

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Grammar & Writing

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Name: (First) _____ (Last) _____

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WRITING PROMPT	2
SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT	4
STORY COMPLETION	5
REVIEW ON ADJECTIVE AND ADVERB	6
GRAMMAR GAME	10
GRAMMAR STANDARD TEST	14

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Writing Prompt

For the students in "On-line Essay Grading" program, please follow the instructions on the cover page.

Normally in a test, you will have 25 minutes to finish the essay. Fortunately in an exercise like this one, you may consider the time constraint loosely and write a well-thought essay. The recommended length on such topic is about 500 words. AN OFF-TOPIC ESSAY WILL RECEIVE A SCORE OF ZERO.

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

Your school is considering whether to allow fast-food restaurants to serve food in the school cafeteria.

Assignment:

What is your position on this issue? Write a letter to your principal stating your position and supporting it with convincing reasons. Be sure to explain your reasons in detail.

Write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Without using second person unless directed, 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.

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Name: _____ Score: _____

Title: _____



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Subject-Verb Agreement

Compound Subjects Joined by *And*

Compound subjects are plural when they are joined by *and*.

- The duck and the goose were splashing in the pond.

Sometimes we use two food words together so often that we think of them as one dish.

- peanut butter and jelly

- bacon and eggs

When words like these are the subjects of a sentence, we make the verb singular.

- Macaroni and cheese is my favorite lunch

- Bread and water was all the prisoner got to eat.

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Story Completion

Use one of the list below:

and
at
can
did
for
from
home
in
into
me
were
who

to complete the passage.

Hint: repetition is not necessary.

1. A young Scotsman _____ an elderly Scotsman _____ traveling in the same railway compartment _____ Aberdeen to Glasgow.
2. The young man said: "Excuse me, but _____ you tell me what the time is?"
3. The old man _____ not reply.
4. The young man asked again.
Still no answer.
_____ last, the young man asked: "Why don't you answer my question?"
5. The old man replied: "Let _____ explain. After I tell you the time, we would fall _____ conversation. We become friendly. We would go to the bar _____ a drink. I would buy you a whisky. You would buy me a whisky. Then I invite you _____, and you meet my daughter. You would fall _____ love with her. You ask her to marry you. I don't want my daughter to marry a man _____ doesn't even have a watch."

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Review on Adjective and Adverb

Choose the one best answer to each question. Some of the sentences may contain errors in modification. A few sentences, however, may be correct as written. Read the sentences carefully and then answer the questions based on them. For each question, choose the answer that would result in the most effective writing of the sentence or sentences.

6. Ann Watson, manager of the grocery store, hired two new employees. The younger one will help Sid the produce manager.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *new* to *never*
- (B) change *younger* to *youngest*
- (C) change *younger* to *more young*
- (D) add a comma after Sid
- (E) no correction is necessary

7. Noriko can't hardly go to work today. Her car, a beat-up old jalopy, won't start. It has seen better days.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *can't* to *can*
- (B) change *hardly* to *scarcely*
- (C) remove the commas before and after a beat-up old jalopy
- (D) change *better* to *best*
- (E) no correction is necessary

8. After I put them cans in the cooler, I added a big bag of ice. In this hot weather, the ice melted fast.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *them* to *those*
- (B) change *this* to *these*
- (C) remove the comma after weather
- (D) change *fast* to *faster*
- (E) no correction is necessary

9. To buy that new car, Sheri signed a application for a loan.

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (A) change *that* to *these*
- (B) remove the comma after car
- (C) change *a application* to *an application*
- (D) change *a loan* to *an loan*
- (E) no correction is necessary

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

10. Taro's car looks much shinier than it did. That there wax really makes it look good.

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (A) change *much* to *more*
- (B) change *shinier* to *shiniest*
- (C) remove *there*
- (D) change *good* to *well*
- (E) no correction is necessary

11. The letter carrier looks nervous at the dog. It is the most ferocious of all the dogs on that street.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *nervous* to *nervously*
- (B) change *most ferocious* to *more ferocious*
- (C) change *most ferocious* to *ferocious*
- (D) change *that* to *these*
- (E) no correction is necessary

12. Those steaks smell bad. They looked fresh when I picked them out.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *Those* to *Them*
- (B) change *bad* to *badly*
- (C) change *bad* to *more bad*
- (D) change *fresh* to *freshly*
- (E) no correction is necessary

13. The funnier book I have ever read is *Roughing It*. Mark Twain, a nineteenth-century writer, is the author.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *funnier* to *most funny*
- (B) change *funnier* to *more funnier*
- (C) change *funnier* to *funniest*
- (D) remove the commas around a nineteenth-century writer
- (E) no correction is necessary

