	637
381	B	590	405	A	614	429	D	638
382	D	591	406	C	615	430	D	639
383	D	592	407	B	616	431	B	640
384	B	593	408	B	617	432	A	641

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q433–504 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
433	C	642	457	A	666	481	B	690
434	B	643	458	C	667	482	C	691
435	D	644	459	B	668	483	C	692
436	C	645	460	A	669	484	D	693
437	A	646	461	B	670	485	D	694
438	C	647	462	D	671	486	A	695
439	C	648	463	A	672	487	D	696
440	B	649	464	C	673	488	B	697
441	A	650	465	A	674	489	B	698
442	D	651	466	C	675	490	C	699
443	A	652	467	C	676	491	B	700
444	C	653	468	D	677	492	B	701
445	D	654	469	D	678	493	D	702
446	C	655	470	C	679	494	D	703
447	B	656	471	D	680	495	C	704
448	B	657	472	A	681	496	B	705
449	D	658	473	B	682	497	C	706
450	C	659	474	C	683	498	D	707
451	C	660	475	B	684	499	B	708
452	C	661	476	D	685	500	C	709
453	B	662	477	B	686	501	A	710
454	D	663	478	D	687	502	A	711
455	C	664	479	C	688	503	B	712
456	A	665	480	A	689	504	C	713

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q505–576 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
505	D	714	529	C	738	553	A	762
506	B	715	530	A	739	554	A	763
507	B	716	531	B	740	555	D	764
508	B	717	532	D	741	556	B	765
509	C	718	533	C	742	557	B	766
510	A	719	534	A	743	558	A	767
511	A	720	535	D	744	559	C	768
512	B	721	536	D	745	560	B	769
513	D	722	537	A	746	561	D	770
514	B	723	538	C	747	562	B	771
515	D	724	539	C	748	563	B	772
516	D	725	540	B	749	564	A	773
517	A	726	541	C	750	565	A	774
518	B	727	542	C	751	566	B	775
519	B	728	543	A	752	567	D	776
520	B	729	544	A	753	568	C	777
521	A	730	545	D	754	569	C	778
522	A	731	546	D	755	570	C	779
523	B	732	547	B	756	571	D	780
524	D	733	548	B	757	572	B	781
525	A	734	549	B	758	573	B	782
526	A	735	550	D	759	574	B	783
527	B	736	551	A	760	575	D	784
528	D	737	552	C	761	576	D	785

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q577–648 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
577	A	786	601	A	810	625	B	834
578	B	787	602	C	811	626	A	835
579	A	788	603	B	812	627	A	836
580	B	789	604	D	813	628	D	837
581	D	790	605	B	814	629	D	838
582	C	791	606	C	815	630	A	839
583	D	792	607	C	816	631	D	840
584	C	793	608	A	817	632	B	841
585	A	794	609	A	818	633	B	842
586	B	795	610	D	819	634	B	843
587	C	796	611	A	820	635	D	844
588	B	797	612	A	821	636	B	845
589	A	798	613	A	822	637	B	846
590	B	799	614	B	823	638	C	847
591	B	800	615	D	824	639	D	848
592	A	801	616	D	825	640	D	849
593	C	802	617	C	826	641	B	850
594	D	803	618	D	827	642	D	851
595	D	804	619	C	828	643	B	852
596	D	805	620	C	829	644	D	853
597	A	806	621	C	830	645	B	854
598	D	807	622	B	831	646	A	855
599	C	808	623	B	832	647	B	856
600	B	809	624	A	833	648	B	857

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q649–720 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.	Q	Key	Explain p.
649	D	858	673	C	882	697	D	906
650	D	859	674	A	883	698	C	907
651	C	860	675	B	884	699	A	908
652	D	861	676	A	885	700	A	909
653	A	862	677	B	886	701	D	910
654	D	863	678	C	887	702	B	911
655	D	864	679	D	888	703	C	912
656	C	865	680	B	889	704	A	913
657	C	866	681	C	890	705	D	914
658	C	867	682	B	891	706	C	915
659	C	868	683	C	892	707	D	916
660	D	869	684	C	893	708	B	917
661	B	870	685	D	894	709	D	918
662	D	871	686	D	895	710	B	919
663	B	872	687	A	896	711	C	920
664	A	873	688	A	897	712	A	921
665	C	874	689	A	898	713	C	922
666	B	875	690	A	899	714	D	923
667	A	876	691	A	900	715	A	924
668	B	877	692	C	901	716	C	925
669	D	878	693	C	902	717	C	926
670	A	879	694	B	903	718	C	927
671	C	880	695	C	904	719	D	928
672	D	881	696	A	905	720	A	929

QUICK ANSWER KEY

Check your answer.

Q721–777 · Then read the explanation.

Q	Key	Explain p.
721	A	930
722	A	931
723	B	932
724	C	933
725	B	934
726	B	935
727	D	936
728	D	937
729	C	938
730	C	939
731	C	940
732	B	941
733	B	942
734	B	943
735	A	944
736	A	945
737	C	946
738	C	947
739	A	948
740	A	949
741	D	950
742	C	951
743	B	952
744	D	953
745	B	954
746	A	955
747	D	956
748	C	957
749	D	958
750	C	959
751	B	960
752	A	961
753	A	962
754	A	963
755	D	964
756	B	965
757	B	966
758	A	967
759	C	968
760	B	969
761	A	970
762	D	971
763	B	972
764	B	973
765	C	974
766	D	975
767	D	976
768	B	977
769	A	978
770	C	979
771	C	980
772	B	981
773	B	982
774	B	983
775	C	984
776	D	985
777	B	986

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q001 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

benefit: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Conversations with relatives produced an unexpected benefit: a collection of family stories that had never been written down, expanding the archive from a set of images into a record of experiences that the photographs alone could not preserve.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 4
GA777-385 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q002 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

walkers; the

SEE THE SHAPE

It describes the coastal path, suitable for experienced walkers; the garden loop, suitable for beginners seeking a short route; and the river trail, suitable for cyclists, avoiding a single ranking that would treat distance as the only measure of difficulty.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 4
GA777-468 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q003 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Bay. Having

SEE THE SHAPE

The ship entered San Francisco Bay. Having left New York ..., the ship set a record.

WHY IT WORKS

Having left describes the ship in the second sentence. Keep reading to set a record.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

C: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 4
Earlier book Q44

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q004 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

essays. Praising

SEE THE SHAPE

Danticat won acclaim for her essays. Praising her writing, Antoni compared her to Morrison.

WHY IT WORKS

Praising describes what Antoni did. It belongs with the next sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

C: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 4
Earlier book Q52

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q005 · ANSWER B

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

periods: the

SEE THE SHAPE

Historians divide the past into three periods: the Old, Middle, and New Kingdoms.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup is a full thought. The colon introduces the list of three periods.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The list after The is not a full sentence.

C: The list is not a full thought to join with a semicolon.

D: This list already has commas inside it. A colon clearly marks where the whole list begins.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 5
Earlier book Q179

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q006 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

columns. Its

SEE THE SHAPE

Its broad roof, assembled from lightweight sections, rests on four narrow columns. Its open sides allow visitors to see the surrounding planting, making the structure appear less substantial than its overall dimensions might suggest.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 5
GA777-126 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q007 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

roof; later

SEE THE SHAPE

The earliest drawings show a pointed roof; later photographs show a flat surface in the same location, suggesting either a substantial alteration or a difference between the design originally proposed and the structure that was actually completed.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 5
GA777-203 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q008 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cricket, but

SEE THE SHAPE

The game came from cricket, but it differs from cricket.

WHY IT WORKS

The comma goes before but, not after it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B: The joining comma belongs before but, not after it.

D: The extra comma after but wrongly cuts it from the words it joins.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 5
Earlier book Q83

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q009 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

target; maintaining

SEE THE SHAPE

Skills: shooting at a target; maintaining balance, such as during loops; and walking on a wing.

WHY IT WORKS

The second big item contains a comma. Semicolons separate the three big skills.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Maintaining ... and walking ... is a list, not a full sentence after a period.

B: The first and second big items have no separator.

C: This comma does not match the semicolon separating the other big items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 6
Earlier book Q242

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q010 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

missing, though: the

SEE THE SHAPE

One item was missing, though: the smallest instrument, which an early inventory listed as fitting inside the largest one and therefore would not have required a separate space in the case.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before though. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

C: The semicolon leaves though followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 6
GA777-425 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q011 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

carry. A

SEE THE SHAPE

Although it performed well in laboratory trials, the first prototype was too heavy for one person to carry. A later version replaced several solid components with a lighter frame, reducing weight without changing the measuring mechanism.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 6
GA777-128 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q012 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

writers

SEE THE SHAPE

Generations of writers ... have been influenced.

WHY IT WORKS

The people and what happened to them belong together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 6
Earlier book Q1

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q013 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

is a

SEE THE SHAPE

What distinguishes this particular instrument is a second dial that shows the phase of the moon, allowing its owner to follow a much slower cycle without consulting a separate astronomical table.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “is” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 7
GA777-030 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q014 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

recording. The

SEE THE SHAPE

The researcher stored a second copy of each recording. The copies were kept in a different building, reducing the likelihood that a single leak, equipment failure, or accident would destroy every version of the interviews.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 7
GA777-170 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q015 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

settings. She

SEE THE SHAPE

Comstock sought greater representation. She founded Las Comadres.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts have a person and a main action. A period separates them.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 7
Earlier book Q33

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q016 · ANSWER A

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

scene—a

SEE THE SHAPE

On closer inspection, the painting includes one detail that changes this interpretation of the scene—a second figure reflected in a window, suggesting a presence outside the viewer's direct line of sight and complicating the apparent solitude of the first figure.

WHY IT WORKS

The first part makes a full statement. The dash introduces extra information that identifies the thing just mentioned. The added words are not a separate sentence, so they cannot follow a period or a clause-joining semicolon.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 7
GA777-400 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q017 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

light, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Unable to separate the faint letters from discoloration under ordinary light, the researchers photographed the page with equipment sensitive to different wavelengths, revealing strokes that remained invisible in the initial set of images.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 8
GA777-096 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q018 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

map, but none

SEE THE SHAPE

Residents recognized a name written beside a bend in the river on an old map, but none of them could identify the exact location, suggesting that the name had survived in stories even after the feature itself had ceased to be recognizable.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 8
GA777-229 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q019 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

you should choose.

SEE THE SHAPE

The practice includes deciding which link you should choose.

WHY IT WORKS

This tells us about deciding. It does not ask the reader which link to choose.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

B: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

C: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 8
Earlier book Q248

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q020 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

theme: the

SEE THE SHAPE

Although the two stories differ in setting and narrative voice, they organize their central conflicts around a shared theme: the difficulty of returning to a familiar place after its relationships have changed, a problem that one narrator recognizes immediately while the other continues to resist until the final scene.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 8
GA777-368 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q021 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Dara Mensah

SEE THE SHAPE

To address this problem in a remote pumping station, engineer Dara Mensah developed a valve that closes when pressure falls, using the behavior of the fluid itself to trigger a protective response.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 9
GA777-336 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q022 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

counted; clear

SEE THE SHAPE

The beads were sorted by color before being counted; clear beads formed the largest group, a pattern that would have been difficult to recognize from a general description of the collection as a mixture of several colors.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 9
GA777-208 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q023 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

distance. Close

SEE THE SHAPE

The fabric looked plain when viewed from a distance. Close inspection under angled light revealed a pattern of raised threads, prompting the curator to reconsider the relationship between the piece's visual simplicity and the complexity of its construction.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 9
GA777-121 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q024 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photograph.

SEE THE SHAPE

After comparing inventories and correspondence, the curator still could not determine who arranged the objects as they appeared in the earliest photograph.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 9
GA777-511 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q025 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wall; a

SEE THE SHAPE

The design packet contained an elevation, showing the outside wall; a section, showing the interior structure; and a plan, showing the arrangement of rooms from above, giving readers complementary information that no single view could communicate fully.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 10
GA777-480 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q026 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

instrument

SEE THE SHAPE

The strings ... are plucked.

WHY IT WORKS

Strings tells us what. Are plucked tells us what happens.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 10
Earlier book Q2

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q027 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

areas

SEE THE SHAPE

People in El Paso and the surrounding areas must set their clocks.

WHY IT WORKS

People is the WHO. Must set is what they do. Keep them together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Who starts an unfinished description and leaves no main action.

C: The words before the semicolon are not a full thought.

D: The comma cuts the people away from must set.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 10
Earlier book Q10

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q028 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

seeds that

SEE THE SHAPE

The seeds that had been kept in a cool room sprouted earlier than those stored near a sunny window, even though both groups received identical amounts of water and light once they were planted.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

C: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

D: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 10
GA777-243 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q029 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

affordable, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One plan was affordable, however: a volunteer survey using borrowed tools and permanent reference points, an approach that would produce less frequent measurements but still allow changes to be compared systematically over several seasons.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

B: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

D: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 11
GA777-421 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q030 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

winter, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The replacement beam, cut from a tree felled during the winter, was allowed to dry before being fitted, reducing the risk that later shrinkage would loosen connections intended to transfer weight to the supporting wall.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 11
GA777-294 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q031 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fabric—reduced

SEE THE SHAPE

A portable screen—a folding structure covered with pale fabric—reduced glare without completely blocking daylight, allowing visitors to see fine markings while the presenter continued to work in conditions closer to those of ordinary field use.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 11
GA777-321 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q032 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

describes a

SEE THE SHAPE

A recently published walking guide, drawing on routes recorded in neighborhood histories, describes a route that passes through former industrial courtyards and residential streets before reaching the harbor, inviting readers to notice places that the direct approach bypasses.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “describes” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 11
GA777-022 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q033 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Ana Valdez

SEE THE SHAPE

Over the course of several weeks, photographer Ana Valdez recorded shadows across the same wall each morning, creating a sequence that transformed an apparently static architectural surface into a record of shifting relationships between light and structure.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 12
GA777-335 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q034 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

movement, which

SEE THE SHAPE

The movement, which is known as Brownian motion, can be observed

WHY IT WORKS

The which detail is extra. The closing comma is already printed; add its opening comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot open this comma pair.

C: The opening comma is missing.

D: Which ... is a description here, not a new sentence.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 12
Earlier book Q131

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q035 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Zain Abbas

SEE THE SHAPE

In reconstructing journeys described by incomplete travel records, cartographer Zain Abbas used a different line style for doubtful routes, enabling readers to distinguish paths supported by direct evidence from connections inferred between locations that the travelers clearly identified.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 12
GA777-350 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q036 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

container. It

SEE THE SHAPE

To avoid changing the conditions being measured, the sensor was attached to the outside of the container. It could record temperature changes through the wall, although the researchers had to account for the delay between internal and external readings.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 12
GA777-153 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q037 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fibers, but

SEE THE SHAPE

Fibers are durable, but making them needs toxic chemicals.

WHY IT WORKS

The two full thoughts are joined by but. Put the comma before but.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 13
Earlier book Q81

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q038 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

labeled.

SEE THE SHAPE

To prevent unprocessed pieces from being confused with those already matched to permanent records, the coordinator showed volunteers where to place objects that had not yet been labeled.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 13
GA777-499 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q039 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

measures the

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing the time required for reflected signals to return from two locations, the instrument measures the distance between those points, allowing conservators to examine a high ceiling without attaching equipment to its painted surface.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “measures” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 13
GA777-042 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q040 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1804,

SEE THE SHAPE

The 12th amendment, ratified in 1804, separated the elections

WHY IT WORKS

The comma after amendment opens the detail. Match it after 1804.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A dash does not match the opening comma.

C: A colon does not close a comma pair.

D: The extra detail has no closing comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 13
Earlier book Q138

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q041 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

offense. According

SEE THE SHAPE

Colvin was arrested. According to historians, her arrest led to change.

WHY IT WORKS

According to historians belongs with the next thought. Keep reading to arrest led.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 14
Earlier book Q31

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q042 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

seated, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The last audience members finally seated, the conductor raised her hands, waiting for the musicians to acknowledge the cue before beginning a performance in which silence played an unusually prominent role.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 14
GA777-098 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q043 · ANSWER A

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

repairs, however, differed

SEE THE SHAPE

The measurements collected after the repairs, however, differed from those recorded before the intervention, prompting a new examination of whether the work had changed the position of an internal component as well as the visible exterior.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 14
GA777-411 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q044 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

falling

SEE THE SHAPE

The reason ... is that their plumes enhance drag.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the long who-or-what part: The reason ... while falling. It must stay beside is.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 14
Earlier book Q4

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q045 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pier. Small

SEE THE SHAPE

Benches installed beside the waterfront were made from boards recovered from the old pier. Small holes show where metal fittings once joined the timbers, leaving traces of the pier's construction visible to people using the new seating.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 15
GA777-143 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q046 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Tribe, and

SEE THE SHAPE

The museum was founded in 1931, and today it is the oldest of its kind.

WHY IT WORKS

Today belongs with the second thought. Comma + and joins the thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

C: The comma before the joining word is missing.

D: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 15
Earlier book Q94

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q047 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

equipment?

SEE THE SHAPE

How could workers move such a heavy stone without modern equipment?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A period does not mark this direct question.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 15
GA777-492 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q048 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pavement. The

SEE THE SHAPE

Workers removing the damaged surface discovered a second layer of brick beneath the pavement. The earlier surface ran at a different angle, suggesting that the road had been realigned rather than merely resurfaced when the surrounding buildings were constructed.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 15
GA777-139 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q049 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

difficulty, but its

SEE THE SHAPE

An early lifting device raised the specified load without difficulty, but its motor became too hot after several minutes, forcing engineers to reconsider a design that had satisfied the project's requirements when evaluated through isolated short trials.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

C: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 16
GA777-217 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q050 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

rhythm, contrasts

SEE THE SHAPE

The final movement, a lively section built around a recurring rhythm, contrasts with the quiet opening, yet its central melodic figure transforms an idea first heard there, connecting passages whose immediate effects on the listener are quite different.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 16
GA777-278 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q051 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

material—to

SEE THE SHAPE

Soboleff uses red cedar—a durable and flexible material—to craft baskets.

WHY IT WORKS

The extra material description starts with a dash. Close it with another dash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close the opening dash.

B: A semicolon cannot close the opening dash.

D: A period cannot close the opening dash, and To craft baskets is a fragment.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 16
Earlier book Q162

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q052 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

observation, however,

SEE THE SHAPE

They want direct observation, however, recommending a way to get it.

WHY IT WORKS

However is extra. Recommending ... adds a detail about what they suggest.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However, recommending ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: However, recommending ... is not a full sentence after a period.

D: Recommending ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 16
Earlier book Q210

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q053 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

reading maps, measuring distances,

SEE THE SHAPE

Sessions provided practice in reading maps, measuring distances, and recording observations, emphasizing the need to connect numerical results with locations that another observer could identify without having accompanied the original team into the field.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 17
GA777-449 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q054 · ANSWER A

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

work, though,

SEE THE SHAPE

To create the warmth of her work, though, she sometimes uses paint.

WHY IT WORKS

Though is an extra word. The comma after work and the comma after though hold it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The closing comma after though is missing.

C: The opening To ... part is not a full sentence before the semicolon.

D: The words before the semicolon are still only an opening detail.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 17
Earlier book Q208

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q055 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

case, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Designed to fold into a compact case, the instrument could be moved between observation sites without removing its most delicate components, reducing the time required to check its alignment after each journey.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 17
GA777-078 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q056 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lenses. Visitors

SEE THE SHAPE

In a redesigned gallery, the museum placed miniature tools in cases with built-in lenses. Visitors could examine marks left by their makers without handling the objects, connecting the explanation on each label with evidence visible on the original surface.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 17
GA777-144 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q057 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

summer, and it

SEE THE SHAPE

The team recovered remains showing use of the location in summer, and it found no clear sign of winter occupation, leaving open whether the settlement was abandoned annually or whether activities during colder months simply left less visible traces.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. And connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before and, not between and and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates and from the clause it introduces.

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of and.

C: The extra comma after and splits and from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 18
GA777-239 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q058 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

turn, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

One part could turn, however; a circular disk moved independently of the base, enabling an instructor to demonstrate changing relationships that could not be understood from the printed image of a single position.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 18
GA777-444 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q059 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

soil; the

SEE THE SHAPE

Their survey covered the meadow, a location with deep soil; the ridge, where shallow deposits lay directly above rock; and the marsh, where standing water persisted, allowing them to examine variation without treating the entire reserve as one uniform habitat.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 18
GA777-464 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q060 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

material?

SEE THE SHAPE

If both are evaporated under identical conditions and the remaining solids are weighed, which sample contains more dissolved material?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A period does not mark this direct question.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 18
GA777-486 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q061 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

walls. With

SEE THE SHAPE

He noticed markings on the walls. With digital imaging, he discovered a mural.

WHY IT WORKS

The With part belongs to the next sentence. That sentence has he discovered.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

C: So with has no comma before so to join these longer full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 19
Earlier book Q39

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q062 · ANSWER A

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

untouched—a

SEE THE SHAPE

One object survived almost untouched—a small stone seal protected beneath the floor, whose carved design offered a connection to the business even though the papers on which it had been used were lost.

WHY IT WORKS

The first part makes a full statement. The dash introduces extra information that identifies the thing just mentioned. The added words are not a separate sentence, so they cannot follow a period or a clause-joining semicolon.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 19
GA777-398 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q063 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sketching, folding,

SEE THE SHAPE

The activities moved through sketching, folding, and weaving, with each technique introducing a different way of controlling the material rather than serving merely as decoration added to an already completed form.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 19
GA777-446 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q064 · ANSWER A

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

guidebook, however, omits

SEE THE SHAPE

The map printed in the new guidebook, however, omits several minor paths, making it more informative about buildings and facilities but less useful to readers who wanted to compare alternative walking routes through the less developed parts of the site.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 19
GA777-418 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q065 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1680, and

SEE THE SHAPE

He organized the revolt, and the colonizers were expelled.

WHY IT WORKS

Each part is complete. Use a comma before and.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

B: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 20
Earlier book Q89

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q066 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

birds—lies

SEE THE SHAPE

The island—an important resting place for migrating birds—lies beyond the river mouth, where its position provides a stopping point between stretches of exposed water that offer few other places for exhausted animals to land.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 20
GA777-295 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q067 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sisters,

SEE THE SHAPE

The novel, a fictionalized account of the sisters, can serve ...

WHY IT WORKS

The extra book description needs its closing comma before can serve.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma closes the detail, but and wrongly separates the novel from can serve.

B: And does not close the detail or connect the sentence correctly.

D: The extra detail has no closing comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 20
Earlier book Q137

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q068 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

vessel—contained

SEE THE SHAPE

The second sample—a material collected from the interior of the vessel—contained traces of a different mineral, suggesting that the inside and outside surfaces may have experienced distinct conditions despite their present resemblance.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 20
GA777-323 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q069 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

remained, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One obstacle remained, however: a steep step between the pavement and the doorway, showing that an improvement in width did not by itself make the entire route usable for people who could not negotiate abrupt changes in level.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

C: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

D: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 21
GA777-424 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q070 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

climate, famous residents,

SEE THE SHAPE

landscape, climate, famous residents, or chief exports

WHY IT WORKS

There are four ordinary list items. Keep a comma between each neighboring item.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Use commas consistently in this ordinary list, not semicolons or a colon.

C / D: The comma between climate and famous residents is missing.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 21
Earlier book Q231

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q071 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

skin; a

SEE THE SHAPE

The performers used a drum, made from wood and skin; a flute, carved from reed; and a bell, cast in bronze, inviting listeners to compare the initial impact of each note with the way it continued after the player stopped.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 21
GA777-469 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q072 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

village, tells

SEE THE SHAPE

The novel, which takes place in an Alaskan village, tells the story

WHY IT WORKS

Close the which detail with a comma. Then novel connects to tells.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first part never reaches its main action, and Tells starts without its who-or-what.

B: The extra detail has no closing comma.

C: A colon cannot close this comma pair.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 21
Earlier book Q132

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q073 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

box—

SEE THE SHAPE

The modifications—adding a sole and toe box—began the modernization.

WHY IT WORKS

The first dash opens the extra detail. The answer must close it with another dash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close the opening dash.

C: A comma cannot close the opening dash.

D: The extra detail has no closing dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 22
Earlier book Q154

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q074 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hillside?

SEE THE SHAPE

If the second route was too steep for loaded wagons and did not shorten the journey, why does the older map show another path across the hillside?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 22
GA777-482 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q075 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

course?

SEE THE SHAPE

Have researchers established when the river actually changed its course?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 22
GA777-512 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q076 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

recovered; study,

SEE THE SHAPE

It followed discovery, when the object was first recovered; study, when specialists examined its materials; and restoration, when damaged areas were repaired, showing how information gathered during one stage influenced decisions made during the next.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 22
GA777-472 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q077 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

seasons, contained

SEE THE SHAPE

The eastern field, a plot left unused for several seasons, contained a wider range of wildflowers than the neighboring fields, though researchers also recorded differences in soil moisture before attributing the entire contrast to the absence of cultivation.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 23
GA777-287 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q078 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

reason, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

A later letter offered a reason, however: a damaged wheel on the supply wagon, connecting the interruption to an ordinary mechanical failure rather than to the unusually severe weather emphasized elsewhere in the narrative.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

B: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 23
GA777-426 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q079 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

taxation,

SEE THE SHAPE

a system that, through trade and taxation, funded projects

WHY IT WORKS

The extra words tell how it was funded. Close the comma pair after taxation.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close the comma pair.

C: A dash cannot close the comma pair.

D: The extra detail has no closing comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 23
Earlier book Q135

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q080 · ANSWER B

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

habitats: open

SEE THE SHAPE

The survey therefore covered three distinct habitats: open grassland with little overhead cover, dense woodland where light reached the ground unevenly, and shallow marsh whose water level changed throughout the season, allowing results to be compared across contrasting conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 23
GA777-360 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q081 · ANSWER C

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

documents: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The report therefore included three supporting documents: a map locating the observation sites, a table presenting the measurements in a consistent order, and photographs showing features that would have been difficult to describe precisely in words.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 24
GA777-361 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q082 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

branches, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The shorter path blocked by storm-felled branches, the hikers followed the signs toward the alternate trail, reaching the same destination by a route that offered fewer views but avoided the damaged woodland.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 24
GA777-102 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q083 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

visible, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One difference was visible, however: a pale band around the smallest specimen, a feature that became apparent only when the pieces were arranged under the same light rather than examined separately during cataloging.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

B: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 24
GA777-423 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q084 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photographs of the harbor, models of sailing vessels,

SEE THE SHAPE

The new gallery display brings together photographs of the harbor, models of sailing vessels, and tools used by boatbuilders.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 24
GA777-459 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q085 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tool; a

SEE THE SHAPE

Closer inspection showed that the original handle had broken away from the tool; a replacement was attached during an earlier repair, demonstrating that an object's apparently uniform surface can conceal a history of alteration.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 25
GA777-194 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q086 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stayed, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One species stayed, however: a small finch feeding near the village, where food remained available after the surrounding grassland had ceased to provide an equivalent supply.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

B: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 25
GA777-429 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q087 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

period. Gardeners

SEE THE SHAPE

In a greenhouse trial, one species produced flowers only after a prolonged dry period. Gardeners cannot predict its flowering week simply by repeating the planting date, since variations in moisture may delay the conditions that trigger bud development.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 25
GA777-134 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q088 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

later. The

SEE THE SHAPE

That wall had been added much later. The unusual arrangement preserves evidence of a former open space, showing why the present relationship between two features may obscure the purpose each originally served.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 25
GA777-188 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q089 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

clay, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Using a brush with fibers softer than the surrounding clay, the conservator removed loose dust from the carved lines, gradually revealing a pattern without scraping away the uneven surface that preserved evidence of the original tool.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 26
GA777-079 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q090 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

courtyard, but a

SEE THE SHAPE

The initial survey suggested that the tunnel ended beneath the courtyard, but a later inspection found a continuation outside the perimeter wall, raising questions about whether the passage served the building alone or connected it to another site.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

C: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 26
GA777-215 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q091 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

(65 mya)—

SEE THE SHAPE

The five prior events—the five names and dates—all predate us.

WHY IT WORKS

The list of names is extra information inside a dash pair. Close the pair after the last date.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close the opening dash.

C: The opening dash has no matching closing dash.

D: A comma cannot close the opening dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 26
Earlier book Q165

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q092 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

guidebook, shows

SEE THE SHAPE

The printed map, which was folded into the back of the guidebook, shows several routes that no longer exist, allowing researchers to interpret directions that appear impossible when compared only with the modern street network.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 26
GA777-274 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q093 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

passage, a

SEE THE SHAPE

The entrance passage, a space wide enough for only one person at a time, opens into a much larger room, suggesting that the contrast between confined movement and open space formed part of the original design.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing comma. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching comma, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

C: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 27
GA777-273 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q094 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Robin”—a technique that,

SEE THE SHAPE

Vidler layered the music—a technique that, by changing the notes, creates a bluesy effect.

WHY IT WORKS

The dash adds the technique. Inside that detail, two commas hold by inserting ... framework together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before creates has no matching opening comma before by inserting.

B: A technique that creates ... has no main action of its own after the period.

D: A technique that creates ... is a description, not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 27
Earlier book Q158

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q095 · ANSWER D

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hall, the

SEE THE SHAPE

While the musicians rehearsed a passage that required close coordination in the main hall, the stage crew adjusted the lights above the empty seats, checking that spectators would be able to read their programs without distracting the performers.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

B: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

C: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 27
GA777-062 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q096 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

marsh, but the

SEE THE SHAPE

It called for a narrow wooden walkway across the marsh, but the final design used a wider platform on metal posts, accommodating visitors whose mobility needs had not been considered in the original proposal.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

B: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 27
GA777-213 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q097 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

system; observers

SEE THE SHAPE

The demonstration therefore used a small model of the larger system; observers could see how the parts interacted, including movements that were essential to operation but invisible when the full machine was running.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 28
GA777-211 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q098 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

bowl suggests

SEE THE SHAPE

The pattern of fine cracks extending outward from the central depression at the bottom of the clay bowl suggests that the damage occurred during cooling rather than during a later period of everyday use.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “bowl.” The main action begins with “suggests.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

B: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

D: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 28
GA777-001 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q099 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

courtyard, once

SEE THE SHAPE

The central courtyard, once used as a place to dry harvested grain, now serves as an outdoor performance space, with several raised stone edges preserved to show how crops were separated before being moved into the surrounding storerooms.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing comma. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching comma, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

B: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 28
GA777-257 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q100 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

record: a

SEE THE SHAPE

A private notebook preserved a valuable record: a daily account of weather during the voyage, allowing researchers to compare the narrative's memorable episodes with the less remarkable conditions through which the travelers had also passed.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 28
GA777-375 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q101 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

incomplete; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The first surviving copy of the record is incomplete; the second preserves the missing final column, enabling researchers to distinguish information lost through physical damage from information that the original clerk had never included.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 29
GA777-190 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q102 · ANSWER D

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lacked—a

SEE THE SHAPE

Halfway through the walk, it provides something the previous route lacked—a sheltered place to pause beside the river, making the journey more accessible without removing the uneven terrain that gives the site much of its character.

