

GOUDA ACADEMY

Super Guide:

GRAMMAR QUESTIONS

208 original questions from your SAT Question Bank export

Organized by grammar skill

Answer key + clear, step-by-step explanations

7

GRAMMAR TOPICS

208

QUESTIONS

A-D

EXPLAINED

Learn the rule. Find the clue. Explain your choice.

NAME _____

CLASS _____

DATE _____

Your grammar study map

Start with a topic, practise its questions, then check your thinking in the explanations. The question numbers below are the new booklet numbers.

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Source: the supplied College Board SAT Question Bank export. All 208 source questions are included once, with their original choices and source answer letters. Only extraction spacing has been cleaned.

Organization, topic recaps, and student-friendly explanations prepared for Gouda Academy. Source IDs appear beside the questions so you can locate the originals.

Make every mistake useful

1. Learn one skill

Read the short topic recap first. You do not need to memorize the passages or know their scientific vocabulary to solve the grammar.

2. Try the questions

Questions stay together by type, with easier items before harder ones within each smaller group. Write an answer and underline the words that prove it.

3. Check after you finish

All questions come before the answer key. In the key, tap a question number to jump to its explanation. The explanation shows the correct reasoning and discusses each wrong answer.

4. Redo your mistakes

Cover the answer, try the question again, and explain the rule aloud in one simple sentence. A correct guess is still a question worth reviewing.

A few helpful words

Subject: who or what a clause is about.

Verb: an action or state, such as runs or is.

Clause: words built around a subject and a verb.

Modifier: a word or phrase that describes something.

Reference / antecedent: what a pronoun points back to.

Possessive: a form showing belonging, such as the bird's nest.

Infinitive: to plus a plain verb, such as to learn.

Use your own paper for answers and notes. Each source question keeps its Easy, Medium, or Hard label. Some questions test more than one rule; each appears in the section for its main decision.

TOPIC 01 / 54 QUESTIONS

Subject-Verb Agreement

Match the verb to the real subject.

1. Find the subject

Ask who or what the sentence is about. A singular subject names one person, thing, or activity. A plural subject names more than one. Write "the student reads" but "the students read."

2. Ignore the distractions

Descriptions beginning with of, with, or like may separate the subject from its verb. In "The box of pencils is heavy," box controls is; pencils does not.

3. Watch the special patterns

Each one and every take singular verbs. One activity used as a subject also takes a singular verb: "Reading books is fun." Two separate subjects joined by and usually take a plural verb. A book or game title can name just one thing.

4. Check hidden subjects

After who, which, or that, find the noun being described. Sometimes the subject comes after the verb: "Among the winners was Maya." Reverse the order to check it: "Maya was among the winners."

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 1-54

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 86

Finding the real subject**QUESTION 1** / Easy / Source ID: e62241b7

What is the correct pronunciation of Kiribati? In the Gilbertese language spoken by residents of the island nation, the letter combination -ti makes the -s sound; as a result, the country's name _____ pronounced "Kiribas."

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

- A. are
 - B. have been
 - C. are being
 - D. is
-

QUESTION 2 / Easy / Source ID: 100269ad

Zydeco music originated in the French Creole community of southwest Louisiana. One instrument that gives zydeco its unique sound is the vest frottoir. The vest frottoir _____ a wearable washboard that is played by rubbing spoons or bottle openers against it.

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

- A. have been
 - B. is
 - C. were
 - D. are
-

QUESTION 3 / Easy / Source ID: 0aebdf5f

According to linguist Martin Joos, speakers of the English language _____ five main registers—frozen, formal, consultative, casual, and intimate—which they rotate between depending on the situation.

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

- A. use
 - B. is using
 - C. uses
 - D. has used
-

QUESTION 4 / Easy / Source ID: 77bf77cd

Farouk El-Baz, a geologist and space scientist, _____ part of the team that selected the lunar landing sites for the Apollo program during the 1960s and 1970s.

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

- A. are
 - B. was
 - C. have been
 - D. were
-

QUESTION 5 / Easy / Source ID: db4e3819

Midway through her 1968 jazz album A Monastic Trio, Alice Coltrane switches instruments, swapping the piano for the harp. With the same fluid style that Coltrane was famous for on piano, she _____ her fingers across the harp strings and creates a radiant sound.

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

- A. sweep
 - B. are sweeping
 - C. were sweeping
 - D. sweeps
-

QUESTION 6 / Easy / Source ID: d47bb0a4

Objects ranging from the Kikkoman soy sauce bottle to the Yamaha VMAX motorcycle to the Komachi bullet train _____ designed by twentieth-century industrial designer Kenji Ekuan.

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

- A. was
 - B. is
 - C. has been
 - D. were
-

QUESTION 7 / Easy / Source ID: 97df6650

The village of Panduyacu in Ecuador _____ one of the rare places in the world located almost directly on the equator.

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

- A. are being
 - B. have been
 - C. is
 - D. are
-

QUESTION 8 / Easy / Source ID: b5b74c3f

When writing *The Other Black Girl* (2021), novelist Zakiya Dalila Harris drew on her own experiences working at a publishing office. The award-winning book is Harris's first novel, but her writing _____ honored before. At the age of twelve, she entered a contest to have a story published in *American Girl* magazine—and won.

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

- A. were
 - B. have been
 - C. has been
 - D. are
-

QUESTION 9 / Easy / Source ID: 20a6a4ed

Anthropologist Livia Barbosa, of the Universidade Federal Fluminense in Brazil, _____ food and sociability in contemporary Brazil—specifically, how foods such as cabidela (a rice and rabbit dish) and churrasco (a barbeque dish) function as central mechanisms in building social relationships, values, and identities.

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

- A. studies
 - B. are studying
 - C. have studied
 - D. study
-

QUESTION 10 / Easy / Source ID: bce9910f

Light of Truth is a bronze and marble sculpture by artist Richard Hunt. It honors civil rights icon Ida B. Wells. The sculpture _____ in a tree-lined plaza in Chicago, just a few blocks from where Wells lived.

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

- A. are standing
 - B. have been standing
 - C. stands
 - D. were standing
-

QUESTION 11 / Easy / Source ID: e31b0056

Mary Madden of Ohio _____ a fierce advocate of women's voting rights in the late 1800s. The dedication of Madden and her fellow activists was rewarded in 1920, when the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution guaranteed American women the right to vote.

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

- A. are
 - B. was
 - C. have been
 - D. were
-

QUESTION 12 / Easy / Source ID: 81ac953e

In 1899, Swedish chemist Svante Arrhenius developed an equation to answer a long-standing question: why do chemical reactions speed up at higher temperatures? The Arrhenius equation, named for its creator, _____ an important concept in modern chemistry.

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

- A. have remained
 - B. remain
 - C. remains
 - D. are remaining
-

QUESTION 13 / Easy / Source ID: e92a7ad3

In the Inca Empire (1438–1533), ayllus _____ family clans that ranged in size from small groups to thousands of people.

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

- A. is
 - B. was
 - C. has been
 - D. were
-

QUESTION 14 / Easy / Source ID: d1482e27

One of the earliest known maps is a Babylonian clay tablet thought to be almost 4,500 years old. The map _____ the area of a plot of land, shows a river valley, and includes the cardinal directions.

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

- A. describes
 - B. describe
 - C. have described
 - D. are describing
-

QUESTION 15 / Medium / Source ID: 56315bd0

Solarpunk is an art movement that imagines renewable energy-powered technology infused complementarily into nature. In Paolo Bacigalupi's solarpunk short story "Efficiency," an artificial intelligence that absorbs sustainable energies, redistributing them through intricate networks of weights and generators, _____ Chicago's energy grid.

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

- A. have been powering
 - B. power
 - C. powers
 - D. are powering
-

QUESTION 16 / Medium / Source ID: 43b88827

In October of 1648, representatives from 96 different parties convened to sign the final treaties of the Peace of Westphalia. The treaties, which brought an end to the Thirty Years' War, _____ signed in the cities of Osnabrück and Münster, both located in the Holy Roman Empire-controlled region of Westphalia.

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

- A. were
 - B. is
 - C. was
 - D. has been
-

QUESTION 17 / Medium / Source ID: a03008de

The Proto-Nilotic language, common ancestor of fifty-five African languages with similar linguistic properties, _____ like all protolanguages, hypothetical: there's no direct evidence these ancestral languages actually existed.

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

- A. is,
 - B. are,
 - C. have been,
 - D. were,
-

QUESTION 18 / Medium / Source ID: 7a0d9031

In many of her landscape paintings from the 1970s and 1980s, Lebanese American artist Etel Adnan worked to capture the essence of California's fog-shrouded Mount Tamalpais region through abstraction, using splotches of color to represent the area's features. Interestingly, the triangle representing the mountain itself _____ among the few defined figures in her paintings.

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

- A. are
 - B. have been
 - C. were
 - D. is
-

QUESTION 19 / Medium / Source ID: c8607bdf

“Praise Song for the Day,” Elizabeth Alexander’s 2009 inaugural poem, asserts that “We cross dirt roads and highways...to see what’s on the other side.” Alexander’s use of “we” _____ Americans’ collective efforts and shared desire to seek new opportunity.

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

- A. evokes
 - B. are evoking
 - C. have evoked
 - D. evoke
-

QUESTION 20 / Medium / Source ID: 4c9a2aee

Wanda Diaz-Merced is an astrophysicist who lost her sight when she was young. Diaz-Merced’s condition inspired her to develop software that can translate scientific data into sound. Sound-based tools _____ scientists to detect subtle patterns in data. Such patterns may not be evident in traditional graphs.

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

- A. has enabled
 - B. enable
 - C. is enabling
 - D. enables
-

QUESTION 21 / Medium / Source ID: 6174a5b6

Many folktales that originate in the Czech language start with a phrase that roughly translates to “there was, there was not.” Many tales that originate in English use “once upon a time.” Such phrases, known as story starters, _____ from language to language.

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

- A. vary
 - B. has varied
 - C. varies
 - D. is varying
-

QUESTION 22 / Medium / Source ID: e44db0a0

Because a cycle of lunar phases _____ 29.5 days to complete, it's possible to observe two full moons in a single month, one at the beginning and one at the end.

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

- A. are taking
 - B. have taken
 - C. take
 - D. takes
-

QUESTION 23 / Medium / Source ID: b8e13a74

Josephine Paddock and Florence Esté were among the 300 artists who exhibited at the 1913 Armory Show, a groundbreaking New York City art exhibition that introduced modernism to American audiences. Though shocking at the time, an abstract cubist painting exhibited by Marcel Duchamp—one of several works that received scorn from critics—_____ the Western art canon more than a century later.

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

- A. has entered
 - B. have entered
 - C. were entering
 - D. enter
-

QUESTION 24 / Hard / Source ID: ae439895

In her 1983 book *The Managed Heart: Commercialization of Human Feeling*, sociologist Arlie Russell Hochschild first explored at length her conception of a “sociology of emotions”—the idea that the various cultural and ideological frameworks a person has internalized (class, gender, political affiliation, etc.) _____ each emotional reaction that person has within a situation.

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

- A. underlies
 - B. is underlying
 - C. underlie
 - D. has been underlying
-

QUESTION 25 / Hard / Source ID: 16740ab4

At the Chicxulub asteroid impact crater in Mexico, the presence of many fossilized microbacteria, which seem to have thrived there despite the extreme heat that persisted after the Chicxulub impact, _____ claims that bacteria are among the planet's most resilient organisms.

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

- A. have reinforced
 - B. reinforces
 - C. are reinforcing
 - D. reinforce
-

QUESTION 26 / Hard / Source ID: f10b7ce4

In the list “Adorable Things” from Sei Shōnagon’s Pillow Book, the author delights in baby sparrows, a face drawn on a melon, and a young courtier in ceremonial garb. So shrewd an observer is Shōnagon, a lady-in-waiting to Empress Teishi, that her book’s musings on tenth-century Japanese courtly life _____ readers a thousand years later.

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

- A. fascinate
 - B. has fascinated
 - C. fascinates
 - D. is fascinating
-

QUESTION 27 / Hard / Source ID: ea0aa676

In the 1970s, Janaki Ammal, a prominent botanist, emerged as a powerful voice in India’s environmental conservation movement. Her exhaustive chromosomal survey of plants in Silent Valley, a pristine tropical forest in Kerala, India, that is home to nearly 1,000 species of native flora (many of which are endangered), _____ instrumental in the government’s decision to preserve the forest.

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

- A. are
 - B. were
 - C. have been
 - D. was
-

QUESTION 28 / Hard / Source ID: dc645172

The artistic talents of Barbara Chase-Riboud, most known for her 1979 historical novel Sally Hemings and the conversation it inspired, _____ limited to the realm of prose: she first excelled in sculpture, where her affinity for bronze—a material she described as “timeless” due to its use across eras and cultures—became part of her artistic identity.

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

- A. hasn't been
 - B. wasn't
 - C. isn't
 - D. aren't
-

QUESTION 29 / Hard / Source ID: f4fd123c

The African Games Co-production Market, one of over 180 annual international conferences supporting video game development, _____ the growth of the African gaming industry by helping start-up studios in Africa find partners.

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

- A. promote
 - B. are promoting
 - C. promotes
 - D. have promoted
-

QUESTION 30 / Hard / Source ID: 863065c7

Legal scholars James Melton and Tom Ginsburg's analysis of de jure judicial independence and its growth over decades _____ six constitutional features that enhance such independence, including judicial tenure and selection procedure. Albania's constitution contains five of these features.

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

- A. are identifying
 - B. identify
 - C. have identified
 - D. identifies
-

QUESTION 31 / Hard / Source ID: ecba68b5

Mathematician Grigori Perelman, sometimes in conjunction with mathematicians Richard S. Hamilton and Shing-Tung Yau, _____ credited with proving the Poincaré conjecture. Having built on Hamilton's previous work to solve the proof, Perelman has insisted that Hamilton receive credit. Yau later found and closed gaps in Perelman's proof, persuading some mathematicians that he deserves credit as well.

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

- A. are
 - B. have been
 - C. are being
 - D. is
-

QUESTION 32 / Hard / Source ID: 9994ae0d

Artist Yto Barrada's exhibition *Ways to Baffle the Wind* incorporates sculptures, textiles, and films. Barrada's pieces, utilizing elements as disparate as plant-dyed fabrics, wire crab traps filled with stones, and cotton balls dangling above a fan, _____ the ways humans attempt to organize and regulate nature.

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

- A. explore
 - B. has explored
 - C. explores
 - D. exploring
-

QUESTION 33 / Hard / Source ID: b0fb36ad

Unique among animal species, humans use our vocal apparatuses primarily for two separate communicative purposes: to talk and to sing. The question of what cross-cultural traits distinguish these distinct modes, and secondarily what pressures led humans to develop them in the first place, _____ neuropsychologist Daniela Sammler's 2024 study "Signatures of Speech and Song: 'Universal' Links despite Cultural Diversity."

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

- A. animates
 - B. have animated
 - C. animate
 - D. animating
-

QUESTION 34 / Hard / Source ID: b32eab9f

Increased gender diversity is revitalizing the field of economics, according to Harvard's Claudia Goldin. The trailblazing accomplishments of Goldin, winner of the 2023 Nobel Prize in Economics for her work on women in the labor force, _____ to the value of scholars of diverse backgrounds in spurring research into previously unexplored, but vitally important, topics.

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

- A. attests
 - B. has attested
 - C. is attesting
 - D. attest
-

QUESTION 35 / Hard / Source ID: 8a9d2f4e

Researchers studying the "terra-cotta army," the thousands of life-size statues of warriors found interred near the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huang of China, were shocked to realize that the shape of each statue's ears, like the shape of each person's ears, _____ unique.

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

- A. are
 - B. is
 - C. were
 - D. have been
-

QUESTION 36 / Hard / Source ID: 1c65db8f

A species of Byropsis algae produces toxins to avoid being eaten by predators. However, in some cases, the toxins the organism uses to protect itself from predation actually _____ its attractiveness to predators. The Hawaiian sea slug, for example, not only tolerates Byropsis toxins but actually uses them for protection in the same way the algae does.

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

- A. is increasing
 - B. increase
 - C. increases
 - D. has increased
-

Agreement inside a describing clause**QUESTION 37** / Easy / Source ID: e38b3e4f

The radiation that _____ during the decay of radioactive atomic nuclei is known as gamma radiation.

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

- A. occurs
 - B. have occurred
 - C. occur
 - D. are occurring
-

QUESTION 38 / Easy / Source ID: 988c78eb

Former First Lady of the United States Eleanor Roosevelt and Indian activist and educator Hansa Mehta were instrumental in drafting the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document that _____ the basic freedoms to which all people are entitled.

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

- A. have outlined
 - B. were outlining
 - C. outlines
 - D. outline
-

QUESTION 39 / Easy / Source ID: 02913383

"He was just the man for such a place, and it was just the place for such a man." This line is from Frederick Douglass's autobiography *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass* (1845). It's an example of antimetabole, a writing technique that _____ emphasis by repeating a statement in a reversed order.

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

- A. create
 - B. are creating
 - C. have created
 - D. creates
-

QUESTION 40 / Medium / Source ID: 6e193b19

Professional American football player Fred Cox invented one of the world's most popular toys. In the 1970s, he came up with the idea for the Nerf football, which _____ of the harder and heavier regulation football.

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

- A. were a smaller, foam version
 - B. are smaller, foam versions
 - C. were smaller, foam versions
 - D. is a smaller, foam version
-

QUESTION 41 / Medium / Source ID: 97e7bedc

Oyster mushrooms typically get their nutrients from the damp logs on which they grow, but the fungi are also carnivorous, with the ability to kill and consume microscopic worms known as nematodes. As researcher Yen-Ping Hsueh has shown, the mushrooms release a toxin that is deadly to nematodes that _____ in contact with it.

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

- A. has come
 - B. comes
 - C. is coming
 - D. come
-

QUESTION 42 / Medium / Source ID: 4c06427b

Interest in mechanotransduction, the mechanism by which cells sense and convert mechanical stimuli into biochemical signals, is expanding because of innovative work by biomedical scientists—many of whom, like neuroscience and biophysics expert Elba Serrano, _____ this mechanism to better understand how the body's neurological and biomechanical systems interact.

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

- A. is studying
 - B. has studied
 - C. study
 - D. studies
-

QUESTION 43 / Hard / Source ID: ee4aa2aa

During a 2022 expedition led by research zoologist Andrea Quattrini, scientists discovered a new species of black coral off the coast of Puerto Rico. Like other black corals, the newly discovered species, which they named *Aphanipathes puertoricensis*, has coiled branching structures that _____ it survive in the deep sea.

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

- A. has helped
 - B. helps
 - C. helping
 - D. help
-

An activity as the subject**QUESTION 44** / Easy / Source ID: acf454af

An online content creator who uses copyrighted songs without permission risks being demonetized (prohibited from including paid advertisements in content). The best way to avoid demonetization is to choose music from the public domain. Using one of these noncopyrighted songs _____ a creator won't lose advertising revenue.

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

- A. are ensuring
 - B. have ensured
 - C. ensure
 - D. ensures
-

QUESTION 45 / Easy / Source ID: 2ee50d41

The classic children's board game Chutes and Ladders is a version of an ancient Nepalese game, Paramapada Sopanapata. In both games, players encounter "good" or "bad" spaces while traveling along a path; landing on one of the good spaces _____ a player to skip ahead and arrive closer to the end goal.

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

- A. allows
 - B. are allowing
 - C. have allowed
 - D. allow
-

QUESTION 46 / Hard / Source ID: c91ef0f0

During the American Civil War, Thomas Morris Chester braved the front lines as a war correspondent for the Philadelphia Press. Amplifying the voices and experiences of Black soldiers _____ of particular importance to Chester, who later became an activist and lawyer during the postwar Reconstruction period.

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

- A. were
 - B. have been
 - C. are
 - D. was
-

Each one and every**QUESTION 47** / Medium / Source ID: 003f22c8

Every last second of space shuttle mission STS-79, which lasted ten days and three hours, _____ carefully monitored by a team of experts.

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

- A. have been
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. were
-

QUESTION 48 / Hard / Source ID: 0fe5ce68

Ten of William Shakespeare's plays are classified as histories. Although each one of these plays, which include Henry V and Richard III, _____ on a single historical figure (specifically, an English king), some, such as Henry VI Part One and Henry VI Part Two, feature different episodes from the same monarch's life.

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

- A. focuses
 - B. focus
 - C. are focused
 - D. were focused
-

QUESTION 49 / Hard / Source ID: 5fd86f4b

The ghazal, a poetic form originating in seventh-century Arabic poetry, has an intricate structure. The twentieth-century Kashmiri American poet Agha Shahid Ali explains that each one of a ghazal's couplets, while adhering to the patterns of rhyme (qafia) and refrain (radif) established in the poem's opening lines (matla), _____ thematically and logically autonomous, resulting in a poem with "a stringently formal disunity."

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

- A. is
 - B. were
 - C. have been
 - D. are
-

Subjects joined by and**QUESTION 50** / Medium / Source ID: 28166dc6

In knot theory (the mathematical study of curved, closed loops), knots are characterized by their crossing numbers—that is, the number of times the knotted thread crosses over itself. The trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot, each with a crossing number below five, _____ among the simplest possible knots with the fewest number of crossings.

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

- A. was
 - B. are
 - C. has been
 - D. is
-

QUESTION 51 / Hard / Source ID: c7cb5186

In a US national election, one might expect major-party campaigns to focus on the most populous states. However, if polls and past voting data suggest that the outcome in a given state is a foregone conclusion, a campaign will not invest its resources there. Ultimately, a state's voting record and polling data, not its population size, _____ its importance to campaigns.

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

- A. determines
 - B. determining
 - C. has determined
 - D. determine
-

One title, one subject**QUESTION 52** / Medium / Source ID: ac7b8d04

Tracy Fullerton's *Walden*, a game, an unlikely fusion of the writings of nineteenth-century transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau with today's open-world video games, _____ players to explore a digital version of Walden Pond, the idyllic natural setting featured in Thoreau's book *Walden*.

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

- A. invites
 - B. invite
 - C. are inviting
 - D. have invited
-

QUESTION 53 / Hard / Source ID: 329255db

Bengali author Toru Dutt's *A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields* (1876), a volume of English translations of French poems, _____ scholars' understanding of the transnational and multilingual contexts in which Dutt lived and worked.

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

- A. has enhanced
 - B. are enhancing
 - C. have enhanced
 - D. enhance
-

Subject after the verb**QUESTION 54** / Medium / Source ID: 75f49353

The Progressive Era in the United States witnessed the rise of numerous Black women's clubs, local organizations that advocated for racial and gender equality. Among the clubs' leaders _____ Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, founder of the Women's Era Club of Boston.

