

Revising

Question 1 .

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Which word or phrase completes each sentence with the most precise language?

The Follower

The man and his family were constantly on the move, season after season. They never any one place long enough for it to become a home. The woman sometimes silently wished that they would find a village and settle down somewhere with their little baby. However, her husband was restless, so they kept moving.

One day, the young mother went out to hunt beaver, carrying her baby on her back. When she had a toboggan full of beaver meat, she started back to camp. Suddenly, she heard the crunch of snow somewhere behind her. She was being followed by something very large, noisy, and fast.

Afraid to turn around and alert her pursuer, she bent over as if to pick something off the path and quickly past her legs. the snowy landscape was a fierce creature with long teeth. It was a saber-toothed tiger, and it looked hungry. Her hands trembled as she thought of the toboggan she was dragging behind her. The creature must have been drawn by the fresh meat. Her heartbeat quickened as she formulated a plan.

Question 2 .

(1) In 1983, Sally Ride became the first American woman to journey to outer space. (2) Ride was a member of the Space Shuttle Challenger crew. (3) The Challenger was the first crew to use a robotic arm to retrieve a satellite. (4) She also returned to space in 1984 with the Challenger. (5) Ride has accumulated more than two weeks' time in space.

(6) She earned her Ph.D. in physics from Stanford University. (7) Ride joined NASA in 1978. (8) She worked as a Capsule Communicator on her missions in space. (9) Ride helped develop the robotic arm used in her space shuttle missions.

(10) During training for her third mission, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, killing its crew members. (11) After the investigation, Ride was stationed at NASA headquarters in Washington, DC. (12) She also served on the advisory panel for the Space Shuttle Columbia crash.

How can sentences 8 and 9 be rewritten to eliminate redundancy?

- ☐ A. Ride not only helped develop the robotic arm used on her missions but also served as the Capsule Communicator for them.
- ☐ B. Ride helped develop the robotic arm used in her space shuttle missions before she worked as a Capsule Communicator on her missions in space.
- ☐ C. She worked as a Capsule Communicator on her missions in space, and subsequently, Ride helped develop the robotic arm used in her space shuttle missions.
- ☐ D. She worked as a Capsule Communicator on her missions in space. Ride helped develop the robotic arm used.

Question 3 .**The Wooden Horse**

(1) The fall of the great city of Troy is one of the most well-known stories of mythical history. (2) For several years, the Greek army had been trying to conquer Troy, but they were unable to find a way past the high walls of the city.

(3) However, one morning, the people of Troy awoke to find that the Greeks had given up and sailed away. (4) There was no sign of the army outside the walls, and this greatly delighted the Trojans. (5) What intrigued them was a huge wooden horse left outside the city gates. (6) On that day, the legend of the Trojan horse was born. (7) They believed it to be a gift from the defeated Greek army, and they dragged the great wooden figure into the city and held a feast to celebrate their victory.

(8) The Trojans slept well after all the merrymaking, but not everyone was asleep inside the city walls. (9) There was a murmur and scuffling. (10) It seemed to be coming from the wooden horse's belly, and slowly, a secret trapdoor was pushed open, revealing a group of Greek soldiers. (11) The Greek soldiers crept out and tiptoed to the city gates and opened them, allowing the Greek army, who were merely pretending to have sailed away, to enter the city. (12) The soldiers swept in, setting Troy on fire and creating havoc all around the city, until the entire city was destroyed beyond repair. (13) The surviving Trojans fled in panic through secret tunnels, and the Greeks finally conquered the city.

(14) For hundreds of years, people believed the tale of the Trojan horse to be true, but as time passed, their perception changed greatly. (15) Archeologists are confident that they have unearthed the lost city of Troy, buried under piles of earth and other ruins on the coast of Turkey. (16) Numerous historians and archeologists now believe that many of the old stories and legends are based, at least partially, on places that actually existed and on the events that truly occurred there centuries ago.

Which sentence from paragraph 2 could be used to end paragraph 3?

- ☐ A. sentence 3
- ☐ B. sentence 5
- ☐ C. sentence 6
- ☐ D. sentence 4

Question 4 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which sentence in the passage should be revised for clarity?

This is a draft of an essay. It may contain errors.

A Single Voice for Many: Walt Whitman's "Song of Myself" and Maya Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning"

(1) When Maya Angelou read the poem she had written specifically for President Bill Clinton's 1993 inauguration ceremony, many people were reminded of Robert Frost's on-the-spot recitation of "The Gift Outright" at President Kennedy's 1961 inauguration. (2) Frost's reading of this memorable poem was impressive and continues to resonate even today. (3) But it was another famous white-haired poet whose voice seemed to echo as if he were standing on stage with Angelou and Clinton. (4) That poet is Walt Whitman.

