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# Sharing the Power of Words and Changing Lives Through College-Level Instruction in Grammar and Mechanics

Carol Ann Tillema  
*University of South Florida*

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Sharing the Power of Words and Changing Lives Through College-Level Instruction in  
Grammar and Mechanics

by

Carol Ann Tillema

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment  
of the requirements for the degree of  
Master of Arts  
Department of English  
College of Arts and Sciences  
University of South Florida

Major Professor: Phillip J. Sipiora, Ph.D.  
Laura Runge-Gordon, Ph.D  
Sheila Diecidue, Ph.D

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ABSTRACT

Intrigued by the English language and its far-reaching applications worldwide as a standard means of communication, I begin my disquisition with a focus on the meaning and derivation of grammar and its place in the trivium of ancient and modern study. I stress the need to reemphasize college-level instruction in grammar and mechanics as a complement to rhetoric and logic by studying and teaching editing, which involves semantics, syntax, phonology, morphology, conventions, mechanics (spelling, punctuation and format), in writing centers and classrooms. Noting growing nationwide illiteracy, I research the pedagogies and writing of experts in the field of rhetoric and composition to develop and share a balanced philosophy of learning and teaching the art, science, and mathematics of writing with a focusing on conscientiously creating sentences with an Isocratean sense of perfection. Continually learning methods to reintroduce grammar in a novel way, I present antidotal information, statistics, and expert opinions and interpretations of pedagogists and rhetoricians of both sides of the Grammar Debate, a polemic over the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of teaching grammar. From my experience as a composition teacher at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College in Florida, I present suggestions from students, who

through their questions and overwhelming documented requests for grammar help and attention to sentence-level concerns, helped me rediscover myself through the reflective and recursive aspects of writing. Teaching students Standard English for academic discourse and for writing with computers across the curriculum, I share the power of words and explain the negative effects of errors and how to eliminate the serious ones. Graphs and tables of data collected from conference information forms and questionnaires filled out by students in writing centers or classrooms reveal the objectives and viewpoints of students, those whom institutions and teachers serve. Having developed a “polypedagogy,” I share the knowledge I have gathered from others with innovative and creative ideas for teaching the historically boring or abstract subject of grammar.

## Chapter One

### Introduction

I began as a tutor, helping my four younger brothers and sisters with their homework; as students, we all excelled. While in junior high, I was asked to tutor Johnny, a neighbor who could not read or write very well. Within weeks, his grade in English went from a D to a B. As a young tutor with a philanthropic heart, I focused on details, cultivating a method of direct teaching. I loved reading nonfiction, such as dictionaries, thesari, encyclopedias, biographies, and scriptures. I later tutored my own children, who excelled in school. My son Michael Robert Tillema won an award for best language arts student in his junior high school and later earned a bachelor's degree in mass communications. With a degree in international relations, my daughter Sarah Evah Tillema Seymour became an officer in the Air Force.

I raised three children (one adopted) primarily on my own and had no money or position at the age of forty, so I tried college, hoping that earning a degree would make me a success. I started at Brevard Community College, where my first two courses were Speech, because I needed help speaking before others, and Creative Writing, because I have always loved writing. Afterwards, I found employment as a grill cook at a private college, Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in Melbourne, Florida; there I cooked for and served students and faculty for four years, earning two free courses a semester. An added benefit of my humble job was free education for two of my children. While I studied flight and aviation management in the School of Aeronautics, I won the

Sophomore of the Year Academic Excellence Award in 1997 even though I was twice as old as my classmates. I also won the Susan Galos Eason Memorial Aviation Management Scholarship in 1995 and a scholarship to learn how to fly, a lifelong ambition.

For my love of writing, I began to study English in 1998 when I transferred all credits to the University of South Florida (USF) toward degrees in creative writing and business. In the fall of 1999, I began the graduate program in rhetoric and composition. My only distinction was scoring the only A on a grammar test given to new graduate students. Dr. Phillip J. Sipiora, renowned professor and writer, offered me a position as a graduate teaching assistant of college-level composition, a far cry from the waitress and grill cook I was. While teaching composition in a classroom setting, I was also given the opportunity to work as a tutor or consultant at the writing center at the USF Department of English, where I worked from the spring of 2000 to the spring of 2002. As a writing consultant, I tutored and advised undergraduate and graduate students with employment, college, and scholarship applications; analyzed personal, academic, business, and technical writing, such as letters, essays, reports, proposals, résumés, research papers, theses, and dissertations; and suggested revisionary and editorial methods for improvement in focus, organization, development, style, grammar, and mechanics. During the first year, I happily fulfilled the role of a tutor, giving advice and particularized, remedial instruction with a focus on answering students' requests and questions and concentrating largely on grammatical and mechanical issues presented.

When I started teaching as an adjunct preparatory writing instructor at the Dale Mabry campus of Hillsborough Community College (HCC), I began my last year at USF's writing center, but a new director and pedagogy prevailed in the writing center.

First and last, grammar was de-emphasized like a major cutback: teaching too much grammar, even in context, was not advisable. Sentence-level issues or editing or lower-order concerns (LOCs) were deemed far less important than revising or higher-order concerns (HOCs). In spite of the fact that overwhelming numbers requested help with grammar and one-third who filled out writing center visit confirmation forms could not even spell the word grammar, I incorporated more global strategies of writing based on precepts from *The Allyn and Bacon Guide to Peer Tutoring* by Paula Gillespie and Neal Lerner. Feeling the restraints of policies and au courant methods, I sidestepped and backtracked to follow a systematized method; I had a hard time not talking about what I loved the most and not responding to what the students and their teachers were largely requesting, help with grammar. According to my new director's directives, I would spend five minutes covering each of five major essay elements stressed in the composition program: focus, organization, development, style, and grammar and mechanics. Following a devised, time-regulated agendum for a session that lasted a half hour was difficult, especially with the extemporaneous act of tutoring.

When my graduate teaching certification ended, I aimed toward careers that did not mind my close attention to grammar and began editing scientific research proposals at H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute and teaching basic reading and writing with computers at HCC. Continuing to work on my thesis about grammar, I researched the writing and lives of hundreds of writers and found I was guilty of the lack of preparation of which Braddock, Lloyd-Jones, and Schoer accuse many researchers. I knew little; I was uninformed. I began to examine myself more thoroughly, to "inquire into new problems and reexamine old interpretations" (Hillocks 211). I realized that

grammar is a far more complex subject than I had presumed. Semesters passed without my completing my research while I delved further into matters of epistemology, composition, rhetoric, literature, education, and literacy, all the while reflecting upon the ideologies that shaped my life, the isms that structured my existence. On tangents, I studied culture, politics, science, psychology, philosophy, anthropology, linguistics, postcolonialism, post-structuralism, and feminism. As a composition researcher, I developed a multidisciplinary view and built on the works and investigative methods of other teachers and disciplines, daily making adjustments to my practice and philosophy in order to practically apply newfound knowledge. Then I dropped the ball (cliché) when my daughter Sarah, who was commissioned through USF's Air Force ROTC in 2001, the same year her brother Michael graduated, was immediately sent to the Middle East where she served three tours of duty, two in Baghdad. I gradually lost heart and ran out of money for my education.

Meanwhile, I worked as an adjunct instructor at HCC in Ybor and supervised the Reading and Writing Lab at night. On my own time, I upgraded and generated writing tests and exercises for the preparatory writing program that were less confusing and error-filled; I analyzed software programs and textbooks, amending sentences and creating interesting and educational tests that covered twelve subject areas in Preparatory Writing I and fourteen in Preparatory Writing II, each with three test forms. I then tutored at HCC in Brandon for two years while teaching as an adjunct at the Plant City and Dale Mabry campuses; during that time, I edited nearly one hundred writing handouts and exercises on my own time. I also contributed my skills to Without Walls International Church by emending over three hundred congregational songs, inserting punctuation,

correcting spelling, and organizing the format for consistency, a task I performed with hopes of procuring an editing position in the church

I was relieved when my daughter safely returned to the United States. When she began working on her thesis, she challenged me to complete mine and offered to pay for the cost of completion, so I visited Dr. Laura Runge-Gordon, Director of Graduate Studies at USF's Department of English, who shared the good news that I had not lost all of the work and money I had already invested in seeking the degree.

I was once a simple poet and short-story teller who found composing college essays painstaking. Though I had been a parts-to-whole learner, I am a whole-to-parts composer in the writing process. First, I pour out words, collect more, and then organize. I start with too much data and have to whittle down the words. With great difficulty, I break the mass into parts. Extremely error-, sin-, and self-conscious, I am very slow in the process, weaving and knitting words together and spending much time on details. I agonize over my work as did Michelangelo over his Pietà. My writing process is backward, too; I do not create an outline until the end. Complicating matters, my writing is a combination of lofty, philosophical thought and graduate terminology and then down-to-earth, dialectical, informal English. Constantly editing and seeking greater rhetorical precision is a never-ending task. Finally, I am not as prolific as many of my peers and have not answered the call to "Publish, publish, publish." My only publication is due to the work of my beloved professor Dr. Hatcher: "Escape." *A Collection of Poetry*. Tampa: Hatcher, 1998.

Immersed in reading and writing for years in a comprehensive task of self-evaluation, a research into myself, into my own persona—I—as a person, scholar,

teacher, and learner—a human composition, have finally emerged from a chrysalis of serious scholarship into a new world or a new evaluation thereof. My contribution to academia is sharing knowledge about the art of speaking and writing and the power words have to change lives. Devotee and mentee of many, I have learned from exemplars, the most acknowledged, influential, and productive of the field and beyond. In my quest for wisdom and knowledge, happiness and success, I have found studying rhetoric and composition at the USF a life-changing experience and continue to find the department programs challenging.



## Chapter Two

### “Polypedagogy”

With so many names to know and voices to heed, I looked for focus and guidance through reading extensive writing about writing and through interviewing and studying the works of fellow graduate students, professors, directors, professionals, and leaders in the field of rhetoric and composition to discover the most expeditious methods for contextualizing grammar into a balanced philosophy of the art and science of teaching writing and reading. Though I am not a grammar-grinder, grammariour, grammarist, or grammaticaster, I am a grammarian or “grammaphile” (a personal neologism), who would like to see a renaissance of the English language through grammar instruction in classrooms and writing centers. Caught up in the Grammar Debate and surrounded by anti- and pro-grammar forces, I developed a “polypedagogy” (another word I coin), a mixture of methodologies from my lifetime of personal studies and from my experiences at the University of South Florida and Hillsborough Community College. Choosing from a wide selection of disciplines within departments, across the curriculum, and around the nation and world, I borrowed methods and standards for scholarly investigations and practices that addressed the numerous concepts of writing to “bring together the various theories involved” (Hillocks xviii): “A teacher should not have to choose from among these pedagogies, for each addresses but one part of the problem” (Shaughnessy 73). Blending theories of neo-Aristotelians (classicists), neoclassicists, positivists (current-traditionalists), neo-Platonists (expressionists), cognitivists, developmentalists, social constructivists, current traditionalists, structuralists, poststructuralists, postmodernists,

and process and post-process theorists, I created a bricolage of knowledge by integrating different ideologies. In my research, I garnered wisdom, knowledge, and experience in social, political, psychological, philosophical, anthropological, critical, literary, linguistic, pedagogical, postcolonial, post-structural, ethnic, feminist, liberatory, and traditional arenas, an amalgam of novel thoughts and practices, methods of teaching historical concepts of grammar and writing by “reapplying essential material in an innovative and effective manner” (Claywell 51) “in the same exciting and engaging way that literature is” (Brosnahan). Based on the supposition that “writing is at the heart of education” (Hillocks, *Teaching* xvii) and that “‘rhetoric’ is at the center of all knowledge making” (Olson, “Death” 34), I combined theories for “generative power [to] promote the growth of the theories themselves” (Hillocks, *Teaching* 39).

In practice, I stress the importance of the individual voice and work one-on-one whenever possible, multitasking with my students. On a grander scale, I have a part in educating and improving global society through teaching the English language. With a view of tutoring and teaching aimed at “valuing and cultivating critical and creative thought” (Weaver, *Understanding* 262) and decreasing illiteracy and class oppression, I prepare students of diverse social, cultural, political, historical, and ideological makeups to become productive citizens and viable professionals who effect changes in a competitive world: “active and critical agents in shaping the economic, social, political, and cultural conditions of their historical moment” (Berlin 223). As a teacher, I increase students’ social awareness, encourage reexamination of accepted norms, build self-confidence, and change their lives. I introduce and interpret academic terminology, define scholarly discourse, present social discourse theories, and stimulate critical thinking in

order that students can respond to or argue a point. I empower students by combining rhetoric, dialectic (logic), and grammar into a “coherent strategy” for teaching writing by “reinserting grammar instruction into the rhetorical trivium” (Claywell 44).

As a teacher who uses progressive teaching strategies and contemporary concepts that include peer groups, collaborative research, and portfolio management, I also teach with computers, sharing resources, web sites, grade books, visuals, photographs, and online or downloadable dictionaries, thesauruses, and encyclopedias. Teaching in computer labs and electronic classrooms allows me to share costly online tutoring services provided free to students and teach with the most advanced methods. Many college students do not know how to write the alphabet in cursive writing because they print or use the computer, so I begin with the elementary ABCs, the components of language, and focus on precision in writing letters, words, phrases, clauses, sentences, paragraphs, essays, and research papers. I teach basic grammar terminology, like the building blocks of sentences—nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, conjunctions, prepositions, and interjections, which makes possible the discussion of sentence-level issues, such as subject-verb agreement, pronoun agreement, punctuation, fragments, comma splices, and run-ons (Shaughnessy 77). I develop exercises to help my students improve their grammar and mechanics usage; they imitate model sentences; expand, rearrange, and combine sentences; and embed phrases and clauses. By searching for answers to their questions, I, too, have the opportunity to share in the process of heuristic discovery; my students become discoverers through interactive, emotive, and intellectual discourse as we explore, discover, problem-solve, learn, and experiment through trial-

and-error and self-educating techniques of investigation and invention (“Heuristic,” M-W).

With so many individuals and groups focused on teaching and learning writing, I feel rich to know the English language and to share privileged information with my students, whose lives have been changed through education. I look forward to seeing and hearing of their accomplishments as I have already witnessed the achievements of my most successful students, my own children Michael Robert Tillema and Sarah Evah Tillema Seymour. I am ever grateful to all of those who have shared knowledge with me, especially those who have done so with patience and love.

## Chapter Three

### Learning Standard English

Standard English, also known as American, proper, formal, or traditional English, is the grammar, pronunciation, vocabulary, and spelling of the formal speech and writing of the educated. The official language of almost forty countries and the primary foreign language spoken in most other countries, English has an unparalleled place in history, for it is the international language of communication, invaluable in commercial interchanges and worldwide development of economics, science, technology, aviation, navigation, and military (Greenbaum 1). Those who speak and write English are more viable in an increasingly competitive global market. The asset I share is a rich resource of language that I ever strive to master as I share what I do know. Language, a primary characteristic of civilized society, includes grammar, a word derived from Middle English *gramere*, Old French *gramaire*, Middle French *gramaire*, Latin *grammatica*, and Greek *grammatikE* or *grammatikos*, which means “letters” or “writing.” In the past, grammar, the knowledge or study of Latin peculiar to the elite, was synonymous with learning in general and included linguistics (the study of human speech), orthography (letters and spelling), etymology (word development and history), syntax (word arrangement), prosody (rhythm and intonation), and sometimes, orthoepy (pronunciation); presently, grammar includes phonology (sound), morphology (word formation), accentuation (inflection), semantics (meaning), and syntax (all subjects I researched on lengthy tangents of study) (“Grammar,” *Britannica*). I learned that writing, like its component

grammar, is an art and a science, so while I stress creativity and craftsmanship, I also explain rules about the arrangements, functions, formal patterns, and structural relationships of words in sentences (Blakesley 195; Hartwell 2, 109-10; Olson, Jon 31). Because grammar is polysemous, I draw from the perspectives of different methods, using prescriptive (providing rules for correct usage), descriptive (describing how a language is used), or generative (providing instructions for the production of an infinite number of sentences in a language). I discovered that there are countless types of grammar, so I studied traditional, speculative, functional, relational, representational, general, philosophical, universal, historical, comparative, prescriptive, descriptive, transformational, generative, transformational-generative, structural, post-structural, autolexical, lexical, cognitive, neurocognitive (formerly stratificational), construction, categorical, head-driven phrase structure, systemic, systemic functional, lexical functional, autolexical, word, link, tagmemic, tree-adjoining, and daughter-dependency grammars (“Grammar,” *Merriam-Webster; Britannica*).

Through particularized instruction in grammar and writing, my students become more conscientious about their written and spoken words and learn that sentences can be constructed, deconstructed, and reconstructed to reveal multilevel meanings: “Every well-formed utterance has both a deep structure and a surface structure. Deep structure is an abstract concept referring to a unit of meaning or form of thought that is transformed into surface structure, which is the concrete manifestation of the deep structure” (Blakesley 197). Linguist and philosopher Noam Chomsky posits that “all languages have . . . a creative aspect, a set of rules . . . for producing an infinite range of well-formed sentences” (qtd. in Blakesley 196). My students understand that there are many

ways to revise a sentence, and even when a sentence appears finished, it can generally be improved, revised, or edited. In my teaching, I attempt to speak correctly before my students, having already warned them, though, that I lapse into dialects and slang. Mina Shaughnessy, a basic writing expert who developed procedures to repair any “major syntactic derailment” and “untangling any sentence that goes wrong,” describes the simple sentence as “the basic, subterranean form out of which surface complexity arises” (Shaughnessy 46, 78). I appreciate her methods, motivation, and compassion for basic writers. I follow the paradigms of both classical rhetoricians and modern authorities by concentrating on both the mechanical and the artistic virtues of the sentence:

As the smallest unit of meaningful discourse, the sentence would seem to merit our attention. And during various times since Isocrates, the sentence has been the standard linguistic cynosure—whenever imitation exercises have been used to strengthen, develop, and intensify sentence design. Yet today, . . . teachers and students alike tend to ignore the sentence in terms of artistry, meaning, style, and context. Instead, they continually concentrate on isolated, acontextual issues of correctness within sentence boundaries, surface-error issues of punctuation, capitalization, agreement, and tense. And instead of learning from or building on the successful and systematized, sentence-level grammatical studies of the ancients, we have somehow forgotten, never discovered, or purposefully neglected what they perfected. (Glenn 14)

Learning grammar and learning how to write sentences is a necessary step in the learning process and mistakes are made in the process (Weaver, *Teaching* 153). Learning, the act of acquiring knowledge or skill by instruction or study, involves cognitive

development to master isolated facts, memorize rules, and construct concepts, which both students and teachers experience. Writing center specialists Neal Lerner and Paula Gillespie emphasize meta-cognition, the process of thinking about thinking and regulating one's own learning through self-discovery (108); they describe writing as "a process of discovery or of making meaning or, quite simply, of learning" (Gillespie 11). Learning involves self-discovery through "independent critical reflection" (Bartholomae, *Facts* 100). I realize that learning is affected by many factors, including race, gender, personality, motivation, socioeconomic and educational background, family literacy, parental involvement, peers, culture, media, ideologies, and physical, emotional, and psychological health: "Learning is by no means ordered or linear, even though the teaching may have been. Rather, learning—that which endures—is idiosyncratic, nonlinear, even chaotic" (Weaver, *Teaching* 154). Keeping that in mind, I respect and value the individuality of each of my students as I prepare them to fill positions in society. They learn to read, speak, and write in order to communicate more effectively in a process of socialization. George Hillocks Jr. analyzes the meta-processes that are involved as a "reflective practitioner" assesses the needs of students (37) during the "transaction" of teaching writing when students reflect, reason, hypothesize, and draw tentative conclusions (Weaver, *Understanding* 14). The recursive aspects of writing bring about a change of self-image through what Kathleen Yancey calls "constructive reflection" and Donald Schon calls "reflective transfer," which occur during tutoring or teaching, a time of "practice theorized" (qtd. in Yancey 193).