WHY IT WORKS

The first part makes a full statement. The dash introduces extra information that identifies the thing just mentioned. The added words are not a separate sentence, so they cannot follow a period or a clause-joining semicolon.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 29
GA777-401 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q103 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

whether the

SEE THE SHAPE

Using lightweight bands that were visible in photographs, the researchers wanted to know whether the birds returned to the same branch on successive evenings or selected a new resting place each time.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “whether” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 29
GA777-026 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q104 · ANSWER D

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

added whenever

SEE THE SHAPE

A leap second is added whenever the two clocks differ enough.

WHY IT WORKS

Whenever tells us when to add it. Keep that needed time part attached.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma cuts away the needed whenever part.

B: The whenever part is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: The whenever part is not a full sentence after a period.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 29
Earlier book Q101

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q105 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

road. The

SEE THE SHAPE

Work stopped at the edge of the modern road. The team plans to investigate the unexposed section when scheduled repairs provide access, rather than treating the present limit of excavation as the building's original boundary.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 30
GA777-154 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q106 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

opportunity: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised schedule creates a welcome opportunity: a full afternoon for exchanging ideas, providing room for conversations whose value cannot be measured simply by the number of prepared talks delivered to the whole audience.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 30
GA777-395 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q107 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

edges. Objects

SEE THE SHAPE

A new lens produced sharper detail at the edges. Objects near the center looked much the same, suggesting that the original problem arose from the way the lens handled light entering at an angle rather than from a general focusing error.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 30
GA777-177 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q108 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

afternoon. Visitors

SEE THE SHAPE

To make those processes visible, a workshop opened its doors for one afternoon. Visitors watched craftspeople demonstrate techniques normally performed away from public view, including decisions that would leave almost no recognizable trace in the finished objects.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 30
GA777-133 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q109 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Springs—to

SEE THE SHAPE

through the earth — in this case, the rocks ... — to collect in a basin

WHY IT WORKS

Close the detail about the rocks. Match the dash after earth.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The closing dash is missing.

B: A colon does not match the opening dash.

D: A comma does not match the opening dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 31
Earlier book Q146

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q110 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

audience. To

SEE THE SHAPE

Actors do not acknowledge the audience. To do so breaks the fourth wall.

WHY IT WORKS

To do so names the action. Breaks tells what that action does. This is a full sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: As to do so does not tell us what breaks the fourth wall. To do so works.

B: This runs two full thoughts together.

D: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 31
Earlier book Q56

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q111 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Arun Patel

SEE THE SHAPE

Materials scientist Arun Patel tested thin sheets through successive cycles of heating and cooling, comparing their ability to bend with that of unused samples rather than assuming that a successful initial trial established long-term reliability.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 31
GA777-352 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q112 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

writers, among

SEE THE SHAPE

Writers praised the poems, among them Teju Cole.

WHY IT WORKS

Among them names an example. It is extra detail, not a new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Among them ... has no main action to make a sentence.

B: The extra detail needs a comma before among.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 31
Earlier book Q119

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q113 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

speculative, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

Looks icy → still only a guess.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with interpretations are speculative: they are only guesses. The semicolon starts the reason.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The full thoughts run together after though.

C: Though is put with the next thought instead of the difference before it.

D: One comma after though cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 32
Earlier book Q213

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q114 · ANSWER C

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

dependable

SEE THE SHAPE

so dependable that it has become known as ...

WHY IT WORKS

Keep so ... that together. The last part tells the result.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This cuts the so ... that wording apart.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 32
Earlier book Q125

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q115 · ANSWER A

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

club

SEE THE SHAPE

a club that is the oldest ... and that has helped divers

WHY IT WORKS

Both that parts describe the club. Keep them attached.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma cuts off the needed description.

C: The dash cuts off the needed description.

D: And turns the that wording into awkward separate thoughts.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 32
Earlier book Q128

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q116 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

chest, had

SEE THE SHAPE

The iron clasp, the only metal part of the wooden chest, had been replaced during an earlier repair, explaining why its shape resembled fittings produced long after the style of the surrounding woodwork had become uncommon.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 32
GA777-263 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q117 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

shore. The

SEE THE SHAPE

Although it documented substantial damage, the first survey covered only the northern shore. The second survey extended around the entire lake, allowing researchers to distinguish a local problem near developed areas from a broader pattern affecting the watershed.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 33
GA777-112 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q118 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

exclamation. Translated

SEE THE SHAPE

Hwæt is an Old English exclamation. Translated as “hark!” ..., the word was rendered as “bro!”

WHY IT WORKS

Translated describes the word in the next sentence. Keep reading to was rendered.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

C: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 33
Earlier book Q49

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q119 · ANSWER C

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

transparent when

SEE THE SHAPE

Unlike an ordinary curtain, which changes position to uncover a view, the protective screen becomes transparent when an electric current passes through its outer layer, revealing an object that remains in exactly the same position behind it.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

B: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 33
GA777-069 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q120 · ANSWER A

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wall that

SEE THE SHAPE

The section of the wall that faces the sea shows more surface damage than the inward-facing sections, providing a comparison that helps researchers separate the effects of orientation from those of the material used in construction.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

C: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

D: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 33
GA777-245 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q121 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

combined pieces

SEE THE SHAPE

To create an effect that changes as viewers approach, the artist combined pieces of polished stone with narrow strips of colored glass, placing the reflective materials where light from nearby windows would strike them unevenly.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “combined” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 34
GA777-029 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q122 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Gingerbread

SEE THE SHAPE

Her 2019 novel Gingerbread offers a twist.

WHY IT WORKS

The name of the novel stays beside offers.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 34
Earlier book Q7

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q123 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Imani Cole

SEE THE SHAPE

While examining a sequence of sandy deposits, geologist Imani Cole identified a thin band of volcanic material, using the contrast between that band and the surrounding grains to investigate an event that may have affected a much wider region.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 34
GA777-338 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q124 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

expenses, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The final notebook, the only volume containing a complete list of expenses, was discovered among unrelated documents, enabling the researcher to connect scattered receipts with a record that explained how individual purchases fitted into the larger budget.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 34
GA777-259 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q125 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

canal; repairs

SEE THE SHAPE

A survey identified several weakened sections of the canal; repairs will begin nearest the reservoir, where a failure could interrupt the supply to every section downstream rather than affecting only a short stretch near the outlet.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 35
GA777-205 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q126 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

descriptions. Photographs

SEE THE SHAPE

One surveyor's notebook contains extensive measurements but few descriptions. Photographs taken during the same expedition help establish where the instruments stood, allowing later researchers to interpret numbers that would otherwise remain disconnected from the landscape.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 35
GA777-142 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q127 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

instruments—was

SEE THE SHAPE

The second movement—a quiet section written for three instruments—was added after the premiere, altering the balance between louder passages that early listeners had described as following one another without sufficient contrast.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 35
GA777-309 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q128 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

company that

SEE THE SHAPE

a company that specializes in diverse stories

WHY IT WORKS

That attaches specializes ... to company. No comma belongs before it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma cannot replace the needed linking word that.

C: The needed word that is missing.

D: The comma cuts off the words that tell us which company is meant.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 35
Earlier book Q123

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q129 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

readable, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One document was readable, however: a neatly folded list of expenses protected inside a small metal container, preserving details of ordinary purchases that would otherwise have disappeared with the larger body of records.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

B: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 36
GA777-428 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q130 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

margins. Scholars

SEE THE SHAPE

The new edition reproduces the original page numbers in its margins. Scholars can therefore continue using citations from earlier studies, even though the revised typesetting distributes the same text across a different number of pages.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 36
GA777-184 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q131 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Hugo Silva

SEE THE SHAPE

Landscape architect Hugo Silva placed shaded benches beside the busiest walking route, drawing on observations of how residents crossed the site rather than assuming that the most visually prominent location would attract the most use.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

B: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

C: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 36
GA777-347 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q132 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pattern, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

Cleaning uncovered a pattern, though; stars painted beneath a later coating formed a ring around the center, changing the interpretation of both the room's visual design and its relationship to neighboring spaces.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before though. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Though is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

C: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. Though does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 36
GA777-441 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q133 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

chloroplasts—

SEE THE SHAPE

chloroplasts — the cellular organs ... — reshuffled

WHY IT WORKS

A dash is already printed after from light. Match it with a dash after chloroplasts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra detail has no opening mark.

B: A semicolon does not match the printed closing dash.

C: A comma does not match the printed closing dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 37
Earlier book Q143

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q134 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

narrow, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

One section was narrow, however; walkers approaching a ledge beside the waterfall had to pass in single file, a restriction that the general description failed to communicate to prospective visitors.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

C: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 37
GA777-442 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q135 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

compound aluminum oxide

SEE THE SHAPE

the chemical compound aluminum oxide

WHY IT WORKS

The name aluminum oxide tells us which compound. No commas are needed around it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This separates the compound label from its needed name.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 37
Earlier book Q169

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q136 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

configurations. TMAO

SEE THE SHAPE

Proteins retain their original configurations. TMAO is found in fish’s cells.

WHY IT WORKS

The next TMAO has its own main verb: is found. Start a new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

C: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 37
Earlier book Q32

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q137 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

room; the

SEE THE SHAPE

In the older building, thick walls slowed the warming of the room; the air inside remained cool well into the afternoon, even after the temperature outdoors had risen above the level measured in the newer building's shaded rooms.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 38
GA777-189 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q138 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

equations, though:

SEE THE SHAPE

Hopper solved equations → she later did much more.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with more than just equations. The colon introduces what more she did.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join the setup and its full explanation.

C: Though is moved into the next sentence and does not make a correct opening.

D: The extra though and the next full thought need punctuation.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 38
Earlier book Q222

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q139 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

most people prefer in a diet drink.

SEE THE SHAPE

Moskowitz was hired to determine how much sweetener most people prefer.

WHY IT WORKS

This tells us what he was hired to find out. It does not ask the reader.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

B: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

C: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 38
Earlier book Q246

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q140 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

object, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

A revised inventory added a small object, however; a carved spoon found inside a drawer suggested food preparation, providing a kind of functional evidence absent from the earlier list of larger objects.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 38
GA777-445 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q141 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paper, but it

SEE THE SHAPE

A coating successfully kept water away from the surface of the paper, but it also made the colors appear darker, requiring the team to decide whether that visual change was acceptable in an object intended for close examination as well as long-term preservation.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 39
GA777-237 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q142 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tone, will

SEE THE SHAPE

The restored bell, a small instrument with an unusually low tone, will be displayed beside the tools used in its repair, allowing visitors to connect visible changes in the metal with the methods described in the exhibition.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 39
GA777-275 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q143 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

them. This

SEE THE SHAPE

Before measuring shells collected along the same stretch of beach, students sorted them. This preliminary step allowed them to compare specimens with similar shapes, reducing differences that might otherwise have been mistaken for evidence of growth.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 39
GA777-122 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q144 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

people perceive acts of kindness.

SEE THE SHAPE

The researchers investigated how people perceive kindness.

WHY IT WORKS

This tells us what the researchers investigated. It is not a direct question.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

B: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

C: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 39
Earlier book Q244

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q145 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

morning. The

SEE THE SHAPE

They indicate that she usually worked outdoors during the early morning. The light at that time produced long shadows, helping her separate features that appeared to merge when viewed under a higher sun.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 40
GA777-123 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q146 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sky. A

SEE THE SHAPE

The telescope remained pointed at the same area of sky. A computer recorded small changes in brightness, allowing the team to identify objects whose behavior would be difficult to distinguish in photographs taken only occasionally.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 40
GA777-141 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q147 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

surface, but its

SEE THE SHAPE

It worked reliably on a level surface, but its readings became inconsistent when the platform tilted, exposing a limitation that repeated trials on a laboratory bench had failed to reveal.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 40
GA777-228 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q148 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

located.

SEE THE SHAPE

Photographs taken before later paving raised the street show people passing through it, revealing where the original entrance was located.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 40
GA777-489 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q149 · ANSWER C

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

problem—a

SEE THE SHAPE

After checking the instruments, a final observation revealed the source of the problem—a slight tilt in the supporting platform, small enough to escape casual notice but sufficient to affect the arrangement throughout every trial.

WHY IT WORKS

The first part makes a full statement. The dash introduces extra information that identifies the thing just mentioned. The added words are not a separate sentence, so they cannot follow a period or a clause-joining semicolon.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 41
GA777-399 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q150 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

owner—was

SEE THE SHAPE

The damaged page—the only sheet bearing the signature of the original owner—was stored separately while repairs proceeded, ensuring that handling the rest of the volume would not further weaken the fragile area that established its provenance.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 41
GA777-300 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q151 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

inventory—was

SEE THE SHAPE

The envelope—the last object listed in the inventory—was opened in the presence of two archivists, who recorded its condition and arrangement before separating documents whose original order might itself provide useful evidence.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 41
GA777-312 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q152 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

outlet indicates

SEE THE SHAPE

A sudden increase in the temperature of the water collected at the sensor nearest the outlet indicates that the pipe is introducing warm water into the stream, even when its flow is difficult to see.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “outlet.” The main action begins with “indicates.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 41
GA777-005 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q153 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

system. Analyzing

SEE THE SHAPE

Amsterdam developed a monitoring system. Analyzing video, the algorithm determines crowd sizes.

WHY IT WORKS

Analyzing describes the algorithm in the new sentence. Algorithm determines finishes the thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 42
Earlier book Q55

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q154 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

colors, helped

SEE THE SHAPE

The blue pigment, which had faded less than the surrounding colors, helped the restorer trace the original pattern, making one relatively stable material a guide to interpreting areas where other colors had nearly disappeared.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 42
GA777-258 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q155 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

description: an

SEE THE SHAPE

A recovered letter contains a rare description: an eyewitness account of a winter morning, recording sounds, exchanges, and temporary stalls that do not appear in plans showing only the permanent buildings around the square.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 42
GA777-388 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q156 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

on the

SEE THE SHAPE

The final chapter of a report based on interviews with longtime residents instead focuses on the ways that families reorganized everyday activities during the rainy season, including moving workshops upstairs and sharing storage space on higher ground.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “on” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 42
GA777-028 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q157 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

smooth; cloth,

SEE THE SHAPE

The team tested glass, which was smooth; cloth, which was flexible and absorbent; and stone, which was rough, recording differences while recognizing that the materials varied in several properties rather than in texture alone.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 43
GA777-478 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q158 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Robin”—a technique that,

SEE THE SHAPE

Vidler layered the music—a technique that, by changing the notes, creates a bluesy effect.

WHY IT WORKS

The dash adds the technique. Inside that detail, two commas hold by inserting ... framework together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before creates has no matching opening comma before by inserting.

B: A technique that creates ... has no main action of its own after the period.

C: A technique that creates ... is a description, not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 43
Earlier book Q157

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q159 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

diaries kept by travelers, maps drawn by surveyors,

SEE THE SHAPE

The regional archive preserves diaries kept by travelers, maps drawn by surveyors, and songs collected by teachers.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 43
GA777-461 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q160 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

use: a

SEE THE SHAPE

High on one wall, however, it preserved evidence of an earlier use: a row of hooks used for drying plants, suggesting a household activity whose materials had long since disappeared from the otherwise empty space.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 43
GA777-397 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q161 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

platform.

SEE THE SHAPE

The section accompanying a drawing of the internal linkage explains how a small wheel controls the position and speed of the larger platform.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 44
GA777-485 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q162 · ANSWER D

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

committee, however, included

SEE THE SHAPE

The final design approved by the committee, however, included a covered waiting area, reflecting comments from passengers who placed protection from ordinary weather above the visual simplicity that had guided the first drawings.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

B: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

C: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 44
GA777-415 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q163 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

value, but

SEE THE SHAPE

Markings lower a book’s value, but some markings can be valuable.

WHY IT WORKS

Read past when the former owner ... to find the second main thought: markings can be a gold mine.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The comma before the joining word is missing.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 44
Earlier book Q84

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q164 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

dry; however, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The first appeared completely dry; however, the second retained moisture beneath its surface, suggesting that visual inspection alone could not establish whether equal treatment had produced the same condition throughout both pieces of material.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

B: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

D: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 44
GA777-402 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q165 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Belgravia. Published

SEE THE SHAPE

Gabriele tracks Braddon’s works via Belgravia. Published and distributed ..., this magazine helped.

WHY IT WORKS

Read past the long city list. This magazine helped finishes the new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolons later in the long city list make this break confusing. The period clearly starts the new sentence before Published.

C: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

D: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 45
Earlier book Q51

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q166 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

use, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Worn smooth by decades of repeated use, the stone steps near a workshop's entrance reflected light from the open doorway, while the rougher steps leading to a rarely opened storeroom retained the irregular marks left by the original mason.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 45
GA777-097 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q167 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

excavation, however, suggests

SEE THE SHAPE

Evidence from the lowest layer of the excavation, however, suggests a much earlier occupation, showing that an interpretation based on the most accessible material would overlook a substantial part of the site's history.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 45
GA777-419 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q168 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

weeding, pruning,

SEE THE SHAPE

Volunteer teams spent the morning weeding, pruning, and watering existing beds, concentrating on tasks that would improve conditions for established growth before deciding which empty spaces needed additional planting and which should remain open for access.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 45
GA777-447 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q169 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

song describe

SEE THE SHAPE

However, the notes that accompany the earliest surviving version of the song describe a rhythm with alternating long and short beats, raising the possibility that later performers simplified a once more varied pattern.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “song.” The main action begins with “describe.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

B: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 46
GA777-007 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q170 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

artist

SEE THE SHAPE

portrait artist Marie-Denise Villers

WHY IT WORKS

Artist is the job. Marie-Denise Villers is the name.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: The mark cuts the job away from the needed name.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 46
Earlier book Q171

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q171 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

translation, yet it

SEE THE SHAPE

It corrected several errors in the earlier translation, yet it retained the original chapter arrangement, showing that revising the language of a work need not involve changing the organizational choices inherited from a previous edition.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. Yet connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before yet, not between yet and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon incorrectly separates yet from the clause it introduces.

C: The extra comma after yet splits yet from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of yet.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 46
GA777-232 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q172 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ran—fast. During

SEE THE SHAPE

She ran—fast. During the Olympics, she won ...

WHY IT WORKS

Fast finishes the thought about running. During starts the next thought about winning.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This makes fast an extra detail and leaves the next full thought without its own break.

B: This runs the thought about running into the thought about winning.

C: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 46
Earlier book Q34

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q173 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

theater remain

SEE THE SHAPE

Nevertheless, the wooden supports that extend from the rear wall to the central balcony beneath the upper floor of the old theater remain strong, a finding that allowed the restoration team to retain much of the original framework.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “theater.” The main action begins with “remain.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

B: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 47
GA777-009 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q174 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stone—has

SEE THE SHAPE

The narrow channel—a passage once used by boats carrying stone—has gradually filled with mud and reeds, although its unusually regular edges still distinguish it from naturally formed waterways in aerial photographs of the surrounding marsh.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 47
GA777-302 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q175 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

preferred the

SEE THE SHAPE

preferred the sound

WHY IT WORKS

Preferred what? The sound. Keep the answer beside preferred.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 47
Earlier book Q24

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q176 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

greenhouse. Those

SEE THE SHAPE

The first seedlings appeared near the warmest end of a greenhouse. Those at the shaded end emerged later, leading the researchers to record local conditions within the building instead of treating the entire space as a uniform environment.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 47
GA777-179 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q177 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

could the blueberries thrive?

SEE THE SHAPE

If the grasses were added, could the blueberries thrive?

WHY IT WORKS

The If part sets up a real question. Use could the blueberries ... ?

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

B: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

C: The question mark is present, but the words use telling order.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 48
Earlier book Q252

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q178 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

object: a

SEE THE SHAPE

At its center stood a remarkable object: a wooden clock made with hand tools, whose carefully fitted components demonstrated the accuracy a maker could achieve through repeated measurement and adjustment rather than through automated production.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 48
GA777-383 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q179 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

vapor. With

SEE THE SHAPE

More water turns to vapor. With a pressure cooker, a seal traps the vapor.

WHY IT WORKS

With a pressure cooker starts the next thought. Keep reading to seal traps.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

C: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 48
Earlier book Q38

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q180 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

container, but most

SEE THE SHAPE

They predicted a preference for the warmer container, but most of the insects moved toward the cooler one, prompting the team to investigate whether differences in humidity had influenced a trial designed primarily around heat.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 48
GA777-231 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q181 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

support, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Excavation revealed a support, however: a broad stone slab below the post, indicating that the apparently simple arrangement depended on a buried element omitted from the surviving sketches.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

B: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

C: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 49
GA777-433 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q182 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

shelter has

SEE THE SHAPE

The arrangement of these stones around a narrow opening at the entrance to the ancient shelter has puzzled researchers, who disagree about whether it reflects deliberate construction or the later movement of fallen rock.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “shelter.” The main action begins with “has.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

B: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

D: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 49
GA777-016 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q183 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

signal. The

SEE THE SHAPE

A small change in the angle of a reflector mounted above the housing improved the signal. The engineers repeated that adjustment on the remaining units, testing whether the same alignment problem explained their inconsistent performance.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 49
GA777-118 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q184 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1950s, and

SEE THE SHAPE

The exhibition set out to give an overview, and its efforts were successful.

WHY IT WORKS

Read past given the collection’s breadth. Its efforts were successful finishes the second thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

D: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 49
Earlier book Q90

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q185 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

mediated:

SEE THE SHAPE

The process is electrically mediated: when mites move, electricity pulls them to the bird.

WHY IT WORKS

The full thought before the colon is finished. The next part explains HOW the electrical process works.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

B: The two full thoughts run together.

D: Joining the two full thoughts with and needs a comma before and.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 50
Earlier book Q199

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q186 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

food:

SEE THE SHAPE

Researchers found why the worms move that way: the field points away from their food.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the colon explain why the worms move in that direction.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: While does not make the needed link to this full explanation.

D: The setup and explanation run together.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 50
Earlier book Q196

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q187 · ANSWER C

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

formation that some

SEE THE SHAPE

a framework for pattern formation that some biologists believe can explain ...

WHY IT WORKS

That links the framework to the words telling what it can explain.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off the needed that description.

B: Some biologists believe can be used has no clear thing that can be used.

D: The words after the semicolon do not make a complete sentence.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 50
Earlier book Q126

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q188 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cooling?

SEE THE SHAPE

If material and wall thickness remain constant, how does the shape of the container affect the rate of cooling?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 50
GA777-506 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q189 · ANSWER C

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

parks;

SEE THE SHAPE

The initiative was an investment; it prioritized improvements.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: These longer full thoughts need a comma before and.

B: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

D: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 51
Earlier book Q69

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q190 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

leaves; man-made trash,

SEE THE SHAPE

natural debris, example; man-made trash, example; and art supplies, example

WHY IT WORKS

A semicolon ends the debris item. A comma introduces the example of trash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first big separator should be a semicolon; the trash example needs a comma, not a colon.

C: The first big separator must match the semicolon later in the list.

D: After trash, such as gives an example inside the item. Use a comma there.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 51
Earlier book Q235

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q191 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

record the

SEE THE SHAPE

To make observations from different participants comparable, the instruction sheet asks volunteers to record the time at which each flower first opens, along with whether it receives direct sunlight during the preceding hour.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “record” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 51
GA777-039 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q192 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

made; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The class toured the workshop, where objects were made; the storeroom, where supplies were organized; and the gallery, where completed work was displayed, following a sequence that connected the movement of materials with the activities performed in each space.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 51
GA777-476 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q193 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stop. Each

SEE THE SHAPE

The restored path includes several places where walkers can stop. Each resting place offers a view of a different section of the valley, making pauses part of the experience rather than merely interruptions in the journey.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 52
GA777-162 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q194 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

letters. That

SEE THE SHAPE

A researcher found the same unusual spelling in three letters. That repeated detail helped connect documents from separate collections, especially when it appeared alongside the same distinctive abbreviation in passages discussing unrelated events.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 52
GA777-163 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q195 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1642:

SEE THE SHAPE

Contrast one country with the other: the second has little spoken Spanish today.

WHY IT WORKS

The first sentence is a command: Contrast .... The colon introduces the explanation of that contrast.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

B: Joining these longer full thoughts with and needs a comma before and.

D: The two full thoughts have no proper break.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 52
Earlier book Q200

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q196 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

unglazed. The

SEE THE SHAPE

Although most of the exterior was polished, the potter left the lower section unglazed. The rough surface provided a secure grip, particularly when the vessel was wet, linking a visual contrast with the way the object was handled.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 52
GA777-158 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q197 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

passage—a

SEE THE SHAPE

A newly discovered passage—a short section missing from all later copies—adds an unexpected detail to the journey, describing a change of route that explains several puzzling references preserved in the better-known versions of the narrative.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing dash. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching dash, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

B: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 53
GA777-303 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q198 · ANSWER A

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

threefold: to

SEE THE SHAPE

The goals were threefold: to join the talks, to serve, and to defend rights.

WHY IT WORKS

Threefold means three parts. The setup is finished; the colon introduces those three goals.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The list of goals is not a full sentence.

C: The list needs a mark to introduce it.

D: The list of goals is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 53
Earlier book Q180

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q199 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

disk, allows

SEE THE SHAPE

The outer ring, which turns independently of the central disk, allows users to align the markings with a reference point, while the rest of the device remains fixed against the object whose movement is being recorded.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 53
GA777-292 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q200 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

desk—has

SEE THE SHAPE

The former ticket office—a room barely large enough for a desk—has become an exhibition space, using photographs and a small selection of surviving objects to explain activities that once occupied the much larger building around it.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 53
GA777-326 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q201 · ANSWER A

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1890, for example,

SEE THE SHAPE

Wyoming gained statehood in 1890, for example, while eastern states waited.

WHY IT WORKS

For example is a short extra phrase. Commas hold it. While then introduces the difference.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The while part shows a difference; this colon does not introduce an explanation.

C: While makes the next part dependent. It cannot stand alone after a semicolon.

D: For example, while ... still cannot stand alone after a semicolon.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 54
Earlier book Q211

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q202 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

experiment, showed

SEE THE SHAPE

The control sample, kept at a constant temperature throughout the experiment, showed no measurable shift in color, strengthening the case that changes in the treated samples resulted from the cycles rather than from ordinary aging.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 54
GA777-270 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q203 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Amina Bello

SEE THE SHAPE

Playwright Amina Bello placed the entire second act in an empty railway station, using the characters' different expectations about an approaching train to create tension without introducing a new location or adding further events outside the building.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 54
GA777-344 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q204 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ganga has been used as a communication method.

SEE THE SHAPE

That is why ganga has been used for communication.

WHY IT WORKS

The sentence explains a fact. It does not ask a question.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

C: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

D: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 54
Earlier book Q249

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q205 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

unearthed

SEE THE SHAPE

unearthed knives, horseshoes, wool tunics, and other artifacts

WHY IT WORKS

Unearthed what? The list answers that. No mark belongs after unearthed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 55
Earlier book Q25

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q206 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

bowls, requires

SEE THE SHAPE

The curved blade, an implement used to trim the inside of wooden bowls, requires a different sharpening method from a straight blade, since preserving the edge involves following a shape that cannot rest flat against the stone.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 55
GA777-291 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q207 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

critic Stina Chyn claims

SEE THE SHAPE

critic Stina Chyn claims “expanded ...”

WHY IT WORKS

Keep critic Stina Chyn together. The quoted words also fit into the sentence; do not cut them away with a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The commas separate the job critic from the needed name.

B: The commas split the job and name, then cut off the words in the quote.

D: The commas split the name from claims and cut off the quoted words.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 55
Earlier book Q174

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q208 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

climate, famous residents,

SEE THE SHAPE

landscape, climate, famous residents, or chief exports

WHY IT WORKS

There are four ordinary list items. Keep a comma between each neighboring item.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B: The comma between climate and famous residents is missing.

D: Use commas consistently in this ordinary list, not semicolons or a colon.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 55
Earlier book Q230

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q209 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Theo Marin

SEE THE SHAPE

After testing several methods on small areas, museum conservator Theo Marin removed the discolored layer without disturbing the paint beneath it, revealing details whose earlier appearance could otherwise have been reconstructed only from photographs.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 56
GA777-339 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q210 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fingernail, still

SEE THE SHAPE

The remaining fragment, a piece no larger than a fingernail, still carries part of the original painted pattern, helping archaeologists distinguish a deliberately decorated vessel from nearby fragments whose similar coloring resulted from exposure to heat.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 56
GA777-279 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q211 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cooperation—this

SEE THE SHAPE

that — assuming the installers’ cooperation — this practice can help

WHY IT WORKS

A dash already comes after that. Close the extra assuming detail with another dash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not match the opening dash.

C: A colon does not match the opening dash.

D: The closing dash is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 56
Earlier book Q148

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q212 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

notes; however, their

SEE THE SHAPE

Both begin with an identical sequence of notes; however, their later sections follow different patterns, suggesting either that a shared opening became attached to separate compositions or that performers transformed the same earlier work in divergent ways.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

B: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

D: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 56
GA777-406 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q213 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Basic, in 2009; an online television network,

SEE THE SHAPE

an app, name, in 2009; a network, name, in 2010; and a course, in 2015

WHY IT WORKS

A comma keeps 2009 inside item one. A semicolon ends item one. A comma introduces the network’s name.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first semicolon splits item one too early, and the next breaks are also misplaced.

B: The semicolon splits item one before its date; the separator after 2009 is too weak.

D: Use a semicolon after 2009 to separate the big items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 57
Earlier book Q241

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q214 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

condition: a

SEE THE SHAPE

To ensure that a changing environment did not create the apparent pattern, the procedure required one controlled condition: a constant level of light throughout the observation period, allowing the researchers to compare activity without also accounting for shifts between brighter and dimmer surroundings.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 57
GA777-394 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q215 · ANSWER B

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

on until

SEE THE SHAPE

Designed to alert users who might mistake a partly lowered cover for a fully secured one, the warning light remains on until the cover is completely closed and the locking mechanism has engaged at both sides.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

C: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 57
GA777-067 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q216 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pattern?

SEE THE SHAPE

After comparing the score with the recording, can the musicians identify which note actually begins the repeated pattern?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 57
GA777-500 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q217 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

site. Using

SEE THE SHAPE

To improve comparisons, the annual survey took place on the same weekend at every site. Using a common date reduced one source of variation, although observers still had to record differences in weather and visibility.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 58
GA777-157 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q218 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

blanket help

SEE THE SHAPE

The narrow strips of tightly woven fabric that run beneath the decorative stitching along the edge of the blanket help keep the loose threads from unraveling, suggesting that the border served a practical as well as an ornamental purpose.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “blanket.” The main action begins with “help.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 58
GA777-004 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q219 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

communities. Each

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than treating the coastline as a uniform region, researchers compared reports from several fishing communities. Each community had observed a different pattern, reflecting differences in the places where its members gathered food and repaired their boats.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 58
GA777-119 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q220 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

others? The

SEE THE SHAPE

Why do children resemble their parents in some ways but not in others? The answer requires genetics.

