

## K-12

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# Latest Version: 6.0

Questions 1— 10 pertain to the following essay:

Alberto wrote this essay about a memorable teacher. He would like you to read his paper and look for corrections and improvements he should make. When you finish reading answer the questions that follow.

(1) I had the same teacher for both third and 4th grades, which were difficult years for me. (2) My teacher and I did not get along, and I don't think she liked me. (3) Every day, I thought she was treating me unfairly and being mean. (4) Because I felt that way, I think I acted out and stopped doing my work (5) In the middle of fourth grade, my family moved to a new town, and I had Mr. Shanbourne as my new teacher.

(6) From the very first day in Mr. Shanbourne's class, I was on guard. (7) I was expecting to hate my teacher and for him to hate me back when I started his class. (8) Mr. Shanbourne took me by surprise right away when he asked me if I wanted to stand up and introduce myself. (9) I said no, probably in a surly voice, and he just nodded and began teaching the first lesson of the day.

(10) I wasn't sure how to take this. (11) My old teacher forced me to do things and gave me detention if I didn't. (12) She loved detention and gave it to me for anything I did—talking back working too loudly, forgetting an assignment. (13) Mr. Shanbourne obviously didn't believe in detention, and I tried him! (14) During my first two weeks at my new school I did my best to get in trouble. (15) I zoned out in class, turned work in late, talked during lectures, and handed in assignments after the due date. (16) Mr. Shanbourne just nodded.

(17) Mr. Shanbourne asked me to stay in during recess. (18) This is it, I thought. I was going to get in trouble, get the detention my ten-year-old self had practically been begging for. (19) After all of the other kids ran outside, I walked up to Mr. Shanbourne's desk.

(20) "How are you doing, Albert," he said.

(21) I mumbled something.

(22) He told me he was disappointed in my behavior over the last two weeks. (23) I had expected this and just took it. (24) The detention was coming any second. (25) Then Mr. Shanbourne took me by surprise. (26) He told me that even though he didn't know me very well, he believed I could be a hard worker and that I could be successful in his class. (27) He asked me how he could help listen better and turn my work in on time.

(28) I told him I had to think about it and rushed out to recess. (29) Even though my answer seemed rude, I was stunned. (30) I hadn't had a teacher in years who seemed to care about me, and said he believed in my abilities.

(31) To be honest, my behavior did not improve right away and I still turned in many of my assignments late. (32) But over the last few months of fourth grade, things changed. (33) Mr. Shanbourne continued to believe in me, encourage me and help me, and I responded by doing my best. (34) I had a different teacher for fifth grade, but whenever I was struggling I walked down to Mr. Shanbourne's classroom to get his advice. (35) I'll never forget how Mr. Shanbourne helped me, and I hope he'll never forget me either.

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### Question: 1

What change should be made to sentence 1?

- A. Change teacher to teachers
- B. Change to fourth
- C. Delete the comma after grades
- D. Change years to year

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

because the word fourth should be written out to match the form of third. While the word teacher could become plural, choice A is incorrect because the second sentence of the passage shows that Alberto is talking about a single teacher. Choice C is incorrect because the comma correctly separates two independent clauses. Choice D is incorrect because Alberto is talking about several years rather than the possessive of one year. Therefore, the form of years should be plural rather than possessive.

### Question: 2

What is the most effective way to revise sentence 7?

- A. I started his class expecting my teacher to hate me back and for me to hate him.
- B. Expecting to hate my teacher, I started his class expecting him to hate me back.
- C. Starting his class expecting to hate my teacher, I also expected to hate him back.
- D. I started his class expecting to hate my teacher and for him to hate me back.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

D is the correct answer because it uses proper word order to get the point across. Choice D begins with a subject and verb and follows the verb by two objects. Choice A is incorrect because the phrases my teacher to hate me back and for me to hate him are written in reverse order. It is more logical for me to hate him to be written first. Choice B is incorrect because the subject and verb separate Alberto's emotions (expecting to hate my teacher and expecting him to hate me back). This separation makes the sentence more difficult to read and understand. Choice C is incorrect because Alberto states twice that he expected to hate Mr. Shanbourne.

### Question: 3

What is the most effective way to combine sentences 10 and 11?

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- A. I wasn't sure how to take this, and my old teacher forced me to do things and gave me detention if I didn't.
- B. I wasn't sure how to take this, although my old teacher forced me to do things and gave me detention if I didn't
- C. I wasn't sure how to take this because my old teacher forced me to do things and gave me detention if I didn't
- D. I wasn't sure how to take this as a result of my old teacher forced me to do things and gave me detention if I didn't.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Is the correct answer because the word because combines the sentence by showing that the second clause is an explanation for the first clause. Choice A is incorrect because the conjunction and doesn't show how the N'O clauses are connected. Choice B is incorrect because the word although doesn't logically connect the two clauses. The word although implies that the two clauses contradict each other: instead, the second clause explains the first. Although as a result of has a similar meaning to because and could be used to effectively combine the sentences, choice D is incorrect because the verbs forced and gave should be changed to forcing and giving in order for as a result of to be used correctly.

#### Question: 4

Which phrase, if any, can be deleted from sentence 15 without changing the meaning of the sentence?

- A. zoned out in class
- B. talked during lectures
- C. handed in assignments after the due date
- D. No change

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Because the phrase handed in assignments after the due date is redundant with the phrase turned in work late: only one of those phrases needs to be in the sentence. Choices A and B are incorrect because both phrases add unique information to the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the sentence has too many redundant phrases, and one of them should be deleted.

#### Question: 5

What transition should be added to the beginning of sentence 16?