(5) Whitman and Angelou wrote about 100 years apart. (6) Angelou's "On the Pulse of Morning" and Whitman's "Song of Myself" both fundamentally call forth the ageless ideal of creating and speaking your own powerful voice. (7) For both poets, this means finding your own voice despite any challenges you may face.

(8) Both poets identify slavery both historical and literal as a weighty challenge to those seeking their own voice. (9) In stanza 11, for example, Angelou writes,

Lift up your hearts
Each new hour holds new chances
For a new beginning.
Do not be wedded forever
To fear, yoked eternally
To brutishness.

(10) She encourages all people to start breaking restrictive chains, taking new steps forward, and how to carve out individual voices. (11) She wants people to find a voice that will answer their "true yearning to respond to / The singing River and the wise Rock." (12) Alluding to Langston Hughes' poem "The Negro Speaks of Rivers," Angelou evokes a symbolic river that represents the universal soul of the African American experience. (13) She implies that this river continues to flow for all oppressed people, saying, "The River sang and sings on."

(14) A single voice can transcend its speaker. (15) Whitman maps out this all-encompassing voice in "Song of Myself" when he famously opens the first version of the extended poem,

I celebrate myself,
And what I assume you shall assume,
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you.

(16) Whitman's gist is that anyone can claim this celebratory voice. (17) Everyone has the right to share his or her own song. (18) They do this with lists. (19) Whitman's list includes "the wicked just the same as the righteous . . . / [not] a single person slighted or left away." (20) For Angelou, this list includes "You, the Turk, the Arab, the Swede, the German, the Eskimo, the Scot, / You the Ashanti, the Yoruba, the Kru." (21) Angelou and Whitman suggest that, although they happen to be the ones on the proverbial stage at the moment, no one's voice is any less worthy than theirs.

(22) "Song of Myself" and "On the Pulse of Morning" both succeed in sparking that voice in one and in many. (23) Call it a cry in the wilderness. (24) Call it a shout from the rooftops. (25) Call it a painful howl. (26) It is a resounding song in the shower. (27) Whatever name you give this voice from within, it must be heard. (28) Whitman's goal is summed up at the end of the extended poem: "I sound my barbaric yawp over the roofs of the world." (29) Angelou's goal may be quieter, but it is just as powerful:

And say simply
Very simply
With hope—
Good morning.

(30) Although they are from different generations and backgrounds, Walt Whitman and Maya Angelou continue to inspire people. (31) They do so with their poetic reminders that we all have a voice worth discovering and, more important, being heard.

Question 5 .

(1) Would you believe that blue, not green, was originally the color associated with St. Patrick's Day? (2) The green most people associate with the holiday probably originates from the 18th century. (3) "Wearing the green" was a symbol of support of Irish independence. (4) St. Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland. (5) Up until the 1970s, all pubs were closed on St. Paddy's Day.

(6) The people of North America, New Zealand, and several other countries typically use St. Patrick's Day as a day to celebrate Irish culture. (7) People enjoy Irish food and drink, wear green, and attend parades.

(8) To many people of Irish decent, St. Patrick's Day is a day of religious observance. (9) Saint Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland. (10) He was one of the earliest missionaries who spread the message of Christianity abroad.

Which transition should be added to sentence 8?

- ☐ A. Finally,
- ☐ B. Nevertheless,
- ☐ C. In summary,
- ☐ D. However,

Question 6 .

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Which word or phrase completes each sentence with the most precise language?

Coral Snakes and King Snakes

Many snakes have patterns or colors on their skins that allow people to identify them. In particular, the venomous coral snake is known for its coloring. Coral snakes that are native to North America have red, black, and yellow bands. , coral snakes can have red and black bands or pink and blue bands.

The non-venomous king snake can also be found in North America, and many of these snakes have a color pattern of yellow, black, and red bands. Sometimes, king snakes with this color pattern can be mistaken for coral snakes. A simple rhyme has been created to teach the differences between the North American coral snake and the king snake: "Red and yellow kill a fellow; red and black, poison lack." Red and yellow bands together indicate a dangerous coral snake. Red and black bands together indicate a harmless king snake.

Even though this little saying can help a person determine the type of snake, it is still important to use caution around all snakes. Respect wild animals, and do not interact with them. It can be dangerous to any wild animal, regardless of its color.

Question 7 .

Directions: Select the correct text in the passage.

Which sentence in the passage should be revised for clarity?

This is a draft of an editorial. It may contain errors.