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

- A. was
 - B. were
 - C. are
 - D. have been
-

TOPIC 02 / 31 QUESTIONS

Verb Tenses

Let the time clues choose the tense.

1. Now, habits, and general facts

Simple present describes facts and routines: "She studies every day." We also usually discuss a story in the present: "The hero escapes." A future plan can contain a present description: "We will build a machine that cleans water."

2. Finished past and future

Use simple past for a completed, dated event: "She studied in 2020." Use will plus a plain verb for the future: "She will study tomorrow." Match the time of the blank, not automatically the closest verb.

3. Two important perfect tenses

Present perfect uses has or have plus a past participle: "She has studied here since 2020." Past perfect uses had: "She had studied before the quiz began." A past participle is the form used after has, have, or had, such as studied, gone, or written.

4. An action in progress

Was or were plus -ing shows an action continuing at a past moment: "She was studying when I called." First mark the time clues; then choose the verb. Do not add had just because you see two past actions: use the sequence and context.

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 55-85

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 104

General facts, habits, and present descriptions**QUESTION 55** / Easy / Source ID: 3580533b

In recent years, economists around the world have created new tools that quantify the overall well-being of a country's citizens. Economists in India, for example, use an Ease of Living Index. This tool _____ economic potential, sustainability, and citizens' quality of life.

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

- A. measures
 - B. had measured
 - C. would have measured
 - D. will have been measuring
-

QUESTION 56 / Easy / Source ID: 035fd57e

The rough frog is a species of amphibian native to Australia. Currently, the frog's range _____ parts of northern New South Wales and southeastern Queensland.

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

- A. includes
 - B. included
 - C. will have included
 - D. had included
-

QUESTION 57 / Easy / Source ID: 83617355

Each night in Gijón, Spain, a section of the city's marina is bathed in a soft green glow. The source of the glow is the Árbol de la Sidra, a large sculpture made up of 3,200 recycled glass bottles. A lamp inside the tree-shaped structure _____ the green glass.

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

- A. will be illuminating
 - B. illuminates
 - C. would illuminate
 - D. illuminated
-

QUESTION 58 / Easy / Source ID: 96c720af

Atoms in a synchrotron, a type of circular particle accelerator, travel faster and faster until they _____ a desired energy level, at which point they are diverted to collide with a target, smashing the atoms.

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

- A. will reach
 - B. reach
 - C. had reached
 - D. are reaching
-

QUESTION 59 / Easy / Source ID: dbd78791

Led by Syrian American astronomer Shadia Habbal, the Solar Wind Sherpas are an intrepid team of scientists who travel the globe to study solar winds, the streams of particles emanating from the Sun that are only visible from certain locations during a total solar eclipse. When such an eclipse is imminent, the Sherpas pack up their telescopes and _____ ready.

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

- A. get
 - B. had gotten
 - C. got
 - D. were getting
-

QUESTION 60 / Easy / Source ID: 3a35ddd1

Like other amphibians, the wood frog (*Rana sylvatica*) is unable to generate its own heat, so during periods of subfreezing temperatures, it _____ by producing large amounts of glucose, a sugar that helps prevent damaging ice from forming inside its cells.

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

- A. had survived
 - B. survived
 - C. would survive
 - D. survives
-

QUESTION 61 / Easy / Source ID: 0ff8477b

Food and the sensation of taste are central to Monique Truong’s novels. In *The Book of Salt*, for example, the exiled character of Binh connects to his native Saigon through the food he prepares, while in *Bitter in the Mouth*, the character of Linda _____ a form of synesthesia whereby the words she hears evoke tastes.

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

- A. experienced
 - B. had experienced
 - C. experiences
 - D. will be experiencing
-

QUESTION 62 / Easy / Source ID: f40ca576

Each year in the fall, when the weather starts to cool in the northern hemisphere, millions of North American monarch butterflies journey south. Searching for food and warmer habitats, they _____ thousands of miles—from as far north as Canada all the way down to Mexico—on this annual migration.

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

- A. flew
 - B. were flying
 - C. had flown
 - D. fly
-

QUESTION 63 / Easy / Source ID: 56770dda

In his 1963 exhibition *Exposition of Music—Electronic Television*, Korean American artist Nam June Paik showed how television images could be manipulated to express an artist’s perspective. Today, Paik _____ considered the first video artist.

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

- A. will be
 - B. had been
 - C. was
 - D. is
-

QUESTION 64 / Easy / Source ID: 96e5da01

The alga species *Chlorella vulgaris* is very efficient at making oxygen. For this reason, scientists are currently exploring ways to use this species in space. *C. vulgaris* might be used, for example, to build future biological air exchange systems that _____ oxygen for astronauts.

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

- A. are producing
 - B. produced
 - C. produce
 - D. have produced
-

QUESTION 65 / Medium / Source ID: 4f2ff5f2

Tortoises can be found in many works of literature. For example, in Tom Stoppard's 1993 play *Arcadia*, there is a tortoise that _____ by two names (Plautus and Lightning) and appears in both of the play's parallel timelines. As a character, the tortoise symbolizes the connection between the past and present.

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

- A. goes
 - B. will have gone
 - C. went
 - D. had gone
-

QUESTION 66 / Medium / Source ID: 6205f7e4

A worker cooperative is a business that is owned and operated by its workers. This model stands in contrast to traditional models in which a smaller group of owners controls a company. Because the profits made by a cooperative are shared by all workers—who are also owners—the workers _____ directly from its success.

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

- A. benefit
 - B. benefited
 - C. were benefiting
 - D. had benefited
-

Completed past events**QUESTION 67** / Easy / Source ID: 7b419faf

In 1903, environmentalist John Muir guided President Theodore Roosevelt on a scenic, sprawling trip through California's Yosemite Valley. Upon returning from the three-day excursion, Roosevelt _____ to conserve the nation's wilderness areas, a vow he upheld for his remaining six years in office.

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

- A. is vowing
 - B. vowed
 - C. will vow
 - D. vows
-

QUESTION 68 / Easy / Source ID: a94b7fd6

With residents from Mexico, China, El Salvador, and many other countries, Los Angeles has long been a city of cultural diversity. Even back in the 1860s, nearly 30% of the city's population _____ from outside the United States.

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

- A. is being
 - B. was
 - C. is
 - D. will be
-

QUESTION 69 / Easy / Source ID: eee7536f

On March 27, 2004, after nine years as a professional boxer, Isra Girgrah retired. The Yemeni American athlete _____ her career with a record of twenty-eight wins, three losses, and two ties.

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

- A. finish
 - B. has been finishing
 - C. finished
 - D. will be finishing
-

QUESTION 70 / Easy / Source ID: e2759b92

Occupying a significant part of modern-day Nigeria, the Kingdom of Benin was one of the major powers in West Africa between the thirteenth and nineteenth centuries. It _____ ruled by Oba Ewuare I from 1440 to 1473.

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

- A. is
 - B. will be
 - C. has been
 - D. was
-

QUESTION 71 / Easy / Source ID: db2e480a

By the time Hawaiian king Kamehameha III _____ the throne, the number of longhorn cattle, first introduced to the islands in 1793, had drastically increased, and so too had the need for paniolo (Hawaiian cowboys) to manage the wild herds that then roamed throughout the volcanic terrain.

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

- A. ascended
 - B. will ascend
 - C. ascends
 - D. is ascending
-

QUESTION 72 / Easy / Source ID: 028752cd

The Dust Bowl was a period of severe drought that plagued the Great Plains of the US during the 1930s. During this time, dust storms _____ over 100 million acres of land. They even reached as far east as New York City.

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

- A. are affecting
 - B. will have affected
 - C. will affect
 - D. affected
-

QUESTION 73 / Easy / Source ID: cf08e2fd

From 1912 to 1951, Charlotta Bass owned and operated the newspaper The California Eagle. While it was under Bass's leadership, The Eagle _____ one of the US's most influential Black-owned newspapers.

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

- A. will become
 - B. became
 - C. is becoming
 - D. to become
-

QUESTION 74 / Easy / Source ID: 265e7f4c

The Globe Theatre in London is a reconstruction of the famed venue where many of Shakespeare's plays were first performed. In 1613, a prop cannon _____ during a performance and ignited the Globe's thatched roof. No one was hurt, but in two hours the original Globe was gone.

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

- A. malfunctions
 - B. will malfunction
 - C. has malfunctioned
 - D. malfunctioned
-

QUESTION 75 / Medium / Source ID: 1f8cd95f

In the 1950s, a man named Joseph McVicker was struggling to keep his business afloat when his sister-in-law Kay Zufall advised him to repurpose the company's product, a nontoxic, clay-like substance for removing soot from wallpaper, as a modeling putty for kids. In addition, Zufall _____ selling the product under a child-friendly name: Play-Doh.

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

- A. suggested
 - B. suggests
 - C. had suggested
 - D. was suggesting
-

QUESTION 76 / Medium / Source ID: 67614549

After winning the 1860 presidential election, Abraham Lincoln appointed Edward Bates, Salmon P. Chase, and William H. Seward to his cabinet. Lincoln's decision was surprising, since each of these men had run against him, but historians have praised it, noting that Lincoln _____ his rivals' diverse talents to strengthen his administration.

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

- A. has leveraged
 - B. is leveraging
 - C. will leverage
 - D. leveraged
-

Past action in progress**QUESTION 77** / Medium / Source ID: 1ee7b429

Bonnie Buratti of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory _____ data about Saturn's rings collected by the Cassini spacecraft when she made an interesting discovery: the tiny moons embedded between and within Saturn's rings are shaped by the buildup of ring material on the moons' surfaces.

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

- A. studies
 - B. has been studying
 - C. will study
 - D. was studying
-

Present perfect: past connected to now**QUESTION 78** / Easy / Source ID: 2d6f8304

In 2019, New Zealand produced 88,465 hectograms per hectare (hg/ha) of wheat, and Portugal produced 23,298 hg/ha. This is the type of information on global food production that the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization _____ since 1945.

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

- A. is collecting
 - B. has collected
 - C. will collect
 - D. collects
-

QUESTION 79 / Easy / Source ID: 35360da9

The US Geological Survey wants to map every human-made structure in the United States, and it is asking volunteers to help. Cassie Tammy Wang and Ashish D’Souza are just two of the many volunteer map editors who _____ to the project since it began in 2012.

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

- A. contribute
 - B. will contribute
 - C. have contributed
 - D. will be contributing
-

Past perfect: an earlier past**QUESTION 80** / Easy / Source ID: 52b61716

Formed in 1967 to foster political and economic stability within the Asia-Pacific region, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations was originally made up of five members: Thailand, the Philippines, Singapore, Malaysia, and Indonesia. By the end of the 1990s, the organization _____ its initial membership.

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

- A. has doubled
 - B. had doubled
 - C. doubles
 - D. will double
-

QUESTION 81 / Easy / Source ID: 674e59a3

Following her debut album release in 2002, Mexican singer-songwriter Natalia Lafourcade quickly shot to fame. By 2023, she _____ one of the most celebrated musicians in Latin America, having released twelve albums and won seventeen Latin Grammy awards—more than any other female artist in history.

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

- A. will become
 - B. becomes
 - C. will have become
 - D. had become
-

QUESTION 82 / Easy / Source ID: d46ac7e7

A second-generation Japanese American, Wataru Misaka _____ in World War II (1941-45) and won two amateur national basketball championships at the University of Utah when he joined the New York Knicks for the 1947-48 season, becoming the first non-white basketball player in the US's top professional league.

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

- A. already served
 - B. was already serving
 - C. already serves
 - D. had already served
-

QUESTION 83 / Easy / Source ID: 31362d2d

If simple sugars such as ribose and glycolaldehyde _____ Earth from elsewhere and survived impact—a possibility astrophysicist Nicolle Zellner outlined in a 2020 study—the sugars could have reacted with other molecules that were already present on the planet to form the nucleotides that are the structural components of RNA and DNA.

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

- A. reach
 - B. had reached
 - C. will reach
 - D. are reaching
-

QUESTION 84 / Easy / Source ID: 588887b9

In 1881, French chemist Camille Faure redesigned the rechargeable lead-acid battery. Faure's design greatly increased the amount of electricity that the original battery, which the French physicist Gaston Planté _____ fifteen years earlier, could hold.

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

- A. is inventing
 - B. will invent
 - C. invents
 - D. had invented
-

Future time**QUESTION 85** / Easy / Source ID: 57998dd3

Obsidian is a kind of volcanic glass formed when lava cools so quickly that the atoms inside it cannot arrange themselves in a crystalline structure. You _____ more about obsidian's structure, which is classified as amorphous, in a later chapter.

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

- A. had learned
 - B. had been learning
 - C. will learn
 - D. have learned
-

TOPIC 03 / 23 QUESTIONS

Complete Verbs & Parallel Actions

Make sure every statement has its verb.

1. Find the sentence skeleton

A complete statement needs a subject and a complete verb: "The scientists studied the rocks." Long descriptions can hide a missing verb. Cross out those descriptions to see what remains.

2. Spot forms that cannot stand alone

Studying, to study, and having studied do not supply a complete main verb on their own. "The scientists studying the rocks" is unfinished. "The scientists are studying the rocks" is complete because are supplies the helper.

3. Check clauses inside sentences

A clause is a group of words built around a subject and a verb. In "She explains that the machine works," explains belongs to she; works belongs to the machine. A verb in one clause does not fill the job in another.

4. Match joined actions

When and joins two actions done by the same person, keep their forms balanced: "She opened the book and read a page." Use complete verbs for two complete actions, not "opened...and reading."

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 86-108

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 115

A missing main verb**QUESTION 86** / Easy / Source ID: 29c9be28

To survive when water is scarce, embryos inside African turquoise killifish eggs _____ a dormant state known as diapause. In this state, embryonic development is paused for as long as two years—longer than the life span of an adult killifish.

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

- A. enter
 - B. to enter
 - C. having entered
 - D. entering
-

QUESTION 87 / Easy / Source ID: 983d33fa

In 1637, the price of tulips skyrocketed in Amsterdam, with single bulbs of rare varieties selling for up to the equivalent of \$200,000 in today's US dollars. Some historians _____ that this "tulip mania" was the first historical instance of an asset bubble, which occurs when investors drive prices to highs not supported by actual demand.

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

- A. claiming
 - B. claim
 - C. having claimed
 - D. to claim
-

QUESTION 88 / Easy / Source ID: e6f2dba6

According to the traditional RYB (red-yellow-blue) color model, yellow is a complementary color to purple. However, yellow _____ considered complementary to blue in modern color theory.

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

- A. is
 - B. having been
 - C. to be
 - D. being
-

QUESTION 89 / Easy / Source ID: 35ae047d

In 1929, Edwin Herbert Land invented a polarizing filter that was featured in a number of products, from sunglasses to 3D movies. A decade later, Land _____ his technology to invent the world's first instant camera, the Polaroid Land camera.

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

- A. used
 - B. to have used
 - C. to use
 - D. using
-

QUESTION 90 / Easy / Source ID: 4320b4ad

For decades after World War II, the women who had worked for the US military as wartime codebreakers _____ their vital efforts a secret.

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

- A. to keep
 - B. having kept
 - C. keeping
 - D. kept
-

QUESTION 91 / Easy / Source ID: cd4b1a7e

How did whales, once no bigger than seals, evolve to become the largest animals on Earth? Brazilian biologist Mariana Nery believes the answer might be found in whales' DNA. In January 2023, Nery and her colleagues _____ a study showing changes over time in four whale genes associated with body size.

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

- A. published
 - B. publishing
 - C. having published
 - D. to publish
-

QUESTION 92 / Easy / Source ID: 1e274153

During World War II, codebreakers played an essential role in deciphering coded messages. In the US military, more than 10,000 women _____ as codebreakers, making up nearly half of all US codebreakers.

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

- A. having served
 - B. to serve
 - C. served
 - D. serving
-

QUESTION 93 / Easy / Source ID: f339ee39

Multiple newspapers _____ the Spanish-speaking population of Washington, DC, including El Tiempo Latino and Washington Hispanic.

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

- A. serve
 - B. having served
 - C. to serve
 - D. serving
-

QUESTION 94 / Easy / Source ID: 6e5bf3a8

Even though bats prefer very sweet nectar, the plants that attract them have evolved to produce nectar that is only moderately sweet. A recent study _____ why: making sugar is energy-intensive, and it is more advantageous for plants to make a large amount of low-sugar nectar than a small amount of high-sugar nectar.

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

- A. explains
 - B. explaining
 - C. having explained
 - D. to explain
-

QUESTION 95 / Easy / Source ID: 5ad2a12c

The First Folio, published in 1623, is the first collection of William Shakespeare's plays. The collection _____ 18 plays that might otherwise have been lost, such as Julius Caesar and Macbeth.

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

- A. to be including
 - B. including
 - C. to include
 - D. includes
-

QUESTION 96 / Easy / Source ID: 50801257

In 1994, almost 200 years after the death of Wang Zhenyi, the International Astronomical _____ the contributions of the barrier-breaking 18th-century astronomer and author of "Dispute of the Procession of the Equinoxes," naming a crater on Venus after her.

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

- A. Union would finally acknowledge
 - B. Union to finally acknowledge
 - C. Union, having finally acknowledged
 - D. Union, finally acknowledging
-

QUESTION 97 / Easy / Source ID: ec08463d

Botanists recognize over fifty different species of sunflower. One species, the silverleaf sunflower, _____ both an early-flowering ecotype that tends to grow in coastal areas and a late-flowering ecotype that grows inland.

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

- A. having included
 - B. including
 - C. to include
 - D. includes
-

QUESTION 98 / Easy / Source ID: 59e41600

Why are Rome's famous concrete structures, such as the Colosseum, still standing after 2,000-plus years, when modern concrete may not even last for fifty? Scientists _____ that the secret to Roman concrete's durability was its unique blend of ingredients, which included volcanic ash and seawater.

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

- A. explain
 - B. having explained
 - C. explaining
 - D. to explain
-

QUESTION 99 / Easy / Source ID: 975eda7c

For thousands of years, people in the Americas _____ the bottle gourd, a large bitter fruit with a thick rind, to make bottles, other types of containers, and even musical instruments. Oddly, there is no evidence that any type of bottle gourd is native to the Western Hemisphere; either the fruit or its seeds must have somehow been carried from Asia or Africa.

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

- A. to use
 - B. have used
 - C. having used
 - D. using
-

QUESTION 100 / Medium / Source ID: 7f1df833

In 1966, Emmett Ashford became the first African American to umpire a Major League Baseball game. His energetic gestures announcing when a player had struck out and his habit of barreling after a hit ball to see if it would land out of _____ transform the traditionally solemn umpire role into a dynamic one.

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

- A. bounds helped
 - B. bounds, helping
 - C. bounds that helped
 - D. bounds to help
-

QUESTION 101 / Hard / Source ID: a75d5984

Several advantages—the ability to react strongly with chip components, to avoid interference from other waves, and to be confined within tiny circuits—_____ acoustic waves as a promising alternative to electrical waves for transmitting data on computer chips; as a result, researchers are invested in developing more acoustic wave-based chips.

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

- A. have positioned
 - B. positioning
 - C. by positioning
 - D. having positioned
-

A verb inside another clause**QUESTION 102** / Easy / Source ID: 36e89f74

An imposing spire of igneous rock rising high above the Belle Fourche River in eastern Wyoming, Devils Tower (also known as Bear Lodge) is one of the most prominent examples of columnar jointing, a pattern of fracturing in rocks that _____ in parallel arrays of long polygonal prisms.

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

- A. resulting
 - B. were resulting
 - C. results
 - D. to result
-

QUESTION 103 / Easy / Source ID: 175df826

In the 2011 documentary *The Barber of Birmingham*, civil rights activist James Armstrong recounts how his barbershop in Birmingham, Alabama, _____ as a political hub for members of the Black community during the 1950s.

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

- A. serving
 - B. having served
 - C. served
 - D. to serve
-

QUESTION 104 / Easy / Source ID: 576b2c70

A member of the Cherokee Nation, Mary Golda Ross is renowned for her contributions to NASA's Planetary Flight Handbook, which _____ detailed mathematical guidance for missions to Mars and Venus.

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

- A. provided
 - B. having provided
 - C. to provide
 - D. providing
-

QUESTION 105 / Medium / Source ID: de3dd17d

Planetary scientist Briony Horgan and her colleagues have determined that as much as 25 percent of the sand on Mars is composed of impact spherules. These spherical bits of glass form when asteroids collide with the planet, ejecting bits of molten rock into the atmosphere that, after cooling and solidifying into glass, _____ back onto Mars's surface.

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

- A. to rain
 - B. raining
 - C. having rained
 - D. rain
-

QUESTION 106 / Hard / Source ID: 3daf126e

A model created by biologist Luis Valente predicts that the rate of speciation—the rate at which new species form—on an isolated island located approximately 5,000 kilometers from the nearest mainland _____ triple the rate of speciation on an island only 500 kilometers from the mainland.

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

- A. being
 - B. to be
 - C. to have been
 - D. will be
-

Matching two complete actions**QUESTION 107** / Easy / Source ID: 7c48a6dd

In the late 1960s, inspired in part by the sight of laundry hanging on a clothesline, African American abstract painter Sam Gilliam began to create his iconic “Drape” paintings. He applied bold, saturated hues to large canvases and _____ them from ceilings or walls, causing the drooping fabric to cascade in dramatic loops and curves.

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

- A. to have suspended
 - B. suspending
 - C. to suspend
 - D. suspended
-

QUESTION 108 / Hard / Source ID: b74f676f

Classical composer Florence Price’s 1927 move to Chicago marked a turning point in her career. It was there that Price premiered her First Symphony—a piece that was praised for blending traditional Romantic motifs with aspects of Black folk music—and _____ supportive relationships with other Black artists.

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

- A. developing
 - B. developed
 - C. to develop
 - D. having developed
-

TOPIC 04 / 28 QUESTIONS

Describing Verb Forms & Infinitives

Choose the form that fits the job.

1. Do not add an extra complete verb

If the sentence already says "The scientist published a study," an added description can use -ing: "The scientist, studying whales, published a study." Two complete verbs need a proper connection.

2. Use to-forms for purpose and patterns

An infinitive is to plus a plain verb, such as to study. It can explain a purpose: "She left to study." Learn useful patterns: decide to go, seek to learn, need to rest, and enable someone to do something.

3. Use describing forms carefully

An -ing phrase can describe an action or result: "The rain stopped, allowing us to play." A past participle can describe something receiving an action: "Built in 1900, the house..." A noun plus a describing form can add detail: "She waited, her arms folded."

4. Remember helpers and punctuation

After would, can, or will, use a plain verb: "would build and create." Commas can surround an extra description, but a comma alone cannot join two complete sentences. One source item has awkward punctuation; its explanation includes a note.