The processes of learning and writing and learning to write and teaching writing require reflection, recursion, and repetition. Reading and writing teachers hold keys to



success and share the power of language that opens doors, changes lives, and transforms society. In a summary of Patrick Hartwell's definitions of "Grammar, Grammars, and Grammars," Jon Olson underlines the significant role teachers play in sharing knowledge about grammar and writing: ". . . [W]e cannot really empower students by opening the tower of language if we keep the key and remain the gatekeepers" (Olson, Jon 31). Writing is "the gateway to sacred knowledge as well as secular" (Weaver, *Teaching* 3). Being a successful college student requires being able to read and write: "[C]omposition functions paradoxically as both the gateway to academic success and as the gatekeeper, reducing access to academic work and opportunity for those with limited facility in English" (Olson, Gary, *Interviews*). The National Education Association believes that "reading is the gateway to learning in all content areas and essential for achieving high standards" (National). In "Reading and Writing: Making the Connection for Basic Writers," Mary P. Deming connects writing and reading in the stages of planning, drafting, revising, and editing, steps in the process of successful composing. I suggest students read their written works aloud while proofreading in order to hear errors or repetition. I ask them to read their textbooks with deliberation, using the dictionary as an aid; I supply them with helpful handouts to read that summarize our studies. They understand that insufficient reading causes deficient writing, the subjects being "inextricably linked" (Gillespie 107). Pre-reading, reading, rereading, and post-reading—and prewriting, writing, rewriting, revising, and editing—involve processes of analyzing, synthesizing, reflecting, comparing, contrasting, inferring, summarizing, validating, and refuting. I help writers become active readers of their texts and stress the importance of reading in order that they become better acquainted with Standard English and reflect that

knowledge in their papers. When I ask my students whether they want me to mark (with a green pen for growth) their errors or simply put a grade on their written work, they overwhelmingly and often loudly request that I show them the errors of their writing, and I gladly do because I realize that they may be judged by their writing.

## Chapter Four

### *Ethos* and Errors

Through the act of writing, the *ethos* (intentions, sense, character, and morality of an individual) can be discerned to a great degree. Handwriting analysis, or graphology, a study involved in developing personality profiles of writers by analyzing the characteristics of their handwriting, is a practice of many corporations which involves determining mental and emotional traits of prospective employees. Business administrators who were surveyed consider poor writing an indication of laziness, indifference, inattention to details, and insufficient knowledge or as a sign of “ineducability” (Shaughnessy 8). Errors in writing are “unprofitable intrusions upon the consciousness of the reader” and “idiosyncratic” “violations of language conventions” that “often exhibit a pattern and possess a logic” (32). Errors interfere with comprehension and negatively affect readers’ opinions about writers, “shifting their attention from the meaning to the form of things and, beyond that, to question about the writer’s broader competencies” (Shaughnessy 122): “A writer’s thoughtfulness might be valued as much, but probably not more than his ability to control error” (Bartholomae, “Study” 253). Because errors are often judged as faults or weaknesses in character, it is important that writers be conscientious about analyzing and correcting what they write: “adapt and blend as needed different theories and strategies” (Carbone).

Maxine Hairston’s research on errors considered most critical by business or professional people concludes that lack of clarity and conciseness and “status-marking”

errors are warning signs (Weaver, *Teaching* 105; Noguchi 24). Teachers should not ignore grammar instruction in order to prevent students who seek academic and business positions from having to experience disrespect or ridicule: “I have heard admissions officers and business people say that communications from applicants that are littered with grammatical errors send up red flags that cause the writers to lose opportunities they might have otherwise had. So, let’s admit that grammar is important . . . (Harris, “Re: Contextualizing”). Teachers “cannot afford” to let students believe surface errors are not important and should make students aware of the judgment their errors will receive outside academia:

Although it may be easy for teachers to dismiss these features as merely “superficial,” the surface apparently has considerable importance to those who often hold the power to affect other people’s lives. . . . [We] may unnecessarily make our students’ writing vulnerable to disparagement—and, sometimes, severe ridicule—by people whom upwardly mobile students presumably seek most to impress. In particular, we disproportionately put at risk students who speak a nonstandard variety of English since they are the ones most likely to reproduce in their writing the “status marking” and “very serious” errors so roundly condemned by the professionals. (Noguchi 29).

I make my students aware that the correct usage of proper English distinguishes “the language of privilege and prestige” from that of the uneducated (Weaver, *Teaching* 143) and often measures social and cultural status. I encourage students to learn the formal English of academic discourse in order to access more freedom and power and accomplish goals that require education. I help them assimilate tenets of different

learning communities and “invent the university by assembling and mimicking its language” in order to accomplish their goals (Bartholomae, “Inventing” 624).

Increasing numbers of students starting college are required to take non-credit writing courses before they can take Composition; these basic, developmental, remedial, or preparatory writing courses are for students who can read and write but fail to reach academic standards of colleges or universities (Stotsky, *Losing* 149). Often, basic writers are those whose first language is not English, those who are not Native English Speaking (NES) but use English as a Foreign Language (EFL), English as a Second Language (ESL), or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); they are often designated as Non-Native Speakers (NNS) or Non-Native English Speakers (NNES) (Gillespie 119; Gallagher 51). Basic writers use a combination of “mixed linguistic and discursive resources” (Bizzell 9) and generally print rather than write, use simple punctuation (commas and periods), and sentences “awkwardly and . . . self-consciously constructed to honor correctness above all other virtues, including sense” (Weaver, *Teaching* 23). Culture, ethnicity, gender, and class are often evidenced in their writing, which simulates their speaking. I warn them that minority dialects or non-privileged forms of writing or speaking are looked upon critically by academia and the business world; for example, the use of E-mail jargon and Ebonics, also called African American Vernacular English (AAVE) or Black English Vernacular (BEV), is unacceptable in college or professional writing. Though there are contentions that the programs for basic writers, the “BW enterprise,” have failed in spite of many alternative methods and extensive research, I see the potential value of grammar instruction and find new ways to teach the subject rather than disregard it (Troyka, “How” 114).

In “Frequency of Formal Errors in Current College Writing, or Ma and Pa Kettle Do Research,” Robert J. Connors and Andrea A. Lunsford evaluated three thousand essays written by college students and ranked the most common errors in grammar and mechanics (other than spelling): missing or unnecessary commas, vague pronouns, wrong words, wrong tense or verb forms, wrong or missing prepositions, comma splices, run-ons (fused “sentences”), fragments, tense and person shifts, subject-verb disagreement, pronoun disagreement, and misplaced and dangling modifiers (Lunsford, “EasyWriter,” par. 6). Misspellings, which occur three times more frequently than any other errors, are the most common of college students. The public critically scrutinizes orthographic errors (par. 2):

Of all the encoding skills, spelling tends to be viewed by teachers and students alike as the most arbitrary, the most resistant to instruction, and the least related to intelligence [ . . . ] . Outside the academy, however, the response to misspelling is less obliging. Indeed, the ability to spell is viewed by many as one of the marks of the educated person, and the failure of a college graduate to meet that minimal standard of advanced literacy is cause to question the quality of his education or even his intelligence. (Shaughnessy 161-62)

As a teacher, I explain how others view errors and show students how to eliminate serious errors from their more formal writing by teaching them about the most common (Noguchi 120): “[W]e do better service to our students by disclosing the rhetorical and social consequences of such features, and, just as important, showing them ways to avoid these features in formal writing” (Weaver, *Teaching* 29). Though the “error hunt” can be a challenge, students learn through their errors, a natural step in the process of writing

(75): “[T]he Error Beast is to be welcomed and tamed, not slain” (101). Especially in the writing center, “the obsessive focus on error hunting” (Noguchi 14) is unacceptable methodology, but to ignore errors in order to prevent offense to writers or to presume that the errors will go away as students progress is “giving error more power than it is due” (Shaughnessy 127). I put the power in the hands of the students; they accept my recommendations and express gratitude as I watch them change.

## Chapter Five

### Grammar in Writing Centers

In the writing center community is an electronic discussion site, WCenter, a place in cyberspace where debates over grammar's place become highly energetic. There, writing center instructors and program directors in charge of training and career advancement, curricula development, and student assessment share their experiences, research, ideas, and information about significant events in the field of composition. Nevertheless, the composition community has been accused of conveying the wrong message about teaching grammar, one that de-emphasizes grammar instruction based on misinterpreted or exaggerated research results: "If . . . the 'community,' be it the people on WCenter or the culture as a whole, determines that something is not important, then you can be sure the message will be heard. I fear we are sending a message that grammar and correctness in prose is of little importance. And I think this is a mistake" (Kuhne).

Writing centers, excellent sources of grammar instruction, are academic or business meeting places where tutors share the "tool for empowerment," the "grammar of discovery" (Glover 132). During the four years I worked as a writing consultant in writing centers, I tutored and advised undergraduate and graduate students with employment, college, and scholarship applications; analyzed personal, academic, business, and technical writing, such as letters, essays, reports, proposals, résumés, research papers, theses, and dissertations; and suggested revisionary and editorial methods for improvement in focus, organization, development, style, grammar, and



mechanics: “And what better place to do that than a writing center, where *all* your writing needs can be addressed, no matter how big, no matter how small (Carbone). Writing centers are where students or clients who need any type of help with their writing can experience special one-on-one tutoring sessions called tutorials, which provide casual but effective learning that precludes the stress of worrying about grades. Tutorials are studies of individual compositions, not only of written works but also of the writers themselves, who are unique persons with histories and distinct idiolects, combinations of cognates and dialects, their language composites of regional, cultural, and social phraseologies distinguished by features of vocabulary, grammar, and pronunciation. During each extemporaneous act of tutoring, two together learn while experiencing the liberating power of dynamic, social interchange that changes lives:

Tutoring is improvising. We’ve always got the basic chord structure--Cmaj7, Dm, G7, C--and the basic rhythm—4/4 with a back beat. But on top of that each artist develops his or her own style . . . .

Tutoring is revolutionary work for social justice. . . . We analyze hegemony and realize that one of the most effective ways to “go against the grain” is to make liberation for marginalized people the guiding light of tutoring.

Tutoring is teaching. (Bell, “Re: Naming”)

Talking informally is a key element of progressive writing center pedagogy and one I also use in classrooms (Stotsky, *Losing* 38). The foundation of writing center pedagogy is dialogue; communication is of utmost importance—“talk is everything” (North, “Idea” 76-78). Through informal dialectic, I help students translate academic language, formulate ideas, rethink and better communicate, and write for scholarly and

business purposes: “If we conceive of writing as a relatively rhythmic and repeatable kind of behavior, . . . we find that the best breaker of old rhythms, the best creator of new ones, is our style of live intervention, our talk in all its forms” (North, “Idea” 75). I employ concepts of tutoring in and out of the writing center to enrich my students’ learning experiences with a focus on the writer, not the writing. In “The Idea of a Writing Center,” Stephen North summarizes the major objective of writing center pedagogy in his well-known pronouncement about transforming student writers: “. . . [T]he object is to make sure that writers, and not necessarily their texts, are what get changed by instruction. . . . [O]ur job is to produce better writers, not better writing” (69; qtd. in Gillespie 30). In “Training Tutors,” North elaborates again on his landmark statement: “At the end of a tutorial session, it is the *writer* who should be changed, who has a new way of seeing what has been written, or of thinking about audience, or of feeling about the hard work of writing” (North, “Training” 439). Change is a key element of my instruction; the students and I strive to perfect our language, make mistakes, but become changed by the experience. We all have a new way of seeing and hearing.

During the transformative experience of tutoring, two collaborate in an effort to improve writing. Some question the benefits of tutors in the role of peers rather than teachers and suggest that direct methods might be more beneficial to the ones seeking help: “The decision to remain consistently more peer than tutor and avoid what may seem a teacherly sharing of information may not be the best way to empower a student” (Cogie 40). Still others claim nondirective tutoring can become tutor- rather than student-centered; such a relationship is considered a mere “rhetoric of equality” because the tutor, guided by writing center pedagogy and client scheduling, determines the sequence of the

session (qtd. in Cogie 40). I found the best approach requires “an admixture of creative and concrete” methods: “Tutoring is more art than science. . . . but what’s more important than all of those is judgment, patience, discerning the writing, and the ability to adapt and blend as needed different theories and strategies” (Carbone).

Many writing centers have clear no-editing policies: grammar issues are eschewed or covered only superficially, two or three error types per session (Gillespie 35). Pointing out too many errors in one session may be overwhelming, and generally there is insufficient time during an appointment to cover many anyway (Bartholomae, “Study” 200-01). Because editing is not a service, tutors do not make corrections on papers and often do not even write on the students’ papers at all: “. . . [T]utors don’t fix texts; we teach writers how to fix texts” (Gillespie 22). Editing, which involves the interrelated subjects of grammar (semantics, syntax, phonology, and morphology) and usage (conventions and mechanics [spelling, punctuation, and format]), is classified as a local; sentence- or surface-level; or second-, later-, or lower-order concern (LOC) (Gillespie 25). Revising, which involves language awareness, cognitive development, critical thinking, and syntactic knowledge, is considered a global, first-order, or higher-order concern (HOC). Research indicates that teachers and consultants share similar goals that focus on HOCs in writing instruction, yet a large number of teachers refer students to writing centers for help with LOCs (Hayward 10). Furthermore, research shows that writing center tutors emphasize HOCs though most students are concerned with LOCs, a conclusion I, too, drew after two years of tallying confirmation form data (Bell, “Research Question”). Sometimes tension and conflicts arise among students, tutors, teachers, and administrators because of different goals or foci. Though grammar is not a

major issue for many teachers, many students, especially those whose native language is not English, express concern about their grammar usage: “As a tutor . . . I also know that sometimes grammar *is* the main issue that needs to be addressed in the student’s writing (such as with ESL students)” (Rothfuss). Many tutors and teachers feel they should prepare students to be more competitive by honing the finer skills of writing, like proficiency in grammar and mechanics, considered a “sub-skill” (Beason 33). Because many students cannot consider editing a secondary concern, teaching sentence construction can be as important as teaching essay construction. In spite of the Grammar Debate and the escalating literacy crisis, tutors and teachers cannot disregard the expressed concerns of their students.

## Chapter Six

### The Grammar Debate

Dissonance that sometimes seems irresolvable over two equally valid theories is common in the field of rhetoric and composition; there are antinomic debates about theory versus practice, reflective versus active, objective versus subjective, etic versus emic, outer-directed versus inner-directed, head-based versus heart-based, behavioral/transmission versus cognitive/transaction, prescriptive versus descriptive, skills versus content, product versus process, and phonocentric versus logocentric. In the field of reading instruction, arguments arise over the whole-language, context-based guesswork, or holistic approach to instruction versus the part-to-whole or systematic phonics approach: “In an attempt to pinpoint the source of our students’ low knowledge base and poor reading ability—the skill on which achievement in writing, history, and almost all other subjects depends—public attention has focused largely on the acrimonious debate between the advocates of whole language and the supporters of systematic phonics instruction” (Stotsky, *Losing* 6). In the field of rhetoric and composition, the Grammar Debate is a polemic over the validity of grammar instruction, a controversy that heightened during the shift from emphasizing product to prioritizing process in the early 1970s, which resulted in less grammar instruction. Important concepts of writing were almost wholly abandoned, which left many teachers questioning. Explanations for the de-emphasis of grammar instruction during the process movement include misinterpreted or insufficient research, the open-door policy (anyone

with a high school diploma or GED could apply for admission), and the actions of “liberal descriptivists” (Claywell 49-50), who were blamed for the overthrow of language structure itself by making no value judgments or recommendations about language usage (Wallace, par. 23-24).

The Grammar Debate, which has greater import than many imagine, is described as dissension between “forces of egalitarianism and traditionalism in English” often with arguments and accusations full of “ideological strife and controversy and intrigue and nastiness and fervor”: “Each side in the debate tends to regard the other as mentally ill or/and blinded by political ideology” (54). Like *grammaticastor* and *grammatist*, the word *grammarian* has been know to have “pejorative associations in linguistic circles”; to some anti-grammar proponents, stressing grammar “tends to collocate with traditional and to suggest obsolescence” (Greenbaum 40). Anti-grammar proponents call for a “formal policy against teaching grammar” and describe pro-grammar proponents as “incompetent” “little English teachers” (qtd. in Vavra).

Researchers allege that certain ways of teaching writing have a negative impact, but such research does not necessarily indicate that teaching grammar is unadvisable. In *Teaching Writing as Reflective Practice*, a 1980s meta-analysis of research on teaching writing, Hillocks alleges that teaching through the skill-and-drill process is the single worst focus of instruction, one that has cumulative negative effects. His contention that grammar instruction does not result in improved writing has been the basis for many anti-grammar arguments:

The study of traditional school grammar . . . has no effect on raising the quality of student writing. . . . Taught in certain ways, grammar and mechanics instruction

has a deleterious effect on student writing. In some studies a heavy emphasis on mechanics and usage (e.g., marking every error) resulted in significant losses in overall quality. School boards, administrators, and teachers who impose the systematic study of traditional school grammar on their students over lengthy periods of time in the name of teaching writing do them a gross disservice which should not be tolerated by anyone concerned with the effective teaching of good writing. We need to learn how to teach standard usage and mechanics after careful task analysis and with minimal grammar. (Hillocks, *Teaching* 248-49; qtd. in Noguchi 3; qtd. in Weaver, *Teaching* 14).

It is commonly agreed in educated circles that isolated formal grammar instruction does little to improve language skills (Hartwell 106): “It is difficult to escape the conclusion that English grammar, whether traditional or transformational, has virtually no influence on the language growth of typical [secondary school] students” (Elley 18; qtd. in Weaver, *Teaching* 21). Compelling arguments against grammar instruction also come from important groups like the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), an organization blamed for removing grammar from grammar school.

Greatly outnumbered, pro-grammar proponents fear the “conspiratorial and nefarious doings of anti-grammar forces” and dispute the validity of well-known research that purports grammar instruction is ineffective and possibly harmful (Noguchi 120). Those supporting grammar study question whether teachers and researchers have actually read the research themselves. In “Closing the Books on Alchemy” and *Rhetorical Grammar*, Martha Kolln contends that grammar instruction alone does not improve writing but that learning grammar is not detrimental to writing development. Former

president of the Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar (ATEG), Kolln criticizes the research of Braddock, Lloyd-Jones, and Schoer, who themselves admitted to weaknesses in their own research (Braddock 37; Glenn 10; Weaver, *Teaching* 15): “They do not conclude that it should not be taught at all. . . . Unfortunately, the result of the research has been to drive grammar instruction out of the composition classroom, rather than into it, where it belongs” (Kolln vi; qtd. in Glenn 10; qtd. in Weaver; *Teaching* 16).

