

Sentence Skills Diagnostic Test

This diagnostic test will help check your knowledge of a number of sentence skills. In each item below, certain words are underlined. Write X in the answer space if you think a mistake appears at the underlined part. Write C in the answer space if you think the underlined part is correct. Correct the wrong ones.

Fragments

1. Because I didn't want to get wet. I waited for a break in the downpour. Then I ran for the car like an Olympic sprinter.
2. The baby birds chirped loudly, especially when their mother brought food to them. Their mouths gaped open hungrily.
3. Trying to avoid running into anyone. Cal wheeled his baby son around the crowded market. He wished that strollers came equipped with flashing hazard lights.
4. The old woman combed out her long, Gray hair. She twisted it into two thick braids. And wrapped them around her head like a crown.
5. When the town's bully died. Hundreds of people came to his funeral. They wanted to make sure he was dead.
6. Suzanne adores junk foods, especially onion-flavoured potato chips. She can eat an entire bag at one sitting.
7. My brother stayed up all night. Studying the rules in his driver's manual. He wanted to get his license on the first try.
8. Hector decided to take a study break. He picked up TV Guide. And flipped through the pages to find that night's listings.

Run-Ons

1. Irene fixed fruits and healthy sandwiches for her son's lunch, he traded them for cupcakes, cookies, and chips.
2. Angie's dark eyes were the colour of mink they matched her glowing complexion.
3. My mother keeps sending me bottles of vitamins, but I keep forgetting to take them.
4. The little boy watched the line of ants march across the ground, he made a wall of Popsicle sticks to halt the ants' advance.
5. Ronnie leaned forward in his seat, he could not hear what the instructor was saying.
6. Our television obviously needs repairs the colour keeps fading from the picture.
7. Nick and Fran enjoyed their trip to Chicago, but they couldn't wait to get home.
8. I tuned in the weather forecast on the radio, I had to decide what to wear.

Standard English Verbs

1. When she's upset, Mary tells her troubles to her houseplants.
2. The street musician counted the coins in his donations basket and pack his trumpet in it case.
3. I tried to pull off my rings, but they was stuck on my swollen fingers.
4. Belle's car have a horn that plays six different tunes.
5. My sister Louise walks a mile to the bus stop every day.
6. The play was ruined when the quarterback fumble the handoff.

7. When the last guests left our party, we was exhausted but happy.
8. I don't think my mother have gone out to a movie in years.

Irregular Verbs

1. I've swam in this lake for years, and I've never seen it so shallow.
2. The phone rung once and then stopped.
3. The metal ice cube trays froze to the bottom of the freezer.
4. My roommate and I seen a Broadway show this weekend.
5. My nephew must have grown six inches since last summer.
6. I should have brought a gift to the office holiday party.
7. After playing touch football all afternoon, Al drank a quart of Gatorade.

Subject-Verb Agreement

1. The songs in my iPod is arranged in alphabetical order.
2. There was only one burner working on the old gas stove.
3. My aunt and uncle gives a party every Groundhog Day.
4. One of my sweaters have moth holes in the sleeves.
5. The cost of those new tires are more than I can afford.
6. Joe and Julie give a New Year's Eve party every year.
7. There was only two slices of cake left on the plate.
8. Each of the fast-food restaurants have a breakfast

Adjectives and Adverbs

1. Brian drives so reckless that no one will join his carpool.
2. Miriam pulled impatiently at the rusty zipper.
3. I am more happier with myself now that I earn my own money.
4. The last screw on the license plate was the most corroded one of all.
5. When the elevator doors closed sudden, three people were trapped inside.
6. The homeless woman glared angrily at me when I offered her a dollar bill.
7. I find proofreading a paper much more difficult than writing one.

Faulty Parallelism

1. Before I could take a bath, I had to pick up the damp towels on the floor, gather up the loose toys in the room, and the tub had to be scrubbed out .
2. I've tried several cures for my headaches, including drugs, meditation, exercise, and massaging my head .

Commas

1. The restaurant's "sundae bar" featured bowls of whipped cream chopped nuts and chocolate sprinkles.
2. My sister, who studies karate, installed large practice mirrors in our basement.
3. When I remove my thick eyeglasses the world turns into an out-of-focus movie.
4. Gloria wrapped her son's presents in pages from the comics section, and she glued a small toy car atop each gift.