

WRITING

DIAGNOSTIC

The following exercises are designed to test your English writing and language skills. This assessment requires no outside knowledge. Answer all questions to the best of your ability. Students answering less than half of the questions correctly are best suited for the **Fundamentals** workbook program, while students answering more than half correctly are best suited for the **Advanced** workbook program.

Question 1

The Los Angeles Lakers basketball team are easily recognizable in purple and gold uniforms.

Which is the correct form of the underlined verb?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) can
- C) were
- D) is

Question 2

My art teacher taught us to make clay pots so that you could add more to her collection.

Which is the correct form of the underlined portion?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) he
- C) he or she
- D) she

Question 3

There is, a great deal of evidence, to suggest that Mars, at least at some point, had liquid water, on its surface.

Eliminate all unnecessary commas.

Question 4

The “Jurassic Park” franchise has been successful for over twenty years due to one important; thing dinosaurs.

Which is the correct form of the underlined section?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) important thing; dinosaurs.
- C) important: thing dinosaurs.
- D) important thing: dinosaurs.

Question 5

In [1] last few years there has been [2] increase in what many people call “fake news,” or news stories that are not real. However, [3] fake news has been around for a very long time.

At points [1], [2], and [3] choose the correct term. If the sentence is correct as it is, choose NO ARTICLE.

Point 1

- A) a
- B) an
- C) the
- D) NO ARTICLE

Point 2

- A) a
- B) an
- C) the
- D) NO ARTICLE

Point 3

- A) a
- B) an
- C) the
- D) NO ARTICLE

Question 6

It is hard not to have respect to the Vikings who crossed the Atlantic Ocean and traveled to America in open boats.

Which is the correct form of the underlined section?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) for
- C) as
- D) with

Question 7

It is uncommon for employees to work at one company for their whole lives. Whether, most people now expect to change jobs every few years.

Which is the correct form of the underlined section?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) Therefore,
- C) Instead,
- D) Next,

Question 8

The tasteless and rubbery tomatoes you get from the store were not always that way. Over the years, farmers worked to change the tomato so that it could survive in the cold and stay good for weeks after being picked. Unfortunately, those changes caused the tomato to lose its flavor. The makers of the popular cereal Cinnamon Toast Crunch experienced their own setback when they reduced the sugar content in an effort to make their product healthier. Customers hated the taste of the new food, and the company was forced to return to their original recipe. In both cases, the cure was arguably worse than the disease.

Which choice best introduces the main idea of the paragraph?

- A) The process of trying to improve food can lead to more problems.
- B) Making food healthier comes at a high cost to customers and producers.
- C) Enjoying good food is becoming more difficult in the modern world.
- D) Healthy food will never be as valuable as delicious but unhealthy food.

Question 9

As time goes on, the life of a meme in popular culture seems to be getting shorter and shorter. In the mid-2000s, a funny meme would be shared and re-shared for months before it was replaced. **[1]** By the 2010s, even the most popular and imitated memes are lucky if they can survive for a week. The internet, after all, is not known for having a long attention span.

Should the writer make the following addition at point [1]?

“The most common type of sharing took place through email.”

- A) Yes, because it adds to the main idea of the paragraph.
- B) Yes, because it provides useful technical information.
- C) No, because it interrupts the flow of ideas in the paragraph.
- D) No, because it distracts from the main idea of the paragraph.

Question 10

Start:

Bibliomaniacs, or book hoarders, feel a compulsive desire to acquire books that have little or no clear value.

End:

One of the most famous bibliomaniacs ever, Stephen Blumberg, was arrested in 1990 for stealing over five million dollars worth of books.

Which of the following choices best connects the two statements?

- A) Bibliomania is different from bibliophilia, or the love of books, in that bibliomania has severe negative consequences.
- B) There have been a number of notable bibliomaniacs throughout history, although most were never diagnosed with the condition.
- C) Like other hoarders, many bibliomaniacs are able to function in society without most people knowing that there is a problem.
- D) When confronted, bibliomaniacs frequently lash out at those who are trying to help them overcome the addiction.

Answer Key

Question 1: D

Question 2: D

Question 3: The only commas should be after “Mars” and “point.”

Question 4: D

Question 5: C, B, D

Question 6: B

Question 7: C

Question 8: A

Question 9: C

Question 10: A

SCORING: For every question answered correctly, give yourself **1** point. You only score a point for Question 3 if you eliminated every comma except the two specified. You can score up to **3** points on Question 5.

If your score is **8 or below**, you are at the Fundamentals level and should start the program with **Express Workbook Fundamentals 1**. If your score is **9 or higher**, you are at the Advanced level and should start the program with **Express Workbook Advanced 1**.