

P.E.R.T. -- Writing Diagnostic Test

Directions: Read the selection about American astronaut Sally Ride and answer the questions.

(1) Some of the greatest success stories in American history began with failure. (2) Take the case of Sally Ride. (3) When Ride was a young girl in Encino, California, her goal was to become a professional tennis player. (4) She dropped out of college and practiced hard to become a tennis pro. (5) In time, she realized that she would never be good enough to compete with the best tennis players. (6) She returned to college and studied astrophysics.

(7) One day in 1977, while working on her Ph.D. at Stanford University, Ride read that NASA was looking for astronauts. (8) She applied and was one of six women accepted into the space program. (9) Ride trained to be an astronaut longer and harder than she had ever done anything in her life. (10) By the early 1980s, she was part of the space shuttle program. (11) In 1983, as a member of the crew of the space shuttle *Challenger*, Sally Ride became the first American woman to journey into space.

(12) Ride was getting ready for another mission when the *Challenger* exploded in 1986, killing the whole crew. (13) One of them was a New Hampshire high school teacher named Christa McAuliffe. (14) Ride was appointed to a special commission that investigated the tragic accident but a year later she retired from NASA and returned to California, where she taught college. (15) Since then, she has been involved in several organizations that encourage girls who are interested in science and math.

1. Which sentence does **NOT** belong in the selection?

- A. Sentence 4 B. Sentence 6 C. Sentence 13 D. Sentence 15

2. Which of the following answers would be the correct way to write the underlined portion of sentence 14?

- A. accident but,
B. accident, but
C. accident; but
D. correct as it is

3. Read the following selection. Which sentence does NOT belong in the selection?

(1) The Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force comprise the United States' military forces under the Department of Defense. (2) Many people are not aware that the U.S. Coast Guard is not a branch of the military but falls under the Department of Homeland Security. (3) In addition to protecting coasts and harbors, the Coast Guard also functions as a seagoing rescue service. (4) Members of the Coast Guard, often called "Coasties," also maintain buoys and lights on the nation's waterways and help law enforcement agencies in the war on drugs.

- A.** Sentence 1 **B.** Sentence 2 **C.** Sentence 3 **D.** Sentence 4

For questions 4, 5, and 6, choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- 4.**
- A.** The test is difficult so, it requires careful reading by anyone who hopes to get a high score.
 - B.** They make the best pizza place in Port St. Lucie, the special is delicious.
 - C.** The little boy met many of the Mets' players and most of them signed his baseball.
 - D.** She read the book; however, she could not remember the name of the author.
- 5.**
- A.** The student council plan a big homecoming celebration during halftime.
 - B.** There is a pen and paper in the top drawer of my computer desk.
 - C.** Those fluorescent lights on the city streets give an odd glow that reflects off windshields.
 - D.** One of those tires are guaranteed for 60,000 miles.
- 6.**
- A.** A variety of interesting insects exist in our world.
 - B.** Neither of the players is going to receive a scholarship.
 - C.** Each of my teachers agree with the new policy.
 - D.** One of the classrooms in the high school were destroyed by vandals.

For questions 7 and 8, choose the sentences that best support the following topic sentence.

7. *Hay fever is the common name for an allergic reaction to pollen.*

- A.** In my father's family, allergies are quite common. His sister Jane is allergic to dust, pollen, and mold, as well as foods such as tomatoes and eggplant.
- B.** It seems that allergic reactions to peanuts and tree nuts are becoming more and more common, too. Many schools have recently banned peanuts and peanut butter altogether.
- C.** People who suffer from allergies can check the weather report in the newspaper for the allergen counts. The weather page also includes interesting information about the phases of the moon and the times of sunrise and sunset.
- D.** The worst offender is ragweed pollen, which causes many people to suffer from sneezing, runny nose, and itchy eyes from late summer to late fall. Dust and animal dander may also bring on the symptoms of hay fever.

8. *Gettysburg National Park, located in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, features many monuments that have been erected by individual states in remembrance of the soldiers who fought and died there.*

- A.** The Gettysburg battlefield is so large that it surrounds the town, and visitors usually take tour buses or follow marked routes in their cars to see it all. Many people, however, opt for a more leisurely approach, choosing bicycles to ride from site to site. Double-decker buses also provide a spectacle as actors supported by special effects recreate the battle.
- B.** The park is beautiful all year round, but it is stunning when decorated in the hues of spring and fall. Most tourists visit the battleground during the summer, often creating traffic jams on the roads that wind among the monuments. As a result, tourism is vital for the town's economy.
- C.** "Spirit of the Confederacy," is a stunning monument that features Saint Barbara, the patron-saint of artillerymen because of the flaming cannonball she is holding in her right hand, soaring over a mortally wounded or dead Louisiana artilleryman.
- D.** Many visitors claim to have experienced ghostly phenomena. An entire group once told a park ranger how much they enjoyed a re-enactment of drilling soldiers, to which she responded, "There were no re-enactments today." Some local residents will not visit parts of the battlefield at night because they claim that they can hear ghostly screams of wounded soldiers.

9. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- A.** Because he practiced he passed.
- B.** She went to the store, but she forgot to buy milk.
- C.** Bill bought a new television, we watched it all night.
- D.** Her conduct, I am sure you will agree is surprising.

For questions 10 and 11, choose the best order of the sentences in the paragraph.

10.

- A. Before long, the storm moved on, and all was quiet again. From my window, I watched bright lightning bolts streak across the sky. After each lightning flash, the thunder boomed loudly. Last night a powerful thunderstorm rolled through our town.
- B. From my window, I watched bright lightning bolts streak across the sky. Last night a powerful thunderstorm rolled through our town. Before long, the storm moved on, and all was quiet again. After each lightning flash, the thunder boomed loudly.
- C. Last night a powerful thunderstorm rolled through our town. From my window, I watched bright lightning bolts streak across the sky. After each lightning flash, the thunder boomed loudly. Before long, the storm moved on, and all was quiet again.
- D. Last night a powerful thunder storm rolled through our town. After each lightning flash, the thunder boomed loudly. Before long, the storm moved on, and all was quiet again. From my window, I watched bright lightning bolts streak across the sky.

11.

- A. Prospective jurors will be asked if they are familiar with the defendant or know anything about the case. Because of that interrogation, prospective jurors should be prepared to answer the lawyers' questions concisely and accurately. Trial lawyers usually form opinions about prospective jurors during a pretrial interview. Jurors also might be observed by the lawyers to gauge their facial reactions to critical questions.
- B. Jurors also might be observed by the lawyers to gauge their facial reactions to critical questions. Trial lawyers usually form opinions about prospective jurors during a pretrial interview. Because of that interrogation, prospective jurors should be prepared to answer the lawyers' questions concisely and accurately. Prospective jurors will be asked if they are familiar with the defendant or know anything about the case.
- C. Trial lawyers usually form opinions about prospective jurors during a pretrial interview. Because of that interrogation, prospective jurors should be prepared to answer the lawyers' questions concisely and accurately. Prospective jurors will be asked if they are familiar with the defendant or know anything about the case. Jurors also might be observed by the lawyers to gauge their facial reactions to the questions.
- D. Trial lawyers usually form opinions about prospective jurors during a pretrial interview. Prospective jurors will be asked if they are familiar with the defendant or know anything about the case. Jurors also might be observed by the lawyers to gauge their facial reactions. Because of that interrogation, prospective jurors should be prepared to answer the lawyers' questions concisely and accurately.

For questions 12, 13, 14, and 15, choose the sentence that is written correctly.

12.

- A. Roasted with garlic, Abby decided to order the potatoes with dinner.
- B. Abby decided to order the roasted garlic potatoes with dinner.
- C. Deciding to order with dinner, the roasted garlic potatoes were what Abby decided on.
- D. Ordered with dinner, Abby decided on the roasted garlic potatoes.

13.

- A. Flying over the Swiss Alps, the view I had was magnificent.
- B. Flying over the Swiss Alps, it was a magnificent view.
- C. While I was flying over the Swiss Alps, the view was magnificent.
- D. While flying over the Swiss Alps, they were a magnificent view.

14.

- A. “The Swamp Fox,” Frances Marion, was an American Revolutionary War hero who, together with his volunteer cavalry, created havoc in the swamps of South Carolina and whose exploits led to songs and folk tales.
- B. Songs and folk tales have praised an American Revolutionary War hero, who—together with his volunteer cavalry — Frances Marion created havoc in the swamps of South Carolina.
- C. Songs and folk tales praising an American Revolutionary War hero who created havoc in the swamps of South Carolina with members of his volunteer cavalry, Frances Marion, known as “The Swamp Fox.”
- D. Creating havoc in the swamps of South Carolina, songs and folk tales have praised Frances Marion, an American Revolutionary hero known as “The Swamp Fox” with members of his courageous volunteer cavalry.

15.

- A. Joseph Conrad, my favorite author, wrote the book *Heart Of Darkness*.
- B. She works at the new College in West Palm Beach.
- C. My Aunt and Uncle live in Las Cruces, New Mexico.
- D. Our cousins stayed at a Vermont inn while touring the Northeast.

