

Exercise VI

English Practice

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. Many individual's believe that if they are polite to their neighbors, they can be impolite to their families. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) No error
2. The commonly known expression that "a dog is a man's best friend" is frequently incorrect; all a person has to do is read the newspaper. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) No error
3. The home run Hal hit flew out of the stadium sailed into the parking lot, and smashed the window of a brand-new car. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) No error
4. Until one of the members of the rival gangs propose a truce, there will be no safety for honest citizens of this city. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) No error
5. No matter how hard Theresa tries, she cannot win the approval of her field hockey coach. (A) (B) (C) (D) (E) No error

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. Scientists think of the underwater world beneath the sea as a vast laboratory, in which strange creatures do odd, unexplained things.
A. Scientists think the underwater world beneath the sea is a vast laboratory
B. Scientists think that the underwater world beneath the sea is a vast laboratory
C. Scientists think of the underwater world as a vast laboratory
D. A vast laboratory is how scientists view the underwater world beneath the sea
E. Beneath the sea lies a vast laboratory

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1. A – There is no need for *individuals* to be possessive in this sentence.
2. B – Since “a dog is a man’s best friend” is a direct quotation, preceding it with *that* is inappropriate.
3. C – There are three elements in this series: *flew*, *sailed*, and *smashed*. Two commas are necessary, one of which must follow *stadium*.
4. A – The verb *propose* must agree with subject *one*. The correct verb is *proposes*.
5. E – No error
6. C – Used with the phrase “beneath the sea,” the adjective *underwater* is redundant. (A) and (B) do not fix the main issue. (D) retains the redundancy, despite rearranging the sentence. (E) omits the subject of the original sentence.

7. E – (E) eliminates the wordiness and the misplacement of *only* in the original. The phrase “in history” (B) changes the meaning of the sentence. (A), (C), and (D) change the meaning of the sentence.
8. D – Only (D) corrects the redundant wordy phrase, “because of the fact that.”
9. A – The semicolon is misused in the original sentence. (B) introduces a comma splice, and (C) makes the sentence a run on. (D) unnecessarily changes *Physics*, and (E) is unnecessarily wordy.
10. B – Adding a comma changes an apparent fragment into a legitimate sentence. (A) and (C) change the meaning of the sentence, and the other choices do not solve this error.
7. Ben Franklin was a statesman, politician, printer, author, philosopher, inventor, and Ambassador to France, yet most people studying history in school only think of him as a man standing in a lightning storm with a kite and a key.
- A. yet most people who only study history in school think of him as a man standing in a lightning storm with a kite and a key.
- B. yet most people in history think of him as a man standing in a lightning storm with a kite and a key.
- C. yet most people with only a tiny knowledge of high school history think of him as a man standing in a lightning storm with a kite and a key.
- D. yet most people in school only think of him as a man standing in a lightning storm with a kite and a key.
- E. yet most students think of him only as a man standing in a storm with a kite and a key.**
8. “The reason I choose not to,” said the potential customer to the car salesman, “is because of the fact that you have not given me enough for my trade-in.”
- A. “Is due to the fact that you have not given me enough for my trade-in.”
- B. “is because of you having not given me enough for my trade-in.”
- C. “is because you have not given me enough for my trade-in.”
- D. “is that you have not given me enough for my trade-in.”**
- E. “is because of the fact that you aren't giving me enough for my trade-in.”
9. There is only one prerequisite for the job; You must have a college degree in Physics.
- A. job: you must have a college degree in physics.**
- B. job, you must have a college degree in physics.
- C. job you must have a college degree in Physics.
- D. job; You must have a college degree in physics.
- E. job, and it is that a college degree in physics is necessary.
10. Ever since he has devoted himself entirely to helping the homeless.
- A. Ever since he has devoted himself entirely to helping the homeless, he has been happy.
- B. Ever since, he has devoted himself entirely to helping the homeless.**
- C. He has devoted himself entirely to helping the homeless.
- D. Ever since he has entirely devoted himself to helping the homeless.
- E. Ever since he has devoted himself, entirely, to helping the homeless.

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Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then choose the best revision for the underlined portions of the paragraph. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection. Some revisions are not of actual mistakes, but will improve the clarity of the writing.

[1]

(1) The world as we know it would not exist today if it were not for gigantic aircraft capable of carrying hundreds of tons of people,¹ supplies, and equipment. (2) The credit for inspiring such aircraft must go to a versatile Texan by the name of Howard Hughes—the inventor of the first massive “flying boat” that most now remember as the “Spruce Goose.”

1. **A. NO CHANGE**
B. hundred's of tons of people
C. hundreds of ton's of people
D. hundreds' of tons of people

[2]

(3) Howard Hughes was what most would describe as a Renaissance man. (4) He was an actor, a director, a theater owner, a pilot, and a **perspicacious** engineer. (5) Though he never finished high school, Hughes attended classes at California Institute of Technology, thanks to a considerable donation by his father. (6) Hughes's father was wealthy. (7) Hughes's father died when Hughes was only eighteen years old. (8) A judge awarded Hughes legal adulthood just after his nineteenth birthday, that allowed² the young man to take control of his father's estate from his uncle. (9) Part of the estate included Hughes Tool Company, and Hughes, taking advantage of the booming aircraft technology industry of the early twentieth century, formed the Hughes Aircraft Company division in 1932. (10) With his company and the designing help of famous shipbuilder Henry Kaiser, they³ agreed to a contract with the government to build three “flying boats.” (11) Hughes never finished building three, but he did successfully complete one.

2. **F. NO CHANGE**
G. birthday, which allowed
H. birthday that allowed
J. birthday which allowed
3. **A. NO CHANGE**
B. Kaiser and Hughes
C. Hughes
D. the pair
4. Which sentence can be deleted from paragraph 2 without changing the intent of the paragraph?
F. sentence 3
G. sentence 4
H. sentence 6
J. sentence 7

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1. **A – NO CHANGE**
2. **G – The use of which is correct for introducing the nonrestrictive clause.**
3. **C – The information in the paragraph refers primarily to Hughes's actions, including the sentences following sentence 10. Including Kaiser as part of the subject of the sentence creates an illogical jump, since the beginning of the sentence says that Kaiser's assistance was in the form of design.**
4. **H – (F) is the topic sentence. (G) supports the topic. (J) is tied in content to sentence 8.**

[3]

(12) To meet government specifications, Hughes's flying boat had to be capable of transporting cargo and men over long distances. (13) Enemies' were⁵ destroying shipping lanes during World War II, and the military needed the flying boat to carry soldiers and supplies high above enemy ships and submarines. (14) The contract awarded Hughes \$18 million dollars⁶ to build the three aircraft, and Hughes added another seven million of his own fortune to fund the project. (15) With adequate funding and sheer determination, Hughes then proves to the world that human ingenuity could make a 200-ton pile of wood airborne.

