

WRITING CENTER PRACTICE TEST - FALL CONVENTIONS 1

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. Since its beginning, the United States was built by people from all over the world.
2. The instructors weren't given no leeway when it came to planning their courses.
3. Abraham Lincoln, an extremely persistent individual, who won the presidency in 1860 after eight election losses in a row.
4. The lumberman who previous sold only to carpenters and builders now finds hundreds of amateurs eager to build their own homes.
5. My brother is better at choosing collectible dolls than me.
6. Because she works more diligently than her roommate, she received praise from both her parents and her instructors.
7. The smallest star of all the detected stars in the heavens were given the name "Wolf 457."
8. With tuition on the rise, a student has to save money wherever they can.
9. A few countries produce most of the world's illegal drugs, but drug addiction affected many more countries.
10. Since Paris is the most loveliest city in the world, it is flooded with tourists during the summer.

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. In the play King Lear, Shakespeare explores many universal concerns: He analyzes the nature of absolute power, studies the complexities of relationships, and reaffirming the healing power of unselfish love.

- (A) reaffirming the healing power of unselfish love.
(B) he reaffirms the healing power of unselfish love.

- (C) reaffirmed the healing power of unselfish love
- (D) reaffirms the healing power of unselfish love.

2. Neurologist Oliver Sacks became interested in the deaf, and when he was asked to review publications on the subject.

- (A) deaf, and when he was asked to review publications on the subject.
- (B) deaf when he was asked to review publications on the subject.
- (C) deaf he was asked to review publications on the subject.
- (D) deaf, he was asked to review publications on the subject.

3. Psychopathy is an emotional defect that currently would afflict at least two to three percent of the population.

- (A) would afflict at least two to three percent of the population.
- (B) afflicted at least two to three percent of the population.
- (C) afflicts at least two to three percent of the population.
- (D) afflicting at least two to three percent of the population.

4. Jimi Hendrix is possibly the greatest rock and roll guitarist of all time, and he was once the opening act for the Monkees.

- (A) Jimi Hendrix is possibly the greatest rock and roll guitarist of all time, and he was once the opening act for the Monkees.
- (B) Jimi Hendrix is possibly the greatest rock and roll guitarist of all time, he was once the opening act for the Monkees.
- (C) Jimi Hendrix, possibly the greatest rock and roll guitarist of all time, once was the opening act for the Monkees.
- (D) Jimi Hendrix, possibly the greatest rock and roll guitarist of all time, and once the opening act for the Monkees.

5. Flannery O'Connor, one of the century's outstanding short-story writers, only wrote in the morning and the reason is she was in a weakened condition from lupus and she had to limit her writing time.

- (A) morning and the reason is she was in a weakened condition from lupus and she had to limit her writing time.
- (B) morning and the reason is because she was in a weakened condition from lupus and she had to limit her writing time.
- (C) morning because she was in a weakened condition from lupus that forced her to limit herself.
- (D) morning due to the reason being her weakened condition from lupus and her limited time.

6. We considered moving to a small town in the Southwest, to a hamlet in the mountains or a suburb of San Francisco.

- (A) or a suburb of San Francisco.
- (B) or to a suburb of San Francisco.
- (C) or we would move to a suburb of San Francisco.
- (D) or should we move to a suburb of San Francisco.

7. Sandra Day O'Connor has been a Supreme Court Justice since 1981, when she was appointed to it by Ronald Reagan.

- (A) when she was appointed to it by Ronald Reagan.
- (B) when Ronald Reagan appointed her to it.
- (C) when she was appointed to the Supreme Court by Ronald Reagan.
- (D) as she was appointed by Ronald Reagan to it.

8. If the fire alarm had not gone off at three a.m., the students will be wide awake for their morning classes.

- (A) the students will be wide awake for their morning classes.
- (B) the students can be wide awake for their morning classes.
- (C) the students could be wide awake for their morning classes.
- (D) the students would have been wide awake for their morning classes.

9. No runners ever do not begin a race without warming up.

- (A) No runners ever do not begin
- (B) Runners never begin
- (C) No runners do not begin
- (D) No runners don't begin

10. The main character in the novel suffers psychologically because he has a clubfoot, but he triumphed over his handicap.

- (A) but he triumphed
- (B) but he triumphs
- (C) but wanted to triumph
- (D) but triumphing