WHY IT WORKS

Why do children ... asks a direct question. End it with ?. Then begin The answer.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not end the direct question.

B: This is a direct question, so it needs a question mark.

D: The question and the next sentence run together.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 58
Earlier book Q259

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q221 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

as an

SEE THE SHAPE

Hoping to encourage more participation from experienced local growers, the organizer introduced the next event as an opportunity to exchange practical ideas, with short demonstrations followed by discussions of problems that participants had encountered in their own gardens.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “as” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 59
GA777-050 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q222 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

water, and maintaining

SEE THE SHAPE

It supplied a more dependable source of water, and maintaining its channels demanded more labor than planners expected, showing that improved availability could be accompanied by new maintenance requirements rather than a simple reduction in effort.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. And connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before and, not between and and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and splits and from the clause it introduces.

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of and.

D: The colon incorrectly separates and from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 59
GA777-238 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q223 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

CE, making

SEE THE SHAPE

Cahokia had many people, making it a very large city.

WHY IT WORKS

Making it ... adds a result. It has no separate main action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The added detail needs a comma.

B: Making it ... cannot be a sentence by itself.

D: Making it ... is not a full thought after a semicolon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 59
Earlier book Q114

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q224 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Ecuador)—

SEE THE SHAPE

three territories — New Granada, Venezuela, and Quito (Ecuador) — from colonial rule

WHY IT WORKS

First close the parenthesis. Then close the dash pair.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma is inside the parenthesis, and the closing dash is missing.

B: The closing parenthesis is present, but the closing dash is missing.

C: A comma cannot close the dash pair.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 59
Earlier book Q150

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q225 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

time,

SEE THE SHAPE

Angell’s reputation, bolstered by essays, has overshadowed his editing career.

WHY IT WORKS

Reputation has overshadowed is the main thought. The commas hold the extra detail.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Was creates a second main action and leaves the extra detail without its opening comma.

C: Had been creates a second main action and misses the opening comma.

D: The comma is useful, but was adds an unwanted main action.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 60
Earlier book Q164

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q226 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

field; it

SEE THE SHAPE

In a comparison using identical recording equipment, the sound faded quickly in the open field; it lasted longer inside a stone passage, where repeated reflections extended notes that had already stopped at their source.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

B: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

C: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 60
GA777-195 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q227 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

planning, testing,

SEE THE SHAPE

Its projects proceeded through planning, testing, and revising, with each stage documented so that students could explain how an observation from a trial led to a specific change in the final proposal.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 60
GA777-448 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q228 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

method, called

SEE THE SHAPE

Their method, called ELISA (enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay), is used ...

WHY IT WORKS

Called ELISA is an extra name. A closing comma is printed after the parenthesis.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The added opening parenthesis has no matching closing parenthesis.

B: A dash cannot pair with the printed closing comma.

D: The opening comma before called is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 60
Earlier book Q139

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q229 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

receiver?

SEE THE SHAPE

What happens to the recorded signal when the reflector turns away from the receiver?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 61
GA777-496 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q230 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

soil, a

SEE THE SHAPE

The upper layer of soil, a deposit rich in small shell fragments, differed sharply from the darker material below when examined closely, suggesting a change in the conditions under which sediment had accumulated at the site.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing comma. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching comma, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

C: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 61
GA777-282 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q231 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

changes in the river, damage to the roads,

SEE THE SHAPE

The flood report organizes its findings around changes in the river, damage to the roads, and repairs to the bridges.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 61
GA777-457 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q232 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

conclusion—is

SEE THE SHAPE

The earliest edition—a volume printed before the author changed the conclusion—is now rarely available outside major libraries, so readers who know only the revised text may be unaware that its final claim was originally expressed quite differently.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 61
GA777-318 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q233 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photographs, yet the

SEE THE SHAPE

An exposed layer of paint matched the color visible in old photographs, yet the team found a different color underneath, revealing that the apparently authoritative photographs documented only one stage in a longer history of alteration.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. Yet connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before yet, not between yet and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of yet.

C: The extra comma after yet splits yet from the clause it introduces.

D: The colon incorrectly separates yet from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 62
GA777-227 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q234 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

return?

SEE THE SHAPE

Does the final scene explain why the traveler refused to return?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A period does not mark this direct question.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 62
GA777-516 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q235 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

high; midsummer,

SEE THE SHAPE

The report compares early spring, when water was high; midsummer, when exposed soil became dry; and late autumn, when rainfall increased, showing how measurements taken at the same location can reflect a sequence of quite different conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 62
GA777-474 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q236 · ANSWER B

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

container and placed

SEE THE SHAPE

Guided by a camera that checks the location of the rim, the mechanical arm lifted the empty container and placed it beneath the filling tube, pausing until the sensor confirmed that the opening was centered below the nozzle.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

C: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

D: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 62
GA777-054 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q237 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

professor Yugang Sun

SEE THE SHAPE

chemistry professor Yugang Sun and his colleagues developed ...

WHY IT WORKS

Keep professor Yugang Sun together. Sun and his colleagues form one who group.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma splits the two parts of the who group.

C: The commas cut the job away from the name and split the who group.

D: The comma cuts professor away from Yugang Sun.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 63
Earlier book Q168

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q238 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Yara Malik

SEE THE SHAPE

Examining threads recovered from a dry cave, textile researcher Yara Malik compared the direction and tightness of their twists, using these small features to investigate whether apparently similar fragments were made through the same sequence of techniques.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 63
GA777-346 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q239 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

leaves, and the

SEE THE SHAPE

The more frequent treatment produced a greater number of leaves, and the total height changed very little, suggesting that a single measure of growth could obscure differences in how the plants allocated their resources among stems and foliage.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. And connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before and, not between and and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates and from the clause it introduces.

B: The extra comma after and splits and from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of and.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 63
GA777-222 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q240 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

system, the Dalian Metro,

SEE THE SHAPE

The city opened its system, the Dalian Metro, in that year.

WHY IT WORKS

The system name is an extra detail in the middle. Open and close it with commas.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon is not a matching pair around the extra system name.

B: The extra name has a closing comma but no opening comma.

C: The extra name has an opening comma but no closing comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 63
Earlier book Q161

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q241 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

advantage: a

SEE THE SHAPE

A newly proposed method offered a major advantage: a way to record its shape without physical contact, enabling the team to monitor small changes while avoiding an intervention that might itself alter the material being examined.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 64
GA777-369 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q242 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Mina Farouk

SEE THE SHAPE

In a series of vessels intended to be handled rather than viewed behind glass, ceramic artist Mina Farouk left part of each exterior untreated, encouraging users to compare textures within a single object.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 64
GA777-332 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q243 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

purpose: protection

SEE THE SHAPE

Its outer covering serves an important purpose: protection against rapid temperature changes, helping the interior respond gradually rather than allowing brief exposure to sun or shade to alter the measurements immediately.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 64
GA777-381 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q244 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pause, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised schedule included a pause, however; audience members could ask about methods that the demonstrations showed but did not explain, turning the event into an exchange rather than a sequence of uninterrupted performances.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

C: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 64
GA777-439 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q245 · ANSWER D

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lake, however, remained

SEE THE SHAPE

The road along the southern edge of the lake, however, remained open throughout the storm, providing a longer alternative whose higher position had protected it from the water affecting the lower crossings.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

B: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 65
GA777-414 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q246 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

display. Many

SEE THE SHAPE

A new catalog describes items that were never placed on public display. Many of these are ordinary tools, whose worn surfaces document activities that elaborate ceremonial objects reveal less directly.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 65
GA777-150 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q247 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sunlight, held

SEE THE SHAPE

The lower shelf, the only part protected from direct sunlight, held the best-preserved volumes, providing a useful comparison with books above it that had experienced similar humidity but substantially greater exposure to light over many years.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 65
GA777-276 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q248 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

windows, transitional

SEE THE SHAPE

With old and new design elements, transitional design blends both.

WHY IT WORKS

Read through the examples. The opening With part ends before transitional design.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The With part is not a full sentence before a semicolon.

B: The opening With detail needs a comma before the main thought. This dash does not make the needed link.

C: The opening With part is not a full sentence.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 65
Earlier book Q110

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q249 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

protest, a decision that,

SEE THE SHAPE

She chose a narrator, a decision that, by using their own voice, gave workers power.

WHY IT WORKS

Use one comma to add a decision. Use the next comma to open the by ... detail; its closing comma is already printed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A decision that ... is only a description here, not a full sentence.

B: A decision that ... cannot stand alone after a semicolon.

D: The first comma, before a decision, is missing.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 66
Earlier book Q120

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q250 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photograph. This

SEE THE SHAPE

Students therefore used identical settings for every photograph. This consistency made differences in color easier to interpret, since changes in exposure were less likely to be mistaken for changes in the samples themselves.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 66
GA777-168 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q251 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photograph?

SEE THE SHAPE

Since assistants moved several pieces during preparation and no installation plan survives, who arranged the objects in the order shown in that earliest photograph?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A period does not mark this direct question.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 66
GA777-510 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q252 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

for the

SEE THE SHAPE

Although a longer path passed several springs, the hikers carried enough water for the long climb from the valley, choosing the direct route because they needed to reach the observation station before the afternoon clouds arrived.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “for” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 66
GA777-031 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q253 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

result?

SEE THE SHAPE

Does the full report explain why the second experiment produced a different result?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 67
GA777-494 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q254 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

liquid; the

SEE THE SHAPE

In a trial, the upper layer absorbed most of the liquid; the layer below remained almost dry, indicating that the arrangement of materials could matter as much as the total thickness of the protective covering.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 67
GA777-206 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q255 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

however. It

SEE THE SHAPE

The name suggests the real thing → it is not the real thing.

WHY IT WORKS

However finishes the not the real thing thought. A period begins the explanation that it is a look-alike.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: But puts the difference in the wrong place and does not make the needed clear join.

B: There is no proper break before it is a look-alike.

C: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 67
Earlier book Q216

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q256 · ANSWER C

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lifelike,

SEE THE SHAPE

While many seek lifelike graphics, others look to the past.

WHY IT WORKS

While already links the waiting part to the main thought. A comma finishes the opening.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / D: The opening word already links the parts. Adding this joining word does not work here.

B: The comma after the whole waiting part is missing.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 67
Earlier book Q98

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q257 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

morning. They

SEE THE SHAPE

To document changes while limiting disturbance, a field team photographed the nest from a fixed distance each morning. They avoided approaching it during feeding periods, when even a brief interruption might affect the number of visits made by the adults.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 68
GA777-113 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q258 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Felix Duarte

SEE THE SHAPE

For a performance set near a waterfront, sound designer Felix Duarte combined field recordings with studio-made effects, emphasizing a few recognizable sounds while leaving enough quiet space for the actors' speech to remain clear.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 68
GA777-345 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q259 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

linguist Diane Massam

SEE THE SHAPE

linguist Diane Massam

WHY IT WORKS

Linguist is the job. Diane Massam tells us which linguist.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: The mark cuts the job away from the needed name.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 68
Earlier book Q170

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q260 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photosynthesis:

SEE THE SHAPE

Light affects photosynthesis: more light speeds up the reaction.

WHY IT WORKS

The next thought explains how light changes the process.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: And lacks the comma needed to join these longer full thoughts.

B: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 68
Earlier book Q190

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q261 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

gallery?

SEE THE SHAPE

Would a first-time visitor know which door leads to the public gallery?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 69
GA777-508 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q262 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Rania Aziz

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than combining unrelated conversations, linguist Rania Aziz recorded speakers telling the same story in several regional varieties, examining how grammatical choices and patterns of emphasis changed even when the events being described remained largely consistent.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 69
GA777-340 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q263 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

platform?

SEE THE SHAPE

From the diagram showing how the connecting rods change position, can you explain how the small wheel controls the larger platform?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 69
GA777-484 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q264 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

recommendation: regular

SEE THE SHAPE

Instead, it ended with a practical recommendation: regular inspections of the joints underneath, where small changes could provide an early warning and allow repairs to begin before deterioration affected the structure's ability to carry its intended load.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 69
GA777-396 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q265 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

vibrato—

SEE THE SHAPE

her abilities — acquiring control of timbre, pitch, dynamics, and vibrato — she earned ...

WHY IT WORKS

The first dash opens the long skill description. Close it after vibrato.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the opening dash.

B: A comma does not match the opening dash.

D: The closing dash is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 70
Earlier book Q152

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q266 · ANSWER C

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

musicians who

SEE THE SHAPE

The musicians who perform the opening passage sit near the front, where they can exchange visual cues during sections without a steady beat, while players who enter later occupy the spaces behind them.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

B: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

D: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 70
GA777-248 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q267 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

labeled?

SEE THE SHAPE

Where should volunteers place objects that have not yet been labeled?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A period does not mark this direct question.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 70
GA777-498 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q268 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

trench—was

SEE THE SHAPE

The bronze fitting—the only object recovered from the lower trench—was sent for specialist analysis, since its composition might help determine whether it belonged to the structure itself or had entered the deposit during a later disturbance.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 70
GA777-307 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q269 · ANSWER B

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

spaces: vegetable

SEE THE SHAPE

The plan therefore included four kinds of spaces: vegetable beds for shared cultivation, shaded paths connecting the entrances, seating areas beside the busiest routes, and a central lawn that could remain open for activities not specified in advance.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 71
GA777-356 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q270 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stones, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The valley floor, covered with a thick layer of loose stones, was difficult to traverse after heavy rain, forcing the team to follow a longer ridge route that offered more stable footing.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 71
GA777-268 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q271 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cable conduct

SEE THE SHAPE

In fact, the fine copper wires that run alongside one another inside the protective outer covering of the cable conduct electricity, while the covering prevents those wires from touching nearby metal components.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “cable.” The main action begins with “conduct.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

D: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 71
GA777-014 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q272 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

skeptical, but

SEE THE SHAPE

Many people were skeptical, but historians found evidence.

WHY IT WORKS

Use a comma before but to join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 71
Earlier book Q86

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q273 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stratigraphy—the

SEE THE SHAPE

stratigraphy — the analysis of Earth’s layers — to estimate the age

WHY IT WORKS

The dash after (strata) is printed. Add the matching dash after stratigraphy.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A parenthesis cannot pair with a dash.

C: A colon cannot pair with a dash.

D: A comma cannot pair with a dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 72
Earlier book Q145

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q274 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

high on:

SEE THE SHAPE

They scored high on one trait: openness to experience.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup is complete. The colon tells us which trait it was.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: On openness to experience cannot be a sentence by itself.

B: Openness to experience is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: The added name needs a mark to introduce it.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 72
Earlier book Q185

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q275 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Erie, the

SEE THE SHAPE

By linking the river and lake, the canal reduced time and cost.

WHY IT WORKS

The By part tells how. The canal reduced is the main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening By part is not a full sentence.

B: This starts a parenthesis that is not properly closed.

D: The By part is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 72
Earlier book Q106

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q276 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

engineer; Pavel,

SEE THE SHAPE

The committee invited Salma, an engineer; Pavel, a designer experienced in public spaces; and Inez, an ecologist studying riverbanks, bringing together perspectives that could expose problems overlooked if the proposal were evaluated through only one kind of expertise.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

C: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

D: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 72
GA777-473 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q277 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Samir Haddad

SEE THE SHAPE

In translating a travel narrative whose geography had changed substantially since its composition, translator Samir Haddad retained several original place names, using brief notes to preserve distinctions that modern labels would have erased.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 73
GA777-334 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q278 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

significance; depictions

SEE THE SHAPE

patterns, description; depictions of animals; and enamel accents

WHY IT WORKS

The first item already has a comma inside it. Match the semicolon after the second item.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma does not match the big-item separators in this list.

C: The next item does not explain significance. It is a new list item.

D: The rest of the list is not a full sentence.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 73
Earlier book Q237

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q279 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

supposed, a

SEE THE SHAPE

The discovery suggests an earlier meeting, a finding that could change theories.

WHY IT WORKS

A finding ... names the extra detail. It is not a new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A finding that ... is not a full thought after a semicolon.

B: A finding that ... is not a full thought after a period.

C: The added detail needs a comma before a finding.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 73
Earlier book Q122

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q280 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

the tension in the cables, the condition of the pulleys,

SEE THE SHAPE

Before testing a device designed to raise a heavy platform, the crew checked the tension in the cables, the condition of the pulleys, and the position of the support posts.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 73
GA777-453 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q281 · ANSWER C

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

letters that

SEE THE SHAPE

The letters that mention the new railway were written later than those describing travel by coach, allowing the archivist to establish a rough sequence before using references to individual stations to narrow the dates further.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

B: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

D: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 74
GA777-246 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q282 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

performances; the

SEE THE SHAPE

Its venues included the courtyard, used for performances; the library, used for readings requiring a quieter setting; and the garden, used for practical demonstrations, allowing the physical surroundings to contribute to the program's variety.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 74
GA777-479 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q283 · ANSWER D

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tools: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Although the tasks varied, each portable kit contained three basic tools: a small hammer for light assembly, a narrow file for smoothing rough edges, and pliers for gripping parts too small to hold securely by hand.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 74
GA777-354 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q284 · ANSWER B

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

gallery after

SEE THE SHAPE

Visitors who wish to examine the photographs displayed in the upper gallery after they climb the narrow staircase beside the entrance can compare them with a model showing the neighborhood before its redevelopment.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

C: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 74
GA777-071 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q285 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

practice at the time;

SEE THE SHAPE

offered storytelling, an uncommon practice; celebrated a holiday; and put on shows

WHY IT WORKS

Each big action may have its own detail. Match the semicolon already later in the list.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The list needs a semicolon after the first whole item, and the comma after practice is unnecessary.

C: The extra comma splits practice at the time, and the big list separator is still wrong.

D: The big items need semicolons, not this comma.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 75
Earlier book Q234

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q286 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paradox, and

SEE THE SHAPE

The idea is a paradox, and research suggests it matters.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own full thought. Join them with comma + and.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

D: The joining comma belongs before and, not after it.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 75
Earlier book Q93

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q287 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

weakness: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Moving the same load toward one edge exposed a serious weakness: a tendency for the supporting frame to bend unevenly, indicating that the design needed to accommodate not only the total weight but also where that weight might be concentrated.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 75
GA777-382 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q288 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Stars, an

SEE THE SHAPE

The story appears in Reclaim the Stars, an anthology.

WHY IT WORKS

An anthology tells us what the book is. Add that detail with a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: An anthology ... is not a full sentence.

B: While does not work with this simple naming detail.

C: The added description needs a comma.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 75
Earlier book Q111

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q289 · ANSWER C

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

week because

SEE THE SHAPE

During a later trial, those seedlings survived the unusually dry week because their roots had already reached moist soil below the surface, where evaporation removed water more slowly than it did near the top.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

D: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 76
GA777-066 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q290 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

that small

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing droplets on smooth sheets with droplets on sheets covered in microscopic ridges, the experiment demonstrated that small changes in surface texture can influence whether water spreads into a thin film or gathers into beads that roll away.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “that” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 76
GA777-033 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q291 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

safely, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The water now too high to cross safely, the team followed a longer route along the valley, delaying its return but keeping the instruments away from a current that could have damaged them.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 76
GA777-094 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q292 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

odors, limiting

SEE THE SHAPE

The team kept the specimens in sealed containers away from strong odors, limiting the risk that later analysis would confuse compounds originally present in the material with those absorbed from cleaning products used nearby.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with limiting adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

C: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

D: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 76
GA777-100 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q293 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

antiquity, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

Those writers copied ancient styles → they were not the first.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs with not the first. The semicolon starts the proof about earlier writers.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The strong break after however is missing.

B: One comma after however cannot join two full thoughts.

D: However is attached to the proof instead of the thought showing the difference.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 77
Earlier book Q223

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q294 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hall. Its

SEE THE SHAPE

Previously hidden beneath later paneling, the painting covers an entire wall of the entrance hall. Its largest figures can now be seen from the street, drawing attention to an interior that passersby had once perceived as an unremarkable doorway.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 77
GA777-138 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q295 · ANSWER C

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

threefold: to

SEE THE SHAPE

The purpose was threefold: to entertain, to reflect beliefs, and to build thinking skills.

WHY IT WORKS

Threefold means three parts. Finish that full setup, then use a colon to introduce the list.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The list needs a mark after the completed setup.

B: To provide ... is a list of purposes, not a full sentence after a period.

D: The list after the semicolon is not a full sentence.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 77
Earlier book Q182

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q296 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

return.

SEE THE SHAPE

Comparing the final conversation with earlier references to an abandoned promise, the reviewer asked whether the closing scene explained why the traveler had refused to return.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 77
GA777-517 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q297 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

age; built

SEE THE SHAPE

The dating confirmed the age; built long ago, the city preceded the Olmec civilization.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side becomes a full thought. Built introduces a detail, but keep reading: the city preceded completes that side.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together.

D: And built wrongly joins built to confirmed and does not create the needed break.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 78
Earlier book Q80

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q298 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

volunteers who

SEE THE SHAPE

Only the volunteers who had passed the safety course could operate the cutting equipment, while the remaining participants worked on measuring and labeling pieces that trained operators would later prepare.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

C: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

D: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 78
GA777-244 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q299 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

soil allows

SEE THE SHAPE

The ability of certain roots to change direction when they encounter stones buried in the soil allows the plants to reach water-filled crevices that roots growing straight downward would miss.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “soil.” The main action begins with “allows.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

B: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

D: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 78
GA777-006 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q300 · ANSWER B

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Earth: at 41 light-years away,

SEE THE SHAPE

The method found distant planets: at 41 light-years away, one planet; at 60, another ...

WHY IT WORKS

The colon introduces the whole list. The comma after away ends the first item’s opening distance detail.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon comes after a distance detail instead of introducing the whole list.

C: One comma does not clearly separate the setup from this complex list.

D: The list needs a clear starting mark after Earth, before the distance details.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 78
Earlier book Q181

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q301 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

park—would

SEE THE SHAPE

The proposed footpath—a route connecting the station to the riverside park—would allow walkers to bypass that road, linking existing public spaces without requiring them to make the longer journey through the commercial center.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 79
GA777-308 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q302 · ANSWER D

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

life,

SEE THE SHAPE

animal life, the elderly, and ending the slave trade

WHY IT WORKS

These are three items in a list. Put a comma between the first two.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The separator between the first two items is missing.

B: This simple list uses commas, not semicolons.

C: The second item does not explain the first; it is the next item.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 79
Earlier book Q225

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q303 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

handle. A

SEE THE SHAPE

A small bell was cast separately from its handle. A metal pin connected the pieces, allowing the maker to combine components that would have been difficult to produce together in a single mold.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 79
GA777-183 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q304 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

recordings that

SEE THE SHAPE

The recordings that include background conversation were excluded from the analysis, even when the birds were clearly audible, because overlapping sounds could alter measurements in ways that listeners might not notice during an ordinary playback.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

C: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

D: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 79
GA777-253 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q305 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

moved; for example,

SEE THE SHAPE

Horsepower measures weight moved; for example, one unit can lift a certain weight.

WHY IT WORKS

For example starts the next full thought. Use a semicolon before it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around for example cannot join two full thoughts.

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 80
Earlier book Q205

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q306 · ANSWER C

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

advance;

SEE THE SHAPE

The forecast looks weeks ahead; its predictions are more short-term.

WHY IT WORKS

Each part is a full thought. A semicolon joins them.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

B: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

D: These longer full thoughts need a comma before and.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 80
Earlier book Q74

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q307 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

contrast: dense

SEE THE SHAPE

The survey recorded a striking contrast: dense vegetation on one bank and exposed soil on the other, prompting researchers to examine differences in recent land use before attributing the pattern entirely to the direction of sunlight.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 80
GA777-392 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q308 · ANSWER C

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

journey; those

SEE THE SHAPE

A separate notebook lists expenses for each day of the journey; those entries allow historians to reconstruct movements between settlements, using purchases of food and lodging as evidence for locations that the more polished narrative never names.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

B: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 80
GA777-207 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q309 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paper—contains

SEE THE SHAPE

The final letter—a brief message written on reused paper—contains the only direct reference to its cancellation, allowing historians to connect abandoned purchases and unfinished repairs that had previously seemed unrelated within the surviving business records.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 81
GA777-315 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q310 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

was a

SEE THE SHAPE

Despite these different priorities, the shared goal that emerged from their meetings was a safer crossing near the public library, where a wide road interrupted several frequently used walking routes.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “was” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 81
GA777-040 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q311 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

opening, recorded

SEE THE SHAPE

The smallest camera, which could fit through the inspection opening, recorded areas beyond the reach of the larger device, revealing that cracks visible near the entrance extended farther into the structure than the first survey had established.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 81
GA777-281 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q312 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

trees. The

SEE THE SHAPE

A survey recorded the position and approximate canopy size of more than a hundred trees. The resulting map helped planners identify where excavation would require special care, linking underground work with features that earlier engineering drawings had omitted.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 81
GA777-148 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q313 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

microsculptures. Creations

SEE THE SHAPE

Wigan is known for microsculptures. Creations so small ..., Wigan’s sculptures are made ...

WHY IT WORKS

Creations so small describes Wigan’s sculptures in the new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 82
Earlier book Q42

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q314 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pair supports

SEE THE SHAPE

The evidence gathered from images recorded at regular intervals during repeated observations of the nesting pair supports the idea that both adults contribute, although their visits occur at different times and are therefore easily missed during brief observations.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “pair.” The main action begins with “supports.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

D: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 82
GA777-018 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q315 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

receiver.

SEE THE SHAPE

At each angle, researchers recorded what happened to the signal as the reflector gradually turned away from the receiver.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 82
GA777-497 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q316 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

music. Featuring

SEE THE SHAPE

Jazz emerged as a style. Featuring larger groups, composers emphasized smooth melodies.

WHY IT WORKS

The first thought ends at music. The next sentence starts with a detail, then says composers emphasized.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: This leaves two full thoughts without a proper sentence break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 82
Earlier book Q60

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q317 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

to a

SEE THE SHAPE

During a demonstration designed to isolate those differences, the audience listened to a recording of the same short melody played on three instruments, concentrating on how each sound began, continued, and faded after the player stopped.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “to” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 83
GA777-047 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q318 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock

SEE THE SHAPE

artists Thomas Hart Benton and Jackson Pollock were featured

WHY IT WORKS

The two names identify the artists. Keep that group together and beside were featured.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon cuts the job from the names; the comma cuts the group from were featured.

C: The commas split the two-name pair and cut it from were featured.

D: The comma cuts artists away from the names.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 83
Earlier book Q177

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q319 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

popularized

SEE THE SHAPE

popularized the use of Jamaican Creole

WHY IT WORKS

Popularized what? The use of Jamaican Creole. Keep the answer beside the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 83
Earlier book Q19

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q320 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

street, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The upper chamber, a room with no windows facing the street, was probably used for storing valuable materials, since access required passing through areas that could be watched from the main occupied rooms below.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 83
GA777-262 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q321 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

channel. Some

SEE THE SHAPE

A narrow path through the gardens follows the edge of a former irrigation channel. Some sections of its stone lining remain visible, revealing how water once reached plots that now appear to be separated by ordinary footpaths.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 84
GA777-145 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q322 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

to

SEE THE SHAPE

home to the largest island

WHY IT WORKS

To needs the words the largest island. Keep them attached.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 84
Earlier book Q20

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q323 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Owen Park

SEE THE SHAPE

Illustrator Owen Park therefore drew each plant at two stages, showing how leaves and stems could help readers identify a specimen before the most familiar features appeared.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 84
GA777-341 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q324 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

landslide—reopened

SEE THE SHAPE

The river path—closed for several months after the landslide—reopened when workers completed a protective barrier, allowing visitors to return without assuming that removal of the visible debris alone had eliminated the underlying risk.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 84
GA777-298 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q325 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

winds; its

SEE THE SHAPE

The new structure faces away from the strongest prevailing winds; its entrance receives sunlight during the cooler morning hours, reflecting a design that responds to more than one environmental condition at the same time.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 85
GA777-210 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q326 · ANSWER D

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

equipment only

SEE THE SHAPE

Even after completing an introductory course and demonstrating that they understood the written instructions, students could use the workshop equipment only if a trained supervisor was present to monitor their work and respond immediately if a piece became caught.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

B: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 85
GA777-068 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q327 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

core provides

SEE THE SHAPE

The unusually thick layer of pollen grains found between two bands of mineral deposits near the bottom of the core provides evidence of a prolonged flowering season rather than a single brief event, according to the researchers examining the sample.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “core.” The main action begins with “provides.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

D: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 85
GA777-012 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q328 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

contains letters

SEE THE SHAPE

The archive maintained by a local historical society contains letters written by merchants and messengers, whose accounts of delays, weather, and unfamiliar customs offer a more personal view of travel between distant settlements.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “contains” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 85
GA777-035 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q329 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

nutrients,

SEE THE SHAPE

Photosynthesis, the mechanism ... nutrients, is fueled ...

WHY IT WORKS

The comma after Photosynthesis opens the extra detail. Add the matching comma before is fueled.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra detail has no closing comma.

B: And cannot close the extra detail.

D: A dash cannot close an extra detail opened with a comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 86
Earlier book Q134

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q330 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

collection, will

SEE THE SHAPE

The opening lecture, an introduction to the history of the collection, will take place in the museum auditorium, where projected images will show storage arrangements and earlier displays that visitors cannot examine in the present galleries.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 86
GA777-290 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q331 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sunset. A

SEE THE SHAPE

Insects gathered near several plants shortly after sunset. A camera recorded their visits throughout the night, revealing a pattern of activity that differed substantially from the one documented during daytime observations.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 86
GA777-151 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q332 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

greenery;

SEE THE SHAPE

Aibonito is known for greenery; this earned it a nickname.

WHY IT WORKS

Aibonito is ... and this has earned ... are two full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

C: These longer full thoughts need a comma before and.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 86
Earlier book Q72

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q333 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

floor?

SEE THE SHAPE

Is there additional evidence that the structure once had a second floor?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A period does not mark this direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 87
GA777-504 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q334 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Sofia Neri

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing changes in soil color with the positions of buried stones, archaeologist Sofia Neri located the edge of an earlier floor, establishing a starting point for investigating a structure whose walls had been almost completely removed.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 87
GA777-342 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q335 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

factory, and the

SEE THE SHAPE

The town retained the brick exterior of the former factory, and the interior was rebuilt as a public library, replacing machinery and partitioned work areas with open rooms whose arrangement bears little resemblance to the original industrial spaces.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. And connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before and, not between and and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and splits and from the clause it introduces.