5. **D** – The plural *enemies* requires no apostrophe.
6. **G** – Because the dollar sign is used in the original context, the word *dollars* is redundant. *Eighteen* should be spelled out to maintain consistency in the sentence because *seven million* is written out later in the sentence.
7. **D** – The passage is in past tense; for consistency, *proves* must be changed to *proved*.
8. **H** – The comma must be placed before the coordinating conjunction *and*; there is no need for a comma after *primary*.
9. **C** – (C) best maintains parallel construction within the series of items, all of which begin with an article.

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. Enemy's were
C. Enemies was
D. Enemies were
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. eighteen million dollars
H. 18 million dollars
J. eighteen million dollars'
7. Which of the following corrects an error in sentence 15?
A. Delete the hyphen between *200* and *ton*.
B. Rewrite the sentence to omit the comma splice.
C. *Ingenuity* is plural and requires a plural verb.
D. Change *proves* to *proved*.

[4]

(16) The public nicknamed the flying boat the "Spruce Goose" to mock Hughes for his apparent failure. (17) The flying boat was constructed of mostly birch wood (not spruce) and fabric. (18) It had a single hull, eight of the most powerful engines of the time, and a single vertical tail. (19) Hughes covered the primary control surfaces in fabric and,⁸ the rest of the plane was laminated birch. (20) The plane was a behemoth—the largest aircraft built in the era—a 320-foot wingspan, 219 feet in length,⁹ and a wing area of 11,430 square feet. (21) Most impressively, the flying boat could take off with a weight of 400,000 pounds, or 200 tons.

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. the primary, control surfaces in fabric, and,
H. the primary control surfaces in fabric, and
J. the primary, control surfaces in fabric and
9. A. NO CHANGE
B. 219 feet long,
C. a length of 219 feet,
D. the length was 219 feet,

[5]

(22) Though the giant plane flew, it flew only once. (23) On November 2, 1947, well after the end of the war and in the midst of **peremptory** Congressional hearings to determine why the planes were not yet completed, Hughes returned to California to run supposed engine tests on his plane. (24) In the waters off Long Beach, Hughes took the controls, shoved the throttles to the stops, and, to the amazement of onlookers, the Spruce Goose took flight. (25) Hughes lifted the plane 70 feet from the ocean and it lumbered along at 80 miles per hour for about a mile before making a perfect landing. (26) Many historians claim that while Congress decided to cancel the contract for the H-4 Hercules, the short flight of the mammoth plane vindicated Howard Hughes. (27) The flying boat may have been late, but it was well ahead of its time to this day.¹⁰ the Spruce Goose is, by wingspan, the largest plane ever built. (28) After the historic flight was made by Hughes, the plane was moved to it's hangar, and¹¹ was stored and maintained as though active until 1980, four years after the death of Howard Hughes. (29) It now rests in Oregon as a colossal artifact at the Evergreen Aviation Museum. (30) Someday, perhaps, Hughes's invention will inspire a new generation of inventors to do what others say cannot be done.

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. time, to this day,
H. time; to this day,
J. time, to this day:
11. A. NO CHANGE
B. its' hangar and
C. its hangar and
D. its hangar, and
12. Which sentence from paragraph 4 is much more suited to be used in paragraph 5?
F. sentence 16
G. sentence 17
H. sentence 18
J. sentence 19
13. Which revision would best clarify the term "H-4 Hercules" in sentence 26?
A. Replace all references to Hughes's plane with "H-4 Hercules."
B. Mention the official name of the Spruce Goose earlier in the passage.
C. Explain why the plane is named after a mythical person.
D. Replace "H-4 Hercules" with "Flying Boat."
14. At which point in paragraph 5 should a new paragraph begin?
F. between sentence 23 and 24
G. between sentence 25 and 26
H. between sentence 26 and 27
J. between sentence 27 and 28
15. Which of the following suggestions would best improve sentence 28?
A. Divide it into two separate sentences.
B. Delete "four years after the death of Howard Hughes."
C. Change the sentence from the passive voice to the active voice.
D. Delete "and was stored."

10. **H** – (H) corrects the run-on.
11. **C** – The possessive *its* takes no apostrophe. In addition, there should be no comma before the dependent clause following *and*.
12. **F** – Paragraph 5 describes the public perception of Hughes's apparently failing project, which was late in completion and the subject of Congressional hearings. Sentence 16 is more suitable in paragraph 5.
13. **B** – Until paragraph 6, it is not implied that the official project name for the Spruce Goose was the *H-4 Hercules*.
14. **G** – Sentence 26 begins a retrospective analysis of Hughes's flight in the Spruce Goose. Sentence 27 supports the sentiment in sentence 26, making (H) and (J) poor choices. Sentences 23 and 24 (F) are essential to the description of Hughes's flight.
15. **C** – Three instances of the passive voice make the sentence weak and awkward.

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Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. Everyone in the office laughs at Betty because she felt she was the smartest person who had ever worked for the company. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
2. The man in the water shouted, "Help!" when he started to get tired from all the swimming he done. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
3. If you dig farther and deeper into Bill's reason for embezzling the money from his father's company, you will see that the crime began when the older man removed him from the will. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
4. The children all of who had all been playing noisily in their backyard fled to the safety of the back porch at the first sound of thunder, which is exactly what their parents had told them to do. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
5. No one in the entire class could understand exactly what the teacher meant when she talked about oxygen and it's properties. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

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1. A – The verbs must match in tense. *Laughs* must be changed to the past tense *laughed*.
2. D – The correct past perfect tense of *do* is *had done*.
3. A – *Farther* refers to physical distance; *further* indicates degree or extent.
4. A – The nonrestrictive clause, "all of who had all been playing noisily in their backyard," needs commas around it to set it off from and modify *children*. Also, *who* must be changed to the objective case *whom*.
5. D – *It's*, which means "it is," must be changed to the possessive pronoun *its*.

6. **D** – The pronoun *This* has no clear antecedent. As written, the word refers to the entire first sentence. Only (D) corrects the error. (E) introduces unnecessary elements and alters the verb tense.
7. **D** – In the original sentence, the phrase, “which emerged from their cocoons this year,” is restrictive and therefore necessary to the meaning of the sentence; for that reason, it cannot have commas around it. *Which* must also be replaced by *that*.
8. **B** – *Everybody* is singular and requires the verb *is*.
9. **E** – The ambiguous modifying phrase in the original sentence suggests that the stormy weather is playing in the park. Also, *childrens'* is an incorrect use of plural possession. (A), (B), and (D) fail to correct the apostrophe error. (C) retains the misplaced modifier.
10. **C** – The verb *receive* must agree with the singular subject *Anyone*. (A) contains an illogical nonrestrictive clause. (B) fixes *receive* but adds an error by changing *comes* to *come*. (D) changes the intent of the sentence. (E) uses a comma incorrectly.

