

## DIRECTIONS:

In each of the following sentences, some portion of the sentence is underlined. Under each sentence are five choices. The first choice has the same wording as the original. The other four choices are reworded. Sometimes the first choice containing the original wording is the best; sometimes one of the other choices is the best. Choose the letter of the best choice. Your choice should produce a sentence which is not ambiguous or awkward and which is correct, clear, and precise.

This is a test of correct and effective English expression. Keep in mind the standards of English usage, punctuation, grammar, word choice, and construction.

1. After the first quarter is over, the coach intends pulling all of the starters out of the game to give the backups some game experience.
  - a. the coach intends pulling all of the starters
  - b. the coach is pulling all of the starters
  - c. the coach intends to pull all of the starters
  - d. all of the starters, it is intended, will be pulled by the coach
  - e. all of the starters intend to be pulled
2. It was difficult for the class to believe exactly what Professor Johns had been saying to them from the start of the term; that the class would be graded solely on their ability to discuss topics politely and intelligently.
  - a. exactly what Professor Johns had been saying to them from the start of the term
  - b. that Professor Johns had been saying it exactly to them from the start of the term
  - c. what exactly had Professor Johns been saying to them from the start of the term
  - d. whether Professor Johns had said from the start of the term or not exactly
  - e. exactly that Professor Johns had said from the start of the term
3. When the class was being taught by Mrs. Emmanuel, the students were clearly energized by her personal enthusiasm and unique teaching methodology.
  - a. When the class was being taught by Mrs. Emmanuel
  - b. If the class had been taught by Mrs. Emmanuel
  - c. When Mrs. Emmanuel was teaching the class,
  - d. It was Mrs. Emmanuel teaching the class when
  - e. When Mrs. Emmanuel was being taught by the class
4. To finish a project under a deadline is difficult enough without having to report to higher ups on your progress every hour.
  - a. To finish a project under a deadline is difficult enough
  - b. Enough difficulty is had finishing a project under a deadline
  - c. Finishing a project enough is difficult under a deadline
  - d. To finish or not to finish a project under a deadline is difficult enough
  - e. It is difficult enough to finish a project under a deadline
5. When the psychologist observed the participants taking the multiple choice test, he wanted to see whether they were cheating or simply talking to oneself to focus their concentration.

- a. talking to oneself
  - b. talking to themselves
  - c. talking one of them to another
  - d. talking to them
  - e. talking to him or her
6. The foal having finally stood after the veterinarian cleared its legs of the length of barbed wire in which it was tangled.
- a. The foal having finally stood
  - b. The foal finally stood
  - c. Having finally stood the foal
  - d. The foal, when it finally stood
  - e. It stood the foal finally
7. The start of the hunting season was delayed due to the need of the Environmental Protection Agency to tag immature animals.
- a. due to the need of the Environmental Protection Agency to tag immature animals
  - b. as the needs of the Environmental Protection Agency were to tag immature animals
  - c. since the Environmental Protection Agency's need was to tag immature animals
  - d. while needing the Environmental Protection Agency to tag animals
  - e. because the Environmental Protection Agency needed to tag immature animals
8. The late arrival of spring due to longer and cooler winters makes us observe strange patterns in the behavior of migrating species.
- a. makes us observe strange patterns in the behavior of migrating species
  - b. we must observe strange patterns in the behavior of migrating species
  - c. has our observation be that migrating species behave strangely
  - d. makes migrating species observe a strange pattern of behavior
  - e. causes strange patterns in the observable behavior of migrating species
9. In Beethoven's late works, he shows us his ability to reinvent himself even though he has reached, for the time, an advanced age.
- a. In Beethoven's late works, he shows us
  - b. The late works of Beethoven, he displays
  - c. Displayed in the late works of Beethoven is
  - d. Beethoven's late works display
  - e. His late works are shown to us by Beethoven
10. Few people, seeing the grisly carnage caused by the train derailment, would have been able to maintain their composure enough to give an interview on national television.
- a. Few people
  - b. A few people
  - c. Few persons
  - d. Less people
  - e. The fewest people

## Answers

1. **C** is the best answer. Certain verbs must take a gerund as an object while others must take an infinitive. While the rules are somewhat arbitrary, verbs that imply a future act like want, hope, and intend are traditionally followed by an infinitive. In this case, "intend" is followed by an infinitive. B makes a concise and grammatically correct sentence, but implies that the plan is set and so lacks the nuance of the coach's intention.
2. **A** is the best answer. The underlined passage is a noun clause so the subject and verb that follow the relative pronoun are in the correct order instead of the inverted order of example C. The relative pronoun must be "what," not "that," because the content of the Professor's speech is given after the colon.
3. **C** is the best answer. It is better to use "Mrs. Emmanuel" as the subject and avoid the passive voice as in the original example. The sentence is easier to understand and the active agent is associated more fully with the verb. Using "if" would make the situation hypothetical and the main clause would not fit.
4. **E** is the best answer. Starting a sentence with an infinitive is stylistically difficult. Gerunds are easier to grasp as subjects. Answer C, however, misplaces the adverb "enough." If an infinitive is appropriate, it is customary to place a false subject, in this case "it," at the beginning of the sentence. Answer B uses the passive unnecessarily to try and solve the problem.
5. **B** is the best answer. A reflexive pronoun is necessary in this position because the subject has already been introduced. The participants are speaking under their breath to themselves. "Oneself" is the reflexive pronoun for the subject "one." D and E both attempt to use an object pronoun when a reflexive pronoun is needed. C simply lacks grammatical concision or clarity.
6. **B** is the best answer. This is the main clause of the sentence and needs a subject and a verb. B is the only one with one subject and one verb. A uses a reduced adjective clause that could be rewritten as "The foal which has finally stood." There is no verb for the subject. Answer B is the only one that meets this criterion.
7. **E** is the best answer. The most parsimonious solution to this clause is to use "need" as a verb instead of as a noun. It uses the least amount of words to express the entire idea. A, B, C, and D all attempt to use "need" as the subject of the clause when the Environmental Protection Agency could serve as a simple and traditional subject.
8. **E** is the best answer. It removes an unnecessary component from the verbal phrase. The first part of the sentence serves as an untraditional subject. It acts upon the object, which is the behavior of migrating species.
9. **D** is the best answer. D is the concise choice, using the least amount of words while keeping all of the antecedents exact. A introduces an unnecessary component in "us" the listeners. C uses an awkward subject that leaves an antecedent hanging. E uses the passive incorrectly and unnecessarily.

10. **A** is the best answer. "Few people" is equivalent to "not many people." The scarcity of such people is clearly what the writer means to emphasize. A few people means "several people" and implies their presence rather than their scarcity. Since "people" is a countable noun, "few" is the appropriate quantifier, not "less." Comparatives and superlatives are not usable here as no comparison is being made.