

# GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

## Grammar & Writing

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WRITING PROMPT .....	2
EDITING EX.: HOW TO RAISE A GOLDFISH .....	5
EDITING EX.: THE STAR FESTIVAL .....	8
PROPER NOUNS AND ADJECTIVES.....	10
PREPOSITION OR ADVERB?.....	13
INTERJECTIONS AND PARTS OF SPEECH.....	15
USAGE .....	17

# GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

## Writing Prompt

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If you are in the "Grading by Mailing" program, finish your essay as instructed. Tear the page off and mail it in with the self-addressed envelope. In a week, you will receive your graded essay with comments and suggestions by a certified professional.

Your essay must be written on the lines provided on your answer sheet -- you will receive no other paper on which to write. You will have enough space if you write on every line, avoid wide margins, and keep your handwriting to a reasonable size. Remember that people who are not familiar with your handwriting will read what you write. Try to write or print so that what you are writing is legible to those readers.

You have 25 minutes to write an essay on the topic assigned below. DO NOT WRITE ON ANOTHER TOPIC. AN OFF-TOPIC ESSAY WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO.

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below.

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*Some children watch television for several hours each day. Do you think that is a good way or a poor way to spend time? Write your opinion. Be sure to support your opinion with strong reasons.*



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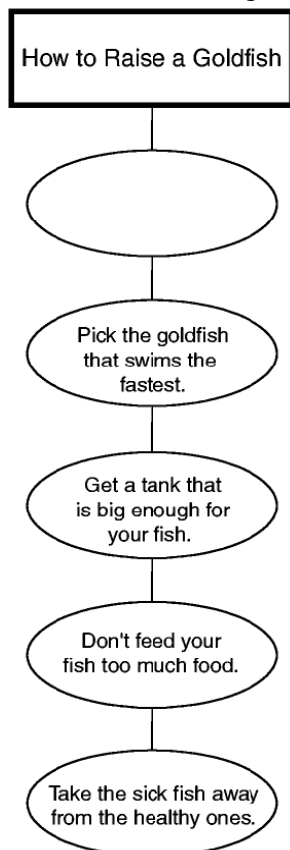
Write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Without using first or second person, your essay should include a thesis, an introductory paragraph, body supports, and a conclusion, using literature or other intellectual works to defend your argument. Support your choice or position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.





## Editing Ex.: How to Raise a Goldfish .....

When Nick learned his friend Zach could not have a cat or dog at his family's new apartment, he wrote him a letter to explain how to buy a goldfish and set up a fish tank. Nick made a web.



Here is the first part of Nick's rough draft.

Questions [1 - 6]

How to Raise a Goldfish

Dear Zach,

<sup>(1)</sup>I'm sorry that you can't have a cat or dog at your new apartment.

<sup>(2)</sup>However, you can get a goldfish to keep as a pet. <sup>(3)</sup>There are some things you should know about goldfish before you buy one. <sup>(4)</sup>Don't pick the biggest goldfish at the pet store. <sup>(5)</sup>Look for the healthy one that swims the fastest.

<sup>(6)</sup>You should get a big fish tank. <sup>(7)</sup>Then, you can get more than one goldfish. <sup>(8)</sup>Each fish needs a gallon of water. <sup>(9)</sup>Don't feed your goldfish too much food. <sup>(10)</sup>Cats and dogs need lots of food. <sup>(11)</sup>The extra food will sink to the bottom of the tank and make the water look dirty. <sup>(12)</sup>It won't eat very much.

<sup>(13)</sup>You can put a few things in the fish tank with your goldfish. <sup>(14)</sup>You can put some

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

sand and a couple of bigger stones on the bottom for the fish to swim around.

<sup>(15)</sup>Don't put too many things in there, though. <sup>(16)</sup>Everything you put in the fish tank must be very clean. <sup>(17)</sup>Your goldfish could get sick if you put dirty stones in its tank.

<sup>(18)</sup>Once one of my goldfish became sick. <sup>(19)</sup>I didn't know what to do, so I called Mr. Andrews at the pet shop. <sup>(20)</sup>He told me to take the sick goldfish out of the tank so the other fish wouldn't get sick too. <sup>(21)</sup>I put the sick goldfish in its own little tank of fresh water. <sup>(22)</sup>In a few days it was swimming around and looked healthy again?

<sup>(23)</sup>Then I put it back in the big tank with my other fish.

<sup>(24)</sup>I like having goldfish. <sup>(25)</sup>I think you will too.

