

## Language

For Numbers 1 through 8, decide which punctuation mark, if any, is needed in the sentence.

1. The car needs to be washed vacuumed, and polished.  
a. ,                    b. ;                    c. "                    d. None
2. I'm not going to spend \$100 on towels  
a. ?                    b. !                    c. .                    d. None
3. The band took a break and everyone stopped dancing.  
a. ,                    b. ;                    c. '                    d. None
4. "I'm in agreement with that statement, said Bill.  
a. !                    b. ,                    c. "                    d. None
5. We had to go home, but we promised to return later.  
a. ,                    b. ;                    c. !                    d. None
6. The teacher asked, Billy, will you empty the pencil sharpener?"  
a. ,                    b. "                    c. :                    d. None
7. "Who in the world," the sleepy man asked, "would phone at this hour"  
a. ,                    b. "                    c. ?                    d. None
8. How was the test Mary?  
a. ,                    b. "                    c. ;                    d. None

For Numbers 9 through 15, choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

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|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9. There _____ a good sale at the department store tomorrow.<br/>a. are<br/>b. is<br/>c. will be<br/>d. has been</li> <li>10. With hard work, someone with his talent _____ bound to succeed.<br/>a. is<br/>b. are<br/>c. were<br/>d. can</li> <li>11. Last night, Anna's husband _____ not want to go to the movie either.<br/>a. does</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. do<br/>c. did<br/>d. don't</li> <li>12. Sam swam _____ than Mike when they tried out for the swim team at school.<br/>a. fast<br/>b. faster<br/>c. fastest<br/>d. more fast</li> <li>13. After Sally got her term paper typed, she was very proud of _____.<br/>a. itself<br/>b. himself<br/>c. her<br/>d. herself</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

14. The \_\_\_\_\_ test papers were lost when the teacher's classroom was broken into.
- students
  - student's
  - students'
  - students's
15. When Cathy went into labor, Mike drove \_\_\_\_\_ to the hospital.
- quick
  - quickly
  - more quick
  - quickest
- For Numbers 16 – 25, choose the sentence that is written correctly and shows the correct capitalization and punctuation. Be sure the sentence you choose is complete.
16. a. I was rised on a farm in Oklahoma.  
 b. Please rise you voice, I can't hear you.  
 c. Matt raised his arm to get the teacher's attention.  
 d. Will you please raise for the National Anthem.
17. a. When the ball team wins the championship.  
 b. After the school dance is over.  
 c. Even when the car ran out of gas.  
 d. It was over in just a few minutes.
18. a. He gave the book to the girl that was red.  
 b. She planted a tree in the yard that was a cherry.  
 c. They took the old train to Silver Dollar City.  
 d. The child picked a flower and gave it to his mother that was wilted.
19. a. At the game yesterday, one of the referees has to be replaced when he was run over by a the linebacker.  
 b. He had sing the solo for a large audience.  
 c. The child will be rode the bus when he starts school in the fall.  
 d. They were planting seeds for the fall harvest.
20. a. Dr Smith runs a successful clinic.  
 b. Mr, and Mrs. Jones have season tickets to the concerts.  
 c. "Will you please stop annoying the dog, the mother pleaded.  
 d. He will finish the job, however; it may not by until tomorrow.
21. a. Howard lives on the corner of Willow Way and Oak Drive.  
 b. Micheal j. Fox is not related to Redd Foxx.  
 c. German and french are two languages taught in my school.  
 d. My doctor, dr. Kildare, graduated in 1984 at the top of his class.
22. a. Mikes dog is an Irish Setter named Spike.  
 b. I don't understand the math problem.  
 c. Why wasnt the boss notified of the problem right away.  
 d. The babys rattle fell behind the couch and she cried until she got it back.
23. a. "Oh," exclaimed the real estate agent, "of course you can see the house again!  
 b. He held on so tight to the rope that his knuckles turned white.  
 c. Cows cant really jump over the moon.

- d. All the girls is wearing formal to the prom.
24. a. Count Leo Tolstoy wrote War and peace.  
 b. The flickering candle cast their faint glow on the table.  
 c. The barber, asked, "A little off the top?"  
 d. Smoking can lead to health problems, yet people still do it.
25. a. Too many mistake in the report.  
 b. I can here the birds singing in the trees outside my window.  
 c. "How many times will it take him to get it right?" she asked of the repairman.  
 d. The dog barked at the cat and then ran around the tree until it was dark and then he slept under it all night.

