

Writing Practice Questions

Each underlined section corresponds to an answer choice. The first underlined section corresponds to choice A, the second to choice B, and so forth. Select the answer choice that either contains an error, or select choice E, which is "No error."

1. Are you all ready for the English exam?" asked mom. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

2. According to the fire marshall's statistics, smoking cigarettes in bed are the cause of many tragic fires. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

3. Signs of decay that should be recognized by every citizen includes oil spills along the shoreline as well as the absence of wildlife. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

4. Either Philip or Joe will always finish their trigonometry homework in class. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

5. Who else beside Jim Smith won a scholarship? No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

6. I appreciate your helping me in the kitchen when my mom is at work. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

7. I am certain that the English scholarship winner will be hear. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

8. Talking with my grandfather about World War II effected me more than I thought it would have. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

9. The president is all together opposed to the bill. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

10. Tsetse flies, which carry the dreaded disease called sleeping sickness attacks both human and cattle. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

11. According to Aunt Grace, this kind of a sweater is the warmest for the winter months. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

12. Many reading lists for high-school students include translations from Scandinavian writers such as Lagerlog, Undset, and Ibsen. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

13. Will they ascent to our proposal? No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

14. Earlier synthetics, such as Bakelite, have went the way of the dinosaur. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

15. After the attack by the U-boat, the Lusitania sunk in 18 minutes; over 1000 people drowned. No error.

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D
- E. E

Answers and Explanations

1. **D:** When used as a name, as it is here, "Mom" should be capitalized. When used as a noun, e.g. "Our mom told us," it is lower-case. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation are correct in the other underlined parts.

2. **D:** The incorrectly plural verb "are" should be "is" to agree with the singular subject "smoking."

3. **B :** The singular verb "includes" should be plural here to agree with the plural subject "signs."

4. **C:** The possessive pronoun modifying "trigonometry homework" should be the singular "his" here to agree with the singular "Either Philip or Joe," not the plural "their."

5. **C:** The preposition here should be "besides," meaning except or in addition to, not "beside," meaning next to or alongside of.

6. **E:** This is correct as written. The speaker appreciates the helping, not you, so the object is "helping" and "your" modifies "helping." Using "you" here is a common error.

7. **D:** The correct spelling of the adverb indicating location is "here." "Hear" is the spelling of the verb meaning to perceive sound.

8. **B:** The correct spelling is "affected," meaning to influence or have an impact on. "Effected" means caused or accomplished, e.g. "Our conversation effected a change."

9. **C:** To modify/describe "opposed," the correct spelling is the adverb "altogether" (one word), meaning entirely/completely/wholly. The two words "all together" have a different meaning, e.g. "The committee members were all together yesterday."

10. **D:** The plural subject "flies" requires the plural verb "attack," not the singular "attacks."

11. **B:** "This kind of sweater" is correct; adding the article "a" is incorrect. When describing something as a "kind of/type of," this expression places the described thing into a category. The category itself does not refer to a specific individual of that type (in this example, sweater).

12. **E:** The sentence is correct as it is written.

13. **C:** The correct spelling of the verb meaning to agree is "assent." The spelling here, "ascent," is a noun meaning a climb or upward progress, literally or figuratively.

14. C: The correct plural present perfect tense of "to go" is "have gone," not "have went," which is never a correct construction in any context.

15. B: The past tense of the verb "to sink" is "sank," not "sunk," which is the present perfect or past perfect (e.g. is or are sunk, has or have sunk, was or were sunk).