

9TH 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 The cat always lies in the sunlight to take a nap.
 - B Because Sierra has practiced daily, she felt confident about the tryout.
 - C My sister has drank eight glasses of water every day for the past year.
 - D Our family set in the balcony for the concert.
-

2. Read the sentences.

Each of the students wrote a letter listing his suggestions for a class reward. After the students have voted for their top two choices, the teacher will select the best one as the reward.

Choose the correct revision for the sentences.

- A Change Each to All.
 - B Change his suggestions to their suggestions.
 - C Change have voted to has voted.
 - D Change best one to better one.
-

3. Which sentence has a pronoun that is used incorrectly?

- A While we were on vacation, Jacob and I took many pictures of the wildlife in Denali National Park.
- B One day a brown bear and her cubs caught Jacob and I by surprise.
- C The bears seemed to pose on their hind legs for Jacob and me.
- D Between Jacob and me, we agreed that this photo was our favorite.

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4. Read the sentence.

Neither Kristen nor Sarah had their purse with her at the mall.

Choose the correct revision for the sentence.

- A Change had to has.
 - B Change their purse to her purse.
 - C Change purse to purses.
 - D Change with her to with their.
-

5. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A These computers in the room is ready to be moved.
 - B Each of the computers are tagged and loaded on the cart.
 - C Some of the computers appear to need repair.
 - D All of the computers has to be formatted.
-

6. Which sentence is written correctly?

- A Jay has swum laps every morning to train for the meet.
 - B Benjamin has took lessons since he was five years old.
 - C Jay begun lessons when he was only three years old.
 - D Benjamin and Jay have broke the previous state record.
-

7. Which sentence has a pronoun that is used incorrectly?

- A Chloe wanted to know who was invited to the party.
- B She requested a list of people to whom invitations were sent.
- C Barbara asked, "Who do you want me to invite?"
- D "I can tell you who they are," replied Chloe.

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8. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Last year Sam and his family went camping in Yellowstone National Park.
 - B His Uncle Mike drove from Texas to Wyoming to join them.
 - C Sam enjoyed seeing the Old Faithful Geyser most.
 - D When the trip was over, his Uncle returned to his home in Austin, Texas.
-

9. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Miranda and Julie attend John Marshall high school in Atlanta.
 - B Miranda's class schedule includes math, French, English, and science.
 - C Julie's first class of the day is Algebra II with Mrs. Frost.
 - D Julie and Miranda want to attend Stanford University after graduation.
-

10. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Most students think that Principal Frazier is friendly and fair.
 - B We visited the Apollo theater in New York City.
 - C A Canadian team of scientists measured the ice cover of the Arctic Ocean.
 - D Terrence plans to work for the Eastman Kodak Company after graduation.
-

11. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Glaciers covered most of North America during the Ice Age.
- B Do people in Alaska celebrate Groundhog Day in February?
- C Julie's grandmother ran the Boston Marathon in April.
- D Robert E. Lee was a famous General in the Battle of Gettysburg.

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12. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Lauren will attend the University of Oklahoma next fall.
 - B My favorite part of Sunday brunch is a Sara Lee croissant.
 - C Amy was elected President of the Senior Class.
 - D Toni Morrison won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988 for her novel *Beloved*.
-

13. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A I enjoyed reading *To Kill a Mockingbird* during my Sophomore year.
 - B Europa, one of Jupiter's four major moons, is covered by ice.
 - C Sarah Palin, the governor of Alaska, appeared in *Vogue* magazine.
 - D The space shuttle *Discovery* launched the Hubble Space Telescope in 1990.
-

14. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A The Great Smoky Mountains are located on the border of Tennessee and North Carolina.
 - B New York City's famous central park was designed by Frederick Law Olmstead.
 - C Actress Meryl Steep won an Academy Award for her role in *Sophie's Choice* in 1982.
 - D Every Thanksgiving Dan's family visits his Grandmother Agnes.
-

15. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A "This test is worth 100 points," Mr. Anderson announced. "Do your best."
- B "Please mark your answers clearly, Anna," Mrs. Moore said.
- C "Remember to use a pencil," she stated. "and erase any stray marks."
- D "Put your name at the top of the paper," Mr. Clark said.

