

# PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION<sup>Q&As</sup>

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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## QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

"I don't want too and you can't make me," said he.

- A. "I don't
- B. too
- C. me,"
- D. said he.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The form should be to.

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## QUESTION 2

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

A growing technology trend is to merge multiple devices with complimentary functions such as a phone, music player and the scheduling features of a planner.

- A. the scheduling features of a planner.
- B. and a planner with scheduling features.
- C. and scheduling features.
- D. scheduling features.
- E. a planner.

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: It is informative to include the details about a planner's features, it should be accompanied by the features of a phone and a music player if that is the way the sentence is being written. Therefore, choices "the scheduling features of a planner", "and a planner with scheduling features", "and scheduling features" and "scheduling features" are incorrect. Choice "and a planner with scheduling features" and "and scheduling features" even add "and" again making the sentence read "...music player and and..." which is clearly wrong. Be careful; the test wants to catch you off guard. Only choice "a planner" is direct and maintains parallelism.

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## QUESTION 3

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

Without making a sound Geoffrey crept down the stairs.

- A. No error
- B. sound; Geoffrey crept
- C. sound, Geoffrey crept
- D. sound, crept Geoffrey
- E. sound Geoffrey, crept

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The dependent clause needs to be separated with a comma.

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#### QUESTION 4

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

If you do not believe my claim, you should have the decency to say so.

- A. No error
- B. you could have the decency to say so.
- C. you should have the decency, to say so.
- D. you would have the decency to say so.
- E. you decently could say so.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: This sentence is correct as written.

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#### QUESTION 5

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

Listen to you're parents; they know more than you might think.

- A. No error
- B. you're parents
- C. you're parents, "
- D. your parents, "
- E. your parents;

Correct Answer: E

Explanation: The contraction for you are is inappropriate. Also, the two clauses express slightly different ideas and should therefore be separated by a semi-colon.

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#### QUESTION 6

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

Lockers in schools are often dilapidated, making student's valuables susceptible to theft.

- A. making student's valuables susceptible to theft
- B. which makes student's valuables susceptible to theft
- C. that makes student's valuables susceptible to theft

Correct Answer: A

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#### QUESTION 7

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

Plenty of high school students spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

- A. spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- B. spend his time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- C. spend one's time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.
- D. spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and senior citizens.
- E. spend their time involving in the community by working with peers, young children and also helping senior citizens.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: By breaking the parallelism (continuity of a pattern, in this case), the underlined portion of this sentence must be changed. By simply changing "also helping senior citizens" to "senior citizens" the list is clearly discussing people in the community from various age groups. Each other choice besides "spend their time involved in the community by working with peers, young children and senior citizens" uses incorrect pronouns (i.e. his) and/or parallel structure (i.e. also helping senior citizens).

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#### QUESTION 8

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

Suddenly she, laughed as she remembered a story she had been told.

- A. No error
- B. laughed as she
- C. she laughed; as she
- D. she laughed as she
- E. she laughed as, she

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: No punctuation is necessary.

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### QUESTION 9

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The sale ends at 11:00, so you should get there quick if you want to take advantage of the discount prices.

- A. sale
- B. you
- C. there
- D. quick
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

The correct answer is "quick" because "quick" is an adjective and should not be used to describe a verb. In this sentence "quick" is the manner in which the person should get to the store. To correct the problem, simply substitute the adjective "quick" with the adverb "quickly."

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### QUESTION 10

Identify the error in the following sentence:

As Titus looked at the full shelves of his clock shop, he realized that it would take hours to find the clock who lost the tiny spring he found on the floor.

- A. looked at
- B. he
- C. it
- D. who

E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: The correct answer is "who" because "who" should only be used to describe people, not things. Since a clock is clearly a thing, this sentence would be correct if "who" were changed to "that." Note that "who" can sometimes be used to refer to personified things to emphasize their human qualities. For example, that cartoon features a clock named Frank who sings, dances, and talks to the people in the village. In this case, the writer uses "who" to convey the clock's similarity to a person. By comparison, the clock in Titus's clock shop is just a clock.

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### QUESTION 11

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The only person who can make that decision is the president of the United States.

- A. The only person
- B. who can
- C. that decision
- D. the president
- E. No error

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: When referring to a specific individual, this word needs to be capitalized.

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### QUESTION 12

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

Sports are a significant part of life for people all across the world, as was demonstrated in 2006 when billions of people came together to be involved with the World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.

- A. World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.
- B. World cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising.
- C. World Cup either through playing, watching or through advertising.
- D. World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising.
- E. World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising for it.

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: This sentence tests your knowledge of capitalization and awareness of parallelism. The original sentence is incorrect because choice "World Cup either through playing, watching or thru advertising" destroys the parallelism (i.e. thru advertising instead of simply "advertising") and uses the informal spelling of through (i.e. "thru"). Only choices

"World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising" and "World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising for it" correct the parallelism error; however, the list should strictly contain gerunds in order to be parallel, so "advertising for it" is not the best choice. By ending with "for it" the author is also implying that one may "play for it" and "watch for it," and although one may play for the World Cup through a grammar stretch, one cannot possibly "watch for it" and do the same thing as one who simply "watches it." Choice "World Cup either through playing, watching or advertising" uses the appropriate capitalization (because the World Cup is a major sports event it is a proper noun that must be capitalized) and maintains strict parallelism in the concluding list of ways to be involved.

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**QUESTION 13**

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

In the last fifty years, those who from the ground up built the business have been replaced by a new generation.

- A. No error
- B. those whose business was ground up
- C. those who built the business from the ground up
- D. in which the business was built from the ground up
- E. those who built the business ground

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Although the sentence as it is written is not technically incorrect, version "those who built the business from the ground up" is easier to read because it puts the verb clause who built the business in front of the relative clause from the ground up.

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**QUESTION 14**

Identify the error in the following sentence:

It is a great glory to always be sitting among friends and kinfolk.

- A. great glory
- B. to always be
- C. among friends
- D. kinfolk.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: This is a split infinitive; the correct form is to be always.

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## QUESTION 15

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

Study the ancient fighting art of Hapkido and you will learn to avoid directly matching your strength against your opponents.

- A. your strength against your opponents.
- B. yours against your opponent.
- C. your strength against your opponent.
- D. your strength with your opponent.
- E. your opponent's strength against one's own.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "yours against your opponent" doesn't say what's being matched with what. "your strength against your opponent", "your strength with your opponent", and "your opponent's strength against one's own" all have some sort of parallelism error.

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