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. I saw that everyone at the dance was dressed formally. This meant that I needed to change out of my jeans.
A. everyone at the dance was dressed formally, and this meant that I needed
B. everybody at the dance was dressed formally. This meant that I needed
C. everyone at the dance was dressed formally. That meant that I needed
D. everyone at the dance was dressed formally, which meant that I needed
E. everyone at the dance was dressed formally; their attire means I had
7. The butterflies, which emerged from their cocoons this year, will not be the same ones that migrate to Mexico for the winter.
A. The butterflies, that emerged from their cocoons this year, will
B. The butterflies, which emerged from their cocoons this year will,
C. The butterflies, which emerged from their cocoons this year will
D. The butterflies that emerged from their cocoons this year will
E. Whichever butterflies that have emerged from their cocoons this year will
8. Everybody involved in the student plays last Saturday and Sunday are to receive an extra day to study before finals.
A. Everyone involved in the student plays last Saturday and Sunday are to receive
B. Everybody involved in the student plays last Saturday and Sunday is to receive
C. Everybody involved in the student plays last Saturday and Sunday will have received
D. Everybody in the student plays last Saturday and Sunday are to receive
E. Everybody involved in last Saturday's and Sunday's student plays are to receive
9. Playing in the park, the stormy weather ruined the childrens' game of dodge ball.
A. The stormy weather ruined the childrens' game of dodge ball playing in the park.
B. The stormy weather ruined the childrens' game of dodge ball.
C. Playing in the park, the stormy weather ruined the children's game of dodge ball.
D. The stormy weather ruined the childrens' game of dodge ball who were playing in the park.
E. The stormy weather ruined the children's dodge ball game in the park.
10. Anyone who comes to the football game wearing a player's T-shirt receive 50% off the price of admission.
A. Anyone, who comes to the football game wearing a player's T-shirt, will receive
B. Everybody who come to the football game wearing a player's T-shirt will receive
C. Anyone who comes to the football game wearing a player's T-shirt receives
D. Anyone who comes to the game wearing a T-shirt will receive
E. Anyone who comes to the football game, and also wears a player's T-shirt receives

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Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection.

- 1 (1) Have you ever driven down the road, seemingly at ease, perhaps exceeding the speed limit to arrive at your destination a bit more quickly. (2) Then you see a long line of cars waiting in line to pay the toll and realize that you now have to join them and become one of the poor idiots wasting time and costly gasoline. (3) People have engaged in this meaningless exercise ever since toll roads and toll bridges were invented. (4) Stop, go a few feet, brake, stop again, and then repeat the process more times than you can count as cars jostle for better positions like basketball players near the hoop. (5) **Dilatory** drivers nervously dig in ashtrays and between car seats, fumbling for the correct change, dropping coins on the ground or attempting to back up, or their cars scrape the side of the tollbooth, leaving paint chips and chipped concrete as permanent marks of futility. (6) Sometimes you're in line for ten minutes or more before you reach the toll-taker and surrender your quarter, dollar, or life savings for the privilege of being on a supposedly fast route home.
- 2 (7) Modern technology has finally given drivers the means of escaping the horrors of paying tolls by hand. (8) New microchip transmitters affixed to windshields can be read by machines above the tollbooths, and the charges are billed automatically to drivers' credit cards. (9) This easy process requires drivers to register their cars, set up accounts, and pay the bill, that's all there is to it, it's as simple as that. (10) The driver can pass through the toll lane without stopping, while the fools in the pay-by-cash lane wait their turns.
- 3 (11) The rewards of using the simple, plastic stick-ons are enormous: drivers save time and gas; some states offer discounts to those who use the devices; pollution decreases; fewer accidents occur; and there's no worrying about having enough cash for the toll.
- 4 (12) Few things in life compare to the thrill of watching other drivers suffer the wrenching pain of losing time waiting in long lines—even such joys as graduation, finding money on the ground, getting a bike for Christmas, and falling in love. (13) It is this great pleasure in observing someone else's misfortune that separates us from the animals—not our ability to reason or use tools. (14) Humans love to gloat! (15) My own toll transmitter will arrive in the mail next week, and I'll then be able to enjoy the pleasure of smoothly gliding through booth after booth without having to stop.
- 5 (16) So, if you're in the long line waiting to move an inch at a time for an hour because you're not intelligent enough to join the modern world, wave to me as I glide on by, because I'll be looking over at you with a smile on my face and a transmitter on my windshield.
- 6 (17) Some paranoid people think this new use of electronic gadgetry is just another **inimical** invention of the government for tracking citizens, so that it knows where we are, where we go, what we buy, and what we do. (18) That form of reasoning is illogical and false. (19) If the government wants to follow people's whereabouts, there are already plenty of ways to do so, like security cameras, Internet data gathering, bank reports, passport information, credit card statements, social security numbers, taxes, cell phone monitoring, etc. (20) One more intrusion into our personal lives will not make any difference at all. (21) To those people who refuse to get these electronic passes, I say, "If you don't have anything to hide, why worry?"

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1. **D** – The passage opens with a question and must be punctuated as such. (A) and (E) do not involve errors. (B) and (C) are unnecessary.
2. **C** – Sentence 9 contains two comma splices.
3. **B** – The possessive form of *someone else* is *someone else's*. (A) creates an error. (C) is illogical. The sentence does not contain a comma splice (D). (E) is unnecessary.
4. **D** – Paragraph 6 contains an argument that supports the topic; paragraph 5 would make a better concluding paragraph.
5. **D** – The personal rhetoric of paragraph 4 is amusing, but it fails to move the passage forward. Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 support the topic (A, B, C). A good argumentative essay discusses and contradicts potential opposing viewpoints (E).

1. Which choice best corrects an error in paragraph 1?
 - A. Find a substitute for the word *idiots*.
 - B. Delete sentence 4.
 - C. Exchange sentence 2 and sentence 5.
 - D. End the first sentence with a question mark.**
 - E. Rewrite the first paragraph from the first-person point of view.
2. To correct an error in paragraph 2, an editor would need to
 - A. create two sentences from sentence 7.
 - B. place a semicolon between sentence 7 and sentence 8.
 - C. fix the comma splices in sentence 9.**
 - D. change “drivers’ credit cards” to “driver’s credit cards” in sentence 8.
 - E. delete the hyphens in “pay-by-cash” in sentence 10.
3. Which choice corrects a grammatical error in sentence 13?
 - A. Change the dash after *animals* to a semicolon.
 - B. Replace *elses* with *else's*.**
 - C. Create an antecedent for *else*.
 - D. Remove the comma splice.
 - E. Make “use tools” parallel with “to reason.”
4. Which of the following revisions would improve the chronology of the passage?
 - A. Exchange paragraphs 1 and 2.
 - B. Exchange paragraphs 2 and 3.
 - C. Exchange paragraphs 3 and 4.
 - D. Exchange paragraphs 5 and 6.**
 - E. Exchange paragraphs 1 and 6.
5. If one paragraph must be removed from the passage, the best choice would be
 - A. paragraph 1 because an introduction is not necessary.
 - B. paragraph 2 because an introduction to the microchip transmitters is not necessary.
 - C. paragraph 3 because it does not support the topic of the passage.
 - D. paragraph 4 because it digresses into personal philosophy.**
 - E. paragraph 6 because it discusses an opposing viewpoint.