C: The colon incorrectly separates and from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of and.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 87
GA777-220 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q336 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

way: the

SEE THE SHAPE

Beyond their similar length and material, these examples differ in one visible way: the shape of the opening near the top, a feature that the accompanying demonstration invites listeners to connect with differences they hear when the same notes are played.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 87
GA777-384 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q337 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn

SEE THE SHAPE

researchers Roberto Scandone and Christopher Kilburn

WHY IT WORKS

Researchers is the job label. The two names tell us who.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: The extra commas split the job-and-name group or split the two-name pair.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 88
Earlier book Q166

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q338 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lid—held

SEE THE SHAPE

The largest one—a shallow tray with a tightly fitting lid—held samples from the deepest deposit, keeping together pieces whose relationship would have been difficult to reconstruct if they had been packed separately.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 88
GA777-301 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q339 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

else, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

It held something else, however; a small metal tag bore a date earlier than the window's presumed installation, prompting researchers to reconsider whether the debris had accumulated during more than one episode of repair.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

C: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 88
GA777-438 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q340 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

that the

SEE THE SHAPE

However, recently cataloged payroll records indicate that the workshop continued operating for several years under different management, producing unmarked objects that earlier collectors had attributed to other makers.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “that” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 88
GA777-049 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q341 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

created

SEE THE SHAPE

created floating farms

WHY IT WORKS

Created what? Floating farms. Do not cut off the answer.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 89
Earlier book Q17

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q342 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tube. A

SEE THE SHAPE

To ensure that variation in speed did not obscure the effect of surface texture, it required a steady flow of water through each tube. A small pump maintained that flow while sensors recorded the movement of the suspended material.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 89
GA777-125 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q343 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

collection meets

SEE THE SHAPE

The team of volunteers with expertise in local crafts and responsibility for labeling the museum collection meets every Saturday to compare photographs, family records, and recollections, gradually replacing uncertain descriptions with accounts supported by several independent sources.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “collection.” The main action begins with “meets.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

D: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 89
GA777-013 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q344 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

headland—provided

SEE THE SHAPE

The sheltered inlet—a stretch of calm water behind the rocky headland—provided a suitable landing place, even while conditions beyond the headland remained too rough for the crew to work safely beside the vessel.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 89
GA777-314 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q345 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

move, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One component could move, however: a narrow plate above the main opening, allowing the operator to alter the amount of material passing through without dismantling the device or changing its other settings.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

D: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 90
GA777-427 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q346 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

materials that Palma Rodríguez uses in his art

SEE THE SHAPE

The materials that he uses ... highlight his background.

WHY IT WORKS

Keep that he uses with materials. Keep the whole who-or-what part beside highlight.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts the materials and their description away from highlight.

C: One comma cuts off the needed description; the other cuts it away from highlight.

D: The comma cuts off the needed words that identify the materials.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 90
Earlier book Q127

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q347 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

detail: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The last photograph, taken with light directed almost parallel to the wood, revealed an overlooked detail: a faint line across one edge, suggesting a joint that ordinary illumination had concealed and raising the possibility that the panel had once formed part of a larger assembly.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 90
GA777-367 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q348 · ANSWER D

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

empowerment—not only in India

SEE THE SHAPE

They promoted women’s empowerment—not only in India but also around the world.

WHY IT WORKS

The dash introduces where the effort reached. Keep not only ... but also ... together as one pair.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The second dash wrongly closes the detail before but also finishes it.

B: The comma splits the short not only ... but also ... pair.

C: The commas break up that pair and treat only its first half as extra.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 90
Earlier book Q202

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q349 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

awards, respectively;

SEE THE SHAPE

Moreno won the four honors; the achievement is called an EGOT.

WHY IT WORKS

The word respectively finishes the first thought. The achievement starts another.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Respectively needs to finish the first thought, before the strong break.

C: A second dash would make the earlier dash look like the start of an extra detail. The two full thoughts need a clearer break.

D: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 91
Earlier book Q76

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q350 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

motor—lets

SEE THE SHAPE

The rotating platform—a device controlled by a small electric motor—lets the photographer record every side from a fixed camera position, producing a sequence in which changes of angle can be compared without changes in scale or lighting.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 91
GA777-304 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q351 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

(Ru), but

SEE THE SHAPE

They thought they could improve the alloy, but the result was unsuitable.

WHY IT WORKS

The parenthesis finishes Ru. The comma + but then joins the next full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

B: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 91
Earlier book Q92

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q352 · ANSWER D

Ta-Da Dash Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

name—

SEE THE SHAPE

A statue was placed in the location that inspired the name—Gangnam District.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup is complete. The dash introduces the place’s name.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Gangnam District ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

B: Gangnam District ... is not a full sentence after a period.

C: The added place name needs a mark to introduce it.

Hack 15 · Lesson p. 1019 · Practice p. 91
Earlier book Q201

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q353 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

(1947),

SEE THE SHAPE

While filming the match, Howe used a moving camera.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening words tell when Howe did it. End that detail with a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: And does not belong between this opening detail and its main thought.

C: And cannot take the place of the needed comma.

D: The comma after the opening detail is missing.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 92
Earlier book Q105

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q354 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

inspection, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Carrying only the tools needed for the inspection, the engineer climbed to the upper level, where measurements taken at several joints would determine whether a larger repair team needed to return.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 92
GA777-104 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q355 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

to a

SEE THE SHAPE

After ruling out exposure to light and changes in temperature, the laboratory team attributed the unexpected color change to a reaction between the liquid and the metal lid, whose protective coating had begun to wear away.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “to” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 92
GA777-021 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q356 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

shelves?

SEE THE SHAPE

Why were the lower shelves less damaged than the upper shelves?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 92
GA777-502 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q357 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

newts, for

SEE THE SHAPE

In a JSON file about newts, for instance, you could find a species key.

WHY IT WORKS

For instance is an extra phrase. Take it out: In a JSON file ... you could find ... still works.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the period are only an opening detail, not a full sentence.

C: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

D: The opening detail is not a full sentence before a semicolon.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 93
Earlier book Q207

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q358 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

words. A

SEE THE SHAPE

An early translation emphasized the literal meaning of the words. A later version preserved more of the rhythm, enabling readers to compare two interpretations that reproduced different aspects of the same original text.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 93
GA777-152 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q359 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

do they affect our weather?

SEE THE SHAPE

What are atmospheric rivers, and how do they affect our weather?

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts ask questions. Finish with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

B: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

D: The question mark is present, but the words use telling order.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 93
Earlier book Q255

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q360 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sampler;

SEE THE SHAPE

In 2004, Watt sewed a sampler; in 2014, she made pillars.

WHY IT WORKS

The dates do not change the pattern: Watt sewed; she made.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: One comma cannot join two full thoughts. An extra word such as later does not fix that.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 93
Earlier book Q71

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q361 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

level; however, several

SEE THE SHAPE

The introductory description calls the entire route level; however, several sections rise steeply where the path crosses rocky outcrops, so a reader relying only on the summary might underestimate demands that become clear in the detailed map.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

B: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

D: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 94
GA777-403 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q362 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

follow, but noise

SEE THE SHAPE

The melody remains clear enough for others to follow, but noise makes several spoken words impossible to identify, limiting what researchers can infer about the introduction while leaving much of the musical material available for study.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

C: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

D: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 94
GA777-223 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q363 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

shelves.

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing the position of a nearby window with the angles at which light entered the room, a conservator investigated why lower shelves were less affected than upper shelves.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 94
GA777-503 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q364 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cliff, remains

SEE THE SHAPE

The northern path, a narrow track that follows the base of the cliff, remains shaded for most of the day, while the more exposed route becomes warm enough to dry quickly after rainfall.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 94
GA777-260 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q365 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

later, contains

SEE THE SHAPE

The handwritten index, compiled by an unknown clerk years later, contains several references to papers no longer present, helping researchers establish that gaps in the collection reflect losses rather than topics that its creators never recorded.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 95
GA777-283 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q366 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

insects, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Eager to learn which plants attracted the greatest variety of insects, the class kept a daily record of visits, noting both the time of observation and whether each flower was fully open.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 95
GA777-101 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q367 · ANSWER C

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

rapidly; the

SEE THE SHAPE

In a laboratory apparatus designed to measure gradual changes, the outer container prevented the solution from cooling rapidly; the inner container held the liquid being tested, separating the task of controlling conditions from the task of containing the sample.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 95
GA777-199 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q368 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

(1981), El Norte (1983),

SEE THE SHAPE

Zoot Suit (1981), El Norte (1983), and Stand and Deliver (1988)

WHY IT WORKS

These are three films. Keep each year with its film; use commas between films.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma after (1981) is missing.

B: El Norte is another equal list item, not a dash-framed aside.

D: Both commas between the films are missing.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 95
Earlier book Q228

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q369 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

remained, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One object remained, however: a sealed wooden box concealed behind a low partition, where it would have been invisible to anyone who remained close to the entrance.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

B: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 96
GA777-420 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q370 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

material.

SEE THE SHAPE

After filtering out suspended particles and allowing the water to evaporate, students compared the residues to determine which sample had contained a greater quantity of dissolved material.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 96
GA777-487 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q371 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

entrance, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

A second survey revealed an entrance, however; it had been hidden by shelves installed against an interior wall, explaining why people examining only the visible exterior had overlooked a connection to the neighboring room.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 96
GA777-436 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q372 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

world, but

SEE THE SHAPE

Golden Gate is long, but Tsing Ma is longer.

WHY IT WORKS

But shows the difference. The comma belongs before it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before the joining word is missing.

B: The extra comma after but wrongly cuts it from the words it joins.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 96
Earlier book Q87

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q373 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cooling.

SEE THE SHAPE

By recording temperature at regular intervals after adding equal volumes of heated water, the experiment tested how container shape affected the rate of cooling.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 97
GA777-507 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q374 · ANSWER B

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

flat so

SEE THE SHAPE

While photographing pages whose corners had become particularly brittle, volunteers kept the sheets flat so that the edges would not bend, using supports positioned outside the image rather than pressing the documents beneath a heavy glass plate.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

C: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

D: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 97
GA777-073 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q375 · ANSWER D

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

clear and captured

SEE THE SHAPE

Standing beneath an overhanging roof that sheltered the camera from rain, the photographer waited for the fog to clear and captured the reflection of the bridge before a passing boat broke the smooth surface into overlapping waves.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

B: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

C: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 97
GA777-055 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q376 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Robin”—a technique that,

SEE THE SHAPE

Vidler layered the music—a technique that, by changing the notes, creates a bluesy effect.

WHY IT WORKS

The dash adds the technique. Inside that detail, two commas hold by inserting ... framework together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A technique that creates ... is a description, not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: The comma before creates has no matching opening comma before by inserting.

D: A technique that creates ... has no main action of its own after the period.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 97
Earlier book Q156

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q377 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Act, which

SEE THE SHAPE

The law changed, which gave engravers control.

WHY IT WORKS

Which adds information about the law. It does not start a new sentence here.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Which ... cannot be a sentence by itself after the semicolon.

C: Which ... cannot be a sentence by itself after the period.

D: The passage needs comma + which to attach this extra information.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 98
Earlier book Q112

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q378 · ANSWER A

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fields, farmers

SEE THE SHAPE

After the water that had covered the lowest plots for nearly a week retreated from the fields, farmers inspected the soil, comparing newly exposed roots with nearby deposits to identify areas where erosion had been most severe.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

C: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 98
GA777-063 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q379 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

depths, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Comparing samples collected from carefully measured depths, the scientists identified a gradual shift in mineral content, suggesting that the water entering the lake had changed over time even though no single layer marked an abrupt transition.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 98
GA777-087 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q380 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

weightlessness;

SEE THE SHAPE

The technique is known for weightlessness; dancers may explore a jump.

WHY IT WORKS

The second thought starts with dancers may explore.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

B: This turns the next thought into a badly connected description.

C: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 98
Earlier book Q73

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q381 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

catalog, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Unable to find the document in the main catalog, the librarian searched handwritten indexes prepared before the collection was reorganized, eventually locating it under a subject heading that modern researchers would be unlikely to use.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 99
GA777-083 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q382 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Maya Ellis

SEE THE SHAPE

Oral historian Maya Ellis interviewed retired shipyard employees, comparing their accounts of signals, informal training, and shared responsibilities with the more standardized descriptions preserved in official operating manuals.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

B: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

C: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 99
GA777-353 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q383 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

California

SEE THE SHAPE

The Huntington Library ... received a collection.

WHY IT WORKS

Library is the thing. Received is its main action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 99
Earlier book Q3

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q384 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Swentzell,

SEE THE SHAPE

The arrangement, according to Swentzell, represents her idea

WHY IT WORKS

According to Swentzell is the extra detail. The first comma is already printed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The closing comma is missing.

C: A colon cannot close this comma pair.

D: A dash does not match the opening comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 99
Earlier book Q130

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q385 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

layer—directs

SEE THE SHAPE

The glass panel—a surface coated with a thin reflective layer—directs light toward the detector, enabling the instrument to fit inside a housing too small for the direct path used in an earlier prototype.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 100
GA777-310 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q386 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Chulalongkorn;

SEE THE SHAPE

The danger was evident; deterring it was his achievement.

WHY IT WORKS

Deterring those ambitions names the action. Was finishes the second full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This turns the next thought into a badly connected description.

C: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 100
Earlier book Q77

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q387 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

performances; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised schedule provides extra time between performances; the stage crew can reposition larger objects safely, reducing the need to choose between beginning on time and completing essential checks before the next act.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 100
GA777-204 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q388 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

percent. Such

SEE THE SHAPE

Consumption decreased. Such taxes can lose some of their effect.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts can stand alone. Such taxes starts the second thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 100
Earlier book Q30

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q389 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

afternoon—supported

SEE THE SHAPE

The southern slope—exposed to sunlight for most of the afternoon—supported fewer moisture-loving plants than the shaded slope, suggesting that small-scale differences in exposure influenced which species could persist within the same general climate.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 101
GA777-305 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q390 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

map reflects

SEE THE SHAPE

The difference between the detailed preliminary drawing and the simplified final printed map reflects a decision to emphasize walking routes rather than the property boundaries that had dominated the earlier version.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “map.” The main action begins with “reflects.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 101
GA777-010 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q391 · ANSWER B

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

edges; however, its

SEE THE SHAPE

The experimental shell looks fragile because of its thin edges; however, its curved form distributes pressure across the surface, allowing it to support loads that a flat sheet of the same material and thickness would not withstand.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

C: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

D: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 101
GA777-409 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q392 · ANSWER B

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

measurements because

SEE THE SHAPE

Despite the apparent precision of the recorded values, the team rejected the first set of measurements because the reference scale had shifted during the experiment, changing the relationship between each reading and the actual position of the sample.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

C: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 101
GA777-070 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q393 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

crew. Some

SEE THE SHAPE

A recovered vessel's inventory included a small library for the crew. Some of its volumes contained notes from earlier voyages, allowing later readers to compare printed instructions with observations recorded by people who had tested them at sea.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 102
GA777-164 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q394 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

her favorite book was.

SEE THE SHAPE

Calvani asked what her favorite book was.

WHY IT WORKS

The sentence TELLS us about a question. Use telling word order and a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Was her favorite book uses asking order. The exclamation mark does not fix it.

B: Both the asking order and question mark are wrong for this reported question.

D: The order is right, but the sentence tells; use a period.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 102
Earlier book Q256

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q395 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sculpture: thin

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than combining materials with different colors, the artist chose one material for the entire sculpture: thin wire bent into overlapping loops, creating density through repeated lines while allowing light and the surrounding space to remain visible between them.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 102
GA777-365 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q396 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

items; managing

SEE THE SHAPE

overseeing collections, detail; managing the Copyright Office, detail; and appointing a poet

WHY IT WORKS

These are three jobs. The first two contain commas, so semicolons separate the big jobs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first and second jobs run together.

B: A comma does not match the big-item separators in this list.

D: Managing ... is not a new full sentence.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 102
Earlier book Q240

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q397 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

estimates)

SEE THE SHAPE

housed residents (as many as 200,000, by some estimates) in apartments

WHY IT WORKS

The opening parenthesis needs its matching). Then the main thought continues.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after) wrongly cuts housed its residents from in apartments.

C: A dash cannot close a parenthesis.

D: The closing parenthesis is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 103
Earlier book Q136

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q398 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

species, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

A later visit found one species, however; its tiny white blossoms opened soon after rainfall, suggesting that the timing of the first survey had concealed a plant that remained present but inconspicuous for much of the year.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

C: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 103
GA777-440 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q399 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

one, took

SEE THE SHAPE

The largest seed, almost twice the width of the smallest one, took the longest time to sprout, a result that challenged the assumption that the biggest visible specimen would necessarily produce the earliest growth under the same conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 103
GA777-272 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q400 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

movements, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The new sensor, a device designed to detect very small movements, was attached to the underside of the frame, where it could record bending that remained invisible in photographs taken from the observation platform.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 103
GA777-256 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q401 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

2003, revolutionizing the field of economic research. Before

SEE THE SHAPE

The resource was published in 2003, revolutionizing research. Before its release, gaps hindered researchers.

WHY IT WORKS

Revolutionizing describes the resource. Before its release belongs with the earlier problem: gaps hindered researchers.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This makes gaps sound as if they revolutionized research.

C: The two main thoughts run together.

D: Commas alone cannot join the two main thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 104
Earlier book Q62

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q402 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Elias Chen

SEE THE SHAPE

Seeking to connect movements of goods with commercial decisions, historian Elias Chen compared official cargo lists with private letters, finding that the correspondence described uncertainties absent from the orderly columns of quantities and destinations.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 104
GA777-331 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q403 · ANSWER C

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

bridge that

SEE THE SHAPE

The bridge that crosses the eastern branch remains closed while its wooden deck is replaced, requiring travelers headed in that direction to use the western crossing and follow a longer route along the opposite bank.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

B: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

D: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 104
GA777-254 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q404 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

century, but

SEE THE SHAPE

The calculators were popular, but electronic ones replaced them.

WHY IT WORKS

But joins two full thoughts that show a difference.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

B: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: That does not correctly join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 104
Earlier book Q85

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q405 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

on careful

SEE THE SHAPE

Because packets bearing the same common name may contain plants with quite different growing requirements, the success of the exchange depends on careful records of where each batch originated and how its parent plants responded to local conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “on” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 105
GA777-023 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q406 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

with a

SEE THE SHAPE

To examine how this happens, students compared a recent translation of a travel narrative with a version published nearly a century earlier, paying particular attention to passages in which the narrator describes people whose customs differ from his own.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “with” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 105
GA777-037 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q407 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

families offers

SEE THE SHAPE

The small collection of handwritten recipes that an archivist assembled from notebooks donated by local families offers a glimpse of how residents adapted imported ingredients to the foods available near the coast.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “families.” The main action begins with “offers.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 105
GA777-003 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q408 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

geologist

SEE THE SHAPE

American geologist Marie Tharp

WHY IT WORKS

Geologist tells her job. Marie Tharp tells who.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: The mark cuts the job away from the needed name.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 105
Earlier book Q172

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q409 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

water—supports

SEE THE SHAPE

The abandoned quarry—a deep hollow now partly filled with water—supports plants rarely found in the surrounding woodland, creating a contrast that reflects differences in moisture and exposure rather than a simple return to the landscape that existed before excavation.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 106
GA777-322 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q410 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

trial. This

SEE THE SHAPE

To test whether consistency might instead reflect a fixed error, the researcher checked calibration before each trial. This routine revealed a small drift that would have remained hidden if the team had compared only successive measurements with one another.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 106
GA777-129 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q411 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fabric, makes

SEE THE SHAPE

The silver thread, which reflects light more strongly than the surrounding fabric, makes the pattern visible from a distance, while details made with darker thread emerge only when viewers approach the surface more closely.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 106
GA777-288 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q412 · ANSWER D

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paintings that

SEE THE SHAPE

The paintings that were placed in the entrance hall attracted more visitors than those in the smaller room, making it difficult to determine whether differences in attention reflected the works themselves or the places where people encountered them.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

B: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

C: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 106
GA777-250 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q413 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

diagrams; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The first approached the problem through diagrams; the second began by listing possible solutions, producing contrasting records of how an idea moved from an initial suggestion to a form that could be tested.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 107
GA777-196 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q414 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

nations Chile

SEE THE SHAPE

fellow OECD nations Chile and Luxembourg

WHY IT WORKS

The two country names tell us which nations. Keep the label and names together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: The mark cuts nations away from the names that identify them.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 107
Earlier book Q176

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q415 · ANSWER C

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

discovered while

SEE THE SHAPE

The team discovered the problem while analyzing studies.

WHY IT WORKS

While means during that activity. It stays with discovered.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: While analyzing is not a full sentence after a period.

B: While analyzing tells WHEN they discovered the problem. Keep it attached.

D: The while phrase directly tells when they discovered it; it is not a separate colon explanation.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 107
Earlier book Q103

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q416 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

adjustments. Prior

SEE THE SHAPE

VisiCalc updated calculations. Prior to VisiCalc, changing a spreadsheet took work.

WHY IT WORKS

Prior tells when the second situation happened. It belongs in the second sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 107
Earlier book Q35

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q417 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

play—changes

SEE THE SHAPE

The final scene—a conversation between characters who never meet earlier in the play—changes how the audience interprets the opening, turning what first appeared to be a casual remark into evidence of an unspoken agreement.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 108
GA777-299 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q418 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tunnel; debris

SEE THE SHAPE

A stream that once crossed an open field now passes beneath a road through a narrow tunnel; debris sometimes collects at the entrance, restricting flow in a location that is difficult to inspect from above and making the structure's maintenance more important than its modest appearance might suggest.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 108
GA777-200 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q419 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tide. Conditions

SEE THE SHAPE

Researchers collected observations during both high and low tide. Conditions at the site differed considerably between the two periods, affecting which organisms were visible and illustrating why a single visit could give an incomplete picture of the community.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 108
GA777-182 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q420 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

as a

SEE THE SHAPE

On the basis of its fragile construction and the elaborate imagery around its rim, the curator refers to it as a ceremonial vessel rather than an everyday cooking pot.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “as” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 108
GA777-025 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q421 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

coat reduce

SEE THE SHAPE

The tiny pockets of air held between the loosely arranged fibers in the inner lining of the coat reduce the rate at which heat escapes, helping explain why compressing that lining can make the garment less effective.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “coat.” The main action begins with “reduce.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 109
GA777-017 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q422 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

information, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

She gathers data → she does more than gather it.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with does not just compile. A semicolon introduces what else she does.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: Though is moved to the next thought and does not link the ideas correctly.

D: Though needs its comma, and the two full thoughts still need a strong break.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 109
Earlier book Q215

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q423 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tombs. Built

SEE THE SHAPE

Nehmé studied the tombs. Built into rock, these chambers seem to blend with nature.

WHY IT WORKS

Built describes the chambers in the next sentence. Chambers seem is the main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 109
Earlier book Q50

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q424 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

crossing.

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing those accounts with toll records, a historian sought to establish when the village began using the new crossing.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 109
GA777-491 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q425 · ANSWER A

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tool that

SEE THE SHAPE

The tool that has a curved wooden handle belongs with the set used for carving shallow bowls, a classification supported by wear on its blade as well as by its overall form.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

C: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

D: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 110
GA777-252 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q426 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

protection, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised plan added protection, however: a broad roof extending beyond the entrance, creating a sheltered zone without fully enclosing the space or blocking the paths that crossed it.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

B: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 110
GA777-430 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q427 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

violinist, who

SEE THE SHAPE

The second violinist, who had joined the group only a week earlier, played the unfamiliar passage confidently, using markings in a borrowed score to coordinate a sequence that the other players had rehearsed together many times.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing comma. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching comma, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

C: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 110
GA777-261 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q428 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paint, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Hidden beneath several layers of cream-colored paint, the original sign remained almost completely intact, preserving not only the name of the former workshop but also an illustration of the tools associated with its trade.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 110
GA777-077 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q429 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

languages, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

Scala uses compiling → compiling is not limited to certain languages.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs with isn’t exclusive. The next thought explains that any language can use it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B: However is placed with the explanation instead of the difference before it.

C: Commas around however cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 111
Earlier book Q221

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q430 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

case, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

Fixed today → not always fixed.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with This has not always been the case. The next full thought explains why.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The full thought after though needs a strong break before it.

B: One comma after though cannot join two full thoughts.

C: Though is moved to the wrong thought. The difference is not always fixed.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 111
Earlier book Q212

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q431 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

from stories

SEE THE SHAPE

Although the author never worked at the docks herself, she drew inspiration from stories told by relatives who had spent much of their lives repairing ships there.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “from” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 111
GA777-044 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q432 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

survived, though: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One description survived, though: a brief entry in a private diary, which noted the sequence of work and the reaction of onlookers even though its writer had no apparent intention of producing a public historical account.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before though. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon leaves though followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

C: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 111
GA777-431 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q433 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

leaves. Visitors

SEE THE SHAPE

One bed was reserved for plants with fragrant leaves. Visitors can gently touch selected specimens during guided tours, comparing scents released by contact and learning why the same plant may seem almost odorless when observed from a distance.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 112
GA777-169 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q434 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

into several

SEE THE SHAPE

Before attempting to reconstruct any vessel, volunteers divided the pieces into several groups based on thickness, surface color, and the direction of visible tool marks, making possible matches easier to identify.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “into” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 112
GA777-034 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q435 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

by

SEE THE SHAPE

embodied by Native Hawaiians

WHY IT WORKS

By whom? Native Hawaiians. Keep them together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 112
Earlier book Q22

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q436 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ones; even so,

SEE THE SHAPE

Technology usually moves forward; even so, old technology can return.

WHY IT WORKS

Even so introduces the surprising second thought. Put the semicolon before it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Even so is attached to the wrong thought. The surprising point comes after it.

B: The sentence break before even so is missing.

D: Commas around even so cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 112
Earlier book Q203

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q437 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

angles. Visitors

SEE THE SHAPE

The artist arranged the panels at slightly different angles. Visitors saw the colors change as they walked past, experiencing a sequence that could not be captured adequately in a single photograph taken from the center of the room.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 113
GA777-178 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q438 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

dance, showcasing

SEE THE SHAPE

The dance joined two styles, showcasing their variety.

WHY IT WORKS

Showcasing adds a detail. It is not a new full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: It showcased starts another full thought. One comma cannot join it.

B: Which showcased ... is not a complete sentence here.

D: Showcasing ... cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 113
Earlier book Q116

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q439 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

where sound is made.

SEE THE SHAPE

The reed is the mouthpiece where sound is made.

WHY IT WORKS

The sentence tells us what a reed is. It does not ask where sound is made.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

B: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

D: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 113
Earlier book Q243

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q440 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Luca Sato

SEE THE SHAPE

In a work whose sections describe different stages of a journey, poet Luca Sato used the same line at each transition, allowing a phrase that initially expressed confidence to acquire uncertainty as the speaker encountered unfamiliar places and conflicting accounts.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

C: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

D: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 113
GA777-337 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q441 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

villages, but it

SEE THE SHAPE

The newly marked trail shortened the distance between two villages, but it required crossing a steeper ridge, making it useful for some travelers while remaining less practical for those carrying heavy loads or moving slowly.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 114
GA777-224 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q442 · ANSWER D

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

limit, the

SEE THE SHAPE

If the temperature inside the chamber where the samples are stored rises above the selected limit, the cooling system switches on automatically, bringing conditions back within the range specified by the research team.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

B: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

C: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 114
GA777-061 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q443 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

of

SEE THE SHAPE

themes of healing, self-discovery, and memory

WHY IT WORKS

Keep of beside the words that answer of what.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 114
Earlier book Q13

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q444 · ANSWER C

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

decision because

SEE THE SHAPE

Nevertheless, members postponed their final decision because two important cost estimates had not yet arrived, making it impossible to compare the long-term expenses associated with the competing designs.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

B: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

D: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 114
GA777-075 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q445 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

image: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The poet returns to the same image: a lighted window viewed from an empty street, allowing a familiar object to suggest welcome in one passage and exclusion in another without changing its basic physical description.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 115
GA777-389 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q446 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

towns. Its

SEE THE SHAPE

The new facility stands well above the surrounding towns. Its location reduces interference from streetlights, although researchers must still distinguish variations caused by atmospheric conditions from changes in the objects they observe.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 115
GA777-160 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q447 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

repairs. Vehicles

SEE THE SHAPE

Because the damaged components were beneath the vehicle lanes, the bridge remained open to walkers during the repairs. Vehicles crossed the river by a different route, increasing traffic through neighborhoods that had previously been bypassed by most travelers.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 115
GA777-117 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q448 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

themselves,

SEE THE SHAPE

clone themselves, enter a dormant state, and grow without soil

WHY IT WORKS

These are three actions sharing they can. Use commas between them.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Use the same ordinary-list commas for all three actions.

C: The remaining two actions are not a new full sentence.

D: The comma between the first two actions is missing.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 115
Earlier book Q227

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q449 · ANSWER D

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

families who

SEE THE SHAPE

The families who lived closest to the river developed movable storage systems, while those farther inland relied more heavily on raised thresholds and channels intended to divert brief periods of surface runoff.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

B: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

C: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 116
GA777-251 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q450 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

operators, recognizing

SEE THE SHAPE

Experienced operators, recognizing the first considerations, learn to balance the factors.

WHY IT WORKS

Operators learn is the main thought. The two commas hold the extra recognizing detail.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Experienced operators is not a full thought before a semicolon.

B: Recognize creates another main action without a proper link to learn.

D: Can recognize creates another main action without a proper link to learn.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 116
Earlier book Q155

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q451 · ANSWER C

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

database, they

SEE THE SHAPE

Before the volunteers began entering the handwritten shipping lists into a searchable database, they agreed on a common method for marking doubtful readings so that later researchers could distinguish transcription decisions from the original wording.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

B: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

D: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 116
GA777-064 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q452 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

return;

SEE THE SHAPE

The Siege of Thebes, description; The Tale of Beryn, description; and The Ploughman’s Tale

WHY IT WORKS

Each tale has its own detail. Semicolons separate the tales.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The rest of the list is not a new full sentence.

B: The separator between the first two tales is missing.

D: Use semicolons between the big items; commas are already inside them.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 116
Earlier book Q233

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q453 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

system, the Delhi Metro,

SEE THE SHAPE

The city opened its system, the Delhi Metro, in that year.

WHY IT WORKS

The system name is an extra detail in the middle. Open and close it with commas.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra name has a closing comma but no opening comma.

C: The colon is not a matching pair around the extra system name.

D: The extra name has an opening comma but no closing comma.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 117
Earlier book Q160

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q454 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

are they able to move so fast?

SEE THE SHAPE

How are they able to move so fast?

WHY IT WORKS

The sentence asks how. The next sentence answers it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

B: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 117
Earlier book Q250

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q455 · ANSWER C

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

(BEC);

SEE THE SHAPE

One type is a BEC; Hau used a BEC to stop light.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts can be sentences on their own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

B: These longer full thoughts need a comma before and.