<sup>(26)</sup>Your friend,

1. Which of these could Nick add in the empty space on his web?  
(A) Round fish tanks are better. I think.  
(B) There are many different kinds of pets that people have.  
(C) Find a store that sells fish.  
(D) My brother has a hamster.
2. Which sentence is in the wrong place in Nick's letter?  
(A) Sentence 1  
(B) Sentence 2  
(C) Sentence 9  
(D) Sentence 12
3. Which of these sentences does NOT belong in Nick's letter?  
(A) Sentence 9  
(B) Sentence 10  
(C) Sentence 11  
(D) Sentence 12
4. In sentence 20, wouldn't get sick should be written —  
(A) would'nt get sick  
(B) wouldnt' get sick  
(C) wouldn't have got sick  
(D) As it is
5. In sentence 22, healthy again? should be written —  
(A) healthy again  
(B) healthy again.  
(C) healthy again,  
(D) As it is

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

6. In sentence 24, like haveing should be written —
- (A) like having
  - (B) had liked haveing
  - (C) likes having
  - (D) As it is

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

### Editing Ex.: The Star Festival .....

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*Miyoko's teacher has asked the students to write a report about an event that is celebrated in another country. Here is the first part of Miyoko's rough draft.*

*Questions [7 - 13]*

The Star Festival

<sup>(1)</sup>There is an event in Japan called Tanabata. <sup>(2)</sup>The Japanese people haven't celebrating this event for over a thousand years. <sup>(3)</sup>This is a fun day in Japan. <sup>(4)</sup>It is also colorful. <sup>(5)</sup>People make their homes and gardens look beautiful. <sup>(6)</sup>Brightly colored streamers blow in the wind. <sup>(7)</sup>Pieces of paper are hung on bamboo poles. <sup>(8)</sup>If you look closely at the pieces of paper, you might find messages that have been written on them. <sup>(9)</sup>I have always enjoyed reading stories.

<sup>(10)</sup>Many Japanese towns have parades on this day. <sup>(11)</sup>The people march along the street and wearing traditional costumes. <sup>(12)</sup>Children bang drums, ring bells, and sing as they march. <sup>(13)</sup>Many people come to town to enjoy these exciting parades.

<sup>(14)</sup>In English, this event is called the Star Festival which celebrates the meeting of two stars. <sup>(15)</sup>The story came to Japan from China in an old legend. <sup>(16)</sup>This legend tells a story about how these two stars are kept apart by the other stars in the galaxy. <sup>(17)</sup>The stars are sad because they want to be together. <sup>(18)</sup>Once a year, usually in the month of July, their wish comes true.

<sup>(19)</sup>Someday I would like to go to Japan and celebrate Tanabata with my grandparents. <sup>(20)</sup>I would love to see a parade and some beautiful fireworks lighting up the sky. <sup>(21)</sup>I'll write this wish on many bright pieces of paper.

<sup>(22)</sup>I will hang them on a tree. <sup>(23)</sup>Maybe my wish will come true too.

7. Miyoko doesn't know what to write about. Which of these would BEST help her get started?
- (A) Drawing a big map of the world and coloring it
  - (B) Thinking about what she likes to do during her favorite American event
  - (C) Reading a story about a special birthday party
  - (D) Looking through a book that tells about events in other lands
8. How can sentences 3 and 4 BEST be joined without changing their meaning?
- (A) This is a fun day in Japan is colorful too.
  - (B) This is a fun day in Japan it is colorful.
  - (C) This is a fun day in Japan also colorful.
  - (D) This is a fun and colorful day in Japan.



## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

9. How should sentence 11 be written?
- (A) The people march along the street wearing traditional costumes.
  - (B) The people march along the street they are wearing traditional costumes.
  - (C) Along the street the people marching wearing traditional costumes.
  - (D) Along the street, wearing traditional costumes, people they march.
10. Which of these could BEST be added after sentence 13?
- (A) Colorful pieces of paper are used to write a wish or poem on them.
  - (B) My father speaks Japanese.
  - (C) When the parade is over, some towns have bright fireworks.
  - (D) I went to a circus once in my hometown.
11. Which sentence does NOT belong in Miyoko's report?
- (A) Sentence 7
  - (B) Sentence 9
  - (C) Sentence 10
  - (D) Sentence 12
12. In sentence 18, the month of July 13 should be written —
- (A) the Month of July
  - (B) the month of july
  - (C) the Month Of July
  - (D) As it is
13. In sentence 21, Ill write should be written —
- (A) Ill right
  - (B) I'll rite
  - (C) I'll write
  - (D) As it is

# GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

## Proper Nouns and Adjectives

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Capitalize proper nouns and proper adjectives. A common noun is the name of a whole group of persons, places, or things. A proper noun is the name of an individual person, place, or thing. A proper adjective is an adjective formed from a proper noun.

