

Markhor Junior Contest 2016

ASPIRANT LEVEL (Class IX, X & O/A Level's) ENGLISH LANGUAGE

There are 25 questions, each question carries 2 marks.

Time allowed: 60 minutes Maximum Marks: 50

- 1. Identify the part of speech of the underlined word:**
The professor gave a particularly intriguing lecture today.
 - a) Verb
 - b) Adverb
 - c) Adjective**
 - d) Noun
- 2. Identify the subject in the sentence below:**
Beneath the old oak tree in the park stood a mysterious stranger.
 - a) Beneath the old oak tree
 - b) A mysterious stranger**
 - c) In the park
 - d) Stood
- 3. Identify the type of sentence: "Did you complete the assignment before the deadline?"**
 - a) Declarative
 - b) Interrogative**
 - c) Imperative
 - d) Exclamatory

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4. Which of the following sentences contains a collective noun used incorrectly?
- a) The committee has reached a unanimous decision.
 - b) The crowd were dispersing as the event ended.**
 - c) A flock of birds is flying over the field.
 - d) The team is preparing for its next match.
5. Which sentence contains a linking verb?
- a) The chef prepared a delicious meal.
 - b) The flowers smelled wonderful in the evening air.**
 - c) The dog barked loudly at the stranger.
 - d) She is studying for her exams.
6. Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of the present perfect continuous tense?
- a) She had been writing her thesis all day yesterday.
 - b) They have been studying for their exams since last week.**
 - c) He will have been working on this project by next Monday.
 - d) She writes in her journal every evening.
7. Identify the tense used in the sentence below:
The package will have been delivered by the time we get home.
- a) Future perfect**
 - b) Future continuous
 - c) Future perfect continuous
 - d) Present perfect

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8. Which of the following sentences correctly uses "may" in its past perfect form?
- a) She may have gone to the party last night.
 - b) She may had gone to the party last night.
 - c) She may be going to the party last night.
 - d) She may to go to the party last night.
9. Which of the following sentences is correctly written in the passive voice?
- a) The manager will sign the report tomorrow.
 - b) **The report will be signed by the manager tomorrow.**
 - c) The manager is signed the report tomorrow.
 - d) The manager signs the report tomorrow.
10. Which of the following sentences contains correct subject-verb agreement?
- a) Neither of the boys have completed their homework.
 - b) **Either the teacher or the students is responsible for the project.**
 - c) The committee have made their decision.
 - d) The data suggests that the results are valid.
11. Which of the following sentences uses an adjective incorrectly?
- a) **The quickly running water was a sign of the approaching storm.**
 - b) She gave me a beautiful bouquet of flowers.
 - c) The tired dog slept in the sun all afternoon.
 - d) The tall building casts a long shadow.

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12. Identify the type of phrase in the following sentence:

"The book on the table belongs to Sarah."

- a) Adjective Phrase
- b) Adverbial Phrase
- c) Prepositional Phrase**
- d) Noun Phrase

13. Choose the correct preposition to complete the sentence: "He is not interested _____ participating in the debate."

- a) in**
- b) on
- c) at
- d) for

14. Choose the word that is closest in meaning to "aberration":

- a) Conformity
- b) Deviation**
- c) Stability
- d) Normality

15. What does the idiom "a blessing in disguise" mean?

- a) Something that appears harmful but turns out to be beneficial**
- b) A fortunate event that is immediately obvious
- c) An unimportant matter
- d) A disastrous situation

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- 16. Identify the correct word formed by adding the prefix "mis-" to the root word: "He accidentally _____ the instructions, leading to errors."**
- a) miswrote
 - b) misheard
 - c) misread**
 - d) mislooked
- 17. Identify the correct indirect speech conversion of the sentence: Direct: He said, "I am working on a new project."**
- a) He said he was working on a new project.**
 - b) He said that I am working on a new project.
 - c) He said he is working on a new project.
 - d) He said that he will be working on a new project.
- 18. Identify the type of conditional sentence: "If it rains, the match will be canceled."**
- a) Zero Conditional
 - b) First Conditional**
 - c) Second Conditional
 - d) Third Conditional
- 19. Which of the following is the primary purpose of skimming in reading?**
- a) To analyze a text in detail
 - b) To locate specific information
 - c) To gain a general idea of the content**
 - d) To memorize the key points

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20. Which of the following is the primary step in critically analyzing a passage?

- a) Skimming through the content
- b) Summarizing the main idea
- c) Identifying the author's purpose and tone**
- d) Reading every sentence in detail

21. Which of the following best defines context clues?

- a) Clues in a text that help identify the main idea
- b) Words or phrases in a sentence that help infer the meaning of an unfamiliar word**
- c) Definitions provided at the end of a passage
- d) Hints in a dictionary about a word's pronunciation

Read the passage and answer the given MCQs (22, 23, 24, 25) below.

English grammar is a complex system of rules that governs the structure of sentences, ensuring clarity and precision in communication. One of the most common challenges learners face is mastering subject-verb agreement, which requires the verb to align correctly with the subject in number and person. Errors often arise in cases where the subject is separated from the verb by phrases or clauses, leading to confusion. Additionally, pronoun-antecedent agreement remains a persistent issue, especially in cases where singular pronouns are mistakenly used to refer to plural antecedents or vice versa. Misplaced and dangling modifiers further complicate sentence clarity by incorrectly

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linking descriptive elements to unintended parts of a sentence, resulting in ambiguous or illogical meanings. Moreover, parallel structure is essential in maintaining consistency within lists, comparisons, or compound elements, as a lack of uniformity can weaken the impact of a statement. Another frequent mistake involves incorrect tense usage, particularly in conditional and complex sentences, where shifting between past, present, and future forms without logical consistency disrupts coherence. Lastly, the improper use of prepositions, redundancy, and faulty comparisons contributes to grammatical inaccuracy, making sentences awkward and unclear. Mastering these elements requires meticulous attention to detail, practice, and a thorough understanding of the rules governing English syntax and structure.

22. Which of the following best describes the main idea of the passage?

- a) The importance of writing long, complex sentences
- b) Common errors in English grammar and their impact on clarity**
- c) The evolution of the English language over time
- d) The role of vocabulary in sentence construction

23. Which grammatical error is described as creating confusion by separating the subject and verb?

- a) Misplaced modifiers
- b) Pronoun-antecedent disagreement**

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c) Subject-verb disagreement

d) Faulty comparisons

24. What is the consequence of lacking parallel structure in a sentence?

a) It makes the sentence grammatically incorrect.

b) It disrupts coherence and weakens the impact of the statement.

c) It results in subject-verb disagreement.

d) It causes incorrect tense usage.

25. According to the passage, why is incorrect tense usage problematic?

a) It leads to ambiguity in sentence structure.

b) It forces the reader to focus more on vocabulary.

c) It reduces the number of adjectives in a sentence.

d) It makes the sentence longer than necessary.