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QUESTION NO: 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

He wasn't going to not say anything, until it became clear that this would be impossible.

- A. wasn't
- B. say anything
- C. it became
- D. impossible
- E. No error

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

This word creates an improper double negative in the sentence.

QUESTION NO: 2

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

Then he dropped them both, and the big one landed first – which he had thought it would do, and the little one landed second, which he had thought it would do.

- A. No error
- B. one landed first, which
- C. one landed first: that
- D. one landed first; which
- E. one landed first – that

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The punctuation should be the same for both of the parallel clauses.

QUESTION NO: 3

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

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

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

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

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

QUESTION NO: 4

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Although Neal loves almost everything about living in the forest, he does dislike raking the tree's leaves that blanket his lawn each fall.

- A. Although
- B. does
- C. tree's
- D. fall
- E. No error

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The correct answer is "tree's" because there are many trees that shed all those leaves each fall. To show that a singular noun owns something, the apostrophe goes in front of the "s." To show that a plural noun own something, the apostrophe

goes in after of the “s.” Changing “tree’s” to “trees” would correct the error in this sentence by reflecting that the leaves in Neal’s yard come from many trees, not just one.

QUESTION NO: 5

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option. “I’m not sure about that,” he said. “I can’t really remember.”

- A. No error
- B. about that,” he said! “I can’t
- C. about that.” He said. “I can’t
- D. about that,” he said, “I can’t
- E. about that” he said. “I can’t

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The original sentence is correct.

QUESTION NO: 6

Identify the error in the following sentence:

To who should I mail the payment for our new refrigerator and stove?

- A. who
- B. I
- C. and
- D. stove?
- E. No error

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

The correct answer is “who” because “who” is the object of this sentence. Remember that “who” is the correct pronoun choice for the subject of a sentence, while “whom” is always an object. While the object generally comes closer to the end of most sentences, questions are often structured with the object near the beginning. To correct this sentence, just substitute “whom” for “who.” Another hint that this sentence requires “whom” rather than “who” is that the word falls after the preposition “to.” Therefore, even if you didn’t recognize “who” as the object of the sentence, you could still see that it’s the object of a preposition and needs to be changed to “whom.”

QUESTION NO: 7

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Once you get the hang of it, surfing is one of the funnest activities around.

- A. Once you
- B. hang of it,
- C. funnest
- D. around.
- E. No error

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

The words most fun should be used instead of funnest.

QUESTION NO: 8

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

Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.

- A. Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.
- B. Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes.
- C. Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes.
- D. Jewelry is accessorized by members of all classes including watches, necklaces and earrings.
- E. Jewelry is an accessory used by members of all classes which includes watches, necklaces and wearing earrings.

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

The problem with this sentence is the misplacement of the clause that describes jewelry. By placing "...including watches, necklaces, and earrings." after "classes" the reader gets the impression that the classes involves different types of jewelry. By moving the clause, choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes" and choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes" improve the sentence. However, choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, are an accessory used by members of all classes" commits the error of using a plural form of "to be" (i.e. are) to refer to a collective noun like jewelry that demands a singular verb (i.e. is). Only choice "Jewelry, including watches, necklaces and earrings, is an accessory used by members of all classes" places the clause correctly after "jewelry" and ensures that the verb agrees with the subject.

QUESTION NO: 9

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Norah has several hobbies: collecting antique English china, visiting museums, and yoga.

- A. has
- B. hobbies:
- C. English china
- D. yoga
- E. No error

ANSWER: D

Explanation:

The correct answer is “yoga” because it is not parallel with the other hobbies in the series. While they are verbs followed by an object, “yoga” is a noun. To correct this sentence, “yoga” could be changed to “and practicing yoga” to give the final item in the series a verb with an object and give the sentence parallel structure.

QUESTION NO: 10

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

There are many reasons to see I Heart Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance being one reason.

- A. Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance being one reason.
- B. Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance is only one of them.
- C. Huckabees; Jason Schwartzman's performance, for one.
- D. Huckabees, the performance of Jason Schwartzman is one of them.
- E. Huckabees, including Jason Schwartzman's performance.

ANSWER: E

Explanation:

“Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance being one reason” has “being” and is redundant to boot. “Huckabees, Jason Schwartzman's performance is only one of them” and “Huckabees, the performance of Jason Schwartzman is one of them” are run-ons. “Huckabees; Jason Schwartzman's performance, for one” is semicolon misuse: the semicolon is not followed by an independent clause.