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 109-136

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 123

Descriptions, results, and extra-verb traps**QUESTION 109** / Easy / Source ID: 50445680

In winter, the diets of Japanese macaques, also known as snow monkeys, are influenced more by food availability than by food preference. Although the monkeys prefer to eat vegetation and land-dwelling invertebrates, those food sources may become unavailable because of extensive snow and ice cover, _____ the monkeys to hunt for marine animals in any streams that have not frozen over.

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

- A. forces
 - B. to force
 - C. forcing
 - D. forced
-

QUESTION 110 / Easy / Source ID: 898f182c

Richard Spikes was a prolific African American inventor known for his contributions to automotive engineering. Between 1907 and 1946, he patented many inventions, _____ an automobile turn signal, a safety brake, and—most famously—the first automatic gearshift.

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

- A. included
 - B. includes
 - C. including
 - D. will include
-

QUESTION 111 / Easy / Source ID: 94de423a

In a rural area along the border between Oklahoma and Texas, amateur astronomers gather each year to observe the night sky at the Okie-Tex Star Party. Like most star parties, Okie-Tex takes place in an area with low light pollution, _____ dark skies and ideal stargazing conditions.

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

- A. ensuring
 - B. this will ensure
 - C. ensures
 - D. it ensures
-

QUESTION 112 / Easy / Source ID: 6d247c13

The Boston Saloon was one of the most popular African American-owned establishments in nineteenth-century Nevada. _____ by businessman William A.G. Brown, the saloon was known to offer elegant accommodations and an inclusive environment.

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

- A. Created
 - B. Creates
 - C. Creating
 - D. Create
-

QUESTION 113 / Medium / Source ID: f40b447c

Featuring jagged peaks of black ink surrounded by hazy swirls of blue and green paint, Zhang Daqian's 1983 painting Panorama of Mount Lu is inspired by the tradition of qinglü shanshui, a type of Chinese landscape painting _____ by the use of blue and green hues to depict ethereal, otherworldly landscapes.

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

- A. has been characterized
 - B. will be characterized
 - C. characterized
 - D. is characterized
-

QUESTION 114 / Hard / Source ID: 3a1239d2

If an animal can recognize itself in a reflective surface ("the mirror test"), it is considered to have self-awareness. In a recent study, scientists _____ for evidence of self-awareness in snakes, species that rely primarily on olfactory rather than visual processing, adapted the test to foreground smell, modifying the scent trails of North American eastern garter snakes and African ball pythons.

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

- A. searched
 - B. searching
 - C. were searching
 - D. have searched
-

QUESTION 115 / Hard / Source ID: a2816c7f

American abstract artist Richard _____ his installations to make passersby keenly aware of how one's movements are affected by the physical features of one's environment, assembles large-scale steel plates into sculptures that dominate the outdoor spaces they occupy.

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

- A. Serra is intending
 - B. Serra, intends
 - C. Serra, intending
 - D. Serra intends
-

QUESTION 116 / Hard / Source ID: 9127635a

Star actress Kiki Omeili, who has appeared in 47 Nollywood films, is one of numerous luminaries to be pictured in Nigerian portraitist Iké Udé's exhibition *Nollywood Portraits*. _____ referred to Nollywood—Nigeria's \$3 billion film industry—as “Africa's vivid mirror par excellence,” honors its legacy with his vivid classical portraits of Omeili and her peers.

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

- A. Udé, has
 - B. Udé has
 - C. Udé
 - D. Udé, having
-

QUESTION 117 / Hard / Source ID: 1a61e2ae

English poet and Shakespeare contemporary John Donne's _____ much admired during his lifetime (1572–1631) and in the decades that followed, had, at the time of their enthusiastic rediscovery by the early twentieth-century modernists, been essentially gathering dust for the intervening 250 years.

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

- A. works were
 - B. works, were
 - C. works,
 - D. works had been
-

QUESTION 118 / Hard / Source ID: f768090a

Walt Whitman's *Leaves of Grass* first appeared in 1855 as a slim collection of twelve poems, but Whitman would revise and expand it substantially over the next four decades. These extensive _____ the addition of hundreds of new poems, the removal of some existing ones, and the insertion of prefatory material, reflected the poet's evolving literary perspective and experience of the US Civil War.

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

- A. changes, including
 - B. changes would include
 - C. changes included
 - D. changes, include
-

QUESTION 119 / Hard / Source ID: 61160f0a

Author Madeline L'Engle, _____ to create a suspenseful tone that draws the reader in, begins her novel *A Wrinkle in Time* with descriptions of "wraithlike shadows" and "the frenzied lashing of the wind."

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

- A. looked
 - B. looks
 - C. is looking
 - D. looking
-

QUESTION 120 / Hard / Source ID: c88ba1b7

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, automobiles were commonly referred to as horseless carriages after the older technology they still resembled. Known as the Brass Era, this period in automotive design is remembered for its grandeur and artistry, its vehicles _____ by collectors for their ornate detailing and gleaming brass fittings.

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

- A. are highly prized
 - B. had been highly prized
 - C. highly prized
 - D. were highly prized
-

QUESTION 121 / Hard / Source ID: a30567fd

Nuhād al-Ḥaddād, known as Fairuz, was one of the most beloved Lebanese singers of the twentieth century. Her broad singing repertoire—which included traditional forms, such as the Arabic qasida and maqam, alongside modern pop and jazz styles—lent Fairuz a timeless, cross-generational appeal, _____ her the moniker “the soul of Lebanon.”

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

- A. earned
 - B. had earned
 - C. earning
 - D. earn
-

QUESTION 122 / Hard / Source ID: aa443c4b

Recent pollen analyses of the Aran Islands have led some researchers to propose that the now treeless islands were once wooded. This hypothesis _____ that certain trees, such as *P. sylvestris*, survived without interruption or human intervention throughout the Holocene cannot stand, researchers Michael O’Connell and Karen Molloy counter, unless other explanations can first be ruled out.

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

- A. suggesting
 - B. suggested
 - C. suggests
 - D. has suggested
-

QUESTION 123 / Hard / Source ID: c9a677e9

In his 2011 book, historian Sebouh David Aslanian quantifies the reading patterns of early modern Armenian merchants from New Julfa. Aslanian’s macroanalysis _____ nearly 1,000 book titles published between 1512 and 1800 shows not only the steady popularity of religious texts but also a broadening interest in secular books, especially those on history and geography.

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

- A. examined
 - B. examines
 - C. had examined
 - D. examining
-

QUESTION 124 / Hard / Source ID: 505054e3

In the eastern Chinese city of Suzhou, known as a hub for silk manufacturing, a unique tradition of embroidery _____ back over two thousand years—one that includes iconic double-sided stitching with different images on each side—remains popular with modern audiences, preserving the city’s cultural heritage.

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

- A. dates
 - B. date
 - C. dating
 - D. has dated
-

QUESTION 125 / Hard / Source ID: 81f09e07

Instead of sleeping on soft pillows, ancient Egyptians slept on hard, elevated headrests, their design _____ airflow, protection from insects, and hairstyle maintenance over comfort.

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

- A. had prioritized
 - B. was prioritizing
 - C. prioritized
 - D. prioritizing
-

QUESTION 126 / Hard / Source ID: d222f7d9

Helical _____ widely understood to confer stability and efficiency in the locomotion of a variety of microscopic organisms—including bacteria, eukaryotic algae, and ciliates—bestows similar advantages, albeit via different propulsive modes, to larger oceanic macroplanktons, such as salps.

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

- A. swimming, is
 - B. swimming is
 - C. swimming has been
 - D. swimming,
-

To-forms: purpose and common patterns**QUESTION 127** / Easy / Source ID: 4aa28ac3

Nowadays, tug-of-war is usually seen as an informal game one might play at a picnic or in gym class. Surprisingly, the Olympic committee once decided _____ tug-of-war as an official Olympic event! Nations competed in the event at the Olympic Games from 1900 to 1920.

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

- A. included
 - B. including
 - C. include
 - D. to include
-

QUESTION 128 / Easy / Source ID: 353890a1

Water is constantly moving and changing forms on Earth and in the atmosphere. This process is called the water cycle, and it is typically thought to consist of evaporation, condensation, and precipitation. However, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration seeks _____ understanding of the water cycle to include transpiration, sublimation, and other types of water movement.

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

- A. is expanding
 - B. to expand
 - C. has expanded
 - D. expands
-

QUESTION 129 / Easy / Source ID: e3b72630

In the historical novel *The Surrender Tree*, Cuban American author Margarita Engle uses poetry rather than prose _____ the true story of Cuban folk hero Rosa La Bayamesa.

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

- A. tells
 - B. told
 - C. is telling
 - D. to tell
-

QUESTION 130 / Easy / Source ID: 843f92af

The sun never sets during the Arctic summer in the Far North. In response, reindeer in this region must change their sleep habits. Instead of resting when it gets dark, they rest when they need _____ their food.

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

- A. digest
 - B. will digest
 - C. to digest
 - D. digesting
-

QUESTION 131 / Easy / Source ID: 4a90a978

In 1990, California native and researcher Ellen Ochoa left her position as chief of the Intelligent Systems Technology Branch at a NASA research center _____ the space agency's astronaut training program.

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

- A. to join
 - B. is joining
 - C. joined
 - D. joins
-

QUESTION 132 / Easy / Source ID: bd11fe93

Dr. Rocío Paola Caballero-Gill is a paleoceanographer. This means that Dr. Caballero-Gill doesn't just study oceans as they are today. She uses chemistry and fossil evidence _____ oceans as they were in the past.

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

- A. has studied
 - B. to study
 - C. studied
 - D. studies
-

QUESTION 133 / Medium / Source ID: 69f031ab

While exploring Nevada’s Gypsum Cave in 1930, Seneca and Abenaki archaeologist Bertha Parker made her most famous discovery: the skull of a now-extinct ground sloth (Nothrotheriops shastensis) alongside human-made tools. Parker’s crucial finding was the first _____ humans in North America as far back as 10,000 years ago.

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

- A. places
 - B. placed
 - C. place
 - D. to place
-

QUESTION 134 / Medium / Source ID: 7c766ceb

A popular suite of mapping and spatial analysis software, ArcGIS enables cartographers like Karachi Cartography founder Namra Khalid _____ maps by analyzing and arranging raw geospatial data.

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

- A. create
 - B. to create
 - C. creating
 - D. created
-

QUESTION 135 / Hard / Source ID: 512f0ac9

Working from an earlier discovery of Charpentier’s, chemists Emmanuelle Charpentier and Jennifer Doudna—winners of the 2020 Nobel Prize in Chemistry—re-created and then reprogrammed the so-called “genetic scissors” of a species of DNA-cleaving bacteria _____ a tool that is revolutionizing the field of gene technology.

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

- A. to forge
 - B. forging
 - C. forged
 - D. and forging
-

Plain forms after a helper**QUESTION 136** / Easy / Source ID: 4bed4658

In order to prevent nonnative fish species from moving freely between the Mediterranean and Red Seas, marine biologist Bella Galil has proposed that a saline lock system be installed along the Suez Canal in Egypt's Great Bitter Lakes. The lock would increase the salinity of the lakes and _____ a natural barrier of water most marine creatures would be unable to cross.

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

- A. creates
 - B. create
 - C. creating
 - D. created
-

TOPIC 05 / 26 QUESTIONS

Pronouns & Matching Reference Words

Find exactly who or what the word replaces.

1. Find the reference

A pronoun stands in for a noun or an idea. In "The river floods when it rises," it means the river. Find that reference before choosing. Ignore nearby nouns that do not fit the meaning.

2. Match number and role

For one thing, use it or its. For plural things, use they, them, or their. They often does the action; them receives it. These patterns concern the specific nouns in these questions. Singular they can correctly refer to a person in other contexts.

3. Check ownership and contractions

Its and their show ownership or a connection. It's means it is or it has. They're means they are. Expand a contraction to test it. This and that match singular nouns; these and those match plural nouns.

4. Use clear references

This can point to a whole event. It can continue a clear reference to one object. Choose what is clearest in context. If the doer acts on itself, use a self-pronoun: "The barnacles attach themselves to a shell."

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 137-162

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 133

Personal pronouns and clear references**QUESTION 137** / Easy / Source ID: 8df848c1

When they were first introduced to western Europe from Byzantium in the eleventh century, table forks were met with much resistance. The Bishop of Ostia, St. Peter Damian, condemned the eating utensils because he considered _____ dangerous and unnecessary luxury items.

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

- A. them
 - B. this
 - C. that
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 138 / Easy / Source ID: 166efaa2

Public-awareness campaigns about the need to reduce single-use plastics can be successful, says researcher Kim Borg of Monash University in Australia, when these campaigns give consumers a choice: for example, Japan achieved a 40 percent reduction in plastic-bag use after cashiers were instructed to ask customers whether _____ wanted a bag.

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

- A. they
 - B. one
 - C. you
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 139 / Easy / Source ID: 0560b2b8

“What stories like this do for us is make the world just a smidge bigger,” writes Stephen Graham Jones in the foreword to *Never Whistle at Night: An Indigenous Dark Fiction Anthology*. For Jones, dark fiction does more than entertain readers: _____ horror tropes to challenge familiar ways of knowing, blurring the “borders of the real.”

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

- A. one uses
 - B. we use
 - C. they use
 - D. it uses
-

QUESTION 140 / Easy / Source ID: 97b62fab

Smaller than poppy seeds, tardigrades are tiny, but they are tough. These minuscule animals can survive for thirty years without food or water, and _____ can withstand extreme temperatures as low as minus 328 degrees and as high as 304 degrees Fahrenheit.

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

- A. that
 - B. it
 - C. they
 - D. he
-

QUESTION 141 / Easy / Source ID: f0f9bf8f

Félix González-Torres debuted his sculpture “Untitled” (USA Today) in New York City in 1990. The work consists of piled candy, a material González-Torres became known for. _____ created additional installations using a variety of sweets, like bubblegum, lollipops, and chocolates.

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

- A. They all
 - B. Those
 - C. Both
 - D. He
-

QUESTION 142 / Easy / Source ID: c52652c9

The human brain is primed to recognize faces—so much so that, due to a perceptual tendency called pareidolia, _____ will even find faces in clouds, wooden doors, pieces of fruit, and other faceless inanimate objects. Researcher Susan Magsamen has focused her work on better understanding this everyday phenomenon.

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

- A. she
 - B. they
 - C. it
 - D. those
-

QUESTION 143 / Easy / Source ID: fff4c7f4

American poet Emily Dickinson wrote many of her poems on scraps of paper, but she also took steps to collect these works. From 1858 to around 1864, for example, she copied more than 800 of _____ into forty homemade booklets (known as fascicles).

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

- A. them
 - B. this
 - C. that
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 144 / Easy / Source ID: 1448f43f

Unsupervised machine learning is an approach that computer scientists like Nina Miolane use to engineer artificial intelligence technologies. It involves training computer algorithms to organize unlabeled data sets. Multitask learning is another approach. _____ involves training computer models to perform multiple tasks at the same time.

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

- A. Those
 - B. They
 - C. It
 - D. Some
-

QUESTION 145 / Easy / Source ID: 42cc9236

If you try on one of artist Nick Cave's signature Soundsuits, you can expect to swish, rustle, or clang every time you move. Cave makes his suits out of found objects, everything from ceramic birds to broken record players. He carefully considers the sound an object makes before using _____ in a suit.

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

- A. this
 - B. that
 - C. these
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 146 / Easy / Source ID: 12bd5b75

With its towering, six-spired exterior of granitelike quartz monzonite, the Salt Lake Temple is one of the most instantly recognizable structures in the state of Utah. However, many people do not know that _____ built over the course of forty years, with construction beginning in 1853 and ending in 1893.

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

- A. it was
 - B. one was
 - C. they were
 - D. both were
-

QUESTION 147 / Medium / Source ID: 9eb43963

Water in the North Atlantic Ocean is pushed eastward by powerful winds, but the rotation of Earth and interference from nearby landmasses together cause _____ to swirl into a massive, churning whirlpool—also called the North Atlantic Gyre—that spins clockwise.

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

- A. these
 - B. those
 - C. them
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 148 / Medium / Source ID: 36944347

Official measurements of the Mississippi River's length vary: according to the US Geological Survey, the river is 2,300 miles long, whereas the Environmental Protection Agency records its length as 2,320 miles. This disparity can be explained in part by the fact that rivers such as the Mississippi expand and contract as _____ sediment.

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

- A. they accumulate
 - B. one accumulates
 - C. it accumulates
 - D. we accumulate
-

QUESTION 149 / Medium / Source ID: 3595a991

In 1930, Japanese American artist Chiura Obata depicted the natural beauty of Yosemite National Park in two memorable woodcuts: Evening at Carl Inn and Lake Basin in the High Sierra. In 2019, _____ exhibited alongside 150 of Obata's other works in a single-artist show at the Smithsonian American Art Museum.

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

- A. it was
 - B. they were
 - C. this was
 - D. some were
-

QUESTION 150 / Medium / Source ID: b85c19ed

The violins handmade in the seventeenth century by Italian craftsman Antonio Stradivari have been celebrated as some of the finest in the world. In close collaboration with musicians, Stradivari introduced changes to the shape of a traditional violin, flattening some of the instrument's curves and making _____ lighter overall.

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

- A. those
 - B. one
 - C. them
 - D. it
-

QUESTION 151 / Hard / Source ID: 908a76b8

When a given industry—water and electricity are two well-known examples—carries high infrastructural start-up costs and other barriers that discourage competition, _____ of just one or two suppliers per municipality. Such industries are known as natural monopolies.

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

- A. these often consist
 - B. they often consist
 - C. it often consists
 - D. this often consists
-

QUESTION 152 / Hard / Source ID: 99dedf36

When a given term—“self-fulfilling prophecies” and “role models” are two well-known examples—is generally accepted and frequently used, _____ susceptible to obliteration by incorporation (OBI). In cases of OBI, widely used terms are rarely, if at all, attributed to the individuals who coined them.

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

- A. they often become
 - B. these often become
 - C. this often becomes
 - D. it often becomes
-

Possessive reference words**QUESTION 153** / Easy / Source ID: 430d929a

British scientists James Watson and Francis Crick won the Nobel Prize in part for their 1953 paper announcing the double helix structure of DNA, but it is misleading to say that Watson and Crick discovered the double helix. _____ findings were based on a famous X-ray image of DNA fibers, “Photo 51,” developed by X-ray crystallographer Rosalind Franklin and her graduate student Raymond Gosling.

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

- A. They’re
 - B. It’s
 - C. Their
 - D. Its
-

QUESTION 154 / Hard / Source ID: 3bceeb93

When they were first discovered in Australia in 1798, duck-billed, beaver-tailed platypuses so defied categorization that one scientist assigned them the name *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*: “paradoxical bird-snout.” The animal, which lays eggs but also nurses _____ young with milk, has since been classified as belonging to the monotremes group.

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

- A. they’re
 - B. their
 - C. its
 - D. it’s
-

QUESTION 155 / Hard / Source ID: 872a002e

The present-day city of Dushanbe, Tajikistan, was for years the capital of the Tajik Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic, one of many nominally autonomous republics within the Soviet Union. Like _____ peer autonomous Soviet socialist republics, the Tajik Republic was established along ethnolinguistic lines: most of the republic's residents spoke Persian.

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

- A. their
 - B. they're
 - C. its
 - D. it's
-

QUESTION 156 / Hard / Source ID: 2cb1ee22

In premodern Europe, one could sail from the east coast of England to the Netherlands or France faster than one could travel by land to England's capital, London. In that era, historian Michael Pye argues in his 2015 book *The Edge of the World: A Cultural History of the North Sea and the Transformation of Europe*, the North Sea did more to link the various peoples, cultures, and economies on _____ shores than to divide them.

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

- A. its
 - B. it's
 - C. they're
 - D. their
-

QUESTION 157 / Hard / Source ID: 0bcb4417

Oglala Lakota poet Layli Long Soldier's star quilt poems offer an unusually open-ended reading experience. With _____ eight panels of text stitched together in the shape of a traditional eight-pointed Lakota star quilt, the poems present viewers with a seemingly infinite number of ways to read them.

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

- A. their
 - B. it's
 - C. they're
 - D. its
-

QUESTION 158 / Hard / Source ID: 18382e67

In Marisol's 1968 sculpture *Mi Mama y Yo*, gone are the types of pop culture references that made the Parisian-born Venezuelan American artist a star at the height of the pop art movement. In _____ place is a far more personal subject: a sculptural depiction of the artist as a young girl with her mother.

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

- A. its
 - B. they're
 - C. their
 - D. it's
-

This, these, and matching a noun**QUESTION 159** / Easy / Source ID: 74253458

Cycads are palmlike plants with cones. _____ plants were abundant throughout the Mesozoic Era (66 to 252 million years ago).

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

- A. These
 - B. That
 - C. Each
 - D. This
-

QUESTION 160 / Easy / Source ID: e8926747

Eighteen letters written by Louisa May Alcott, author of the popular novel *Little Women* (1868), can be found at the New York Historical Society. _____ letters demonstrate Alcott's keen business sense in her interactions with publishers.

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

- A. One
 - B. That
 - C. This
 - D. These
-

QUESTION 161 / Easy / Source ID: c102f9b0

Lê Lương Minh became the thirteenth secretary-general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in January 2013, making _____ the first time the organization would appoint a Vietnamese leader.

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

- A. these
 - B. those
 - C. this
 - D. some
-

Reflexive pronouns**QUESTION 162** / Easy / Source ID: c5d39bc7

Scientists believe that, unlike most other species of barnacle, turtle barnacles (*Chelonibia testudinari*) can dissolve the cement-like secretions they use to attach _____ to a sea turtle shell, enabling the barnacles to move short distances across the shell's surface.

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

- A. it
 - B. themselves
 - C. them
 - D. itself
-

TOPIC 06 / 20 QUESTIONS

Plurals, Possessives & Apostrophes

First count. Then check ownership.

1. Plural means more than one

Books, wings, and stories are ordinary plurals. Do not add an apostrophe just because there is more than one. "Two musicians played" needs no apostrophe.

2. One owner or several owners?

One owner usually takes apostrophe plus s: "the author's books." A plural owner ending in s adds the apostrophe after s: "the authors' books." An irregular plural such as people adds apostrophe plus s: "people's stories."

3. Check every tested word

In "the photographer's photos," the photographer owns the photos. Photos is just plural. In "rock's and rap's ratios," each genre has separate ratios, so each name has its own possessive ending.

4. Do not confuse its and it's

Its already shows ownership; it needs no apostrophe. It's is a contraction of it is or it has. In "its two wings," its shows whose wings, and wings simply tells you there is more than one.

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 163-182

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 142

Ordinary plurals: no ownership**QUESTION 163** / Easy / Source ID: 856b495d

In the early twentieth century, Joseph Kekuku and other Hawaiian _____ in the mainland United States to the bright and lilting sound of the kīkā kila, or Hawaiian steel guitar. The instrument soon became a fixture in American blues and country music.