For questions 16 and 17, choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

16. Janine claims that Gary and _____ saw the meteorite while camping in the mountains last night.

- A. she B. them C. her D. herself

17. The teacher asked that we please keep this information between you and _____.

- A. myself B. me C. I D. we

18. Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- A. Each member of the jury is permitted to talk about the case, but it must do so only in the company of the other jurors.
- B. Each member of the jury is permitted to talk about the case, but they must do so only in the company of the other jurors.
- C. Each member of the jury is permitted to talk about the case, but we must do so only in the company of the other jurors.
- D. Each member of the jury is permitted to talk about the case, but he or she must do so only in the company of the other jurors.

19. Which of the following sentences is written correctly?

- A. The bus driver told us that one of the children who were on the field trip to the gardens forgot their lunch.
- B. Everyone who works for one of those shipping companies must prove that they have a driver's license.
- C. Neither of the nations would yield on its position concerning unilateral disarmament and nuclear research.
- D. Usually, any company that ships computers to a customer sends an instruction manual with it.

For questions 20 and 21, choose the word or words that best complete the sentence.

20. Due to lab policy, students must set cell phones to vibrate and speak _____ in conversation.

- A. more quietly B. more quiet C. quietly D. quiet

21. Everyone on the team did _____ best, so the coach was not upset by the loss.

- A. their B. her C. they're D. there

For questions 22, 23, 24, and 25, choose the sentence that is written correctly.

22.

- A. Many community colleges, therefore, require prospective students to take a diagnostic exam.
- B. He is studying to become a doctor and his wife is studying to become a dental technician.
- C. My family and I visited Arizona, New Mexico and Texas during our vacation last summer.
- D. I wanted to take an English course this semester, however my schedule was too full.

23.

- A. The big dog is more friendly than the little one.
- B. The woman talked endless about her family.
- C. I exercise the most regular of all the people at the club.
- D. Which dress is the most flattering, the red or the blue?

24.






- A. "Which of the recruits, asked the drill instructor, had the highest score?"
- B. A new restaurant opened last week, but I have not eaten there.
- C. One of the jurors became ill so the judge delayed the trial.
- D. The policemen arrived at the scene first, then the firemen arrived.


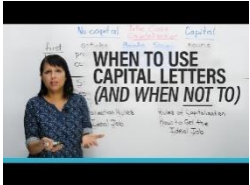




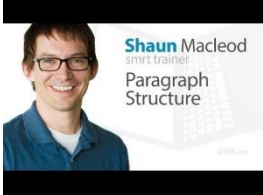
25.

- A. Karen passed the entrance exam for a police academy in Texas.
- B. Jared's father works as a Doctor at the Hospital in Okeechobee.
- C. The new High School in Martin County hired John to teach Automotive Technology.
- D. Jamie is a Major in the United States Air Force and is stationed in Germany.

Writing Diagnostic – Circle the questions missed on the diagnostic using the answer key below.

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|------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1. C | 4. D | 7. D | 10. C | 13. C | 16. A | 19. C | 22. A | 25. A |
| 2. B | 5. C | 8. C | 11. C | 14. A | 17. B | 20. C | 23. A | |
| 3. A | 6. B | 9. B | 12. B | 15. D | 18. D | 21. B | 24. B | |

Match Skill with Missed Questions	Grammar Handout Number	Review Packet Number	Video
Subject-Verb Agreement 5, 6	#122	Review Packet 6	Subject/Verb Agreement 
Pronouns and Antecedents 18, 19, 21	#066	Review Packet 8	Pronouns and Antecedent 
Pronoun Usage (& CASE) 16, 17	#068**	Review Packet 8	Pronoun Usage 
Comma Rules 9, 22	#074 & #075	Review Packet 7	Comma Rules: Part 1  Comma Rules: Part 2 
Punctuation Tips for Compound Sentences 2, 4, 24	#089 #093 #095 #075 #077	Review Packets 5, both 1&2	Run-ons and Comma Splices

			
Capital Letters 15, 25	#011		Capital Letters 
Modifiers- Misplaced, Dangling Sentence Clarity Parallelism 12, 13, 14	#036 #086*		Part 1 Modifiers – Misplaced  Part 2 Modifiers – Dangling  Parallelism 
Adjectives/ Adverbs 20, 23	#001 #002 #003	Review Packet 2	Comparatives and Superlatives 
Paragraph Development 1, 3, 7, 8, 10, 11	#046* #111		Paragraph Development 

Handouts #086 & #046 are extremely important to the P.E.R.T. It would be wise to do these handouts even if answers are not missed!