Calling All Firefighters

(1) VOLUNTEERS URGENTLY NEEDED. (2) You may have seen lawn signs like this around town for the last week or two. (3) Bradley Beach United Engine & Truck is seeking volunteers. (4) Joining the fire department requires a big commitment, no doubt about it. (5) Our volunteer firefighters pursue a lot of training and certifications that enable them to fight fires and respond to other emergencies capably, confidently, and in keeping with insurance and other requirements.

(6) As far back in history as Ben Franklin's time, volunteer firefighters have filled an essential need for America's communities. (7) According to the U.S. Fire Administration, volunteer firefighters staff more than 70 percent of fire departments in this country.

(8) Our town fire department is completely volunteer. (9) Depending on whom you ask there are approximately 45 active members of Bradley Beach United Engine & Truck. (10) But some of the members are not currently able to respond to all calls due to injuries, family or professional commitments, age, or other circumstances. (11) Right now, approximately 14 people actively respond to calls—and that is if the fire happens at 9 P.M., when most members are home. (12) However, if a fire occurs, an hour or more away, in the middle of the day, many members are at their jobs. (13) Since the cause of more than one-third of residential fires is unknown, this is a pretty risky situation.

(14) Our fire department needs volunteers who are willing to complete the necessary training and be on call when needed. (15) We know this is a considerable investment of time. (16) In return for volunteering as a firefighter, you will learn a lot, join ranks with some great people, probably do something really important for someone else some day, and earn the respect and gratitude of your townspeople. (17) If you are a young person, the training and experience may start you on your way to a professional career in the emergency response or emergency management field.

(18) If you think you might want to join, call the station to speak with one of the members about it. (19) And if you're wondering what kinds of incentives our town provides to our volunteer firefighters, we currently offer them relief from certain fees. (20) These fees include the cost of beach badges and building permits. (21) We know this is a small price to pay for what you would give us in return. (22) It is worth keeping in mind that our fire department is almost wholly self-sustaining. (23) According to estimates of the National Volunteer Fire Council, compared to other towns around us that have career firefighters, our fire department saves our town almost 2 million dollars a year. (24) That's \$152 for every person in the town! (25) If the ranks of the fire department diminish to the point where it can't operate, our town will face a painful (and expensive) day of reckoning.

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Question 8 .

(1) Would you believe that blue, not green, was originally the color associated with St. Patrick's Day? (2) The green most people associate with the holiday probably originates from the 18th century. (3) "Wearing the green" was a symbol of support of Irish independence. (4) St. Patrick's Day is a public holiday in Ireland. (5) Up until the 1970s, all pubs were closed on St. Paddy's Day.

(6) The people of North America, New Zealand, and several other countries typically use St. Patrick's Day as a day to celebrate Irish culture. (7) People enjoy Irish food and drink, wear green, and attend parades.

(8) To many people of Irish decent, St. Patrick's Day is a day of religious observance. (9) Saint Patrick was the patron saint of Ireland. (10) He was one of the earliest missionaries who spread the message of Christianity abroad.

Which sentence from paragraph 1 could be used to start a new paragraph?

- ☐ A. sentence 4
- ☐ B. sentence 5
- ☐ C. sentence 2
- ☐ D. sentence 3

Question 9 .

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Which word or phrase completes each sentence with the most precise language?

First Day Disaster

"Are you ready to get started, Lizaveta?" Mr. Zaretsky asked as he handed her a pile of brightly colored fabric. Lizaveta gulped and nodded. It was her first day as an intern at Onegin Fashion Creations, and she was desperate to make a good impression.

Her new supervisor had briefly explained the procedure for operating the industrial sewing machine, but she was still unclear about several important details. The machine looked similar to the one she used at home, so she decided to just do her best and forego asking for additional instructions.

"Get busy, then," said Mr. Zaretsky with a smile. "I'll check on your progress in an hour."

"Yes, sir," Lizaveta replied as he left the room. She slid the first piece of fabric beneath the sewing machine's presser foot and stepped on the foot pedal to start the motor. Suddenly, the machine , and thread began spinning wildly across Lizaveta's workstation.

"What's going on?" cried Tatyana, head of marketing for OFC, as she raced out of her office to find the cause of the screeching.

"Oh, my! I have no idea!" Lizaveta . The ruined machine hissed at her angrily. She felt like crying as the room began to fill with employees. She fully expected to get fired for ruining an expensive piece of equipment.

"Don't worry," a fellow employee comforted her as he unplugged the still-smoking machine. "This piece of junk has been on the fritz for weeks."

"We'll just move you over to this workstation," Tatyana told Lizaveta. "You can finish your project on a new machine."

"Thank you so much," Lizaveta called out to her rescuers as she hurried back to work. She .

"Have you met your deadline?" asked Mr. Zaretsky when he returned to the workroom an hour later.