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

- A. musicians introduced audiences
 - B. musicians' introduced audiences'
 - C. musician's introduced audience's
 - D. musicians' introduced audiences
-

QUESTION 164 / Easy / Source ID: 60a4c088

What makes the theremin a unique musical instrument? You play it without touching it. When you place your _____ the pitch will shift as your hands move through the air.

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

- A. hand's between the two antenna's,
 - B. hands between the two antennas,
 - C. hands' between the two antennas',
 - D. hands' between the two antennas,
-

QUESTION 165 / Easy / Source ID: 775f3eb9

In his groundbreaking book *Bengali Harlem and the Lost Histories of South Asian America*, Vivek Bald uses newspaper articles, census records, ships' logs, and memoirs to tell the _____ who made New York City their home in the early twentieth century.

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

- A. story's of the South Asian immigrants
 - B. story's of the South Asian immigrants'
 - C. stories of the South Asian immigrants
 - D. stories' of the South Asian immigrant's
-

QUESTION 166 / Medium / Source ID: 20ea68b7

It can take time for proposed amendments to the US Constitution to become law. For example, the Twenty-Second Amendment, which limits the number of _____ can serve, was first proposed in 1947 but wasn't approved by the required three-fourths majority of state legislatures until 1951.

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

- A. terms presidents
 - B. term's presidents
 - C. term's president's
 - D. terms president's
-

One or more owners**QUESTION 167** / Easy / Source ID: 15d6d837

Literary agents estimate that more than half of all nonfiction books credited to a celebrity or other public figure are in fact written by ghostwriters, professional authors who are paid to write other _____ but whose names never appear on book covers.

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

- A. people's stories
 - B. peoples story's
 - C. peoples stories
 - D. people's story's
-

QUESTION 168 / Easy / Source ID: d4f173ec

To illustrate Albert Einstein's special theory of relativity, picture two jugglers: one juggling on a steadily moving parade float, the other juggling while standing still on a sidewalk. The laws of physics are identical for both _____ motion relative to each other. But what, Einstein wondered, about the speed of light?

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

- A. jugglers', regardless of they're
 - B. jugglers, regardless of there
 - C. juggler's, regardless of their
 - D. jugglers, regardless of their
-

QUESTION 169 / Easy / Source ID: 6bc907c9

Novelist Jane Austen greatly admired the work of Fanny Burney, a popular English author. In fact, scholars believe that a passage from the last chapter of Cecilia, a 1782 novel by Burney, likely inspired the title of one of _____ Pride and Prejudice.

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

- A. Austen's most famous novels,
 - B. Austens' most famous novels',
 - C. Austens most famous novels,
 - D. Austen's most famous novel's,
-

QUESTION 170 / Easy / Source ID: b260c65a

Earth is not a perfect sphere. Due to the _____ gravitational pull, Earth bulges out on the sides closest to and farthest from the Moon. This distorting pull is known as a tidal force, and it is responsible for the changes in water levels that are called high and low tides.

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

- A. Moon's
 - B. Moons
 - C. Moons'
 - D. Moon
-

QUESTION 171 / Easy / Source ID: 1d971f75

Photographer Ansel Adams's landscape portraits are iconic pieces of American art. However, many of the _____ of landscapes were intended not as art but as marketing; a concessions company at Yosemite National Park had hired Adams to take pictures of the park for restaurant menus and brochures.

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

- A. photographer's early photo's
 - B. photographers early photo's
 - C. photographer's early photos
 - D. photographers early photos
-

QUESTION 172 / Medium / Source ID: 2c49940e

French philosopher René Descartes doubted whether he could prove his own existence. Eventually, he found proof in his famous phrase “I think, therefore I am.” The _____ complexity: only those who exist would be able to ponder their existence.

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

- A. phrases’ simplicity masks its
 - B. phrases simplicity masks their
 - C. phrase’s simplicity masks their
 - D. phrase’s simplicity masks its
-

QUESTION 173 / Medium / Source ID: 819c443d

In January 1776, Thomas Paine published *Common Sense*, an appeal for freedom from the British monarchy that famously helped ignite the desire for independence among the American colonists. After the colonies achieved their independence, Paine moved to Paris, where the provocative _____ would contribute to another revolution—the French Revolution.

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

- A. authors political writings
 - B. author’s political writings
 - C. author’s political writing’s
 - D. authors’ political writings’
-

QUESTION 174 / Medium / Source ID: dd428136

Cheng Dang and her colleagues at the University of Washington recently ran simulations to determine the extent to which individual snow _____ affect the amount of light reflecting off a snowy surface.

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

- A. grain’s physical properties’
 - B. grains’ physical properties
 - C. grains’ physical property’s
 - D. grains physical properties
-

QUESTION 175 / Medium / Source ID: 9f737b2a

In Death Valley National Park’s Racetrack Playa, a flat, dry lakebed, are 162 rocks—some weighing less than a pound but others almost 700 pounds—that move periodically from place to place, seemingly of their own volition. Racetrack-like trails in the _____ mysterious migration.

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

- A. playas sediment mark the rock’s
 - B. playa’s sediment mark the rocks
 - C. playa’s sediment mark the rocks’
 - D. playas’ sediment mark the rocks’
-

QUESTION 176 / Medium / Source ID: 8d53e7a0

Slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo’s debut novel *The Poet X*, winner of the 2018 National Book Award for Young People’s Literature, is composed of _____ protagonist, fifteen-year-old Xiomara Batista.

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

- A. poems putatively written by the novel’s
 - B. poem’s putatively written by the novel’s
 - C. poem’s putatively written by the novels’
 - D. poems putatively written by the novels’
-

QUESTION 177 / Medium / Source ID: d2cf0e11

Inventor John Friedman created a prototype of the first flexible straw by inserting a screw into a paper straw and, using dental floss, binding the straw tightly around the _____. When the floss and screw were removed, the resulting corrugations in the paper allowed the straw to bend easily over the edge of a glass.

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

- A. screw’s thread’s.
 - B. screws’ threads.
 - C. screw’s threads.
 - D. screws threads’.
-

QUESTION 178 / Medium / Source ID: f570cece

Both Arteaga, in the state of Coahuila, and Lagos de Moreno, in the state of Jalisco, have been designated by Mexico as pueblos mágicos (magical villages) to celebrate these _____ natural beauty and unique cultural traditions.

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

- A. town
 - B. town's
 - C. towns
 - D. towns'
-

QUESTION 179 / Hard / Source ID: 4c335aea

In a recent analysis of lyrical trends in 350,000 songs, researchers cite increases in certain measures, such as the ratio of choruses to verses, as evidence music lyrics are becoming more repetitive. For instance, from 1970 to 2020, _____ chorus-to-verse ratios trended similarly, with each genre's data indicating that relative to the number of unique verses, the number of repeated choruses in songs increased.

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

- A. rocks and raps
 - B. rock's and rap's
 - C. rocks and rap's
 - D. rock and rap's
-

QUESTION 180 / Hard / Source ID: 2784cbaf

To fully describe the motion of an object requires knowing each of five _____ movement: displacement, time, initial velocity, final velocity, and acceleration. These are called kinematic variables.

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

- A. variable's that characterize objects'
 - B. variables that characterize objects'
 - C. variables that characterize object's
 - D. variables that characterize objects
-

Its versus it's with plural nouns**QUESTION 181** / Easy / Source ID: b7363ba2

Mathematician and meteorologist Edward Lorenz used the metaphor of the “butterfly effect” to explain how seemingly minor events can have major impacts on future weather. According to Lorenz’s metaphor, the wind from a butterfly flapping _____ in Brazil might eventually grow into a storm elsewhere across the globe.

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

- A. its wings
 - B. its wings’
 - C. it’s wing’s
 - D. it’s wings’
-

QUESTION 182 / Medium / Source ID: eeb14722

The soundtrack to Mira Nair’s 1991 film *Mississippi Masala* expressively captures the clashing of cultures that happens when _____ (a young Indian woman from Uganda and a young African American man from Mississippi) meet. Featured throughout the film are songs from Uganda’s Afrigo Band, the Indian composer L. Subramaniam, and the Mississippi blues musician Sam Chatmon.

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

- A. it’s two protagonists
 - B. its two protagonist’s
 - C. it’s two protagonist’s
 - D. its two protagonists
-

TOPIC 07 / 26 QUESTIONS

Modifiers & Logical Comparisons

Put descriptions beside the right thing.

1. Ask who or what is described

A modifier is a word or phrase that describes something. In these questions, an opening description must attach to the correct subject: "Walking home, Maya saw a bird." Maya is the one walking.

2. Watch the first real subject

"Walking home, Maya's bag broke" wrongly makes the bag the walker. A name hidden inside a possessive phrase does not fix the problem: the subject is bag. Also be careful with choices beginning with there or it.

3. Match definitions to their nouns

An opening definition must be followed by the thing defined: "A talented musician, Omar played the piano." For a phrase such as "Supported by evidence," ask what the evidence supports: usually a finding or conclusion.

4. Compare matching things

Compare a score with a score, an arrangement with an arrangement, and a person with a person. In "Compared with that of X," find what that stands for, then make the next subject the matching thing.

Your task: Find the clue before choosing a letter. For each wrong answer, name the rule it breaks.

Practice: Questions 183-208

Answer key: page 83 | **This topic's explanations:** page 149

Opening descriptions and definitions**QUESTION 183** / Easy / Source ID: 1684b237

One of the few African American global explorers during the turn of the 20th century, _____

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

- A. Matthew Henson made several treks across Greenland between 1891 and 1909.
 - B. 1891 and 1909 were the years between which Matthew Henson made several treks across Greenland.
 - C. Greenland was where Matthew Henson made several treks between 1891 and 1909.
 - D. several treks across Greenland were made by Matthew Henson between 1891 and 1909.
-

QUESTION 184 / Medium / Source ID: 6f08641e

On April 5, 1977, Kitty Cone and 150 other disability rights activists entered a San Francisco federal building. After pleading for years—to no effect—for the passage of key antidiscrimination legislation, _____ until their demands were addressed. Finally, on April 28, the legislation was signed.

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

- A. pressure on lawmakers increased when the activists staged a sit-in protest
 - B. a sit-in protest staged by the activists increased pressure on lawmakers
 - C. lawmakers came under increased pressure when the activists staged a sit-in protest
 - D. the activists increased pressure on lawmakers by staging a sit-in protest
-

QUESTION 185 / Medium / Source ID: 59209b6d

Based on genetic evidence, archaeologists have generally agreed that reindeer domestication began in the eleventh century CE. However, since uncovering fragments of a 2,000-year-old reindeer training harness in northern Siberia, _____ may have begun much earlier.

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

- A. researcher Robert Losey has argued that domestication
 - B. researcher Robert Losey's argument is that domestication
 - C. domestication, researcher Robert Losey has argued,
 - D. the argument researcher Robert Losey has made is that domestication
-

QUESTION 186 / Medium / Source ID: c437dd53

Wanting to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Alaska Purchase, _____ up with a motto that best captured the state's unique character. The commission selected "North to the Future," submitted by Juneau journalist Richard Peter, as its winning entry.

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

- A. a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission would award \$300 to an individual who came
 - B. an award of \$300 would go to an individual in a contest sponsored by the Alaska Centennial Commission for coming
 - C. \$300 would be awarded to an individual by the Alaska Centennial Commission in a contest for coming
 - D. the Alaska Centennial Commission sponsored a contest that would award \$300 to an individual who came
-

QUESTION 187 / Medium / Source ID: dd6a0326

African American Percy Julian was a scientist and entrepreneur whose work helped people around the world to see. Named in 1999 as one of the greatest achievements by a US chemist in the past hundred years, _____ led to the first mass-produced treatment for glaucoma.

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

- A. Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine in 1935; it
 - B. in 1935 Julian synthesized the alkaloid physostigmine, which
 - C. Julian's 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine
 - D. the alkaloid physostigmine was synthesized by Julian in 1935 and
-

QUESTION 188 / Medium / Source ID: 684b8bd2

Far from being modern inventions, _____ more than 5,000 years ago.

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

- A. Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia used drinking straws
 - B. drinking straws were used by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia
 - C. the use of drinking straws by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia happened
 - D. ancient Mesopotamia was home to Sumerians who used drinking straws
-

QUESTION 189 / Medium / Source ID: f1c5157d

Established in 1936 by African American novelist Richard Wright, _____ it would become a vital part of the creative movement known as the Chicago Black Renaissance.

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

- A. the South Side Writers Group provided a valuable forum for Chicago writers to share ideas;
 - B. Chicago writers in the South Side Writers Group had a valuable forum for sharing ideas;
 - C. writers shared ideas at a valuable forum known as the South Side Writers Group in Chicago;
 - D. Chicago was where the South Side Writers Group provided a valuable forum for writers to share ideas;
-

QUESTION 190 / Medium / Source ID: 96a904c5

The musical scores of Japanese composer Hiroyuki Sawano are famous for their mysterious titles. Laden with emojis and seemingly meaningless words, and driven largely by Sawano's "personal feeling and mood," _____

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

- A. the listener can approach each piece free from expectations because of the titles.
 - B. the titles allow the listener to approach each piece free from expectations.
 - C. each piece can be approached by the listener free from expectations because of the titles.
 - D. the listener's approach to each piece because of the titles can be free from expectations.
-

QUESTION 191 / Medium / Source ID: a14eef71

In 2015, a team led by materials scientists Anirudha Sumant and Diana Berman succeeded in reducing the coefficient of friction (COF) between two surfaces to the lowest possible level—superlubricity. A nearly frictionless (and, as its name suggests, extremely slippery) state, _____

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

- A. when their COF drops below 0.01, two surfaces reach superlubricity.
 - B. two surfaces, when their COF drops below 0.01, reach superlubricity.
 - C. reaching superlubricity occurs when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.
 - D. superlubricity is reached when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.
-

QUESTION 192 / Medium / Source ID: cd2443c0

A pioneer in the field of taphonomy (the study of how organic remains become fossils), _____ may be just as prevalent in the fossil record as those of thick-shelled organisms.

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

- A. fossils of thin-shelled organisms, Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis,
 - B. Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
 - C. it was demonstrated in a 2005 analysis by Anna Behrensmeyer that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
 - D. a 2005 analysis—by Anna Behrensmeyer—demonstrated that fossils of thin-shelled organisms
-

QUESTION 193 / Hard / Source ID: 37e5c794

Despite being cheap, versatile, and easy to produce, _____ they are made from nonrenewable petroleum, and most do not biodegrade in landfills.

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

- A. there are two problems associated with commercial plastics:
 - B. two problems are associated with commercial plastics:
 - C. commercial plastics' two associated problems are that
 - D. commercial plastics have two associated problems:
-

QUESTION 194 / Hard / Source ID: 8b017d4e

Supported by biochemical analyses of over 2,000 skeletons from the Middle Ages, _____

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

- A. vegetables and grains were, a 2022 study found, the primary components of early medieval rulers' diets.
 - B. early medieval rulers' diets were found, in a 2022 study, to have primarily consisted of vegetables and grains.
 - C. the primary components of early medieval rulers' diets were vegetables and grains, according to a 2022 study.
 - D. findings from a 2022 study suggested that vegetables and grains were the primary components of early medieval rulers' diets.
-

QUESTION 195 / Hard / Source ID: 9df6da04

Entomologists Yash Sondhi and Samuel Fabian have tried to explain why moths fly erratically around light sources at night. Knowing that flying insects keep their backs pointed toward sunlight during the day, _____

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

- A. the researchers theorize that moths, mistaking nighttime lights for the Sun, continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights.
 - B. the researchers' theory is that moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun, continually trying to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights.
 - C. moths mistake nighttime lights for the Sun and continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights, the researchers theorize.
 - D. moths continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near nighttime lights, the researchers theorize, mistaking such lights for the Sun.
-

QUESTION 196 / Hard / Source ID: f0864217

Rabinal Achí is a precolonial Maya dance drama performed annually in Rabinal, a town in the Guatemalan highlands. Based on events that occurred when Rabinal was a city-state ruled by a king, _____ had once been an ally of the king but was later captured while leading an invading force against him.

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

- A. Rabinal Achí tells the story of K'iche' Achí, a military leader who
 - B. K'iche' Achí, the military leader in the story of Rabinal Achí,
 - C. the military leader whose story is told in Rabinal Achí, K'iche' Achí,
 - D. there was a military leader, K'iche' Achí, who in Rabinal Achí
-

QUESTION 197 / Hard / Source ID: e060dd6b

Recordings of electrical activity in the brain, _____ increased activity in brain areas associated with suppressing motor functions.

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

- A. electrograms show that while responding to hypothetical match scenarios, the most highly skilled soccer players have
 - B. the most highly skilled soccer players responding to hypothetical match scenarios have electrograms that show
 - C. responses to hypothetical match scenarios show that the most highly skilled soccer players have electrograms with
 - D. hypothetical match scenario responses show that the most highly skilled soccer players captured in electrograms have
-

QUESTION 198 / Hard / Source ID: d2b81427

In assessing the films of Japanese director Akira Kurosawa, _____ have missed his equally deep engagement with Japanese artistic traditions such as Noh theater.

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

- A. many critics have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but
 - B. Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources has been the focus of many critics, who
 - C. there are many critics who have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources, but they
 - D. the focus of many critics has been on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources; they
-

QUESTION 199 / Hard / Source ID: dab8b8ee

Known as Earth's "living skin," biocrusts are thin layers of soil held together by surface-dwelling microorganisms such as fungi, lichens, and cyanobacteria. Fortifying soil in arid ecosystems against erosion, _____

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

- A. a recent study's estimate is that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.
 - B. an estimated 60 percent reduction in global dust emissions each year is due to these crusts, according to a recent study.
 - C. these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.
 - D. a recent study has estimated that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.
-

QUESTION 200 / Hard / Source ID: b369d54c

Woven from recycled yarn and hand tufted using a carpet weaving technique passed down by the artist's Turkish grandmother, _____ so lush and tactilely inviting that you are tempted to reach out and touch them.

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

- A. the topological tapestries of Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou are
 - B. the Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou creates topological tapestries that are
 - C. when she creates her topological tapestries, Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou makes them
 - D. Alexandra Kehayoglou is an Argentine textile artist whose topological tapestries are
-

QUESTION 201 / Hard / Source ID: 772835db

Most of the ice found on Earth is ice Ih, distinguished by a crystalline structure in which molecules form a hexagonal pattern. Amorphous ice, on the other hand, constitutes most of the ice in the ultrafrigid environment of outer space. Defined by a disorganized molecular structure, _____

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

- A. ice Ih contains crystals, whereas amorphous ice, which lacks the thermal energy to form them, does not.
 - B. amorphous ice lacks the thermal energy to form the crystals found in ice Ih.
 - C. the lack of thermal energy in amorphous ice explains its inability to form the crystals found in ice Ih.
 - D. ice Ih differs from amorphous ice in that it possesses the thermal energy to form crystals.
-

QUESTION 202 / Hard / Source ID: 5b8f9cf2

In the canon of North African literature, Moroccan author Driss Chraïbi's 1954 novel *The Simple Past* (*Le Passé simple*) looms large. A coming-of-age story, a social meditation, and a sober gaze into the dark maw of French colonialism, _____ interrogates systemic power with memorable intensity.

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

- A. Morocco gained its independence two years before the publication of Chraïbi's debut novel, which
 - B. Chraïbi's debut novel, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
 - C. Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,
 - D. published two years before Morocco gained its independence, Chraïbi wrote a debut novel that
-

QUESTION 203 / Hard / Source ID: 188f7e3c

In 2016, engineer Vanessa Galvez oversaw the installation of 164 bioswales, vegetated channels designed to absorb and divert stormwater, along the streets of Queens, New York. By reducing the runoff flowing into city sewers, _____

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

- A. the mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved by bioswales.
 - B. the bioswales have mitigated both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways.
 - C. the bioswales' mitigation of both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways has been achieved.
 - D. both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways have been mitigated by bioswales.
-

QUESTION 204 / Hard / Source ID: 2b6e1c06

A government body officially known as the Althing, _____

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

- A. the world's oldest parliaments include one which first met in 930 CE, Iceland's.
 - B. Iceland's parliament is one of the oldest in the world, first meeting in 930 CE.
 - C. the first meeting of one of the oldest parliaments in the world, Iceland's, was in 930 CE.
 - D. 930 CE was the year when Iceland's parliament, one of the oldest parliaments in the world, first met.
-

QUESTION 205 / Hard / Source ID: 2bca654a

Forming extensive networks via mycorrhizal association—that is, a symbiotic relationship between plants and fungi—_____

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

- A. it is the entanglement of pine trees' roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*'s fungal hyphae that makes nutrient transport possible.
 - B. the transport of nutrients is possible through the entanglement of pine trees' roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*'s fungal hyphae.
 - C. nutrients can be transported through the entanglement of pine trees' roots and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake*'s fungal hyphae.
 - D. pine trees and the fungus *Tricholoma matsutake* can transport nutrients through their entangled tree roots and fungal hyphae.
-

QUESTION 206 / Hard / Source ID: dfbf5d33

In 1453, English King Henry VI became unfit to rule after falling gravely ill. As a result, Parliament appointed Richard, Third Duke of York, who had a strong claim to the English throne, to rule as Lord Protector. Upon recovering two years later, _____ forcing an angered Richard from the royal court and precipitating a series of battles later known as the Wars of the Roses.

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

- A. Henry resumed his reign,
 - B. the reign of Henry resumed,
 - C. Henry's reign resumed,
 - D. it was Henry who resumed his reign,
-

Logical comparisons**QUESTION 207** / Hard / Source ID: fced396a

The Herfindahl-Hirschman Index (HHI), a commonly used measure of competition between companies in a particular market, ranges from a score of zero to 10,000 points. Compared with that of a highly concentrated market—that is, a market controlled by very few companies—_____

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

- A. a market that is less concentrated will have a much lower HHI score.
 - B. the HHI score of a less concentrated market will be much lower.
 - C. when a market is less concentrated, its HHI score will be much lower.
 - D. a less concentrated market will have an HHI score that is much lower.
-

QUESTION 208 / Hard / Source ID: 2dd1b8bf

Compared to that of alumina glass, _____ silica glass atoms are so far apart that they are unable to re-form bonds after being separated.

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

- A. silica glass is at a significant disadvantage due to its more dispersed atomic arrangement:
 - B. silica glass has a more dispersed atomic arrangement, resulting in a significant disadvantage:
 - C. a significant disadvantage of silica glass is that its atomic arrangement is more dispersed:
 - D. silica glass's atomic arrangement is more dispersed, resulting in a significant disadvantage:
-

Answer key

Finish the practice questions first. Tap a question number to open its explanation. Source answer letters have been retained.

