Course: Written Expression

Instructor: Dr. Nour Elhouda Toumi

Lesson one: Parts of Speech-theory (nouns, pronouns and adjectives)

**Practice 1**: Put the following words under the right column

chair, television, teacher, Philadelphia, bird, washing machine, flowers, Ms. King, frog, bee, downtown, crocodile, Theresa, father, Canada, Marie, granny, mother, river, mountain, hotel, taxi, fox, camel

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| People | Place | Thing |
|  |  |  |

**Practice 2**: Circle and capitalise proper nouns.

ali baba, country, mountain, harry potter, beethoven, algeria, turkish, british, malay, hongkong, river, india, tree, boy, day, the united kingdom, month, the moon, the pacific ocean, the eiffel tower, the earth, manager, father’s day, ramadan, halloween, remembrance day

**Practice 3:** Underline the nouns in the following sentences.

Example: The family travels to the mountains every weekend.

1. They pack up the family van, drive two hours, and arrive at the small cabin in Big Bear Lake.

2. The weekend is spent relaxing in the fresh air.

3. The four children spend their time hiking, skiing, swimming, or reading, depending on the season.

4. The parents try to relax as they do the yard work, repair the cabin, and prepare meals for the children.

5. When they get home, the kids are relaxed, but the parents are exhausted.

6. The family plans a trip to the beach next week.

7. On Saturday morning, the van is filled with inner tubes, beach towels, beach chairs and picnic baskets.

8. The drive to the beach is an hour trip through the maze of Southern California freeways.

9. After spending the day swimming and resting on the shore, they gathered around the fire, munching on hot dogs.

10. As the sun sets into the fiery ocean, the group gathers its sandy belongings and staggers to the car for the gritty ride home.

**Practice 4:** In the following sentences, underline subjective pronouns once, objective pronouns twice, and possessive pronouns three times. Some sentences may contain more than one type.

1. He came home from work.

2. His new car was covered with oak leaves.

3. As she walked to the water cooler, her shoe came off and slid under a desk.

4. They decided that not participating in the parade was a better decision for them.

5. It will not be as surprising to you after they explain the rules.

6. Would you like to eat at your place or ours?

7. We sold their horses for them while they were in Europe.

8. It was never my intention to buy his car for you.

9. It’s never a good idea to put all of your investments into one stock.

10. I thought the best plan for you would be to go with them to the game.

**Practice 5**: Circle the correct form of personal pronoun in the following sentences.

1. The governor accepted an interview with Lisa and (he, him).

2. (She, Her) and Ellen want to be fire fighters.

3. After the rehearsal, Luis and (he, him) went to the coffee shop.

4. The contractors left (their, his) tools on the desk.

5. These statistics helped (her, she) and (me, I) with our research paper.

6. That estimate seemed very expensive to my sister and (I, me).

7. It seemed as though an unresolved problem was causing difficulties between my father and (I, me).

8. The restored painting had regained (its, their) glorious colours.

**Practice 6:** Write the correct reflexive pronoun in the following sentences.

1. Aliesha...............................was astounded at how quickly she learned the concepts.

2. My children and I painted the room...............................

3. Oksana found............................. alone in a strange city.

4. The goal is for the students to edit the essay................................

5. Although I enjoy cooking, I cannot cook all meals by.............................

**Practice 7**: Write the correct demonstrative pronoun in the following sentences.

1........................ book (in my hand) gives the latest statistics on the dangers of second-hand smoke.

2. He spent the afternoon staring at .............................picture across the room.

3. .................................flowers in the valley bloom only in the early fall.

4. The police found ..........................puppy (in my car) on the side of the highway.

5. ..............................was the most important discovery of the century.

6.............................. apples in the truck are still green.

7. Why didn’t you take .....................................cookies to our new neighbour?

8. ...........................small tattoos are the least painful to apply.

**Practice 8**: Write the correct relative pronoun in the following sentences.

Example: The scientist who is studying AIDS received a grant.

1. .....................field of study has he chosen as a major?

2. For ....................did he buy this bicycle?

3. ..............................wants to go to the concert may go.

4. The biology lab............................. I attend is three hours long.

5. He did not know ...........................the performance had been cancelled.

6. At ..........................did the clown throw the cream pie?

7. ..........................will take the originals to the copy room?

8. He will marry............................. his friends approve of.

9. Give the money to...................... you choose.

10. For .................................are those gifts piled in the closet?

**Practice 9:** Complete each of the following sentences with an appropriate adjective from the list below. Use each adjective once.

beautiful painful young red large brilliant stuffy rusted broken creative

1. The .......................star shone in the cold, night sky.

2. The actress was................................

3. Hawks and eagles are ........................birds of prey.

4. The ...........................metal on the rail of the shipwreck began to separate from the hull.

5. My dog had a ...................................rash on his hind legs.

6. The loss of the championship game was very............................. after the winning season.

7. The room became warm and ............................after all the students arrived.

8. The........................... glowing sunset over the ocean was her favourite view.

9. A................................. window was the only clue to the robbery.

10. When the kitten was ............................, he would bounce on the furniture.

**Practice 10:** Underline the adjective(s) in each sentence for which it is possible to form a related noun. Write the noun in brackets.

Example: Few patients are likely to suffer side-effects from the drug. (likelihood)

a) Various methods of dealing with the spread of malaria were suggested. (. . . . . . . .)

b) Dr Lee adopted an analytical approach to the inquiry. (. . . . . . . .)

c) Antibiotics were not available in the first half of the 20th century. (. . . . . . . .)

d) Her major contribution to the research was her study of folklore in Spain. (. . . . . . . .)

e) The precise number of people affected by the earthquake is unknown. (. . . . . . . .) (. . . . . . . .)

f) Some progress was made in the theoretical area. (. . . . . . . .)

g) A frequent complaint is that too much work is expected in the first semester. (. . . . . . . .)

h) We took a more critical approach to irrigation. (. . . . . . . .)

i) The Department of Social Policy is offering three courses this year. (. . . . . . . .)

j) Finally, the practical implications of my findings will be examined. (. . . . . . . .)

**Practice 11**: Complete the gaps in the table below

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Noun | Adjective | Noun | Adjective | Noun | Adjective |
| height |  | reliability |  | heat |  |
|  | strong |  | confident |  | true |
| width |  | probability |  | necessity |  |
|  | long |  | dangerous |  | relevant |
|  | approximate |  | particular |  | strategic |
| superiority |  | reason |  |  | synthetic |
|  | cultural |  | industrial | average |  |
| exterior |  | politics |  | beauty |  |

**Practice 12**: Underline the adjectives in the following passage from a student essay by Stephanie Higgs.

Thunderstorms the previous night had settled into a steady, rhythmic shower by daylight. I was alone in the house following my predictable routine. Then, I heard the scraping of the vinyl floor trim on the French door against the ceramic tiles. As I rounded the corner, what I saw made fear rise in my throat like green bile forced up from the pit of my stomach. As soon as I saw them, panic increased my heart rate, bringing it to ear-shattering crescendos until I thought I would go deaf or explode. Incapacitating shock and disbelief bordering on denial paralyzed my entire body. I stared at two masked men wielding knives, standing in my breakfast room and heading straight toward me. Walking past the wall phone, in one deft move, they dropped the receiver to the floor and were right in front of me with a cold, steel blade to my throat. While looking into the cold, dark eyes of the one who seemed to be in charge, I heard someone who strangely sounded like me, asking, “What are you here for?” Gripped by the icy fingers of insanity, I heard myself laughing as I was pushed down onto my bedroom floor.