Common Noun	Proper Noun	Proper Adjective
person	Elizabeth	Elizabethan
country	Spain	Spanish
city	Paris	Parisian

Proper nouns occur in great variety. The following rules with their illustrations will help you solve the capitalization problems that proper nouns present.

### Names of Persons

Capitalize the names of persons and also the initials or abbreviations that stand for those names:

**J. R. R. Tolkien**  
**John Ronald Reuel Tolkien**  
**Ella T. Grasso**  
**Ella Tambussi Grasso**

Capitalize titles used with names of persons and also the initials or abbreviations that stand for those titles. The titles Mr., Mrs., Ms., and Miss are always capitalized:

**Rev. M. R. Eaton**  
**Judge Esther Falks**  
**Lt. Patricia Smith**  
**Dr. John J. DeBender**  
**Mr. Edward Scott**  
**Professor White**

Do not capitalize titles used as common nouns:

- Have you seen your doctor?
- She is the company president.
- The judge entered the courtroom.

Capitalize titles of people whose rank is very important, even when these titles are used without proper names:

the **Pope**  
a United States **Senator**  
the **President** of the United States  
the **Prime Minister** of England

### Family Relationships

Capitalize such words as mother, father, aunt, and uncle when these words are used

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

as names:

- Hello, **M**other. Is **D**ad home yet?
- Where is **U**ncle Joe right now?

When the noun is modified by a possessive word, a, or the, it is not capitalized:

- My aunt is going to visit us next week.
- Do you know when John's uncle will arrive?

### The Pronoun I

Capitalize the pronoun *I*.

- Is he taller than I? I am sure that he is.

### The Supreme Being and Sacred Writings

Capitalize all words referring to God, to the Holy Family, and to religious scriptures:

- the Gospel
- Buddha
- the Torah
- God
- the Lord
- the Bible
- Allah
- the Virgin Mary
- the Book of Exodus

Capitalize personal pronouns referring to God:

- God spoke to His prophets.

### *Questions [14 - 34]*

Change small letters to capital letters wherever necessary.

14. I told my mother that i had a doctor's appointment.

15. She said, "Please ask dr. hernandez to call me."

16. The new teacher is from paris, france.

17. He is a parisian.

18. Would you tell mom i'll be a little late for dinner?

19. The first book of the bible is the book of genesis.

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

20. My mother asked aunt rose if tad and maria could stay for lunch.
21. Please take this message to the principal, lynn.
22. She says that ms. holchak is not in her office.
23. Some names for god are jehovah, the lord, and the almighty.
24. There are seven cities named springfield.
25. The largest is in massachusetts.
26. Our government is sometimes called a jeffersonian democracy.
27. The new student is toshio kitagawa.
28. His sister is mieko.
29. Both of them were born in japan.
30. Which cairo do you mean?
31. Is it the one in egypt or the one in illinois?
32. The speakers were mrs. j. p. perez, and ms. p. d. cardelo.
33. All of my aunts and uncles live in california.
34. It was captain sherman who gave sue and ted the booklets on bicycle safety.

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### ***Preposition or Adverb?***

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Many words used as prepositions may also be used as adverbs. There is an easy way to tell the difference. A preposition never appears alone. It is always followed by its object—a noun or pronoun. If the word appears in a phrase, it is probably a preposition. If it is not in a phrase, it is probably an adverb.

Examples:

- I drew a line *across the paper*. (preposition)
- He dared me to jump *across*. (adverb)
- Ted put his books *down*. (adverb)
- He ran down *the street*. (preposition)

#### *Questions [35 - 54]*

Decide whether the italicized words in these sentences are adverbs or prepositions. Write *adv.* for *adverb* or *prep.* for *preposition* for each sentence.

35. Janice turned *around*.
36. There is a new shopping center *near* our house.
37. The committee turned our request *down*.
38. The light bulb burned *out*.
39. The stock cars raced *around* the track.
40. All local traffic was allowed *through*.
41. Pete threw his old track shoes *out*.
42. The Frisbee flew *across* the picnic table.
43. The doctor is *in*.
44. We all went *inside*.
45. The tunnel collapsed *around* them.
46. We waited *outside* the theater.

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

47. The chain came *off*.
48. The chain came *off* the bicycle.
49. My sister rolled *over* sleepily.
50. Marsha and Joy biked *along* the lakeshore.
51. We heard a noise *below*.
52. John, Vince, and I sat *inside* the tent.
53. That dog always stays *within* its own territory.
54. Lew and Niki talked *about* their jobs.

# GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

## ***Interjections and Parts of Speech***

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An interjection is a word or group of words used to express strong feelings. Sometimes an interjection is a sound rather than an actual word. It may convey anger, surprise, disgust, joy, or sorrow.

