

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Mark your answers on the answer sheet provided at the back of the test.

1. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A I decided to go to the store, and Joseph chose to come along too.
 - B There parents took the bicycles in the car, while the kids waited their at the park.
 - C No matter wear you are, you will want to where clothes that fit correctly.
 - D It requires some common cents to figure out how to save your dollars and sense.
-

2. Which sentence is **not** written correctly?

- A Can't you loan me a few dollars for lunch today?
 - B Sometimes students do not understand why they are learning a particular subject.
 - C When given a choice between two good books, its difficult to decide.
 - D This year I had cake, but in past years I've enjoyed pie for my birthday.
-

3. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A The young boy exclaimed, "I saw a flying unicorn!"
 - B Katie replied, "I don't think you have the right answer."
 - C "We definitely have the best team," proclaimed the proud coach.
 - D "Hey, get off of my foot," shouted the beautiful girl!
-

4. Which sentence uses commas correctly?

- A Four years ago she moved here from Boston, Massachusetts.
- B The doctor's favorite meal includes steak sweet potatoes and cherry pie.
- C We love to play checkers, and chess, but we don't like Monopoly.
- D Our lawyer Mr. Mikelson, enjoys playing racquetball each Tuesday.

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5. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A The Statue of Liberty was a gift from the government of France.
 - B He used to live in Ohio, but he grew tired of midwest winters.
 - C Danika hoped to get a job with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.
 - D Last year in school we read the book Two Old Women by Velma Wallis.
-

6. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A In the future, my children both plan to attend Harvard Medical School.
 - B Zach and Vanessa made an adorable couple.
 - C The citizens of Barcelona were treated to a concert by Julio Iglesias.
 - D Lemony Snicket's The series of unfortunate Events was successfully adapted into a movie.
-

7. Which of the following is **not** a complete sentence?

- A Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in major league baseball.
 - B Because the lemon tree provided a beautiful backdrop.
 - C We all wore rubber boots while we were waiting for the snow to melt.
 - D If you gave me a million dollars I'd be a millionaire!
-

8. Which sentence shows the correct placement of the modifier?

- A Kneading its paws into the pillow, the cat purred contentedly.
- B Playing ten games of tennis, Lorraine's arm began to ache.
- C Standing on the 18th green, rain clouds built up over the golf course.
- D Watching a crowd gather in the square, the town bustled with activity.

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9. Which sentence is an example of formal language?
- A After a long week at school my friends and I just like to chill on the weekends.
 - B It was kind of neat when the Air Force band played for an assembly.
 - C The mayor of our town requested additional funding for road improvements.
 - D When I graduate from high school, I'm gonna go to college.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 10 through 12.

¹ My cats provide me with constant entertainment. ² Each day they wake me with “meows” proclaiming their hunger, expecting me to leap from the bed to fill their dishes. ³ Once I finish my shower, they eagerly await the chance to drink from the water spout. ⁴ Before I can leave for work, I will have witnessed several chase scenes. ⁵ I’m sure they sleep the day away. ⁶ When I returned home, they were ready for attention and play. ⁷ My older cat, Mitts, prefers lounging on my lap. ⁸ Meanwhile, my kitten, J.J., who apparently thinks he is a dog, can’t wait to play “fetch.” ⁹ With all these diversions, who needs television?

10. Choose the correct revision of Sentence 6.

- A When I return home, they are ready for attention and play.
- B When I returned home, they are ready for attention and play.
- C When I return home, they were ready for attention and play.
- D It is correct as is.

11. Read the following sentence.

No longer hungry or thirsty, both cats enjoy following one another from upstairs to down.

Where does the sentence **best** fit in the paragraph?

- A After Sentence 1.
- B After Sentence 3.
- C After Sentence 5.
- D After Sentence 7.

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12. Choose the best way to combine Sentences 5 and 6.

- A I'm sure they sleep the day away, meanwhile when I return home, they are ready for attention and play.
- B I'm sure they sleep the day away, although when I return home, they are ready for attention and play.
- C When I return home, they are ready for attention and play, and I'm sure they sleep the day away.
- D I'm sure they sleep the day away, since when I return home, they are ready for attention and play.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 13 through 15.

