

### SAMPLE English Grammar Diagnostic Test

The purpose of this test is to give you an awareness of your skills in grammar usage. The test is divided into four modules, and you need to score 80% or higher in each area. Pages from The Brief Holt Handbook, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, have been included for review.

#### Module 1 Using Independent Clauses (pp. 271-272; 317-318)

Choose the group of words that would make each sentence a compound sentence.

1. My sister hid her diary  
(a) ,but our little brother found it.  
(b) although our little brother found it.
2. We were ten minutes late for the play  
(a) and missed the important first scene.  
(b) ;as a result, we missed the first scene.
3. I really dread paying bills  
(a) because it is so time consuming.  
(b) ;therefore, I put it off as long as I can.
4. We had a very mild winter  
(a) , so we will have a lot of mosquitoes this summer.  
(b) because the temperature only dropped below freezing twice.
5. Many people mistake John and George for brothers  
(a) , but they are not related.  
(b) since they look so much alike.
6. I washed the clothes,  
(a) dried them, and put them away.  
(b) but I did not have time to dry them.
7. My sister graduated from college last spring  
(a) ;however, she still has not found a job.  
(b) and is looking for a job.
8. Many young children are fearful of people whom they do not know  
(a) and cry when they are approached by strangers.  
(b) ,yet some greet strangers with adoring smiles.
9. We are planning a trip to Spain next year  
(a) and want to watch the running of the bulls.  
(b) ,for we want to watch the running of the bulls.
10. After watching a scary movie, I turned off the television,  
(a) locked the doors, and got ready for bed.  
(b) ;however, I was too afraid to sleep.

#### Module 2 Major Sentence Errors (pp. 265-273)

Directions: Correctly Identify the following as:

a) complete sentence b) fragment c) run-on (maybe a comma splice or fused sentence)

- \_\_\_\_\_ 11. The storm that frightened my dog and cat late yesterday afternoon.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 12. Our family rescued the abandoned puppy from the animal shelter.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 13. The student became stressed her daily schedule was hectic.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14. Dr. Scott is my dentist; he is a very pleasant person.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 15. Just as I closed and locked the back door.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 16. The pitcher threw the ball to home plate, however, the runner was safe.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 17. Phil's new stereo which is second hand.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 18. Because John had sprained his ankle going up the ladder.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 19. If John and Alan would stop talking, I could get some work done.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 20. I thought I was wrong , I was obviously mistaken.

Module 3 Subject-Verb Agreement (pp.274-278)

Directions: In each of the following sentences, choose the verb form which agrees with the subject.

21. Both John and his twin (is, are) planning to attend the reunion.
22. My sister, along with my mother, (plans, plan) to tour England.
23. Inside the secret panel of the closet (was, were) several old documents.
24. Either the newspaper or the magazines (has, have) the information you will need.
25. My daughter's favorite food (is, are) peanut butter sandwiches.
26. Everyone in Mrs. Brown's biology classes (visits, visit) the Learning Lab twice each week.
27. Until recently, mumps (was, were) a dreaded childhood disease.
28. Seventy-five dollars (is, are) too much to spend on that dress.
29. (Do, Does) John's parents realize that his job is in jeopardy?
30. Visits from my old college roommate (is, are) few and far between.

Module 4- Pronoun Reference (pp.278-280;304-307)

Directions: In each of the following sentences, choose the proper form of the pronoun for a correct sentence.

31. Everybody must pay (his, their) own entrance fee.
32. I became annoyed at (his, him) snoring during the meeting.
33. Either the editor or the reporters will correct (her, their) mistake.
34. Lisa, (who, whom) dialed the wrong number, called Susie instead of Brad.
35. Jason wanted to do the assignment (hissself, himself).
36. A wife and mother has to juggle many duties in (her, their) daily schedule.
37. Neither of the students had (his, their) project ready by the deadline.
38. Just between you and (I, me), I think most celebrities are unhappy.
39. The mayor asked Alice and (she, her) to plan the annual craft show.
40. (We, us) bargain shoppers look for coupons and store advertisements to get the most for our money.

ANSWER KEY

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|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| 1. A  | 11. B | 21. are    | 31. his     |
| 2. B  | 12. A | 22. plans  | 32. his     |
| 3. B  | 13. C | 23. were   | 33. their   |
| 4. A  | 14. A | 24. have   | 34. who     |
| 5. A  | 15. B | 25. is     | 35. himself |
| 6. B  | 16. C | 26. visits | 36. her     |
| 7. A  | 17. B | 27. was    | 37. his     |
| 8. B  | 18. B | 28. is     | 38. me      |
| 9. B  | 19. A | 29. do     | 39. her     |
| 10. B | 20. C | 30. are    | 40. we      |