"I sure did," Lizaveta replied happily. She planned to bring a cake to the office to thank her new friends for their kindness.

Question 10 .

Directions: Select the correct answer from each drop-down menu.

Which word or phrase completes each sentence with the most precise language?

Protecting the Redwoods

The Redwood National Park is located just north of San Francisco, California. The park was established in 1968 and was expanded in 1978 to help protect the coastal redwoods.

The Redwood National Park is important because it contains some of the tallest trees in the world. Some of these trees are more than a thousand years old. Scientists theorize that the redwoods have existed in that region for over 20 million years. These trees on the coastal regions of California and Oregon because of the cool, moist climate. The fog that blankets the forest most of the time provides the plants with one-third of their water supply. In addition, the redwoods have thick trunks that make them

.

However, these trees are not invulnerable to all threats. Because of the lumber industry, only about five percent of ancient redwoods . Therefore, it is essential to preserve the parts of the redwood forest that are not already protected by the national park. Conservation will allow future generations to see the grandeur of the redwoods.

Answers

1. --
2. A
3. C
4. --
5. D
6. --
7. --
8. A
9. --
10. --

Explanations

1. The correct answer for the first drop-down menu is "dwelled in" because it most clearly conveys the author's point that the family does not take up permanent residence in any one place. The correct answer for the second drop-down menu is "glanced" because this word most accurately describes the character's actions. She quickly looks behind her because she is being followed by an unknown pursuer. The most precise phrase in the third drop-down menu is "Striding boldly through." This phrasing best reinforces the author's statements that the "fierce creature" is "very large, noisy, and fast" as it pursues the woman.
2. This is the only answer choice that both eliminates the repetition of "her missions in space," and maintains the main idea of both original sentences. The other sentences either just combine the two originals or leave something out.
3. In the second paragraph, sentence 6 mentions the legend of the Trojan horse. The third paragraph describes in detail how the wooden horse was used as a means to enter the city and conquer it. Thus, sentence 6 could be used to end the third paragraph, as the paragraph mentions how the legend of the Trojan horse was formed.
4. Revising is the process of rewriting or reworking a piece of writing for clarity, style, unity, and organization. The sentence "For both poets, this means finding your own voice despite any challenges you may face" needs to be revised for clarity. The writer uses the word "this" in the sentence, which is a demonstrative adjective. When using a demonstrative adjective, modify it with the appropriate noun to ensure understanding. One way to revise the sentence would be the following: Both poets define this aspiration as finding your own voice despite any challenges you may face.
5. The best transition to add here would be one that shows contrast to the previous paragraph about people of other cultures' celebration of St. Paddy's Day. "However," "But," or "On the contrary," would all be good transitions to use here.
6. The correct answer for the first drop-down menu is "distinctive" because this word most clearly conveys the author's point that unique patterns of color help distinguish coral snakes from other species of snakes. The most precise phrase in the second drop-down menu is "On other continents." The other answer choices use vague words such as "areas" and "regions" that are not as specific as "continents." The correct answer for the third drop-down menu is "disturb" because this wording best reinforces the author's point that wild animals can be dangerous when humans interact with them.
7. Revising is the process of rewriting or reworking a piece of writing for clarity, style, unity, and organization. The sentence "However, if a fire occurs, an hour or more away, in the middle of the day, many members are at their jobs" should be revised because it does not express a complete thought and contains comma splices, which make it hard to understand. One way to revise the sentence would be the following: However, if a fire located an hour or more away from the station gets phoned in during the afternoon, most volunteer firefighters are at their jobs and unable to respond.
8. In this paragraph, sentence 4 introduces a new idea. The beginning of the paragraph is about the color associated with St. Patrick's Day. This sentence is more about the holiday itself. It can be used to start a new paragraph. Sentence 5 continues the thought from sentence 4 and would be confusing if it started a new paragraph.
9. The correct answer for the first drop-down menu is "malfunctioned noisily" because it most clearly conveys the author's point that the sewing machine broke suddenly and made a loud "screeching" noise. The correct answer for the second drop-down menu is "exclaimed" because this word most accurately describes the character's mood. Lizaveta is upset that the machine has broken and worried about being fired. The most precise phrase in the third drop-down menu is "quickly completed her project." This phrasing best reinforces the fact that Lizaveta works fast to meet her deadline and impress her boss.
10. The correct answer for the first drop-down menu is "thrive" because this word most clearly conveys the author's point that the cool, moist climate has caused the redwood trees to flourish for thousands of years. The most precise phrase in the second drop-down menu is "resistant to damage and disease." The other answer choices contain unnecessary repetition or ambiguous wording. The correct answer in the third drop-down menu is "still exist today" because this wording best helps the reader understand the effect of the lumber industry on the redwoods.