In any case, an interjection shows strong feeling. As a result, it is often followed by an exclamation mark (!).

These are examples of interjections:

- *Phew!* *We* made it.
- *Never!* I won't ever do that. *Terrific!*
- Yikes! I'm late again.
- *Great!* *You* made the squad

There are eight parts of speech

- nouns
- verbs
- adverbs
- conjunctions
- pronouns
- adjectives
- prepositions
- interjections

### *Questions [55 - 74]*

Identify the part of speech of each underlined word.

55. Americans now have more leisure time.
56. Many of us enjoy hobbies and sports.
57. Some of us relax with vigorous exercise.
58. Spectator sports are quite popular, too.
59. Television watching occupies a great deal of time.

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

60. The average family watches TV six hours a day.

61. Some people use their leisure time wisely.

62. Others waste time and feel bored.

63. In America the work week is shrinking.

64. Wow! We have more time for fun.

65. Yuck! Who left gum on the rug?

66. Mark prepared for emergencies.

67. The hospital staff has three shifts.

68. Somebody has erased my favorite tape.

69. Dawn is too early for a bike ride.

70. Chili may be very spicy or very mild.

71. A new Greek restaurant opened uptown.

72. The receptionist answered all inquiries.

73. She recommended a specialist in allergies.

74. The gas tank exploded in flames.



# GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

## Usage

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*Questions [75 - 79]*

Choose the right word(s) to complete each sentence.

75. Bob's sister is \_\_\_\_\_ than his mother.  
(A) tall  
(B) tallest  
(C) more tall  
(D) taller
76. If you left the packages, you will have to go back for \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) it  
(B) them  
(C) her  
(D) him
77. The \_\_\_\_\_ shoes are not always the best.  
(A) expensiver  
(B) expensivest  
(C) most expensive  
(D) most expensiver
78. Todd \_\_\_\_\_ in a big game next Saturday.  
(A) played  
(B) play  
(C) will play  
(D) playing
79. \_\_\_\_\_ will open the door at 10 o'clock.  
(A) Her  
(B) She  
(C) Hers  
(D) Herself

# Answer Key

## Editing Ex.: How to Raise a Goldfish

.....

1. C
2. D
3. B
4. D
5. B
6. A

## Editing Ex.: The Star Festival .....

7. D
8. D
9. A
10. C
11. B
12. D
13. C

## Proper Nouns and Adjectives

14. I told my mother that **I** had a doctor's appointment.
15. She said, "Please ask **Dr. Hernandez** to call me."
16. The new teacher is from **Paris, France**.
17. He is a **Parisian**.
18. Would you tell **Mom** **I'll** be a little late for dinner?
19. The first book of the **Bible** is the **Book of Genesis**.
20. My mother asked **Aunt Rose** if **Tad** and **Maria** could stay for lunch.

21. Please take this message to the **Principal, Lynn**.
22. She says that **ms. holchak** is not in her office.
23. Some names for **God** are **Jehovah**, the **Lord**, and the **Almighty**.
24. There are seven cities named **Springfield**.
25. The largest is in **Massachusetts**.
26. Our government is sometimes called a **Jeffersonian Democracy**.
27. The new student is **Toshio Kitagawa**.
28. His sister is **Mieko**.
29. Both of them were born in **Japan**.
30. Which **Cairo** do you mean?
31. Is it the one in **Egypt** or the one in **Illinois**?
32. The speakers were **Mrs. J. P. Perez**, and **Ms. P. D. Cardelo**.
33. All of my aunts and uncles live in **California**.
34. It was **Captain Sherman** who gave **Sue** and **Ted** the booklets on bicycle safety.

## Preposition or Adverb?

35. adv.
36. prep.
37. adv.
38. adv.
39. prep.
40. adv.
41. adv.
42. prep.
43. adv.
44. adv.
45. prep.

## GW3 Grammar & Writing Sample

- |           |       |
|-----------|-------|
| 46. prep. | 77. C |
| 47. adv.  | 78. C |
| 48. prep. | 79. B |
| 49. prep. |       |
| 50. prep. |       |
| 51. adv.  |       |
| 52. prep. |       |
| 53. prep. |       |
| 54. prep. |       |

### Interjections and Parts of Speech

- 55. verb
- 56. adjective
- 57. preposition
- 58. adverb
- 59. noun
- 60. adjective
- 61. verb
- 62. conjunction
- 63. preposition
- 64. interjection
- 65. interjection
- 66. noun
- 67. noun
- 68. pronoun
- 69. adverb
- 70. conjunction
- 71. noun
- 72. verb
- 73. pronoun
- 74. preposition

### Usage

- 75. D
- 76. B