D: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 117
Earlier book Q70

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q456 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

drawing curved lines, cutting straight edges,

SEE THE SHAPE

Before constructing their final models, students practiced drawing curved lines, cutting straight edges, and joining flat surfaces.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 117
GA777-456 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q457 · ANSWER A

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

moving if

SEE THE SHAPE

Even when its destination is only a short distance away, the machine will stop moving if the sensor detects an obstacle, remaining still until the space in front of it is clear.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

C: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

D: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 118
GA777-072 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q458 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

museums, includes

SEE THE SHAPE

The new catalog, a project supported by several small museums, includes photographs of items held in private collections, making it possible to compare forms and decorative patterns without assuming that museum holdings alone represent everything that survives.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 118
GA777-267 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q459 · ANSWER B

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sunlight; however, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The western wall receives intense afternoon sunlight; however, the eastern wall remains shaded by neighboring structures, making it difficult to use the same planting scheme on both sides without differences in watering and maintenance.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

C: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

D: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 118
GA777-407 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q460 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

music. Featuring

SEE THE SHAPE

Jazz emerged as a style. Featuring larger groups, composers emphasized smooth melodies.

WHY IT WORKS

The first thought ends at music. The next sentence starts with a detail, then says composers emphasized.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This leaves two full thoughts without a proper sentence break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 118
Earlier book Q59

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q461 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

of

SEE THE SHAPE

themes of childhood, womanhood, and Chinese American identity

WHY IT WORKS

Of needs the words that come next. A list does not automatically need a colon.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 119
Earlier book Q12

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q462 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ground, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Built on a platform supported by narrow posts driven into the wet ground, the shelter stayed dry even when water collected beneath it, allowing the researchers to continue their observations without repeatedly moving equipment to a different location.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 119
GA777-082 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q463 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Rosa Vega

SEE THE SHAPE

Dancer Rosa Vega adapted a traditional step for a narrow stage, reducing the distance traveled while preserving the changes in weight and timing that made the movement recognizable to experienced viewers.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 119
GA777-351 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q464 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

conservation, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

We expect less use → use may rise.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with the surprising finding about conservation. The next thought explains the finding.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma after though cannot join two full thoughts.

B: Though is attached to the explanation instead of the surprising finding.

D: The strong break after though is missing.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 119
Earlier book Q217

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q465 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

section. A

SEE THE SHAPE

One composer's sketches show the final movement preceding the opening section. A dated notebook reveals this unexpected sequence, challenging an account that treated the piece as a continuously developing draft.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 120
GA777-172 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q466 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

classroom,

SEE THE SHAPE

Hoping to help families, Huerta left teaching.

WHY IT WORKS

Hoping ... tells us why she left. Put a comma before Huerta left.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Hoping ... is not a full sentence before a period.

B: Hoping ... is not a full thought before a semicolon.

D: The comma after the opening detail is missing.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 120
Earlier book Q107

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q467 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Noah Kim

SEE THE SHAPE

With that possibility in mind, bookbinder Noah Kim repaired a damaged spine using removable materials, preserving access to the original structure so that later specialists could examine or replace the intervention without sacrificing historic evidence.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

B: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 120
GA777-349 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q468 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

volunteers, provides

SEE THE SHAPE

The community garden, maintained entirely by neighborhood volunteers, provides fresh herbs for a nearby kitchen, while the kitchen returns suitable plant waste to a composting area that supports the next season's planting.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 120
GA777-280 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q469 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wall affects

SEE THE SHAPE

The choice of materials that conservators use to fill gaps in the damaged section of the wall affects how the structure responds to seasonal temperature changes, since materials that expand at different rates can place pressure on one another.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “wall.” The main action begins with “affects.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

B: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 121
GA777-015 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q470 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

that some

SEE THE SHAPE

Before reopening the park, staff reminded visitors that some portions of the route remained closed until engineers could determine whether the apparently intact surfaces still had adequate support.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “that” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 121
GA777-045 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q471 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pattern: a

SEE THE SHAPE

When those references were placed on a common map, they revealed a significant pattern: a concentration along the edge of an abandoned riverbed, suggesting that access to buried water had influenced settlement even after the surface channel disappeared.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 121
GA777-374 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q472 · ANSWER A

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

decades shows

SEE THE SHAPE

A series of photographs taken from the same hill at intervals over several decades shows how small patches of trees eventually joined together, transforming what had once been separate groves into an almost continuous belt of forest.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “decades.” The main action begins with “shows.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

C: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 121
GA777-008 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q473 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

built—described

SEE THE SHAPE

The surviving witness—a resident who watched the bridge being built—described the arrangement of its timber supports, supplying details that could be compared with faint outlines visible in an otherwise uninformative photograph.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 122
GA777-320 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q474 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

considered a

SEE THE SHAPE

After reviewing pedestrian counts and consulting businesses along the former line, city planners considered a proposal to convert the corridor into a public path while retaining several structures that documented its industrial history.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “considered” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 122
GA777-027 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q475 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

renovation, was

SEE THE SHAPE

The west-facing window, which had been sealed during an earlier renovation, was reopened to admit afternoon light, reducing the need for electric lighting in a room whose unusually dark appearance had mistakenly been treated as an original architectural feature.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 122
GA777-277 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q476 · ANSWER D

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

road where

SEE THE SHAPE

Near a rocky outcrop that constricts the valley, however, the new path follows the old road where the valley becomes too narrow for separate routes, returning to higher ground once the slopes become less steep.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the blank give a needed reason, condition, time, place, or purpose. They stay attached to the main statement. A period or semicolon would wrongly turn that dependent part into a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This colon splits the opening word of the reason or condition from the words that complete it.

B: The words after the semicolon are a dependent clause, not a full sentence.

C: The period leaves the following dependent clause as a fragment.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 122
GA777-074 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q477 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

walls requires

SEE THE SHAPE

The process of sorting the glass by composition and melting it into molds designed for kitchen walls requires careful control of both temperature and cooling time, because pieces that appear similar may respond differently when they are heated together.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “walls.” The main action begins with “requires.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

C: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

D: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 123
GA777-019 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q478 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

clue: the

SEE THE SHAPE

An inscription on a recently cataloged object supplied the missing clue: the name of a village farther upstream, allowing researchers to connect the account's references to a sequence of places that had previously seemed geographically inconsistent.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 123
GA777-370 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q479 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

doorway—identifies

SEE THE SHAPE

The translated inscription—a short message carved above the doorway—identifies the donor, correcting an earlier interpretation that had treated the same name as evidence of the architect responsible for the structure's unusual form.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 123
GA777-327 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q480 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

originates. Many

SEE THE SHAPE

The opening depends on the language in which it originates. Many folktales open with a phrase.

WHY IT WORKS

The first thought is finished. Many folktales starts the next full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together.

D: A comma after many splits many from folktales and misses the sentence break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 123
Earlier book Q68

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q481 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

speed—appears

SEE THE SHAPE

The newly identified instrument—a portable device for measuring wind speed—appears in a drawing produced decades before the application, suggesting that its later legal recognition followed a longer period of experimentation or informal use.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 124
GA777-297 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q482 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

voyage; a

SEE THE SHAPE

Its reading list included a diary, written during a voyage; a report, prepared soon after the return; and a poem, composed years later, allowing students to consider how purpose and hindsight shaped accounts of related experiences.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

B: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 124
GA777-466 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q483 · ANSWER C

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

not, aerobic

SEE THE SHAPE

While one needs oxygen and one does not, both are forms of respiration.

WHY IT WORKS

While makes the opening part wait. Put a comma before the main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma after the whole waiting part is missing.

B / D: The opening waiting part cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 124
Earlier book Q99

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q484 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cephalopods—ocean dwellers that include the squid, the octopus, and the cuttlefish—

SEE THE SHAPE

cephalopods — ocean dwellers ... cuttlefish — have a special ability

WHY IT WORKS

The whole ocean dwellers detail fits between two dashes. The main thought is cephalopods have an ability.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra detail opens with a comma but never closes.

B: The second dash comes too soon; the last comma does not fix the extra detail.

C: The colon splits include from its list. The commas around the larger list also make its edges unclear.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 124
Earlier book Q144

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q485 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

1929, for one. The

SEE THE SHAPE

First example: the group’s founding. Next example: the court decision.

WHY IT WORKS

For one belongs with the founding in 1929. End that sentence before The Katzenbach ...

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: For one is put with the second event, but it should label the first example.

B: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: The comma before for one and the sentence break are both missing.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 125
Earlier book Q218

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q486 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

one, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

A later version named one, however; powdered fruit supplied the color, although the amount specified was too small to contribute much flavor, clarifying a feature that earlier attempts to reconstruct the recipe had left unexplained.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

C: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

D: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 125
GA777-443 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q487 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

later. The

SEE THE SHAPE

The signal reached the more distant microphone slightly later. The time difference supplied information that its loudness alone could not provide, since obstacles between the source and each device also affected the recorded volume.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 125
GA777-137 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q488 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

a concert in the square, a reading in the library,

SEE THE SHAPE

The program included a concert in the square, a reading in the library, and a dance performance in the park, creating a route that connected spaces normally associated with different forms of public gathering.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 125
GA777-451 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q489 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

variables, travel to greater depths,

SEE THE SHAPE

measure variables, travel deeper, and monitor ice zones

WHY IT WORKS

These are three actions. Use commas to separate them.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Travel is another action, not an explanation after a colon.

C: The comma after variables is missing.

D: The semicolon does not match this ordinary comma list.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 126
Earlier book Q229

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q490 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

did the word “chortle” come from?

SEE THE SHAPE

Where did the word “chortle” come from?

WHY IT WORKS

This is a direct question. Use did the word ... and finish with ?

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

B: The question mark is present, but the words use telling order.

D: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 126
Earlier book Q253

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q491 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

introduction. The

SEE THE SHAPE

Unlike the first edition, the second contains a much longer introduction. The author used this section to address questions raised in early reviews, clarifying several claims without rewriting the chapters in which those claims originally appeared.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 126
GA777-166 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q492 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

valley, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Taken from the sheltered side of the valley, the photographs showed the exposed strata in more consistent light, allowing researchers to trace a thin band that appeared interrupted in earlier images.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 126
GA777-105 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q493 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

table. Several

SEE THE SHAPE

Volunteers checked every number in a digitized table. Several entries were corrected after comparison with the original page, demonstrating how a small reading error could otherwise become a widely repeated claim once the data were available online.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 127
GA777-173 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q494 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

gallery.

SEE THE SHAPE

A revised set of signs, tested with people unfamiliar with the layout, now shows visitors which door leads to the public gallery.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 127
GA777-509 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q495 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sound: a

SEE THE SHAPE

It now has a distinctive sound: a soft tone followed by a faint metallic echo, an effect the restorer traced to the interaction between the original material and a newly fitted component that vibrates after the initial note.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 127
GA777-393 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q496 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stop, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised route included another stop, however: a recently reopened room above the entrance hall, allowing guides to discuss domestic activities that the formal spaces downstairs represented only indirectly.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

C: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

D: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 127
GA777-432 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q497 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

plan, yet the

SEE THE SHAPE

The first trial satisfied every condition specified in the test plan, yet the researchers repeated it using a separately prepared sample, checking whether the result reflected the proposed method rather than an unnoticed feature of the materials used on that occasion.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. Yet connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before yet, not between yet and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon is on the wrong side of yet.

B: The colon incorrectly separates yet from the clause it introduces.

D: The extra comma after yet splits yet from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 128
GA777-241 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q498 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

carbon-13 (^{13}C),

SEE THE SHAPE

a rare carbon isotope, carbon-13 (^{13}C), due to ...

WHY IT WORKS

Carbon-13 (^{13}C) is the extra name. Close it with a comma to match the comma after isotope.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma is inside the extra name, and its closing comma is missing.

B: The closing comma after the extra name is missing.

C: The extra comma before (^{13}C) splits the name unnecessarily.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 128
Earlier book Q133

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q499 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

supplies. The

SEE THE SHAPE

It honored a series of articles about local water supplies. The journalist had spent a year interviewing residents and engineers, using those conversations to explain why neighboring households could experience the same network so differently.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 128
GA777-140 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q500 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

recorded, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The final measurements of the distance between the light source and the detector recorded, the technicians switched off the equipment, leaving a record that would allow another team to reproduce the arrangement later.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 128
GA777-085 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q501 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

plant). By

SEE THE SHAPE

She led a review. By researching the compounds, she found ...

WHY IT WORKS

By researching belongs with what she found. Start that sentence after plant).

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 129
Earlier book Q41

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q502 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

by covering

SEE THE SHAPE

The conservation team protected those edges by covering them with a thin layer of removable paper, a temporary support that could be taken away after the underlying fibers were stabilized.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “by” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 129
GA777-038 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q503 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

precaution: the

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised manual emphasizes one precaution: the need to keep the cutting surface dry, since moisture can allow a sheet to move slightly under pressure even when its initial position appears secure and correctly aligned.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 129
GA777-387 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q504 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

anniversary—included

SEE THE SHAPE

The public reading—a performance organized for the library anniversary—included poems chosen by residents, placing widely known works alongside pieces whose significance emerged through the readers' explanations.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 129
GA777-324 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q505 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

metal. A

SEE THE SHAPE

The sculptor checked the balance before casting the full design in metal. A small adjustment to the base prevented the model from tipping, preserving the visual effect while changing the distribution of weight beneath the overhanging section.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 130
GA777-147 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q506 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

note; the

SEE THE SHAPE

A recording of a composer's own ensemble preserves a brief pause before the final note; the printed score does not indicate this pause, leaving later performers to decide whether the recorded detail represents an essential feature or a choice made on that occasion.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 130
GA777-198 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q507 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

neighbors—appears

SEE THE SHAPE

The central panel—a work restored more recently than its neighbors—appears brighter because a discolored coating has been removed, complicating attempts to compare its present colors directly with those of the surrounding panels.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 130
GA777-316 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q508 · ANSWER B

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

energy and

SEE THE SHAPE

The substance cannot absorb more energy and will begin to combust.

WHY IT WORKS

One thing does both actions. And joins the two actions.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: It starts a new full thought. One comma cannot join the two thoughts.

C: And will begin has no WHO after the period.

D: It starts a second full thought with no break.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 130
Earlier book Q29

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q509 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

materialism,”

SEE THE SHAPE

Waid describes the characters as consumed by materialism, an apt assessment.

WHY IT WORKS

An apt assessment adds a comment about the statement. Attach it with a comma inside the closing quote.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: An apt assessment is not a new full thought to join with and.

B: And does not correctly attach this extra comment.

D: A comma is missing before the extra comment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 131
Earlier book Q118

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q510 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

models—which

SEE THE SHAPE

models — which assume people are rational — cannot explain

WHY IT WORKS

The printed dash after decision-makers closes the extra detail. Add its opening dash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening comma does not match the closing dash.

C: The opening dash is missing.

D: The opening dash goes after models, not after which.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 131
Earlier book Q149

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q511 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

earlier. In

SEE THE SHAPE

It was occupied earlier. In 1420 CE, humans were likely inhabiting the area.

WHY IT WORKS

In 1420 CE belongs with humans were inhabiting. It starts the next sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Which in 1420 CE does not correctly link the two full thoughts.

D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 131
Earlier book Q48

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q512 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

panels—sends

SEE THE SHAPE

The monitoring station—a small hut powered by solar panels—sends temperature readings to the laboratory each hour, while storing a local copy in case weather or equipment problems interrupt the connection between the two locations.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 131
GA777-317 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q513 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

person.

SEE THE SHAPE

Its final section considers what evidence supports attributing two letters from different collections to the same person.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 132
GA777-515 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q514 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

identify the

SEE THE SHAPE

During a field workshop, students learned how to identify the tracks by comparing the spacing of successive impressions with the direction of travel, rather than relying exclusively on the outline of a single print.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “identify” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 132
GA777-024 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q515 · ANSWER D

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

supplies: dried

SEE THE SHAPE

The vessel carried several types of supplies: dried food that could remain usable without refrigeration, fresh water for drinking and cleaning, spare rope for damaged fittings, and tools for repairs beyond the reach of shore-based assistance.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 132
GA777-359 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q516 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Panchali. A

SEE THE SHAPE

Ray released Pather Panchali. A quiet drama ..., Ray’s film was different.

WHY IT WORKS

A quiet drama describes the film in the second sentence. Film was is its main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together.

B: Which was a quiet drama does not fix the extra full thought Ray’s film was different.

C: The description does not join the two full thoughts. A sentence ending is still missing.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 132
Earlier book Q47

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q517 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

shape: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Across the restored surface, the design repeatedly returns to one shape: a six-pointed star assembled from colored pieces, with variations in the surrounding borders allowing the same basic figure to connect panels that are not otherwise identical.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 133
GA777-376 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q518 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

area, reducing

SEE THE SHAPE

Drawing on observations made throughout the previous breeding season, park staff moved the path farther from the area, reducing the disturbance caused by groups who had previously stopped within a few meters of the hidden nests.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with reducing adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

C: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

D: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 133
GA777-089 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q519 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

time, but

SEE THE SHAPE

Scientists thought the Sun was quiet, but the new finding suggests otherwise.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own full thought. Use comma + but.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 133
Earlier book Q82

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q520 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

seasons. Readers

SEE THE SHAPE

To address this problem, a guidebook pairs photographs taken in different seasons. Readers can compare the bare winter slopes with dense summer vegetation, using permanent rock formations to identify features concealed by seasonal growth.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 133
GA777-136 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q521 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

limitation: the

SEE THE SHAPE

Their experiment had one clear limitation: the small number of samples available for comparison, which made it difficult to determine whether the observed variation represented the full range within either group.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 134
GA777-364 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q522 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hand; wood,

SEE THE SHAPE

Students worked with clay, which could be shaped by hand; wood, which required cutting tools; and wire, which could be bent into frames, comparing how a design changed when the properties of its material made one operation possible and another difficult.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

D: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 134
GA777-467 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q523 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

species, both native and nonnative;

SEE THE SHAPE

growing plants, native and nonnative; fostering research; and educating people

WHY IT WORKS

The comma adds a detail inside item one. The semicolon separates item one from item two.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma after nonnative is too small for this complex-list break.

C: The semicolon comes too early, splitting the first item from its detail.

D: The first item’s detail and the next big item are not separated correctly.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 134
Earlier book Q236

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q524 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Nutcracker. According

SEE THE SHAPE

The Toledos redesigned The Nutcracker. According to reviewers, the designs added culture.

WHY IT WORKS

According to reviewers belongs with what the reviewers said next.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 134
Earlier book Q36

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q525 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

afternoon. Marks

SEE THE SHAPE

The level fell steadily throughout the afternoon. Marks on the posts showed how high it had been earlier, providing a reference that helped the team distinguish a normal daily cycle from a longer decline.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 135
GA777-167 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q526 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

star). Occurring

SEE THE SHAPE

SN 2016aps was a supernova. Occurring in Draco, the blast propelled particles.

WHY IT WORKS

Finish the first thought. The next sentence has an opening detail, then its main action: the blast propelled.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This leaves the two main thoughts joined only by a comma later in the sentence.

C: And occurring does not match was and does not separate the next full thought.

D: A comma before occurring still leaves the main thoughts without a proper break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 135
Earlier book Q58

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q527 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

three. Known

SEE THE SHAPE

Bosnia and Herzegovina has three presidents. Known as members ..., these officials take turns.

WHY IT WORKS

Keep reading past the long description. These officials take turns is a new full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra description does not fix the two full thoughts joined by a comma.

C: Who are known does not fix the later full thought these officials take turns.

D: Adding commas around who are known still leaves two full thoughts badly joined.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 135
Earlier book Q57

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q528 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

winter. The

SEE THE SHAPE

In one town, the market that occupied an open riverside street during summer moved to a covered square in winter. The new location protected produce from rain while allowing sellers to continue using the same portable stalls throughout the year.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 135
GA777-130 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q529 · ANSWER C

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

skills: measuring

SEE THE SHAPE

Instead of organizing the course around the completion of one object, its instructor focused on three practical skills: measuring accurately before changing a material, cutting safely with the appropriate support, and joining pieces securely without concealing weaknesses beneath a finished surface.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 136
GA777-358 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q530 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

later; the

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than immediately replacing the speaker's account with the documentary version, the researcher repeated the interview a month later; the second conversation clarified which events the speaker had combined, preserving useful testimony while resolving the apparent contradiction.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 136
GA777-209 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q531 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

do consumers actually prefer this simpler style?

SEE THE SHAPE

But do consumers actually prefer this style?

WHY IT WORKS

The text asks a question. The next sentence says the researchers tried to find out.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

C: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

D: The question mark is present, but the words use telling order.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 136
Earlier book Q251

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q532 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

strap, set

SEE THE SHAPE

The second performer, who carried a drum suspended from a shoulder strap, set the rhythm, providing a cue that remained audible when turns in the street prevented those behind from seeing the dancers at the front.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 136
GA777-286 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q533 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hillside.

SEE THE SHAPE

Comparing those images with estate plans and written accounts of land use, the researcher asked why an older map showed a second route across the hillside.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 137
GA777-483 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q534 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

vision; many

SEE THE SHAPE

Several features were chosen for visitors with limited vision; many of the plants can be recognized by scent or texture, allowing guided activities to explore differences that conventional displays often leave unmentioned.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 137
GA777-202 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q535 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

indiscriminate:

SEE THE SHAPE

Goats are indiscriminate: they eat all kinds of plants.

WHY IT WORKS

The next thought explains indiscriminate: goats do not choose carefully.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: And needs a comma before it to join these longer full thoughts.

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 137
Earlier book Q192

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q536 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

centuries—contains

SEE THE SHAPE

The outer wall—a structure rebuilt several times over the centuries—contains stones of noticeably different sizes, with abrupt changes in their arrangement marking sections where later workers joined new material to portions that remained intact.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 137
GA777-311 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q537 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

new: sequencing

SEE THE SHAPE

The team tried something new: sequencing dental-plaque DNA.

WHY IT WORKS

Something new finishes the setup. The colon names the new method.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Sequencing ... is a naming group here, not a full sentence.

C: The colon after sequencing cuts that action away from its answer: the DNA.

D: Sequencing ... cannot stand alone as a sentence here.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 138
Earlier book Q193

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q538 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

New Mexico, and

SEE THE SHAPE

Larrazolo became governor, and later he became a senator.

WHY IT WORKS

The date phrases do not change the two full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before the joining word is missing.

B: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 138
Earlier book Q95

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q539 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

chamber—a

SEE THE SHAPE

The first chamber—a space carved directly into soft rock—contains no surviving traces of paint, leaving uncertain whether it had always been undecorated or whether conditions near the entrance caused its surface treatment to disappear.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing dash. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching dash, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

B: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 138
GA777-296 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q540 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ancestor: mexicana, a

SEE THE SHAPE

The genes trace to a second ancestor: mexicana, a highland subspecies.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup is complete. The colon names the second ancestor, then the comma adds a description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Mexicana, a highland subspecies ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: The name and extra description need clear punctuation.

D: A highland subspecies ... is not a full sentence after a period.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 138
Earlier book Q198

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q541 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Jonah Reed

SEE THE SHAPE

Wildlife biologist Jonah Reed tracked foxes along the city's edge, comparing their routes with gaps in fences and strips of vegetation that connected apparently isolated patches of habitat.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 139
GA777-343 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q542 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

novel; rather,

SEE THE SHAPE

Saville is not the main character; rather, she is the reason for the letters.

WHY IT WORKS

Rather means instead here. It belongs with the second full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The full thoughts run together.

B: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

D: Commas around rather cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 139
Earlier book Q206

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q543 · ANSWER A

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

registers and compared

SEE THE SHAPE

To resolve these uncertainties, the historian searched the town registers and compared the names with those in private letters, using occupations and street addresses to distinguish residents who shared a surname.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

C: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

D: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 139
GA777-053 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q544 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

removing damaged boards, fitting new supports,

SEE THE SHAPE

Workers were responsible for removing damaged boards, fitting new supports, and sealing exposed joints, checking connections at each stage rather than assuming that a completed surface alone demonstrated the safety of the structure beneath it.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 139
GA777-450 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q545 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

blend with

SEE THE SHAPE

blend with Charlie Adams’s melodies

WHY IT WORKS

Blend with what? The melodies. Keep blend with together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 140
Earlier book Q16

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q546 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

do have something in common.

SEE THE SHAPE

Though the towns are in different countries, they do have something in common.

WHY IT WORKS

The whole sentence tells us a fact. Do have is the telling order; a period ends it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This sentence tells, so it needs a period.

B: Do they uses asking order, but this sentence tells us about the towns.

C: Both the asking order and question mark are wrong for this telling sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 140
Earlier book Q258

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q547 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

plot—a

SEE THE SHAPE

The experimental plot—a fenced area protected from grazing animals—developed denser vegetation than nearby land, providing a comparison within the same climate while leaving researchers to consider whether the barrier also changed other local conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing dash. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching dash, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

C: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 140
GA777-319 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q548 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

units, passed

SEE THE SHAPE

The rebuilt engine, a machine assembled from components of several damaged units, passed its inspection on the first attempt, although the accompanying records carefully identified which parts had been retained, replaced, or adapted to fit.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 140
GA777-289 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q549 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

markings; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The team used a long exposure to capture the markings; the camera had to remain perfectly still, since even slight movement during the exposure would blur details that the extended collection of light was intended to reveal.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 141
GA777-201 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q550 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

involved;

SEE THE SHAPE

The state was agreed on; the exact location was disputed.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts. The second shows a difference, not an explanation.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The next thought shows disagreement. It does not explain the first thought.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together with no joining mark.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 141
Earlier book Q78

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q551 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

information: the

SEE THE SHAPE

Yet the team still lacked one essential piece of information: the depth of the narrow channel beside the landing, without which the crew could not determine whether its more heavily loaded vessel could approach safely.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 141
GA777-362 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q552 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

chamber. Several

SEE THE SHAPE

Instead, a layer of sand carried through a narrow opening had protected the floor of the storage chamber. Several tools beneath that layer retained traces of their wooden handles, providing evidence that was missing from objects found nearby.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 141
GA777-115 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q553 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

field. The

SEE THE SHAPE

To provide food when few cultivated plants were flowering, a farmer planted a narrow strip beside the field. The flowers supported visiting insects during a gap in the crop cycle, connecting habitat management with the timing of agricultural work.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 142
GA777-186 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q554 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

painting; several

SEE THE SHAPE

During conservation, the team removed a later coating that had discolored across the painting; several bright details became visible, prompting a reassessment of relationships between figures that had previously seemed to merge into the background.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 142
GA777-212 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q555 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

do have something in common.

SEE THE SHAPE

Though the towns are in different countries, they do have something in common.

WHY IT WORKS

The whole sentence tells us a fact. Do have is the telling order; a period ends it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Do they uses asking order, but this sentence tells us about the towns.

B: This sentence tells, so it needs a period.

C: Both the asking order and question mark are wrong for this telling sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 142
Earlier book Q260

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q556 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wheel. The

SEE THE SHAPE

The team painted a reference line on the wheel. The line made full rotations easier to count in a slow-motion recording, providing a measurement that could be compared with the speed indicated by the motor's control system.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 142
GA777-175 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q557 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

thickness, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Arranged in order of increasing thickness, the samples showed a steady change in color, helping the designer distinguish the effect of adding material from the effect of changing the pigment mixed into it.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 143
GA777-108 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q558 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

poem, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Searching shelves for an early edition of a frequently revised poem, the student noticed a volume containing handwritten corrections, several of which anticipated changes that did not appear in print until much later.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 143
GA777-092 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q559 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

width. Objects

SEE THE SHAPE

A newly designed machine sorts pieces according to their width. Objects wider than the selected opening move into a separate tray, while narrower pieces continue along the belt toward a second stage that classifies them by surface color.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 143
GA777-165 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q560 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

gateway, stands

SEE THE SHAPE

The limestone arch, the oldest part of the surviving gateway, stands several meters above the modern road, indicating that the entrance once belonged to a different ground level rather than to an unusually tall doorway of the present street.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 143
GA777-255 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q561 · ANSWER D

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

matter, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

One letter addresses a personal matter, however; its writer asks for news of a relative whose whereabouts are unknown, revealing a concern that cannot be reconstructed from the transactions summarized in the official description.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The next part is a full thought, so a semicolon separates it from the completed contrasting statement.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However is left by itself between two semicolons. It is not a full thought.

B: Commas alone cannot join the two full thoughts. However does not act like but.

C: A sentence boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 144
GA777-437 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q562 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

the shape of each leaf, the length of each stem,

SEE THE SHAPE

They recorded the shape of each leaf, the length of each stem, and the number of flowers on each plant, using the same procedure throughout the study so that changes in method would not be mistaken for changes in growth.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 144
GA777-452 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q563 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

route: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The landscape offered only one safe route: a narrow ridge above the flooded valley floor, requiring a slower journey but allowing the team to keep its equipment away from unstable banks and fast-moving water.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 144
GA777-378 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q564 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Mateo Solis

SEE THE SHAPE

In a composition built from contrasting movements, composer Mateo Solis based the final section on a melody first heard in the opening, changing its rhythm so that listeners encountered a familiar sequence of pitches in an unexpectedly energetic form.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

C: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

D: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 144
GA777-329 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q565 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

single-handedly, however;

SEE THE SHAPE

He sits on the board → he does not decide alone.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs with does not decide alone. A semicolon starts the explanation about the other experts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: However is placed with the reason instead of the thought showing the difference.

C: One comma after however cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The needed comma and strong sentence break are missing.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 145
Earlier book Q214

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q566 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

works. Because

SEE THE SHAPE

A diagram reveals how this works. Because the hole is small, light reaches one destination.

WHY IT WORKS

Because starts the next sentence’s waiting part. The main thought comes after its comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This attaches Because to the first thought and leaves the next main thought badly joined.

C: One comma cannot join the first full thought to it’s because.

D: The first colon does not fix the later break: another full thought still appears after a comma.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 145
Earlier book Q54

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q567 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

functions:

SEE THE SHAPE

Cells develop different functions: the genome holds DNA, while the epigenome controls its use.

WHY IT WORKS

Read the whole next part. It explains the different functions.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The setup and explanation run together.

B: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: And, does not correctly join the setup to this explanation.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 145
Earlier book Q195

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q568 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

storm reveals

SEE THE SHAPE

A comparison of bird calls that the devices recorded during the weeks immediately before and after the storm reveals a change in the number of species using the area, even where the vegetation appears unchanged.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “storm.” The main action begins with “reveals.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

B: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 145
GA777-002 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q569 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

navigation; a

SEE THE SHAPE

It featured a compass, used for navigation; a scale, used to weigh cargo before departure; and a clock, used to organize periods of watch, connecting travel with the routines that made a long journey manageable.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 146
GA777-463 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q570 · ANSWER C

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

nickname, however,

SEE THE SHAPE

Scott-Heron resisted the nickname, however, feeling it did not fit.

WHY IT WORKS

However is extra. Feeling ... adds a detail, not a new full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma after however is missing.