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English Practice

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. However hard it rains, the frogs in my pond continue to enjoy themselves; when the weather changes, though, they begin to prepare for hibernation. No error
 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
2. Betty, who had the best average of anyone in math class, could not believe her ears when the teacher said, "Betty, you must not have studied for this test; you missed half the answers." No error
 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
3. The lost campers wandered through the mountains, camped each night wherever they could, ate wild berries, managed to avoid bears and mountain lions and never gave up hope. No error
 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
4. The little children chased the rabbits into burrows and didn't worry about anything, while the kid's parents worried about mosquitoes' biting. No error
 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)
5. Tiffany's new car, that requires premium fuel, can really fly down the highway. No error
 (A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. During the hot, dry summer, commercial farmers growing fruits and grains in low elevations recognized they needed more water to survive, they installed new irrigation systems.
 A. that farmers needed more water to survive so they installed new irrigation systems.
B. that the plants would not survive without more water; for that reason, the farmers installed new irrigation systems.
 C. the plant's key to survival was water, possible only with new irrigation systems.
 D. they would need more water, they, therefore, installed new irrigation systems.
 E. they needed more water for the plants, and the plants would not survive so they, the farmers, installed new irrigation systems.

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1. E – No error
2. E – No error
3. D – The series of verb phrases must be separated by commas; a comma should, therefore, be placed after *lions*.
4. C – *Kids* is plural possessive in this sentence, so the apostrophe should be placed after the *s*.
5. B – The nonrestrictive clause must be introduced by *which*.
6. B – In the original sentence, *they* is an ambiguous pronoun that could refer to *farmers, fruits, or grains*. (A) unnecessarily and confusingly repeats *farmers* and neglects a comma before *so*. (D) does not fix the comma splice. (E) is wordy, and the appositive, *the farmers*, is awkward and unnecessary. The apostrophe should be placed after the *s* in forming the possessive of *plants* (C).

7. A – The collective noun *family* is used in a singular context, so the pronoun *their* must be changed to the singular form *its*. *Sixteen hundreds* is technically correct, but it is awkward and better replaced with *seventeenth century*. (B) and (C) retain the pronoun error. (D) alters the meaning of the sentence, and (E) introduces an apostrophe error.

8. C – The original sentence says that the police were playing until one o'clock in the morning. No other sentence corrects the ambiguity of who was playing.

9. E – Only (E) corrects the illogical cause and effect relationship between the clauses in the original sentence.

10. A – The original sentence mixes past, present, and present perfect verb tenses. (D) and (E) change the verbs, but fail to maintain consistency among the tenses. (C) fails to correct *did*, which must be changed to the past perfect *had done* to reflect the time frame preceding Mr. Edwards's death. (C) also omits a comma necessary to separate the independent clauses.

7. The family of doctors traces their medical heritage back to the sixteen hundreds.
- A. its medical heritage to the seventeenth century.**
 B. their medical heritage back to the 1600s.
 C. their heritage back to the seventeenth century.
 D. medical heritage to the sixteenth century.
 E. its medical heritage back to the sixteen hundred's.
8. Playing until one o'clock in the morning, the police were called to shut down the concert.
- A. Playing until one o'clock in the morning, someone called the police
 B. Playing until 1:00 a.m., the police were called
C. At one o'clock in the morning, the police were called
 D. By playing until one o'clock in the morning, the police were called
 E. The police were called; someone was playing until one o'clock in the morning,
9. Because the math problems were difficult for me to do, I had forgotten all the equations.
- A. I had forgotten all the equations, because the math problems were difficult for me to complete.
 B. Because the math problems were difficult for me to do, I forgot all the equations.
 C. The math problems were difficult for me because I had forgotten to do all the equations.
 D. The math problems were difficult to do, but all the equations had been forgotten by me.
E. The math problems were difficult to do because I had forgotten all the equations.
10. After Mr. Edwards died, workers at his company realize how much he did for the neighborhood, and they have been circulating a petition to have a street named after him.
- A. After Mr. Edwards died, workers at his company realized how much he had done for the neighborhood, and they have been circulating**
 B. After Mr. Edwards has died, workers at his company have realized how much he did for the neighborhood, and, since then, they had been circulating
 C. After Mr. Edwards passed away, workers at his company realized what he did for the neighborhood and they have circulated
 D. When Mr. Edwards died, workers at his company, realizing how much he does for the neighborhood, had been circulating
 E. Mr. Edwards died, and workers at his company realize how much he has done for the neighborhood, and they have been circulating

Draft: Following your outline, write a good first draft of your essay. Remember to support all of your points with examples, facts, references to reading, etc.

Review and Revise: Exchange essays with a classmate. Using the scoring guide for Organization on page 271, score your partner's essay (while he or she scores yours). Focus on the organizational plan and the use of language conventions. If necessary, rewrite your essay to improve the organizational plan and/or your use of language.

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Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then choose the best revision for the underlined portions of the paragraph. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection. Some revisions are not of actual mistakes, but will improve the clarity of the writing.

[1]

(1) If someone asked you which professional sport has the most interesting athletes, what would you say? (2) Terrell Owens, Deion Sanders and even Terry Bradshaw participated in the National Football League. (3) Larry Bird, Michael Jordan, and Shaquille O’Neill all play hoops. (4) The fiery temper of¹ Eddie Belfour, Jeremy Roenick, and Marty McSorley existed only on ice rinks. (5) But what about “baseball?”² (6) Baseball is a sport usually played in the summer. (7) Most professional baseball players seem to effect³ relaxed demeanors, and the nature of the sport disallows the extremes that one might observe at a football game or a rugby match; however, one of the most unusual personalities ever to play sports did play baseball, and his name was Jimmy Piersall.

1. A. NO CHANGE
B. fired temper of
C. fiery temper for
D. fiery tempers of
2. F. NO CHANGE
G. “baseball?”
H. baseball?
J. baseball.
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. to affect
C. to infect
D. to affectively
4. Which sentence should be removed from paragraph 1?
F. sentence 1
G. sentence 2
H. sentence 4
J. sentence 6

Exercise VI

1. D – *Temper* must be made plural.
2. H – There is no reason to place *baseball* in quotation marks.
3. B – *Effect* is a noun; *affect* is a verb.
4. J – The rest of paragraph 1 has nothing to do with the seasons in which sports are played.