Constance Weaver questions the reason why “hints of flawed research studies did not inspire more skepticism about their conclusions” (Weaver, *Teaching* 15) and spur more valid research, which is applicable, reliable, objective, systematic, replicable, and refereed. After information collection, examination, inspection, interrogation, experimentation, interpretation, revision, and practical application, previous theories should be reestablished or discredited. Research, which involves learning, discerning, and being open to change, must be evaluated carefully: “Research can be used to prove almost anything. Therefore, we must read the research thoughtfully, looking for what it does not tell us as well as what it does” (Weaver, *Teaching* 182). The sensibility of narrowly basing a field’s tenets on one or two investigations aimed at an audience of fellow researchers is questionable. While studying both sides of the debates, I reexamined personal methodologies and researched others’ hypotheses to find proven methods of grammar instruction: “We should ponder, consider or reconsider the experimental research evidence, and rethink the what, why, and how of our teaching of grammar” (Weaver, *Teaching* 28).

Teachers have a responsibility to teach grammar in spite of arguments against grammar instruction and negative research results: “Avoiding grammar because it is



boring or because past studies suggest its inefficacy in certain situations seems biased; if a particular student or a section of a class needs instruction, it is irresponsible not to provide it” (Claywell 52). Students often find grammar uninteresting and complicated, so many do not learn the basics (Weaver, *Teaching* 103): “If grammar is the proverbial worst subject of students, it comes as no surprise, given the complexity and abstractness of the subject and, unfortunately, the tediousness with which it has been taught” (Noguchi 36). Because of the decline of national literacy, though, I find teaching grammar has become necessary: “It is no longer merely a question of whether or not to incorporate some kind of grammatical instruction, but what kind to incorporate in an already dense curriculum” (Buell 7). Encouragement to teachers who “nurture a love for grammar, for writing, for expression, for the power of words” (Brosnahan 212) to remain resolute about teaching grammar in spite of criticism comes from pro-grammar components like grammarian Sidney Greenbaum, author, coauthor, or editor of *A Comprehensive Grammar of the English Language*, *A College Grammar of English*, *A Student’s Grammar of the English Language*, *The Oxford English Grammar*, *Good English and the Grammarian*, *The Oxford Reference Grammar*, and many more grammar books:

Grammarians have a responsibility . . . to address students and the general public on such matters of linguistic etiquette. Venturing into this minefield of controversies is a delicate task that calls for strong nerves. Grammarians expose themselves to strictures from various directions . . . But they should be courageous, prescribing without ridiculing. (Greenbaum 35-36)

To teach or not to teach formal English, or grammar, is an issue that affects students as well as teachers: “At no point in the English curriculum is the question of power more blatantly posed than in the issue of formal grammar instruction” (Hartwell 127; Glover 131). Both sides of the Grammar Debate present persuasive arguments and refutations about grammar’s place in writing instruction but are sometimes extreme in their criticisms and evaluations of applied methods: “I believe the hard-line anti-grammar teachers with their reluctance to address such errors in a systematic way are just as misguided and self-defeating as the hard-line pro-grammar teachers who address them with overexuberance. What seems lost in these internecine battles is the middle ground” (Noguchi 14).

In spite of the disagreements, like most teachers, I am a lover of words (philologists) and of wisdom (philosophers): “We all went into English studies because we had a deep and abiding love of language—of its cadences, its power, its beauty. Whether we happen to be theorists or writer-teachers or teacher-writers, each of us has a love of good writing . . .” (Olson, “Death” 36). I champion disciplinary syncretism in the field of rhetoric and composition and seek “collegial and congenial” relations, for *comitatus*—a coalescence of divergent thoughts from the “hegemonic struggle” (39). I envision a multivocal, nonhierarchical, synergetic union of learned scholars who are open to all aspects of theory, art, and practice; who build on the scholarly works and investigative methods generated in other disciplines (a concept like Mikhail Bakhtin’s *heteroglossia*); and who cooperate to make the nation more literate by combining theories of pedagogy, rhetoric, and composition with ethics and politics.

## Chapter Seven

### Liberating through Literacy

I model my teaching after Isocrates, an ancient Athenian rhetorician and orator, who combined rhetoric with ethics and politics in order to deal with business, social, and political issues. An exponent of rational articulation based on virtue, soundness of mind, and high ideals, he educated foreign nobility, future political leaders, historians, and orators in more than oratory; he taught his students principles of practical life in a civic context. He prepared his students for public service and instilled in them a sense of devoir to educate themselves while advancing a more orderly state. The philosopher Plato, considered the first Greek grammarian, a writer or teacher of grammar, one versed in the knowledge of language, philology, and linguistics (Glenn 12), viewed literacy, the ability to read and write, as a “liberator and weapon” (Gee 30) that powerfully transforms economic, political, social, and cultural structures and correlates with power and wealth. I emphasize grammar or Standard English in writing instruction as a “force for liberation—not oppression,” for de-emphasizing proper English “diminishes an opportunity for liberatory education” (qtd. in Glover 132). Knowledge about grammar and writing is significantly tied to social and political rhetoric and every aspect of life: “. . . questions about our national consensus on grammar and usage are actually bound up with every last social issue that millennial America’s about—class, race, gender, morality, tolerance, pluralism, cohesion, equality, fairness, money: You name it” (Wallace, par. 66). It is my civic responsibility to become more literate and to teach others to do the same: “To those

who have power or aspire to power, it is not enough that language should be intelligible: it must also be correct. . . . Correct performance marks the user as a responsible member of society; incorrect performance is viewed as contributing to the decay of the language” (Greenbaum 33). Literacy impacts individual and society in every dimension of life: “The capacity to read and write is causally associated with earning a living, achieving expanded horizons of personal enlightenment and enjoyment, maintaining a stable and democratic society, and, historically, with the rise of civilization itself” (Szwed 303).

While literacy is a focus of many educational programs and organizations, college writing programs are accused of focusing on rhetoric and dialectic and ignoring grammar, an act that has serious consequences, especially the decline of national literacy: “The third art, grammar, is a subject no longer considered by many theorists or practitioners to be an ‘art’ that should be taught at the university level. . . . [W]hy grammar has been all but discarded in composition/rhetoric courses—as well as what the ramifications of such actions are—needs to be questioned” (Claywell 43). In a 1983 report *A Nation at Risk*, the United States Department of Education’s National Commission on Excellence in Education (NCEE) likens the poor quality of education that caused increased national illiteracy to an act of sabotage or aggression: “If an unfriendly foreign power had attempted to impose on America the mediocre educational performance that exists today, we might well have viewed it as an act of war. As it stands, we have allowed this to happen to ourselves. . . . We have in fact, been committing an act of unthinking, unilateral educational disarmament” (“A Nation at Risk” 5). Outside academia, businesspeople and politicians warn that rising national illiteracy threatens economic competitiveness, political scientists worry that poor schooling is undermining democratic

foundations, and teachers continue to educate the diversified masses for little compensation. Parents, teachers, researchers, administrators, politicians, legislators, communities, and students themselves, all stakeholders concerned with statistics, expenses, and inadequate writing programs, blame the educational system for rising illiteracy and demand improved methods and better trained teachers. In *The Social Mind*, James Gee criticizes the national educational system for failing to raise the social class of minorities: “[S]chools have historically failed with non-elite populations and have thereby replicated the social hierarchy. This has ensured that large numbers of people from lower socioeconomic and minority groups engage in the lowest-level and least satisfying jobs in the society, while being in a position to make few serious political or economic demands on the elites” (Gee 25). Furthermore, educational programs are criticized for shifting the focus of education from Isocratean ideals of civic-mindedness and political responsibility to capitalistic ideologies of personal success and financial gain in systems where students are trained to fill preplanned roles in society: “factories, which manufacture student products to the specifications of the business world” (Gallagher 51).

Widespread illiteracy and presentiments of national failure are cited as stemming from lowered standards, particularly open admissions, a poor education system, and an increased and more diversified, foreign-born population: “. . . [T]his more recent diversification stokes fear . . . that the United States will not be able to keep up with its foreign competitors or measure up to its ‘progressive’ national promise” (46). In the 1980s, the largest influx of immigrants in centuries heightened the literacy crisis; in 2000, 28.4 million (10.4% of the United States population) foreign-born people resided in the

United States (Lollock 1). The NCTE mission statement includes explicit concerns about increasing national illiteracy and suggests a countermeasure against the threat, a radical change involving composition being taught “as literate action” (Flower 249): “American education will never realize its potential as an engine of opportunity and economic growth until a writing revolution puts language and communication in their proper place in the classroom” (Lewin 3). In “A Writing Challenge to the Nation,” former Senator Robert Kerrey, connects writing proficiency to spirituality, prosperity, and sociability and summons citizens to become more literate: “Our spiritual lives, our economic success and our social networks are all directly affected by our willingness to do the work necessary to acquire the skill of writing.” The impact of educating others to become more literate is far reaching on both personal and national levels.

Many professional and governmental groups focus on raising national literacy rates; all have resourceful Web sites to which I refer. The government has formed organizations that educate its citizens and research improved methods of learning: the United States Department of Education (USDE); Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI); Office of Vocational and Adult Education (OVAE); National Center for Education Statistics (NCES); National Center for Research on Evaluation, Standards, and Student Testing (CRESST); National Center for the Study of Adult Learning and Literacy (NCSALL); National Institute for Literacy (NIFL); National Institute for Postsecondary Education, Libraries, and Lifelong Learning (NIPELLL); National Writing Commission (NWC); and National Writing Project (NWP). The United Nations Organization for Education, Science and Culture (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics, International Survey of Adults (ISA), National Adult Literacy Survey (NALS),

National Assessments of Adult Literacy (NAAL), National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), and National Study of America's Adults (NSAA) focus on research, surveys, assessments, and statistics in the fields of education, science, technology, culture, and communication. Academic and national organizations help me and other teachers remain aware of current trends in the field. Professional educational organizations that I follow include the Alliance for Excellent Education (AEE), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Federal Education Association (FEA), Florida Education Association (FEA), Assembly for the Teaching of English Grammar (ATEG), Conference on College Composition and Communication (CCCC), Council of Writing Program Administrators (WPA), International Writing Centers Association (IWCA), National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE), and National Education Association (NEA). I also have an interest in collaborative programs that espouse other academic and theoretical persuasions, such as Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC), Writing Across the Disciplines (WAD), and Writing In the Disciplines (WID).

During my teaching experience at Hillsborough Community College, I learned the values of standardized, timed, or norm-referenced tests, established by the national education system to determine the aptitude of students; the critical examinations, observations, exercises, or evaluations measure the progress, skill, knowledge, intelligence, capacities, or aptitudes of an individual or group based on age- or grade-level expectations.

Administered and assessed from the start of the educational process to determine placement and promotion, the standardized tests are not always true indications of each student's unique capacity (Weaver, *Understanding* 72). Built on "a model of literacy that focuses on discrete skills and bits of information" (56), the tests are criticized for

requiring rote rather than true learning (153). Although standardized tests may be “inherently discriminatory” and may “perpetuate class differences and educational inequality” (185), they do indicate troubling trends. Statistics derived from these tests forecast a bleak future: “To testing apologists, low test scores do more than identify deficiencies and measure skills: they confirm the existence of a crisis” (Gallagher 45). The NAEP, also called “the Nation’s Report Card,” has assessed fourth, eighth, and twelfth graders nationally, and fourth and eighth graders statewide, since the early 1970s, classifying students as basic, proficient, or advanced in reading, mathematics, and science, adding writing in the 1980s; in 2000, NAEP graded students as 2% advanced, 25% proficient, 43% basic, and 30% below basic, with the percentages dropping to 1%, 23%, 47%, and 29% one year later (*Nation’s Report 2*; Stotsky, *Losing* 239). When the mean verbal scores on the SAT’s dropped 42 points between 1967 and 1993, scores were “recentered” (Mulroy, par. 15). For example, the Nelson-Denny Reading Test, which I administered, is a multiple-choice vocabulary and comprehension test that has been given for over forty years in many colleges to indicate ability in three academic areas: vocabulary development, reading comprehension, and reading rate. Revised many times, the test has become increasingly easier with fewer questions and more time given to take the test (Dyer, par. 2). Changes in statewide and national programs and assessments with a stronger focus on comprehension, more than one right answer, strategy use, and assessment of prior knowledge are replacing outdated methods, but arguments over theory and practice persist.

Meanwhile, I prepare students for the Florida Exit Examination and for a more fulfilling and productive life by teaching with methods in place and by enhancing with



elements of style extracted from every voice I have heard and every word I have read. I share the power of words with my students and change lives through college-level instruction in grammar and mechanics and rediscover myself through the reflective and recursive aspects of writing, ever mindful of and grateful to those who have shared knowledge with me.

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## Appendices



## Appendix A: University of South Florida Writing Center Results

Grammar was the topic designated three times more often than any other writing topic by students across the curriculum who visited the University of South Florida's Writing Center. I drew data from conference information forms (an example follows) that were filled out during each visit, focusing on responses to questions regarding areas of writing students would like to improve and areas where they feel confident. The information was collected and recorded on Excel documents, condensed, and then presented in tables and on graphs to indicate class levels, statuses as native or nonnative speaking (NNS), writing strengths, and areas of writing needing improvement. The numbers of tutoring sessions were as follows: Fall 2000, 569; Spring 2001, 567; Fall 2001, 472; and Spring 2002, 358.

The following are remarks from college-level students who are not quoted to ridicule sentence-level inabilities but to reveal at once ingenuity as well as the grave need for incorporating more contextual grammar instruction. Interesting to note is the fact that approximately a third of the overwhelming number of students who designated "grammar" as a weak subject area misspelled the word.

Appendix B: Confirmation Information Form

**Conference Information Form**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Student \_\_\_\_\_ Instructor

Instructor's Department \_\_\_\_\_ Course

Walk-in? (circle one) Yes No

Level: (circle one) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior Grad. Student

Is English your 2<sup>nd</sup> language? (circle one) Yes No

Your writing strengths:

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---

Areas in which you'd like to improve:

---

---

"Y" indicates English is a second language.

"N" indicates English is not a second language.

Numbers "1" through "4" indicate undergraduate level.

"G" indicates graduate level.

## Appendix C: HCC Student Questionnaire

Questionnaires given to students at Hillsborough Community College uncovered whether they found the writing course they were taking beneficial. The overwhelming results add to my argument for more grammar instruction. The questionnaire and results follow:

Do you feel that being able to write well is important for your college and professional careers?

46	Yes
1	Yes and no
0	No

Because of your intensive study of grammar this semester, do you feel your writing and communication skills have improved?

44	Yes
3	No
1	Don't know

Outside of the classroom, do you seek advice about your writing? If you do, what source(s) have you found helpful?

21	Yes (Books, newspapers, computers, mentors, tutors, teachers, parents, friends, fellow students, fellow employees, God)
26	No

Do you use a dictionary or thesaurus when you write or read?

36	Yes
11	No

Overall, are teachers' comments or corrections on your assignments understandable or helpful to you?

41	Yes
0	No
6	Somewhat

Would you rather teachers simply apply a grade to your work, or would you prefer they make suggestions or corrections?

- 1 Grade only
- 34 Suggestions and corrections
- 12 Both

Do you find yourself noticing or correcting grammatical errors written or spoken by yourself and others?

- 43 Yes
- 4 No

## Appendix D: HCC Prescriptions List

The following is a list of tests or prescriptions I compiled gratis for the preparatory writing programs at the Ybor campus at Hillsborough Community College. From software programs and textbooks, particularly *Focus: Writing Sentences and Paragraphs* and *Discovery: An Introduction to Writing*, I gleaned and edited sentences for prescriptions given in the basic writing courses and recreated interesting and educational tests that were more understandable and error-free. The tests covered twelve subject areas for ENC 0010 and fourteen for ENC 0020, each with three test forms. Topics covered in ENC 0010 were Parts of Speech, Pronouns, Subject-Verb Agreement, Adjectives and Adverbs, Verbs--Present and Past, Verbs--Perfect and Progressive, Commas, End Punctuation, Other Punctuation, Sentence Structure, Word Choice, Major Sentence Errors, Clauses and Modifiers, and Paragraphs; topics covered in ENC 0020 were Pronouns Case and Agreement; Verbs—Active and Passive; Verbs—Progression and Mood; Spelling and Homonyms; Commas; Apostrophes; Other Punctuation; Mechanics; Cliché, Jargon, and Slang; Sentence Problems; Clauses and Modifiers; Paragraphs; Editing for Clarity; and Editing for Concision. Revising the tests further, I created the exercises that I presently give students to increase their grammar skills and that I present with my thesis. In addition, I have revised and edited in my own time nearly one hundred handouts and exercises available to students for learning and practice at the Dale Mabry campus of Hillsborough Community College; these have not been submitted with my thesis.

## Appendix E: Parts of Speech

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the part(s) of speech indicated below.

1. **Find two nouns:** The photographs she took of the mountains were exceptional.  
A. are / mountains  
B. photographs / mountains  
C. mountains / exceptional
2. **Find two pronouns:** The woman with whom I spoke is Greek.  
A. I / spoke  
B. woman / Greek  
C. I / whom
3. **Find two verbs:** Although Thomas Jefferson opposed political parties, he established the party system.  
A. opposed / established  
B. political / parties  
C. Jefferson / opposed
4. **Find two adverbs:** The children suffered terribly when their parents died suddenly.  
A. parents / died  
B. terribly / suddenly  
C. children / suffered
5. **Find a preposition:** Shenandoah National Park is in Virginia.  
A. is  
B. Shenandoah  
C. in
6. **Find a conjunction:** Because she loved her brother, she knew he could do no wrong.  
A. could  
B. knew  
C. because
7. **Find a noun:** Don't you see that love is all around you?  
A. you  
B. love  
C. see
8. **Find a verb:** The Roman Republic emerged in the sixth century B.C.  
A. century  
B. Roman  
C. emerged

9. **Find two adjectives:** The jade plant grew quickly and soon dominated the tiny room.  
A. quickly / dominated  
B. plant / grew  
C. jade / tiny
10. **Find a conjunction:** In 1953, James D. Watson and Francis H. C. Crick identified the double helix as the basic structure of DNA.  
A. in  
B. the  
C. and
11. **Find a pronoun:** The textbook contains 576 pages, and the teacher makes his class read and summarize every chapter.  
A. the  
B. his  
C. to
12. **Find an adverb:** The mahogany desk was extremely cluttered.  
A. extremely  
B. desk  
C. cluttered
13. **Find an adjective:** English is my favorite subject.  
A. English  
B. favorite  
C. subject
14. **Find a preposition:** Everyone went to church on Easter Sunday.  
A. to  
B. Everyone  
C. Easter
15. **Find a pronoun:** “Which coat is yours?” the attendant asked.  
A. Which  
B. asked  
C. is

Appendix F: Pronouns 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the answer that uses the correct pronoun(s).

