

Improving Sentence

Here are some general hints for Improving Sentences.

1. Read the entire sentence carefully but quickly. Note the underlined portion because that is the portion that may have to be revised.
2. Remember that the portion with no underline stays the same.
3. Mark choice (A) if the underlined portion seems correct. Check the other choices quickly to make sure that (A) is really the best choice.
4. Think of how you would revise the underlined portion if it seems wrong. Look for your revision among the choices given.
5. Replace the underlined portion of the sentence with choices (B) through (E) if you don't find your revision. Concentrate on the choices that seem clear and exact when you read them.

Directions:

In each of the following sentences, some part or all of the sentence is underlined. Below each sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. Select the answer that produces the most effective sentence, one that is clear and exact, without awkwardness or ambiguity. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English. Choose the answer that best expresses the meaning of the original sentence. Answer (A) is always the same as the underlined part. Choose answer (A) if you think the original sentence needs no revision.

1. Hearing that the Statue of Liberty did not have a pedestal, a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money for the construction of one.

- (A) a campaign was begun by Joseph Pulitzer to raise money
- (B) a campaign to raise money was initiated by Joseph Pulitzer
- (C) money was raised in a campaign by Joseph Pulitzer
- (D) Joseph Pulitzer began a campaign to raise money
- (E) Joseph Pulitzer had campaigned to raise money

2. One of the most common types of mistakes that inexperienced physicians make is misreading symptoms, another that occurs about as frequently is recommending inappropriate treatment.

- (A) symptoms, another that occurs
- (B) symptoms; another one that occurs
- (C) symptoms, the other, and it occurs
- (D) symptoms; another one which is occurring
- (E) symptoms and also occurring

3. Gordon Parks is almost as skillful a writer as he is a director.

- (A) almost as skillful a writer as he is a director
- (B) almost equally skilled, whether a writer or a director
- (C) of the same skill as a writer and as a director, almost
- (D) a skillful director, with almost as much skill in writing
- (E) skilled as a director and almost so skilled in writing

4. Looking at the context of the editorial, the words "abrupt" and "blitz" are meant to place the redevelopment program in an unfavorable light.

- (A) Looking at the context of the editorial
- (B) In the context of the editorial
- (C) When the editorial's context is looked at

- (D) Considering its context
- (E) Examining the editorial's context

5. Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly, in other respects they are law-abiding citizens, however.

- (A) Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly, in other respects they are law-abiding citizens, however.
- (B) Many drivers who are otherwise law-abiding citizens violate traffic laws knowingly and openly.
- (C) Many drivers violate traffic laws knowingly and openly and are otherwise law-abiding citizens.
- (D) Although otherwise law-abiding citizens, many drivers, however, violate traffic laws knowingly and openly.
- (E) Many drivers which violate traffic laws knowingly and openly are in other respects law-abiding citizens.

6. Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip.

- (A) Underestimating its value, breakfast is a meal many people skip.
- (B) Breakfast is skipped by many people because of their underestimating its value.
- (C) Many people, underestimating the value of breakfast, and skipping it.
- (D) Many people skip breakfast because they underestimate its value.
- (E) A meal skipped by many people underestimating its value is breakfast.

7. Raised in a large and noisy family, it was only when I went away to college that I learned how refreshing solitude could be.

- (A) it was only when I went away to college that I learned how refreshing solitude could be
- (B) when I went away to college I learned how refreshing solitude could b
- (C) going away to college taught me how refreshing solitude could be
- (D) I did not learn how refreshing solitude could be until I went away to college
- (E) refreshing solitude was unknown to me until I went away to college

Answers:

1. D. Most direct answer
2. B
3. A
4. B
5. B
6. D
7. D