[2]

(8) Unfortunately, Jimmy's rookie season was cut short by a nervous breakdown, which gave him a reputation for mental instability that followed⁵ him throughout his career. (9) Piersall began his major league baseball career in 1952 with the Boston Red Sox. (10) In 1950 and 1951, Piersall compiled batting averages of .346 and .339, respectively, for Boston's minor league team in Birmingham, Alabama however Piersall⁶ was a centerfielder for Birmingham, and the Red Sox already had a major league star in center field—Dom DiMaggio, brother of the legendary Joe DiMaggio. (11) Piersall switched to shortstop so that he could join the major league club, but Piersall's accomplishments on the field were overshadowed by his erratic, albeit laughable, behavior.

5. **B** – The comma is unnecessary to introduce a restrictive clause.

6. **H** – (H) corrects the run-on.

7. **B** – Paragraph 2 describes Piersall's early career in the minor league, which precedes the nervous breakdown of his rookie year. The last sentence, which mentions Piersall's erratic behavior, should logically precede sentence 8. Logically, sentence 11 must follow sentence 10 (A). It is good to maintain active voice when the sentence needs it, but rewriting sentence 11 in active voice is unnecessary (C). Sentence 8 is an appropriate lead-in to the next paragraph (D).

8. **J** – *Irregardless* is not a word, and (G) would make the second half of the sentence illogical.

9. **C** – The commas are unnecessary after *Yankee* and *Martin* because *New York Yankee* functions as an adjective modifying Billy Martin.

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. instability that followed
C. instability which followed
D. instability, which follows

6. F. NO CHANGE
G. Alabama however Piersall
H. Alabama; but Piersall
J. Alabama however; Piersall

7. Which change best improves the chronology of paragraph 2?
A. Exchange sentences 10 and 11.
B. Move sentence 8 to the end of the paragraph.
C. Rewrite sentence 11 in the active voice.
D. Exchange sentences 8 and 10.

[3]

(12) Irregardless of⁸ Piersall's relative success at bat, his crazy behavior made headlines more often than his statistics did. (13) During his rookie year, Piersall made waves by brawling with New York Yankee Billy Martin⁹ in the clubhouse tunnel. (14) From 1953 onward, Jimmy stood out as a ballplayer by racking up hits and home runs, but he was still **wont** to display eccentric behavior on the field. (15) On July 23, 1960, the day after a game in which Jimmy hit two home runs, he was ejected from a game for an unusual reason. (16) During two of Ted Williams's at-bats for Boston, Piersall, then playing for Cleveland performed a "war dance" in center field meant to distract Williams. (17) The umpires tolerated Jimmy's clowning until the eighth inning before they ejected him. (18) This, however, was not the most infamous incident in Piersall's career.

8. F. NO CHANGE
G. Regarding
H. Irregardless,
J. Regardless of

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. Yankee: Billy Martin,
C. Yankee Billy Martin
D. Yankee, Billy Martin

10. Paragraph 3 is missing a comma. It should be placed
- F. after *waves* in sentence 13
 - G. after *1953* in sentence 14
 - H. after *game* in sentence 15
 - J. after *Cleveland* in sentence 16**

[4]

(19) Jimmy Piersall hit one home run while playing in the National League only.¹¹ (20) But most of his career was spent with the Red Sox, the Indians, and the California Angels, his most famous home run was the one he hit with the New York Mets—also the 100th of his career. (21) After Jimmy watched the ball leave the stadium, he runs around¹² the bases backwards, which successfully irritated both Jimmy’s manager and the baseball commissioner, not to mention the opposing pitcher. (22) A few days later, the Mets released Piersall, and he signed with his last team, the Angels.

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. only hit one home run while playing in the National League
C. hit only one home run while playing in the National League
D. hit one home run while only playing in the National League
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. had run around
H. runs around
J. ran around
13. Which of the following best corrects a word usage error in sentence 20?
A. Replace *Angels* with *Angles*.
B. Replace *But* with *Although*.
C. Use the name *Piersall* instead of the pronoun *he*.
D. Replace the dash with *which was*.

[5]

(23) Athletes like Babe Ruth, Magic Johnson, Wayne Gretzky, and Emmitt Smith will be remembered for their accomplishments on the courts, fields, and rinks where their sports are played. (24) Records for home runs, batting averages, points per game, and rushing yards in the memories of true sports fans. (25) Other athletes will be remembered in other ways the ways¹⁴ in which their unorthodox mannerisms amuse and bewilder fans. (26) Jimmy Piersall was an eccentric and memorable personality both on and off the field, and his name will long be a diverting chapter in the annals of baseball.

14. F. NO CHANGE
G. ways—the ways
H. ways. The ways
J. ways; the ways,
15. Sentence 24 is an example of a[n]
A. comma splice.
B. run-on sentence.
C. fragment.
D. agreement error.

10. J – The phrase “then playing for Cleveland” modifies *Piersall* and must have commas on both sides.
11. C – The ambiguous placement of *only* must be corrected to modify *one*.
12. J – (J) corrects the incorrect shift in verb tense from past to present.
13. B – *Although* properly establishes the intended relationship between clauses and corrects the comma splice in sentence 20.
14. G – (G) corrects the error. (H) and (J) create fragments.
15. C – Sentence 24 is a fragment that contains no verb.

Exercise VI

English Practice

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. Many students look much different than they did last semester; it's probably because of their new outfits.
(A) (B) (C)
(D) No error (E)
2. Both my brother-in-laws work at the same company, and they are trying to get me an interview for a job there. No error
(A) (B) (C)
(D) (E)
3. Would you please tell the delivery person to sit the packages on the kitchen table?
(A) (B) (C)
I'll pay him after I find my purse. No error
(D) (E)
4. All members of the volunteer fire company, and even their dog, received a commendation from the mayor for its enormous efforts during the fund-raising drive.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error
(E)
5. If I had brought enough money, I definitely would have purchased the car I wanted at last week's auction in Marvell, New York. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. If you pay close attention to what I actually say, you will be able to understand my instructions more perfectly.
A. you might be able to understand my instructions more perfectly.
B. it will be an easy time understanding my instructions.
C. you will understand my instructions perfectly and ably.
D. you will be able to understand my instructions perfectly.
E. my instructions will be able to be understood by you perfectly.

Exercise VI

1. E – No error
2. A – The proper plural of *brother-in-law* is *brothers-in-law*. The verb must be *work*.
3. B – *Sit* is an incorrect verb. *Set* means “to place.”
4. C – The sentence uses *all members* as the subject, so the singular possessive pronoun *its* must be replaced with the plural possessive *their*.
5. E – No error
6. D – *Perfectly* is an absolute. (A) does not fix the error. (B) and (C) alter the meaning of the sentence, and (E) adds the unnecessary passive voice.

7. **A** – The sentence requires the possessive case *my* with the gerund *playing*, not the objective case *me*. (B) and (E) change the meaning of the sentence. (C) and (D) do not fix the error.

8. **C** – The error is in the use of *I* as the object. Simply changing the order does not fix the problem (A). (B) eliminates the necessary comma, and (D) misuses a colon. (E) is not an improvement but simply adds another word.