14. Lee Chung did not feel very good yesterday. He feels even worse today.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *good* to *well*
- (B) change *worse* to *more bad*
- (C) change *worse* to *worst*
- (D) change *worse* to *worser*
- (E) no correction is necessary

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

15. If I were more smarter, I would have bought this television last week. That sale was better than the sale this week.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *more smarter* to *most smarter*
- (B) change *more smarter* to *smarter*
- (C) change *better* to *more better*
- (D) change *better* to *best*
- (E) no correction is necessary

16. That basketball player has scarcely any competition. Watch how he sets up the play so easy.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *That* to *These*
- (B) change *has* to *hasn't*
- (C) change *any* to *no*
- (D) change *easy* to *easily*
- (E) no correction is necessary

17. That computer is less expensive than this one. However, it isn't hardly the best one that I have ever seen.

What correction should be made to these sentences?

- (A) change *less* to *least*
- (B) change *this* to *these*
- (C) change *isn't* to *is*
- (D) change *best* to *better*
- (E) no correction is necessary

18. Waving frantically, the hungry, shipwrecked sailor screamed loud at the passing ship.

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (A) change *frantically* to *frantic*
- (B) remove the comma after *frantically*
- (C) change *hungry* to *hungrily*
- (D) change *loud* to *loudly*
- (E) no correction is necessary

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

19. Patty seemed extremely happy when she was given those tickets there.

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (A) change *extremely* to *extreme*
- (B) change *happy* to *happily*
- (C) change *those* to *them*
- (D) remove *there*
- (E) no correction is necessary

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Grammar Game

Correct each of punctuation or capitalization of the underlined part if there is an error. Otherwise, choose “OK.”

20. The vegetables in her Garden are always large and delicious.
(A) vegetables in Her garden are always
(B) vegetables in her garden is always
(C) vegetables in her garden are always
(D) OK
21. The speaker said, “that he was thrilled to be with us.”
(A) said, “That he was thrilled to be with us.”
(B) said that he was thrilled to be with us.
(C) said, That he was thrilled to be with us.
(D) OK
22. The article, How to Fly Cheap, helped us get low-cost airline tickets.
(A) article, “How to fly cheap, helped
(B) article, How to Fly Cheap, helped
(C) article, “How to Fly Cheap,” helped
(D) OK
23. Her and the instructor were the only ones at the meeting.
(A) She and the instructor was the
(B) She and the instructor were the
(C) Her and the instructor was the
(D) OK
24. Select the best way to begin a business letter.
(A) To Whom It May Concern:
(B) To Whom It May concern:
(C) To Whom it may Concern:
(D) To Whom: It May Concern
25. Ms. Bobeck said, “if all the class completes the assignment on time, we can have a party.”
(A) said, If all the class completes the
(B) said, “If all the Class completes the
(C) said, “If all the class completes the
(D) OK

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

26. Bertha asked, “Whose the best soccer player in your class?”
(A) “Whos the best soccer player
(B) “Who’s the best soccer player
(C) “Who’s the best Soccer player
(D) OK
27. If their class wins, they’ll be hour school champions.
(A) they’ll be our school champions.
(B) they,ll be our school champions.
(C) they’ll be are school champions.
(D) OK
28. The painting, Children at Play, is one of my favorites.
(A) children at play,
(B) “Children at Play,”
(C) Children at play,
(D) OK
29. You will find the chocolate bars graham crackers, and marshmallows on the counter.
(A) chocolate bars, Graham crackers, and
(B) chocolate bars, graham crackers, and
(C) Chocolate bars, graham crackers, and
(D) OK

Correct the capitalization and punctuation of the underlined part if there is an error. Otherwise, choose “OK.”

30. If our team scores good tonight, we should win the game.
(A) scores well tonight, we should
(B) scores well tonight we should
(C) scores good tonight we should
(D) OK
31. Their going to win if their luck holds out.
(A) Their going to win if they’re luck
(B) They’re going to win if their luck
(C) They’re going to win if they’re luck
(D) OK

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

32. In May our family is moving to 3944 West Bridge ave., Macon, Georgia 30507.
- (A) 3944 west bridge ave., Macon
 - (B) 3944 West Bridge Ave. Macon
 - (C) 3944 West Bridge Ave., Macon
 - (D) OK
33. Where's the best place to get a pizza?
- (A) Wheres the best place to get a pizza?
 - (B) Where's the best place to get a pizza.
 - (C) Where's the best place to get a Pizza?
 - (D) OK
34. Jackson threwed his jacket on the floor.
- (A) Jackson threwed his jacket
 - (B) Jackson throw his jacket
 - (C) Jackson threw his jacket
 - (D) OK
35. Jeffrey hoped that shed heard what he said.
- (A) that She'd heard what he said.
 - (B) that she'd heard what he said.
 - (C) that she' ld heard what he said.
 - (D) OK
36. The Cave Bat comes out at night by the thousands to feed.
- (A) The cave Bat comes out at night
 - (B) The cave bat comes out at night
 - (C) the Cave bat comes out at night
 - (D) OK
37. We interviewed principal McKindle for our school paper.
- (A) Principal McKindle for our School
 - (B) Principle McKindle for our school
 - (C) Principal McKindle for our school
 - (D) OK
38. You always use a hyphen in compound numbers such as thirty four.
- (A) numbers such as thirty-four.
 - (B) numbers such as thirty, four.
 - (C) numbers such as thirtyfour.
 - (D) OK