- A. Surprisingly
- B. Actually
- C. Furthermore
- D. Instead

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**Answer: A**

Explanation:

The transition "surprisingly" indicates that the reaction was unexpected. Answers B and D are incorrect because actually and instead imply an alternative reaction was mentioned. Choice C does not work because the second sentence does not further support the first sentence; it is a new idea.

### Question: 6

Which version of sentence 20 is correctly punctuated?

- A. "How are you doing, Alberto?" he said.
- B. "How are you doing, Alberto? he said."
- C. "How are you doing, Alberto." he said.
- D. No change.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Is the correct answer because it correctly punctuates the dialogue with a question mark and with the quotation marks in the correct spot. Choice B is incorrect because the end quotes should be after Alberto rather than after said. Choices C and D are incorrect because the clause how are you doing, Alberto is a question and should be punctuated with a question mark rather than a period or comma.

### Question: 7

What change should be made to sentence 25?

- A. Change than to Then.
- B. Change Shanbourne to Shanbourne's.
- C. Add a comma after Shanbourne.
- D. Change by to bye.

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Is the correct answer because than is a comparative word and then is a word that shows a sequence of events. Since the sentence shows the next step in a sequence of events, then is the correct word to use. Choice B is incorrect because Shanbourne is not possessive in this context. Choice C is incorrect because a comma should not separate a subject and verb. Choice D is incorrect because bye is the spelling used to say good-bye and by is the spelling used for prepositions.

### Question: 8

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What change should be made to sentence 30?

- A. Change hadn't to haven't
- B. Change who to whom.
- C. Delete the comma after me.
- D. Change believed to believe.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Because a comma should only be used before a conjunction (the word and in sentence 29) if the clause following the conjunction is an independent clause, which means it can be written as a complete sentence. Since said he believed in my abilities does not have a subject, it is not an independent clause. Choice A is incorrect because this essay is written in the past tense, hadn't is a more consistent verb choice. Choice B is incorrect because the word who should be used when it refers to a subject. Since one could write a sentence such as "The teacher seemed to care about me."--which replaces who with a noun to create a subject)--who is correct. Who would be correct? if the word referred to the object of the sentence. Choice D is incorrect because the correct spelling of believed has an 'i' before an e.

### Question: 9

What change should be made to sentence 31?

- A. Delete the comma after honest.
- B. Change did to does.
- C. Add a comma after away.
- D. Change many too much.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Because a comma should be added before a conjunction (and) that precedes an independent clause. Choice A is incorrect because the comma after honest correctly separates a non-essential phrase from the rest of the sentence. Choice B is incorrect because the passage is written in past tense rather than present. Choice D is incorrect because many refers to a number of items (such as a number of homework assignments) while much refers to an abstract amount.

### Question: 10

What change should be made to sentence 33?

- A. Change continued to continue.
- B. Delete the comma after in me.
- C. Change encourages encouraging.

D. Delete the comma after help me.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

because encourage is the correct spelling (the 'o' should come before the Choice A is incorrect because the word responded, used later in the sentence, shows that Alberto is still writing in the past tense. Choice B is incorrect because the comma is needed to separate items in the series. Choice D is incorrect because the comma is needed before and because and is a conjunction that precedes an independent clause.

Questions 11— 20 pertain to the following essay:

Jeanette's English teacher asked her to write a persuasive essay discussing whether or not students should have to have at least a C average in order to get a driver's license. Jeanette would like you read her paper and look for corrections and improvements she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions below.

(1) Some people believe that a student's grades effect whether or not she is a good driver. (2) They want to pass a law that says that teens must have at least a C average in order to get a license to drive. (3) It's true that many students who do all of their work and work hard will get at least a C or higher, but there are many factors that go into getting good grades. (4) Therefore, I believe this law is unfair and shouldn't be passed.

(5) In some classes, like math, there are clear right or wrong answers. (6) If I say  $3+2=6$ , then I should lose a point. (7) However, grading can be very subjective and may depend on the teacher's opinion rather than facts. (8) For example when I am graded for this essay, my teacher will have to use her opinion to determine its quality. (9) If I do something my teacher doesn't like but isn't necessarily wrong, I could still get a bad grade.

(10) Furthermore, it's not always possible to know a teacher's expectations. I had a teacher who took over a month to return written assignments. (11) This meant that I often made the same mistake over and over again and constantly got lower grades.

(12) I never had the opportunity to learn from my mistakes because I didn't get enough feedback. But this was not my fault. (13) I shouldn't lose my chance to get a driver's license because my teacher does not give good and timely feedback

(14) Sometimes, outside factors cause a student to get bad grades. (15) For example, my grades dropped the semester I broke my arm because I was in a lot of pain and have trouble focusing on my homework. (16) Does this mean I would be a bad driver?

(17) Maybe if I was driving with a broken arm, but now that it is healed, I can drive perfectly well. (18) However, my grade point average is still low because of that semester. (19) There are many other outside factors that could cause a student's grades to drop but don't impact driving ability.

(20) Finally, many schools have different grading standards, which means that a C average in one school is not the same as a C average at another school. (21) At my high school, an 80 percent is a B and a 79 percent is a C. (22) However, my cousin goes to a different high school and her grade becomes a C if she earns an 82 percent. (23) She's more likely to have a C average than I am even if we earn the same percent.

(24) Instead of looking at a student's grades to decide whether or not to give a license,

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the state should look at driving ability. (25) Lawmakers who are concerned about the quality of student drivers can pass laws requiring more training or creating a harder driving test. (26) However, they should not require students to maintain a certain grade point average. (27) It doesn't have any bearing on driving ability and should not be considered.



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