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16. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A I'm exhausted because I've been walking for two hours.
 - B Although she is new in school, June was elected class president.
 - C While Matt was riding home the chain fell off his bicycle.
 - D Looking in the store window, Andrea decided to buy new shoes.
-

17. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A My little sister's vocabulary consists of three words: no, daddy, and out.
 - B Wherever you go; I will follow.
 - C If Jacob shows you his letter, will you believe him?
 - D You cook the dinner; I'll do the dishes.
-

18. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A Fishing reels, hooks, nets, and boats may be rented by the dock.
 - B Steven adjusted the seat, checked the mirrors, and buckled his seat belt.
 - C The athlete jogged eight miles and could go no farther.
 - D Callie came to class late and the teacher wrote her a detention.
-

19. Read the sentence.

“Its four oclock in the morning” cried Susan “Why are you calling me”

Which revision is correct?

- A “It’s four o’clock in the morning!” cried Susan. “Why are you calling me?”
- B “Its four o’clock in the morning!” cried Susan, “Why are you calling me?”
- C “Its four o’clock in the morning,” cried Susan! “Why are you calling me?”
- D “It’s four o’clock in the morning,” cried Susan, “Why are you calling me!”

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20. Read the sentence.

Robert Frost was born in California however he is considered a New England poet.

Which revision is correct?

- A Robert Frost was born in California, however, he is considered a New England poet.
 - B Robert Frost was born in California. However he is considered a New England poet.
 - C Robert Frost was born in California; however, he is considered a New England poet.
 - D Robert Frost was born in California; however he is considered a New England poet.
-

21. Read the sentence.

On our vacation in Florida we visited the following tourist attractions Sea World, Universal Studios, Gatorland, and Cypress Gardens.

Which revision is correct?

- A On our vacation in Florida; we visited the following tourist attractions, Sea World, Universal Studios, Gatorland, and Cypress Gardens.
- B On our vacation in Florida: we visited the following tourist attractions; Sea World, Universal Studios, Gatorland, and Cypress Gardens.
- C On our vacation in Florida, we visited the following tourist attractions; Sea World, Universal Studios, Gatorland, and Cypress Gardens.
- D On our vacation in Florida, we visited the following tourist attractions: Sea World, Universal Studios, Gatorland, and Cypress Gardens.

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22. Which sentence uses all words correctly?

- A There new apartment has a view of downtown.
 - B Our whole vacation was filled with visits to family and friends.
 - C With so many choices, knowing which coarse to take is difficult.
 - D He needs to practice more if he wants to be better then her one day.
-

23. Which sentence uses all words correctly?

- A The stars shone brightly in the night sky above the city.
 - B There are to many choices for me to make a quick decision.
 - C They did not know weather or not they could go to the dance.
 - D The cat walked right passed the mouse and did not notice it.
-

24. Which sentence uses all words correctly?

- A You're coat is hanging in the hallway closet.
 - B They're basketball team is never going to be better than our team.
 - C The town has not raised it's tax rate in three years.
 - D Who's been using my computer to access the internet?
-

25. Which sentence uses all words correctly?

- A She had to have two of her tooths pulled due to infection.
- B The rancher kept all of the sheep in the pen at night.
- C We watched the geoses land on the quiet lake.
- D Our cat caught three mouses in the last week.

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26. Which sentence uses all words correctly?

- A I could here the marching band playing from a mile away.
 - B The boxes packed with books felt as heavy as led.
 - C Her dress had a silk sash tied in a bow at the waist.
 - D We decided that it was time to take a brake from studying.
-

27. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A The lights of the football stadium glowed in the valley.
 - B On Saturday the post office is open until noon.
 - C He has some really cool designs for remodeling the kitchen.
 - D She found her notebook underneath her sister's bed.
-

28. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A The talent show had some totally amazing acts this year.
 - B Next week the school cafeteria will be closed during conferences.
 - C The movie theater smelled like buttered popcorn and soda.
 - D My father planted rose bushes around the mailbox.
-

29. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A Around midnight, I heard the car alarm blaring from the driveway.
- B She wore the most outrageous outfit to her job interview.
- C My grandparents flew from Kentucky for my graduation ceremony.
- D Last year's fire completely destroyed ten acres of farmland.

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30. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A His mother sent him to the store for milk and bread.
- B The counselor agreed to write a letter of recommendation by Friday.
- C Our quarterback was featured in an article in Sunday's paper.
- D We decided to hang around after school to help decorate for the dance.

31. Which sentence uses informal language?

- A I asked her to clue me in on the surprise birthday party plans.
- B He will be interviewing with the manager tomorrow afternoon.
- C The excessive humidity made being outside unbearable.
- D She doesn't like to eat turnips, cauliflower, or broccoli.