01. Subject-Verb Agreement

1 D	2 B	3 A	4 B	5 D	6 D
7 C	8 C	9 A	10 C	11 B	12 C
13 D	14 A	15 C	16 A	17 A	18 D
19 A	20 B	21 A	22 D	23 A	24 C
25 B	26 A	27 D	28 D	29 C	30 D
31 D	32 A	33 A	34 D	35 B	36 B
37 A	38 C	39 D	40 D	41 D	42 C
43 D	44 D	45 A	46 D	47 C	48 A
49 A	50 B	51 D	52 A	53 A	54 A

02. Verb Tenses

55 A	56 A	57 B	58 B	59 A	60 D
61 C	62 D	63 D	64 C	65 A	66 A
67 B	68 B	69 C	70 D	71 A	72 D
73 B	74 D	75 A	76 D	77 D	78 B
79 C	80 B	81 D	82 D	83 B	84 D
85 C					

03. Complete Verbs & Parallel Actions

86 A	87 B	88 A	89 A	90 D	91 A
92 C	93 A	94 A	95 D	96 A	97 D
98 A	99 B	100 A	101 A	102 C	103 C
104 A	105 D	106 D	107 D	108 B	

04. Describing Verb Forms & Infinitives

109 C	110 C	111 A	112 A	113 C	114 B
115 C	116 D	117 C	118 A	119 D	120 C
121 C	122 A	123 D	124 C	125 D	126 D
127 D	128 B	129 D	130 C	131 A	132 B
133 D	134 B	135 A	136 B		

05. Pronouns & Matching Reference Words

137 A	138 A	139 D	140 C	141 D	142 C
143 A	144 C	145 D	146 A	147 D	148 A
149 B	150 D	151 C	152 D	153 C	154 C
155 C	156 A	157 A	158 C	159 A	160 D
161 C	162 B				

06. Plurals, Possessives & Apostrophes

163 A	164 B	165 C	166 A	167 A	168 D
169 A	170 A	171 C	172 D	173 B	174 B
175 C	176 A	177 C	178 D	179 B	180 B
181 A	182 D				

07. Modifiers & Logical Comparisons

183 A	184 D	185 A	186 D	187 C	188 B
189 A	190 B	191 D	192 B	193 D	194 D
195 A	196 A	197 A	198 A	199 C	200 A
201 B	202 B	203 B	204 B	205 D	206 A
207 B	208 D				

Understand every choice

Read the reasoning even when your answer is right. A strong answer has a grammar rule and a clue from the sentence. The wrong choices help you see the trap.

01. Subject-Verb Agreement

QUESTION 1 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The thing being pronounced is "the country's name." The main noun is name, which is singular. The sentence therefore needs "the country's name is pronounced." The residents and letters mentioned earlier do not control this verb.

- A. "Are" is plural.
- B. "Have been" is plural here; a singular subject would take "has been."
- C. "Are being" is plural.

[Back to question 1](#) | Source ID: e62241b7

QUESTION 2 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The subject is "The vest frottoir," one instrument. Read the short version: "The vest frottoir is a wearable washboard." The plural spoons and bottle openers later in the sentence do not change that match.

- A. "Have been" is plural here.
- C. "Were" is plural in this statement.
- D. "Are" is plural.

[Back to question 2](#) | Source ID: 100269ad

QUESTION 3 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: use

Find the clue: The subject is speakers, not language and not the linguist mentioned at the start. More than one speaker is being discussed, so use "speakers use." The phrase "of the English language" only tells us which speakers.

- B. "Is using" is singular.
- C. "Uses" is singular.
- D. "Has used" is singular.

[Back to question 3](#) | Source ID: 0aebdf5f

QUESTION 4 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: Farouk El-Baz is one person. The description "a geologist and space scientist" gives him two roles; it does not turn him into two people. Use the singular past verb was for his work in the 1960s and 1970s.

- A. "Are" is plural and present.
- C. "Have been" is plural here.
- D. "Were" is plural in this statement.

[Back to question 4](#) | Source ID: 77bf77cd

QUESTION 5 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: sweeps

Find the clue: The subject of the blank is she, meaning Alice Coltrane. She is singular, so use sweeps. Notice the matching verb later: "she sweeps...and creates." The plural instruments and strings do not control this verb.

- A. "Sweep" does not match singular she.
- B. "Are sweeping" is plural.
- C. "Were sweeping" is plural.

[Back to question 5](#) | Source ID: db4e3819

QUESTION 6 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: were

Find the clue: The subject is Objects, a plural word. The long list gives examples of those objects. Remove the list and read "Objects were designed by..." The nearest noun, train, is only one example and does not control the verb.

- A. "Was" is singular.
- B. "Is" is singular.
- C. "Has been" is singular.

[Back to question 6](#) | Source ID: d47bb0a4

QUESTION 7 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The sentence is about one village: Panduyacu. "In Ecuador" tells us where it is. Use "The village...is one of the rare places." The plural places comes after the verb and does not decide its form.

- A. "Are being" is plural.
- B. "Have been" is plural here.
- D. "Are" is plural.

[Back to question 7](#) | Source ID: 97df6650

QUESTION 8 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: has been

Find the clue: The subject is "her writing," treated as a singular body of work. Therefore, use "her writing has been honored." The plural experiences and the singular book appear elsewhere; neither controls this verb.

- A. "Were" is plural.
- B. "Have been" is plural here.
- D. "Are" is plural.

[Back to question 8](#) | Source ID: b5b74c3f

QUESTION 9 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: studies

Find the clue: The subject is anthropologist Livia Barbosa, one person. The university information between commas is extra. The short sentence is "Livia Barbosa studies food and sociability." The two topics she studies are not the subject.

- B. "Are studying" is plural.
- C. "Have studied" is plural here.
- D. "Study" does not match the singular subject.

[Back to question 9](#) | Source ID: 20a6a4ed

QUESTION 10 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: stands

Find the clue: The subject is "The sculpture," one object. Use stands. Bronze and marble are its materials, and blocks tells us about distance; those details do not make the subject plural.

- A. "Are standing" is plural.
- B. "Have been standing" is plural here.
- D. "Were standing" is plural.

[Back to question 10](#) | Source ID: bce9910f

QUESTION 11 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: Mary Madden is one person. The phrase "of Ohio" gives her location. Use the singular past verb was for her activism in the late 1800s. Her fellow activists appear in a different sentence.

- A. "Are" is plural.
- C. "Have been" is plural here.
- D. "Were" is plural in this statement.

[Back to question 11](#) | Source ID: e31b0056

QUESTION 12 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: remains

Find the clue: The subject is "The Arrhenius equation," one equation. Ignore "named for its creator" and read "The...equation remains an important concept." Remains is singular and matches.

- A. "Have remained" is plural here.
- B. "Remain" does not match singular equation.
- D. "Are remaining" is plural.

[Back to question 12](#) | Source ID: 81ac953e

QUESTION 13 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: were

Find the clue: Ayllus is plural, as the phrase "family clans" confirms. The sentence describes those clans in the past, so use were. There may be unfamiliar vocabulary, but the grammar clue is familiar: more than one clan.

- A. "Is" is singular.
- B. "Was" is singular.
- C. "Has been" is singular.

[Back to question 13](#) | Source ID: e92a7ad3

QUESTION 14 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: describes

Find the clue: The subject is "The map," one object. Use describes. The other verbs provide a helpful check: "The map describes..., shows..., and includes..." All three are singular present-tense verbs.

- B. "Describe" does not match one map.
- C. "Have described" is plural here.
- D. "Are describing" is plural.

[Back to question 14](#) | Source ID: d1482e27

QUESTION 15 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: powers

Find the clue: The main subject is "an artificial intelligence," one system. The long description tells us what that system absorbs and redistributes. Remove it and read "an artificial intelligence powers Chicago's energy grid."

- A. "Have been powering" is plural here.
- B. "Power" does not agree with the singular subject.
- D. "Are powering" is plural.

[Back to question 15](#) | Source ID: 56315bd0

QUESTION 16 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: were

Find the clue: The subject is "The treaties," plural. The which-clause gives extra information about them. Remove it and read "The treaties were signed." Were matches the plural subject and the past date.

- B.** "Is" is singular.
- C.** "Was" is singular.
- D.** "Has been" is singular.

[Back to question 16](#) | Source ID: 43b88827

QUESTION 17 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: is,

Find the clue: The subject is "The Proto-Nilotic language," one language. The phrase about fifty-five African languages describes its descendants. Read "The Proto-Nilotic language is...hypothetical." The commas surround the extra comparison "like all protolanguages."

- B.** "Are" is plural.
- C.** "Have been" is plural here.
- D.** "Were" is plural in this statement.

[Back to question 17](#) | Source ID: a03008de

QUESTION 18 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The subject is "the triangle," one shape. The words "representing the mountain itself" describe that shape. Read "the triangle...is among the few defined figures." The plural figures comes after the verb and does not control it.

- A.** "Are" is plural.
- B.** "Have been" is plural here.
- C.** "Were" is plural.

[Back to question 18](#) | Source ID: 7a0d9031

QUESTION 19 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: evokes

Find the clue: The subject is "Alexander's use," meaning one use of the word we. It is not the quoted word we itself. Read "Alexander's use...evokes Americans' collective efforts." Use is singular, so evokes matches.

- B.** "Are evoking" is plural.
- C.** "Have evoked" is plural here.
- D.** "Evoke" does not match the singular subject use.

[Back to question 19](#) | Source ID: c8607bdf

QUESTION 20 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: enable

Find the clue: The subject is "Sound-based tools," a plural noun phrase. Use enable: the tools enable scientists to notice patterns. The singular scientist named earlier is not the subject of this new sentence.

- A.** "Has enabled" is singular.
- C.** "Is enabling" is singular.
- D.** "Enables" is singular.

[Back to question 20](#) | Source ID: 4c9a2aee

QUESTION 21 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: vary

Find the clue: The subject is "Such phrases," plural. The words "known as story starters" are extra information between commas. Remove them: "Such phrases vary from language to language."

- B.** "Has varied" is singular.
- C.** "Varies" is singular.
- D.** "Is varying" is singular.

[Back to question 21](#) | Source ID: 6174a5b6

QUESTION 22 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: takes

Find the clue: The subject is "a cycle," one cycle. The phrase "of lunar phases" describes that cycle but does not make it plural. Read "a cycle...takes 29.5 days." The verb matches cycle, not phases or days.

- A. "Are taking" is plural.
- B. "Have taken" is plural here.
- C. "Take" does not match singular cycle.

[Back to question 22](#) | Source ID: e44db0a0

QUESTION 23 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: has entered

Find the clue: The subject is "an abstract cubist painting," one painting. Skip the artist information and the dash section about other works. The short sentence is "a painting...has entered the Western art canon." Has matches the singular painting.

- B. "Have entered" is plural here.
- C. "Were entering" is plural.
- D. "Enter" does not match the singular painting.

[Back to question 23](#) | Source ID: b8e13a74

QUESTION 24 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: underlie

Find the clue: Strip away the long description after frameworks. You get "the various...frameworks underlie each emotional reaction." Frameworks is plural, so use underlie. The nearby singular words person and reaction are distractions.

- A. "Underlies" is singular.
- B. "Is underlying" is singular.
- D. "Has been underlying" is singular.

[Back to question 24](#) | Source ID: ae439895

QUESTION 25 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: reinforces

Find the clue: Ask what reinforces the claims. It is the presence of the bacteria, not the bacteria themselves. Presence is singular. Cross out "of many fossilized microbacteria" and the long extra description: "the presence reinforces claims."

- A. "Have reinforced" is plural here.
- C. "Are reinforcing" is plural.
- D. "Reinforce" does not match singular presence.

[Back to question 25](#) | Source ID: 16740ab4

QUESTION 26 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: fascinate

Find the clue: Find the main noun doing the fascinating: musings, meaning thoughts or reflections. Musings is plural, so write "musings fascinate readers." The singular book and life sit inside other parts of the sentence.

- B. "Has fascinated" is singular.
- C. "Fascinates" is singular.
- D. "Is fascinating" is singular.

[Back to question 26](#) | Source ID: f10b7ce4

QUESTION 27 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: Cross out the long information between survey and the blank. The basic sentence is "Her...survey was instrumental." Survey is singular. Plants and species are inside the added information and do not control the main verb.

- A. "Are" is plural.
- B. "Were" is plural.
- C. "Have been" is plural here.

[Back to question 27](#) | Source ID: ea0aa676

QUESTION 28 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: aren't

Find the clue: The subject is "The artistic talents," which is plural. Ignore the long description of Barbara Chase-Riboud. The main statement is "The artistic talents...aren't limited." One person can have many talents, and the verb matches talents.

- A. "Hasn't been" is singular.
- B. "Wasn't" is singular.
- C. "Isn't" is singular.

[Back to question 28](#) | Source ID: dc645172

QUESTION 29 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: promotes

Find the clue: The subject is "The African Games Co-production Market," one named event. The phrase about 180 conferences adds information but does not change the subject. The short sentence is "The...Market promotes the growth..."

- A. "Promote" does not match one market.
- B. "Are promoting" is plural.
- D. "Have promoted" is plural here.

[Back to question 29](#) | Source ID: f4fd123c

QUESTION 30 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: identifies

Find the clue: The subject is analysis, one analysis made by two scholars. The scholars' names show whose analysis it is; they are not the subject of identifies. Shorten the sentence to "The analysis identifies six...features."

- A. "Are identifying" is plural.
- B. "Identify" does not match singular analysis.
- C. "Have identified" is plural here.

[Back to question 30](#) | Source ID: 863065c7

QUESTION 31 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The main subject is one person, Grigori Perelman. The phrase "sometimes in conjunction with..." adds other people involved, but it does not join them to the main subject with and. Read "Perelman is credited..."

- A. "Are" is plural.
- B. "Have been" is plural here.
- C. "Are being" is plural.

[Back to question 31](#) | Source ID: ecba68b5

QUESTION 32 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: explore

Find the clue: The subject is "Barrada's pieces," plural. The long phrase beginning with utilizing only describes those pieces. Remove it: "Barrada's pieces explore the ways..." Explore agrees with pieces and completes the sentence.

- B. "Has explored" is singular.
- C. "Explores" is singular.
- D. "Exploring" alone is not a complete main verb.

[Back to question 32](#) | Source ID: 9994ae0d

QUESTION 33 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: animates

Find the clue: The long subject begins with "The question." Everything after that explains what the question is about. Treat the question as one thing: "The question...animates...the study." Animates here means drives or motivates.

- B. "Have animated" is plural here.
- C. "Animate" does not match singular question.
- D. "Animating" alone is not a complete main verb.

[Back to question 33](#) | Source ID: b0fb36ad

QUESTION 34 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: attest

Find the clue: The subject is "The trailblazing accomplishments," plural. The long middle phrase describes Goldin, whose accomplishments they are. Shorten it to "The...accomplishments attest to the value..." Attest means provide evidence.

- A. "Attests" is singular.
- B. "Has attested" is singular.
- C. "Is attesting" is singular.

[Back to question 34](#) | Source ID: b32eab9f

QUESTION 35 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The subject inside the that-clause is "the shape," singular. "Of each statue's ears" tells which shape, and the like-phrase adds a comparison. Read "the shape...is unique." The nearby plural ears is a trap.

- A. "Are" is plural.
- C. "Were" is plural.
- D. "Have been" is plural here.

[Back to question 35](#) | Source ID: 8a9d2f4e

QUESTION 36 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: increase

Find the clue: The subject is toxins, plural. The words "the organism uses to protect itself..." describe those toxins. Remove that description: "the toxins...increase its attractiveness." Organism is nearby but does not control the blank.

- A. "Is increasing" is singular.
- C. "Increases" is singular.
- D. "Has increased" is singular.

[Back to question 36](#) | Source ID: 1c65db8f

QUESTION 37 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: occurs

Find the clue: Ask what occurs: radiation. Radiation is treated as one amount, so it needs a singular verb. Read the small sentence inside the larger one: "radiation that occurs." The plural words "atomic nuclei" come later and do not control this verb.

- B.** "Have" goes with a plural subject here; radiation needs "has."
- C.** "Occur" does not match the singular noun radiation.
- D.** "Are" is plural; radiation would need "is."

[Back to question 37](#) | Source ID: e38b3e4f

QUESTION 38 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: outlines

Find the clue: The word "that" refers to "a document," one document. Read "a document that outlines the basic freedoms." The two people named earlier do not control the verb inside this clause.

- A.** "Have outlined" is plural here.
- B.** "Were outlining" is plural.
- D.** "Outline" does not match singular document.

[Back to question 38](#) | Source ID: 988c78eb

QUESTION 39 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: creates

Find the clue: The word "that" refers to "a writing technique," one technique. Therefore, the clause needs creates. The many words in the quotation are not the subject of this verb.

- A.** "Create" does not match singular technique.
- B.** "Are creating" is plural.
- C.** "Have created" is plural here.

[Back to question 39](#) | Source ID: 02913383

QUESTION 40 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: is a smaller, foam version

Find the clue: The word "which" refers to the Nerf football. That is one kind of toy, so "is a smaller, foam version" fits. The sentence is describing what the toy is; the earlier date does not force every verb into the past.

- A. "Were" is plural and does not match the singular football.
- B. "Are" and "versions" both treat the football as plural.
- C. "Were" and "versions" both treat the football as plural.

[Back to question 40](#) | Source ID: 6e193b19

QUESTION 41 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: come

Find the clue: The blank belongs to "nematodes that..." Those worms are plural, so the clause needs come. Toxin is singular, but the toxin is not what comes into contact here; the nematodes are.

- A. "Has come" is singular.
- B. "Comes" is singular.
- C. "Is coming" is singular.

[Back to question 41](#) | Source ID: 97e7bedc

QUESTION 42 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: study

Find the clue: The subject is "many of whom," referring to many biomedical scientists. The name Elba Serrano is an example between commas. Skip that example: "many of whom study this mechanism." The verb must match many, not the one example.

- A. "Is studying" is singular.
- B. "Has studied" is singular.
- D. "Studies" is singular.

[Back to question 42](#) | Source ID: 4c06427b

QUESTION 43 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: help

Find the clue: The word "that" points back to "coiled branching structures." Those structures are plural, so the small clause must say "structures that help it survive." The answer also supplies the complete verb that this clause needs.

- A. "Has helped" is singular, but structures is plural.
- B. "Helps" is singular.
- C. "Helping" alone is not a complete verb after "that."

[Back to question 43](#) | Source ID: ee4aa2aa

QUESTION 44 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: ensures

Find the clue: The subject is the whole activity "Using one of these noncopyrighted songs." Treat that one activity as singular: "Using...ensures..." The plural songs is inside the subject phrase and does not control the verb.

- A. "Are ensuring" is plural.
- B. "Have ensured" is plural here.
- C. "Ensure" does not match the singular activity.

[Back to question 44](#) | Source ID: acf454af

QUESTION 45 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: allows

Find the clue: The subject is the activity "landing on one of the good spaces." That is one action, so it takes allows. Ignore the plural word spaces inside the phrase. The useful short sentence is "Landing...allows a player to skip ahead."

- B. "Are allowing" is plural.
- C. "Have allowed" is plural here.
- D. "Allow" does not match this singular activity.

[Back to question 45](#) | Source ID: 2ee50d41

QUESTION 46 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: The whole activity "Amplifying the voices and experiences of Black soldiers" is the subject. Treat this one activity as singular: "Amplifying...was important." Do not let the plural words voices, experiences, and soldiers trick you.

- A. "Were" is plural.
- B. "Have been" is plural here.
- C. "Are" is plural.

[Back to question 46](#) | Source ID: c91ef0f0

QUESTION 47 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: The subject is "Every last second." Every treats the seconds one at a time, so the subject is singular. Read "Every last second was carefully monitored." Ten days and three hours are inside a description of the mission.

- A. "Have been" is plural here.
- B. "Are" is plural.
- D. "Were" is plural in this statement.

[Back to question 47](#) | Source ID: 003f22c8

QUESTION 48 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: focuses

Find the clue: The subject is "each one," which means one play at a time. The phrase "of these plays" and the titles in the middle are extra information. Read "each one...focuses on a single historical figure."

- B. "Focus" does not match singular each one.
- C. "Are focused" is plural.
- D. "Were focused" is plural.

[Back to question 48](#) | Source ID: 0fe5ce68

QUESTION 49 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The key subject is "each one," meaning one couplet at a time. Ignore the long description about rhyme and refrain. Read "each one...is thematically and logically autonomous." Autonomous means able to stand on its own.

- B.** "Were" is plural in this statement.
- C.** "Have been" is plural here.
- D.** "Are" is plural.

[Back to question 49](#) | Source ID: 5fd86f4b

QUESTION 50 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: are

Find the clue: The subject names two knots joined by and: the trefoil knot and the figure-eight knot. Use the plural verb are. "Each with a crossing number below five" is an extra description; it does not replace the plural subject.

- A.** "Was" is singular.
- C.** "Has been" is singular.
- D.** "Is" is singular.

[Back to question 50](#) | Source ID: 28166dc6

QUESTION 51 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: determine

Find the clue: Two things form the subject: a state's voting record and its polling data. Joined by and, they take the plural verb determine. The interruption "not its population size" tells you what is not the subject.

- A.** "Determines" is singular.
- B.** "Determining" alone is not a complete main verb.
- C.** "Has determined" is singular.

[Back to question 51](#) | Source ID: c7cb5186

QUESTION 52 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: invites

Find the clue: The subject names one video game, Walden, a game. The long description compares it with writings and other games, but those plural nouns do not control the verb. Read "Walden, a game...invites players..."

- B.** "Invite" does not match the one game.
- C.** "Are inviting" is plural.
- D.** "Have invited" is plural here.

[Back to question 52](#) | Source ID: ac7b8d04

QUESTION 53 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: has enhanced

Find the clue: The subject is the title of one book, A Sheaf Gleaned in French Fields. A title can contain plural words such as Fields and still name one book. Use "has enhanced." The phrase about translations is only a description.

- B.** "Are enhancing" is plural.
- C.** "Have enhanced" is plural here.
- D.** "Enhance" does not match the singular book title.

[Back to question 53](#) | Source ID: 329255db

QUESTION 54 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: The subject comes after the blank: Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin, one person. Reverse the order to check it: "Josephine St. Pierre Ruffin was among the clubs' leaders." The plural leaders is inside the opening phrase, not the subject.

- B.** "Were" is plural.
- C.** "Are" is plural.
- D.** "Have been" is plural here.

[Back to question 54](#) | Source ID: 75f49353

02. Verb Tenses

QUESTION 55 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: measures

Find the clue: This sentence explains what the tool generally does. The previous sentence says economists "use" it. Simple present "measures" fits that current, general description. Do not copy "have created" from the first sentence: creating the tool and describing its purpose are different actions.

