

WRITING CENTER PRACTICE TEST - FALL CONVENTIONS 2

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 something.

1. Because the teacher gave the most hardest test of the semester, she was surprised to find that so many students passed with flying colors.
2. After the walls were painted beige, the complaints flow into the supervisor's office.
3. At the beginning of their first semester, some freshmen not only have difficulty adjusting to a new living situation, but they also would have a hard time getting used to their heavy course loads.
4. If you cannot find no good use for information developed in the free writing stage, then tear the paper up and start over.
5. Jan and me decided to go to Florida for vacation since we had never been there before.
6. Because she had not read the article accurate, her critique did not make sense.
7. The results of the test shows that Alice needs to take antibiotics for at least seven days.
8. Over the past few years, instructors require students to give oral presentations to complete course requirements.
9. Like many other skills that are learned in college, public speaking skills will help a student to stand out in their career.
10. Robert M. Gates, who is George Bush's choice for Director of Central Intelligence, rebutting allegations that he had distorted information.

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 phone rang, the dog barked, and the baby cried** every time I sat down to do my homework.

- (A) The phone rang, the dog barked, and the baby cried
(B) The phone is ringing, the dog barked, and the baby cries

- (C) The phone rang, the dog that barked, and the baby who cried
- (D) The phone was ringing, the dog was barking, and the baby cried

2. There has been a flash flood alert and the reason is sudden heavy rains made river beds swell.

- (A) and the reason is sudden heavy rains made river beds swell.
- (B) resulting from heavy rains and the river beds swelling.
- (C) which is because the sudden heavy rains made the river beds swell.
- (D) because the sudden rains made the river beds swell.

3. The dancers put on their make up, stretched their legs, and took their places before the curtain went up.

- (A) put on their make up, stretched their legs, and took their places
- (B) put on their make up, then they stretched their legs and took their places
- (C) put on their make up, and stretching their legs, followed by the taking of their places
- (D) put on their make up, stretched their legs, and they took their places

4. If she met the deadline, Beth would have won the contest.

- (A) If she met
- (B) If she would meet
- (C) Not meeting
- (D) If she had met

5. No parents will not attend the emergency school fund meeting.

- (A) will not attend
- (B) will attend
- (C) are not going to attend
- (D) were not attending

6. The union called a strike, and the reason being management refused to raise salaries, to increase benefits, and they refused to provide day care on the premises.

- (A) and the reason being management refused to raise salaries, to increase benefits, and they refused to provide day care on the premises.
- (B) the reason being management refused to raise salaries, to increase benefits, and they refused to provide day care on the premises.
- (C) because management refused to raise salaries, to increase benefits, and to provide day care on the premises.
- (D) the reason was because management refusing to raise salaries, increase benefits, and provide day care on the premises.

7. Since they were the first to arrive at the restaurant, and the newlyweds won a free dinner.

- (A) restaurant, and the newlyweds
- (B) restaurant, the newlyweds
- (C) restaurant was why the newlyweds
- (D) restaurant, the newlyweds who

8. The dancer, who was not well, and he still did not miss one performance.

- (A) The dancer, who was not well, and
- (B) Not well, and
- (C) Although the dancer was not well,
- (D) The dancer, which was not well, and

9. The jury did not make a decision because two members change their minds six times in two days.

- (A) members change their minds six times
- (B) members, changing their minds six times
- (C) members changed their minds six times
- (D) members, their minds changed six times

10. It was the worst snowstorm in 15 years, and it is going down in the record books.

- (A) It was the worst snowstorm in 15 years, and it
- (B) It being the worst snowstorm in 15 years, it
- (C) The worst snowstorm in 15 years, and it
- (D) Because the snowstorm was the worst one in 15 years, it