1. Somebody left \_\_\_\_\_ expensive laptop computer in the classroom.  
A. their            B. his or her
2. Everyone in the class is supposed to bring in \_\_\_\_\_ favorite poem and musical selection.  
A. their            B. his or her
3. The clothes were strewn all over the floor, so I threw \_\_\_\_\_ under the bed.  
A. they            B. them
4. Each dancer in the international ballet company has \_\_\_\_\_ own dressing room.  
A. their            B. his or her
5. The committee presented \_\_\_\_\_ report on the success of the new product.  
A. their            B. it's            C. its'            D. its
6. One of the hardest courses I took this semester is statistics; \_\_\_\_\_ deals with concepts, not hard ideas.  
A. they            B. them            C. one            D. it
7. Not one of the new waitresses was wearing \_\_\_\_\_ new uniform.  
A. their            B. his or her
8. My daughter is much taller than \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. I                B. me
9. Our supervisor asked Jenna and \_\_\_\_\_ to help with the sales inventory.  
A. I                B. me
10. Jeremy and \_\_\_\_\_ bought a new stereo system with a stolen credit card, but they did not get to enjoy the music for long.  
A. he                B. him
11. My dog lost \_\_\_\_\_ collar after digging under the neighbor's fence.  
A. its                B. it's
12. The fault for the roof collapse was all \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. theirs            B. theirs'



13. \_\_\_\_\_ predicted that the hurricane season would be bad this year, but \_\_\_\_\_ not always accurate.
- A. They/they're  
B. The weather experts/they're  
C. The weather experts/their  
D. They/ the weather expert

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the answer that uses pronouns correctly.

14. A. Do we know who will be coming to the party?  
B. Do we know whom will be coming to the party?
15. A. Aunt Serina gave my sister and I matching sweaters for Christmas.  
B. Aunt Serina gave my sister and me matching sweaters for Christmas.
16. A. Jacob and me went to the store for ice cream after we ate dinner.  
B. Jacob and I went to the store for ice cream after we ate dinner.
17. A. Leonardo daVinci's *Mona Lisa* is a portrait of a beautiful woman which has a mysterious smile.  
B. Leonardo daVinci's *Mona Lisa* is a portrait of a beautiful woman who has a mysterious smile.  
C. Leonardo daVinci's *Mona Lisa* is a portrait of a beautiful woman that has a mysterious smile.
18. A. Just between you and me, aren't they're being silly?  
B. Just between you and I, aren't they being silly?  
C. Just between you and me, aren't they being silly?
19. A. Anyone that wants to check out a book must leave the reference area.  
B. Anyone who wants to check out a book must leave the reference area.  
C. Anyone whom wants to check out a book must leave the reference area.
20. A. Him mowing the lawn for his sick neighbor was a kind act.  
B. He mowing the lawn for his sick neighbor was a kind act.  
C. His mowing the lawn for his sick neighbor was a kind act.

## Appendix G: Pronouns 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter that best completes each sentence.

1. John asked his teacher if \_\_\_\_\_ could explain the answer again.  
A. he                      B. his teacher
2. My brother looks young, but he is older than \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. I                        B. me
3. It was \_\_\_\_\_ who sent flowers and gifts to the teacher.  
A. her                      B. she
4. Although he hates to cook, André \_\_\_\_\_ sautéed the mushrooms.  
A. hisself                B. himself
5. Let's keep this secret about the surprise party between you and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. me                       B. I
6. Everyone in the priesthood must vow that \_\_\_\_\_ will never marry.  
A. he                        B. they
7. The committee has just published \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations for building improvements.  
A. their                    B. its
8. Mr. Prentiss is a counselor with \_\_\_\_\_ you can talk whenever you have a problem.  
A. who                      B. whom
9. Each of the boys packs \_\_\_\_\_ own lunch on Thursdays and Fridays.  
A. his                        B. their
10. Mrs. Williams was the woman \_\_\_\_\_ gave us the gift certificate for a free meal.  
A. whom                    B. who

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter that uses pronouns correctly.

11. A. Carrying gifts for my brother and me, my grandparents held out there arms and demanded a hug.  
B. Carrying gifts for my brother and I, my grandparents held out their arms and demanded a hug.  
C. Carrying gifts for my brother and me, my grandparents held out their arms and demanded a hug.

12. A. Poor in spirit are them who do not trust others.  
 B. Poor in spirit are they who do not trust others.  
 C. Poor in spirit are them people who do not trust others.
13. A. The professor expects as much from herself as from you, him, and I.  
 B. The professor expects as much from herself as from you, he, and me.  
 C. The professor expects as much from herself as from you, him, and me.
14. A. I had met the student who lived next door only once.  
 B. I had met the student that lived next door only once.  
 C. I had met the student whom lived next door only once.
15. A. They are the parents whose son just won a scholarship to Oxford.  
 B. They are the parents who's son just won a scholarship to Oxford.  
 C. They are the parents who'se son just won a scholarship to Oxford.
16. A. The ancient Maya built a glorious civilization, yet strangely, their descendants, whose homes are simple thatch-roof huts, now live in remote jungle villages.  
 B. The ancient Maya built a glorious civilization, yet strangely, they're descendants, whose homes are simple thatch-roof huts, now live in remote jungle villages.  
 C. The ancient Maya built a glorious civilization, yet strangely, their descendants, who's homes are simple thatch-roof huts, now live in remote jungle villages.
17. A. He had few ethical principles, and he worked for whomever offered the highest fee.  
 B. He had few ethical principles, and he worked for whose ever offered the highest fee.  
 C. He had few ethical principles, and he worked for whoever offered the highest fee.
18. A. A member of the student government asked Marla and me to sign a petition demanding that more parking spots should be reserved for us students.  
 B. A member of the student government asked Marla and me to sign a petition demanding that more parking spots should be reserved for we students.  
 C. A member of the student government asked Marla and I to sign a petition demanding that more parking spots should be reserved for us students.
19. A. The theater company chose Courtney and me as stand-ins, but Tamika and her got starring roles.  
 B. The theater company chose Courtney and me as stand-ins, but Tamika and she got starring roles.  
 C. The theater company chose Courtney and I as stand-ins, but Tamika and she got starring roles.

20. A. We were sick of his claiming that the world would soon end.  
B. We were sick of him claiming that the world would soon end.  
C. We were sick of he claiming that the world would soon end.

## Appendix H: Pronouns 3

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the best response for each of the following sentences.

1. Young adults often face a difficult transition period when \_\_\_\_\_ leave home for the first time.  
A. they  
B. he or she
2. Anyone trying to reduce \_\_\_\_\_ salt intake should avoid canned and processed foods.  
A. their  
B. his or her
3. The referee watched the basketball game closely to make sure \_\_\_\_\_ did not commit any fouls.  
A. they  
B. the basketball players
4. Neither of those girls appreciates \_\_\_\_\_ parents' sacrifices.  
A. their  
B. her
5. When we returned home from fishing and crabbing, our grandmother told David and \_\_\_\_\_ to leave our muddy shoes outside on the porch.  
A. me  
B. I
6. All in the choir must buy \_\_\_\_\_ robes and sashes.  
A. his or her  
B. their
7. \_\_\_\_\_ walking to work each day has improved his physical well-being.  
A. His  
B. Him
8. The professor read from a stack of yellowed notes that seemed nearly as old as \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. him  
B. he
9. Your natural talent will bring you success, but only if you study and practice to improve \_\_\_\_\_ abilities.  
A. your  
B. them

10. Psychologists \_\_\_\_\_ claim that personal qualities like self-confidence and optimism may have as much to do with our mental abilities as IQ does.  
A. themselves  
B. themselves
11. Your grades prove that you worked harder than \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. them  
B. they
12. Early in each session, the teacher asked her students to write about an unpleasant experience \_\_\_\_\_ had undergone in school.  
A. they  
B. he or she
13. In spite of her background of unemployment, chemical dependency, and abusive relationships, Nicole decided to make education a priority in \_\_\_\_\_ life.  
A. her  
B. one's
14. The committee has just published \_\_\_\_\_ recommendations.  
A. their  
B. its
15. Let's keep this secret between you and \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. me  
B. I
16. The person \_\_\_\_\_ knows the most about the business is Ms. Jones.  
A. who  
B. which
17. As I grow older, I find that my parents and \_\_\_\_\_ have many values in common.  
A. me  
B. I
18. Each of the girls has to return \_\_\_\_\_ cheerleader's uniform at the end of the year.  
A. her  
B. their
19. Have the police found \_\_\_\_\_ was responsible for the theft?  
A. who  
B. whom

Appendix I: Subject-Verb Agreement

**DIRECTIONS:** Sometimes verbs appear before the subjects. In the following sentences, indicate which verb agrees with the subject(s).

1. In the distance \_\_\_\_\_ a billow of smoke and the sound of sirens.  
A. was  
B. were
2. Where \_\_\_\_\_ my concert ticket?  
A. is  
B. are
3. Here \_\_\_\_\_ the low-calorie cola and the double-chocolate cake you ordered.  
A. is  
B. are
4. There \_\_\_\_\_ many paths which you can follow.  
A. is  
B. are

**DIRECTIONS:** Words that come between the subject and verb, like adverbs and prepositional phrases, should not interfere with subject-verb agreement. In the following sentences, indicate which verb agrees with the subject(s).

5. The crinkly lines around Joan's mouth \_\_\_\_\_ her a friendly look.  
A. give  
B. gives
6. The waitress wearing the maroon apron always \_\_\_\_\_ her customers in a friendly manner.  
A. serve  
B. serves
7. Our grandmother, who is 94 years old, still \_\_\_\_\_ to her favorite songs.  
A. dance  
B. dances
8. Some members of the parent's association \_\_\_\_\_ to ban certain religious books from the school library and curriculum.  
A. want  
B. wants

**DIRECTIONS:** When compound subjects are joined by “and,” the subjects may be replaced with the plural pronoun “they” to determine agreement with verbs. When compound subjects are joined by “or” or “nor,” the verb must agree with the subject that is closer. In the following sentences, indicate which verb agrees with the subjects.

9. Why \_\_\_\_\_ Samantha and her mother arguing?  
A. is  
B. are
10. Neither the principal nor the teachers \_\_\_\_\_ how to deal with the problematic student.  
A. know  
B. knows
11. Theodore, James, and Linus \_\_\_\_\_ planning to help Madeline move her furniture to her new home in the country.  
A. is  
B. are
12. When Patricia and Ellen \_\_\_\_\_ to the store, they always spend too much money on useless items.  
A. go  
B. goes

**DIRECTIONS:** Most indefinite pronouns are singular and take singular verbs. In each of the following sentences, indicate which verb agrees with the subject(s).

13. Neither of her children \_\_\_\_\_ like her.  
A. look  
B. looks
14. Because you read to your children when they were young, every one of them \_\_\_\_\_ in school.  
A. excel  
B. excels
15. Each of the actresses \_\_\_\_\_ she will win the award.  
A. hope  
B. hopes
16. One of my roommates \_\_\_\_\_ always leaving dirty clothes and wet towels on the bathroom floor.  
A. is  
B. are



**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the following sentences, indicate which verb agrees with the subject(s).

17. A newcomer often \_\_\_\_\_ awkward when becoming familiar with new people and surroundings.  
A. feel  
B. feels
18. The books in my library \_\_\_\_\_ collecting dust.  
A. is  
B. are
19. My mother \_\_\_\_\_ hard as a nurse to provide me a home, food, and clothing.  
A. work  
B. works
20. "Time and money \_\_\_\_\_ all I need," said the desperate businessman.  
A. is  
B. are

## Appendix J: Adjectives and Adverbs

**DIRECTIONS:** Adjectives describe nouns or pronouns and generally tell which, what kind of, or how many. Identify the adjective in each of the following sentences.

1. My father asked, “Did you know that the family moving next door has thirteen children?”  
A. family      B. asked      C. thirteen
2. The landlord promised repeatedly to repair the leaking shower, but he still has not come to my apartment to do the work.  
A. repeatedly      B. leaking      C. still
3. When the young missionary arrived on the island, men, women, and children greeted him with wreaths of flowers and platters of food.  
A. young      B. arrived      C. platters
4. A layer of dark smog settled on the city.  
A. layer      B. dark      C. settled

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the correct adjective in each sentence.

5. We felt \_\_\_\_\_ about missing the party.  
A. bad      B. badly
6. Be \_\_\_\_\_ when you cross a busy street.  
A. careful      B. carefully

**DIRECTIONS:** Adverbs describe verbs, adverbs, and adjectives and generally tell how, when, or where. Select the adverb appropriate for each of the following sentences.

7. Just because brothers and sisters fight when they are young does not mean they will not get along \_\_\_\_\_ as adults.  
A. well      B. good
8. Sally, our most valuable baseball player, runs, fields, and hits \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. well      B. good
9. Because she studied for months, she did \_\_\_\_\_ on her exit examination.  
A. well      B. good

10. After hearing the news of the accident, she put the phone down \_\_\_\_\_ and ran to help.  
A. quick                      B. quickly
11. She was so \_\_\_\_\_ frightened by the dream that she had trouble sleeping.  
A. horrible                      B. horribly
12. The sheriff talks \_\_\_\_\_ but draws his gun fast.  
A. slow                      B. slowly
13. Unfortunately, Joanne performed \_\_\_\_\_ at the recital; aside from forgetting her chords, her piano was terribly out of tune.  
A. bad                      B. badly
14. Johnny wondered why he was doing \_\_\_\_\_ in his science courses, for he had always been a successful student.  
A. poor                      B. poorly
15. Larry may be slow to get out of bed, but he moves \_\_\_\_\_ when there is food on the table.  
A. quick                      B. quickly
16. The teachers had trouble persuading the students to take their work \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. serious                      B. seriously
17. I love to walk \_\_\_\_\_ in the woods and study the trees and flowers.  
A. slow                      B. slowly
18. The students frequent complain that the instructor speaks too \_\_\_\_\_ when asking them questions.  
A. abrupt                      B. abruptly
19. If treated \_\_\_\_\_, victims of cholera, an extremely infectious disease, can be saved.  
A. quick                      B. quickly
20. With a gun pointed at him, the bank teller opened the cash drawer very \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. slow                      B. slowly

## Appendix K: Comparative and Superlative Adjectives and Adverbs

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the correct comparative or superlative adjective and/or adverb in each sentence.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ you arrive at the station, the better the possibility of getting a ticket.  
A. more early            B. earlier
2. The white kitten chasing the chameleon up the tree is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all of the kittens.  
A. playfullest            B. most playful
3. This chocolate fudge cake is \_\_\_\_\_ than the last one you baked.  
A. moister                B. more moist
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ job I ever had was babysitting for spoiled, four-year-old twins.  
A. worst                    B. worse
5. Cumulous clouds are the fluffy, cotton-ball type that we see on \_\_\_\_\_ days.  
A. more sunny            B. sunnier
6. Of the four children, she was the \_\_\_\_\_ generous.  
more                        B. most
7. I am feeling much \_\_\_\_\_ than I was feeling yesterday.  
A. worse                    B. worst
8. They were making the \_\_\_\_\_ amount of money they could make and still survive.  
A. less                      B. least
9. This is the \_\_\_\_\_ sweater I could find.  
A. least costly            B. least costliest
10. The \_\_\_\_\_ person I ever met is my husband.  
more kind                 B. most kind                C. kindest
11. Michael was chosen for the basketball team because he is a \_\_\_\_\_ jumper than anyone trying out.  
A. better                    B. more better                C. best
12. Even though I have had plenty of medicine and rest, I feel \_\_\_\_\_ today than I did yesterday.  
A. worse                    B. worser                      C. more worse

13. The new computer Jeff bought works \_\_\_\_\_ than the one he had before.  
A. more fast            B. faster            C. most fast
14. Of all the contestants in the beauty contest, I think Jocelyn is the \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. more beautiful    B. most beautiful    C. beautifullest
15. Because of this cold weather, I am feeling much \_\_\_\_\_ than I was feeling yesterday.  
A. ill                    B. worse            C. worst
16. The homemade cake my mom bakes is \_\_\_\_\_ than the one I make.  
A. good                B. better            C. best
17. If you want to earn the \_\_\_\_\_ points, you will have to work very hard.  
A. much                B. more            C. most

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in each group that correctly uses the comparative or superlative adjectives and adverbs.

18. A. The market sells fresher meat than the grocery store, but the freshest meat is found at Mr. Talbot's shop.  
B. The market sells freshest meat than the grocery store, but the fresher meat is found at Mr. Talbot's shop.  
C. The market sells fresher meat than the grocery store, but the fresher meat is found at Mr. Talbot's shop.
19. A. Soccer looks like a more livelier game than baseball.  
B. Soccer looks like a more liveliest game than baseball.  
C. Soccer looks like a livelier game than baseball.
20. A. Stephanie is a more good speller than Bernice.  
B. Stephanie is a more better speller than Bernice.  
C. Stephanie is a better speller than Bernice.

## Appendix L: Misplaced and Dangling Modifiers

**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the following groups, two sentences have misplaced modifiers and one is correct. Indicate the **correct** option.

1. A. Mike stood next to the phone booth wearing a gray suit all day waiting for the phone to ring.  
B. Wearing a gray suit, Mike stood next to the phone booth all day waiting for the phone to ring.  
C. Waiting for the phone to ring, Mike stood next to the phone booth wearing a gray suit all day.
2. A. We saw quite a few fast-food restaurants driving down the highway looking for a place to stay.  
B. Looking for a place to spend the night, we saw quite a few fast-food restaurants driving down the highway.  
C. Driving down the highway looking for a place to stay, we saw quite a few fast-food restaurants.
3. A. Brian cooked the salmon steaks, marinated in lemon and pepper, on the grill in his backyard.  
B. Marinated in lemon and pepper, Brian cooked the salmon steaks on the grill in his backyard.  
C. The salmon steaks were cooked by Brian on the grill in the backyard marinated in lemon and pepper.

**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the following groups, two sentences are correct and one has a dangling modifier. Indicate the option that is **incorrect**.

4. A. Swinging from tree to tree, coconuts fell on the monkeys.  
B. Coconuts fell on the monkeys while they swung from tree to tree.  
C. While the monkeys swung from tree to tree, coconuts fell on them.
5. A. His palms began to sweat when the police questioned him.  
B. Questioned by the police, his palms began to sweat.  
C. When the police questioned him, his palms began to sweat.
6. A. Overcome by the excessive heat, the game ended early.  
B. The game was ended early because the players were overcome by the excessive heat.  
C. Because the players were overcome by the excessive heat, the game ended early.

7. A. Walking across the street, Greg tripped over his shoelaces.  
B. Greg tripped over his shoelaces while walking across the street.  
C. Walking across the street, Greg's shoelaces tripped him.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the sentence in each group that is **correctly** written, which does not have a misplaced or dangling modifier.

8. A. Turning the page of the book, there was a picture of a sunset on the Indian River.  
B. There was a picture of a sunset on the Indian River turning the page of a book.  
C. Turning the page of the book, I saw a picture of a sunset on the Indian River.
9. A. Opening the can, the food inside was spoiled.  
B. The food inside was spoiled, opening the can.  
C. Opening the can, I found the food inside spoiled.
10. A. Needing to be fed, I handed the scrawny dog to the attendant.  
B. I handed the attendant the scrawny dog that needed to be fed.  
C. I handed the scrawny dog to the attendant that needed to be fed.
11. A. Speaking from experience, I know that a newborn baby needs a lot of care.  
B. Speaking from experience, a newborn baby needs a lot of care.  
C. From experience, a newborn baby needs a lot of care.
12. A. Walking across the ceiling, I noticed a large spider.  
B. I noticed a large spider walking across the ceiling.  
C. I noticed, walking across the ceiling, a large spider.