- B.** "Had measured" places the measuring before a past event that is not supplied here.
- C.** "Would have measured" suggests an imagined or conditional past result, not the tool's normal job.
- D.** "Will have been measuring" points ahead to an ongoing action viewed from a future time.

[Back to question 55](#) | Source ID: 3580533b

QUESTION 56 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: includes

Find the clue: Circle "Currently." It means now, so the sentence describes where the frog lives now. The present-tense verb "includes" matches that clue. The other choices move the statement to a different time.

- B.** "Included" places the range in the past.
- C.** "Will have included" looks back from a future time.
- D.** "Had included" looks back from a past time.

[Back to question 56](#) | Source ID: 035fd57e

QUESTION 57 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: illuminates

Find the clue: The words "Each night" signal something that happens regularly. The other sentences use "is" to describe the sculpture now. "Illuminates" is simple present, the right tense for this repeated action.

- A.** "Will be illuminating" shifts to a future activity.
- C.** "Would illuminate" suggests a condition or a past viewpoint that is not given.
- D.** "Illuminated" shifts the regular present description into the past.

[Back to question 57](#) | Source ID: 83617355

QUESTION 58 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: reach

Find the clue: This is a general explanation of a machine: atoms travel, reach the target level, and are diverted. "Reach" fits that repeated present-tense sequence. The phrase "until they reach" marks the point when the next step happens.

- A. "Will reach" unnecessarily shifts to the future inside this general process description.
- C. "Had reached" shifts to an earlier past.
- D. "Are reaching" emphasizes an action in progress instead of the endpoint expressed by "until" here.

[Back to question 58](#) | Source ID: 96c720af

QUESTION 59 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: get

Find the clue: This describes the team's usual routine when an eclipse is coming. They "pack up" and "get ready." Both actions belong to the same present-tense pattern. The passage is not narrating one completed past expedition.

- B. "Had gotten" looks back from a past event.
- C. "Got" changes to past tense.
- D. "Were getting" describes an ongoing past action.

[Back to question 59](#) | Source ID: dbd78791

QUESTION 60 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: survives

Find the clue: This is a general fact about what a wood frog does during freezing weather. The passage uses present-tense "is" and "helps." The matching simple present is "survives." It is not telling the story of one past winter.

- A. "Had survived" looks back from a past event.
- B. "Survived" tells about a completed past event.
- C. "Would survive" suggests a condition or past viewpoint not supplied here.

[Back to question 60](#) | Source ID: 3a35ddd1

QUESTION 61 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: experiences

Find the clue: The passage discusses what happens in novels using the present tense: food "is" central, Binh "connects," and he "prepares." Linda therefore "experiences" synesthesia. A novel's publication in the past does not require past-tense discussion of its events.

- A. "Experienced" changes to past tense.
- B. "Had experienced" places it before another past point.
- D. "Will be experiencing" changes to the future.

[Back to question 61](#) | Source ID: 0ff8477b

QUESTION 62 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: fly

Find the clue: The clues "Each year" and "annual migration" describe a repeated habit. The passage already uses journey in the present. Fly keeps the same present-tense pattern: every year, the butterflies journey south and fly thousands of miles.

- A. "Flew" describes the past.
- B. "Were flying" describes ongoing past activity.
- C. "Had flown" describes activity before a past checkpoint.

[Back to question 62](#) | Source ID: f40ca576

QUESTION 63 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The key word is Today. The sentence tells us how people regard Paik now, even though the exhibition happened in 1963. Use the present-tense phrase "is considered." Match the time of this sentence, not just the date in the previous one.

- A. "Will be" is future.
- B. "Had been" looks back from a past point.
- C. "Was" is past.

[Back to question 63](#) | Source ID: 56770dda

QUESTION 64 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: produce

Find the clue: The proposed systems do not exist yet, but the clause describes their intended general function: systems that produce oxygen. Simple present can describe a type of thing even in a future plan, just like "We will build a machine that cleans water."

- A. "Are producing" suggests production already in progress, not the proposed general function.
- B. "Produced" describes past production, although these are future systems.
- D. "Have produced" suggests production has already happened.

[Back to question 64](#) | Source ID: 96e5da01

QUESTION 65 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: goes

Find the clue: We usually discuss what happens in a story using the present tense, even if the story was written long ago. Here, the tortoise "goes" by two names, "appears" in two timelines, and "symbolizes" a connection. Those verbs match.

- B. "Will have gone" jumps to a future checkpoint.
- C. "Went" shifts away from the present discussion of the play.
- D. "Had gone" shifts to an earlier past.

[Back to question 65](#) | Source ID: 4f2ff5f2

QUESTION 66 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: benefit

Find the clue: The passage explains how worker cooperatives generally operate. It uses present-tense verbs such as is, stands, and are shared. Benefit keeps the same general present description: the workers benefit from success.

- B. "Benefited" switches to past tense.
- C. "Were benefiting" describes ongoing past activity.
- D. "Had benefited" describes activity before another past point.

[Back to question 66](#) | Source ID: 6205f7e4

QUESTION 67 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: vowed

Find the clue: The passage tells a story from 1903. Guided and upheld are past-tense clues. Roosevelt made the promise after the trip, so "vowed" keeps the story in the simple past.

- A. "Is vowing" describes something happening now.
- C. "Will vow" describes a future promise.
- D. "Vows" is present tense.

[Back to question 67](#) | Source ID: 7b419faf

QUESTION 68 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: Circle "back in the 1860s." The sentence gives a fact about the population at that past time, so use was. The earlier "has long been" describes the city's broader history; it does not erase the specific past date.

- A. "Is being" is present, not the 1860s.
- C. "Is" is present.
- D. "Will be" is future.

[Back to question 68](#) | Source ID: a94b7fd6

QUESTION 69 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: finished

Find the clue: The athlete retired on a specific date in 2004. The next sentence continues that past event: she finished her career with this record. Finished matches retired and the clear past date.

- A. "Finish" is a present form and also fails to agree with the singular athlete.
- B. "Has been finishing" connects an ongoing activity to the present.
- D. "Will be finishing" puts the action in the future.

[Back to question 69](#) | Source ID: eee7536f

QUESTION 70 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: was

Find the clue: The dates "from 1440 to 1473" describe a completed period in the past. Use "was ruled." This also matches the earlier "was one of the major powers." The sentence does not describe a current or future ruler.

- A. "Is ruled" is present tense.
- B. "Will be ruled" is future tense.
- C. "Has been ruled" does not fit this finished, specifically dated past period.

[Back to question 70](#) | Source ID: e2759b92

QUESTION 71 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: ascended

Find the clue: The king's accession is a past checkpoint. The cattle "had drastically increased" before he ascended the throne. Use simple past ascended for that checkpoint; the earlier growth already has its past-perfect form.

- B. "Will ascend" shifts the king's accession into the future.
- C. "Ascends" is present tense.
- D. "Is ascending" describes an action happening now.

[Back to question 71](#) | Source ID: db2e480a

QUESTION 72 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: affected

Find the clue: The phrase "During this time" points back to the 1930s. The next sentence says the storms reached New York. Affected keeps both actions in the simple past.

- A. "Are affecting" describes the present.
- B. "Will have affected" looks back from a future time.
- C. "Will affect" predicts the future.

[Back to question 72](#) | Source ID: 028752cd

QUESTION 73 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: became

Find the clue: The dates 1912 to 1951 and the verbs owned, operated, and was set the story in the past. Became matches that time and supplies a complete verb for The Eagle. Two grammar checks lead to the same answer.

- A. "Will become" is future.
- C. "Is becoming" is present.
- D. "To become" is not a complete main verb.

[Back to question 73](#) | Source ID: cf08e2fd

QUESTION 74 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: malfunctioned

Find the clue: The sentence gives a specific past year, 1613, and says the cannon ignited the roof. Use the matching past verb malfunctioned. The opening present-tense description of today's theater does not change the time of the fire.

- A. "Malfunctions" is present.
- B. "Will malfunction" is future.
- C. "Has malfunctioned" does not fit the finished event specifically dated 1613.

[Back to question 74](#) | Source ID: 265e7f4c

QUESTION 75 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: suggested

Find the clue: The story takes place in the 1950s. Zufall "advised" McVicker and also "suggested" a name. Simple past keeps those pieces of advice in the same story. No clue asks us to place the naming advice earlier or to show it continuing.

- B. "Suggests" shifts to present tense.
- C. "Had suggested" unnecessarily places this advice before a past checkpoint.
- D. "Was suggesting" makes the advice an ongoing background action, rather than the completed suggestion described.

[Back to question 75](#) | Source ID: 1f8cd95f

QUESTION 76 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: leveraged

Find the clue: Lincoln used his rivals' talents during his administration, a completed historical period. Leveraged means made effective use of. Simple past leveraged fits that action. Historians may praise it now, but Lincoln's action happened in the past.

- A. "Has leveraged" links Lincoln's action to the present instead of the finished historical setting.
- B. "Is leveraging" makes the action ongoing now.
- C. "Will leverage" puts the action in the future.

[Back to question 76](#) | Source ID: 67614549

QUESTION 77 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: was studying

Find the clue: The clue is "when she made an interesting discovery." She was already in the middle of studying when the discovery happened. "Was studying" shows that ongoing past action, just like "I was reading when the phone rang."

- A. "Studies" describes the present or a habit.
- B. "Has been studying" connects the activity to the present, rather than the past moment described.
- C. "Will study" puts the activity in the future.

[Back to question 77](#) | Source ID: 1ee7b429

QUESTION 78 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: has collected

Find the clue: The clue "since 1945" connects a past starting point to the present. "Has collected" shows that the organization began collecting this information in the past and has continued doing so. The subject organization is singular, so the helper is has.

- A. "Is collecting" describes activity now without correctly expressing the period since 1945.
- C. "Will collect" refers to the future.
- D. "Collects" describes a habit but does not correctly express this since-1945 time span.

[Back to question 78](#) | Source ID: 2d6f8304

QUESTION 79 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: have contributed

Find the clue: The phrase "since it began in 2012" connects the project's past start to the present. Have contributed shows contributions across that time. The pronoun who refers to plural map editors, so the helper is have.

- A. "Contribute" does not correctly express this since-2012 time span.
- B. "Will contribute" moves the action into the future.
- D. "Will be contributing" also describes future activity.

[Back to question 79](#) | Source ID: 35360da9

QUESTION 80 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: had doubled

Find the clue: The deadline is "By the end of the 1990s." We are looking back from that past point at growth that had already happened. "Had doubled" shows that the doubling was complete by then.

- A. "Has doubled" connects the doubling to now, not the stated past deadline.
- C. "Doubles" describes the present.
- D. "Will double" puts the doubling in the future.

[Back to question 80](#) | Source ID: 52b61716

QUESTION 81 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: had become

Find the clue: The phrase "By 2023" gives a past checkpoint. By that time, she had already earned her status. "Had become" shows an achievement completed by that past checkpoint, not one predicted for the future.

- A. "Will become" predicts a future event.
- B. "Becomes" describes the present.
- C. "Will have become" looks back from a future checkpoint.

[Back to question 81](#) | Source ID: 674e59a3

QUESTION 82 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: had already served

Find the clue: There are two past stages: Misaka served in the war and won championships; later, he joined the Knicks. "Had already served" makes the earlier stage clear. The helper had also carries over to "won." Think "had done these things by the time he joined."

- A. "Already served" does not clearly establish the completed earlier stage relative to "when he joined."
- B. "Was already serving" makes the war service ongoing when he joined, contrary to the timeline.
- C. "Already serves" changes to present tense.

[Back to question 82](#) | Source ID: d46ac7e7

QUESTION 83 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: had reached

Find the clue: This is a possible past sequence, not a prediction. The sugars first had to reach Earth and survive; then they could have reacted. Had reached shows that earlier step and fits the later "could have reacted."

- A. "Reach" is present and does not fit the imagined past sequence.
- C. "Will reach" describes the future.
- D. "Are reaching" describes an action happening now.

[Back to question 83](#) | Source ID: 31362d2d

QUESTION 84 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: had invented

Find the clue: The redesign happened in 1881. The original invention happened "fifteen years earlier." Had invented clearly marks the earlier of those two past events. The helper had is the clue that we are looking farther back in time.

- A. "Is inventing" describes the present.
- B. "Will invent" describes the future.
- C. "Invents" is present tense.

[Back to question 84](#) | Source ID: 588887b9

QUESTION 85 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: will learn

Find the clue: The clue "in a later chapter" points ahead to a chapter the reader has not reached. "Will learn" puts that learning in the future. The scientific description in the first sentence does not change this time clue.

- A.** "Had learned" puts the learning before another past point.
- B.** "Had been learning" describes an ongoing activity before a past point.
- D.** "Have learned" describes learning already done or connected to now, not the later chapter.

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03. Complete Verbs & Parallel Actions

QUESTION 86 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: enter

Find the clue: Ask what the embryos do to survive. They enter a dormant state. The opening "To survive..." gives the purpose but does not supply the sentence's main verb. "Enter" completes "embryos enter a dormant state."

- B.** "To enter" is another to-phrase, leaving the sentence without a complete main verb.
- C.** "Having entered" describes an action but does not complete the main statement.
- D.** "Entering" needs a helper such as "are" to serve as a complete verb here.

[Back to question 86](#) | Source ID: 29c9be28

QUESTION 87 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: claim

Find the clue: The second sentence needs to tell us what some historians do: "Some historians claim that..." The verbs inside the later "that" and "which" clauses do not complete the main statement about the historians. Claim does.

- A.** "Claiming" alone leaves "Some historians" without a complete verb.
- C.** "Having claimed" is a describing form, not the needed main verb.
- D.** "To claim" is a to-form, not the needed main verb.

[Back to question 87](#) | Source ID: 983d33fa

QUESTION 88 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: is

Find the clue: The second sentence needs a complete statement: "yellow is considered complementary to blue." The word considered needs the helper is here. The other choices do not provide a complete main verb.

- B.** "Having been considered" is a describing phrase, not a complete main verb.
- C.** "To be considered" cannot complete "yellow..." as a statement.
- D.** "Being considered" alone leaves the sentence incomplete.

[Back to question 88](#) | Source ID: e6f2dba6

QUESTION 89 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: used

Find the clue: The first sentence has its own verb, invented. The new sentence needs a new complete verb for Land: "Land used his technology." Used supplies that verb and fits the past time clue "A decade later."

- B.** "To have used" cannot act as the sentence's main verb.
- C.** "To use" leaves the main statement incomplete.
- D.** "Using" alone leaves the main statement incomplete.

[Back to question 89](#) | Source ID: 35ae047d

QUESTION 90 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: kept

Find the clue: The words "who had worked..." describe which women we mean. They do not finish the main sentence. Remove that description: "For decades...the women kept their vital efforts a secret." Kept supplies the missing main verb.

- A.** "To keep" leaves the main sentence incomplete.
- B.** "Having kept" is a describing form, not the needed complete verb.
- C.** "Keeping" alone needs a helper to be a complete verb.

[Back to question 90](#) | Source ID: 4320b4ad

QUESTION 91 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: published

Find the clue: The new sentence needs a complete verb for "Nery and her colleagues." Published tells us what they did in January 2023. The later word showing describes the study; it does not provide the main verb for the researchers.

- B.** "Publishing" alone leaves the main statement incomplete.
- C.** "Having published" is a describing phrase, not the needed complete verb.
- D.** "To publish" is a to-phrase, not the main verb.

[Back to question 91](#) | Source ID: cd4b1a7e

QUESTION 92 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: served

Find the clue: The sentence needs a complete verb for "more than 10,000 women." Served tells us what those women did during the war. The later "making up..." phrase adds information but cannot replace the main verb.

- A. "Having served" does not supply a complete main verb.
- B. "To serve" leaves the sentence incomplete.
- D. "Serving" alone would need a helper such as were.

[Back to question 92](#) | Source ID: 1e274153

QUESTION 93 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: serve

Find the clue: The subject is "Multiple newspapers." The sentence needs to tell what those newspapers do: they serve a population. Serve gives a complete present-tense statement and matches the plural subject.

- B. "Having served" is a describing phrase, not a main verb.
- C. "To serve" leaves the main statement unfinished.
- D. "Serving" alone is not a complete main verb.

[Back to question 93](#) | Source ID: f339ee39

QUESTION 94 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: explains

Find the clue: The new sentence needs a complete verb for "A recent study." Explains tells us what the study does: it explains why the nectar is only moderately sweet. The colon introduces that explanation after the completed main statement.

- B. "Explaining" alone is not a complete main verb.
- C. "Having explained" is a describing phrase, not the main verb.
- D. "To explain" leaves the main statement incomplete.

[Back to question 94](#) | Source ID: 6e5bf3a8

QUESTION 95 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: includes

Find the clue: The second sentence needs a complete verb for "The collection." Includes completes the statement and tells us what is in the collection. The verbs later in "that might otherwise have been lost" belong to a description of the plays.

- A. "To be including" cannot act as the main verb here.
- B. "Including" alone is not a complete main verb.
- C. "To include" leaves the statement unfinished.

[Back to question 95](#) | Source ID: 5ad2a12c

QUESTION 96 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Union would finally acknowledge

Find the clue: The sentence needs a complete verb for the International Astronomical Union. "Would finally acknowledge" supplies it. Here would is used in a past narrative for something that happened later than Wang's life; it does not necessarily signal an unreal condition.

- B. "To finally acknowledge" is a to-phrase, not a main verb.
- C. "Having finally acknowledged" adds a description but no complete main verb.
- D. "Finally acknowledging" also leaves the main statement incomplete.

[Back to question 96](#) | Source ID: 50801257

QUESTION 97 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: includes

Find the clue: The second sentence needs a complete verb for "One species." Includes supplies it and matches that singular subject. The verbs tends and grows are inside descriptions of the ecotypes; they do not complete the main statement.

- A. "Having included" is a describing form, not a main verb.
- B. "Including" alone leaves the main sentence incomplete.
- C. "To include" is a to-phrase, not a main verb.

[Back to question 97](#) | Source ID: ec08463d

QUESTION 98 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: explain

Find the clue: The second sentence needs a complete verb for Scientists. Explain completes that statement: "Scientists explain that..." The verbs inside the that-clause and which-clause do not replace the main verb for Scientists.

- B.** "Having explained" does not complete the main statement.
- C.** "Explaining" alone is not a complete main verb.
- D.** "To explain" leaves the main statement unfinished.

[Back to question 98](#) | Source ID: 59e41600

QUESTION 99 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: have used

Find the clue: The subject "people in the Americas" needs a complete verb. Have used supplies it and connects a long past history with the present. This form is called PRESENT perfect: have or has plus a past participle. Past perfect would be had used.

- A.** "To use" leaves the main statement incomplete.
- C.** "Having used" is a describing form, not a complete main verb.
- D.** "Using" alone is not a complete main verb.

[Back to question 99](#) | Source ID: 975eda7c

QUESTION 100 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: bounds helped

Find the clue: The long subject has two parts: his gestures and his habit. Ask what those two things did. They helped transform the role. The many verbs inside the descriptions do not finish the main statement about those gestures and that habit.

- B.** "Helping" adds a description but leaves the main sentence without a complete verb.
- C.** "That helped" creates another describing clause instead of completing the main statement.
- D.** "To help" gives a to-phrase, not the main verb.

[Back to question 100](#) | Source ID: 7f1df833

QUESTION 101 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: have positioned

Find the clue: Skip the examples between the dashes. You get "Several advantages have positioned acoustic waves as a promising alternative." Have positioned supplies the complete verb. The advantages are plural, so have also agrees with the subject.

- B.** "Positioning" alone is not a complete main verb.
- C.** "By positioning" gives a phrase about method, not the needed main verb.
- D.** "Having positioned" is a describing form and leaves the main statement incomplete.

[Back to question 101](#) | Source ID: a75d5984

QUESTION 102 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: results

Find the clue: The words "that..." begin a smaller clause describing the pattern. That clause needs a complete verb: "a pattern...that results in parallel arrays." Results also matches the singular pattern and describes a general property.

- A.** "Resulting" alone cannot be the complete verb after "that."
- B.** "Were" does not agree with one pattern and shifts away from the general present description.
- D.** "To result" cannot act as the complete verb of this clause.

[Back to question 102](#) | Source ID: 36e89f74

QUESTION 103 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: served

Find the clue: Armstrong "recounts how..." his barbershop did something. The clause after how needs its own complete verb: "his barbershop...served as a political hub." Served supplies that verb and matches the 1950s setting.

- A.** "Serving" alone cannot complete the clause after how.
- B.** "Having served" is a describing form, not a complete verb.
- D.** "To serve" does not form the needed clause about the barbershop.

[Back to question 103](#) | Source ID: 175df826

QUESTION 104 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: provided

Find the clue: The clause beginning with which describes the handbook. It needs its own complete verb: "which provided detailed mathematical guidance." The earlier "is renowned" belongs to the statement about Mary Golda Ross, not this clause.

- B.** "Having provided" cannot complete the clause after which.
- C.** "To provide" cannot be its complete verb.
- D.** "Providing" alone cannot be its complete verb.

[Back to question 104](#) | Source ID: 576b2c70

QUESTION 105 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: rain

Find the clue: The word "that" begins a clause describing the bits of molten rock. After skipping "after cooling and solidifying into glass," read "bits...that rain back onto Mars's surface." That clause needs the complete verb rain.

- A.** "To rain" cannot be the complete verb after that.
- B.** "Raining" alone cannot complete the clause.
- C.** "Having rained" is a describing form, not the complete verb.

[Back to question 105](#) | Source ID: de3dd17d

QUESTION 106 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: will be

Find the clue: The model "predicts that..." something will happen. Inside that clause, the subject is "the rate of speciation." After all the distance details, it still needs its own complete verb: "the rate...will be triple..."

- A.** "Being" alone cannot complete the that-clause.
- B.** "To be" cannot act as its complete verb.
- C.** "To have been" is also a to-form, not a complete verb.

[Back to question 106](#) | Source ID: 3daf126e

QUESTION 107 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: suspended

Find the clue: Gilliam performed two actions: he applied colors and suspended the canvases. And joins matching complete past verbs, applied and suspended. The later "causing..." phrase then describes the result of hanging them.

- A. "To have suspended" does not match the complete past action applied.
- B. "Suspending" is a describing form, not the second complete past action.
- C. "To suspend" changes the second action into a to-phrase.

[Back to question 107](#) | Source ID: 7c48a6dd

QUESTION 108 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: developed

Find the clue: Look on both sides of and. Price "premiered" her symphony and "developed" relationships. These are two complete past actions sharing the same subject. The long dash section is extra information about the symphony; skip it to see the matching pattern.

