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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 answer.

When he emerged from the pool, wondering how good he had done, he immediately looked to the clock.

- A. wondering if he had done good,
- B. No error
- C. wondering how well he had done,
- D. wondering well, had he done good,
- E. done wondering he had done well,

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: Since it is being used as the object of he had done, the correct form is well.

QUESTION 2

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

Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then tried to act as I did so on purpose.

- A. Yesterday I fell down the stairs and then
- B. Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I
- C. I fell down the stairs yesterday, I
- D. After I fell down the stairs yesterday; I
- E. Falling down the stairs; I

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: "Yesterday I fell down the stairs, I" and "I fell down the stairs yesterday, I" are run-ons. D and E misuse their semicolons: the parts before them are not independent clauses.

QUESTION 3

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

For every song that is a hit, it is critical to have a quality "beat" and quality lyrics; however, music companies hire professional producers and song writers.



- A. however
- B. therefore
- C. nevertheless
- D. and
- E. yet

Correct Answer: B

Explanation: The underlined portion of this sentence is wrong because the conjunction "however" needs to properly reflect the supporting nature of the second clause--NOT a contrasting relationship. Choice "however", "nevertheless" and "yet" all reflect a contrasting relationship when a supporting and united relationship should be here. Choice "therefore" and "and" are left. Choice "therefore" is best because the initial clause creates a premise (the requirements for a good song) that the second clause needs to support (how the requirements are met); therefore is the ideal transition for this type of cause-effect relationship.

QUESTION 4

Identify the error in the following sentence:

The brutally cold days of winter in Minnesota makes Marty consider moving to Florida every year.

- A. brutally
- B. of winter
- C. makes
- D. consider moving
- E. No error

Correct Answer: C

Explanation: The correct answer is "makes" because the verb "makes" doesn't agree with the plural subject of the sentence, "days." While "Minnesota" is singular and seems to agree with "makes," it is not the subject of the sentence. Remember that the subject and verb of the sentence must agree, even if they are separated by words that make that agreement sound odd to your ear. If the subject is plural, the verb must agree with a plural noun regardless of the tense of any modifiers between those words. When in doubt, say the subject and verb together without any words in between. In this case, it becomes clear that "days makes" is the problem in this sentence.

QUESTION 5

Identify the error in the following sentence:

On a saturday night in the spring, the Jacksons threw an anniversary party for Henry and Jackie.

- A. saturday night
- B. Jacksons



- C. an anniversary party
- D. for Henry and Jackie.
- E. No error

Correct Answer: A

Explanation: The names of the days of the week should be capitalized.

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