Read the letter. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the letter to answer questions 32 through 36.

Dear Shelley,

¹Remember how scared I was that I wouldn't enjoy summer camp? ²Now I realize I had nothing to fear!

³In the beginning I was shy. ⁴I didn't know any of the other campers. ⁵While I was unpacking, my cabin mates introduced themselves and asked if I would like to go swimming in the lake. ⁶We had fun floating on the rafts and resting in the warm sand.

⁷Every day is filled with many different activities. ⁸My daily routine includes canoeing, weaving, and hiking. ⁹In the evening, the campers gather around the fire, and learn silly camp songs. ¹⁰One of my goals for next year is to audition for the school musical. ¹¹After the songs are over, my new friends and I walk back to our cabin. ¹²We spend the rest of the evening telling scary stories.

¹³Now that the summer is almost over, I realize how much I am going to miss my new friends when I come home. ¹⁴I will be glad to see my family again soon. ¹⁵I hope your summer was good to.

Your friend,

Lauren

32. Which is the **best** way to combine Sentences 3 and 4?

- A In the beginning I was shy, I didn't know any of the other campers.
- B In the beginning I was shy; however, I didn't know any of the other campers.
- C In the beginning I was shy because I didn't know any of the other campers.
- D In the beginning I was shy and didn't know any of the other campers.

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33. Which sentence has a punctuation error?

- A Sentence 5
- B Sentence 7
- C Sentence 9
- D Sentence 11

34. Which sentence should be removed from the letter?

- A Sentence 9
- B Sentence 10
- C Sentence 11
- D Sentence 12

35. Choose the **best** transition to begin Sentence 14.

- A At first
- B By then
- C Meanwhile,
- D Nevertheless,

36. Which sentence has a spelling error?

- A Sentence 10
- B Sentence 11
- C Sentence 13
- D Sentence 15

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Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 37 through 40.

¹When you are feeling lonely and depressed, a long walk in the crisp air helps to cheer you up. ²On hikes through wild country campers make many wonderful and surprising discoveries; enjoying the peaceful feeling of direct contact with nature. ³Nervous business people, waiting to hear weather the stock market has gone down another point, put their hands behind them and pace impatiently. ⁴Bicycling and running are also good for you. ⁵Next time you are bored, unhappy, or worried, take a walk.

37. Choose the **best** topic sentence for the paragraph.

- A Walking is one of the best forms of recreation, which will benefit you no matter what mood you are in.
- B Walking can burn more calories than any other form of exercise.
- C Exercise is important for mental and physical health.
- D Many people do not know how to handle stressful situations.

38. Which sentence should be removed from the paragraph?

- A Sentence 2
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

39. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

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

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40. Which sentence has a spelling error?

- A Sentence 2
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

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

¹A layer of gravel is placed under the foundations of most structures in Alaska, including buildings, roads, and railroads. ²Gravel is one of the most common transported goods on the Alaska Railroad. ³Eighty-five percent of Alaska's land has permafrost: a layer of permanently frozen ground. ⁴If heat from the buildings seeps into the permafrost, the permafrost will melt and cause the structure to sink. ⁵The gravel keeps a building's heat from melting the permafrost. ⁶Gravel prevents the structure from sinking. ⁷It is a very important building material.

41. Choose the **best** topic sentence for the paragraph.

- A Alaska's layer of permafrost makes construction difficult.
- B Gravel can be used for snow and ice control on roads.
- C Gravel is an important construction material in Alaska.
- D Gravel is a mixture of rock fragments and pebbles.

42. Which sentence should be removed from the paragraph?

- A Sentence 2
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

43. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

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44. Which is the **best** way to combine Sentences 6 and 7?

- A Gravel prevents the structure from sinking, and it is a very important building material.
- B Gravel prevents the structure from sinking; however, it is a very important building material.
- C If Gravel prevents the structure from sinking, it is a very important building material.
- D Because gravel prevents the structure from sinking, it is a very important building material.

Read the report. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 45 through 50.

¹Mountain goats and dall sheep are both white. ²They can easily be confused with each other. ³There are several differences that help distinguish these two mountain dwellers. ⁴Mountain goats have black, slightly curving horns while Dall sheep horns are lighter in color and typically curve much more. ⁵Mountain goat bodies seem to be square, and their coats are actually more off-white or yellow then the Dall sheep. ⁶Mountain goats also have a beard and longer hair than sheep. ⁷Dall sheep bodies appeared rounder at a distance.