- A. "Developing" does not match the complete past verb premiered.
- C. "To develop" changes the second action into a to-phrase.
- D. "Having developed" is a describing form, not the second complete past action.

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04. Describing Verb Forms & Infinitives

QUESTION 109 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: forcing

Find the clue: The main statement is already complete: "those food sources may become unavailable." The last phrase tells the result: this situation forces the monkeys to hunt elsewhere. "Forcing" attaches that result as extra information after the comma.

- A. "Forces" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B. "To force" suggests the food became unavailable for the purpose of forcing the monkeys; the passage describes a result.
- D. "Forced" does not form the needed active result phrase and would add an unjoined past verb.

[Back to question 109](#) | Source ID: 50445680

QUESTION 110 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: including

Find the clue: The sentence already says "he patented many inventions." The phrase after the comma simply lists examples. Including is the describing form that introduces that list without adding a new complete action.

- A. "Included" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B. "Includes" adds an unjoined complete verb and also changes tense.
- D. "Will include" adds an unjoined complete verb and shifts to the future.

[Back to question 110](#) | Source ID: 898f182c

QUESTION 111 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: ensuring

Find the clue: The main sentence is already complete: "Okie-Tex takes place in an area with low light pollution." The ending describes the result: ensuring dark skies. The -ing phrase attaches that result without creating another complete sentence.

- B. "This will ensure" starts a second complete sentence joined only by a comma.
- C. "Ensures" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- D. "It ensures" starts a second complete sentence joined only by a comma.

[Back to question 111](#) | Source ID: 94de423a

QUESTION 112 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Created

Find the clue: The opening phrase describes the saloon as something Brown created. Created gives that passive meaning: "Created by Brown, the saloon..." The sentence's main verb, "was known," already appears after the subject.

- B.** "Creates" is a complete present verb, not the needed describing form.
- C.** "Creating" would make the saloon the thing doing the creating, contrary to the meaning.
- D.** "Create" does not form the passive description needed before "by Brown."

[Back to question 112](#) | Source ID: 6d247c13

QUESTION 113 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: characterized

Find the clue: The sentence already has its main verb, "is inspired." The end defines a type of painting: "a type...characterized by..." Characterized describes the painting style without starting another complete statement.

- A.** "Has been characterized" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B.** "Will be characterized" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- D.** "Is characterized" adds an unjoined complete verb.

[Back to question 113](#) | Source ID: f40b447c

QUESTION 114 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: searching

Find the clue: Find the complete sentence hiding under the details: "scientists adapted the test." The blank describes which scientists: those searching for evidence. "Searching" adds that description without creating a second, unconnected main action.

- A.** "Searched" introduces another complete action without a joining word.
- C.** "Were searching" creates a second complete verb that is not properly joined to "adapted."
- D.** "Have searched" creates the same extra-verb problem.

[Back to question 114](#) | Source ID: 3a1239d2

QUESTION 115 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: Serra, intending

Find the clue: Temporarily remove the long description: "Richard Serra assembles large-scale steel plates." That sentence already has its main verb, assembles. "Intending" describes Serra's purpose, and the comma after Serra pairs with the comma after environment to surround the description.

- A.** "Is intending" adds an unjoined complete verb before "assembles."
- B.** A comma alone cannot make the complete verb "intends" into a describing phrase.
- D.** "Intends" leaves two complete verbs competing in the same sentence without a proper connection.

[Back to question 115](#) | Source ID: a2816c7f

QUESTION 116 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: Udé, having

Find the clue: The sentence already says "Ude honors its legacy." The blank must add a description of Ude, not another main verb. "Having referred" tells us what he had said earlier. Commas surround this added information: "Ude, having referred..., honors..."

- A.** "Has referred" is a complete verb; a comma does not connect it properly to "honors."
- B.** This also adds the unjoined complete verb "has referred."
- C.** This produces "Ude referred..., honors..." without a proper connection between the verbs.

[Back to question 116](#) | Source ID: 9127635a

QUESTION 117 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: works,

Find the clue: The basic sentence is "Donne's works had been...gathering dust." The words "much admired...followed" add information about the works. C opens that description with a comma and leaves admired as a describing form. The comma after followed closes it.

- A.** "Were" adds an unjoined complete verb, and the opening comma is missing.
- B.** The comma is present, but "were" still adds an unjoined complete verb.
- D.** "Had been" adds another complete verb and fails to open the description with a comma.

[Back to question 117](#) | Source ID: 1a61e2ae

QUESTION 118 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: changes, including

Find the clue: Skip the long list and read "These extensive changes reflected the poet's evolving...perspective." Reflected is already the main verb. "Including" introduces examples of the changes, and commas surround that extra information.

- B.** "Would include" adds an unjoined complete verb before reflected.
- C.** "Included" adds an unjoined complete verb before reflected.
- D.** A comma does not turn the complete verb include into a describing phrase.

[Back to question 118](#) | Source ID: f768090a

QUESTION 119 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: looking

Find the clue: The basic sentence is "Author Madeline L'Engle begins her novel..." Begins is already the main verb. The phrase "looking to create..." describes her goal and sits between commas. Looking works as a description rather than another complete verb.

- A.** "Looked" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B.** "Looks" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- C.** "Is looking" adds an unjoined complete verb.

[Back to question 119](#) | Source ID: 61160f0a

QUESTION 120 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: highly prized

Find the clue: The main sentence already says "this period...is remembered." After the comma, "its vehicles highly prized..." adds a description. This pattern uses a noun plus a describing form, like "She stood there, her arms folded." No extra helper verb is needed.

- A.** "Are" turns the extra description into a second complete sentence joined only by a comma.
- B.** "Had been" creates the same comma-joining error.
- D.** "Were" also creates a second complete sentence joined only by a comma.

[Back to question 120](#) | Source ID: c88ba1b7

QUESTION 121 / ANSWER C**Correct choice:** earning

Find the clue: The sentence already says that her repertoire "lent" her broad appeal. The ending explains the result: earning her a nickname. Earning attaches that result after the comma without adding a second, unconnected complete verb.

- A. "Earned" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B. "Had earned" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- D. "Earn" also adds an unjoined verb and does not match singular repertoire.

[Back to question 121](#) | Source ID: a30567fd

QUESTION 122 / ANSWER A**Correct choice:** suggesting

Find the clue: Look far ahead for the main verb: "This hypothesis...cannot stand." The blank introduces a description of what the hypothesis says: "suggesting that certain trees...survived..." Suggesting can do that without adding a second main verb.

- B. "Suggested" adds an unjoined complete verb before "cannot stand."
- C. "Suggests" creates the same extra-verb problem.
- D. "Has suggested" creates the same extra-verb problem.

[Back to question 122](#) | Source ID: aa443c4b

QUESTION 123 / ANSWER D**Correct choice:** examining

Find the clue: The main sentence is "Aslanian's macroanalysis...shows..." The words "examining nearly 1,000 book titles..." describe that analysis. Examining adds the description while leaving shows as the main verb.

- A. "Examined" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B. "Examines" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- C. "Had examined" adds an unjoined complete verb.

[Back to question 123](#) | Source ID: c9a677e9

QUESTION 124 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: dating

Find the clue: The main sentence is "a unique tradition of embroidery...remains popular." The blank describes how old the tradition is: "dating back over two thousand years." Dating adds that description without introducing another complete verb.

- A. "Dates" adds an unjoined complete verb before remains.
- B. "Date" adds an unjoined verb and also disagrees with singular tradition.
- D. "Has dated" adds an unjoined complete verb before remains.

[Back to question 124](#) | Source ID: 505054e3

QUESTION 125 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: prioritizing

Find the clue: The main statement is "ancient Egyptians slept on...headrests." The extra phrase "their design prioritizing..." explains the design's priorities. A noun plus an -ing form can add information after a comma without becoming a separate sentence.

- A. "Had prioritized" creates another complete clause joined only by a comma.
- B. "Was prioritizing" creates the same comma-joining problem.
- C. "Prioritized" makes the design perform a second complete past action without a proper connection.

[Back to question 125](#) | Source ID: 81f09e07

QUESTION 126 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: swimming,

Find the clue: The source key gives D. The main statement is "Helical swimming...bestows similar advantages." Bestows is already the complete verb. Leave "widely understood..." as a description; adding is or has been would introduce another unconnected complete verb. See the source note below about this item's unusual punctuation.

- A. "Is" creates an unjoined second complete verb before bestows.
- B. "Is" creates the same extra-verb problem, and the description lacks its opening comma.
- C. "Has been" creates the same extra-verb problem, and the description lacks its opening comma.

Source note: The original mixes a comma before "widely understood" with a later dash at the end of the long description. This is awkward punctuation to use as a teaching model. D is the intended answer and avoids an extra complete verb. A clearer, shortened model is: "Helical swimming, widely understood to help microscopic organisms move, bestows similar advantages on larger organisms." The practice item is preserved as supplied.

[Back to question 126](#) | Source ID: d222f7d9

QUESTION 127 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: to include

Find the clue: The complete verb "decided" is already present. We need to say what the committee decided to do. The normal pattern is "decided to include," just like "decided to play." The to-form completes the meaning of decided.

- A. "Decided included" does not form the needed verb pattern.
- B. "Decided including" does not fit this pattern.
- C. "Decided include" is missing "to."

[Back to question 127](#) | Source ID: 4aa28ac3

QUESTION 128 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: to expand

Find the clue: The sentence already has its complete verb, seeks. Ask what the organization seeks to do: to expand understanding. The pattern is "seeks to expand." We do not need a second, separate complete verb after seeks.

- A. "Seeks is expanding" wrongly stacks two complete verbs.
- C. "Seeks has expanded" wrongly stacks two complete verbs.
- D. "Seeks expands" wrongly stacks two complete verbs.

[Back to question 128](#) | Source ID: 353890a1

QUESTION 129 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: to tell

Find the clue: The sentence already says "Margarita Engle uses poetry." The blank explains her purpose: she uses poetry to tell a story. "Rather than prose" is just an interruption; the useful pattern is "uses poetry to tell."

- A. "Uses poetry tells" wrongly adds an unjoined complete verb.
- B. "Told" also adds an unjoined complete verb.
- C. "Is telling" creates the same extra-verb problem.

[Back to question 129](#) | Source ID: e3b72630

QUESTION 130 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: to digest

Find the clue: The sentence says "they need..." and asks what they need to do. The natural pattern is "need to digest," just like "need to eat." Need is already the complete verb; to digest completes its meaning.

- A. "They need digest" is missing "to" in this positive statement.
- B. "Need will digest" wrongly stacks verb forms.
- D. "They need digesting" would suggest that the reindeer need to be digested, not that they need to digest food.

[Back to question 130](#) | Source ID: 843f92af

QUESTION 131 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: to join

Find the clue: The sentence already says Ochoa left her position. Why did she leave? To join astronaut training. The to-form explains the purpose without adding an unconnected main action.

- B. "Is joining" adds an unjoined complete verb and shifts to the present.
- C. "Joined" adds an unjoined complete verb; it would need a connection such as and.
- D. "Joins" adds an unjoined complete verb and shifts to the present.

[Back to question 131](#) | Source ID: 4a90a978

QUESTION 132 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: to study

Find the clue: The sentence already says "She uses chemistry and fossil evidence." The blank explains why she uses them: to study past oceans. The pattern is "uses something to do something."

- A. "Has studied" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- C. "Studied" adds an unjoined complete verb.
- D. "Studies" adds an unjoined complete verb.

[Back to question 132](#) | Source ID: bd11fe93

QUESTION 133 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: to place

Find the clue: The sentence already has the complete verb was. The blank finishes the pattern "the first to do something": the first to place humans in that location at that early date. Here, place means establish their presence through evidence.

- A. "The first places humans" does not fit the needed pattern.
- B. "The first placed humans" does not express what the finding was first to establish.
- C. "The first place humans" is missing "to" and does not give a clear meaning.

[Back to question 133](#) | Source ID: 69f031ab

QUESTION 134 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: to create

Find the clue: Use the pattern "enables someone to do something." The software enables cartographers to create maps. The name of one cartographer sits in the middle, but the same pattern still applies.

- A. "Enables cartographers create" is missing to.
- C. "Enables cartographers creating" does not fit the needed pattern.
- D. "Enables cartographers created" does not fit the needed pattern.

[Back to question 134](#) | Source ID: 7c766ceb

QUESTION 135 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: to forge

Find the clue: The chemists already "re-created" and "reprogrammed" the genetic scissors. Why? To forge, or make, a new tool. "To forge" explains the purpose of those actions. It does not add another unconnected main verb.

- B. Without a separating comma, "bacteria forging" makes the bacteria seem to be making the tool.
- C. "Forged" adds a third complete action without the needed joining word.
- D. "And forging" does not match the complete past-tense verbs "re-created" and "reprogrammed."

[Back to question 135](#) | Source ID: 512f0ac9

QUESTION 136 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: create

Find the clue: The helper would applies to both actions: "would increase...and create." After would, use the plain verb form, without -s, -ed, or -ing. Think "would run and jump," not "would run and jumps."

- A.** "Would...creates" is the wrong form after would.
- C.** "Would...creating" would need a different structure, such as "would be creating."
- D.** "Would...created" is the wrong form after would.

[Back to question 136](#) | Source ID: 4bed4658

05. Pronouns & Matching Reference Words

QUESTION 137 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: them

Find the clue: What did the bishop consider dangerous? The eating utensils: the forks. That noun is plural, and it receives the action of considered, so use the plural object pronoun them.

- B. "This" is singular.
- C. "That" is singular.
- D. "It" is singular.

[Back to question 137](#) | Source ID: 8df848c1

QUESTION 138 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: they

Find the clue: The cashiers ask the customers whether the customers want a bag. Replace that repeated plural noun with they. The sentence is about those customers, not about the reader.

- B. "One" is singular and changes the reference.
- C. "You" suddenly addresses the reader instead of referring to the customers.
- D. "It" is singular and does not refer to these people.

[Back to question 138](#) | Source ID: 166efaa2

QUESTION 139 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: it uses

Find the clue: What does more than entertain readers? Dark fiction. The next part continues explaining what dark fiction does, so use it. Although many stories can be examples of dark fiction, the phrase "dark fiction" is treated as singular here.

- A. "One" changes the reference to a person or an unspecified example.
- B. "We" changes the subject to the writer and readers.
- C. "They" is plural, unlike dark fiction.

[Back to question 139](#) | Source ID: 0560b2b8

QUESTION 140 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: they

Find the clue: The pronoun refers to "These minuscule animals," the tardigrades. That is a plural group, so use they. The first part says the animals can survive without food; the second says they can also withstand extreme temperatures.

- A. "That" is singular.
- B. "It" is singular.
- D. "He" is singular and does not refer to the group.

[Back to question 140](#) | Source ID: 97b62fab

QUESTION 141 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: He

Find the clue: Who created the extra installations? Felix Gonzalez-Torres, one artist. He is the pronoun that clearly refers to that person. The candies are materials he used, not artists who created installations.

- A. "They all" suggests a group, not the one named artist.
- B. "Those" is plural and does not identify the artist.
- C. "Both" means two, but only one artist is named.

[Back to question 141](#) | Source ID: f0f9bf8f

QUESTION 142 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: it

Find the clue: The thing that recognizes and finds faces is "the human brain." That is one thing, so use it. The researcher appears only afterward and is not the subject being described in this sentence.

- A. "She" would refer to a person, not the brain.
- B. "They" is plural here, unlike the singular brain.
- D. "Those" is plural.

[Back to question 142](#) | Source ID: c52652c9

QUESTION 143 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: them

Find the clue: What did Dickinson copy? Her poems, also called works. Those nouns are plural, so use them. The phrase "more than 800 of them" selects many poems from that larger group.

- B. "This" is singular.
- C. "That" is singular.
- D. "It" is singular.

[Back to question 143](#) | Source ID: fff4c7f4

QUESTION 144 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: It

Find the clue: The previous sentence introduces multitask learning as one approach. The next sentence explains that approach, so use it. Do not choose a plural pronoun because models or tasks are plural; they are not the reference.

- A. "Those" is plural.
- B. "They" is plural.
- D. "Some" does not clearly refer to the single approach and does not fit singular involves here.

[Back to question 144](#) | Source ID: 1448f43f

QUESTION 145 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: it

Find the clue: The pronoun refers to "an object": whatever single object Cave is considering using. It carries that same object into the next phrase: "the sound an object makes before using it."

- A. "This" introduces a pointing reference where the sentence needs to carry forward the same unspecified object.
- B. "That" has the same problem: no particular object is being pointed out or contrasted.
- C. "These" is plural, unlike an object.

[Back to question 145](#) | Source ID: 42cc9236

QUESTION 146 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: it was

Find the clue: The building being discussed is the Salt Lake Temple, one specific structure. It directly refers to that temple, and was fits the past construction dates. The plural word structures in the opening sentence is not the intended reference.

- B.** "One" suggests an unspecified structure instead of clearly continuing the reference to this temple.
- C.** "They were" is plural.
- D.** "Both were" means two buildings, but only one temple is discussed.

[Back to question 146](#) | Source ID: 12bd5b75

QUESTION 147 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: it

Find the clue: Ask what is pushed and then swirls into a whirlpool. It is water. Water is treated as a singular amount here, so the pronoun is it. Winds, rotation, and landmasses affect the water but are not what the blank refers to.

- A.** "These" is plural.
- B.** "Those" is plural.
- C.** "Them" is plural.

[Back to question 147](#) | Source ID: 9eb43963

QUESTION 148 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: they accumulate

Find the clue: This part of the passage states a general fact about rivers, plural. The Mississippi is just one example. Use "rivers...expand and contract as they accumulate sediment." They and accumulate both match the plural reference.

- B.** "One" changes to a singular reference.
- C.** "It" is singular, but the subject is rivers.
- D.** "We" changes the subject to people.

[Back to question 148](#) | Source ID: 36944347

QUESTION 149 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: they were

Find the clue: The two named woodcuts are the things exhibited in 2019. They is plural and refers clearly to both; were is the matching plural verb. Use the whole pair "they were."

- A. "It was" is singular.
- C. "This was" is singular.
- D. "Some were" does not clearly identify the two specific woodcuts just named.

[Back to question 149](#) | Source ID: 3595a991

QUESTION 150 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: it

Find the clue: What did Stradivari make lighter? A traditional violin, one instrument. Use it to refer to that violin. The curves are plural, but he flattened the curves and made the instrument lighter overall.

- A. "Those" is plural.
- B. "One" suggests another or an unspecified violin instead of referring directly to the one being redesigned.
- C. "Them" is plural and could wrongly point to the curves.

[Back to question 150](#) | Source ID: b85c19ed

QUESTION 151 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: it often consists

Find the clue: Follow the pronoun back to "a given industry." That is one industry, so "it" is the clear match. Ignore the examples between the dashes and the plural words costs and barriers. The shortened meaning is "When an industry has these features, it often consists of few suppliers."

- A. "These" is plural and does not clearly name the industry.
- B. "They" is plural, but the sentence describes one industry.
- D. "This" leaves the reference less clear: it could point to the whole situation. "It" directly resumes "a given industry."

[Back to question 151](#) | Source ID: 908a76b8

QUESTION 152 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: it often becomes

Find the clue: Ignore the examples between the dashes. The sentence begins "When a given term..." and continues by explaining what happens to that one term. It clearly refers back to the singular term.

- A. "They" is plural.
- B. "These" is plural.
- C. "This" could point vaguely to the whole situation; it is less clear than directly referring to the term with it.

[Back to question 152](#) | Source ID: 99dedf36

QUESTION 153 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: Their

Find the clue: The findings belong to Watson and Crick, two people. Use their to show that connection. The number of findings does not decide the pronoun; the two people who made the findings do.

- A. "They're" means "they are," which does not fit before findings.
- B. "It's" means "it is" or "it has."
- D. "Its" points to one thing, not the two researchers.

[Back to question 153](#) | Source ID: 430d929a

QUESTION 154 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: its

Find the clue: In this sentence, the owner of the young is "The animal," a singular phrase. Use its to mean the animal's young. Do not choose their just because the earlier sentence talked about platypuses in the plural.

- A. "They're" expands to "they are," which does not fit.
- B. "Their" is plural, but the current reference is one animal.
- D. "It's" expands to "it is" or "it has," not belonging to it.

[Back to question 154](#) | Source ID: 3bceeb93

QUESTION 155 / ANSWER C**Correct choice:** its

Find the clue: The other republics are peers of one republic, the Tajik Republic. Use its to refer to that single republic. The plural noun peers does not make the owner plural; one republic can have many peers.

- A. "Their" would refer to plural owners.
- B. "They're" means "they are."
- D. "It's" means "it is" or "it has," not belonging to it.

[Back to question 155](#) | Source ID: 872a002e

QUESTION 156 / ANSWER A**Correct choice:** its

Find the clue: Whose shores are being discussed? The shores of the North Sea, one sea. Use its for that singular owner. The plural peoples, cultures, and economies are things linked by the sea, not the owner of the shores here.

- B. "It's" means "it is" or "it has."
- C. "They're" means "they are."
- D. "Their" is plural, but the owner is one sea.

[Back to question 156](#) | Source ID: 2cb1ee22

QUESTION 157 / ANSWER A**Correct choice:** their

Find the clue: The eight panels belong to the poems, a plural noun. Their points to that plural owner. The title's mention of one poet does not make the poems singular.

- B. "It's" means "it is" or "it has."
- C. "They're" means "they are," not belonging to them.
- D. "Its" is singular, but the reference is the poems.

[Back to question 157](#) | Source ID: 0bcb4417

QUESTION 158 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: their

Find the clue: What has been replaced? The types of pop culture references, a plural group. The expression "in their place" means instead of those types of references. Their clearly points back to that plural group.

- A. "Its" is singular.
- B. "They're" means "they are."
- D. "It's" means "it is" or "it has."

[Back to question 158](#) | Source ID: 18382e67

QUESTION 159 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: These

Find the clue: The word right after the blank is plants, a plural noun. These is the plural pointing word: "These plants." It also clearly points back to the cycads in the previous sentence.

- B. "That" would need singular "plant."
- C. "Each" would need singular "plant."
- D. "This" would need singular "plant."

[Back to question 159](#) | Source ID: 74253458

QUESTION 160 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: These

Find the clue: The passage refers to eighteen letters, and the word after the blank is the plural letters. These matches that plural noun and points back to the letters just mentioned.

- A. "One" would need singular letter.
- B. "That" would need singular letter.
- C. "This" would need singular letter.

[Back to question 160](#) | Source ID: e8926747

QUESTION 161 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: this

Find the clue: Here the pronoun points back to one whole event: Minh's appointment. This can clearly point to that event, making "this the first time" a sensible phrase. The sentence is not referring to several events.

- A. "These" is plural.
- B. "Those" is plural.
- D. "Some" does not clearly identify the single appointment as the first occasion.