¹ Dian Fossey, a well-known female scientist, devoted her life's work to studying gorillas. ² For over twenty years, Fossey studied the behaviors of these large apes. ³ To do so, she had to gain their trust by living among them, and recognize each animal as an individual. ⁴ When Digit, one of her favorite gorillas, was slaughtered by poachers, Fossey created a special fund designed to protect the gorillas and began a campaign against poaching. ⁵ However, her crusade obviously angered this group of people, and Fossey was murdered at her cabin in the African jungle. ⁶ After many years of concentrated investigation, Dian wrote a book entitled Gorillas in the Mist which is later made into a movie.

13. In order to create a logical progression of ideas, where should Sentence 6 be moved?

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

14. Choose the correct way to write Sentence 6.

- A After many years of concentrated investigation, Dian writes a book entitled Gorillas in the Mist which was later made into a movie.
- B After many years of concentrated investigation, Dian writes a book entitled Gorillas in the Mist which is later made into a movie.
- C After many years of concentrated investigation, Dian wrote a book entitled Gorillas in the Mist which later is made into a movie.
- D After many years of concentrated investigation, Dian wrote a book entitled Gorillas in the Mist which was later made into a movie.

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15. Choose the detail that **best** fits in the paragraph.

- A Fossey eventually established a research center in Rwanda to assist in her studies.
- B Dian Fossey was born in Fairfax, California.
- C Fossey earned a PhD from Darwin College in Cambridge, England.
- D Dian Fossey took a trip to eastern Africa and met the famous archaeologist Louis Leakey.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

16. Read the following sentences.

Ellen gives away many prizes on her television show.

Oprah has given away houses and cars on her television show.

Choose the **best** way to combine these sentences.

- A Ellen gives away many prizes on her television show, and Oprah has given away houses and cars on her television show.
- B Ellen and Oprah give away many prizes on their television shows.
- C Ellen gives away many prizes on her television show, but Oprah has given away houses and cars on hers.
- D While Ellen gives away many prizes on her television show, Oprah has given away houses and cars on her television show.

17. Read the beginning of an essay.

The concept of alien life forms has been pondered for many years. Even the ancient civilizations of Egypt, China, India, and Arabia wondered about the presence of life beyond our own planet.

Choose the **best** detail to add to the essay.

- A According to scientists, alien life definitely exists outside of our solar system.
- B NASA has explored both the moon and Mars in search of alien life.
- C The invention of the telescope made it possible for scientists to easily identify alien life.
- D Most people believe in alien life.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

18. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A The mans joined their friends at the victory party for the football team.
 - B Although her teeth looked straight, she still needed to wear braces.
 - C If enough childs are willing to contribute, we will buy ten new computers for the school.
 - D When I opened my pantry, I realized that several mouses had eaten through the bag of rice.
-

19. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A The students enrolled in the Spanish class before taking a trip to Mexico.
 - B My son's favorite football team is the Green Bay Packers.
 - C During the Great Depression many people were forced to look for other jobs.
 - D After a long bike ride from Girdwood to Anchorage, she popped open a pepsi.
-

20. Which sentence shows the correct placement of the modifier?

- A I saw a moose roller skating.
- B Tanya could not explain why she wanted to get married to her mother.
- C While we took our test, a fire drill occurred.
- D After making a loud bang, I had to fix the muffler on my car.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 21 through 24.

¹ My class is participating in a project that requires each of us to write about a community topic which concerns us personally. ² I have chosen to write about the need for a youth recreation center. ³ There are lots of kids who would use this facility if we had one. ⁴ I know at least twenty-seven of my friends who would go! ⁵ Kids could have dances, play basketball after school, form clubs, and receive help with homework. ⁶ A recreation center would provide a positive alternative for the kids in our town who normally walk around the mall getting into trouble. ⁷ Our community should support the building of a facility like this if it values the future of our town.

21. This passage should be divided into two paragraphs. Which sentence should begin paragraph 2?

- A Sentence 3
- B Sentence 4
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 6

22. This passage is written as part of a formal letter. Which sentence does **not** maintain a formal voice?

- A Sentence 3
- B Sentence 4
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 6

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

23. This passage was written to

- A persuade.
- B describe.
- C narrate.
- D inform.

24. Choose the **best** detail to add to this passage.

- A If the recreation center had a big screen television, many kids would want to be there.
- B Kids are tired of having no place to go.
- C The recreation center could also serve as a day care facility during the school day and summer.
- D Lots of artists and musicians might help kids here.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

25. Read the following sentences.

I don't want to see that movie said Jennifer.

Okay, replied Robert, what movie would you prefer?

Choose the **best** way to punctuate these sentences.