⁸A front profile of a mountain goat shows the unique physical trait of a narrow body, which helps the goats as they walk along narrow cliffs. ⁹Their body profile is also different from sheep in that their front end seems larger and out of proportion with their rear legs. ¹⁰The goats are built for climbing and jumping. ¹¹The leg bones of goats are unusually thick and dense to help protect them from accidental breaks from occasional falls.

45. Which is the **best** way to combine Sentences 1 and 2?

- A Mountain goats and Dall sheep are both white, but they can easily be confused with each other.
- B Mountain goats and Dall sheep are both white; therefore, they can easily be confused with each other.
- C Mountain goats and Dall sheep are both white, and they can easily be confused with each other.
- D Mountain goats and Dall sheep are both white, yet they can easily be confused with each other.

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46. Read the sentence.

Dall ram horns can curve into a complete curl.

Where would the sentence **best** be placed in the report?

- A after Sentence 2
- B after Sentence 4
- C after Sentence 6
- D after Sentence 8

47. Choose the **best** transition to begin Sentence 11.

- A In fact,
- B However,
- C Nevertheless,
- D Meanwhile,

48. Which is the correct way to write Sentence 7?

- A Dall sheep bodies would appear rounder at a distance.
- B Dall sheep bodies will appear rounder at a distance.
- C Dall sheep bodies appear rounder at a distance.
- D Dall sheep bodies appears rounder at a distance.

49. Which sentence has a spelling error?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

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50. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 4
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 7

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Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 51 through 55.

¹The strongest earthquake ever recorded in North America occurred on March 27, 1964, in Alaska. ²The epicenter was in Northern Prince William Sound about 75 miles east of Anchorage but the quake was felt over 700 miles away. ³The earthquake registered 8.6 on the Richter scale, lasting 4.5 minutes. ⁴Scientists now favor a different magnitude scale for very large quakes that shows this quake as 9.2. ⁵The strong ground motion triggered many avalanches and landslides, causing great damage too many of Alaska's roads and buildings. ⁶Many businesses in Downtown Anchorage were drastically affected by the quake. ⁷Building facades crashed into the street. ⁸In some places one side of the street dropped down over ten feet. ⁹The J.C. Penny Company building was damaged beyond repair, and the Four Seasons apartment building collapsed.

51. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

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

52. Choose the **best** transition to begin Sentence 4.

- A In fact,
- B Nevertheless,
- C However,
- D Meanwhile,

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53. Which sentence has an error in capitalization?

- A Sentence 2
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 5
- D Sentence 6

54. Which revision of Sentence 3 is correct?

- A The earthquake registered 8.6 on the Richter scale; lasting 4.5 minutes.
- B Lasting 4.5 minutes, the earthquake registered 8.6 on the Richter scale.
- C Lasting 4.5 minutes on the Richter scale, the earthquake registered 8.6.
- D The earthquake registered 8.6, lasting 4.5 minutes, on the Richter scale.

55. Which sentence has a spelling error?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

Read the paragraph. It has mistakes that need to be corrected. Use the paragraph to answer questions 56 through 60.

¹The beaver has webbed hind feet, which help to propel it through the water when they are swimming. ²To signal danger or to warn away predators, the beaver slaps its large, flat, nearly hairless tail against the water. ³The beaver waterproofs its thick fur by coating it with castoreum, an oily secretion from its scent glands. ⁴Beaver fur has always been prized by trappers for its warmth and luxuriousness. ⁵A thick layer of fat under it's skin keeps the beaver warm underwater. ⁶Behind the front teeth lies a special flap of skin which prevents water from entering the beaver's mouth as it chews underwater. ⁷When the beaver is underwater its nose and ears close and a special membrane covers its eyes.

56. Choose the **best** topic sentence for the paragraph.

- A The beaver, North America's largest rodent, is built for life in the water.
- B Beavers are clumsy on land so they build dams to raise the water table.
- C Beavers are about three or four feet in length and live about twelve years.
- D Beaver dams can cause flooding and damage to private property.

57. Which sentence should be removed from the paragraph?

- A Sentence 2
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

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58. Choose the correct revision for Sentence 1.

- A Change has webbed to have webbed.
- B Change propel it to propel them.
- C Change they are to it is.
- D The sentence is correct as it is.

59. Which sentence has a spelling error?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 3
- C Sentence 4
- D Sentence 5

60. Which sentence has an error in punctuation?

- A Sentence 1
- B Sentence 2
- C Sentence 6
- D Sentence 7

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