9. **D** – The original sentence contains comma errors and an unnecessary hyphen. Choice (C) introduces an unnecessary quotation, but does not fix the comma problem, and (E) says that the principal would be going to New York, also.

10. **D** – The only error in the original sentence is an agreement error between *has been*, which is singular, and *signs*, which is plural. (A) and (C) fail to correct the error and simply alter the tense. (B) simply pluralizes *possibility*. (E) eliminates the needed commas.

7. My father objects to me playing football because of the dangers inherent in any contact sport.
- A. My father objects to my playing football because of the dangers**
B. My father objects to playing football because of the dangers
C. My father objects to me playing because of the dangers in football, which are
D. Because of the dangers, my father objects to me playing football
E. My father objects to football because of the dangers
8. The coach awarded the “Most Improved Player” award to both of the seniors on the team, my cousin and I.
- A. team, I and my cousin.
B. team my cousin and me.
C. team, my cousin and me.
D. team: my cousin and I.
E. team, meaning me and my cousin.
9. The principal said that everyone, who is going on the trip to New York, must have a signed parent-permission slip.
- A. The principal said that everyone who is going on the trip to New York, must have a signed parent-permission slip.
B. The principal said that everyone, who is going on the trip to New York must have a signed parent-permission slip.
C. The principal said, “Everyone, who is going on the trip to New York, must have a signed parent permission slip.”
D. The principal said that everyone who is going on the trip to New York must have a signed parent permission slip.
E. In order to go on the trip to New York, the principal said that everybody needed a signed parent permission slip.
10. The physician says that there is always the possibility that the cancer might return, but so far, there has been no signs of a recurrence.
- A. there was always the possibility that the cancer might return, but so far, there has been no signs of a recurrence.
B. there is always the possibilities that the cancer might return, but so far, there has been no signs of any recurrence.
C. there is always the possibility that the cancer might return, but so far, there was no signs of a recurrence.
D. there is always the possibility that the cancer might return, but so far, there have been no signs of a recurrence.
E. there always is the possibility that the cancer might return but so far there has been not any sign of it recurring.

Exercise VI

Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then answer the multiple-choice questions that follow. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection.

- 1 (1) The yawn—that irritating, ungainly, impolite disruption in board meetings, classrooms, and assembly lines all over the world—is but one of the great mysteries of humankind. (2) Despite centuries of research, not one scientist can say with certainty why, exactly, people yawn. (3) Oh, yes, they theorize; lines of physiologists spout their suppositions: “Excessive carbon dioxide in the lungs!” “Under-stimulated brains!” “A primal response to ward off predators!” (4) Unfortunately, while it would be fantastic if a simple yawn could frighten away a saber-toothed tiger, the real reason for yawning is anyone’s guess.
- 2 (5) People begin expressing their boredom very early in life—even before their born. (6) The fact that fetuses yawn tells researchers that yawning is both involuntary and not due to a general lack of oxygen, since babies in utero do not breath oxygen as adults do. (7) Now, simply determining why babies yawn has become a part of the quest to solve the riddle of yawns. (8) One theory that currently holds water is that yawning releases a chemical called surfactant, a substance that ensures that the alveoli, or tiny air pockets in the lungs, stay open. (9) The production of surfactant is critical to development because it ensures that the lungs of a newborn will be ready to survive outside the womb; however, as everyone knows, the yawning continues well beyond birth.
- 3 (10) Boring classes, office meetings, lectures, seminars, and traffic jams take quite a toll on brains, and yawning does help to revive brains to better cope with the drudgery of staying awake; however, yawning often strikes at seemingly arbitrary times. (11) Stressful situations often beget yawns, as do colds, allergies, and sinus problems; even strenuous activity can spark excessive yawning. (12) Experts agree that the lungs stretch during yawning, and the stretching prevents the collapse of tiny airways. (13) This might help to explain why yawning that accompanies periods of shallow breathing, such as before and after sleeping, helps more air to enter the respiratory system. (14) More air is good.
- 4 (15) The seemingly arbitrary nature of yawning has prompted many scientists to suggest that yawning is actually a form of involuntary communication. (16) Both human beings are creatures of imitation and quite receptive to suggestion; fifty-five percent of all people, in fact, will yawn within five minutes after seeing someone else yawn. (17) Reading about yawns also has this effect, as well as talking about them and even thinking about them. (18) Yawns also can express strong antisocial messages. (19) Yawns are widely perceived as rude gestures. (20) They frequently imply boredom, but yawns often accompany feelings of rejection or even anger. (21) Some medical professionals claim that yawning is stimulated by the same chemicals in the brain that effect emotions, moods, and appetites, so perhaps to ancient ancestors, yawns were involuntary, visual signals that alerted people that it was time to seek shelter for the night, which therefore synchronized sleeping patterns. (22) Humans are, after all, social beings.
- 5 (23) Perhaps someday scientists will find the proper combination of theories that explains yawning once and for all. (24) There seems to be a connection between prenatal yawns producing surfactant and adult yawns filling tiny airways in the lungs, but the ease with which humans will yawn simply because they saw someone else yawn suggests that the act is purely psychosomatic. (25) Despite the many theories and facts pertaining to its origins, the mysterious act of yawning must join the tailbone and the appendix on the list of human anatomical conundrums.

Exercise VI

- D** – The possessive pronoun *their* must be changed to *they are* or *they're*.
 - A** – Though the essay is in a casual writing style, clichés such as “holds water” should still be avoided.
 - E** – While sentence 14 does restate the information in the paragraph, its wording does not fit with the rest of the passage.
 - B** – The indefinite pronoun *both* is unnecessary.
 - D** – Sentence 19 is redundant because sentence 18 establishes that yawns express antisocial, or rude, messages.
- Which choice best describes an error in the first sentence of paragraph 2?
 - subject-verb agreement
 - unnecessary commas
 - misuse of *ensures*
 - incorrect pronoun**
 - double negative
 - Which choice would improve the following sentence from paragraph 2?

“One theory that currently holds water is that yawning releases a chemical called *surfactant*, a substance that ensures that the alveoli, or tiny air pockets in the lungs, stay open.”