- A "I don't want to see that movie," said Jennifer.
"Okay, replied Robert, what movie would you prefer?"
- B "I don't want to see that movie, said Jennifer."
"Okay, replied Robert, "what movie would you prefer?"
- C "I don't want to see that movie said Jennifer."
"Okay," replied Robert, what movie would you prefer?"
- D "I don't want to see that movie," said Jennifer.
"Okay," replied Robert, "what movie would you prefer?"

26. Read the following.

_____ David was struggling in school, his parents decided to hire a
tutor. _____, his grades have improved tremendously.

Choose the **best** transitions to complete the sentences.

- A Because, Immediately
- B Although, As a result
- C When, Eventually
- D Since, Consequently

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

27. Read the following.

Albert Smithson is ninety-four years old. He goes to the gym every day to work out. He routinely swims two miles in the pool.

Choose the **best** way to combine these three sentences.

- A Because Albert Smithson is ninety-four years old, he goes to the gym every day to work out, but he routinely swims two miles in the pool.
- B Even though Albert Smithson is ninety-four years old, he goes to the gym every day to work out, and he routinely swims two miles in the pool.
- C Albert Smithson is ninety-four years old; he goes to the gym every day to work out, and he routinely swims two miles in the pool.
- D Since Albert Smithson is ninety-four years old, he goes to the gym every day to work out, or he routinely swims two miles in the pool.

28. Which of the following is **not** a complete sentence?

- A The herd of buffalo scattered over the land.
- B Take your books to your room.
- C Because the movie was too scary.
- D We can go when I get paid.

29. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A All the students passed the test covering the past history of their state.
- B The band was no longer aloud to play their music allowed.
- C You have every write to right to your congressman about important issues.
- D The school district fired the principle because she did not follow their principals.

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30. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?
- A I could only find three of the ingredients: sugar, flour, and coconut.
 - B To summarize: we found the camp, set up our tent, and then the bears attacked.
 - C There are only three kinds of people: the good, the bad, and the ugly.
 - D The children came home today: they had been away for a month.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 31 through 34.

¹The Declaration of Independence is probably the most famous document in our country. ²Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence, with editing assistance from several others, including Benjamin Franklin and John Adams. ³This formal document expanded the “Lee Resolution”, a statement calling for United States independence that had been issued in June of 1776. ⁴Adopted by the Second Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, the Declaration proclaimed independence from Great Britain. ⁵Interestingly, most citizens of the United States believe this text was signed on July 4th by all the members of Congress. ⁶In reality only John Hancock, the President of the Congress at the time, signed on that date: the remainder of the Congressmen did not sign until August 2, 1776. ⁷Also, these men did not gather as a group to sign the Declaration. ⁸Instead, they secretly signed this historic text, aware that if the bid for freedom proved unsuccessful, they could be tried for treason.

31. This passage should be divided into two paragraphs. Which sentence should begin Paragraph 2?

- A Sentence 3
- B Sentence 4
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 6

32. Which part of Sentence 6 has an error in punctuation?

- A Hancock, the
- B time, signed
- C date: the
- D August 2, 1776

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33. Choose the **best** detail to add to the passage.

- A Abraham Lincoln referred to the Declaration in his *Gettysburg Address*.
- B Jefferson based some of the Declaration on Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* pamphlet.
- C Recently, *National Treasure*, a movie concerning the Declaration of Independence brought new interest to the document.
- D King George III of Great Britain was not very pleased with the document.

34. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Sentence 4
- B Sentence 5
- C Sentence 6
- D Sentence 7

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

35. Read the following sentence.

The concession stand has good burgers and hot dogs, and the candy selection is big.

Which of the following pairs of words would **best** replace the underlined words to create a more descriptive sentence?

- A healthy, huge
 - B delicious, vast
 - C appealing, large
 - D excellent, fantastic
-

36. Which of the following is a run-on sentence?

- A The snow was piling up on the mountain, as I got my snowboard ready.
 - B James thought he was the smartest one in the class, but Teagan scored higher on the test.
 - C The flowers in the garden looked absolutely beautiful, but they smelled horrid.
 - D Clowns in the circus scare some little children, they just make me laugh.
-

37. Read the following thesis sentence.

Since I started jogging a year ago, I've discovered that it results in many physical and mental benefits.

Which of the following details does **not** belong in the cause-effect essay about this topic?

