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QUESTION 1

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

McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department.

- A. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department
- B. McCarthyism was an ideology, an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century, targeted communists in the United States state department
- C. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted Communists in the United States state department
- D. McCarthyism will be an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States
- E. McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States State department

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The original choice is wrong strictly for the lack of capitalization of "State Department." Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology, an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century, targeted communists in the United States state department" complicates problems more than "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States state department" by deleting certain words that turn the sentence into a run-on sentence. Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted Communists in the United States state department" fails to capitalize "State Department" (it needs to be capitalized because it is a proper noun -- the United States State Department, not just "a state department"). Although choice "McCarthyism will be an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States" corrects the capitalization error, it changes "was" to "will be," which is an illogical verb tense (i.e. future) because later in the sentence it is stated that the ideology arose "in the middle of the twentieth century," which has already passed. Choice "McCarthyism was an ideology and an applied pursuit that arose in the middle of the twentieth century and targeted communists in the United States State department" corrects the capitalization error and leaves the sentence as it is. Sometimes just minor changes are needed.

QUESTION 2

Identify the error in the following sentence: "This book is amazing," she sighed contented.

- A. "This
- B. amazing,"
- C. she sighed
- D. contented.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer would be contentedly.

QUESTION 3

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 4

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Lester, a giant for his age; was respected by all the other children.

- A. Lester
- B. a giant for
- C. age; was
- D. other children.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: A comma should be used here rather than a semi-colon

QUESTION 5

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

High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.

- A. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- B. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- C. Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- D. Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- E. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider yourselves successful.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it uses the passive voice and a mistaken pronoun to refer to people (i.e. that). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" and choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" change the passive voice to the active voice by writing that the alumni commit the action, rather than writing that the action was committed by the alumni. Also, choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" mistakenly changes "alumni" (plural) to "alumnus" (singular). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" is the best choice because "alumni" is plural as it should be based on the logic of the sentence (not just one person looks forward to high school reunions) and the active voice is properly implemented.

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