B: Feeling ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

D: However, feeling ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 146
Earlier book Q209

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q571 · ANSWER D

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

heating the liquid, measuring its volume,

SEE THE SHAPE

To investigate whether concentration changed during preparation, the experiment involved heating the liquid, measuring its volume, and recording its color.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

C: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 146
GA777-460 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q572 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

described, from hair to grass to sculptures—

SEE THE SHAPE

photographs — both the people and their items, from hair to sculptures — to powerful effect

WHY IT WORKS

The first comma adds the examples. The final dash matches the dash after photographs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The closing dash after sculptures is missing.

C: The dash is put in the middle of the extra detail; the final comma cannot close it.

D: The colon does not separate these details correctly, and the closing dash is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 146
Earlier book Q151

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q573 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

seating, though: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The completed garden included seating, though: a curved bench beneath the oldest tree, reflecting comments from residents who wanted a place to remain in the garden rather than merely pass through it on the way elsewhere.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before though. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon leaves though followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

C: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 147
GA777-435 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q574 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

error: a

SEE THE SHAPE

After checking the software and repeating the calibration, researchers identified a likely source of the error: a loose connection between the sensor and its recording unit, which sometimes interrupted the signal without causing the device to stop operating altogether.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 147
GA777-377 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q575 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

feature: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The revised design introduced a useful feature: a removable panel that provided access to the motor, allowing technicians to inspect and adjust the mechanism without taking apart components whose alignment had to remain carefully controlled.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 147
GA777-379 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q576 · ANSWER D

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Rawles

SEE THE SHAPE

Calida Garcia Rawles was the logical choice.

WHY IT WORKS

Her name stays beside was. The long description before it does not change that.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 147
Earlier book Q6

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q577 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

spring; leaves,

SEE THE SHAPE

The cabinet contained seeds, collected in spring; leaves, collected during summer growth; and fruit, collected in autumn, keeping evidence from successive stages available for comparison rather than treating each visit as a separate investigation with unrelated samples.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 148
GA777-470 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q578 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

floor.

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than assuming the image recorded a completed structure, the survey examined whether beam sockets and changes in masonry supported the existence of a second floor.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 148
GA777-505 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q579 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

ground, producing

SEE THE SHAPE

Throughout the study, the researcher kept the lens at a fixed height above the ground, producing images whose scale remained consistent even as leaves extended beyond the boundaries they had occupied during earlier visits.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with producing adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

C: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

D: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 148
GA777-107 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q580 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paper, revealing

SEE THE SHAPE

The restorer traced faint pressure marks and areas of worn fiber along the paper, revealing original fold lines that showed how the map had once fitted inside a small case carried by travelers.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with revealing adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

C: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

D: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 148
GA777-084 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q581 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fungi, producing

SEE THE SHAPE

Potter studied fungi, producing many paintings.

WHY IT WORKS

Producing tells us more about her work. It is not a new sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Producing ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

B: Producing ... is not a full sentence after a period.

C: A comma is needed before the added detail.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 149
Earlier book Q113

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q582 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

paragraph; nevertheless, a

SEE THE SHAPE

Those copies end before that paragraph; nevertheless, a newly discovered manuscript includes it, raising the possibility that the familiar shorter version reflects a loss during copying rather than the author's original conclusion.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. Nevertheless is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before nevertheless and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around nevertheless do not join two full thoughts.

B: Nevertheless alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

D: Nevertheless does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 149
GA777-404 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q583 · ANSWER D

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

storeroom, however, held

SEE THE SHAPE

The smaller containers at the back of the storeroom, however, held the most valuable samples, demonstrating that the amount of space occupied by a collection was a poor guide to the importance of the evidence it preserved.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

B: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

C: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 149
GA777-413 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q584 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

200,000 km² Puntland Desert

SEE THE SHAPE

The roughly 200,000 km² Puntland Desert is classified ...

WHY IT WORKS

Keep the size with the desert’s name. Keep the desert’s name beside is.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts the name away from is.

B: The comma cuts the size away from the desert’s name.

D: Both commas split words that need to stay together.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 149
Earlier book Q9

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q585 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

coalition—

SEE THE SHAPE

The lions of the Mapogo coalition—including these three lions—thrived.

WHY IT WORKS

The printed dash after Makhulu closes the names. Add an opening dash before including.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma cannot match the closing dash.

C: The extra detail has no opening mark.

D: A semicolon cannot match the closing dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 150
Earlier book Q163

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q586 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

boxes. Volunteers

SEE THE SHAPE

The papers had been packed into several unmarked boxes. Volunteers spent months establishing dates through references to public events, gradually reconstructing a sequence that could not be recovered from the physical order of the documents.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 150
GA777-127 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q587 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

from

SEE THE SHAPE

pages from a collection

WHY IT WORKS

From what? A collection. Keep those words together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 150
Earlier book Q15

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q588 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

dislodge, in part due to its sheer size:

SEE THE SHAPE

The ship was hard to move, partly because of its size: it weighed as much as 2,000 whales.

WHY IT WORKS

The comma adds the size detail. The colon introduces the weight that explains it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: The comma before it’s cannot join the two full thoughts.

D: This leaves no proper break before the full thought it’s as heavy ...

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 150
Earlier book Q184

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q589 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

boatbuilder, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Guided by an experienced boatbuilder, the apprentices learned to recognize weakened connections by comparing the movement of adjacent timbers, developing skills that photographs of the same joints had not adequately conveyed.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 151
GA777-095 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q590 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

morning. Using

SEE THE SHAPE

The survey team returned to the same marker each morning. Using a fixed starting point reduced variation caused by small differences in setup, allowing the remaining changes to be examined as possible evidence of movement in the surrounding ground.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 151
GA777-187 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q591 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

room, but the

SEE THE SHAPE

The sculptor initially intended to display the piece in an enclosed room, but the finished work was installed in an open courtyard, where changing sunlight emphasized surfaces that had been relatively inconspicuous under the steady lighting of the studio.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 151
GA777-225 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q592 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

material: a

SEE THE SHAPE

After the bound volumes and loose papers had been removed, the final box held the most delicate material: a group of thin glass photographic plates, each of which preserved an image on a surface vulnerable to both breakage and abrasion.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 151
GA777-391 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q593 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

temperature. Adding

SEE THE SHAPE

Dark rooftops raise the temperature. Adding a light-colored covering helps.

WHY IT WORKS

Adding a covering names the thing. Helps is its main action. The second thought is complete.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: By adding starts a detail. It leaves no thing for helps to describe.

B: Adding ... helps is a full thought. One comma cannot join it to the first.

D: This runs two full thoughts together.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 152
Earlier book Q46

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q594 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

equipment.

SEE THE SHAPE

Using a small model to demonstrate changes in support and leverage, the guide described how workers could move a heavy stone without modern equipment.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma does not finish the sentence.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 152
GA777-493 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q595 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Rina; recorder,

SEE THE SHAPE

The team assigned three roles: organizer, held by Rina; recorder, held by Tomas and responsible for written observations; and photographer, held by Noor, ensuring that the notes and images collected at separate locations could later be connected reliably.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

B: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

C: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 152
GA777-465 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q596 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

detail, but they

SEE THE SHAPE

The instructions described the order of assembly in considerable detail, but they did not explain how to set the tension afterward, leaving users with a complete structure but no clear method for preparing it for use.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 152
GA777-230 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q597 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

competitions, however:

SEE THE SHAPE

Many dances exist → only five are included.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs with only five. The colon then names the five dances.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma does not clearly introduce this already comma-filled list.

C: The list of dances is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

D: However is attached to the list, and the list is not a full sentence.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 153
Earlier book Q224

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q598 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

playwright Wakako Yamauchi

SEE THE SHAPE

playwright Wakako Yamauchi compares ...

WHY IT WORKS

Keep the job and name together. Connect them to compares.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The commas cut the job, name, and action apart.

B: The comma cuts the job away from the name.

C: The comma cuts the name away from compares.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 153
Earlier book Q175

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q599 · ANSWER C

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

electricity; however, it

SEE THE SHAPE

The smaller device requires less electricity; however, it cannot collect measurements as frequently as the larger model, making it useful for extended monitoring but less suitable for observations in which brief changes matter more than the overall length of the recording period.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. However is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before however and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: However alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

B: However does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

D: Commas around however do not join two full thoughts.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 153
GA777-405 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q600 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wire—helped

SEE THE SHAPE

The first prototype—a model made from inexpensive cardboard and wire—helped the students examine how the parts moved, revealing a problem with the geometry before they invested time in producing more durable components.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 153
GA777-313 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q601 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hall. Their

SEE THE SHAPE

Musicians entered through doors at different points around the hall. Their movement made the music seem to arrive from every direction, an effect that depended as much on the performers' positions as on the notes they played.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 154
GA777-185 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q602 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

removed, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The old labels carefully removed, the volunteers attached new tags printed on acid-free paper, copying the original information without silently correcting spellings that might help future researchers trace the history of individual specimens.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 154
GA777-090 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q603 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

apiary, and

SEE THE SHAPE

The couple made an apiary (a place for beehives), and they later acquired more lots.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own main action and its own who.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The comma before the joining word is missing.

D: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 154
Earlier book Q91

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q604 · ANSWER D

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Stanford;

SEE THE SHAPE

Sharpless, description; Bertozzi, description; and Meldal, description

WHY IT WORKS

Three people, each with a comma-containing detail. Use semicolons between the people.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The separator after Bertozzi’s item is missing.

B: A comma does not match the semicolon separating the other big items.

C: The next person is another item, not an explanation of Stanford.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 154
Earlier book Q239

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q605 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

spectrum:

SEE THE SHAPE

The painting uses the whole color spectrum: the swimmer and water have rainbow colors.

WHY IT WORKS

The next full thought explains how the painting uses the spectrum.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together.

C: While does not correctly join this setup to the next full thought.

D: A comma and while do not correctly attach this explanation.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 155
Earlier book Q187

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q606 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

challenge: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The performers faced an unusual challenge: a platform too narrow for their normal movements, requiring them to preserve the timing and relationships of the choreography while changing the distances between successive positions.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 155
GA777-371 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q607 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

work. That

SEE THE SHAPE

Scholars dreamed of finding the work. That fantasy became reality.

WHY IT WORKS

That fantasy is the start of a new full thought. Here, That does not start an extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

D: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 155
Earlier book Q40

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q608 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

letters. Postmarks

SEE THE SHAPE

One collection keeps envelopes with their letters. Postmarks sometimes supply dates absent from the enclosed pages, helping researchers establish the order of a correspondence even when its writers omitted dates or referred vaguely to events mentioned in earlier messages.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 155
GA777-180 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q609 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lighting, yet a

SEE THE SHAPE

The samples appeared identical under ordinary room lighting, yet a special lamp revealed differences in their coatings, showing that similarities visible to the unaided eye did not necessarily indicate a shared history of conservation.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. Yet connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before yet, not between yet and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after yet splits yet from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of yet.

D: The colon incorrectly separates yet from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 156
GA777-214 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q610 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

music: the flute. A

SEE THE SHAPE

They added another instrument: the flute. A quiet instrument, it became audible.

WHY IT WORKS

The colon names the instrument. The period then starts the next full sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas do not clearly introduce the instrument and separate the next full thought.

B: The first sentence ends, but the next two naming details run together.

C: After the semicolon, the flute, a quiet instrument ... does not connect correctly to its full thought.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 156
Earlier book Q183

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q611 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

soul,” positing

SEE THE SHAPE

Epicurus defined pleasure as an absence of trouble, positing that virtues came from it.

WHY IT WORKS

Positing means putting forward an idea. It adds a detail. The comma also belongs inside the closing quotation mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: Positing adds what Epicurus did. It is a describing detail here, so attach it with a comma, not a colon.

C: Positing ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

D: Positing ... cannot stand alone after a period.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 156
Earlier book Q117

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q612 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

rehearsing, preserves

SEE THE SHAPE

The first recording, made while the musicians were still rehearsing, preserves a version of the ending that was later abandoned, giving scholars evidence of an intermediate stage between the composer's preliminary sketch and the arrangement used at the public performance.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 156
GA777-264 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q613 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

journey, but it

SEE THE SHAPE

One manuscript describes the outward journey, but it says almost nothing about the return, a contrast that may reflect the writer's changing priorities rather than the relative difficulty or duration of the two stages.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 157
GA777-240 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q614 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

continents: geological

SEE THE SHAPE

The study offers an explanation: geological structures called arcs.

WHY IT WORKS

The colon introduces what the new explanation is.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation has no mark to introduce it.

C: Geological structures ... is a naming group, not a full sentence.

D: Geological structures ... cannot stand as a sentence here.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 157
Earlier book Q191

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q615 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

located?

SEE THE SHAPE

Although surviving plans show several proposed layouts rather than the completed building, do photographs taken before the alteration reveal where the original entrance was located?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 157
GA777-488 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q616 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

silk. By

SEE THE SHAPE

Zhi developed a process. By dissolving and reweaving the silk, Zhi increased its strength.

WHY IT WORKS

The By part belongs to the next thought. That thought has its own main action: increased.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

C: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 157
Earlier book Q45

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q617 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

baking. This

SEE THE SHAPE

The recipe calls for the mixture to rest before baking. This pause allows dry ingredients to absorb liquid more evenly, changing the mixture's texture without requiring an additional ingredient or a different method of combining its components.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 158
GA777-161 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q618 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

magnification, identifying

SEE THE SHAPE

The technician examined the fractured end under magnification, identifying a small region of earlier damage that suggested a crack had gradually spread before the final break made the weakness visible to someone using the tool.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with identifying adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

B: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

C: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 158
GA777-110 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q619 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

between the

SEE THE SHAPE

To distinguish the effects of competition from those of soil conditions, the study examined the relationship between the amount of shade reaching each sapling and its growth during the period before the surrounding vegetation became fully established.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “between” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 158
GA777-048 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q620 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

instruments—kept

SEE THE SHAPE

The insulated box—a container designed for fragile instruments—kept the contents at a nearly constant temperature, reducing the amount of adjustment needed after arrival while leaving the team responsible for checking alignment before beginning new measurements.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 158
GA777-325 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q621 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Kingelez

SEE THE SHAPE

The works ... were featured.

WHY IT WORKS

Works is the thing. Were featured tells what happened.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 159
Earlier book Q8

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q622 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

settlements. Those

SEE THE SHAPE

A survey map preserves the names of several abandoned settlements. Those names do not appear on modern road signs, but references in household records suggest that some remained in local use long after official maps stopped including them.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 159
GA777-124 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q623 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wood, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Made from thin strips of flexible wood, the vessel could expand slightly when filled, a feature that allowed it to accommodate irregularly shaped produce while retaining a relatively narrow opening at the top.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 159
GA777-091 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q624 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

desert, mentions

SEE THE SHAPE

The newly translated passage, a description of travel across the desert, mentions a settlement absent from the other versions, prompting researchers to consider whether later copyists omitted a stop that had become unfamiliar to their readers.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 159
GA777-285 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q625 · ANSWER B

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

student Roger Bannister

SEE THE SHAPE

an English medical student Roger Bannister who ran the first sub-four-minute mile

WHY IT WORKS

The job and name identify the same person. Keep student Roger Bannister together; who ran stays with that person.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma separates the job from the needed name.

C: The comma unnecessarily cuts away who ran from the person it identifies.

D: The two commas treat the needed name as an extra interruption.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 160
Earlier book Q178

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q626 · ANSWER A

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

effect, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

Jetties protect coasts → they can cause the opposite effect.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with the opposite effect. Then the next full thought explains erosion.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The strong break after though is missing.

C: Though is attached to the explanation instead of the opposite-effect thought.

D: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 160
Earlier book Q220

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q627 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

botanist; Luis,

SEE THE SHAPE

The panel included Asha, a botanist; Luis, a geologist whose work concerned sediment layers; and Mei, a historian specializing in land records, bringing evidence about living plants, past landscapes, and human decisions into the same conversation.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 160
GA777-462 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q628 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

will Umuofia’s traditions be affected?

SEE THE SHAPE

How will Umuofia’s traditions be affected?

WHY IT WORKS

The text says the novel asks a question. Use asking order and ?

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Both parts are wrong for this question: the word order and the ending.

B: The word order asks a question, but the question mark is missing.

C: The question mark is present, but the words use telling order.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 160
Earlier book Q254

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q629 · ANSWER D

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

decade, while

SEE THE SHAPE

One fish lives about a decade, while another can live two centuries.

WHY IT WORKS

While shows a difference here. A comma joins this difference to the main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The while part shows a difference; it is not the colon’s explanation.

B: While makes the next part depend on the first. It cannot stand alone here.

C: The while part is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 161
Earlier book Q100

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q630 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

guide, but the

SEE THE SHAPE

The opening scene presents the traveler as an experienced guide, but the following scene shows that she has never visited the region, encouraging the audience to reinterpret confident statements that had initially seemed to establish her reliability.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

C: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 161
GA777-216 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q631 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Susana Martinez—

SEE THE SHAPE

Susana Martinez—the first woman in that role—took office.

WHY IT WORKS

The dash already printed before took closes the detail. Add an opening dash.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the closing dash.

B: The extra detail has no opening mark.

C: A comma does not match the closing dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 161
Earlier book Q159

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q632 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

and, in the process,

SEE THE SHAPE

alter the particles and, in the process, dismantle information

WHY IT WORKS

In the process is the extra detail. Put one comma on each side.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening comma before in is missing.

C: The dash does not have a matching opener.

D: The closing comma after process is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 161
Earlier book Q141

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q633 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

model, however, required

SEE THE SHAPE

The second version of the model, however, required fewer moving parts, combining those actions through a shared linkage whose geometry made several earlier connections unnecessary.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 162
GA777-410 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q634 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

park; residents

SEE THE SHAPE

The local newspaper therefore printed a drawing of the proposed park; residents could comment before construction began, responding to visible features rather than trying to interpret technical descriptions alone.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 162
GA777-193 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q635 · ANSWER D

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

plants that

SEE THE SHAPE

The plants that grow beside the stream have broader leaves than members of the same species farther upslope, suggesting that the contrast cannot be explained simply by the presence of different kinds of plants.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

B: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

C: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 162
GA777-247 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q636 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

poem, however, contains

SEE THE SHAPE

The oldest surviving copy of the poem, however, contains a different conclusion, suggesting that a passage now regarded as essential to the work's meaning may reflect a later revision rather than its earliest recorded state.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

C: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 162
GA777-412 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q637 · ANSWER B

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

content,

SEE THE SHAPE

Because regolith is available and has oxygen, scientists have wondered ...

WHY IT WORKS

Because starts the waiting part. End that part with a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / D: The opening word already links the parts. Adding this joining word does not work here.

C: The comma after the whole waiting part is missing.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 163
Earlier book Q96

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q638 · ANSWER C

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wood, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

One used local wood, however: a small flute carved from a fallen branch, drawing attention to a form of manufacture that could leave little evidence in records concerned primarily with purchases and trade.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

B: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

D: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 163
GA777-434 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q639 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

explanations. Readers

SEE THE SHAPE

In its final version, the report separated measurements from suggested explanations. Readers could therefore identify which statements described recorded events and which depended on interpretations that further experiments might support or overturn.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 163
GA777-159 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q640 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

surveyors, ends

SEE THE SHAPE

The red line, which marks the route selected by the original surveyors, ends at the edge of the steepest slope, while a later pencil line continues beyond it, recording a revision that may have depended on a different approach to construction.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

C: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 163
GA777-266 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q641 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

scribbles that

SEE THE SHAPE

scribbles that often incorporate words or phrases

WHY IT WORKS

That tells us more about which scribbles are meant. Keep it attached.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: The mark cuts that away from the thing it describes.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 164
Earlier book Q124

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q642 · ANSWER D

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

person?

SEE THE SHAPE

What additional evidence supports the claim that both letters were written by the same person?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

C: A period does not mark this direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 164
GA777-514 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q643 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

container. Only

SEE THE SHAPE

Each trial began with identical amounts of liquid at the same temperature in every container. Only the shape of the vessels varied, allowing differences in cooling rate to be compared without also having to account for unequal starting conditions.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 164
GA777-146 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q644 · ANSWER D

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

safely, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Since the original disc was too damaged to play safely, the specialists used detailed images of its grooves to reconstruct the sequence of vibrations, producing an approximation of sounds that ordinary playback equipment could no longer recover.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

B: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

C: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 164
GA777-065 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q645 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

excavation; an

SEE THE SHAPE

A replacement label gives the date of the excavation; an older label records only the location, preserving evidence of an earlier stage in the effort to establish the object's history.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 165
GA777-197 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q646 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

varied:

SEE THE SHAPE

The number of jams varied: some shoppers had 24 options, others only 6.

WHY IT WORKS

The part after the colon explains varied. It tells us how the number changed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma does not properly join the setup to this explanation.

C: While suggests a difference. These numbers explain varied instead.

D: While suggests two things happening at the same time. Here, the numbers tell us how the jams varied.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 165
Earlier book Q186

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q647 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Lagos; A Kind of Marriage,

SEE THE SHAPE

The Joys of Motherhood, a novel; A Kind of Marriage, a play; and Head Above Water

WHY IT WORKS

The semicolon separates two works. The comma introduces the second work’s description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Use a semicolon, not a comma, between the big items.

C: The big separator is wrong, and the second work’s detail needs a comma, not a colon.

D: The comma before a television play is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 165
Earlier book Q238

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q648 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

called

SEE THE SHAPE

is called the chromophore

WHY IT WORKS

Called what? The chromophore. Do not cut off the answer.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 165
Earlier book Q14

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q649 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

plant:

SEE THE SHAPE

The team examined two varieties: TN57 and TN66.

WHY IT WORKS

The colon introduces the names of the two varieties.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B: The two names and their descriptions are not a full sentence.

C: The names need a clear mark to introduce them.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 166
Earlier book Q194

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q650 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

during

SEE THE SHAPE

during the Late Cretaceous

WHY IT WORKS

During what time? The Late Cretaceous answers that. Keep them together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 166
Earlier book Q11

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q651 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Lina Costa

SEE THE SHAPE

Astronomer Lina Costa examined repeated images of a faint region, using nearby objects of stable brightness as references to distinguish possible changes in the target from differences caused by the atmosphere or the instrument.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

D: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 166
GA777-348 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q652 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

damaged, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Working from photographs taken while the surrounding structure was still intact and before the entrance was damaged, the restorers recreated the pattern, distinguishing the newly made sections from surviving fragments with marks visible only at close range.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 166
GA777-076 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q653 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

complete, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The recording at last complete, the musicians packed their instruments, leaving the engineer to compare the different takes and identify any sections in which background noise interfered with the quietest parts of the performance.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 167
GA777-080 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q654 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

platform, providing

SEE THE SHAPE

The replacement lamps were positioned at regular intervals along the platform, providing an even level of illumination that kept signs legible without increasing the amount of electricity used by the system as a whole.

WHY IT WORKS

The main statement is already complete. The ending beginning with providing adds a result of that statement. It is an -ing phrase, not another full sentence. A comma attaches this extra description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot introduce this description. The -ing phrase has no main verb of its own.

B: The period leaves an -ing phrase as a separate sentence fragment.

C: This creates a second action without a joining word. Use the -ing description to show the added result.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 167
GA777-093 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q655 · ANSWER D

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

regions

SEE THE SHAPE

determine how ... and what ...

WHY IT WORKS

The team determined two things. And joins this pair inside one sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / C: The extra mark splits the two things that go together.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 167
Earlier book Q28

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q656 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

floodwater, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Located beyond the reach of ordinary floodwater, the storage room protected the records through several periods of heavy rain, although staff continued to monitor moisture because high humidity could damage paper even without direct contact with water.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 167
GA777-111 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q657 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

question: the

SEE THE SHAPE

A gap uncovered behind later masonry answered a long-standing question: the location of the first entrance, revealing a route that connected rooms in an order quite different from the path followed by visitors today.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 168
GA777-372 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q658 · ANSWER C

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wood; a

SEE THE SHAPE

Its models included a bridge, built from strips of wood; a tower, assembled from metal rods; and a boat, shaped from folded paper, emphasizing the relationship between arrangement and stability rather than the resemblance of each material to its full-sized counterpart.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 168
GA777-475 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q659 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

handwriting. Those

SEE THE SHAPE

Several passages inserted between the original lines appear in a second handwriting. Those additions may have been made by a later owner, complicating efforts to treat every statement in the volume as evidence of its first author's intentions.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 168
GA777-132 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q660 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hours. The

SEE THE SHAPE

The original production, with its extended musical passages and numerous scene changes, lasted nearly three hours. The touring version omitted two scenes, creating a different pace without changing the order of the central events.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 168
GA777-114 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q661 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

courtyard, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Watching the shadows shift across the courtyard, the architect studied a scale model under a movable lamp, comparing several roof shapes before deciding which design offered shelter without leaving the interior rooms unnecessarily dark.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 169
GA777-099 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q662 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

snow. This

SEE THE SHAPE

Water falls as rain or snow. This process is called the water cycle.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts tell us something. End the first with a period and start This process.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together.

B: The first sentence is telling, not asking.

C: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 169
Earlier book Q67

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q663 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stones. Larger

SEE THE SHAPE

The outer layer of a wall contains unusually small stones. Larger blocks form the foundation below it, suggesting that a later rebuilding project retained part of an earlier structure rather than replacing the wall entirely.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 169
GA777-171 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q664 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

object: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Beneath routine correspondence, the newly opened box contained a surprising object: a miniature bridge model made from folded paper, whose arrangement of supports differed from both the surviving structure and the design shown in the official construction drawings.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 169
GA777-363 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q665 · ANSWER C

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sections: early

SEE THE SHAPE

To make the development process clear, the curator divided the exhibition into three sections: early experiments that tested uncertain ideas, working models that demonstrated selected mechanisms, and finished designs that incorporated results from the earlier stages.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 170
GA777-355 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q666 · ANSWER B

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

South by

SEE THE SHAPE

Carver revolutionized farming by promoting crop rotation.

WHY IT WORKS

By promoting tells HOW he changed farming. Keep that needed connection together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma unnecessarily separates the action from how he did it.

C: By promoting is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

D: This by phrase directly completes the action; it is not a separate colon explanation.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 170
Earlier book Q102

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q667 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

question. Later

SEE THE SHAPE

Its first chapter introduces the central question. Later chapters explore records from individual regions, showing how local institutions shaped decisions that might otherwise appear to be direct responses to climate alone.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 170
GA777-120 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q668 · ANSWER B

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pieces suggests

SEE THE SHAPE

Yet the remarkable consistency of the shallow marks left along the edges of the recovered metal pieces suggests that a single type of tool was used, providing a possible connection among objects whose original purposes remain uncertain.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “pieces.” The main action begins with “suggests.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

C: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

D: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 170
GA777-020 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q669 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

newspaper. It

SEE THE SHAPE

The poem first appeared in a small regional newspaper. It reached a wider readership after its inclusion in an anthology, where its placement beside works from other regions encouraged critics to interpret its local references in a broader context.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 171
GA777-176 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q670 · ANSWER A

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

the paths they used, the places they avoided,

SEE THE SHAPE

The survey asked about the paths they used, the places they avoided, and the improvements they wanted, enabling planners to compare visible patterns of movement with concerns that might not be apparent to an observer visiting the area only briefly.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

C: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 171
GA777-455 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q671 · ANSWER C

Reason or Difference? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

discovered while

SEE THE SHAPE

The team discovered the problem while analyzing studies.

WHY IT WORKS

While means during that activity. It stays with discovered.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The while phrase directly tells when they discovered it; it is not a separate colon explanation.

B: While analyzing tells WHEN they discovered the problem. Keep it attached.

D: While analyzing is not a full sentence after a period.

Hack 08 · Lesson p. 1005 · Practice p. 171
Earlier book Q104

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q672 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

movie, such

SEE THE SHAPE

Vents released smells in the movie, such as the scent of roses.

WHY IT WORKS

Such as gives an extra example. A comma introduces it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The added example needs a comma.

B: Such as ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: Such as ... is not a full sentence after a period.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 171
Earlier book Q115

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q673 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

speed. Once

SEE THE SHAPE

The choir therefore practiced the passage at a slower speed. Once the pattern became comfortable, the conductor gradually increased the tempo while preserving the relationships between the beats, allowing the ensemble to reach performance speed without changing the phrasing.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

B: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 172
GA777-149 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q674 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

teacher; Elena,

SEE THE SHAPE

The catalog lists Omar, a former teacher; Elena, a retired musician who preserved performance programs; and Priya, a business owner who donated commercial records, illustrating how a public collection can emerge from private habits of keeping apparently ordinary documents.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

C: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

D: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 172
GA777-477 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q675 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pristine, though;

SEE THE SHAPE

Not melted into layers → still not untouched.

WHY IT WORKS

Though belongs with hardly pristine: not untouched. The next full thought gives the reasons.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The strong break after though is missing.

C: Though is attached to the reason instead of the thought showing the difference.

D: One comma after though cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 172
Earlier book Q219

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q676 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

additions, provides

SEE THE SHAPE

The earliest sketch, which shows the structure without its subsequent additions, provides a useful guide, particularly where the present walls conceal openings that the drawing represents as entrances to rooms no longer accessible from outside.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

C: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 172
GA777-269 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q677 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stand, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Carefully balanced on a low wooden stand, the instrument could be played without a supporting strap, while removable cushions prevented the stand from pressing directly against areas that had weakened during years of storage.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 173
GA777-088 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q678 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wetland carries

SEE THE SHAPE

Instead, a network of shallow channels that branch around raised patches of vegetation throughout the wetland carries excess rainwater toward the river, allowing the surrounding ground to drain without the construction of additional concrete outlets.

WHY IT WORKS

The long WHO part ends with “wetland.” The main action begins with “carries.” Keep that subject joined to its verb. The descriptions make the subject longer; they do not finish the sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon needs a full thought before it; the subject alone is not one.

B: A colon needs a full setup; the subject has not reached its main verb.

D: A comma splits the subject from its main verb.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 173
GA777-011 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q679 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wall, but closer

SEE THE SHAPE

The first photographs suggested a continuous wall, but closer examination of the site revealed narrow openings near its base, changing the interpretation from a barrier intended to exclude movement to a structure that may have directed it.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 173
GA777-235 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q680 · ANSWER B

Which One? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

container that

SEE THE SHAPE

The container that held the darkest solution was placed in a separate tray for further inspection, distinguishing it from the lighter samples without assuming that color alone could establish either its composition or the purpose for which it had been prepared.

WHY IT WORKS

The words after the noun tell us which people or things the sentence means. This identifying description stays attached to the noun. The main verb comes after that description; do not split the subject before it reaches its verb.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma starts an interruption that is never closed before the main verb.

C: A semicolon cannot split a noun from this needed identifying description.

D: The words before the colon are not a full setup.

