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QUESTION 1

Identify the error in the following sentence:

Its very important to read and absorb the stories of classic dramas written by the Greek and English playwrights for the universal messages of humanity and ambition.

- A. Its
- B. written by
- C. playwrights
- D. messages of
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: Part A is wrong as it is the incorrect form of it/its/it's. "Its" is the way to discuss possession. For example, if you were talking negatively about your local government you could say "Its last two years in office were spent drowning in corruption and inefficiency." However, if you use "it's" then you are using the contracted form (when an apostrophe and s are used) to mean "it is." This contract form is necessary here because the sentence should read "It is very important..."

QUESTION 2

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

Then he dropped them both, and the big one landed first ?which he had thought it would do, and the little one landed second, which he had thought it would do.

- A. No error
- B. one landed first, which
- C. one landed first: that
- D. one landed first; which
- E. one landed first ?that

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The punctuation should be the same for both of the parallel clauses.

QUESTION 3

Identify the error in the following sentence:



Usually around the month of September many teenagers feel melancholy with the arrival of yet another school year; by May, everyone is ecstatic.

- A. around the month of September
- B. melancholy
- C. arrival of
- D. by May
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: This sentence is flawed because of the redundancy in part A. To correct the error, shorten the underlined portion to read "around September." It is very unnecessary to prelude "September" with "the month of."

QUESTION 4

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

A shockingly indelible moment, I remember exactly where I was and what I was doing when I found out that Kurt Cobain had died.

- A. A shockingly indelible moment,
- B. A shocking, indelible moment,
- C. It was a shocking and indelible moment;
- D. Shocked and indelible,
- E. Shocking and I will never forget it,

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: "A shockingly indelible moment," "A shocking, indelible moment," "Shocked and indelible," and "Shocking and I will never forget it," all have dangling modifier errors, because they aren't describing what comes after the comma.

Indelible means not able to be erased; you wouldn't say that about a person in this context.

QUESTION 5

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

Without making a sound Geoffrey crept down the stairs.



- A. No error
- B. sound; Geoffrey crept
- C. sound, Geoffrey crept
- D. sound, crept Geoffrey
- E. sound Geoffrey, crept

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The dependent clause needs to be separated with a comma.

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