 - Rewrite the sentence to omit the cliché.**
 - Make two sentences out of the original sentence.
 - Use the sentence as the introduction of the paragraph.
 - Change *yawning* to *a yawn*.
 - Place a semicolon after *surfactant*.
 - Which sentence should be deleted from paragraph 3?
 - sentence 10
 - sentence 11
 - sentence 12
 - sentence 13
 - sentence 14**
 - Correcting which error would fix the second sentence of paragraph 4?
 - semicolon use
 - use of both**
 - the hyphen in *fifty-five*
 - missing linking verb
 - else* not possessive
 - Which redundant sentence should be removed from paragraph 4?
 - sentence 15
 - sentence 16
 - sentence 17
 - sentence 19**
 - sentence 20

Exercise VI

English Practice

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. We saved enough money from the previous three month's paychecks, and we can finally afford to go on a long vacation to Rome.
(A) (B) No error
(C) (D) (E)
2. Last April, members of the senior class took a trip from Buffalo to Niagara Falls New York, and then across the border to Toronto, Canada.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error
(E)
3. We visited Tom in the hospital after his car accident; he seemed good, and the broken bones are almost completely healed.
(A) (B) (C) No error
(D) (E)
4. Although the elderly King James died last week after a long illness, his son will legally become the new ruler of the country.
(A) (B) No error
(C) (D) (E)
5. Jeremy, the person with whom I've been carpooling, wrecked his car yesterday.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error
(E)

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. Neither Charlotte nor her sisters is going to the mall.
A. Neither Charlotte or her sisters is going to the mall.
B. **Neither Charlotte nor her sisters are going to the mall.**
C. Charlotte and her sisters are not going to the mall.
D. Neither Charlotte, nor her sisters, are going to the mall.
E. Neither of Charlotte's sisters are going to the mall.

Exercise VI

1. **B** – As used in the sentence, *three months* must be made possessive by adding an apostrophe *after* the s.
2. **C** – Cities must be separated from states by commas.
3. **C** – The word *seemed* is a being verb; therefore, *good* must be replaced by *well*.
4. **A** – *Although* is the incorrect subordinate conjunction for this sentence: The sentence, as written, suggests that the son should not become the new king, but *legally* indicates that the son should. *Although* should be replaced with *Because* or *Since*.
5. **E** – No error
6. **B** – When the correlative conjunction *neither...nor* is used with nouns of different number, the verb must agree with the noun closest to it.

7. A – The verb *were* must agree with its singular subject *assistance*, despite the intervening lengthy prepositional phrase. (D) corrects the agreement error, but is too wordy. (E) implies that the *computer errors* crashed, instead of the *computer*.
8. A – The original is an awkward sentence that includes *one thing* and *high costs*, a pronoun-antecedent agreement problem.
9. E – (A) needs commas around the qualifying phrase. (B) and (D) change the intent of the sentence, and (C) contains the awkward phrase “more strong.”
10. C – (A), (B), and (D) fail to correct the erroneous pronoun reference, and (E) creates a comma splice.

7. The assistance of two electricians, one network administrator, an information technology specialist, and three helpers were necessary to fix all the computer errors that had caused the crash.
- A. **was necessary to fix all the computer errors that had caused the crash.**
B. were necessary to fix the computer errors that caused the crash.
C. were necessary to fix all the computer errors, which had caused the crash.
D. was necessary to fix each and every one of the errors that had caused the computer to crash.
E. fixed all the computer errors that crashed.
8. One thing I know that will keep me from traveling abroad, and those are the high costs of flying.
- A. **I know one thing that will keep me from traveling abroad—the high cost of flying.**
B. One thing that I know that will keep me from traveling overseas are the high costs of flying.
C. I know one thing that is keeping me from traveling abroad, and that is the costs of flying.
D. Flying and the high costs of doing so are some of the major things I know that will keep me from traveling abroad.
E. Traveling abroad, with its high cost, will keep me from flying, that is one thing I know.
9. He is as strong, if not stronger than his father.
- A. as strong as if not stronger than his father.
B. strong, as is his father.
C. as strong, if not more strong than his father.
D. stronger than his father, if not as strong.
E. **as strong as his father, if not stronger.**
10. An aspiring pianist should spend hours practicing; otherwise you will never be successful.
- A. practicing otherwise you will never be successful.
B. practicing because otherwise, you will never be successful.
C. **practicing; otherwise, he or she will never be successful.**
D. in practicing; otherwise they will never be a success.
E. practicing, otherwise, he or she will never be successful.

Exercise VI

Improving Paragraphs

Read the following passage and then choose the best revision for the underlined portions of the paragraph. The questions will require you to make decisions regarding the revision of the reading selection. Some revisions are not of actual mistakes, but will improve the clarity of the writing.

[1]

(1) Any day of the week, between 10am to 11pm, drop by a major bookstore. (2) You will see why movies and television will never replace written literature, people² simply love to hold a book. (3) They find excitement, comfort, an adventure, and³ familiarity in both handling and reading books.

1. Which choice best corrects an error in sentence 1?
A. Remove the comma after *week*.
B. Remove the comma after *11pm*.
C. Replace *drop* with *stop*.
D. Replace to with *and*.
2. F NO CHANGE
G. literature: people
H. literature people
J. literature because people
3. A. NO CHANGE
B. adventure, and also a
C. adventure, and
D. an adventure and

[2]

(4) Holding a book transports the reader to earlier times, even to the happiness of childhood, when we snuggled up for that last story before bedtime. (5) Bedtime stories taught us to associate the closeness of a parent, the safety of home, and the joy of a story; on the contrary, some remnant of this satisfaction carries over to our more mature encounters with books. (6) The physicality of those experiences is somehow enclosed within the covers of every new book we touch.

4. In sentence 5, *on the contrary* should be replaced with
F. indeed.
G. even so.
H. after all.
J. in simpler terms.

Exercise VI

1. **D** – The correct phrase should be either “between 10am and 11pm” or “from 10am to 11pm.”
2. **G** – Only (G) corrects the comma splice and establishes the correct relationship between the clauses.
3. **C** – The article *an* should be dropped in order to maintain parallelism throughout the series.
4. **F** – The incorrect transition suggests a false opposite between the independent clauses in sentence 5. The two ideas need to be related through a transition that shows an addition from the second idea to the first.

[3]

(7) Even the look and the smell of a book can be captivating. (8) The memories contained in a book that have old photographs take⁵ us back to the time when we pored over pictures, trying to imagine the motion of Willie Mays making “The Catch,” or searching the faces of soldiers to understand their feelings before they landed on the beaches of normandy.⁶ (9) The pulp-smell of an old book can also bring back the memories of discovering classics like *Jane Eyre*, *Wuthering Heights*, or *Pride and Prejudice books*⁷ that carried us through long summers at a grandmother’s house. (10) The same smell, though, reminds us of finally being forced to open up a copy of *David Copperfield* to fulfill a summer reading list assignment, so it is not always a pleasant experience. (11) Connecting books with sight and smell is only natural; smell is, after-all⁸ the most memorable sense for humans, and sight is the most used.

5. **D** – The correct subject-verb agreement must be *memories contained and take* (B and C), as well as *book has*.
6. **H** – The proper noun, *Normandy*, must be capitalized, but not *beaches*.
7. **C** – A comma is necessary to introduce the appositive phrase, “books that carried....”
8. **J** – *After all* is not hyphenated, but must be followed by a comma in this instance.
9. **D** – Sentence 10 suggests that reading is “not always a pleasant experience,” which contradicts the thesis and detracts from the author’s main idea—that reading is a wonderful activity.