[Back to question 161](#) | Source ID: c102f9b0

QUESTION 162 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: themselves

Find the clue: The barnacles do the attaching, and the things they attach are those same barnacles. When the doer and receiver are the same, use a self-pronoun: themselves. It is plural because barnacles is plural.

- A. "It" is singular and does not point back to the barnacles correctly.
- C. "Them" suggests something other than the barnacles themselves is being attached.
- D. "Itself" is a self-pronoun, but it is singular.

[Back to question 162](#) | Source ID: c5d39bc7

06. Plurals, Possessives & Apostrophes

QUESTION 163 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: musicians introduced audiences

Find the clue: The musicians do the introducing, and the audiences receive it. Both are ordinary plural nouns. Neither is showing ownership, so neither needs an apostrophe. Read "musicians introduced audiences to the...sound."

- B.** Both nouns are wrongly made possessive.
- C.** Both nouns are wrongly made singular possessives.
- D.** "Musicians" wrongly shows possession where the sentence needs its plural subject.

[Back to question 163](#) | Source ID: 856b495d

QUESTION 164 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: hands between the two antennas,

Find the clue: The sentence means more than one hand and two antennas. Neither noun is showing ownership, so use hands and antennas without apostrophes. The comma then ends the opening when-clause.

- A.** Both nouns are wrongly made singular possessives.
- C.** Both nouns are wrongly made plural possessives.
- D.** "Hands" wrongly shows ownership instead of simply naming the hands.

[Back to question 164](#) | Source ID: 60a4c088

QUESTION 165 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: stories of the South Asian immigrants

Find the clue: The book tells multiple stories about multiple immigrants. Both nouns are ordinary plurals: stories and immigrants. The word of already links the stories to the people. The immigrants then act as the subject of "who made..."

- A.** "Story's" is singular possessive, not plural stories.
- B.** Both nouns are wrongly made possessive.
- D.** "Stories" and "immigrant's" wrongly show possession here; the latter also suggests one immigrant.

[Back to question 165](#) | Source ID: 775f3eb9

QUESTION 166 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: terms presidents

Find the clue: The sentence discusses the number of terms that presidents can serve. Terms is an ordinary plural. Presidents is also an ordinary plural and acts as the subject of "can serve." Neither word is showing ownership, so neither needs an apostrophe.

- B.** "Term's" wrongly marks possession.
- C.** Both words wrongly mark possession.
- D.** "President's" wrongly marks possession instead of naming the people who can serve.

[Back to question 166](#) | Source ID: 20ea68b7

QUESTION 167 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: people's stories

Find the clue: The stories belong to other people, so write people's. People is already plural; because it does not end in s, its possessive adds apostrophe plus s. Stories is just an ordinary plural because nothing belongs to the stories here.

- B.** "Peoples" lacks the needed possessive mark, and "story's" wrongly shows possession.
- C.** "Peoples" does not show whose stories they are.
- D.** "Story's" wrongly makes one story possessive.

[Back to question 167](#) | Source ID: 15d6d837

QUESTION 168 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: jugglers, regardless of their

Find the clue: Both tells us there are two jugglers. Jugglers is just a plural noun after for, so it needs no apostrophe. Their shows that the motion belongs to those two people. Check the noun and the ownership word separately.

- A.** "Jugglers'" wrongly shows possession, and "they're" means "they are."
- B.** "There" refers to a place or introduces a statement; it does not show ownership.
- C.** "Juggler's" is a singular possessive, but we need an ordinary plural.

[Back to question 168](#) | Source ID: d4f173ec

QUESTION 169 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Austen's most famous novels,

Find the clue: The novels belong to one author, Austen, so write Austen's. The phrase "one of" selects one item from a plural group: one of her novels. Novels does not show ownership here, so it has no apostrophe.

- B.** "Austens'" suggests multiple Austens, and "novels'" wrongly shows possession.
- C.** "Austens" lacks the possessive mark linking Austen to her novels.
- D.** "Novel's" is a singular possessive, not the needed plural novels.

[Back to question 169](#) | Source ID: 6bc907c9

QUESTION 170 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Moon's

Find the clue: The pull belongs to Earth's one Moon. Add apostrophe plus s to the singular owner: "the Moon's gravitational pull." This is possession, not a reference to several moons.

- B.** "Moons" is plural and does not show possession.
- C.** "Moons'" would mean the pull of several moons.
- D.** "Moon" alone does not show the needed possessive relationship in this phrase.

[Back to question 170](#) | Source ID: b260c65a

QUESTION 171 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: photographer's early photos

Find the clue: The photographs belong to one photographer, Ansel Adams. Use photographer's for the owner. Photos is an ordinary plural; there is more than one photo, and nothing belongs to those photos here.

- A.** "Photo's" wrongly shows possession.
- B.** "Photographers" lacks the needed singular ownership, and "photo's" is also wrong.
- D.** "Photographers" does not show that the photos belong to one photographer.

[Back to question 171](#) | Source ID: 1d971f75

QUESTION 172 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: phrase's simplicity masks its

Find the clue: There is one phrase: "I think, therefore I am." Its simplicity belongs to that phrase, so write "phrase's simplicity." The complexity also belongs to that same single phrase, so use "its," not "their." Check both parts of the answer.

- A. "Phrases'" means belonging to more than one phrase.
- B. "Phrases" lacks the needed possessive mark, and "their" points to more than one.
- C. "Phrase's" is right, but "their" does not match one phrase.

[Back to question 172](#) | Source ID: 2c49940e

QUESTION 173 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: author's political writings

Find the clue: There is one author, Thomas Paine, and the writings belong to him. Use "author's." There are several writings, but they do not own anything in this sentence, so use the ordinary plural "writings."

- A. "Authors" does not show that the writings belong to one author.
- C. "Writing's" wrongly makes a writing possessive.
- D. "Authors'" suggests several authors, and "writings'" wrongly makes the writings possessive.

[Back to question 173](#) | Source ID: 819c443d

QUESTION 174 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: grains' physical properties

Find the clue: The properties belong to multiple snow grains. For that plural owner ending in s, put the apostrophe after the s: grains'. Properties is the ordinary plural subject of affect; the properties do not own something here.

- A. "Grain's" names one owner, and "properties'" wrongly shows ownership.
- C. "Property's" wrongly makes one property possessive rather than naming several properties.
- D. "Grains" lacks the apostrophe needed to show whose properties are studied.

[Back to question 174](#) | Source ID: dd428136

QUESTION 175 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: playa's sediment mark the rocks'

Find the clue: Two ownership checks are needed. The sediment belongs to one playa, so use playa's. The migration belongs to the many rocks, so use rocks'. The passage mentions 162 rocks, which confirms that the second owner is plural.

- A. "Playas" lacks possession, and "rock's" suggests only one rock.
- B. "Rocks" lacks the apostrophe needed before migration.
- D. "Playas'" suggests multiple playas, but the passage names one lakebed.

[Back to question 175](#) | Source ID: 9f737b2a

QUESTION 176 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: poems putatively written by the novel's

Find the clue: The novel contains several poems, so use poems without an apostrophe. The protagonist belongs to one novel, so use novel's with apostrophe plus s. Check each noun separately instead of choosing by how many apostrophes the answer contains.

- B. "Poem's" wrongly makes one poem possessive.
- C. "Poem's" is wrong, and "novels'" suggests multiple novels.
- D. "Novels'" suggests multiple novels rather than one.

[Back to question 176](#) | Source ID: 8d53e7a0

QUESTION 177 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: screw's threads.

Find the clue: The passage mentions a single screw. Its threads belong to it, so use screw's. There are multiple threads, but they do not own anything in this sentence, so use ordinary plural threads.

- A. "Thread's" wrongly makes one thread possessive.
- B. "Screws'" means more than one screw owns the threads.
- D. "Screws" lacks ownership, and "threads'" wrongly makes the threads possessive.

[Back to question 177](#) | Source ID: d2cf0e11

QUESTION 178 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: towns'

Find the clue: Two towns are named: Arteaga and Lagos de Moreno. Their beauty and traditions belong to them. Start with plural towns, then add the apostrophe after s: towns'. The word these also confirms that more than one town is meant.

- A. "Town" is singular and does not show possession.
- B. "Town's" shows one owner, but there are two towns.
- C. "Towns" is plural but lacks the ownership mark.

[Back to question 178](#) | Source ID: f570cece

QUESTION 179 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: rock's and rap's

Find the clue: The ratios belong to two separate genres. The passage says "each genre's data," so rock has its own ratios and rap has its own ratios. Put an apostrophe plus s on each owner: "rock's and rap's."

- A. "Rocks" and "raps" are ordinary plurals, not possessives.
- C. Rock also needs its possessive ending; "rocks" does not show ownership.
- D. Only marking "rap's" suggests joint ownership; the passage discusses separate ratios for each genre.

[Back to question 179](#) | Source ID: 4c335aea

QUESTION 180 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: variables that characterize objects'

Find the clue: There are five variables, so the first noun is the ordinary plural variables. The movement belongs to objects in general, so use the plural possessive objects'. Notice that the sentence does not say "an object's movement," which would describe one object.

- A. "Variable's" is possessive, but five requires a plural noun.
- C. "Object's" is singular possessive; here the general reference is to objects, without a singular determiner such as an.
- D. "Objects" lacks the apostrophe needed to show whose movement is described.

[Back to question 180](#) | Source ID: 2784cbaf

QUESTION 181 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: its wings

Find the clue: One butterfly owns several wings. "Its" means belonging to it, and "wings" simply means more than one wing. Nothing belongs to the wings in this sentence, so wings needs no apostrophe. Try expanding "it's": "it is wings" would not work.

- B.** "Wings'" wrongly makes the wings owners of something.
- C.** "It's" means "it is" or "it has"; "wing's" also wrongly shows ownership.
- D.** "It's" is a contraction, and "wings'" wrongly makes the wings possessive.

[Back to question 181](#) | Source ID: b7363ba2

QUESTION 182 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: its two protagonists

Find the clue: The two protagonists belong to one film. "Its" shows that connection. "Two" tells you to use the ordinary plural protagonists. The protagonists are not shown owning something, so their noun needs no apostrophe.

- A.** "It's" means "it is" or "it has," not belonging to the film.
- B.** "Protagonist's" makes one protagonist possessive instead of naming two people.
- C.** Both "it's" and "protagonist's" use apostrophes incorrectly here.

[Back to question 182](#) | Source ID: eeb14722

07. Modifiers & Logical Comparisons

QUESTION 183 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Matthew Henson made several treks across Greenland between 1891 and 1909.

Find the clue: The opening phrase describes a person who was an African American explorer. Matthew Henson is that person, so his name must come immediately after the comma. Read "One of the...explorers, Matthew Henson..."

- B.** Years cannot be an explorer.
- C.** Greenland is a place, not an explorer.
- D.** Treks are journeys, not an explorer.

[Back to question 183](#) | Source ID: 1684b237

QUESTION 184 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: the activists increased pressure on lawmakers by staging a sit-in protest

Find the clue: Who had been pleading for years? Kitty Cone and the other activists. They must be the subject immediately after "After pleading..." D places "the activists" there and explains what they did next.

- A.** This makes pressure seem to have done the pleading.
- B.** This makes a protest seem to have done the pleading.
- C.** This makes lawmakers the people who pleaded, but the story identifies the activists as those people.

[Back to question 184](#) | Source ID: 6f08641e

QUESTION 185 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: researcher Robert Losey has argued that domestication

Find the clue: Who uncovered the harness fragments? Researcher Robert Losey. He must come immediately after "since uncovering..." A gives him that position. Domestication and an argument cannot uncover an object.

- B.** The subject is "argument," not the researcher who uncovered the fragments.
- C.** Domestication is a process, not the person who made the discovery.
- D.** This also makes the argument the thing that uncovered the fragments.

[Back to question 185](#) | Source ID: 59209b6d

QUESTION 186 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: the Alaska Centennial Commission sponsored a contest that would award \$300 to an individual who came

Find the clue: Who wanted to celebrate the anniversary? The Alaska Centennial Commission. Put the commission immediately after the introductory description. The contest and money are tools it used, not things with that wish.

- A.** A contest cannot want to celebrate.
- B.** An award cannot want to celebrate.
- C.** Money cannot want to celebrate.

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QUESTION 187 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: Julian's 1935 synthesis of the alkaloid physostigmine

Find the clue: What was named one of the greatest achievements? Julian's synthesis: his act of making the chemical. C makes that achievement the subject immediately after the description. Julian is the scientist; the chemical is the product.

- A.** This makes Julian himself the achievement being named.
- B.** This also makes Julian the subject attached to the description.
- D.** This names the chemical itself, rather than the achievement of synthesizing it.

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QUESTION 188 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: drinking straws were used by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia

Find the clue: The opening phrase calls something an invention that is not modern. The drinking straws are the inventions. Put "drinking straws" immediately after the comma, as B does.

- A.** Sumerians are people, not inventions.
- C.** The subject is "the use," not the straws that were invented.
- D.** Mesopotamia is a place, not an invention.

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QUESTION 189 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: the South Side Writers Group provided a valuable forum for Chicago writers to share ideas;

Find the clue: What was established in 1936? The South Side Writers Group. Put the group immediately after the opening phrase. The semicolon then separates the complete statement about its forum from the complete statement beginning "it would become."

- B.** The writers themselves were not established in 1936.
- C.** This also places the writers after the description of the group.
- D.** Chicago was not established by Richard Wright in 1936.

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QUESTION 190 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: the titles allow the listener to approach each piece free from expectations.

Find the clue: What is filled with emojis and unusual words? The titles. Those titles are also shaped by Sawano's feelings. B puts titles right after both descriptions, so the descriptions point to the correct subject.

- A.** The listener is not filled with emojis and words.
- C.** The passage describes the titles, not the musical pieces themselves.
- D.** A listener's approach is not filled with emojis and words.

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QUESTION 191 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: superlubricity is reached when two surfaces' COF drops below 0.01.

Find the clue: The opening phrase defines a nearly frictionless state. That state is superlubricity. Put superlubricity immediately after the comma. The two surfaces can reach that state, but they are not themselves the state.

- A.** This begins with a when-clause about the surfaces instead of naming the state.
- B.** Two surfaces are not a state.
- C.** Reaching a state is an action, not the state itself.

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QUESTION 192 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: Anna Behrensmeyer demonstrated in a 2005 analysis that fossils of thin-shelled organisms

Find the clue: A pioneer in a scientific field is a person. Here that person is Anna Behrensmeyer, so her name must come immediately after the opening description. B then explains what she demonstrated.

- A. Fossils are not the person who pioneered the field.
- C. The opening it does not name the pioneer.
- D. An analysis is a study, not the person who pioneered the field.

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QUESTION 193 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: commercial plastics have two associated problems:

Find the clue: Ask what is cheap, versatile, and easy to produce. The answer is commercial plastics. Put those plastics immediately after the opening description. D does this, then uses a colon to introduce the two problems.

- A. "There" does not name the things being described.
- B. The problems are not cheap and easy to produce; the plastics are.
- C. The main noun is "problems." Putting "commercial plastics" before it does not make plastics the subject.

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QUESTION 194 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: findings from a 2022 study suggested that vegetables and grains were the primary components of early medieval rulers' diets.

Find the clue: Ask what can be supported by scientific analyses. Here, the analyses support the findings: the conclusions reached in a study. D places "findings from a 2022 study" immediately after the opening description.

- A. The analyses support a conclusion, not the vegetables and grains themselves.
- B. The diets are the subject being studied, not the findings supported by the evidence.
- C. This makes the food components themselves seem to be supported by analyses.

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QUESTION 195 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: the researchers theorize that moths, mistaking nighttime lights for the Sun, continually try to reorient their bodies while flying near such lights.

Find the clue: Who knows the fact about how insects position their backs? The researchers. The opening "Knowing..." phrase must attach to those people. A puts "the researchers" first, then explains the theory they developed from that knowledge.

- B.** The subject is "theory." A theory is not the person who knows the fact.
- C.** This makes the moths the ones who know the scientific fact.
- D.** This also attaches the knowledge to the moths instead of the researchers.

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QUESTION 196 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Rabinal Achí tells the story of K'iche' Achí, a military leader who

Find the clue: What is based on historical events? The dance drama, Rabinal Achi. A begins with that title, so the opening description attaches to the right thing. The military leader is a character in the story, not the drama based on the events.

- B.** This puts the military leader after a description of the drama.
- C.** This also makes the leader, rather than the drama, the subject.
- D.** "There" does not name the drama that the opening phrase describes.

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QUESTION 197 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: electrograms show that while responding to hypothetical match scenarios, the most highly skilled soccer players have

Find the clue: The opening words define something: "Recordings of electrical activity in the brain." What are those recordings called? Electrograms. Put that noun immediately after the comma, as A does.

- B.** Soccer players are people, not recordings.
- C.** Responses to scenarios are not the recordings being defined.
- D.** This also puts responses, rather than electrograms, after the definition.

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QUESTION 198 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: many critics have focused on Kurosawa's use of Western literary sources but

Find the clue: Who is assessing, or judging, the films? Many critics. Put those people right after the opening phrase. A also connects their two actions correctly: they "have focused...but have missed..."

- B.** The subject is "Kurosawa's use," which cannot assess films.
- C.** "There" does not identify the people doing the assessing.
- D.** The subject is "the focus," not the critics doing the assessing.

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QUESTION 199 / ANSWER C

Correct choice: these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.

Find the clue: What is fortifying, or strengthening, the soil? The biocrusts. The opening phrase must be followed by "these crusts," as in C. The study reports the benefit, but the study itself does not strengthen the soil.

- A.** An estimate does not fortify the soil.
- B.** A reduction in dust is the result, not the thing doing the fortifying.
- D.** A study measures the effect; it does not itself fortify the soil.

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QUESTION 200 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: the topological tapestries of Argentine textile artist Alexandra Kehayoglou are

Find the clue: What was woven from yarn and tufted by hand? The tapestries, not the artist. A puts "the topological tapestries" directly after that description. A person makes the tapestries but is not herself woven.

- B.** This makes the artist seem to be woven from yarn.
- C.** This begins a when-clause and makes the artist, not the tapestries, its subject.
- D.** This again makes Alexandra, a person, seem to be woven and tufted.

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QUESTION 201 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: amorphous ice lacks the thermal energy to form the crystals found in ice Ih.

Find the clue: The opening phrase describes ice with a disorganized molecular structure. The passage identifies that as amorphous ice. Put that ice directly after the comma. Ice Ih has an organized hexagonal pattern, so it cannot fit.

- A.** Ice Ih has the organized structure, not the disorganized one.
- C.** The subject "lack of thermal energy" is not the ice whose molecular structure is being described.
- D.** This again attaches the disorganized structure to ice Ih.

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QUESTION 202 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: Chraïbi's debut novel, published two years before Morocco gained its independence,

Find the clue: The opening list describes a novel: a coming-of-age story, a meditation, and a look at colonialism. The subject after it must be the novel. B places "Chraïbi's debut novel" there, then adds its publication date as extra information.

- A.** Morocco is a country, not a story.
- C.** Chraïbi is the author, not the novel being described.
- D.** This adds another description but still makes the author the subject; the novel, not the author, was published.

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QUESTION 203 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: the bioswales have mitigated both street flooding and the resulting pollution of nearby waterways.

Find the clue: Ask what reduces the runoff. The bioswales do. Put them right after "By reducing..." B follows that pattern and explains the result of their action: less flooding and pollution.

- A.** The subject is "mitigation," the result, not the channels doing the work.
- C.** The main noun is "mitigation." Adding "bioswales" before it does not make bioswales the subject.
- D.** Flooding and pollution are the problems being reduced, not the things reducing runoff.

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QUESTION 204 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: Iceland's parliament is one of the oldest in the world, first meeting in 930 CE.

Find the clue: The opening phrase names a government body called the Althing. That body is Iceland's parliament, so it must follow the comma. B correctly joins the definition to the thing being defined.

- A.** This begins with a group of parliaments, not the single body named Althing.
- C.** A meeting is an event, not the government body.
- D.** A year is a time, not the government body.

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QUESTION 205 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: pine trees and the fungus Tricholoma matsutake can transport nutrients through their entangled tree roots and fungal hyphae.

Find the clue: Who or what forms the networks? The pine trees and the fungus, working together. Put those organisms immediately after the opening description. D does that, then explains how they transport nutrients.

- A.** The opening it does not name the organisms forming the networks.
- B.** Transport is the process made possible, not the organisms forming the networks.
- C.** Nutrients are what moves through the networks, not what forms them.

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QUESTION 206 / ANSWER A

Correct choice: Henry resumed his reign,

Find the clue: Who recovered from illness? Henry. Put Henry directly after "Upon recovering..." A then tells us that he resumed his reign. The reign itself did not recover from an illness.

- B.** The subject is reign, not the person who recovered.
- C.** Adding Henry's before reign still makes reign the subject.
- D.** The opening it does not name the recovering person where the description needs to attach.

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QUESTION 207 / ANSWER B

Correct choice: the HHI score of a less concentrated market will be much lower.

Find the clue: The word "that" in "Compared with that of..." stands for the HHI score. Compare a score with another score. B places "the HHI score" right after the opening comparison, so the two sides match.

- A.** This compares a market with a score.
- C.** Beginning with "when" does not supply the matching score immediately after the comparison.
- D.** This also compares a market with a score.

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QUESTION 208 / ANSWER D

Correct choice: silica glass's atomic arrangement is more dispersed, resulting in a significant disadvantage:

Find the clue: The word "that" stands for an atomic arrangement. Compare one arrangement with another arrangement. D puts "silica glass's atomic arrangement" after the opening phrase, so the comparison matches. The following colon then explains the disadvantage.

- A.** This compares the glass itself with an arrangement.
- B.** This also compares glass with an arrangement.
- C.** This compares a disadvantage with an arrangement.

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Your grammar checklist

Before you lock in an answer, ask the question that matches the choices.

Different singular and plural verbs?

Find the real subject. Remove the distracting details. Is the subject one or more than one?

Different verb times?

Circle the dates and words such as today, each year, since, by, and when. Put the events in order.

A complete verb versus -ing or to?

Find the main verb of the clause. Is it missing, or is it already there? Decide whether the blank needs a complete action, a description, or a purpose.

Different pronouns?

Name the exact person, thing, or idea being replaced. Match number, role, and meaning.

Different apostrophes?

Count the owners. Decide whether each noun is merely plural or is showing ownership. Expand it's and they're.

Different sentence openings?

Ask who or what the opening description fits. Put that subject next. If it is a comparison, compare matching things.

Say it simply: "I chose ___ because the clue is ___ and the rule is ___."

If you can explain your answer clearly, you are learning the skill.

Study one topic. Review the mistakes. Try the questions again.