For Numbers 26 through 30, read the bold sentences. Then choose the sentence that best combines those sentences into one.

~~25~~ **26** The Pushcart Supermarket does not sell my favorite brand of potato chip. The grocery store down the street does.

- a. The Pushcart Supermarket does not sell my favorite brand of potato chip, but the grocery store down the street does.  
 b. The Pushcart Supermarket does not sell my favorite brand of potato chip; likewise, the grocery store down the street does.  
 c. My favorite brand of potato chip is not sold by the Pushcart Supermarket, but the grocery store down the street does sell my favorite brand of potato chip.  
 d. The grocery store down the street does, so the Pushcart Supermarket does not sell my favorite brand of potato chip.

~~26~~ **27** The cowboy rode in the barrel race. His horse was brown with white stockings. They fell rounding the third barrel and still finished the race.

- a. Falling rounding the third barrel, the cowboy in the barrel race riding the brown horse with white stockings, still finished the race.  
 b. The brown horse fell rounding the barrel and the cowboy still finished the race.  
 c. The cowboy rode his brown horse with the white stockings in the barrel race; they fell rounding the third barrel and still finished the race.  
 d. The cowboy and his horse in the barrel racing fell; he was brown with white stockings, and they still managed to finish the race.

28. The car needs a new muffler. The car is noisy.

- a. The car is noisy needing a new muffler.  
 b. The noisy car needs a new muffler.  
 c. The car that is noisy needs a new muffler.  
 d. The car is noisy and needs a new muffler.

29. The fireman drove the hook and ladder truck through the street.

**The fireman sounded the siren.**

**The fireman was careful.**

- a. The careful fireman drove and sounded the siren of the hook and ladder truck through the streets.
- b. The fireman carefully drove the hook and ladder truck through the streets and sounded the siren.
- c. Sounding the siren carefully the fireman drove the hook and ladder truck through the street.
- d. Through the streets the fireman drove the hook and ladder truck and he sounded the siren too.

30.

**It was raining.**

**The children were bored.**

**Their mother helped them bake cookies.**

- a. It was raining; the children were bored, so their mother helped them bake cookies.
- b. Being bored while it was raining, the mother helped bake cookies.
- c. The bored children baked cookies during the rain with the mother's help.
- d. The helping mother baked cookies during the rain with the bored children.

For Numbers 31 through 35, read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that best fills the blank in the paragraph.

31. It was a frightening storm. The rain beat down on the tin roof. \_\_\_\_\_ . The noise scared the children and they ran to their parents. The dog hid under the bed. The wind howled and the electricity went out. But they were all smiling twenty minutes later when the storm passed and electricity came back on.
- a. There were puddles in the street.
  - b. It sounded like a machine gun.
  - c. The birds were singing sweetly in the trees outside.
  - d. The weatherman had predicted rain.
32. Mr. and Mrs. Sanchez grow things in their garden all year long. In spring they grow flowers. In the summer they grow vegetables. In the fall they grow pumpkins for their grandchildren. \_\_\_\_\_ . "We grow snails all year long, too," says Mr. Sanchez. But Mrs. Sanchez says that doesn't count.
- a. In the winter we like to build snowmen.
  - b. Sam lives next door to the Sanchezs and he has a garden also.
  - c. They grow onions in the winter.
  - d. The children carve the pumpkins into jack-o-lanterns.
33. In 1930, Henry Okazaki started a new kind of ju-jitsu. Okazaki was a Japanese-American who lived in Hawaii. He was trained in Japanese ju-jitsu, but at that time Japanese jitsu was only for Japanese men.

- \_\_\_\_\_ . So he opened his own school in Hawaii. In his school he taught ju-jitsu to American men, women, and children. Now many Americans study this marital art.
- Okazaki thought ju-jitsu should be for everyone.
  - Okazaki was a very good surfer.
  - Okazaki was a cousin of Don Ho who was also very good at ju-jitsu.
  - Japanese women were taught other forms of self-defense.
34. Every Saturday Mike bakes bread for his family. He works in the kitchen with the radio on. He mixes the bread dough and lets it rise. Then he bakes it. Each week he makes a different kind of bread. Mike likes to bake.
- \_\_\_\_\_ .
- He broke his ankle playing tennis so now he had time to bake.
  - His father used to make homemade pasta on Saturdays when he was a boy.
  - His children like to help him knead the dough if there are no cartoons on.
  - Besides, his family likes his bread better than any bread from the store.
35. \_\_\_\_\_ . They don't treat the fish as pets, however. They put the fish to work. They keep the fish in the cattle's water tank. The goldfish eat bugs and scum. Just two or three of them in a tank can keep the water clear.
- Some catfish are raised on fish farms.
  - Many people have a tank of tropical fish.
  - Some farmers keep goldfish.
  - Mrs. Paul started her company with just a few employees.