Hack 10 · Lesson p. 1010 · Practice p. 173
GA777-249 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q681 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

falsework,

SEE THE SHAPE

These supports, a system known as falsework, were removed

WHY IT WORKS

The comma after supports opens the extra name. Close it after falsework.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close the comma pair.

B: The closing comma is missing.

D: A colon cannot close the comma pair.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 174
Earlier book Q140

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q682 · ANSWER B

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Culture—

SEE THE SHAPE

The festival — or FESTAC ’77, as it was known — became the largest event

WHY IT WORKS

The printed dash after known closes the extra name. Add the opening dash after Culture.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the closing dash.

C: A comma does not match the closing dash.

D: The opening dash is missing.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 174
Earlier book Q153

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q683 · ANSWER C

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

letters from residents, notes from inspectors,

SEE THE SHAPE

Its members reviewed letters from residents, notes from inspectors, and estimates from builders, comparing personal accounts of how the building was used with technical assessments of its condition and projections of the costs associated with different repair methods.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

D: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 174
GA777-458 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q684 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

area. After

SEE THE SHAPE

Before construction, it was 0.1°C cooler. After construction, it was 1.7°C cooler.

WHY IT WORKS

Before and after describe two different measurements. Start the second sentence with After.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

D: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 174
Earlier book Q37

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q685 · ANSWER D

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

prey; rather,

SEE THE SHAPE

The spider does not seem hidden; rather, it seems easy to see.

WHY IT WORKS

Rather introduces what we see instead. It belongs with the second thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas around rather cannot join two full thoughts.

B: The sentence break before rather is missing.

C: Rather is attached to the wrong thought. It introduces the next idea.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 175
Earlier book Q204

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q686 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

aesthetics. As

SEE THE SHAPE

Kivy was a leading figure. As evidenced by his belief ..., Kivy’s approach was formalist.

WHY IT WORKS

The As description belongs with Kivy’s approach in the next sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

B: In this choice, and does not correctly separate the two full thoughts.

C: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 175
Earlier book Q43

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q687 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

distance, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Painted in contrasting colors visible from a great distance, the marker helped sailors identify the current approach, even when the shoreline behind it was partly obscured by haze or difficult lighting.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 175
GA777-103 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q688 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

with a

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than making the frame heavier, engineers replaced the panel with a lighter material that could bend slightly under pressure, preserving visibility while reducing the likelihood of similar damage during future storms.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “with” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

D: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 175
GA777-046 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q689 · ANSWER A

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

changes and sent

SEE THE SHAPE

Taking account of comments collected at meetings and through written submissions, the committee reviewed the proposed changes and sent a revised plan to the neighborhood council, retaining a larger open area than the original design had provided.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

C: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

D: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 176
GA777-057 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q690 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

fence, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Looking through a narrow gap beneath a damaged rail in the fence, the children recorded the young animals' movements, discovering that periods of energetic play alternated with much longer intervals in which the foxes remained out of sight.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 176
GA777-081 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q691 · ANSWER A

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Leila Rahman

SEE THE SHAPE

To distinguish between these possibilities, botanist Leila Rahman mapped the patches and compared their locations with flood deposits, abandoned gardens, and stretches of bank that had remained largely undisturbed.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 176
GA777-328 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q692 · ANSWER C

Who + Does Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Smith

SEE THE SHAPE

Her portrait ... is displayed.

WHY IT WORKS

Portrait is the thing. Is displayed tells what happens to it.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This puts a mark between the who-or-what part and its main action.

Hack 01 · Lesson p. 990 · Practice p. 176
Earlier book Q5

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q693 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

riverbed, remained

SEE THE SHAPE

The wooden structure, supported by posts driven deep into the riverbed, remained level through the spring floods, although movable steps connecting it to the bank needed frequent adjustment as the distance to dry ground changed.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot close this interruption.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 177
GA777-284 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q694 · ANSWER B

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

place, the

SEE THE SHAPE

When the section that would connect the two unfinished approaches was lowered into place, the workers checked that both ends rested securely on their supports before releasing the cables that had held it above the water.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

C: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

D: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 177
GA777-060 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q695 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

there, a

SEE THE SHAPE

The pond that formed there, a temporary body of water supplied by winter rain, supports several species of breeding insects, showing why surveys restricted to the dry season could overlook a significant part of the local community.

WHY IT WORKS

Look beyond the blank for the closing comma. The description between the subject and its main verb is extra information. Open it with a matching comma, then read the main sentence with that description temporarily removed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon would cut the subject away from its main verb before the sentence is complete.

B: The subject has not reached its main verb, so it cannot be a complete setup for a colon.

D: This mark does not match the closing boundary already printed after the extra description.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 177
GA777-265 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q696 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

possibility: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than resolving the disagreement that drove the action, the final scene leaves a troubling possibility: a misunderstanding that none of the characters can correct, since each is acting on information that the others do not know is incomplete.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 177
GA777-380 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q697 · ANSWER D

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Nora Okafor

SEE THE SHAPE

For a small public pavilion, architect Nora Okafor designed sloping surfaces that directed water toward planted channels, making a normally hidden drainage process visible to visitors moving between the covered and open spaces.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

B: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

C: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 178
GA777-330 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q698 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

crossing?

SEE THE SHAPE

If the construction records describe repairs rather than initial installation, when did the village actually begin using the new crossing?

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence asks a direct question. Its opening asks the reader for an answer, so it ends with a question mark.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A period does not mark this direct question.

B: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 178
GA777-490 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q699 · ANSWER A

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

documents; the

SEE THE SHAPE

It involved the library, which stored the documents; the museum, which supplied objects associated with the same period; and the school, which organized volunteers, linking written records with material evidence and the work needed to document both consistently.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

C: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

D: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 178
GA777-471 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q700 · ANSWER A

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Bahrain—a

SEE THE SHAPE

the constitution of Bahrain — a country in Western Asia — is longer

WHY IT WORKS

The dash after Asia is already printed. Match it after Bahrain.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A comma does not match the closing dash.

C: The opening dash is missing.

D: A colon does not match the closing dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 178
Earlier book Q142

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q701 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

as a

SEE THE SHAPE

After its restoration, the structure now serves as a meeting place for musicians and local historians, bringing together groups whose activities help preserve different aspects of the community's cultural life.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “as” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

B: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

C: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 179
GA777-043 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q702 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

improvement: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Before the rearrangement could proceed, the plan depended on one practical improvement: a safer way to transfer heavy pieces between floors, since the existing staircase was too narrow for several objects that the new exhibition was intended to include.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 179
GA777-366 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q703 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

teacher, contains

SEE THE SHAPE

The village archive, a project begun by a retired teacher, contains photographs donated by families across the district, including views of ordinary streets that professional photographers rarely selected for the postcards and illustrated histories now more widely available.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: A colon cannot close this interruption.

D: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 179
GA777-293 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q704 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

extensive: a

SEE THE SHAPE

The effort had become something more extensive: a network of committees.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup is finished. The colon tells us what it had become.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A network ... is not a full sentence after a semicolon.

C: It was starts a new full thought. One comma cannot join it to the first.

D: A network ... cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 179
Earlier book Q188

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q705 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lighting. Portable

SEE THE SHAPE

The building had no permanent stage lighting. Portable lamps were brought into position before each performance, suggesting that the absence of fixed equipment does not necessarily indicate an absence of elaborate lighting.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 180
GA777-156 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q706 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

stone, but it

SEE THE SHAPE

The replacement was easier to work than the original stone, but it did not withstand outdoor conditions as well, forcing the team to weigh convenience during construction against the likely need for additional maintenance later.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 180
GA777-242 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q707 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

STS-51-D. Lasting

SEE THE SHAPE

Discovery blasted off, starting its mission. Lasting almost seven days, the mission ended in Florida.

WHY IT WORKS

The first sentence ends with the mission name. Lasting opens a detail about the next sentence: the mission ended.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A comma alone cannot introduce it lasted as a new full thought.

B: A comma leaves the later full thought the mission ended without a proper break.

C: The later full thought still has no proper sentence break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 180
Earlier book Q66

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q708 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

their use could be better regulated.

SEE THE SHAPE

The team investigated how their use could be better regulated.

WHY IT WORKS

This tells us what the team investigated. Use telling order and a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

C: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

D: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 180
Earlier book Q245

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q709 · ANSWER D

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

libraries, train

SEE THE SHAPE

libraries, train stations, and public squares

WHY IT WORKS

These are three places. A comma separates the first two.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two places run together.

B: Train stations is another item, not an explanation of libraries.

C: A dash does not fit the commas in this ordinary list.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 181
Earlier book Q226

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q710 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

butterflies. Belonging

SEE THE SHAPE

The researchers counted butterflies. Belonging to this family, the Paris peacock is rare.

WHY IT WORKS

Two full thoughts need a strong break. The second starts with a detail and ends with the Paris peacock is rare.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: And belonging does not separate the next main thought.

D: This leaves the two main thoughts without a proper break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 181
Earlier book Q63

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q711 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

timber, continued

SEE THE SHAPE

The old waterwheel, a structure assembled largely from local timber, continued operating after newer mills opened nearby, serving customers whose needs could still be met by a slower system with fewer specialized parts to replace.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening comma before the extra description. Close that same description with another comma. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

B: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 181
GA777-271 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q712 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sides, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Surrounded by buildings considerably taller than its enclosing walls on three sides, the garden received direct sunlight only around midday, prompting the designers to choose plants that could tolerate long periods of shade without losing their distinctive foliage.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

C: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

D: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 181
GA777-086 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q713 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

follows a

SEE THE SHAPE

Filmed over the course of an entire winter, the documentary follows a group of apprentices as they learn to recognize damaged joints and select replacement timbers that will bend without splitting.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “follows” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

B: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 182
GA777-032 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q714 · ANSWER D

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

lights and replaced

SEE THE SHAPE

Following procedures developed for spaces where a power failure could leave passengers in complete darkness, the crew tested the emergency lights and replaced every battery that failed to maintain the required brightness for the full inspection period.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

B: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

C: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 182
GA777-052 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q715 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

year, but they

SEE THE SHAPE

The birds returned to the island at the expected time of year, but they selected higher ground farther inland, suggesting that consistency in migration timing did not guarantee consistency in their response to conditions at the breeding site.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

C: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 182
GA777-219 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q716 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

areas. Rain

SEE THE SHAPE

A narrow ridge separates their drainage areas. Rain falling on opposite sides of this modest rise eventually reaches different rivers, showing that the height of a feature alone does not determine its importance to the surrounding water system.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 182
GA777-131 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q717 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

cardboard. Colored

SEE THE SHAPE

Students therefore built a watershed model from layers of cardboard. Colored threads marked the main waterways, helping them explain how water falling in different parts of the model would move toward the same outlet.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 183
GA777-155 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q718 · ANSWER C

List Colon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

photograph: its

SEE THE SHAPE

For each image added to a community archive, volunteers recorded three details for every photograph: its date or estimated period, its location, and the name of its photographer, distinguishing documented facts from details supplied through later recollections.

WHY IT WORKS

The setup before the colon is already a full thought. It announces a group of things; the words after the colon name them. Those list items are not separate sentences, so a period or a clause-joining semicolon will not work.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

D: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 13 · Lesson p. 1016 · Practice p. 183
GA777-357 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q719 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sentence, but they

SEE THE SHAPE

Two translators agreed about the event described in the final sentence, but they chose different ways to reproduce its comic effect, one preserving a reference to the setting and the other emphasizing the narrator's mistaken interpretation.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

C: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 183
GA777-221 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q720 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

appreciate the

SEE THE SHAPE

appreciate the multiple references

WHY IT WORKS

Appreciate what? The multiple references. Keep the words together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 183
Earlier book Q18

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q721 · ANSWER A

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

explanation: a

SEE THE SHAPE

After comparing observations from nearby sites, the team favored the simplest explanation: a change in the direction of the prevailing wind, which could account for the markers' behavior without requiring an unobserved alteration in the channel beneath them.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

C: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

D: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 184
GA777-386 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q722 · ANSWER A

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

languages, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The instructions translated into several languages, the museum could offer the activity to a broader audience, enabling participants to focus on the objects themselves rather than on unfamiliar words in the accompanying explanation.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

C: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 184
GA777-106 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q723 · ANSWER B

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

rehearsal, however, captured

SEE THE SHAPE

The version made during the rehearsal, however, captured a clearer account of the spoken introduction, which was partly obscured at the concert by audience noise near the microphone used for the announcement.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

C: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

D: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 184
GA777-417 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q724 · ANSWER C

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

visible. The

SEE THE SHAPE

To retain evidence of earlier workmanship, the repair crew left one section of the original floor visible. The exposed area shows how different materials were joined, allowing visitors to compare the historic construction with the new surface around it.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

B: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 184
GA777-181 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q725 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

audience, but few

SEE THE SHAPE

The melody was familiar to almost everyone in the audience, but few listeners recognized the older words used by the singer, creating an experience in which musical familiarity contrasted with uncertainty about parts of the text.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

D: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 185
GA777-236 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q726 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

of detecting

SEE THE SHAPE

Equipped with a detector that collects light more efficiently than the earlier instrument, the new telescope is capable of detecting objects that disappeared into the background of previous images, improving estimates of the cluster's size.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “of” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 185
GA777-036 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q727 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

goal: a

SEE THE SHAPE

Rather than treating its success as the number of objects produced, the workshop pursued a simple goal: a stronger connection between local artists and public schools, one that could support further projects after the initial series of meetings had ended.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

B: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 185
GA777-373 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q728 · ANSWER D

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

world,

SEE THE SHAPE

A conceptual artist and designer, Mary Ping was chosen.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening words describe Mary Ping. Put a comma before her main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma after the opening description is missing.

B: The opening description is not a full thought before a colon.

C: The opening description is not a full thought before a semicolon.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 185
Earlier book Q108

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q729 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

afternoon, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The usual rehearsal room unavailable that afternoon, the choir practiced in a library meeting room, adjusting the distance between singers after discovering that the smaller space made some voices much more prominent than others.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the blank give background; they are not a full sentence. The main statement comes next. Put a comma at the end of the opening description so it stays connected to the person or thing it describes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The period leaves the opening description as a fragment.

B: The opening description is not a full setup for a colon.

D: The opening description is not a full thought, so a semicolon cannot follow it.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 186
GA777-109 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q730 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Entomologist Heather Grab

SEE THE SHAPE

Entomologist Heather Grab found ...

WHY IT WORKS

Entomologist is the job. Heather Grab is the name. Keep them together, then connect them to found.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The colon cuts Heather Grab away from found.

B: The commas separate the job from the name that identifies the person.

D: The comma cuts the name away from found.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 186
Earlier book Q167

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q731 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

square—shows

SEE THE SHAPE

The oldest surviving photograph—a blurred view of the market square—shows a fountain later removed during construction, providing the only known image of its position relative to buildings whose facades are still recognizable today.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the opening dash before the extra description. Close that same description with another dash. Then the main sentence continues. Read the subject and main verb together while temporarily skipping the extra words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close this interruption.

B: This mark does not match the opening boundary.

D: A colon cannot close this interruption.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 186
GA777-306 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q732 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

park. A

SEE THE SHAPE

The old ferry landing is now part of a riverside park. A small sign describes how goods passed through the area, helping visitors connect an otherwise unremarkable stretch of paving with the district's commercial past.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 186
GA777-135 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q733 · ANSWER B

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Soto would see in her neighborhood.

SEE THE SHAPE

The pattern was inspired by gates Soto would see.

WHY IT WORKS

This tells us about the gates. It is not asking a question.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The sentence is telling, so it needs a period, not a question mark.

C: This uses asking order. Here we need telling order.

D: This uses asking order and a question mark, but the sentence is telling.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 187
Earlier book Q247

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q734 · ANSWER B

Super List Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

intervals; measurements,

SEE THE SHAPE

Researchers used photographs, taken at fixed intervals; measurements, recorded each morning at selected locations; and interviews, conducted after the observation period, comparing visible changes with numerical patterns and accounts of how residents experienced them.

WHY IT WORKS

Each main list item already contains a comma and an added description. Semicolons show where one whole item ends and the next begins. Match the semicolon already printed before the final item; these list items do not have to be sentences.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon does not match the semicolon separating the other main items.

C: The boundary between two main list items is missing.

D: This comma blurs the boundary between two main list items.

Hack 20 · Lesson p. 1031 · Practice p. 187
GA777-481 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q735 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

was a

SEE THE SHAPE

The clue that ultimately allowed researchers to connect those measurements to a particular location was a small sketch of the bridge viewed from the south bank, showing an arrangement of arches absent from later maps.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “was” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

D: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 187
GA777-051 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q736 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

course.

SEE THE SHAPE

By comparing dated material from deposits inside the old channel with records of flooding downstream, researchers have established approximately when the river changed its course.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

C: A comma does not finish the sentence.

D: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 187
GA777-513 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q737 · ANSWER C

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

energy collected by solar panels during the day,

SEE THE SHAPE

Powered with solar energy, the LEDs keep lions away.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening words describe the LEDs. Use one comma at the end of that description.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Commas split energy collected by solar panels, and the needed final comma is missing.

B: The comma before the main thought is missing.

D: The comma after energy cuts apart words that belong together.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 188
Earlier book Q109

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q738 · ANSWER C

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

emerged:

SEE THE SHAPE

Different strategies emerged: one method spread in one region, another elsewhere.

WHY IT WORKS

The entire next part explains which different strategies emerged.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together.

B: And lacks the comma needed to join these longer full thoughts.

D: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 188
Earlier book Q189

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q739 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

originates. Many

SEE THE SHAPE

The opening depends on the language in which it originates. Many folktales open with a phrase.

WHY IT WORKS

The first thought is finished. Many folktales starts the next full thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together.

D: A comma after many splits many from folktales and misses the sentence break.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 188
Earlier book Q64

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q740 · ANSWER A

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pattern.

SEE THE SHAPE

During rehearsal, the musicians discussed which note began the repeated pattern.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

C: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 188
GA777-501 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q741 · ANSWER D

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

why the

SEE THE SHAPE

During the walk, the guide explained why the trail followed the shaded slope: the exposed opposite slope became difficult to cross during hot weather and offered almost no shelter from sudden storms.

WHY IT WORKS

The word “why” needs the words that follow it to complete this connection. Read through the blank as one unit. A comma, colon, or semicolon would cut off the words it needs.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A colon cannot separate this word from the completion it needs.

B: The semicolon comes before the first thought is complete.

C: The comma cuts off a needed completion.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 189
GA777-041 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q742 · ANSWER C

Comma Sandwich Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

wall, however, produced

SEE THE SHAPE

Those growing beside the most shaded section of the wall, however, produced flowers later, suggesting that reduced access to light outweighed the temperature advantage that had initially seemed most important.

WHY IT WORKS

However interrupts the sentence between its subject and main verb. Remove however temporarily: the sentence still works. Put commas on both sides of the interruption, keeping the main subject connected to its action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon incorrectly breaks the sentence before its main verb.

B: The colon appears before the sentence has a complete setup.

D: The semicolon after however splits the sentence core.

Hack 17 · Lesson p. 1024 · Practice p. 189
GA777-416 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q743 · ANSWER B

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

asteroids, several

SEE THE SHAPE

Although most are asteroid fragments, some come from the Moon or Mars.

WHY IT WORKS

Although makes the first part unable to stand alone. Use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: The opening waiting part cannot stand alone as a sentence.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 189
Earlier book Q97

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q744 · ANSWER D

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

problem: the

SEE THE SHAPE

The proposed scheme addresses this common problem: the loss of shade when older trees must be removed, using staged replacement and temporary structures to maintain comfortable walking conditions during the years when the new trees remain small.

WHY IT WORKS

The words before the colon make a full statement. The words after it tell us exactly what the stated thing is. That explanation is a phrase, not a separate sentence, so the colon fits and a period or semicolon does not.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The words after the semicolon are not a full thought, and this is not a complex list.

B: The period leaves the following words as a sentence fragment.

C: The explanation or list needs a punctuation boundary after the complete setup.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 189
GA777-390 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q745 · ANSWER B

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

islands, it

SEE THE SHAPE

Although the oldest chart in a recently cataloged collection omits several small offshore islands, it accurately shows the shape of the mainland, including shallow bays that later mapmakers represented less precisely.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

C: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

D: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 190
GA777-058 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q746 · ANSWER A

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tenets. Developed

SEE THE SHAPE

The method has central tenets. Developed by Suzuki, the method emphasizes early practice.

WHY IT WORKS

Developed describes the method in the second sentence. Keep reading to method emphasizes.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / D: This does not clearly separate the two full thoughts. The sentence runs together.

C: That turns the next words into a description. It does not fix the separate thought the method emphasizes.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 190
Earlier book Q53

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q747 · ANSWER D

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

prose—

SEE THE SHAPE

Her book — a combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose — serves ...

WHY IT WORKS

The dash after the book’s title opens the detail. Close it after prose.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A semicolon cannot close the dash pair.

B: The closing dash is missing.

C: A comma does not match the opening dash.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 190
Earlier book Q147

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q748 · ANSWER C

Matching Pairs Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

that,

SEE THE SHAPE

compounds that, among their many roles, provide pigment

WHY IT WORKS

The comma after roles is already there. Add the opening comma after that.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A dash cannot pair with the printed closing comma.

B: A semicolon cannot open this comma pair.

D: A colon cannot open this comma pair.

Hack 11 · Lesson p. 1012 · Practice p. 190
Earlier book Q129

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q749 · ANSWER D

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

proposal, but several

SEE THE SHAPE

The committee supported the central aims of the proposal, but several members questioned its timetable, pointing out that the sequence of repairs could close the hall during the period when it was used most heavily.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

B: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

C: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 191
GA777-226 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q750 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

result.

SEE THE SHAPE

After comparing preparation notes from both procedures, the report explains how an unnoticed difference in the interval between mixing and measurement caused the second experiment to produce a different result.

WHY IT WORKS

The final sentence reports an investigation, finding, explanation, or question. It does not directly ask the reader for an answer. An embedded question word does not change the whole sentence into a question; end the statement with a period.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: An embedded question does not make the whole sentence a direct question.

B: A semicolon does not finish the sentence; it needs another clause or a continuing complex list.

D: A comma does not finish the sentence.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 191
GA777-495 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q751 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

afternoon. Ripples

SEE THE SHAPE

A small pool behind a rocky barrier stayed calm during a windy afternoon. Ripples moved across the lake beyond the rocks, reminding observers that the appearance of the nearest surface could conceal substantial differences farther away.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

D: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 191
GA777-174 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q752 · ANSWER A

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

bay and anchored

SEE THE SHAPE

After several hours of travel through an area exposed to strong winds, the research vessel crossed the shallow bay and anchored beside the sheltered island, where its crew began lowering sensors from the side facing away from the current.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the WHO in the main sentence. That same person or thing does both actions. And joins the second action to the first; the second action does not have a new subject of its own.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: After the semicolon, and plus an action has no subject of its own.

C: The colon improperly separates two coordinated actions.

D: After the period, the new sentence has an action but no person or thing doing it.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 191
GA777-056 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q753 · ANSWER A

Wait, Then Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

sunlight, the

SEE THE SHAPE

Because the outer layer that protected its surface had become brittle after prolonged exposure to sunlight, the technicians handled the panel with padded tools, avoiding pressure that could detach small flakes of the original paint.

WHY IT WORKS

The opening word makes the first clause depend on the main statement. Even though that opening contains a subject and a verb, it is not a full sentence by itself. Finish the whole opening clause, then use a comma.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The period leaves the opening dependent clause unfinished.

C: The opening dependent clause cannot stand before a semicolon.

D: The opening dependent clause is not a complete setup for a colon.

Hack 07 · Lesson p. 1003 · Practice p. 192
GA777-059 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q754 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

instrument, yet the

SEE THE SHAPE

A maker's mark and a distinctive arrangement of internal parts allowed museum staff to identify the creator of an unusual instrument, yet the date of its construction remained uncertain, since the workshop had continued using the same mark and nearly identical components for a much longer period than earlier catalogs had assumed.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. Yet connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before yet, not between yet and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The colon incorrectly separates yet from the clause it introduces.

C: The extra comma after yet splits yet from the clause it introduces.

D: The semicolon is on the wrong side of yet.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 192
GA777-218 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q755 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pineapples. For

SEE THE SHAPE

Greenhouses cultivated pineapples. For those wealthy people, the fruits were a status symbol.

WHY IT WORKS

For introduces the people. It does not mean because here. The next full thought is the fruits had become a status symbol.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The two full thoughts run together.

B: Which starts a description, but that description has no working structure.

C: For the small group is only an opening phrase; this comma does not join the two main thoughts.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 192
Earlier book Q65

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q756 · ANSWER B

However Is Not But Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

road; nevertheless, a

SEE THE SHAPE

That investigation found no trace of the earlier road; nevertheless, a later survey detected buried stones in a line, providing a possible location while leaving researchers to establish whether the feature actually belonged to the documented route.

WHY IT WORKS

Both sides have a subject and main verb. Nevertheless is a transition, not a joining word like but. Use a strong boundary before nevertheless and a comma after it; two commas alone cannot join the full thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Nevertheless alone cannot stand between two semicolons as a full thought.

C: Nevertheless does not supply the missing sentence boundary.

D: Commas around nevertheless do not join two full thoughts.

Hack 16 · Lesson p. 1022 · Practice p. 192
GA777-408 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q757 · ANSWER B

Here It Is! Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

age: built

SEE THE SHAPE

The dating confirmed the site’s age: built long ago, the city preceded the Olmec civilization.

WHY IT WORKS

The first thought is complete. The next part explains what the dating showed about the age.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot join the two full thoughts.

C: And built wrongly connects built to confirmed and misses the sentence break.

D: The two full thoughts run together.

Hack 14 · Lesson p. 1018 · Practice p. 193
Earlier book Q197

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q758 · ANSWER A

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

notes; their

SEE THE SHAPE

During a demonstration, two instruments produced similar notes; their tones nevertheless differed because their materials reinforced different parts of the sound, allowing listeners to identify the instruments even when each played exactly the same melody.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

C: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

D: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 193
GA777-191 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q759 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

Tessa Morgan

SEE THE SHAPE

Investigating the shaded surfaces beneath floating docks, marine ecologist Tessa Morgan compared the animals living there with those on nearby rocks, asking whether shelter and orientation explained patterns that could not be attributed simply to the material of the supports.

WHY IT WORKS

The job title and the name identify one person together. Keep them together. The named person is also the subject of the main verb, so do not put a single comma between that person and the action.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: This comma opens extra information but does not close it before the main verb.

B: This comma separates the named person from the main verb.

D: A job title alone is not a full setup for a colon.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 193
GA777-333 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q760 · ANSWER B

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

hall. That

SEE THE SHAPE

In a deliberate departure from that approach, the new recording includes the audience entering the hall. That detail helps listeners imagine how the room gradually became quiet, making the opening notes feel like part of an event rather than an isolated musical selection.

WHY IT WORKS

Both parts are full thoughts: each has its own subject and main verb. The period finishes the first thought. Read all the words after it to find the complete second sentence, including any opening background.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts run together without a boundary.

C: A comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

D: The extra comma after and incorrectly separates and from the subject.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 193
GA777-116 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q761 · ANSWER A

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

coast, but trees

SEE THE SHAPE

Many branches broke along the open coast, but trees in the sheltered valley suffered little damage, illustrating why a report based on only one location could misrepresent the effect of the same weather event across the region.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. But connects the two full thoughts and shows the contrast. Put the comma before but, not between but and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B: The semicolon is on the wrong side of but.

C: The colon incorrectly separates but from the clause it introduces.

D: The extra comma after but splits but from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 194
GA777-233 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q762 · ANSWER D

One Who, Two Dos Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

waterways and the fact that

SEE THE SHAPE

because of the waterways and the fact that ...

WHY IT WORKS

These are two reasons joined by and. Also, keep the fact that together.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts that away from the words it introduces.

B: The commas break apart the pair and the fact that group.

C: The commas split the words inside the pair.

Hack 03 · Lesson p. 994 · Practice p. 194
Earlier book Q27

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q763 · ANSWER B

Which Thought? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

intact, however: a

SEE THE SHAPE

A single detail was intact, however: a painted border beneath a window, preserved where later construction covered the surface rather than removing it and therefore absent from photographs taken when the room was fully in use.

WHY IT WORKS

However belongs to the statement just before it, which contrasts with the earlier claim. Put a comma before however. The colon then introduces a phrase that identifies the thing just mentioned. That phrase is not a separate sentence.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The transition and the following explanation are not properly separated.

C: The words after the semicolon are a noun phrase, not a full thought or a complex list item.

D: The semicolon leaves however followed by a noun phrase, not a full thought.

Hack 18 · Lesson p. 1026 · Practice p. 194
GA777-422 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q764 · ANSWER B

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

out, but

SEE THE SHAPE

The theory explained the deaths, but it left a question unexplored.

WHY IT WORKS

It left begins the second full thought. Use comma + but.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma before the joining word is missing.

C: The two full thoughts run together with no proper join.

D: One comma alone cannot join these two full thoughts.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 194
Earlier book Q88

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q765 · ANSWER C

Job + Name Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

biologist Yuree Lee

SEE THE SHAPE

plant cell biologist Yuree Lee showed ...

WHY IT WORKS

Keep the job and name together. Then keep the name beside showed.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The comma cuts biologist away from Yuree Lee.

B: The comma cuts Yuree Lee away from showed.

D: Both commas split parts that need to stay together.

Hack 12 · Lesson p. 1013 · Practice p. 195
Earlier book Q173

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q766 · ANSWER D

Full Stop Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

tip. Mimicking

SEE THE SHAPE

The spine has an appendage at its tip. Mimicking food, the appendage lures prey.

WHY IT WORKS

Read past Mimicking. The appendage evolved supplies the next main thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: One comma cannot separate these two full thoughts.

B: The two main thoughts have no proper break.

C: And mimicking does not finish the first thought or separate the next one.

Hack 04 · Lesson p. 997 · Practice p. 195
Earlier book Q61

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q767 · ANSWER D

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

rare;

SEE THE SHAPE

These sounds are rare; in some dialects, four are common.

WHY IT WORKS

Read past in some dialects. Four are common completes the second thought.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: These longer full thoughts need a comma before and.

B: One comma cannot join two full thoughts.

C: The two full thoughts run together without a proper break.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 195
Earlier book Q75

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q768 · ANSWER B

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

had

SEE THE SHAPE

The calendar had three seasons.

WHY IT WORKS

Had what? Three seasons. Keep had beside its answer. The colon AFTER seasons already introduces the names.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / C / D: The mark cuts had away from the thing the calendar had.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 195
Earlier book Q26

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q769 · ANSWER A

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

of

SEE THE SHAPE

the highest melting point of all the elements

WHY IT WORKS

Of what? All the elements. Do not split the words.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

B / C / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 196
Earlier book Q21

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q770 · ANSWER C

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

numbers, and each

SEE THE SHAPE

Metal components could now be produced in large numbers, and each wooden handle still required individual shaping, preserving a stage of skilled handwork within a process whose other stages had become increasingly uniform.

