Praxis® Core

GRAMMAR
Writing Subtest: Content Categories

Language and Research Skills for Writing
- 28 – 34 selected-response
- 40% of exam

Topics
- Language skills
- Research skills
Language and Research Skills for Writing
Grammatical Relationships

- Adjectives and adverbs
- Noun-noun agreement
- Pronoun-antecedent agreement
- Pronoun case
- Interrogative and relative pronouns
- Intensive pronouns
- Pronoun number and person
- Vague pronouns
- Subject-verb agreement
- Shift in verb tense
Choose the answer that expresses most effectively what is presented in the original sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, or redundancy.

1. The board of directors are having their meeting today.

A. The board of directors are having their meeting today.
B. The board of directors is having their meeting today.
C. The board of directors are having a meeting today.
D. The board of directors are having its meeting today.
E. The board of directors is having its meeting today.
Independent Clauses
• can stand alone; they are sentences.

Dependent Clauses
• They cannot stand alone; they are not sentences.
• They need independent clauses to be a complete sentence.

Examples:
Correct: Before the party, I need a nap. (independent clause)

Incorrect: Before the party. (dependent clause)
CLAUSES AND COMMAS

2 Independent Clauses:
Comma + conjunction

Dependent Clause, Independent Clause:
comma

Independent Clause, Dependent Clause:
no comma

Examples:
I like ice cream, and vanilla is my favorite flavor. (comma, conjunction)
After the doctor’s visit, I felt better. (comma)
I felt better after the doctor’s visit. (no comma)
COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Language Skills: Structural Relationships

Independent clause, FANBOYS, Independent clause

Examples:

Incorrect: I went to the store, and bought jeans.
Correct: I went to the store, and I bought a candy bar.
Choose the answer that expresses most effectively what is presented in the original sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, or redundancy.

He knew he would get in trouble for skipping school, he did it anyway.

A. school, he did it anyway.
B. school but he did it anyway.
C. school and he did it anyway.
D. school; but he did it anyway.
E. school, but he did it anyway.
## Correlative Conjunctions Examples

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EITHER</th>
<th>NEITHER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Either is always used with or.</td>
<td>Neither is always used with nor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When both options are singular, use the singular verb tense.</td>
<td>When both options are singular, use the singular verb tense.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incorrect: Either Sheila or Willis are coming.

Correct: Either Sheila or Willis is coming.

Incorrect: Neither Ben nor Chad have the flu.

Correct: Neither Ben nor Chad has the flu.
A misplaced modifier is a word, phrase, or clause that is improperly separated from the word it modifies or describes.

**Examples:**

Incorrect: Yolanda realized too late that it was a mistake to walk the neighbor’s dog in high heels.
Correct: Yolanda realized too late that she shouldn’t have worn high heels while walking the neighbor’s dog.

Incorrect: The server brought the food to the customers in paper baskets.
Correct: The server brought the food in paper baskets to the customers.
What error(s) occur(s) in this sentence. Check all that apply.

While waiting in the voting area, cell phones and computers are prohibited.

A. Misplaced modifier
B. Parallel structure
C. Subject verb agreement
D. Pronoun antecedent agreement
Parallelism refers to the same pattern of words or repetition.

Parallel structure is when a sentence follows the same grammatical pattern.

Examples:
Incorrect: On vacation we rode our bikes, were swimming in the ocean, and visited friends.

Correct: On vacation we rode our bikes, swam in the ocean, and visited friends.
Choose the answer that expresses most effectively what is presented in the original sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, or redundancy.

As we move forward with **new employees**, we must be sure to train them **properly**, inspire them regularly, and ask them **appropriate** questions. **No error.**
Sample Test Item

Choose the answer that expresses most effectively what is presented in the original sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, or redundancy.

She only understood three things about that time period: being hungry, grace, and acceptance. No error.
Word Choice

- Idiomatic expressions
- Frequently confused words
- Wrong word use
- Redundancy
FREQUENTLY CONFUSED WORDS

- **affect** - to change or make a difference to
effect - a result; to bring about a result

- aloud - out loud
allowed - permitted

- censure - to criticize strongly
censor - to ban parts of a book or film

- coarse - rough
course - a direction; a school subject; part of a meal

- complement - an addition that improves
compliment - to praise or express approval; an admiring remark

- council - a group of people who manage or advise

counsel - advice; to advise

- elicit - to draw out a reply or reaction
illicit - not allowed by law or rules

- ensure - to make certain that something will happen
insure - to provide compensation

- principal - most important; the head of a school
principle - a fundamental rule or belief

- stationary - not moving
stationery - writing materials

- allude - to make indirect reference to
elude - to avoid

- capital - major city, wealth, assets
capitol - government building

- conscience - sense of morality
conscious - awake, aware

- eminent - prominent, important
imminent - about to happen

- everyday - routine, common
evory day - each day, all the day
Wrong Word Use

Language Skills: Word Choice

Many words are commonly misused. Fewer and less are often misused for one another.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fewer</th>
<th>Less</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Use FEWER for things you can count.</td>
<td>Use LESS for things you cannot count.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Incorrect: This meal has less calories than an ice cream cone.