For Numbers 36 – 37, choose the answer that best develops the topic sentence.

36. Gertrude Ederle was the first woman to swim the English Channel.
- She was only 19 years old. On August 6, 1926, she set a new world's record. Five men had swum the channel before, but she did it 14 hours and 31 minutes. She beat the best men's time by more than two hours.
  - She grew up on a farm outside of Dover, England. She would run to the sea everyday after school to watch the sea birds. Her father taught her to swim when she was ten.
  - The English Channel is found between England and Europe. It is approximately 20 miles across the Channel to Frances. St. George's Channel runs between England and Ireland and the North Channel runs between England and Northern Ireland.
  - Many swimmers have attempt the channel crossing since Miss Ederle. Several have even tried to swim from Cuba to Florida, which is further. To successfully swim greater distances in the ocean, the swimmer is not allowed to be touched or assisted by anyone during the attempt.

37. My neighbor is a used car salesman.
- He is 38, is married and has three kids. He is an big football fan. His favorite team was the Cleveland Browns. He was very upset when the Browns moved from Cleveland. He decided not to get emotionally attached to another team, but you should see him when the Green Bay Packers play.
  - He has a business on the corner of Walnut Lane and Emerson Drive. He sells primarily vintage used cars. Last year he was voted Businessman of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce.
  - He doesn't like to do yard work. His wife usually mows the lawn and his kids rake the leaves. But he does take good care of his family car. Most weekends you can find him tinkering under the hood in his driveway.
  - When he was in college he majored in business. He had a summer job working for an uncle on a used car lot. When his uncle died he was left the business.

For Numbers 38 and 39 read the paragraph. Then choose the sentence that does not belong in the paragraph.

38. 1. Some farmers buy broken cookies from bakeries and feed the cookies to their cattle. 2. They mix the cookies with the hay. 3. Dairy cattle give more milk than beef cattle. 4. The cows seem to think the cookies are a treat.
- sentence 1
  - sentence 2
  - sentence 3
  - sentence 4
39. 1. When Amy buys clothes, she shops around. 2. She looks for sales and tries to find the best prices. 3. Amy makes her money go farther that way. 4. Amy has seventeen sweaters.
- sentence 1
  - sentence 2
  - sentence 3
  - sentence 4

For Numbers 40 – 48, read the passage or letter and look at the numbered, underlined parts. Choose the answer that is written correctly for each underlined part.

- (40) On May 18 1980, one of the worst volcanic eruptions in the history of
- (41) the United States took place. Mount st. Helens erupted. The whole top
- (42) of the mountain blew off thousands of trees were blown down. Elk
- (43) bear deer beaver and many other animals were killed. Geologists had
- (44) been monitoring the mountain and had warned people of the danger.

40. a. May 18, 1980;  
b. May 18, 1980,  
c. May 18 1980  
d. Correct as it is
41. a. Mount St. Helens  
b. mount st. helens  
c. Mount st. helens  
d. Correct as it is
42. a. blew off. Thousands  
b. blew off, thousands  
c. blew off Thousands
43. a. Elk bear deer beaver, and  
b. Elk, bear, deer, beaver and  
c. Elk, bear, deer, beaver, and  
e. Correct as it is
44. a. mountain, and had  
b. mountain. And had  
c. mountain; and had  
d. Correct as it is

45-48 Find the errors, if any, in the following letter:

June 15, 1954

Harry Hot Rod Emporium (45)  
Route 66  
Los Angeles, California 59492

Dear Harry,

I was in you're store last week and bought a set of chrome (46)

plated dual exhaust pipes for a 1947 refitted Chevy I paid \$24.73 plus (47)

tax. It was a great deal. I just wanted to thank you for all your

personal service. I look forward to visiting your establishment again.