**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the following groups, select the sentence that **does not** have a misplaced or dangling modifier.

13. A. Soaring over the treetops in a hot air balloon, the view was spectacular.  
B. Soaring over the treetops in a hot air balloon, we enjoyed the spectacular view.
14. A. After graduating from college, a good job is very important to find.  
B. After graduating from college, students need to find a good job.
15. A. Robert Frost was honored by President John F. Kennedy for his poetic achievements in the White House.  
B. Robert Frost was honored for his poetic achievements by President John F. Kennedy in the White House.

16. A. While delivering newspapers, storm clouds appeared.  
B. Storm clouds appeared while I was delivering newspapers.



## Appendix M: Verbs—Active and Passive

**DIRECTIONS:** In the following sentences, indicate whether the verbs are **active** with an **A** and **passive** with a **B**.

1. Outside of the courtroom, the lawyers discussed the verdict.
2. The verdict was discussed by the lawyers outside of the courtroom.
3. Ann was elected to the Monroe city council by the citizens.
4. The citizens of Monroe elected Ann to the city council.
5. Doors and windows were left open; books, clothing, and small items of furniture were scattered across the room; and curtains, sheets, and blankets were torn to shreds.
6. Someone left the doors and windows open; scattered books, clothing, and small items of furniture across the room; and tore the curtains, sheets, and blankets to shreds.
7. The team that was favored won the football game, which went into overtime.
8. The football game, which went into overtime, was won by the team that was favored.
9. The charity organization donated food and clothing to homeless shelters.
10. Food and clothing were donated to homeless shelters by the charity organization.
11. The small audience applauded the violinist.
12. The violinist was applauded by the small audience.
13. The funds for a new superhighway were approved by Governor Santiago.
14. Governor Santiago approved funds for a new superhighway.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence that uses verbs more effectively.

15. A. Sitting at his desk, he read several old love letters.  
B. Sitting at his desk, several old love letters were read by him.
16. A. Felicia wrote letters about the leaking faucet to the building's superintendent.  
B. Letters about the leaking faucet were written by Felicia to the building's superintendent.

17. A. Someone has already set the table.  
B. The table has already been set.
18. A. For centuries, the Nile Delta was farmed by Egyptians, who built one of the world's great civilizations there.  
B. For centuries, Egyptians farmed the Nile Delta and built one of the world's great civilizations there.
19. A. The children were drawing pictures in front of the school.  
B. The pictures were being drawn in front of the school by the children.
20. A. The first moving pictures were made by Thomas Edison in a small studio in Orange, New Jersey.  
B. Thomas Edison made the first moving pictures in a small studio in Orange, New Jersey.

## Appendix N: Verbs—Present and Past

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the correct verb in each of the sentences below.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ my coffee before I left for the office.  
A. have  
B. has  
C. had
2. Mr. Brown grew weary from his journey and \_\_\_\_\_ overnight in a nearby motel.  
A. stayed  
B. staid  
C. stay
3. To show our support, we \_\_\_\_\_ packages to the soldiers overseas last week.  
A. send  
B. sent  
C. sended
4. Every one of the graduates \_\_\_\_\_ to attend the class reunion.  
A. plan  
B. plans
5. It \_\_\_\_\_ a pleasure working with the investigative team last summer.  
A. is  
B. was  
C. were
6. Until his sister left for college this week, Juan \_\_\_\_\_ the first college student in his family.  
A. is  
B. was  
C. were
7. The runners \_\_\_\_\_ exhilarated about their victory in Wednesday's marathon race.  
A. was  
B. were  
C. is
8. The members of the country-western band \_\_\_\_\_ and played together for years in little honky-tonks and cafés until they were offered a record deal.  
A. sing  
B. sang  
C. sung

9. Jonathan, who \_\_\_\_\_ in the next office, has good typing skills.  
A. work  
B. works
10. David writes poems that \_\_\_\_\_ not rhyme.  
A. do  
B. does
11. The flight \_\_\_\_\_ off an hour late.  
A. took  
B. take  
C. taken
12. The huge manatee \_\_\_\_\_ gracefully in the warm, green waters of the Gulf of Mexico.  
A. swim  
B. swam  
C. swum
13. This morning, I \_\_\_\_\_ in bed until I heard my mother calling me to breakfast.  
A. lay  
B. laid
14. I just \_\_\_\_\_ the book down on the counter, and now I don't know where it is.  
A. lay  
B. laid
15. Last month, I \_\_\_\_\_ from New York City to San Francisco.  
A. flew  
B. flyed  
C. flown

## Appendix O: Verbs—Perfect and Progressive

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **past perfect**.

1. A. Reagan and Gorbachev had spoken on several occasions.  
B. Reagan and Gorbachev spoke on several occasions.  
C. Reagan and Gorbachev have spoken on several occasions.
2. A. The firemen prevented the house from burning down.  
B. The firemen were preventing the house from burning down.  
C. The firemen had prevented the house from burning down.
3. A. Before I moved to Colorado, I had learned to climb mountains.  
B. Before I moved to Colorado, I learned to climb mountains.  
C. Before I moved to Colorado, I have learned to climb mountains.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **present perfect**.

4. A. Often, I have dreamt of being a successful doctor.  
B. Often, I dreamt of being a successful doctor.  
C. Often, I dream of being a successful doctor.
5. A. The cold wind stings the runner's face and burns her lungs.  
B. The cold wind has stung the runner's face and burned her lungs.  
C. The cold wind is stinging the runner's face and burning her lungs.
6. A. My parents discussed moving into a larger home.  
B. My parents have discussed moving into a larger home.  
C. My parents are discussing moving into a larger home.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **future perfect**.

7. A. By the end of the semester, I will have learned all that I need to know to become a nurse.  
B. By the end of the semester, I will learn all that I need to know to become a nurse.  
C. By the end of the semester, I learned all that I need to know to become a nurse.
8. A. When the trial is over, the lawyer proved the innocence of his client.  
B. When the trial is over, the lawyer will prove the innocence of his client.  
C. When the trial is over, the lawyer will have proven the innocence of his client.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **past progressive**.

9. A. Rebecca had been feeding her baby when the doorbell rang.  
B. Rebecca is feeding her baby when the doorbell rang.  
C. Rebecca was feeding her baby when the doorbell rang.
10. A. Susan was running in a race to raise money for diabetes research.  
B. Susan is running in a race to raise money for diabetes research.  
C. Susan ran in a race to raise money for diabetes research.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **present progressive**.

11. A. Antonio is going to order bacon and eggs for breakfast.  
B. Antonio was going to order bacon and eggs for breakfast.  
C. Antonio had been going to order bacon and eggs for breakfast.
12. A. The candy man will be spinning cotton candy at the fair.  
B. The candy man was spinning cotton candy at the fair.  
C. The candy man is spinning cotton candy at the fair.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence in which the verb tense is **future progressive**.

13. A. The successful businessman will construct new offices across the state.  
B. The successful businessman will be constructing new offices across the state.  
C. The successful businessman will have constructed new offices across the state.
14. A. Who will be playing the piano at the recital?  
B. Who is playing the piano at the recital?  
C. Who will play the piano at the recital?
15. A. Belinda will create graphic designs for the advertising company.  
B. Belinda has been creating graphic designs for the advertising company.  
C. Belinda will be creating graphic designs for the advertising company.







## Appendix Q: Verbs--Progression and Mood 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentences in which the **present progressive tense** is used.

1. A. Karen's chances of being promoted are increasing, for she is making several beneficial changes in the program.  
B. Karen's chances of being promoted were increasing, for she was making several beneficial changes in the program.  
C. Karen's chances of being promoted increase, for she made several beneficial changes in the program.
2. A. The prosecutors claimed that he was hiding the evidence.  
B. The prosecutors are claiming that he is hiding the evidence.  
C. The prosecutors were claiming that he hid the evidence.
3. A. Today, the Congress meets in a joint session to discuss the budget.  
B. Today, the Congress is meeting in a joint session to discuss the budget.  
C. Today, the Congress has met in a joint session to discuss the budget.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentences in which the **past progressive tense** is used.

4. A. Tom was swimming in a river near the park.  
B. Tom is swimming in a river near the park.  
C. Tom swims in a river near the park.
5. A. Frightened by the hunter's gunshots, the wild turkeys were running across the field.  
B. Frightened by the hunter's gunshots, the wild turkeys ran across the field.  
C. Frightened by the hunter's gunshots, the wild turkeys run across the field.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentences in which the **future progressive tense** is used.

6. A. The politician will be kissing babies and shaking hands.  
B. The politician was kissing babies and shaking hands.  
C. The politician is kissing babies and shaking hands.
7. A. Desiring to learn Hungarian, Eva will move to Budapest in the fall.  
B. Desiring to learn Hungarian, Eva is moving to Budapest in the fall.  
C. Desiring to learn Hungarian, Eva will be moving to Budapest in the fall.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentence in each group that correctly uses the indicative, imperative, conditional, or subjunctive mood. Be attentive to end punctuation and verb usage.

**Indicative** (used to make a statement or ask a question)

8. A. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week?  
B. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week.  
C. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week!
9. A. When you do not know the meaning or spelling of a word, do you use a dictionary?  
B. When you do not know the meaning or spelling of a word, do you use a dictionary!  
C. When you do not know the meaning or spelling of a word, do you use a dictionary.

**Imperative** (used to give commands, make requests, or give directions)

10. A. After you revise your paragraphs, take the time to analyze each sentence for correctness!  
B. After you revise your paragraphs, take the time to analyze each sentence for correctness?  
C. After you revise your paragraphs, take the time to analyze each sentence for correctness.
11. A. Run to the store and buy a quart of milk and a loaf of bread.  
B. Runs to the store and buys a quart of milk and a loaf of bread.  
C. Runs to the store and buy a quart of milk and a loaf of bread.

**Subjunctive** (used to express a wish or desire; make a statement that is contrary to fact; or explain a demand, request, or suggestion)

12. A. If I were a doctor, I would have more patients.  
B. If I were a doctor, I would had more patients.  
C. If I was a doctor, I would have more patients.
13. A. Jonathan wishes he were a rich man so he could share with others.  
B. Jonathan wishes he was a rich man so he could share with others.  
C. Jonathan wishes he was a rich man so he might share with others.

**Conditional** (used to answer questions such as *What would happen if?* or *What happens when?*)

14. A. If I have written to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.  
B. If I had written to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.  
C. If I had wrote to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.
15. A. If Evelyn has changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.  
B. If Evelyn changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.  
C. If Evelyn had changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.



**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentence in each group that correctly uses the indicative, imperative, conditional, or subjunctive mood. Be attentive to end punctuation and verb usage.

11. A. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week?  
D. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week.  
E. The teacher asked why the student was late to class three times last week!
12. A. If I were a doctor, I would have more patients.  
D. If I were a doctor, I would had more patients.  
E. If I was a doctor, I would have more patients.
13. A. If Evelyn has changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.  
D. If Evelyn changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.  
E. If Evelyn had changed the oil in her car regularly, she would not have had a big repair bill.
14. A. If I have written to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.  
D. If I had written to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.  
E. If I had wrote to my aunt to thank her for her generous gift, she would not be angry with me now.
15. A. After you revise the paragraph, ask yourself whether each sentence is grammatically correct.  
B. After you revise the paragraph, ask yourself whether each sentence is grammatically correct?  
C. After you revise the paragraph, ask yourself whether each sentence is grammatically correct!

Appendix S: Homonyms and Commonly Confused Words 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the answer that best applies to the sentence.

1. Careful proofreading had a positive \_\_\_\_\_ on the grades Carl received for his compositions.  
A. effect                      B. affect
2. Registering for classes sometimes requires \_\_\_\_\_ time and patience.  
A. you're                      B. your
3. The yellow Mustang convertible \_\_\_\_\_ us on a curve at a high rate of speed.  
A. past                      B. passed
4. I would really like a large \_\_\_\_\_ of land to build a house on one day.  
A. piece                      B. peace
5. Peter enjoyed his visit to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Battle of Gettysburg.  
A. sight                      B. site
6. \_\_\_\_\_ going to pay for the repairs to my new car?  
A. Who's                      B. Whose
7. The following day, the \_\_\_\_\_ department warned all of the employees that there was some danger of the corporation being sold  
A. personal                      B. personnel
8. A mirage is an optical \_\_\_\_\_ caused by atmospheric conditions.  
A. allusion                      B. illusion
9. The sleek brown seals did not know what had ruined \_\_\_\_\_ breeding grounds when the oil washed onto the beaches.  
A. there                      B. their                      C. they're
10. My brother is \_\_\_\_\_ short to consider playing basketball professionally.  
A. to                      B. too                      C. two

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the answer that best applies to the sentence.

11. Be careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ your way on those back roads.  
A. loose                      B. lose
12. The cottage by the lake is a \_\_\_\_\_ and beautiful place to study.  
A. quiet                      B. quite

13. The money we have \_\_\_\_\_ will help build a family shelter.  
A. risen                      B. raised
14. The tired farmer \_\_\_\_ down and fell asleep in the rocking chair on the porch.  
A. set                          B. sat
15. Al is \_\_\_\_\_ to meet us after class to share his notes.  
A. suppose                  B. supposed

## Appendix T: Homonyms and Commonly Confused Words 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the answer that uses commonly confused words correctly.

1. A. I should of checked the paperwork before I started the project, but I was to busy.  
B. I should have checked the paperwork before I started the project, but I was too busy.  
C. I should have checked the paperwork before I started the project, but I was to busy.
2. A. It takes too to tango, as the saying goes.  
B. It takes two to tango, as the saying goes.  
C. It takes to to tango, as the saying goes.
3. A. The bare watched closely over it's cubs.  
B. The bear watched closely over its cubs.  
C. The bear watched closely over it's cubs.
4. A. Geneticists spend much of their time studying jeans.  
B. Geneticists spend much of there time studying genes.  
C. Geneticists spend much of their time studying genes.
5. A. After dinner, we ordered ice cream for dessert.  
B. After diner, we ordered ice cream for dessert.  
C. After dinner, we ordered ice cream for desert.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the sentence that uses the clearest and most formal language.

6. A. The realtor swore the house was a diamond in the rough.  
B. The house looked as if it were about to collapse, but the realtor assured me it was sound.  
C. The realtor swore on a stack of Bibles that the house was sound.
7. A. Let's put our heads together and see if we can solve this problem on our own.  
B. With all of us working together, we should be able to solve this problem.  
C. If two heads are better than one, then together we should be able to find the solution to this problem.
8. A. I am not going out on a limb for someone who does not appreciate what I am doing.  
B. I am not willing to take the risk just to help someone who does not appreciate the effort.  
C. I am not killing myself any longer for someone who could not care less.



9. A. Larry applied to three different colleges because he did not want to put all of his eggs in one basket.  
 B. Trying to cover all his bases, Larry applied to three different colleges.  
 C. Larry applied to three different colleges to ensure that he would be accepted somewhere.
10. A. Unless I get a raise soon, I'm going to have to tighten my belt a few notches.  
 B. Without a raise, I'm going to be living from hand to mouth pretty soon.  
 C. If I don't get a raise soon, I'm not going to have enough money to cover even the basic expenses.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the answer that best applies to the sentence.

11. I don't know \_\_\_\_\_ scarf this is.  
 A. who's                      B. whose
12. You were not \_\_\_\_\_ to eat the cake until after dinner!  
 A. suppose                      B. supposed
13. On Sunday, the pastor gave his sermon from the \_\_\_\_\_.  
 A. altar                      B. alter
14. Tallahassee is the \_\_\_\_\_ of Florida.  
 A. capitol                      B. capital
15. The army had to monitor the \_\_\_\_\_ warfare overseas.  
 A. gorilla                      B. guerilla
16. Amelia keeps her favorite \_\_\_\_\_ on the left side of her closet.  
 A. clothes                      B. cloths
17. How do you feel when \_\_\_\_\_ in a crowd?  
 A. you're                      B. your
18. Do you \_\_\_\_\_ yourself in the noise and excitement of a football game or a concert?  
 A. loose                      B. lose
19. Does your energy level \_\_\_\_\_?  
 A. rise                      B. raise
20. Are you more assertive when you are in a crowd or when you are \_\_\_\_\_ yourself?  
 A. by                      B. buy

## Appendix U: Spelling and Homonyms

**DIRECTIONS:** In the following section, some of the sentences contain misspellings. Indicate the misspelled word or mark “no correction necessary.”

1. The nation of Germany was once a large collection of seperate countries.
  - A. collection
  - B. seperate
  - C. no correction necessary
2. My parents always payed for their automobiles with cash.
  - A. automobiles
  - B. payed
  - C. no correction necessary
3. We mailed them a complimentary certificate, but they never recieved it.
  - A. complimentary
  - B. recieved
  - C. no correction necessary
4. The entire party dinned at the most expensive restaurant in Philadelphia.
  - A. dinned
  - B. restaurant
  - C. no correction necessary
5. Ian Fleming created James Bond, the suave British secret agent with a “lisense to kill.”
  - A. suave
  - B. lisense
  - C. no correction necessary
6. Rudyard Kipling was the most fameous writer of his era.
  - A. fameous
  - B. writer
  - C. no correction necessary
7. There was an entire wall of shelves built behind my desk.
  - A. shelves
  - B. built
  - C. no correction necessary
8. Michelangelo’s most beautiful work has to be the cieling of the Sistine Chapel.
  - A. beautiful
  - B. cieling
  - C. no correction necessary

9. Hopping for a better life than the one they left behind, many foreigners immigrate to America.  
A. Hopping  
B. foreigners  
C. no change necessary
10. Before the summer began, workers painted all the bench's in the park bright green.  
A. bright  
B. bench's  
C. no correction necessary

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the answer that best applies to the sentence.

11. The money we have \_\_\_\_\_ will help build a family shelter.  
A. risen                      B. raised
12. The tired farmer \_\_\_ down and fell asleep in the rocking chair on the porch.  
A. set                          B. sat
13. Al is \_\_\_\_\_ to meet us after class to share his notes.  
A. suppose                      B. supposed
14. Be careful not to \_\_\_\_\_ your way on those back roads.  
A. loose                        B. lose
15. The cottage by the lake is a \_\_\_\_\_ and beautiful place to study.  
A. quiet                        B. quite

## Appendix V: Clauses and Modifiers

**DIRECTIONS:** Identify the *italicized* portions of the sentences below.

1. *Although they originated as social organizations,* European trade guilds eventually regulated prices, wages, and production standards.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
2. The lost child, *crying loudly for her mother,* was hungry and frightened.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
3. *Margaret Atwood,* who is a Canadian poet and novelist, *has written several bestsellers.*  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
4. *Along the dirt road,* we saw two small panthers in the palmettos.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
5. *When I left home and moved to the city,* I had no money or prospects for a job.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
6. *One of Rome's greatest emperors,* Marcus Aurelius was a stoic philosopher and writer as well as a military general.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
7. After studying Roman law, *Benedict of Nursia abandoned the secular world and entered a monastery.*  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause

8. *Invented in the fifteenth-century*, watches depend upon a spring mechanism for power.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause
9. *Emperor Frederick I of Germany*, who united the many small states into a nation, *had a red beard and was known as "Barbarosa."*
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause
10. Buddha, *who was born in India*, was the founder of one of the world's major religions.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the best revision for each *italicized* portion of the sentences below.