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

39. Dr Alberto is the kindest, most gentle man I have ever met.
- (A) Dr albetto is the kindest, most gentle
 - (B) Dr. Alberto is the kindest most gentle
 - (C) Dr. Alberto is the kindest, most gentle
 - (D) OK

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

Grammar Standard Test

Malik is a baseball fan. When asked to write about someone he admired, Malik chose major-league pitcher Jim Abbott. Read Malik's paper and think about how he should correct and improve it.

On the Mound with Jim Abbott

⁽¹⁾ It's tough for any baseball player to get to the major leagues, but Jim Abbott had an extra obstacle to overcome. ⁽²⁾ He was born without a right hand.

⁽³⁾ When Abbott was young, other children teased him. ⁽⁴⁾ This didn't stop Abbott. ⁽⁵⁾ He loved sports, and he practiced constantly. ⁽⁶⁾ In high school Abbott became the quarterback of his football team and a pitcher for the baseball team. ⁽⁷⁾ Later he attended the University of Michigan on a baseball scholarship. ⁽⁸⁾ In 1987 Abbott was named America's top amateur athlete, and in 1988 he pitched his way to a gold medal in the Olympics. ⁽⁹⁾ But Abbott wasn't finished yet.

⁽¹⁰⁾ Although it is rare for baseball players to skip the minor leagues, Abbott went straight to the majors. ⁽¹¹⁾ He pitched for the California Angels and later for the New York Yankees. ⁽¹²⁾ One of his most amazing games was a no-hitter that he pitched for New York against Cleveland.

⁽¹³⁾ How did Abbott accomplish all this with just one hand? ⁽¹⁴⁾ This is what fans often asked when we saw Abbott on the mound. ⁽¹⁵⁾ He made it look so easy. ⁽¹⁶⁾ On his right arm his left-handed glove he would balance. ⁽¹⁷⁾ He would pitch a ball and then switch the glove to his left hand. ⁽¹⁸⁾ Presto! ⁽¹⁹⁾ He was ready to catch it!

⁽²⁰⁾ Jim Abbott saw himself as a left-handed pitcher, not as a one-handed pitcher. ⁽²¹⁾ "I didn't grow up thinking about not having a right hand," he once said. ⁽²²⁾ When asked to explain how he had made it to the top, Abbott said, I worked very hard. ⁽²³⁾ I felt I could play the game. ⁽²⁴⁾ The only thing that could stop me was myself."



40. What transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 4?
- (A) However,
 - (B) After all,
 - (C) Otherwise,
 - (D) In contrast,

GW7 Grammar & Writing Sample

41. What change should be made in sentence 8?
- (A) Change *Americas* to *America's*
 - (B) Change *athlete* to *athelete*
 - (C) Delete the comma
 - (D) Delete *and*
42. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 14?
- (A) Change *asked* to *asking*
 - (B) Change *we* to *they*
 - (C) Change *saw* to *seen*
 - (D) Make no change
43. What is the BEST way to revise sentence 16?
- (A) He would balance his left-handed glove on his right arm.
 - (B) On his right arm his left-handed glove. He would balance.
 - (C) He would balance his left-handed glove, it was on his right arm.
 - (D) His left-handed glove is what he would balance on his right arm.
44. The meaning of sentence 19 can be clarified by changing *it* to —
- (A) the pitcher
 - (B) them
 - (C) his glove
 - (D) the ball
45. What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?
- (A) Change *explain* to *explane*
 - (B) Delete the comma after *top*
 - (C) Insert quotation marks before *I*
 - (D) Make no change

Answer Key

Subject-Verb Agreement

25. C

26. B

Story Completion

27. A

1. and, were, from

28. D

2. can

29. B

3. did

30. A

4. At

31. B

5. me, into, for, home, in, who

32. C

33. D

Review on Adjective and Adverb

34. C

6. D

35. B

7. A

36. B

8. A

37. C

9. C

38. A

10. C

39. C

11. A

12. E

Grammar Standard Test

13. C

40. A

14. A

41. A

15. B

42. B

16. D

43. A

17. C

44. D

18. D

45. C

19. D

Grammar Game

20. C

21. B

22. C

23. B

24. A