Truly yours (48)

Eddie the Wheel

45. a. place a comma after California.  
b. change the spelling of Los Angeles to Los Angles  
c. change Harry to Harry's  
d. correct as written
46. a. change chrome to crome  
b. change you're to your  
c. place a comma after week  
d. correct as written

47. a. put a comma after 1947  
 b. put a period after Chevy  
 c. change chrome plated dual exhaust pipes to dual chrome plated exhaust pipes  
 d. correct as written
48. a. change Truly to truly  
 b. Change Truly yours to Truly Yours  
 c. put a comma after yours  
 d. correct as written

### LANGUAGE ANSWERS

1. a (,) Comas are used to separate items in a list; washed, vacuumed, and polished.
2. b (!) An exclamation mark is used to express strong feelings, such as surprise, shock, or enthusiasm.
3. a (,) A comma is used to separate 2 parts of a sentence when each part is a complete idea. Hint: Look for connectives: and, but , so, yet, or, nor, for (meaning because).
4. c (") Quotations set off someone's exact words, and are always used in pairs.
5. d (none) See explanation for #3 above.
6. b (") See explanation for #4 above.
7. c (?) A Question mark is used at the end of a direct question....  
 "would you phone at this hour?"
8. a(.) Nouns or names used as terms of direct address, interjections, and the words yes and no should be set off by comas. EX: How was the test, Mary. Oh yes, that is on sale.
9. c – will be – A future tense verb is needed. Clue: tomorrow.
10. a – is – A singular verb is needed. Clue: someone and his, the sentence is about one person.
11. c – did – A past tense of the verb do is needed. Clue: last night.
12. b – faster – When comparing two things words ending with er are usually used, when comparing three or more, words ending with est are used.
13. d – herself – Sally's action (of being proud) is reflected back onto Sally.
14. c – students' – Apostrophe + s shows possession. If the noun is singular, add an apostrophe then s. If the noun is plural and already has an s on the end, add an apostrophe only. Ex. Singular cat, cat's toy; Plural cats, cats' toys.
15. b – quickly – An adverb is a word that describes an action verb, adjective or another adverb. Adverbs answer when, where, how, or to what extent. They usually end in ly.
16. c – Raise – Rise and Raise are confusing words. Rise is what one does to themselves. I will rise to the occasion (intransitive). Raise is what you do to someone or something else. I will raise the window (transitive).
17. d – All other choices are sentence fragments, not complete thoughts.
18. c – In all other choices it is unclear which nouns are being modified. EX: A. Is the book or the girl red?
19. d – All other choices have the wrong verb tense.
20. d – All other choices have incorrect punctuation.



- 21. a – All other choices have capitalization errors.
- 22. b – All other choices have had the apostrophe left out.
- 23. b – A & C have punctuation errors. D has a plural noun and a singular verb.
- 24. d – A has a capitalization error. B has a singular noun and a plural pronoun antecedent. C has a comma used incorrectly.
- 25. c – A is a sentence fragment. In B the word here is used incorrectly, it should be hear. And D is a run-on sentence.

For Numbers 26 through 30 you are asked to select the best.

More than one choice may combine the sentences.

Hint: 1) look for all the facts,  
2) the meaning should be clear,  
3) the sentence shouldn't be repetitive.

- 26. a
- 27. b
- 28. a

For Numbers 31 through 35 the best choice is asked for. More than one choice may seem to make some sense. But the choice should fit the meaning and mood of the entire paragraph.

- 29. b
- 30. c
- 31. a
- 32. d
- 33. c
  
- 36. a, This paragraph best describes the woman and her accomplishment.
- 37. b, This paragraph best describes an honest used car salesman.
- 38. c, This sentence has nothing to do with feeding cows cookies.
- 39. d, This sentence has nothing to do with Amy's shopping habits.
- 40. b, Dates are correctly written in text as month day coma year coma and then the rest of the text. A period would follow the year if the date comes at the end of a sentence.
  
- 41. a, The proper name of a person or place should always be capitalized.
- 42. a, These are two complete, different thoughts and should be separated by a period.
- 43. c, A comma follows all but the last in a list of items.
- 44. d, This sentence is correct as it is.
- 45. c, Apostrophe s shows possession. The Hot Rod Emporium is owned by Harry.
- 46. b, Your, the possessive pronoun, should be used here.
- 47. b, These are two complete, different thoughts and should be separated by a period.
- 48. c, In the closing of a letter the first word is capitalized and the last word is followed by a comma.