11. *The plumbers replaced the waterlines with plastic pipe that were leaking.*
- A. No revision is necessary.
  - B. The plumbers replaced the waterlines (with plastic pipe) that were leaking.
  - C. The plumbers replaced the leaking waterlines with plastic pipe.
  - D. With plastic pipe the waterlines that were leaking were replaced by the plumbers.
12. Looking at the character development in the story, *the novelist reveals to us surprising psychological insight.*
- A. No revision is necessary.
  - B. we discover the novelist's surprising psychological insight.
  - C. surprising psychological insight is revealed to us.
  - D. the novelist surprisingly reveals psychological insight to us.
13. Covering your driveway with a new coating of *asphalt*, *small potholes will be eliminated.*
- A. No revision is necessary.
  - B. asphalt will eliminate small potholes.
  - C. asphalt. This will eliminate small potholes
  - D. asphalt, will eliminate small potholes.

14. *Be sure to carefully proofread all of your written work.*
- A. No revision is necessary.
  - B. Be sure carefully to proofread all of your written work.
  - C. Be sure, to proofread all of your written work carefully.
  - D. Be sure to proofread all of your written work carefully.

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the correct modifier for each sentence.

15. Unfortunately, Joanne performed \_\_\_\_\_ at the recital; aside from forgetting her chords, her piano was terribly out of tune.
- A. bad
  - B. badly
16. Because she studied for months, she did \_\_\_\_\_ on her exit examination.
- A. well
  - B. good
17. The \_\_\_\_\_ you arrive at the station, the better the possibility of getting a ticket.
- A. more early
  - B. earlier
18. Verna sings well, Diane sings very well, but June sings \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. the best
  - B. better
19. The white kitten chasing the chameleon up the tree is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all of the kittens.
- A. playfulest
  - B. most playful
20. This chocolate fudge cake is \_\_\_\_\_ than the last one you baked.
- A. moister
  - B. more moist

## Appendix W: Fragments

**DIRECTIONS:** In each of the groups below, there are two fragments and one sentence. Select the option that is a complete sentence.

1. A. Turning left at the light.  
B. When I turned left at the light.  
C. Turn left at the light.
2. A. Because our car would not start.  
B. With no other way of getting there.  
C. We were stranded at home and had leftovers for dinner.
3. A. The instructor spoke about computers.  
B. The instructor who spoke about computers and other electronic learning tools.  
C. Having spoken about computers and other electronic learning tools.
4. A. Learning computer skills is important.  
B. If you want to find a good job.  
C. For computers are used widely in industry, education, and government.
5. A. George Santayana was born in Spain.  
B. Santayana, an important American philosopher and poet.  
C. Who wrote: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."
6. A. Located along the path of the sun, moon, and major planets.  
B. Are the twelve constellations of the Zodiac.  
C. A constellation is a group of stars.
7. A. From the day that she learned that she had been adopted.  
B. She took on a new attitude the day she learned that she had been adopted.  
C. Having learned that she had been adopted.
8. A. Not having completed the assignment.  
B. When he realized he could not complete the assignment.  
C. He could not complete the assignment.
9. A. The beautiful Irish lace that we bought in Dublin and brought back with us.  
B. Because the Irish lace was so beautiful.  
C. Irish lace is beautiful.
10. A. My back aching for days.  
B. My back, which has been aching for days.  
C. Aching for days, my back had been injured in an accident.

11. A. Nashville is the capital of country music.  
B. The capital of country music.  
C. Nashville, Tennessee, which is the capital of country music.
12. A. Because of his debilitating illness, Jeremy sometimes misses work.  
B. Because he suffers from a debilitating illness and sometimes misses work.  
C. Suffering from a debilitating illness and sometimes missing work.

**DIRECTIONS:** In each group of sentences, select the **two** options that are fragments.

13. (A) Isaac Newton was born in Britain in 1642. (B) One of the greatest physicists and mathematicians ever. (C) Newton is best remembered for formulating the universal law of gravitation. (D) As well as laws of motion. (E) He also advanced our knowledge of light and optics.
14. (A) The Etruscans were an ancient civilization that controlled central Italy before the emergence of Rome. (B) A primary influence on Rome. (C) The Etruscans created a sophisticated culture during the sixth and seventh centuries B.C. (D) Establishing both a strong army and a fairly large navy. (E) The Etruscans conquered much of Italy before their decline.
15. (A) Between 1846 and 1850, more than a million people in Ireland died as a result of a fungus that destroyed the potato crop in those years. (B) Accidentally transported from America. (C) The fungus first appeared in 1845. (D) Before the blight had run its course. (E) The population of Ireland had fallen twenty-five percent.
16. (A) Born to a family of Irish immigrants in Pennsylvania. (B) Robert Fulton, a friend of Benjamin Franklin, was a talented painter and designer. (C) Painting miniatures as well as large panoramas. (D) He also worked on the design and development of such things as marble saws, spinning devices, submarines, canal boats, and torpedoes. (E) He is best remembered for producing the first steamboat to operate successfully on the Hudson River in 1809.
17. (A) An Italian physicist and astronomer. (B) Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy, in the sixteenth century. (C) Often credited with the invention of the telescope. (D) Galileo actually only improved on something already invented in Holland. (E) With his improved telescope, Galileo discovered four of Jupiter's moons, explored the surface of the moon, discovered sunspots and the phases of Venus, and mapped the Milky Way.



18. (A) The longest river in Italy. (B) The Po River flows from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea, a distance of 405 miles. (C) Its complex delta opens into the sea in at least 14 different channels. (D) Depositing vast quantities of silt. (E) The city of Ravenna, once on its shores, is now more than six miles from the river.
19. (A) Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were just two of the women who met in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. (B) To demand equal rights for women. (C) Influential to generations of women seeking equality with men. (D) The Seneca Falls Conference insisted that women were the equals of men, and it demanded an equal place in society for women.
20. (A) The smoothest and most efficient highways of the early nineteenth century. (B) Canals are artificial water routes used to transport people and cargo. (C) Canal barges were powered by teams of mules, which would tow them from shore. (D) Later, with the invention of the steam engine. (E) Railroads quickly replaced canals as the fastest and cheapest means of transportation.

## Appendix X: Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons 1

**DIRECTIONS:** In each group of sentences below, select the option that correctly joins the two independent clauses.

1. A. Every sentence must have a subject and a verb and must express a complete thought; a word group that lacks a subject or a verb and does not express a complete thought is a fragment.  
B. Every sentence must have a subject and a verb and must express a complete thought a word group that lacks a subject or a verb and does not express a complete thought is a fragment.  
C. Every sentence must have a subject and a verb and must express a complete thought, a word group that lacks a subject or a verb and does not express a complete thought is a fragment.
2. A. Fused sentences can be difficult to read, they are really two sentences joined together with no punctuation.  
B. Fused sentences can be difficult to read they are really two sentences joined together with no punctuation.  
C. Fused sentences can be difficult to read; they are really two sentences joined together with no punctuation.
3. A. In a comma splice, a comma is used to connect two complete thoughts however, a comma alone is not enough to connect two complete thoughts.  
B. In a comma splice, a comma is used to connect two complete thoughts; however, a comma alone is not enough to connect two complete thoughts.  
C. In a comma splice, a comma is used to connect two complete thoughts, however, a comma alone is not enough to connect two complete thoughts.
4. A. A semicolon can connect two independent clauses, so it should not be overused.  
B. A semicolon can connect two independent clauses, it should not be overused.  
C. A semicolon can connect two independent clauses; however, it should not be overused.
5. A. The Hubble Telescope allows us to observe distant planets scientists report discovering water in one of them.  
B. The Hubble Telescope allows us to observe distant planets, scientists report discovering water in one of them.  
C. The Hubble Telescope allows us to observe distant planets; scientists report discovering water in one of them.

6. A. The vase on the shelf toppled over the roses fell to the floor.  
B. The vase on the shelf toppled over, and the roses fell to the floor.  
D. The vase on the shelf toppled over, the roses fell to the floor.
7. A. Patience is not one of Kim's virtues, she always gets angry when she has to repeat herself.  
B. Patience is not one of Kim's virtues she always gets angry when she has to repeat herself.  
C. Patience is not one of Kim's virtues; she always gets angry when she has to repeat herself.
8. A. Tom doesn't usually like to cook, nevertheless, he enjoyed preparing a Hawaiian feast for his girlfriend's surprise birthday party.  
B. Tom doesn't usually like to cook, nevertheless he enjoyed preparing a Hawaiian feast for his girlfriend's surprise birthday party.  
C. Tom doesn't usually like to cook; nevertheless, he enjoyed preparing a Hawaiian feast for his girlfriend's surprise birthday party.
9. A. Philip bounded up the stairs two at a time, he was exhausted when he reached the landing.  
B. Philip bounded up the stairs two at a time; he was exhausted when he reached the landing.  
C. Philip bounded up the stairs two at a time he was exhausted when he reached the landing.
10. A. Finding the average of seven numbers is easy, simply add them up and divide the sum by seven.  
B. Finding the average of seven numbers is easy simply add them up and divide the sum by seven.  
C. Finding the average of seven numbers is easy; simply add them up and divide the sum by seven.
11. A. When the baseball flew over the center fielder's head, the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.  
B. The baseball flew over the center fielder's head, the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.  
C. The baseball flew over the center fielder's head the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.
12. A. The horses ran wild all over the island tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.  
B. The horses ran wild all over the island, tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.  
C. The horses ran wild all over the island; however, tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.

13. A. Jasmine wants to pursue a career, Yolanda wants to raise a family.  
B. Jasmine wants to pursue a career Yolanda wants to raise a family.  
C. Jasmine wants to pursue a career, but Yolanda wants to raise a family.
14. A. Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French, she never attends her French class.  
B. Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French, yet she never attends her French class.  
C. Although Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French; she never attends her French class.
15. A. Ronaldo has enough money for a down payment for a new car he does not have enough money for the insurance.  
B. Ronaldo has enough money for a down payment for a new car, Ronaldo does not have enough money for the insurance.  
C. Although Ronaldo has enough money for a down payment for a new car, he does not have enough money for the insurance.

## Appendix Y: Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

1. I always listen to music while I do my homework; my sister insists on silence while she studies.
2. Kirk decided to major in psychology because human behavior had always fascinated him.
3. Mr. Costa is a chemistry teacher. Who never runs out of creative ideas.
4. Stepping hard on the accelerator. Stan tried to beat the truck to the intersection.
5. Mario told everyone in the room to be quiet, his favorite show was on.
6. Luis got a can of soda from the refrigerator; then, he walked outside to sit on the porch steps.
7. Many couples today live together before they marry; however, research shows that living together rarely leads to a happy marriage.
8. Will Kellogg was an unlikely candidate for fame and fortune, he became one of America's great successes.
9. The sinking of the *Titanic* in 1912 has inspired fifteen motion pictures over the year. All of them requiring special effects.
10. Adventurers now might climb Mount Everest or take a canoe trip down the Amazon; soon they will be paying large sums for the adventure of a lifetime—traveling in space.
11. Recent years have seen a revival of the big bands and the swing dancing of the 1920s and '30s; dances which require partners to flip, slide, and dip.
12. A 1993 Harley Davidson stole the show it was a replica of Dennis Hopper's *Easy Rider* cycle.
13. I angrily punched a hole in the wall with my fist, and later I covered the hole with a picture.
14. Jim wanted a new car, for he did not have enough money.
15. My sister wants to exercise more and use her car less so, she walks to school.

## Appendix Z: Fragments, Comma Splices, and Run-ons 3

**DIRECTIONS:** In each group of sentences, select the **two** options that are fragments.

1. (A) Isaac Newton was born in Britain in 1642. (B) One of the greatest physicists and mathematicians ever. (C) Newton is best remembered for formulating the universal law of gravitation. (D) As well as laws of motion. (E) He also advanced our knowledge of light and optics.
2. (A) The Etruscans were an ancient civilization that controlled central Italy before the emergence of Rome. (B) A primary influence on Rome. (C) The Etruscans created a sophisticated culture during the sixth and seventh centuries B.C. (D) Establishing both a strong army and a fairly large navy. (E) The Etruscans conquered much of Italy before their decline.
3. (A) Between 1846 and 1850, more than a million people in Ireland died as a result of a fungus that destroyed the potato crop in those years. (B) Accidentally transported from America. (C) The fungus first appeared in 1845. (D) Before the blight had run its course. (E) The population of Ireland had fallen twenty-five percent.
4. (A) Born to a family of Irish immigrants in Pennsylvania. (B) Robert Fulton, a friend of Benjamin Franklin, was a talented painter and designer. (C) Painting miniatures as well as large panoramas. (D) He also worked on the design and development of such things as marble saws, spinning devices, submarines, canal boats, and torpedoes. (E) He is best remembered for producing the first steamboat to operate successfully on the Hudson River in 1809.
5. (A) An Italian physicist and astronomer. (B) Galileo Galilei was born in Pisa, Italy, in the sixteenth century. (C) Often credited with the invention of the telescope. (D) Galileo actually only improved on something already invented in Holland. (E) With his improved telescope, Galileo discovered four of Jupiter's moons, explored the surface of the moon, discovered sunspots and the phases of Venus, and mapped the Milky Way.
6. (A) The longest river in Italy. (B) The Po River flows from the Alps to the Adriatic Sea, a distance of 405 miles. (C) Its complex delta opens into the sea in at least 14 different channels. (D) Depositing vast quantities of silt. (E) The city of Ravenna, once on its shores, is now more than six miles from the river.
7. (A) Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton were just two of the women who met in Seneca Falls, New York, in 1848. (B) To demand equal rights for women. (C) Influential to generations of women seeking equality with men. (D) The Seneca Falls Conference insisted that women were the equals of men, and it demanded an equal place in society for women.

8. (A) The smoothest and most efficient highways of the early nineteenth century. (B) Canals are artificial water routes used to transport people and cargo. (C) Canal barges were powered by teams of mules, which would tow them from shore. (D) Later, with the invention of the steam engine. (E) Railroads quickly replaced canals as the fastest and cheapest means of transportation.

9. (A) A well-ordered unit of pike-bearing infantrymen. (B) The Greek hoplite phalanx was the backbone of Alexander the Great's army. (C) The soldiers wore heavy armor, carried large shields, and wielded swords and pikes. (D) Stood closely and protected each other by overlapping their shields in front of them. (E) Entering battle, the soldiers would first attack with the sharp pikes and then finish the battle with their swords.

10. (A) During his lifetime, Socrates wrote nothing down. (B) Teaching on the streets and in the open markets of Athens. (C) Socrates believed that true knowledge could be gained only through the process of discussion; his method was to ask questions. (D) Insisting on the ignorance of most people, including himself, Socrates provoked the wrath of many important citizens. (E) Tried, convicted, and executed on charges of atheism and corrupting the young.

**DIRECTIONS:** In each group of sentences below, there is an error in sentence structure that needs to be corrected. Indicate the type of error, if any.

11. The entire house is filled with stacks of books and newspapers. It's impossible to find anything the place is a real mess.

- A. Fragment
- B. Run-on
- C. Comma splice
- D. No correction necessary

12. An important writer from the Age of Enlightenment, Denis Diderot published a 35-volume encyclopedia on the eve of the French Revolution. He wanted to summarize all knowledge, he also wanted to dispel superstition.

- A. Fragment
- B. Run-on
- C. Comma splice
- D. No correction necessary

13. Born into slavery, Frederick Douglass escaped at the age of twenty. By the time he was twenty-four, he was an important spokesperson for the abolition movement he published his famous biography, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*, when he was only twenty-seven.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
14. Arguing that all laws are instituted to promote happiness for the greatest number of people, Cesare Beccaria was an eighteenth-century legal reformer in Italy. He wanted to end capital punishment and torture, he also wanted to rehabilitate prisoners.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
15. The term “realism” was first used in 1850 to describe a painting by Courbet, the painting was realistic. Realism emerged in the mid-nineteenth century as a response to romanticism. It, too, was an artistic and literary movement, but unlike romanticism, which idealized the world, realism tried to show the world as it was.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
16. The first electronic, digital computer built in 1946 at the University of Pennsylvania. Weighing 30 tons and filling a thirty-by-fifty foot room, this computer needed 18,000 vacuum tubes; it used enough electricity to run three 150-kilowatt radio stations.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
17. Fans of the *Twilight Zone* will remember Rod Serling’s distinct voice and manner. Serling appeared as host at the start of each show, and his voice brought the curtain down on each episode. Serling did much more than introduce the story he was the creator of the series, and he also wrote many of the shows.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary



18. Romanticism was a nineteenth-century artistic and literary movement that valued emotion over reason intuition was more important to the Romantics than formal, disciplined, intellectual thought. Romantics believed in the spontaneous overflow of powerful emotions and feelings. In retrospect, Romanticism could be viewed as a reaction to the Age of Reason, which preceded it.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
19. Napoleon's Continental System is a classic example of economic warfare. Napoleon attempted to destroy Britain economically by blocking all of its trade with Europe. The system was a complete failure. Britain developed new markets and expanded the trade around the world France was isolated, and its economy suffered due to the loss of English trade.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary
20. After the invention of the transistor, vacuum tubes were no longer needed in electrical devices like radios, televisions, and computers. Hand-held transistor radios quickly replaced the large desktop or stand-alone models. In addition, portable televisions entered the market, computers went from room-size to palm-size.
- A. Fragment
  - B. Run-on
  - C. Comma splice
  - D. No correction necessary

Appendix AA: Comma Splices and Run-ons

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the option that correctly joins main clauses.

1. We were not prepared for the number of inquiries about the position \_\_\_\_\_ we interviewed each applicant.  
A. ; although  
B. but  
C. ; nevertheless,
2. He had come to work late \_\_\_\_\_ his daughter was sick.  
A. ; therefore  
B. , consequently  
C. because
3. My parents have been waiting for \_\_\_\_\_ they're in the living room.  
A. you,  
B. you;  
C. no change
4. Before the player wished the basketball cleanly through the basket, the crowd was hushed \_\_\_\_\_ no one could say a word.  
A. ;  
B. ,  
C. , however
5. Your application has been approved \_\_\_\_\_ you will receive a scholarship to attend the university.  
A. ; therefore,  
B. ; nevertheless,  
C. , yet

**DIRECTIONS:** Identify the errors in the following sentences.

6. Imagine the expression on Danny's and Catalina's faces when they came back to her apartment and saw the snake wrapping itself around Joaquim!  
A. comma splice  
B. run-on  
C. correct
7. Danny needed a long stick so Catalina ran to her closet, pulled out a broom, and handed it to Danny.  
A. comma splice  
B. run-on  
C. correct

8. Knowing that the slightest move would spoil the rescue, Danny carefully put the long, wooden broom handle under one section of the snake and pulled it off without disturbing Joaquim.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
9. They awakened Joaquim he had missed the whole incident.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
10. Danny brought his boa constrictor to Catalina's apartment, she ran out the door so fast that it seemed she disappeared.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
11. At first, Danny laughed, then, he realized she was really frightened.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
12. He put the snake into its cloth bag and went to find Catalina to relieve her fear.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
13. Joaquim arrived at Catalina's apartment to find no one home, so he sat on the sofa, turned on the television, and fell asleep.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
14. Joaquim did not know that the snake was actually right beside him on the sofa the snake was getting restless.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct
15. Joaquim was soon snoring away on the sofa, the snake was gradually sliding out of the bag.
- A. comma splice
  - B. run-on
  - C. correct

## Appendix BB: Sentence Structure

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the complete sentence from each group.

