

Writing and Language

The Writing Test (p.161)

- 35 minutes
- 4 passages
- 11 questions per passage
- Total 44 questions
- 2 types of questions: convention and expression (p.168)
- Convention: basic rules in English (grammar)
- Expression: logic, style, tone

Approaching the writing test (p.166)

- Read the whole passage
- Pacing
- The question matters
- Plugging in doesn't always work
- Some questions have prompts

Most Common Grammar Mistakes (p.181)

- Nouns and pronouns
- Verbs
- Adjectives and adverbs
- Sentences
- Punctuation

Phrases & Clauses

- **Phrase** : a group of two or more words that express a single idea but do not form a complete sentence. (no subject/ no verb)
 - While watching TV, I had a great idea. (watching IS NOT a verb)
- **Independent clause (IC)**: a complete sentence with a subject and a verb.
 - I had a great idea about our football game.
- **Dependent clause (DC)**: an incomplete sentence with a subject and a verb.
 - Because we had a game the next day, I went to sleep early.

Complete sentences (p.182)

- Fragments

- Because it was late and the man who was standing was my father's friend.

- Run-on

- He likes to run every morning he wakes up early.

- Comma-splice

- He likes to run every morning, he wakes up early.

- Some transitional words

- He likes to run every morning, however, he never wakes up early.

- How to correct: **IC.IC. /IC;IC. /IC,CC IC. /IC DC.**

Verb shift (p.184)

- Subject-verb agreement

- Find subject

- Juggling the demands of both school and my social agenda often seem too much to bear.

- Inverted subject

- We were horrified to discover that there was more than three mice living in the attic.

- either, or and neither, nor

- Either the presidents or one of their aids are going to coordinate the project
 - Either Eric or his brothers are hosting the party this year.
 - Neither the children nor their parents utters a word when Mrs. Nelly tells her stories.

- either and neither

- Neither of the girls were frightened by the wild animals that scurried incessantly past their tent.

- Singular pronouns

Pronoun shift cont....

- Antecedent Disagreement

- Harvard University has always been committed to assisting their students by providing him or her with any necessary financial aid.
- Everybody is expected to do their share.
- They usually give the most points to the skater that makes the fewest mistakes.
- Each of the girls wanted their idea for the logo design to be considered.

- Pronoun case

- The university presented the honor to (he/him)
- After the game, we all agreed that no one had played harder than (he/him)
- The other cheerleaders and (her/she) needed to practice on the weekend.

- Ambiguous pronoun

- Mike told Marwan that he was going to start the next game.

- Pronoun shift

- If one changes a pronoun midsentence, you are doing it wrong.

Tense, voice and mood shifts (p.188)

- Problem tenses

- By the time the committee had adjourned, it voted on all four key proposals.
- It surprised us to learn that Venus was the same size as Earth.

- The conditional

- If I was the president, I would find a solution to the traffic problem.
- If he had been present, he could see the damage.

- The passive voice

- When the children turned on the TV, a buzzing sound was heard.

- The mood

- Take two aspirins, and then you should call me in the morning.

Parallel structure (p.192)

- **Parallelism**

- Personal digital assistants can be not only practical, but also entertain for hours on end.
- I bought my tickets, reserved the hotel room, and I planned the itinerary myself.
- Riding that roller coaster was like a trip over a waterfall in a barrel.

- **Correlative conjunctions** (p.193)

- I not only dream of having a dog, but also to write poetry.
- I not only dream of having a dog, but also writing poetry.

Important: Check table on page 193

Misplaced and dangling modifiers (p.194)

- Dangling modifiers

- Watching from the bridge, the fireworks bloomed spectacularly over the water.
- Exhausted from the day's climbing, the looming storm forced the hikers to pitch an early camp.
- Before working at the bank, no one thought I could hold such a responsible position.

- Misplaced modifiers

- We found my lost earring walking through the parking lot.

Comparisons (p.195)

- Logical comparisons

- I prefer a lot of modern poetry to Shakespeare.
- The year-end bonus was equally divided between Mark, Rola and Sara.
- After several days in the woods, we became concerned that we had packed a lot less meals than we would need.
- It was remarkable that the children had donated so much toys to others who were barely needier than they.

Confused words & Idioms (196-197)

- Check handout

Expression of Ideas (p.203)

- **Development of ideas**
 - Types of passages
 - Main idea (topic sentence)
 - Support (add or delete)
 - Quantitative information
- **Organizing ideas**
 - Signal words
 - Conclusions
 - Logical order
- **Effective language use**
 - Diction: choosing the right word
 - Concision: being succinct, brief
 - Style and tone