

PRAXIS-WRITING-SECTION Q&As

Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) - Writing Section

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QUESTION 1

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Until you learn the intricacies of the trade, one cannot be qualified to make a judgment.

- A. No error
- B. you can not be qualified
- C. one can\\'t be qualified
- D. you cannot be qualified
- E. one can not be qualified

Correct Answer: D

Explanation: In order to agree with the first part of the sentence, you must be used.

QUESTION 2

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Study the ancient fighting art of Hapkido and you will learn to avoid directly matching your strength against your opponents.

- A. your strength against your opponents.
- B. yours against your opponent.
- C. your strength against your opponent.
- D. your strength with your opponent.
- E. your opponent\\'s strength against one\\'s own.

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "yours against your opponent" doesn\\'t say what\\'s being matched with what. "your strength against your opponent", "your strength with your opponent", and "your opponent\\'s strength against one\\'s own" all have some sort of parallelism error.

QUESTION 3

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

The argument between Paarin and me about the dent in his car continued until the early morning.



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- A. between Paarin and me about the dent in his car continued
- B. between Paarin and I about the dent in his car continued
- C. about the dent in his car continued for Paarin and I
- D. on the dent in his car between Paarin and me continued
- E. between Paarin and I on the dent in his car continued

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "between Paarin and I about the dent in his car continued", "about the dent in his car continued for Paarin and I", and "between Paarin and I on the dent in his car continued" all have pronoun case errors: when the pronoun is the object of a preposition like "between," you need to use the objective case. "on the dent in his car between Paarin and me continued" is awkward, especially in its misused idiom: "argument on."

QUESTION 4

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

Sports commentators often provide informative and witty insight during games that enhance the sports-watching experience.

- A. enhance the sports-watching experience.
- B. enhance the experience.
- C. enhances the sports-watching experience.
- D. enhances the sports-watching experience for fans.
- E. have enhanced the sports-watching experiences for fans.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that the second action verb (i.e. enhance) needs to be singular (i.e. enhances) because this verb refers to "insight." Some readers may believe that because there are two characteristics to the insight (i.e. informative and witty) there should be a plural form of the verb. Choice "enhances the sports-watching experience" and choice "enhances the sports-watching experience for fans" correct this agreement error of the verb; however, choice "enhances the sports-watching experience for fans" is wordy. Obviously, fans are the ones who watch sports, so why restate this. Choice "enhances the sports-watching experience" therefore is most direct and grammatically sound.

QUESTION 5

Determine whether the underlined portion of the sentence below is correct or whether it needs to be revised. Choose the correct option.

High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.



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- A. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- B. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful.
- C. Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- D. Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions.
- E. High school reunions are usually looked forward to by alumni that have worked hard since graduation and now consider yourselves successful.

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The problem with this sentence is that it uses the passive voice and a mistaken pronoun to refer to people (i.e. that). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" and choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" change the passive voice to the active voice by writing that the alumni commit the action, rather than writing that the action was committed by the alumni. Also, choice "Alumnus that have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" mistakenly changes "alumni" (plural) to "alumnus" (singular). Choice "Alumni who have worked hard since graduation and now consider themselves successful usually look forward to high school reunions" is the best choice because "alumni" is plural as it should be based on the logic of the sentence (not just one person looks forward to high school reunions) and the active voice is properly implemented.

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