1. A. Because our car would not start.  
B. With no other way of getting there.  
C. We were stranded at home and had leftovers for dinner.
2. A. Turning left at the light.  
B. When I turned left at the light.  
C. Turn left at the light.

**DIRECTIONS:** Identify the *italicized* portions of the following sentences.

3. Perched amid the branches, a bird called *to its mate*.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
4. Hannibal crossed the Italian Alps *with several hundred elephants*.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
5. Mythology is a collection of stories *that reflect a culture's beliefs*.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
6. Perhaps he'll disappear *after the circus leaves town*.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
7. After the Abbassid Revolution in A.D. 749, the capital of the Muslim world, *which had been in Damascus*, was moved to Baghdad.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause
8. Washington's small army camped *at Valley Forge*.  
A. phrase  
B. subordinate/dependent clause  
C. main/independent clause

9. Beguines, *which first appeared in Europe in the twelfth century*, were communities of women devoted to charitable works.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause
10. In World War II, *Germany, Japan, and Italy were the Axis powers*.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause
11. *Hoping to reach the lake by noon*, we left early.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause
12. *Although they originated as social organizations*, European trade guilds eventually regulated prices, wages, and production standards.
- A. phrase
  - B. subordinate/dependent clause
  - C. main/independent clause

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the option that best combines clauses.

13. A. When the baseball flew over the center fielder's head, the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.
- B. The baseball flew over the center fielder's head, the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.
- C. The baseball flew over the center fielder's head the game's outcome was no longer in doubt.
14. A. The horses ran wild all over the island tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.
- B. The horses ran wild all over the island, tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.
- C. The horses ran wild all over the island; however, tourists threatened to destroy their fragile habitat.
15. A. Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French, she never attends her French class.
- B. Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French, yet she never attends her French class.

- C. Although Wilma says she wants to learn to speak French; she never attends her French class.
16. A. Jason's father fought in the war because Jason's mother worked as a nurse during the war.  
B. While Jason's father fought in the war, Jason's mother worked as a nurse.  
C. Jason's father fought in the war, his mother worked as a nurse during the war.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate whether the following statements are true with an **A** and false with a **B**.

17. A clause, a group of words with a subject and a verb, can be either independent or dependent.
18. An independent (main) clause expresses a complete idea; a dependent (subordinate) clause does not.
19. Words in a pair or a series should be parallel in structure.
20. Verb tense or point of view should not be shifted unnecessarily.

Appendix CC: Commas 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the sentence that uses commas **correctly**.

1. A. "The most attractive sentences" according to Thoreau "are not perhaps the wisest, but the surest and soundest."  
B. "The most attractive sentences," according to Thoreau, "are not perhaps the wisest, but the surest and soundest."  
C. "The most attractive sentences," according to Thoreau "are not perhaps the wisest, but the surest and soundest."
2. A. Nanjing which is in central China is a large city.  
B. Nanjing, which is in central China, is a large city.  
C. Nanjing which is in central China is, a large city.
3. A. If the weather is nice, you may want to put on shorts, and a T-shirt or you can wear your favorite casual clothes.  
B. If the weather is nice, you may want to put on shorts and a T-shirt, or you can wear your favorite casual clothes.  
C. If the weather is nice, you may want to put on shorts and a T-shirt or, you can wear your favorite casual clothes.
4. A. Though I am dieting, I cannot resist a piece of sweet, fresh chocolate.  
B. Though I am dieting, I cannot resist, a piece of sweet, fresh chocolate.  
C. Though I am dieting, I cannot resist a piece of sweet, fresh, chocolate.
5. A. It was a Mediterranean honeymoon; they first traveled to Sicily, then sailed to Greece took a flight to Cyprus, and ended up in Malta.  
B. It was a Mediterranean honeymoon; they first traveled to Sicily, then sailed to Greece, took a flight to Cyprus, and ended up in Malta.  
C. It was a Mediterranean honeymoon; they first traveled to Sicily then sailed to Greece took a flight to Cyprus, and ended up in Malta.
6. A. The car costs \$23,456, but I have only \$16777.  
B. The car costs \$23456, but I have only \$16777.  
C. The car costs \$23,456, but I have only \$16,777.
7. A. The Old and New Testaments believed the Mennonites contained the only theological, social, and moral principles necessary to leading a good life.  
B. The Old and New Testaments, believed the Mennonites, contained the only theological, social, and moral principles necessary to leading a good life.  
C. The Old and New Testaments, believed the Mennonites, contained the only theological social, and moral principles necessary to leading a good life.

8. A. Like some religious thinkers who preceded him, Karl Marx believed in communal property; however, according to this founder of Communism, religion was “the opiate of the people.”  
 B. Like some religious thinkers who preceded him Karl Marx believed in communal property; however, according to this founder of Communism, religion was “the opiate of the people.”  
 C. Like some religious thinkers who preceded him, Karl Marx believed in communal property; however according to this founder of Communism, religion was “the opiate of the people.”
9. A. Martin Luther was born in Eisleben Germany, on November 10, 1483.  
 B. Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany, on November 10, 1483.  
 C. Martin Luther was born in Eisleben, Germany, on November 10 1483.
10. A. During the era that Martin Luther began preaching Christian doctrine was nearly totally determined by Rome because that is where the hierarchy of the Catholic Church resided.  
 B. During the era that Martin Luther began preaching, Christian doctrine was nearly totally determined by Rome, because that is where the hierarchy of the Catholic Church resided.  
 C. During the era that Martin Luther began preaching, Christian doctrine was nearly totally determined by Rome because that is where the hierarchy of the Catholic Church resided.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

11. Hulk Hogan, the popular wrestler and actor advises his fans to drink milk and say their prayers.
12. I moved from 1015 Fox Hill Drive, Hampton, Virginia, to 7305 Melbourne Circle, Hollywood, California, on June 17, 2001.
13. The defendant, ladies and gentlemen, of the jury does not even own a red plaid jacket.
14. To earn a decent wage, buy a comfortable home and educate my children—those are my hopes.
15. Close to the top of Mount Everest, the climbers paused to survey their progress and set up camp.



## Appendix DD: Commas 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

1. Students hurried to the campus store to buy their fall textbooks but several of the books were already out of stock.
2. The mechanic started the engine, fiddled with the fan belt, and announced that the problem was solved.
3. Felipe groaned when he learned that his exams in biology, economics, and sociology were scheduled for the same day.
4. Walking bicycling and swimming are all good aerobic exercises.
5. Although the county issues a large number of jury-duty notices, many people find reasons not to serve.
6. Pushing and laughing the second graders spilled onto the playground.
7. In the middle of the thunderstorm, the lights on our street went out.
8. When the power went back on all the digital clocks in the house began to blink.
9. Disappointed by his performance the former ice-skating champion tried to slink past the television camera.
10. My brother, who is very neat, complains that I am too messy.
11. Frozen yogurt, which is relatively low in calories, is as delicious to many people as ice cream.
12. Some dieters on the other hand would rather give up desserts completely.
13. The owner of the blue Ford, grumbling angrily, came out to move his car.
14. The new office building forty stories high provides a fine view of the parkway.
15. They were five strangers stuck in an elevator, so they told each other jokes to ease the tension.
16. "To learn more about lions," the zookeeper told the visiting children "you should read the book Born Free."

17. On February 2, 1996, the groundhog saw his shadow and predicted six more weeks of winter.
18. When bank robber Willie Sutton was asked why he robbed banks, he replied, "Because that's where the money is."
19. Tampa, Florida, and Birmingham, Alabama, are two of the South's fastest growing cities.
20. Every morning he drives to school, and to the district office building.

Appendix EE: Commas 3

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

1. On the following pages you will find an interesting article on Florida's wildlife.
2. I would like to go on the cruise to Jamaica but I do not have the time or money.
3. It is, in my opinion, an intriguing novel about jazz musicians who perform in the French Quarter of New Orleans.
4. John walked home quickly and finished his overdue assignment.
5. Because the teacher forgot the test the students left class early.
6. However the test was rescheduled for next Monday.
7. Mr. James who owns the old train yards, plans to build a shopping center.
8. A nurse has to be prepared to work at night on weekends and on holidays
9. His theory, however, was wrong.
10. John have you finished mowing the lawn yet?
11. The team had to fly back home, after the game was over.
12. I should leave for the store now, but I'm too tired to walk to the door.
13. Mr. Madison, our manager, decided to take the day off and go to the beach.
14. The vicious barking dogs were taken away to the animal shelter.
15. If we do not leave soon we will be late for the movie.
16. We returned from camping in the Rocky Mountains on April 1, 2002.
17. The savory stew contains potatoes, carrots onions and peppers.
18. Because they enjoyed the Broadway play, the audience applauded loudly.
19. We went to the mall and bought new clothes and accessories for the wedding.
20. On March 1 1995, he will move his operation to Tampa, Florida.

Appendix FF: Commas 4

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the sentence that uses commas **correctly**.

1. A. Dr. Gordon drives a Mercedes-Benz, for he is very wealthy.  
B. Dr. Gordon drives a Mercedes-Benz, for, he is very wealthy.  
C. Dr. Gordon drives a Mercedes-Benz for, he is very wealthy.
2. A. Lois, and Jimmy are Tampa Bay Buccaneer fans and they go to every home game.  
B. Lois and Jimmy are Tampa Bay Buccaneer fans, and they go to every home game.  
C. Lois and Jimmy are Tampa Bay Buccaneer fans and, they go to every home game.
3. A. It's hard to imagine I know but I drove all the way to California in that old car.  
B. It's hard to imagine, I know, but I drove all the way to California in that old car.  
C. It's hard to imagine I know, but I drove all the way to California in that old car.
4. A. Castor and Pollux were the brothers of the lovely ill-fated Helen of Troy.  
B. Castor and Pollux were the brothers of the lovely, ill-fated Helen of Troy.  
C. Castor and Pollux were the brothers of the lovely ill-fated, Helen of Troy.
5. A. With the radio playing, George couldn't hear the phone ringing.  
B. With the radio playing George, couldn't hear the phone ringing.  
C. With the radio playing George couldn't hear the phone ringing.
6. A. Kryptonite, a greenish glowing mineral is the only substance that can hurt Superman.  
B. Kryptonite, a greenish, glowing mineral, is the only substance that can hurt Superman.  
C. Kryptonite, a greenish glowing, mineral, is the only substance that can hurt Superman.
7. A. In Northern Ireland, parents are anxious, soldiers are alert, children are fearful, and the elderly are pessimistic.  
B. In Northern Ireland, parents are anxious soldiers are alert, children are fearful, and the elderly are pessimistic.  
C. In Northern Ireland, parents are anxious soldiers are alert children are fearful and the elderly are pessimistic.
8. A. Considered the goddess of wisdom, by ancient Greeks Athena was the namesake of the city of Athens.  
B. Considered the goddess of wisdom by ancient Greeks Athena, was the namesake of the city of Athens.  
C. Considered the goddess of wisdom by ancient Greeks, Athena was the namesake of the city of Athens.

9. A. Humphrey Bogart, who won an Oscar for his role in *The African Queen* is best remembered for his tough-guy films of the 1930s and 1940s.  
 B. Humphrey Bogart, who won an Oscar for his role in *The African Queen*, is best remembered for his tough-guy films of the 1930s and 1940s.  
 C. Humphrey Bogart who won an Oscar for his role in *The African Queen* is best remembered for his tough-guy films of the 1930s and 1940s.
10. A. The freshman class trip was designed to allow students some freedom of choice, to satiate their thirst for knowledge to develop their independence, and to strengthen their coping skills.  
 B. The freshman class trip was designed to allow students some freedom of choice to satiate their thirst for knowledge to develop their independence and to strengthen their coping skills.  
 C. The freshman class trip was designed to allow students some freedom of choice, to satiate their thirst for knowledge, to develop their independence, and to strengthen their coping skills.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

11. The U.S. National Guard is a volunteer militia, made up of army units and air units.
12. Sitting on the deck, puttering in the garden, and making pottery, Ann delighted in summer vacation.
13. The financial difficulties of the educational system in the state stemmed from the voters' approval of a radical reduction in their property tax rates, the foundation for school funding.
14. Ms. Haywood's explanations are clear well-organized and easy to understand.
15. At the turn of the century, Freud's now well-known book was published.
16. "Speak louder," a man in the back row said to the guest speaker. "I paid five dollars to hear you talk, not whisper."
17. After her tragic death in Paris, France more than two billion people worldwide watched the televised funeral of Princess Diana of England on September 6, 1997.
18. Oscar took a time-exposure photo of the busy highways so the cars' taillights appeared in the developed print as winding red ribbons.
19. A line of dancing numerals on Sesame Street kicked across the screen like a chorus line.

20. Our neighborhood crime patrol escorts elderly people to the local bank, and installs free dead-bolt locks on their apartment doors.

Appendix GG: Commas 5

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the sentence that uses commas **correctly**.

1. A. When I write my first book, I will dedicate it to my beloved friends Bob, Michelle, and Karen.  
B. When I write my first book I will dedicate it to my friends Bob Michelle and Karen.  
C. When I write my first book I will dedicate it to my friends Bob, Michelle, and Karen.
2. A. Warren told his daughter to use a towel, but the four-year-old wiped her hands on her pants.  
B. Warren told his daughter to use a towel but, the four-year-old wiped her hands on her pants.  
C. Warren told his daughter to use a towel but the four-year-old wiped her hands, on her pants.
3. A. The guide explained the founding of the city, described recent changes in it, guided us through the narrow streets and then left us on our own.  
B. The guide explained the founding of the city, described recent changes in it, guided us through the narrow streets, and then left us on our own.  
C. The guide explained the founding of the city, described recent changes in it guided us through the narrow streets and then left us on our own.
4. A. After all those years of studying meteorology at the university, Melvin still can't explain why the sky is blue.  
B. After all those years of studying meteorology, at the university Melvin still can't explain why the sky is blue.  
C. After all those years of studying meteorology at the university, Melvin can't explain why, the sky is blue.
5. A. New York City which was originally called New Amsterdam was first settled by the Dutch.  
B. New York City, which was originally called New Amsterdam was first settled by the Dutch.  
C. New York City, which was originally called New Amsterdam, was first settled by the Dutch.
6. A. The Atlantic Ocean can be breathtaking unruly hypnotizing and murderous all at once.  
B. The Atlantic Ocean can be breathtaking, unruly, hypnotizing, and murderous all at once.  
C. The Atlantic Ocean can be breathtaking unruly, hypnotizing, and murderous all at once.

7. A. Someone once said, and I believe it was Ovid, that “love is a kind of warfare.”  
B. Someone once said, and I believe it was Ovid that “love is a kind of warfare.”  
C. Someone once said and I believe it was Ovid that “love is a kind of warfare.”
8. A. The matador, who was dressed in traditional garb, doffed his hat offered a beautiful señorita a rose, and bowed to the audience.  
B. The matador, who was dressed in traditional garb, doffed his hat, offered a beautiful señorita a rose, and bowed to the audience.  
C. The matador who was dressed in traditional garb doffed his hat offered a beautiful señorita a rose and bowed to the audience.
9. A. Canada is one of, many bilingual countries for both French and English are spoken there.  
B. Canada is one of many bilingual countries for, both French and English are spoken there.  
C. Canada is one of many bilingual countries, for both French and English are spoken there.
10. A. Sociologists theorize that crime remains rampant because there is too much violence on TV too little supervision of children a lack of personal responsibility and easy availability of guns.  
B. Sociologists theorize that crime remains rampant because there is too much violence on TV, too little supervision of children, a lack of personal responsibility, and easy availability of guns.  
C. Sociologists theorize that crime remains rampant, because there is too much violence on TV, too little supervision of children, a lack of personal responsibility, and easy availability of guns.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

11. We all agree Mike that you are the best bass guitarist around.
12. Countless buildings, statues, and monuments have been constructed, yet they have fallen into ruin while the magnificent pyramids remain.
13. During the power blackout people tried to help one another.
14. Everyone in class had to present an oral report, write a term paper, and take a final.
15. At the banquet, Ed served a salad of juicy red tomatoes crunchy green lettuce, and stringless snap beans.



## Appendix HH: Commas 6

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

1. The waiter who works the late shift always has dark circles under his eyes.
2. It seems impossible to get tickets for *Laughing on the Inside* which is one of the biggest hits in years.
3. Charles will always remember June 10, 1985, as the day he became office manager bought a house and became a father.
4. Tomorrow morning, I plan to get up at 7 A.M. start my homework at 9 A.M. and be finished by noon.
5. The company's latest model, a combination felt-tipped pen and lead pencil, sells for under \$5.
6. Alex put lettuce, onions, walnuts, olives, and cheese in the salad.
7. The coach a cigar-chewing bully pushed his team to first place.
8. My sister, who owns the largest jewelry store in town, is well known for her generosity.
9. Samuel, a dedicated maintenance man, won an award for outstanding service to his company.
10. A letter postmarked New Orleans, Louisiana, came for you today.
11. Pineapples that are tart and stringy burn my mouth.
12. According to a portrait, Nathaniel Hawthorne, the American author, was an extremely handsome young man.
13. Yes Harold, your photography is definitely on a professional level.
14. He was born in Fowler, California in the same home where his grandfather was born on July 16, 1907.
15. Inside the baby stopped whimpering and fell asleep.
16. She helped Tillie a loyal supporter of Mayor DeLuca get a job at the mayor's office.

17. The horseshoe crab, for example, moves by flexing its tail.
18. The citizens of Xenia Ohio took cover when the tornado ripped through the city.
19. I know nothing about rap music, the stock market, or stamp collecting.
20. Women who exercise regularly during pregnancy usually have healthy babies.

## Appendix II: Apostrophes 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the sentence that properly uses apostrophes.