- A Jogging has been proven to provide stress relief.
- B Regular running lowers blood pressure.
- C Runners need multiple pairs of good shoes.
- D One way to fight the aging process, especially the loss of muscle and bone, occurs through jogging.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

38. Which of the following has an error in subject-verb agreement?

- A Nobody believe your excuse.
 - B “Safe” and “out” are two calls made by umpires in baseball.
 - C Neither of them dances to disco music.
 - D The hammer and the saw make work easier.
-

39. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A The ship sailed across the Indian Ocean.
 - B The entire family sat on the banks of the Ganges River.
 - C We went to Calcutta last December.
 - D Tom and Mary went to frankfurt last Thursday.
-

40. Which sentence is **not** written correctly?

- A The band had quite a trip to the Rose Bowl, so they were asked to be quiet on the way home.
- B I had to chose between two presents, and I choose the red, shiny box.
- C After they went through the running drills, the quarterbacks threw forty passes each.
- D The puppies were then given some water rather than a dog biscuit.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 41 through 44.

¹ The *No Child Left Behind Act* requires standardized testing in every state in our country. ² When President George W. Bush introduced this proposal, he stated, “If our country fails in its responsibility to educate every child, we’re likely to fail in many other areas. But if we succeed in educating our youth, many other successes will follow throughout our country and in the lives of our citizens.” ³ There has been a great deal of argument regarding this legislation.

⁴ Those in favor of testing argue that it improves the accountability of students and schools. ⁵ Plus, some believe that teachers will encourage students to really learn the material rather than just memorize for tests. ⁶ Additionally students doing poorly will be identified early on so that a student with deficiencies can receive proper help. ⁷ Of course, there is another side to the debate. ⁸ Many feel that standardized tests can be biased or unfair. ⁹ Another fear is that students in failing school districts will never have the chance to receive an adequate education. ¹⁰ Teachers note that it lessens their flexibility in the classroom and that learning material for tests means other material receives less emphasis.

41. This passage should be divided into three paragraphs. Which sentence should begin Paragraph 3?

- A Sentence 6
- B Sentence 7
- C Sentence 8
- D Sentence 9

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

42. Which of the following transition words would **best** fit at the beginning of sentence 3?

- A However
- B Afterwards
- C Similarly
- D Therefore

43. Choose the correct way to write Sentence 6.

- A Additionally, students doing poorly, will be identified early on so that a student with deficiencies can receive proper help.
- B Additionally students doing poorly will be identified early on, so that a student with deficiencies can receive proper help.
- C Additionally students doing poorly will be identified early on so that a student, with deficiencies, can receive proper help.
- D Additionally, students doing poorly will be identified early on, so that a student with deficiencies can receive proper help.

44. This passage was **most likely** written as a

- A newspaper editorial.
- B narrative article.
- C comparison-contrast essay.
- D journal entry.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

45. Which sentence shows the correct placement of the modifier?

- A By accident, she poked the little boy with her elbow in the stomach.
- B Our family almost ate all of the Thanksgiving turkey.
- C I heard that my friend intended to throw a surprise party for me while I was outside her bedroom window.
- D Although the play was nearly finished, we left early because we were worried about our sick dog.

46. Read the following sentences.

X-rays can penetrate the human body. They produce images on photographic film.
Shadows on the picture reveal changes in body tissue.

Choose the **best** way to combine these three sentences into one.

- A X-rays can penetrate the human body producing images on photographic film, thus allowing the shadows on the picture to reveal changes in body tissue.
- B X-rays can penetrate the human body, produce images on photographic film, and shadows on the picture reveal changes in body tissue.
- C X-rays can penetrate the human body, while they produce images on photographic film; shadows on the picture reveal changes in body tissue.
- D X-rays can penetrate the human body, but they produce images on photographic film where shadows on the picture reveal changes in body tissue.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 47 through 49.

¹ Eight planets have been discovered in our solar system. ² The planets closest to the Sun consist of Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. ³ They are called the inner planets and are made up mostly of rock. ⁴ The outer planets includes Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. ⁵ Basically, large balls of gases with rings around them construct these planets. ⁶ Recently the IAU, International Astronomical Union, decided that Pluto which had long been considered our ninth planet should no longer receive that classification.