Correct: This meal has fewer calories than an ice cream cone.

Incorrect: I have fewer enthusiasm than I once did.

Correct: I have less enthusiasm than I once did.
REDUNDANCY

Using different words to say the same thing.

Example:
Incorrect: He sat alone in solitude. (*Alone* and *solitude* mean the same thing.)

Correct: He sat alone.
Correct: He sat in solitude.
Mechanics

• Errors in punctuation
  • Commas
  • Semicolons
  • Apostrophes

• Errors in capitalization
COMMAS

- Separate independent clauses joined by any of the seven coordinating conjunctions (FANBOYS)
- Used after introductory clauses
- Used after conjunctive adverbs (i.e., however,)

Examples:
I went to the store, and I bought a candy bar.

After the movies, we went to get ice cream.

However,
Finally,
Also,
A semicolon connects two independent clauses.

• No coordinating conjunction is necessary when combining two related, independent clauses.
  *Ex: I love ice cream; chocolate is my favorite.*

• Semicolon + conjunctive adverb
  *Ex: I love to swim in the ocean; however, the water has been too cold.*
Choose the answer that expresses most effectively what is presented in the original sentence; this answer should be clear and exact, without awkwardness, ambiguity, or redundancy.

For this week's meeting, I would like to not only focus on attendance, but also on academic engagement. No error.
Research Skills
Research Skills

• Credibility and relevance of sources
• Elements of a citation
• Research strategies
• Information relevant to a particular research task
Evaluating Sources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Primary Sources</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Diaries, journals, and letters</td>
<td>• Published results of research studies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interviews with people who lived during a particular time (e.g., survivors of genocide in Rwanda or the Holocaust)</td>
<td>• Published results of scientific experiments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Songs, plays, novels, stories</td>
<td>• Published results of clinical trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paintings, drawings, and sculptures</td>
<td>• Proceedings of conferences and meetings</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Autobiographies</td>
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<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Secondary Sources</th>
<th>Humanities</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Biographies</td>
<td>• Publications about the significance of research or experiments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Histories</td>
<td>• Analysis of a clinical trial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Literary criticism</td>
<td>• Review of the results of several experiments or trials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Book, art, and theater reviews</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Newspaper articles that interpret</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
• found on a database and can be considered credible
• great to use when you need very specific research information on a topic
• not very helpful for general background information

• great for a general audience
• great for background information
• great to evaluate different perspectives on a topic
• great for current events
• Things like ads and heavy political or controversial opinion statements are red flags that the site is biased and unreliable.

• Books are a useful starting place for historical information.
• Magazines and newspapers are useful for current events in an easy-to-understand format.

Evaluating Sources
1. A car commercial boasts that its brand is the most reliable brand based upon research. Which of the following types of information collection would be the most relevant and credible:

A. Survey of Chevrolet owners
B. Survey of car dealership mechanics from 2002 to 2012
C. Report of mechanical repairs by all Chevrolet dealerships
D. Report of mechanical repairs by Toyota, Honda, and Chevrolet dealerships
E. Report of mechanical repairs made on all types of cars by independent repair shops over the last five years
ELEMENTS OF A CITATION

• Citations should occur within the body of the document. These are called in-text citations or parenthetical citations.

• Citations should also be included on a works cited page (MLA) or references page (APA) at the end of the document.

MLA (Book)
Last Name, First Name. Title of Book. Additional Contributors. City of Publication, Publisher, Publication Date.

In-Text Example: Author’s Last name (page number)

APA (Book)
Last Name, First Initial. (Year of publication). Title of work: Capital letter also for subtitle. Location: Publisher.

In-Text Example: Author’s Last Name (year of publication)
Sample Test Item

1. Which of the following citations is in APA format? Check all that apply.

A. Romantic poetry is characterized by the "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (Wordsworth 263).
B. Wordsworth stated that Romantic poetry was marked by a "spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings" (263).
C. Wordsworth extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process (263).
D. According to Wordsworth (2012), extensively explored the role of emotion in the creative process.
E. Romantic poetry is characterized by the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings (Wordsworth, 2012).