1. A. The press has been banned from the players' locker room until the dispute can be settled.  
B. The press has been banned from the player's locker room until the dispute can be settled.  
C. The press has been banned from the players locker room until the dispute can be settled.
2. A. The buildings water fountains have been turned off in order to save resources.  
B. The building's water fountains have been turned off in order to save resources.  
C. The buildings water fountain's have been turned off in order to save resources.
3. A. Macys' Thanksgiving Day Parade has been a tradition for more than fifty years.  
B. Macys Thanksgiving Day Parade has been a tradition for more than fifty years.  
C. Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has been a tradition for more than fifty years.
4. A. President Kennedy's and President Reagan's speaking abilities accounted for much of their popularity with voters.  
B. President Kennedy and President Reagan's speaking abilities accounted for much of their popularity with voters.  
C. President Kennedys and President Reagans speaking abilities accounted for much of their popularity with voters.
5. A. The firms headquarters is located in Hartford, Connecticut.  
B. The firm's headquarters is located in Hartford, Connecticut.  
C. The firms' headquarters is located in Hartford, Connecticut.
6. A. The police hadn't seen the suspects car at the scene of the crime.  
B. The police hadn't seen the suspect's car at the scene of the crime.  
C. The police had'nt seen the suspects car at the scene of the crime.
7. A. The maid of honor's dress was two sizes too small.  
B. The maid of honors' dress was two sizes too small.  
C. The maid of honors dress was two sizes too small.
8. A. Phils first glimpse of the Empire State Building's tremendous height took his breath away.  
B. Phil's first glimpse of the Empire State Buildings tremendous height took his breath away.  
C. Phil's first glimpse of the Empire State Building's tremendous height took his breath away.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

9. Somebody's silver-framed glasses were found in Tom's attic.
10. You can't imagine what its like to live in St. Thomas!
11. A mechanics' tools are his or her most important possession.
12. The sun's rays beat down until the streets's blacktopped surface softened with the heat.
13. The rivers swirling floodwaters lapped against the Henderson's porch.
14. Well send this applicant's résumé to the accounting department.
15. On Thursday's, the Childrens Museum opens at noon.
16. It's eight o'clock and time for my favorite TV show.
17. If theres' a logical explanation, he'll find it.
18. His mother-in-law's property is right next to the state park.
19. Lets' meet at the coffee shop and talk over old times.
20. The five editor's offices overlooked the Rhine River.

## Appendix JJ: Apostrophes 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letter of the option that properly uses apostrophes.

1. During the eighteenth century, \_\_\_\_\_ dresses were heavy and uncomfortable.  
A. ladies      B. ladies'      C. ladies's
2. Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ fried chicken and rice dish was crispy and delicious.  
A. Jones      B. Jones's      C. Jone's
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ locker room is on the right side of the gymnasium.  
A. mens      B. mens'      C. men's
4. Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster, who created Superman, hoped their character's strength and morality would boost \_\_\_\_\_ spirits during the Great Depression.  
A. peoples      B. peoples'      C. people's
5. He found his ticket, but she cannot find \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. hers      B. hers'      C. her's
6. Neighbors have respect for each \_\_\_\_\_ privacy and property.  
A. others      B. others'      C. other's
7. Staring up at the \_\_\_\_\_ impressive skyscrapers, the young man was filled with excitement and hope about his new job opportunity.  
A. cities      B. citys'      C. city's
8. These ex-convicts, who have no intention of being rehabilitated, are aware of all of the precinct's \_\_\_\_\_ movements.  
A. officers      B. officers'      C. officer's
9. With \_\_\_\_\_ inflation, it's a wonder that parents can find the funds to give their children a college education.  
A. todays      B. todays'      C. today's
10. Due to my \_\_\_\_\_ financial status, I was forced at the age of fourteen to get a job to support my family and myself.  
A. families      B. familys'      C. family's

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use apostrophes correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

11. The editor-in-chiefs' opinion is not necessarily correct.
12. When women's rights are protected, men's rights should not be violated.
13. The Beatles recorded "A Hard Day's Night" in the sixties.
14. People's tolerance and preferences for sound vary; for example, some people like to play their stereos at full blast while others like their music in the background.
15. Shakespeare's plays are usually listed in three categories: the history plays', the comedies', and the tragedies'.
16. My three friends cars were damaged by the tornadoes strong winds.
17. The tornado's damaging effects were more extensive than what wed experienced during the floods in April.
18. The strenuous exercise doesn't seem to affect the boy's activity levels during the day.
19. I haven't seen you since last summer when we met at Jim's house.
20. Mary's and Helen's bedrooms are both filled with memorabilia.

Appendix KK: Semicolons, Colons, Hyphens, Parentheses, and Dashes 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use **semicolons** correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

1. Many criminals still walk the streets; although thousands spend their lives trying to rid our cities of dangerous people.
2. The long-term effects of exposure to excessive noise may be total loss of hearing; therefore, a person is wise to protect the ears.
3. Word processing benefits the faculty, who can use it to produce lecture notes and tests; likewise, it benefits the students, who can record their term papers on floppy disks and simplify their rewrites.
4. Al is attending a two-year college in the fall; he will be focusing on core courses while he determines what major to pursue.
5. Shakespeare's plays are usually listed in three categories; the history plays, the comedies and the tragedies.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use **colons** correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

6. Finally, they reached a compromise: they would stay in a chateau near the Loire, which would be cheaper than a fancy Paris hotel.
7. The elements of fiction are: plot, character, dialogue, and theme.
8. He concluded with a summarizing statement: "According to statistics, students who pay for all or part of their own college education take their studies more seriously."
9. They cannot pay their rent because: he lost his job, she is unable to work, and their savings have run out.
10. Mr. Hirsch argued that an upper-bracket hotel would provide better accommodations: a shining marble bath, plush dining room, and elegant meals.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use **hyphens** correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

11. You need to exercise more self-control so you do not find yourself in such difficult circumstances.
12. Trying situations can be turned around to produce life-changing results.
13. As a young man, Browning led a sheltered life; he lived with his parents until the age of thirty-four.
14. Over two thirds of the game was played in a pouring-rainstorm.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use **parentheses** correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

15. His shyness it was only a mild case disappeared (soon after) the lovely Lydia smiled warmly.
16. Death Valley (it can reach temperatures of 120 degrees Fahrenheit) is home to specially adapted insects and lizards.
17. Of the three great Greek (philosophers Socrates, Plato, and Aristotle), only Socrates refused to write down his ideas.

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences use **dashes** correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

18. Sugar, flour, butter, nuts these are—the ingredients of Grandma’s Christmas cookies.
19. Agatha can be very generous—when she feels like it.
20. He promised me—but he didn’t mean it—that he would give me his tickets for Sunday’s football game.



## Appendix LL: Semicolons, Colons, Hyphens, Parentheses, and Dashes 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate whether the following sentences use semicolons, colons, parentheses, hyphens, and dashes correctly with an **A** and incorrectly with a **B**.

1. The new surgical procedure—is highly effective—especially among victims of heart attacks.
2. These industries declined dramatically during the Revolutionary War: whaling, fishing, and trading.
3. Mark Twain advised young people: “Always do right. This will gratify some people and astonish the rest.”
4. The internal management of the Central Intelligence Agency CIA is being reorganized to address past abuses of power.
5. You must buy that house today tomorrow will be too late.
6. The narrative voice communicates the ideas of the writer to the mind of the reader; moreover, that narrative voice has to be singular and steady.
7. Of the three great violin concertos (Tchaikovsky’s, Mendelssohn’s, and Beethoven’s), two were considered too difficult to play by contemporary violinists.
8. Bastille Day (a French national holiday celebrated on July 14) is the equivalent of Independence Day in the United States.
9. A revised and updated chapter—Chapter—21 provides a highly practical guide to the library and the Internet.
10. Writing is seldom an easy, one-step journey in which a finished paper comes out in a first draft.
11. In one corner was a cardboard box filled with two- and three-inch pieces of string.
12. Kierkegaard was a nineteenth-century Danish philosopher; his writings have influenced modern Christian theology.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the options that use **dashes** correctly.

13. A. Despite medical advances, major new diseases—even epidemics—continue to unleash suffering and death.  
B. Despite medical advances, major new diseases-even epidemics-continue to unleash suffering and death.  
C. Despite medical advances, major new diseases even epidemics continue to unleash suffering and death.
14. A. Don't forget these ingredients—in the wedding cake—one cup of patience, a spoonful of consideration, and a dash of forgiveness.  
B. Don't forget these ingredients in the wedding cake—one cup of patience, a spoonful of consideration, and a dash of forgiveness.  
C. Don't forget—these ingredients in the wedding cake—one cup of patience, a spoonful of consideration, and a dash of forgiveness.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the options that use **colons** correctly.

15. A. Among Benjamin Franklin's many contributions to the growth of Philadelphia were: his plan to pave and light the city's streets, his work to establish the first hospital in North America, and his founding of an academy that grew into the University of Pennsylvania.  
B. Benjamin Franklin made many contributions to the growth of Philadelphia, among which were: his plan to pave and light the city's streets, his work to establish the first hospital in North America, and his founding of an academy that grew into the University of Pennsylvania.  
C. Benjamin Franklin's many contributions to the growth of Philadelphia include the following: his plan to pave and light the city's streets, his work to establish the first hospital in North America, and his founding of an academy that grew into the University of Pennsylvania.
16. A. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees women the right to vote "The right of a citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."  
B. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees women the right to vote: "The right of a citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."  
C. The 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees women the right to vote, "The right of a citizen of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any state on account of sex."

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the options that use **semicolons** correctly.

17. A. Communicable diseases can be passed from one sick person to another however, they can also be transmitted by an infected host who shows no symptoms of the illness.  
B. Communicable diseases can be passed from one sick person to another, however, they can also be transmitted by an infected host who shows no symptoms of the illness.  
C. Communicable diseases can be passed from one sick person to another; however, they can also be transmitted by an infected host who shows no symptoms of the illness.
18. A. On Broadway, they saw the plays *Death and the Maiden*, starring Glenn Close and Gene Hackman, *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring Jessica Lange and *Lost in Yonkers*, starring Lucie Arnaz and Anne Jackson.  
B. On Broadway, they saw the plays *Death and the Maiden*, starring Glenn Close and Gene Hackman; *A Streetcar Named Desire*, starring Jessica Lange; and *Lost in Yonkers*, starring Lucie Arnaz and Anne Jackson.  
C. On Broadway, they saw the plays *Death and the Maiden*, starring Glenn Close and Gene Hackman, *A Streetcar Named Desire* starring Jessica Lange and *Lost in Yonkers*, starring Lucie Arnaz and Anne Jackson.

**DIRECTIONS:** Select the options that use **parentheses** correctly.

19. A. Cosimo de' Medici (he was the first member) of his family to rule Florence made his fortune in banking.  
B. Cosimo de' Medici (he was the first member of his family to rule Florence) made his fortune in banking.  
C. Cosimo de' Medici he was the first member of his family to rule Florence (made his fortune in banking).
20. A. The English Romantics several poets and artists (who believed in art as an overflow of powerful emotions) included the poets William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Percy Shelley.  
B. The English Romantics (several poets and artists who believed in art as an overflow of powerful emotions) included the poets William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Percy Shelley.  
C. The English Romantics several poets and artist who believed in art (as an overflow of powerful emotions) included the poets William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, and Percy Shelley.

## Appendix MM: End Punctuation

**DIRECTIONS:** In this section, match the correct end punctuation with the sentence.

A. period      B. exclamation point      c. question mark

1. According to Booker T. Washington, “No race can prosper until it learns that there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem”
2. Seventy-five miles from anywhere, Frank’s old Buick sputtered and stalled on the edge of Route 61
3. Why do leaves change color in the fall
4. The Hermitage in Saint Petersburg, Russia, one of the world’s foremost art museums, contains the art of many civilizations and artists
5. The victim cried, “Help me--I’ve been shot”
6. The chef added two-thirds of a cup of flour and one-fourth of a teaspoon of vanilla to the recipe
7. He asked me if I had ever been to Burma
8. I have many questions about philosophy and religion
9. Do you know that New York City was originally a Dutch colony called New Amsterdam
10. The angry wife yelled, “I want to know where you have been all night”

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate if the following sentences are correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

11. It is hard to imagine a celebrity who is not self-centered.
12. When Reginald saw the advertisement in the paper, he immediately called to ask about the position?
13. Wow, what a close call—I almost hit that car.
14. Have you ever wondered why you are here?
15. I wonder what is taking her so long to finish her telephone conversation.

16. Neil wanted to know whether Lenin or Stalin was the founder of Bolshevism?
17. Jeanine shouted, "I can't stand you any more, Ralph!"
18. She picked up her son, stroked his hair, kissed him, and gently rocked him to sleep.
19. Worried about her teenaged son, Samantha phoned all of his friends to find out where he was.
20. Mrs. Wilson asked me if I could pick up her mail while she was away on vacation!

## Appendix NN: Mechanics 1

**DIRECTIONS:** Indicate whether the following sentences are mechanically correct with an **A** and incorrect with a **B**.

1. The panoramic view of the entrance of the Pacific Ocean to Puget Sound gave her great pleasure.
2. Bob Berger, Ph.D., holds a degree in pharmacology and biology.
3. The store is located on federal highway, not far from Spanish River Boulevard.
4. Dr. Alfred Moore is so knowledgeable that he is in demand as a speaker in many cities across the United States, such as Los Angeles, New York City, and Washington, D.C.
5. When Margaret telephoned the post office to apply for a job delivering mail during the holidays, she was informed of a regulation requiring that applications be submitted in written form to the personnel office.
6. Judith worked at two jobs during the Summer; she bagged groceries and wrote about local events for the daily paper.
7. Her opportunities to garden year round, as well as the pace of her job as a Professor of English, make her life happy.
8. 55 years old, the ironworker, exhausted by years of hard work, bought a sailboat and headed South to Florida.

**DIRECTIONS:** Each of the following sentences contains an error in capitalization. Choose the answer that corrects the error.

9. Clem Rogers was part cherokee indian on both sides.  
A. Cherokee Indian      B. Cherokee indian      C. cherokee Indian
10. When Clem was sixteen, his mother gave him enough cattle and horses to get started as a rancher; Clem settled in Cooweescoowee county, 30 miles south of the Kansas border.  
A. Cooweescoowee County      B. South      C. Kansas Border
11. When the Civil War broke out, Clem Rogers joined the Cherokee Mounted Rifles, a Confederate regiment commanded by chief Stand Waite, one of the signers of the treaty in which the Cherokee had agreed to leave Georgia.  
A. civil war      B. Chief Stand Waite      C. cherokee

12. Clem took part in a series of raids and engagements along the Kansas border and emerged from the war a Captain.  
A. Raids and Engagements      B. Kansas Border      C. captain
13. When he returned from the War, he found his home in ruins, so he began anew, first as a laborer, then transporting freight by wagon from Missouri to Texas; with the profits, he bought cattle and began ranching again, hiring cowboys to work the cattle.  
A. war      B. missouri to texas      C. Cowboys
14. Clem Rogers continued to do well with his cattle and horses, but in 1889, the Missouri pacific railroad laid track directly across land Rogers had been using for grazing and cut him off from the natural feed he needed; at the same time, the federal government opened a large section of the territory to homesteaders who poured in by the thousands.  
A. Missouri Pacific Railroad      B. Missouri Pacific railroad  
C. Federal Government
15. In 1895, he sold out, moved to Claremore, Oklahoma, and became vice-president of a bank; later, he got involved in politics and became a delegate to the convention that drafted the state's Constitution when Oklahoma was admitted to the Union.  
A. Vice-President      B. State's      C. constitution

## Appendix OO: Mechanics 2

**DIRECTIONS:** Choose the letters of the sentences in which the mechanics (capitalization, italics, and numbers) are correct.

1. A. The Caribbean club invited Professor Miranda, author of the book *A History of the caribbean*, as guest speaker at its Spring Meeting.  
B. The Caribbean Club invited professor Miranda, author of the book *A History of the Caribbean*, as guest speaker at its spring meeting.  
C. The Caribbean Club invited Professor Miranda, author of the book *A History of the Caribbean*, as guest speaker at its spring meeting.
2. A. No, my brother does not work in the men's department at Kmart; he works as a lease administrator for the world's largest real estate corporation.  
B. No, my brother does not work in the men's department at kmart; he works as a lease administrator for the world's largest Real Estate Corporation.  
C. No, my brother does not work in the Men's department at Kmart; he works as a lease administrator for the world's largest real estate corporation.
3. A. The President of Harper Pontiac Corporation decided to move his office to Washington, d.c. after Labor day.  
B. The president of Harper Pontiac Corporation decided to move his office to Washington, D.C., after Labor day.  
C. The president of Harper Pontiac Corporation decided to move his office to Washington, D.C., after Labor Day.
4. A. When Randolph begins College next Fall, he will study at Louisiana State university and work at the superdome in New orleans, Louisiana.  
B. When Randolph begins college next fall, he will study at Louisiana State University and work at the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.  
C. When Randolph begins college next Fall, he will study at Louisiana state university and work at the Superdome in New Orleans, Louisiana.
5. A. I am supposed to meet Lisa and Mike at the twa terminal at Dulles Airport.  
B. I am supposed to meet Lisa and Mike at the TWA terminal at Dulles Airport.  
C. I am supposed to meet Lisa and Mike at the TWA terminal at Dulles airport.
6. A. There are 250 envelopes that need letters placed in them.  
B. There are two hundred fifty envelopes that need letters placed in them.  
C. 250 envelopes need letters placed in them.
7. A. My Mother plans to help me attend medical school.  
B. My mother plans to help me attend medical school.  
C. My mother plans to help me attend Medical School.



8.
  - A. Melanie Collins, m.d., will lecture on self-help programs for women at the Women in sobriety conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
  - B. Melanie Collins, M.D., will lecture on self-help programs for women at the Women in Sobriety conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
  - C. Melanie Collins, M.D., will lecture on self-help programs for women at the women in sobriety conference in Baltimore, Maryland.
  
9.
  - A. Awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in nineteen forty-nine, William Faulkner wrote about human suffering in the South after the Civil War.
  - B. Awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in 1949, William Faulkner wrote about human suffering in the South after the Civil War.
  - C. Awarded the Nobel Prize in literature in nineteen forty-nine, William Faulkner wrote about human suffering in the south after the Civil War.
  
10.
  - A. The *Chicago Tribune* closely followed the exploits of Sammy Sosa, who hit 66 home runs in 1998.
  - B. The “Chicago Tribune” closely followed the exploits of Sammy Sosa, who hit sixty-six home runs in 1998.
  - C. The Chicago Tribune closely followed the exploits of Sammy Sosa, who hit 66 home runs in 1998.
  
11.
  - A. There was a shark scare at the beach this Summer, particularly in August.
  - B. There was a shark scare at the beach this summer, particularly in august.
  - C. There was a shark scare at the beach this summer, particularly in August.
  
12.
  - A. Mary grew tired of the new england winters and moved to southern Florida.
  - B. Mary grew tired of the New England Winters and moved to Southern Florida.
  - C. Mary grew tired of the New England winters and moved to southern Florida.
  
13.
  - A. There were 9 large theaters in this town in the 1950s.
  - B. There were nine large theaters in this town in the 1950s.
  - C. There were 9 large theaters in this town in the nineteen fifties.
  
14.
  - A. Manhattan was supposedly purchased from the Lenape Indians for twenty-four dollars in beads.
  - B. Manhattan was supposedly purchased from the Lenape indians for \$24 in beads.
  - C. Manhattan was supposedly purchased from the Lenape Indians for \$24 in beads.

15. A. The children waited impatiently for their uncle Mike to arrive at their home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of West Virginia.
- B. The children waited impatiently for their uncle Mike to arrive at their home in the blue ridge mountains of West Virginia.
- C. The children waited impatiently for their uncle Mike to arrive at their home in the Blue Ridge Mountains of west Virginia.