5. A. NO CHANGE
B. memories contained in a book that have old photographs takes
C. memories contained in a book that has old photographs takes
D. memories contained in a book that has old photographs take
6. F. NO CHANGE
G. Beaches of Normandy
H. beaches of Normandy
J. Normandy’s Beaches
7. A. NO CHANGE
B. *Prejudice*, these books
C. *Prejudice*, books
D. *Prejudice* the books
8. F. NO CHANGE
G. after all
H. afterall
J. after all,
9. Which sentence of paragraph 3 is antithetical to the intent of the passage?
A. sentence 7
B. sentence 8
C. sentence 9
D. sentence 10

[4]

(12) While very few people read reference books for fun, many researchers prefer paper books versus online¹⁰ databases, which are usually inundated with pop-up windows and advertisements. (13) With **utilitarian** books, readers can use paper bookmarks to easily compare several sources simultaneously. (14) Advanced publishing technology have shortened the time required to print new books, giving many reference books faster production cycles and making them easier to update frequently. (15) While some material may be more current on the Internet, the intricacies of computer-based research were daunting¹² for many researchers; the ability to make textual comparisons is circumscribed, and the problems of documenting source material are multiplied.

10. F. NO CHANGE
G. paperback books versus online
H. paper books from online
J. paper books to online
11. Which choice best describes a grammatical error in sentence 14?
A. subject-verb agreement error
B. run-on sentence
C. improper capitalization
D. comma splice
12. F. NO CHANGE
G. was daunting
H. had been daunting
J. can be daunting

[5]

(16) The peculiar relationship between writer and reader is best felt through the medium of a book. (17) A book, sometimes even a particular edition, casts a spell on the reader by which he or she can literally explore¹³ the mind or heart of the author. (18) The relationship is apparent in the way that a child reads and deeply experiences a picture book, to return to it¹⁴ repeatedly and treasuring the experience for years. (19) This experience melds the intellectual with the tactile, the cognitive with the emotional, and the personal with the universal; it is unique to the reader, the author, and the book that ties them together.

13. A. NO CHANGE
B. literarily explore
C. virtually explore
D. explore
14. F. NO CHANGE
G. , returning to it
H. to returning to it
J. , return to it
15. If one paragraph had to be deleted from this passage, which one could be deleted without affecting the author's main idea?
A. paragraph 1
B. paragraph 2
C. paragraph 3
D. paragraph 4

10. **J** – (J) is idiomatically correct and eliminates the incorrectly worded original context.
11. **A** – In sentence 14, *technology* is a singular subject, which necessitates changing the plural verb form *have* to the singular *has*.
12. **J** – The phrase “were daunting” should be parallel to “may be more current” in the introductory clause.
13. **D** – To *literally* explore the author’s mind or heart would require surgery. *Literarily* (B) and *virtually* (C) do not make much sense and do not improve the sentence.
14. **G** – The infinitive phrase must be replaced to create an appropriate modifying phrase.
15. **D** – With the exception of paragraph 4, the passage focuses on how a book’s physical characteristics contribute to the reading experience. Paragraph 4 digresses to compare reference books to online research materials.

Exercise VI

English Practice

Identifying Sentence Errors

Identify the grammatical error in each of the following sentences. If the sentence contains no error, select answer choice E.

1. None of the students in gym class were dressed for calisthenics because the teacher made them exercise too many times. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
2. We could not account for our loss, not even after we went over our bank statement. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
3. We need to make a decision about which of the three plans is more advantageous. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
4. If you have any questions, please contact myself or any other teacher on duty who can help you with the test. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)
5. You will have to speak quick to have your message go into the company's voice mail. (A) (B) (C) (D) No error (E)

Improving Sentences

The underlined portion of each sentence below contains some flaw. Select the answer choice that best corrects the flaw.

6. If the boys had been in the shed, they would not hear the loud explosion, but since they were in the yard, they did notice the noise.
 - A. they could not hear the loud explosion, but since they were in the yard, they did notice the noise.
 - B. they would not have heard the loud explosion, but since they were in the yard, they did notice the noise.**
 - C. they would not hear the loud explosion; since they were in the yard, they noticed the noise.
 - D. they were unable to have heard the loud explosion, but since they were in the yard, they did notice the noise.
 - E. they would not hear the loud explosion, since they were in the yard; they noticed the noise.

Exercise VI

1. **E** – No error; because the indefinite pronoun *none* is used with a countable noun, *students*, as opposed to a collective noun, such as *class*, it expresses plurality and requires the verb *were*.
2. **E** – No error
3. **D** – The superlative degree *most* must be used when comparing more than two things.
4. **B** – The sentence contains no “I” to justify the use of the reflexive pronoun *myself*, which should be replaced with *me*.
5. **B** – *Quickly* is the required adverbial form of *quick*.
6. **B** – To be consistent with the first clause, “would not hear” must be changed to “would not have heard.”

7. **D** – (D) corrects the redundancy of including both *reason* and *because*. (B) is an awkward construction. (C) fails to establish the cause-effect relationship of the original sentence.
8. **D** – *Among* is used with more than two elements, and *plurality* is the correct term for a vote involving more than two candidates. Only (D) corrects both flaws.
9. **B** – The singular subject *baby* takes the singular form of the verb due to the *either... or* conjunction. (A) indicates that the prize is a child. (C) suggests that the prize was won for a different child. (D) is awkward, and (E) confuses the tense.
10. **D** – (A) incorrectly places the word *help* in single quotes, (B) gives *help* a capital letter, and (C) makes the entire sentence a question. The quotation is a question, which eliminates (E).
7. Many people believe that the reason dinosaurs became extinct is because Earth's climate changed.
A. that the reason the dinosaurs became extinct was because
B. the reason dinosaurs became extinct is
C. that dinosaurs became extinct when
D. that dinosaurs became extinct because
E. that the reason behind dinosaurs being extinct is because
8. Between the three candidates, no one achieved a majority of the votes, and there was a run-off election.
A. Between the three candidates, no one achieved a large-enough majority of the votes,
B. The court ruled that among the three candidates, no one achieved a majority of the votes,
C. Not one of the three candidates achieved a majority of the votes cast,
D. Among the three candidates, no one achieved a plurality of the votes,
E. Between the three candidates, no one achieved the plurality of the votes,
9. Either the twins, the triplets, or the baby have won the prize for being the most beautiful child in the contest.
A. has won the prize of the most beautiful child in the contest.
B. has won the prize for being the most beautiful child in the contest.
C. has won the prize for the most beautiful child in the contest.
D. has won the contest by winning the most beautiful child competition.
E. wins the prize for being the most beautiful child in the contest.
10. Did you hear the cry for help asked Larry
A. "Did you hear the cry for 'help?'" asked Larry.
B. "Did you hear the cry for Help?" asked Larry.
C. Did you hear the cry for "help!" asked Larry?
D. "Did you hear the cry for help?" asked Larry.
E. "Did you hear the cry for help," asked Larry.