

WRITING CENTER PRACTICE TEST - FALL CONVENTIONS 4

Part 1

Read each of the sentences below and find the error in standard written English in each. There is no more than one error in each sentence.

Remember that standard written English is the kind of English you are usually asked to write in class and that there is sometimes a difference between the way we write something and the way we say the same thing.

1. The cinnamon buns, a favorite for breakfast at our house, is the best ones south of Philadelphia.
2. Have you noticed that the price of gold has risen regular during the past month?
3. The opera star sung two encores for the enthusiastic audience.
4. Tom is the healthiest of the two brothers.
5. Members of a candidate's election committee sometimes ignores the issues of real concern to city residents.
6. Americans are notorious for not knowing hardly any geography.
7. No one else in our family enjoys reading science fiction as much as her.
8. Our first years in the United States had little meaning for those of us too young to remember it.
9. We had driven all the way to Boston before we stop for gas.
10. When people marry, you take on new responsibilities.

Part 2

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. Choice (A) is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose answer (A).

1. **The managers are not doing nothing to see that the trash is picked up.**

- (A) The managers are not doing nothing
- (B) None of the managers are not doing anything
- (C) The managers are not doing anything
- (D) The managers who are not doing a thing

2. **Even though many government officials admit that the polygraph is unreliable, and they continue to use it as a security measure.**

- (A) unreliable, and they continue
- (B) unreliable, they continue
- (C) unreliable, continuing
- (D) unreliable, who continue

3. The lawyer explained the option to her client and was recommending a plea of guilty.

- (A) and was recommending
- (B) and recommended
- (C) and is recommending
- (D) and recommends

4. Despite the players are being small, the basketball team has the talent to win the tournament.

- (A) Despite the players are being small, the basketball team
- (B) Being the small players, the basketball team
- (C) Although the players are small, the basketball team
- (D) Smallness not being a problem, the basketball team

5. Jay Hanna Dean was one of baseball's most famous pitchers in the thirties and he is known today as Dizzy Dean.

- (A) Jay Hanna Dean was one of baseball's most famous pitchers in the thirties and he is known today as Dizzy Dean.
- (B) Jay Hanna Dean is known today as Dizzy Dean and was one of baseball's most famous pitchers.
- (C) Dizzy Dean is Jay Hanna Dean and he was one of the most famous pitchers in the thirties.
- (D) Jay Hanna Dean, known today as Dizzy Dean, was one of baseball's most famous pitchers in the thirties.

6. The kudzu plant is a plant that was introduced into America from Japan in order to prevent erosion and has become a problem in some areas because it chokes out other vegetation.

- (A) The kudzu plant is a plant that was introduced into America from Japan in order to prevent erosion and has become
- (B) Introduced into America from Japan to prevent erosion, the kudzu plant has become
- (C) The plant that was introduced into America from Japan to prevent erosion is called kudzu, and has become
- (D) Being the plant, kudzu, that was introduced into America from Japan to prevent erosion, it has become

7. The participation in the tournament was so slight, and the organizers decided not to hold the event ever again.

- (A) so slight, and the organizers decided
- (B) so slight, so that the organizers decided
- (C) so slight and the organizers decided
- (D) so slight that the organizers decided

8. The recently published biography is interesting, detailed, and well-written.

- (A) interesting, detailed, and well-written.
- (B) interesting, details are many, and well-written.
- (C) interesting, detailed, also well-written.
- (D) interesting, it detailed, also well-written.

9. The banquet table in the Baltimore House is longer than any in the world.

- (A) is longer than any in the world.
- (B) is the longest one in the world.
- (C) is the longer of any in the world.
- (D) is in the world longer.

10. Ann is a girl who has executive ability, and she should be elected class president.

- (A) Ann is a girl who has executive ability, and she should be elected class president.
- (B) Ann, a girl who has executive ability, and she should be elected class president.
- (C) Since she has executive ability, Ann should be elected class president.
- (D) Ann should be elected class president and she has executive ability.