WHY IT WORKS

Each side has its own subject and main verb. And connects the two full thoughts. Put the comma before and, not between and and the words it introduces.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The semicolon is on the wrong side of and.

B: The colon incorrectly separates and from the clause it introduces.

D: The extra comma after and splits and from the clause it introduces.

Hack 06 · Lesson p. 1001 · Practice p. 196
GA777-234 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q771 · ANSWER C

Stay Together Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

pieces

SEE THE SHAPE

pieces of pottery

WHY IT WORKS

Pieces of what? Pottery. The words name one thing.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / B / D: This cuts apart words that need each other. No mark belongs in that spot.

Hack 02 · Lesson p. 992 · Practice p. 196
Earlier book Q23

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q772 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

content; in that era,

SEE THE SHAPE

Studios reused successful ideas; in that era, even similar shows attracted viewers.

WHY IT WORKS

Put the strong break before in that era. Add a comma after that short opening.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: Two full thoughts are joined only by commas.

C: The strong break before in that era is missing.

D: Commas cannot join the two full thoughts.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 196
Earlier book Q79

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q773 · ANSWER B

Super Semicolon Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

darkness; the

SEE THE SHAPE

The team kept a control sample in darkness; the other samples received light for different periods, providing a comparison that helped separate the effects of illumination from changes that might occur simply as the material aged.

WHY IT WORKS

Look past the descriptions. There is a subject and a main verb on each side of the blank. Each side can be a sentence by itself, so a semicolon can join the two related thoughts.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: A boundary is missing between two full thoughts.

C: A comma alone cannot join two full thoughts.

D: The comma immediately after and separates the conjunction from its clause.

Hack 05 · Lesson p. 999 · Practice p. 197
GA777-192 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q774 · ANSWER B

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

climate, famous residents,

SEE THE SHAPE

landscape, climate, famous residents, or chief exports

WHY IT WORKS

There are four ordinary list items. Keep a comma between each neighboring item.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A / D: The comma between climate and famous residents is missing.

C: Use commas consistently in this ordinary list, not semicolons or a colon.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 197
Earlier book Q232

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q775 · ANSWER C

Ask or Tell? Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

we can hold contradictory beliefs about a single thing.

SEE THE SHAPE

This raises questions about how we can hold contradictory beliefs.

WHY IT WORKS

The whole sentence tells us what the issue raises. It does not directly ask us a question.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The telling sentence needs a period, not a question mark.

B: Can we uses direct-question order inside a telling sentence.

D: Both the word order and question mark treat this as a direct question.

Hack 21 · Lesson p. 1033 · Practice p. 197
Earlier book Q257

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q776 · ANSWER D

List Comma Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

how the object was made, where it was found,

SEE THE SHAPE

Its account explains how the object was made, where it was found, and why it was preserved, combining evidence from the object's surface with information recorded during excavation rather than presenting the piece as an isolated example of decorative craftsmanship.

WHY IT WORKS

Find the three parallel list items. The first two are inside the answer; the third follows and. Commas separate the items. Keep the same kind of separator between the first and second items and between the second and third.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: The first two separate list items run together without a comma.

B: This semicolon does not match the comma separating the next list item. These are three parallel items in one ordinary list.

C: A colon cannot cut the last item away from the other two. Use matching list commas.

Hack 19 · Lesson p. 1029 · Practice p. 197
GA777-454 · Original practice · Revised

ANSWER EXPLANATION

Q777 · ANSWER B

Extra Detail Hack

CORRECT CHOICE

quilts, the

SEE THE SHAPE

The portraits are quilts, the stitching barely visible.

WHY IT WORKS

The stitching barely visible adds a picture in words. It has no main verb such as is.

WHY THE OTHER CHOICES FAIL

A: After and, the stitching barely visible is still not a full thought.

C: The detail after the semicolon is not a full sentence.

D: The detail after the period is not a full sentence.

Hack 09 · Lesson p. 1007 · Practice p. 198
Earlier book Q121

START HERE

Find WHO + DOES.

A full thought can be a sentence by itself.

WHAT TO DO

Find the person or thing. Find its main action or state. Read through the long descriptions.

FULL THOUGHT

The sensor failed.

SEE IT

WHO / WHAT? The sensor.
DOES / IS? Failed.

A COMMAND WORKS TOO

Check the sensor

WHY?

The person is understood: you.

START HERE

Does the thought finish?

WAIT

Although the sensor failed

Although makes us wait. What happened next?

WAIT

The sensor that failed yesterday

That failed yesterday describes the sensor. The main message is still missing.

FULL THOUGHT

The sensor that failed yesterday was replaced.

The main message is: The sensor was replaced.

START HERE

Do not fear -ing!

NOT FINISHED

The sensor operating in cold water

Operating in cold water describes the sensor. The main message is missing.

FINISHED

The sensor was operating in cold water.

Was operating gives the main action.

FINISHED

Testing the sensor takes time.

Testing the sensor is the thing. Takes is its main action.

Read all the words. Then pick the mark.

GROUP A · HACK 01

Who + Does Hack

Keep WHO next to DOES.

DO THIS

Find who or what the sentence is about. Find what it does. A long name or description does not need a comma.

EASY EXAMPLE

The results of the difficult experiments **were** surprising.

WATCH OUT

A pair of commas may hold extra words between WHO and DOES.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 01 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Who + Does Hack

COMPARE

The results, which arrived yesterday, were surprising.

The two commas hold the extra words. They do not split the main thought.

Keep WHO next to DOES.

GROUP A · HACK 02

Stay Together Hack

Do not cut words that need each other.

DO THIS

Ask: Did what? Called what? Of what? Keep the answer beside the word that needs it.

EASY EXAMPLE

The team **examined the samples**. The plan depended **on careful testing**.

WATCH OUT

A list does not always need a colon.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 02 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Stay Together Hack

WRONG

The kit contained: a lens and a lamp.

Contained still needs its answer.

RIGHT

The kit contained two tools: a lens and a lamp.

The setup is now a full thought.

Do not cut words that need each other.

GROUP A · HACK 03

One Who, Two Dos Hack

Two actions can share one WHO.

DO THIS

One person can do two things. Two things can also form one pair. Do not add a comma just because you see and.

EASY EXAMPLE

Mina opened the file **and checked** the results.

WATCH OUT

Two complete thoughts are different: use the FANBOYS Bridge Hack.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 03 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

One Who, Two Dos Hack

COMPARE

Mina opened the file, and Omar checked the results.

Two people. Two full thoughts. The comma and and join them.

Two actions can share one WHO.

GROUP A · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

The color of the old maps _____ during the cleaning.

A. faded

B. , faded

C. ; faded

D. : faded

ANSWER A

Color is the thing. Faded is what happened. Keep them together.

B: The comma cuts color away from faded.

C: The words before the semicolon are not a full thought.

D: The setup before the colon is not finished.

GROUP B · HACK 04

Full Stop Hack

Finish one thought. Start the next.

DO THIS

Read all the words after the blank. A sentence may start with Because, Having, or Built and still become a full thought.

EASY EXAMPLE

The sensor failed**. Because a spare was available,** the team continued.

WATCH OUT

Do not stop reading at the first -ing word. Keep going to the main action.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 04 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Full Stop Hack

LOOK CLOSELY

Adding a cover reduces heat.

Adding a cover is the thing. Reduces is what it does.

Finish one thought. Start the next.

GROUP B · HACK 05

Super Semicolon Hack

Full thought ; full thought

DO THIS

Can each side be a sentence by itself? If yes, a semicolon can join them. One comma alone cannot do that job.

EASY EXAMPLE

The sensor failed**;** the team replaced it.

WATCH OUT

There is one other semicolon job: separating big list items. See Hack 20.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 05 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Super Semicolon Hack

WRONG

The sensor failed; requiring a replacement.

Requiring a replacement is not a full thought.

Full thought ; full thought

GROUP B · HACK 06

FANBOYS Bridge Hack

Full thought , but full thought

DO THIS

For, and, nor, but, or, yet, so can join two full thoughts. In these longer SAT sentences, put the comma BEFORE the joining word.

EASY EXAMPLE

The sensor failed**, but** the backup system worked.

WATCH OUT

One WHO with two actions is different. See Hack 3.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

GROUP B · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

The researchers finished their long investigation _____ the entire team carefully checked the results.

A. ,

B. ;

C. ; and

D. , however,

ANSWER B

Both parts can be sentences. A semicolon can join them.

A: One comma cannot join these two full thoughts.

C: Here, use a comma before and, not a semicolon.

D: However does not turn two commas into a sentence bridge.

GROUP C · HACK 07

Wait, Then Comma Hack

Although ... , the main thought.

DO THIS

Although, because, if, when, and while can start a waiting part. Read to the end of that part. Add a comma. Then give the main thought.

EASY EXAMPLE

Although the label was damaged**,** the date was readable.

WATCH OUT

Do not put the comma right after Although or Because.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 07 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Wait, Then Comma Hack

WRONG

Although the label was damaged; the date was readable.

Although makes us wait. The first part cannot stand alone.

Although ... , the main thought.

GROUP C · HACK 08

Reason or Difference? Hack

Needed reason? Stay close.
Difference? A comma may help.

DO THIS

A needed reason or time usually stays attached. A part showing a difference may need a comma. Read what the words mean.

EASY EXAMPLE

The indicator lights up **when the battery is charged**.

WATCH OUT

Do not always add a comma before because, when, or while.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 08 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Reason or Difference? Hack

COMPARE

Some fish live ten years, while others live much longer.

This while part shows a difference.

Needed reason? Stay close.
Difference? A comma may help.

GROUP C · HACK 09

Extra Detail Hack

Use a comma to add a detail.

DO THIS

Extra words can describe the main thought. They may come before it or after it. They are not always a new sentence.

EASY EXAMPLE

Working under dim light**,** researchers examined the label. The team worked overnight**,** **producing a map**.

WATCH OUT

A word ending in -ing can also be part of a full thought. Look for its main action.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 09 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Extra Detail Hack

COMPARE

Producing a map takes time.

Producing a map is the thing. Takes is its main action.

NOT A FULL THOUGHT

a surprising result

What about the result? We still need the main thought.

Use a comma to add a detail.

GROUP C · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

Although the old sensor failed _____ backup continued to work.

A. ; the

B. . The

C. , the

D. : the

ANSWER C

Although makes us wait. A comma ends the waiting part.

A: The first part cannot be a sentence by itself.

B: A period would leave the Although part unfinished.

D: The words before a colon must be a full thought.

GROUP D · HACK 10

Which One? Hack

Words that tell WHICH ONE stay close.

DO THIS

Ask whether the words help identify the thing. If they do, keep them attached. Do not add commas just because you can delete the words.

EASY EXAMPLE

The samples **that contained salt** were discarded.

WATCH OUT

Also keep so ... that together. It tells how strong something is and what happens as a result.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 10 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Which One? Hack

COMPARE

The samples, which contained salt, were discarded.

Here, the salt detail is extra. The commas show that.

Words that tell WHICH ONE stay close.

GROUP D · HACK 11

Matching Pairs Hack

Open it. Close it. Match it.

DO THIS

Extra words in the middle need two matching sides: comma + comma, dash + dash, or (+). Cross out the extra words. The main thought must still work.

EASY EXAMPLE

The sample**—a rare alloy—** resisted corrosion.

WATCH OUT

The Comma Sandwich is one kind of matching pair. Do not close a dash with a comma.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

GROUP D · HACK 12

Job + Name Hack

Job + name = stay together.

DO THIS

When the name tells us WHICH person, keep it next to the job or title. Do not put a comma between them. The name also stays next to its main action.

EASY EXAMPLE

Biologist **Lina Mansour** led the study. Lina Mansour**, a biologist,** led the study.

WATCH OUT

If the person is already clear, an extra job description or name may need a comma sandwich.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 12 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Job + Name Hack

COMPARE

The team’s only biologist, Lina Mansour, led the study.

Only biologist already tells us who. The name is an extra detail.

Job + name = stay together.

GROUP D · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

The samples—three rare minerals_____ stored safely.

A. , were

B. were

C. ; were

D. —were

ANSWER D

The first dash opens the extra detail. The second dash closes it.

A: A comma cannot close the dash pair.

B: The extra detail has no closing dash.

C: A semicolon cannot close the dash pair.

GROUP E · HACK 13

List Colon Hack

Finish the setup : give the list.

DO THIS

Read only the words before the colon. Are they a full thought? Then the colon can introduce a list.

EASY EXAMPLE

The kit contained **three tools:** a lens, a ruler, and a lamp.

WATCH OUT

If the verb still needs its answer, do not add a colon yet.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 13 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

List Colon Hack

WRONG

The kit contained: a lens, a ruler, and a lamp.

Contained still needs its answer. The setup is not finished.

Finish the setup : give the list.

GROUP E · HACK 14

Here It Is! Hack

Full thought : here is what I mean.

DO THIS

Use a colon when the next words explain the first thought or tell us exactly what it means. The next part can be short or long.

EASY EXAMPLE

The team needed one thing**: time**. The test was simple**: a sensor recorded each change**.

WATCH OUT

Two full thoughts do not always need a colon. The second must explain or identify the first.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

GROUP E · HACK 15

Ta-Da Dash Hack

Full thought — extra explanation

DO THIS

One dash can introduce an extra explanation after a full thought.

EASY EXAMPLE

We found the missing component**—a valve**.

WATCH OUT

Two dashes do a different job: they hold extra words in the middle. Use the Matching Pairs Hack.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 15 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Ta-Da Dash Hack

COMPARE

The component—a small valve—was missing.

The two dashes hold an extra detail in the middle.

Full thought — extra explanation

GROUP E · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

The kit contained three tools_____ lens, a ruler, and a lamp.

A. : a

B. ; a

C. . A

D. a

ANSWER A

The setup is finished. The colon introduces the tools.

B: The list after the semicolon is not a full sentence.

C: A lens, a ruler, and a lamp is not a full sentence.

D: This leaves no mark to introduce the list.

GROUP F · HACK 16

However Is Not But Hack

A comma + however is not a bridge.

DO THIS

If however begins a new full thought, put a period or semicolon before it. However alone cannot join two sentences.

EASY EXAMPLE

The first model failed**; however,** the second succeeded.

WATCH OUT

Use the same check with rather, therefore, and for example.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 16 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

However Is Not But Hack

WRONG

The first model failed, however, the second succeeded.

Two full thoughts. Commas around however cannot join them.

A comma + however is not a bridge.

GROUP F · HACK 17

Comma Sandwich Hack

Extra however? Put commas around it.

DO THIS

Try taking out however. The rest must still be one working sentence. A short extra detail can stay at the end.

EASY EXAMPLE

The second model**, however,** succeeded. The team continued**, however,** using a spare sensor.

WATCH OUT

Do not use this sandwich to join two full thoughts. And not every use of however is an extra word.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 17 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Comma Sandwich Hack

DIFFERENT USE

However difficult the task becomes, ...

Here, however means “no matter how.” Do not put a comma right after it.

Extra however? Put commas around it.

GROUP F · HACK 18

Which Thought? Hack

Give however to the right thought.

DO THIS

Read the sentence before it. Ask: Which thought shows the difference? However or though may belong at the END of that thought.

EASY EXAMPLE

Most sensors failed. Sensor B worked**, however;** its battery was intact.

WATCH OUT

First choose the thought. Then choose the mark after however: a period, semicolon, or colon.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 18 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Which Thought? Hack

COMPARE

Earlier reports called the chamber empty. One object remained, however: a sealed jar.

Empty versus one object: that is the difference. The colon tells us what the object is.

Give however to the right thought.

GROUP F · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

Earlier reports called the chamber empty. One object _____ a sealed jar.

A. remained, however:

B. remained; however,

C. remained, however;

D. remained however

ANSWER A

However belongs with one object remained. The colon names the object.

B: After the semicolon, a sealed jar is not a sentence.

C: A sealed jar cannot stand as a sentence after a semicolon.

D: However and the added explanation need clear boundaries.

GROUP G · HACK 19

List Comma Hack

One , two , and three

DO THIS

Find the whole items. Use commas between ordinary items in a list. Items can be things or actions.

EASY EXAMPLE

The kit held **a lens, a ruler, and a lamp**.

WATCH OUT

An ordinary pair has just two items: one and two. Do not split an item in half.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 19 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

List Comma Hack

ACTIONS CAN BE ITEMS

The robot can measure depth, record temperature, and send data.

Three actions. One list.

One , two , and three

GROUP G · HACK 20

Super List Semicolon Hack

Small commas INSIDE.
Big semicolons BETWEEN.

DO THIS

If the list items already have commas inside them, use semicolons between the big items. Follow the separators already on the page.

EASY EXAMPLE

The group included **Lina, the designer; Omar, the engineer; and Sara, the editor**.

WATCH OUT

List items do NOT need to be full sentences. Here, ; and can be correct.

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

GROUP G · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

We packed a lens, which magnifies small _____ a ruler, which measures length; and a lamp, which provides light.

A. objects,

B. objects;

C. objects:

D. objects.

ANSWER B

Each item already has a comma inside it. Use semicolons between items.

A: The comma hides where one big item ends and the next begins.

C: The next item is not an explanation of objects.

D: The rest of the list is not a new full sentence.

GROUP H · HACK 21

Ask or Tell? Hack

ASK = ? TELL = .

DO THIS

Is the whole sentence asking something? Or is it telling us about a question? Read the whole sentence. Check both the word order and the ending.

EASY EXAMPLE

Direct: **Why did the signal stop?**
Indirect: The researcher asked **why the signal stopped.**

WATCH OUT

Why, how, or where does not automatically mean “use a question mark.”

Use this hack to review mistakes after taking the mixed practice.

HACK 21 · LOOK AT THE DIFFERENCE

Ask or Tell? Hack

THE WHOLE SENTENCE ASKS

Do you know why the signal stopped?

The whole sentence asks a question.

ANOTHER QUESTION

Who discovered it?

This already asks a question. Do not force extra helping words into it.

ASK = ? TELL = .

GROUP H · WORKED EXAMPLE

Try it together.

Teaching example · not part of the 777

The researcher wanted to learn why _____ before dawn.

A. did the birds leave?

B. the birds left?

C. the birds left

D. did the birds leave

ANSWER C

This tells us what the researcher wanted to learn. It does not ask us a question.

A: This uses question order and puts ? before the sentence ends.

B: This puts ? before the sentence ends.

D: Did the birds leave is question order. Here we need the birds left.

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
1	12	1
2	26	2
3	383	3
4	44	4
5	692	5
6	576	6
7	122	7
8	621	8
9	584	9
10	27	10
11	98	—
12	568	—
13	407	—
14	218	—
15	152	—
16	299	—
17	169	—
18	472	—
19	173	—
20	390	—
21	678	—
22	327	—
23	343	—
24	271	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
25	469	—
26	182	—
27	421	—
28	314	—
29	477	—
30	668	—
31	650	11
32	461	12
33	443	13
34	648	14
35	587	15
36	545	16
37	341	17
38	720	18
39	319	19
40	322	20
41	769	21
42	435	22
43	771	23
44	175	24
45	205	25
46	768	26
47	355	—
48	32	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
49	405	—
50	514	—
51	420	—
52	103	—
53	474	—
54	156	—
55	121	—
56	13	—
57	252	—
58	713	—
59	290	—
60	434	—
61	328	—
62	726	—
63	406	—
64	502	—
65	191	—
66	310	—
67	741	—
68	39	—
69	701	—
70	431	—
71	470	—
72	688	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
73	317	—
74	619	—
75	340	—
76	221	—
77	735	—
78	762	27
79	655	28
80	508	29
81	714	—
82	543	—
83	236	—
84	375	—
85	752	—
86	689	—
87	388	30
88	41	31
89	136	32
90	15	33
91	172	34
92	416	35
93	524	36
94	684	37
95	179	38
96	61	39

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
97	607	40
98	501	41
99	313	42
100	686	43
101	3	44
102	616	45
103	593	46
104	516	47
105	511	48
106	118	49
107	423	50
108	165	51
109	4	52
110	746	53
111	566	54
112	153	55
113	110	56
114	527	57
115	526	58
116	460	59
117	316	60
118	766	61
119	401	62
120	710	63

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
121	739	64
122	755	65
123	707	66
124	662	67
125	480	68
126	117	—
127	257	—
128	660	—
129	552	—
130	760	—
131	447	—
132	183	—
133	219	—
134	667	—
135	23	—
136	143	—
137	145	—
138	622	—
139	342	—
140	6	—
141	586	—
142	11	—
143	410	—
144	528	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
145	716	—
146	659	—
147	108	—
148	87	—
149	732	—
150	520	—
151	487	—
152	294	—
153	48	—
154	499	—
155	146	—
156	126	—
157	45	—
158	56	—
159	321	—
160	643	—
161	505	—
162	312	—
163	673	—
164	246	—
165	331	—
166	358	—
167	36	—
168	105	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
169	717	—
170	705	—
171	217	—
172	196	—
173	639	—
174	446	—
175	617	—
176	193	—
177	194	—
178	393	—
179	559	—
180	491	—
181	525	—
182	250	—
183	433	—
184	14	—
185	663	—
186	465	—
187	493	—
188	751	—
189	556	—
190	669	—
191	107	—
192	437	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
193	176	—
194	608	—
195	724	—
196	419	—
197	303	—
198	130	—
199	601	—
200	553	—
201	590	—
202	88	—
203	189	69
204	455	70
205	360	71
206	332	72
207	380	73
208	306	74
209	767	75
210	349	76
211	386	77
212	550	78
213	772	79
214	297	80
215	137	—
216	101	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
217	758	—
218	773	—
219	634	—
220	85	—
221	226	—
222	413	—
223	645	—
224	506	—
225	367	—
226	418	—
227	549	—
228	534	—
229	7	—
230	387	—
231	125	—
232	254	—
233	308	—
234	22	—
235	530	—
236	325	—
237	97	—
238	554	—
239	37	81
240	519	82

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
241	8	83
242	163	84
243	404	85
244	272	86
245	372	87
246	764	88
247	65	89
248	184	90
249	603	91
250	351	92
251	286	93
252	46	94
253	538	95
254	96	—
255	609	—
256	90	—
257	630	—
258	49	—
259	754	—
260	715	—
261	335	—
262	719	—
263	239	—
264	362	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
265	441	—
266	591	—
267	749	—
268	233	—
269	147	—
270	18	—
271	596	—
272	180	—
273	171	—
274	761	—
275	770	—
276	679	—
277	725	—
278	141	—
279	222	—
280	57	—
281	613	—
282	497	—
283	706	—
284	637	96
285	743	97
286	256	98
287	483	99
288	745	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
289	753	—
290	694	—
291	442	—
292	95	—
293	378	—
294	451	—
295	644	—
296	629	100
297	104	101
298	666	102
299	415	103
300	671	104
301	289	—
302	215	—
303	326	—
304	119	—
305	392	—
306	284	—
307	457	—
308	374	—
309	476	—
310	444	—
311	353	105
312	275	106

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
313	466	107
314	728	108
315	737	109
316	248	110
317	288	111
318	377	112
319	581	113
320	223	114
321	672	115
322	438	116
323	611	117
324	509	118
325	112	119
326	249	120
327	777	121
328	279	122
329	652	—
330	428	—
331	55	—
332	89	—
333	653	—
334	690	—
335	462	—
336	381	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
337	580	—
338	500	—
339	712	—
340	379	—
341	677	—
342	518	—
343	602	—
344	623	—
345	558	—
346	654	—
347	291	—
348	589	—
349	17	—
350	166	—
351	42	—
352	661	—
353	292	—
354	366	—
355	82	—
356	687	—
357	354	—
358	492	—
359	722	—
360	579	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
361	557	—
362	729	—
363	618	—
364	656	—
365	128	123
366	641	124
367	114	125
368	187	126
369	346	127
370	115	128
371	28	—
372	298	—
373	120	—
374	281	—
375	635	—
376	266	—
377	680	—
378	412	—
379	449	—
380	425	—
381	304	—
382	403	—
383	748	129
384	384	130

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
385	34	131
386	72	132
387	498	133
388	329	134
389	79	135
390	397	136
391	67	137
392	40	138
393	228	139
394	681	140
395	632	141
396	700	142
397	133	143
398	484	144
399	273	145
400	109	146
401	747	147
402	211	148
403	510	149
404	224	150
405	572	151
406	265	152
407	682	153
408	73	154

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
409	450	155
410	376	156
411	158	157
412	94	158
413	631	159
414	453	160
415	240	161
416	51	162
417	585	163
418	225	164
419	91	165
420	560	—
421	400	—
422	99	—
423	154	—
424	124	—
425	364	—
426	427	—
427	320	—
428	116	—
429	612	—
430	695	—
431	640	—
432	458	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
433	270	—
434	676	—
435	202	—
436	711	—
437	399	—
438	93	—
439	92	—
440	142	—
441	247	—
442	475	—
443	50	—
444	210	—
445	468	—
446	311	—
447	230	—
448	365	—
449	693	—
450	624	—
451	532	—
452	77	—
453	411	—
454	548	—
455	330	—
456	206	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
457	199	—
458	703	—
459	30	—
460	66	—
461	539	—
462	481	—
463	324	—
464	417	—
465	150	—
466	338	—
467	174	—
468	197	—
469	350	—
470	389	—
471	731	—
472	268	—
473	301	—
474	127	—
475	385	—
476	536	—
477	151	—
478	600	—
479	344	—
480	309	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
481	507	—
482	512	—
483	232	—
484	547	—
485	473	—
486	31	—
487	409	—
488	68	—
489	504	—
490	620	—
491	200	—
492	479	—
493	337	166
494	730	167
495	237	168
496	135	169
497	259	170
498	170	171
499	408	172
500	765	173
501	207	174
502	598	175
503	414	176
504	318	177

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
505	625	178
506	691	—
507	564	—
508	697	—
509	402	—
510	242	—
511	759	—
512	277	—
513	33	—
514	21	—
515	440	—
516	123	—
517	209	—
518	262	—
519	323	—
520	334	—
521	541	—
522	203	—
523	258	—
524	238	—
525	131	—
526	651	—
527	467	—
528	35	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
529	463	—
530	111	—
531	382	—
532	5	179
533	198	180
534	300	181
535	295	182
536	283	—
537	665	—
538	269	—
539	718	—
540	529	—
541	515	—
542	80	—
543	81	—
544	610	183
545	588	184
546	274	185
547	646	186
548	605	187
549	704	188
550	738	189
551	260	190
552	614	191

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
553	535	192
554	537	193
555	649	194
556	567	195
557	186	196
558	757	197
559	540	198
560	185	199
561	195	200
562	551	—
563	664	—
564	521	—
565	395	—
566	702	—
567	347	—
568	20	—
569	241	—
570	478	—
571	606	—
572	657	—
573	727	—
574	471	—
575	100	—
576	517	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
577	574	—
578	563	—
579	575	—
580	696	—
581	243	—
582	287	—
583	178	—
584	336	—
585	1	—
586	721	—
587	503	—
588	155	—
589	445	—
590	744	—
591	592	—
592	307	—
593	495	—
594	214	—
595	106	—
596	264	—
597	160	—
598	352	201
599	348	202
600	62	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
601	149	—
602	16	—
603	102	—
604	436	203
605	685	204
606	305	205
607	542	206
608	164	—
609	361	—
610	582	—
611	599	—
612	212	—
613	459	—
614	756	—
615	391	—
616	357	207
617	54	208
618	570	209
619	52	210
620	201	211
621	633	—
622	43	—
623	636	—
624	583	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
625	245	—
626	162	—
627	742	—
628	723	—
629	64	—
630	167	—
631	430	212
632	113	213
633	565	214
634	422	215
635	255	216
636	464	217
637	485	218
638	675	219
639	626	220
640	429	221
641	138	222
642	293	223
643	597	224
644	369	—
645	29	—
646	763	—
647	83	—
648	69	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
649	10	—
650	78	—
651	345	—
652	129	—
653	86	—
654	426	—
655	432	—
656	496	—
657	181	—
658	638	—
659	573	—
660	371	—
661	561	—
662	339	—
663	244	—
664	398	—
665	132	—
666	134	—
667	486	—
668	58	—
669	140	—
670	302	225
671	709	226
672	448	227

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
673	368	228
674	489	229
675	208	230
676	70	231
677	774	232
678	63	—
679	168	—
680	227	—
681	53	—
682	544	—
683	488	—
684	562	—
685	280	—
686	776	—
687	670	—
688	456	—
689	231	—
690	683	—
691	84	—
692	571	—
693	159	—
694	452	233
695	285	234
696	190	235

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
697	523	236
698	278	237
699	647	238
700	604	239
701	396	240
702	213	241
703	9	242
704	627	—
705	569	—
706	59	—
707	595	—
708	482	—
709	522	—
710	2	—
711	71	—
712	577	—
713	699	—
714	76	—
715	276	—
716	235	—
717	658	—
718	192	—
719	674	—
720	157	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
721	282	—
722	25	—
723	734	—
724	439	243
725	144	244
726	708	245
727	139	246
728	733	247
729	19	248
730	204	249
731	454	250
732	531	251
733	177	252
734	490	253
735	628	254
736	359	255
737	394	256
738	775	257
739	546	258
740	220	259
741	555	260
742	74	—
743	533	—
744	263	—

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
745	161	—
746	60	—
747	370	—
748	615	—
749	148	—
750	698	—
751	424	—
752	47	—
753	594	—
754	253	—
755	750	—
756	229	—
757	315	—
758	267	—
759	38	—
760	216	—
761	740	—
762	356	—
763	363	—
764	333	—
765	578	—
766	188	—
767	373	—
768	261	—

FIND THE SAME QUESTION

Same question. Different number.

Grouped Q / Randomized Q / Earlier 260-book Q. A dash means new original practice.

Grouped	Randomized	Earlier 260
769	494	—
770	251	—
771	24	—
772	75	—
773	736	—
774	642	—
775	513	—
776	234	—
777	296	—

ABOUT THIS EDITION

About the revised edition

Content.

777 practice questions: the 260 retained questions plus 517 rewritten original questions. The two editions contain the same question-and-choice sets. Teaching examples are additional.

Revised practice.

All 517 added passages have been rewritten with longer sentences, embedded descriptions, and more demanding sentence structures. Their average passage length is about 50 words; the retained collection averages about 45. Length alone is not a difficulty rating.

Source continuity.

Use the Earlier 260 number in an explanation or the cross-reference table to locate a retained item in the earlier guide. Its wording, choices, and answer remain unchanged. Question numbers and cross-references are also preserved from the previous 777 editions.

Design and use.

The approved chalkboard cover and teaching pages are retained. Explanations use simple language. The randomized edition removes family and hack hints from practice and places teaching pages after the explanations. Apostrophe questions remain in the grammar book.

Original scenarios.

Newly written passages describe illustrative practice scenarios. They are not reports of verified studies or events, and their names are used for practice. These are punctuation practice books, not official tests or full Reading and Writing modules.

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