

PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION^{Q&As}

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Adam's scissors isn't sharp enough to cut the fabric correctly.

- A. Adam's
- B. isn't
- C. enough
- D. correctly
- E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The correct answer is "isn't" because the verb "isn't" doesn't agree with the subject "scissors." It's pretty obvious that "scissors isn't" doesn't sound correct when spoken aloud; you would naturally say "scissors aren't" if you were describing the condition of Adam's scissors. However, you've undoubtedly learned from other examples that you can't always trust what sounds right to your ear. This sentence is especially tricky because "scissors" is singular noun, so you might be tempted to think that "isn't" is the correct verb. However, there are a few words, like "scissors" and "pants," that act like plural nouns even when there is just one of them. Like all grammar rule exceptions, these singular nouns that behave like plural nouns have to be memorized.

QUESTION 2

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

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The original sentence is correct.

QUESTION 3

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Every farmer knows that baling wet grass is dangerous because heat can build in a tightly packed bale and starts a fire.

- A. Every
- B. baling
- C. tightly
- D. starts
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is "starts" because the tense of the verb "starts" doesn't agree with the rest of the sentence, even though it may seem to agree with "knows" at first glance. Note, however, that "know" has to agree with "farmer" while "starts" describes the action of "heat" and must agree with that noun instead. Changing "starts" to "start" will correct the problem.

QUESTION 4

Identify the error in the following sentence:

It is ineffective for high school administration to make policy without even asking for student input; banning flip flops and enforcing strict dress codes has merit but there must be a happy medium in school policy.

- A. ineffective
- B. administration
- C. student
- D. has
- E. No error

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

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

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

D. him

E. No error

Correct Answer: E

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

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