



Daily Warm-Ups

SAT PREP—READING AND WRITING

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Level II

Table of Contents



Introduction *iv*

Essay Prompts	1
Vocabulary-in-Context	31
Sentence Completion	41
Passage-Based Reading	71
Identifying Sentence Errors	101
Improving Sentences	131
Improving Paragraphs	161
Answer Key	181



Essay Prompts

Think carefully about the issue presented below and the assignment that follows.

Some people hold the belief that “power corrupts.” They point out that history gives us many examples of leaders who have used their power irresponsibly. But many leaders have used their positions to accomplish good. Perhaps power is not a corrupting influence, but a magnifying glass that exaggerates the true nature of a leader.

ASSIGNMENT: Does power corrupt? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.



Essay Prompts

Think carefully about the quotation presented below and the assignment that follows.

“I’ve learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.”

—Maya Angelou

ASSIGNMENT: Can the way you treat people have more of an effect on people than what you say to them? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.



Vocabulary-in-Context

Select the best answer to the following question.

In the movie, the jewel thieves made their escape by scaling the mansion's walls and stealing away under the cover of darkness.

In the lines above, “stealing” most nearly means

- (A) robbing
- (B) grabbing
- (C) slipping
- (D) abducting
- (E) taking

40

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Sentence Completion

Select the word that best completes the sentence.

Toward the end of the twentieth century, many fiction writers experimented with minimalism, a style that favored ---- prose over dense, wordy writing.

- (A) intelligent
- (B) spare
- (C) meaningful
- (D) interesting
- (E) fresh



Passage-Based Reading

Read the passage, and then select the best answer to the question.

Once, it had seemed to me that when I should at last roll up my shirt-sleeves and go into the forge, Joe's 'prentice, I should be distinguished and happy. Now the reality was in my hold, I only felt that I was dusty with the dust of small coal, and that I had a weight upon my daily remembrance to which the anvil was a feather. There have been occasions in my later life (I suppose as in most lives) when I have felt for a time as if a thick curtain had fallen on all its interest and romance, to shut me out from anything save dull endurance any more.

—adapted from *Great Expectations*, Charles Dickens

In the passage, the narrator's mood can most specifically be described as

- (A) excited
- (B) happy
- (C) unhappy
- (D) cautious
- (E) spirited





Identifying Sentence Errors

The following sentence may contain an error in grammar, usage, choice of words, or idioms. If an underlined word or phrase is incorrect, choose that letter. If the sentence is correct, choose E, No error.

Folk tales from different cultures often use similar

A

plots and characters, which they have been painstakingly

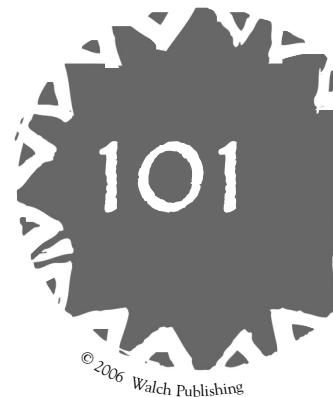
B

C

catalogued by folklorists. No error

D

E



Identifying Sentence Errors

The following sentence may contain an error in grammar, usage, choice of words, or idioms. If an underlined word or phrase is incorrect, choose that letter. If the sentence is correct, choose E, No error.

Available in the guidance counselor's office are a list of summer
A B
jobs and internships, some of which are paid positions and some
C
of which provide valuable experience but no salary. No error
D E

130



Improving Sentences

Choose the best way to revise the underlined part of the sentence. Your choice should make the most effective sentence and express the meaning of the original sentence. If no revision is needed, choose (A), which repeats the original underlined sentence part.

Anna Mary Robertson Moses sold her first painting and she was seventy-seven years old at the time.

- (A) and she was seventy-seven years old at the time
- (B) at age of seventy-seven years
- (C) at the time she was seventy-seven
- (D) upon the time she reached seventy-seven years
- (E) when she was seventy-seven



Improving Sentences

Choose the best way to revise the underlined part of the sentence. Your choice should make the most effective sentence and express the meaning of the original sentence. If no revision is needed, choose (A), which repeats the original underlined sentence part.

Hybrids made up of domestic and wild cats are growing in popularity, many people are concerned about their suitability as pets.

- (A) popularity, many people are
- (B) popularity; with many people
- (C) popularity, it is the case that many people are
- (D) popularity; concerning people
- (E) popularity, but many people are

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160



Improving Paragraphs

Read the following unedited passage from an essay. It may need to be revised to improve organization, development, sentence structure, use of language, or use of standard English. Choose the answer that most improves the passage.

- (1) I have an unusual business, it has led me to meet some very interesting people. (2) I make my living collecting family histories. (3) I conduct extensive interviews, and carefully preserve records of family lore.

Which of the following is the best way to phrase the underlined portion of sentence 1 (reproduced below)?

I have an unusual business, it has led me to meet some very interesting people.

- (A) (As it is now)
(B) And so it's my unusual business that has led me to
(C) You see, then, I have an unusual business and as a result I meet
(D) Because I have an unusual business, I meet
(E) I should be meeting, naturally because I have an unusual business,



Improving Paragraphs

Read the following unedited passage from an essay. It may need to be revised to improve organization, development, sentence structure, use of language, or use of standard English. Choose the answer that most improves the passage.

It was fascinating to learn so much about my family history, we learned this because of a stack of long-forgotten letters.

Which of the following is the best way to deal with this sentence?

- (A) Change “fascinating” to “nice.”
- (B) Delete the comma after “history.”
- (C) Change “so much” to “this amount.”
- (D) Insert a comma after “this.”
- (E) Replace “we learned this” with “all.”

180

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