47. Which sentence is the topic sentence of the paragraph?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 2
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 6

48. Choose the correct way to write Sentence 6.

- A Recently the IAU, International Astronomical Union decided that Pluto which had long been considered our ninth planet should no longer receive that classification.
- B Recently the IAU, International Astronomical Union, decided that Pluto which had long been considered our ninth planet, should no longer receive that classification.
- C Recently the IAU, International Astronomical Union, decided that Pluto, which had long been considered our ninth planet, should no longer receive that classification.
- D Recently the IAU or International Astronomical Union, decided that Pluto which had long been considered our ninth planet should no longer receive that classification.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

49. Which sentence contains an error in subject-verb agreement?

- A Sentence 3
- B Sentence 4
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 6

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

50. Which sentence is an example of formal language?

- A The sailors had to return sooner than they'd planned because of bad weather.
 - B Don't talk back to your parents if you know what's good for you.
 - C Would you please pass me the apple pie?
 - D Prior to the discovery of America, potatoes were not consumed in Europe.
-

51. Kendra is writing a persuasive essay about the issue of homelessness in her city. Which is the **best** concluding sentence for her essay?

- A In only the last five years has homelessness appeared in our city.
 - B As a community, it is our duty to address the issue of homelessness.
 - C An estimated 100 million people worldwide are homeless.
 - D Poverty, domestic violence, and natural disasters all contribute to homelessness.
-

52. Which sentence is **not** written correctly?

- A It is quite difficult to believe that she's sixteen years old.
- B They're all excited about the upcoming movie premiere.
- C He's going to college in the fall, or at least thats the plan.
- D If all goes right, we've saved enough money for a new television.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

53. Read the following sentence.

Ted intended to _____ the car to its original condition.

Which of the following words would **best** complete the sentence?

- A reorganize
 - B convert
 - C reinstate
 - D restore
-

54. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Beatrice and her friend landed at La guardia airport in the middle of summer.
 - B My favorite classes are history, English, and math.
 - C The judge gave us good news at the courthouse in Tucson, Arizona.
 - D After visiting Pompano Beach, I want to live in Florida someday.
-

55. Which of the following is **not** a complete sentence?

- A Unless Devin finds a job soon, she'll have to borrow some money.
- B In the middle of the afternoon I like to take a nap.
- C There was no engine under the hood of the car.
- D Once the driving rain and deafening thunder stopped.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

Read the passage. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the passage to answer questions 56 through 59.

¹ The practices of footbinding and using corsets have both similarities and differences. ² Both of these customs occurred throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries. ³ Each served to impair the health of women and restrict their movement. ⁴ Also, many believe that the value of men was enhanced through these rituals; women were deemed too delicate to work, and relied on men to perform the necessary tasks of society. ⁵ However, the Chinese culture that employed footbinding is drastically different from the European and American cultures that used corsets. ⁶ Additionally, Chinese women's feet were deformed for life, while only the most extreme cases of tight-lacing did permanent damage. ⁷ The use of corsets has been trivialized, but footbinding has been seen as appalling. ⁸ It is intriguing that both of these rituals were inflicted upon women by other women. ⁹ Luckily, today's society would not tolerate these forms of dress restriction.

56. Where would Sentence 8 **best** fit in this passage?

- A After Sentence 1
- B After Sentence 4
- C After Sentence 6
- D After Sentence 9

57. According to the topic sentence of the passage, the emphasis of this writing could **best** be described as _____?

- A narration
- B persuasion
- C comparison/contrast
- D cause/effect

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

58. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A Sentence 4
- B Sentence 5
- C Sentence 6
- D Sentence 7

59. Choose the **best** way to combine Sentences 2 and 3.

- A Both of these customs occurred throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, though each served to impair the health of women and restrict their movement.
- B Both of these customs occurred throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, but each custom served to impair the health of women and restrict their movement.
- C Both of these customs occurred throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, and each served to impair the health of women and restrict their movement.
- D Since both of these customs occurred throughout the 19th and early 20th centuries, each served to impair the health of women and restrict their movement.

8TH GRADE WRITING PRACTICE TEST

60. Choose the **best** sentence to add to an essay about secondhand smoke intended for young children.

- A Breathing secondhand smoke has immediate harmful effects on the cardiovascular system that can increase the risk of heart attack.
- B Cigarette smoke contains more than 400 chemicals which can irritate the nose, sinuses, middle ear, and lungs.
- C Secondhand smoke is measured by testing indoor air for nicotine or other smoke constituents.
- D When a parent or other adult smokes near a child, that young person is exposed to secondhand smoke.

8TH GRADE WRITING ANSWER SHEET

WRITING				
Sequence	Key		Sequence	Key
1			45	
2			46	
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4			48	
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