

ACT Verbal Practice – I
Time to answer all questions – 6 minutes
10 questions

Directions:

The following sentences contain words or phrases that are underlined. In the answer choices that follow as A,B,C and D you are required to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the sentence appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole.

Choose option A, NO CHANGE, if you think the original version is the best.

1. On many pleasant summer afternoons, almost everyone would have witnessed butterflies, flying around YOUR YARD OR LANDING ON A FLOWER in your garden before flying away as soon as you would come close to them.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. their yard or landing on a flower
 - C. his or her yard or landing on a flower
 - D. your yard or landing on a flower
2. While everyone else in the family was too busy to drive Marcus to competitions, Larry made himself MORE AVAILABLE THAN HE OR SHE WAS, and drove him across Michigan to participate.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. more available than them
 - C. available
 - D. more available than him or her
3. Linda had suffered BADLY through the period of recession.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. more badly
 - C. worse
 - D. the worst
4. She carried a platter and a tea towel embroidered with a design BASED AFTER A FOUNTAIN IN A CHINESE TEMPLE.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. based on the look of a fountain in a Chinese temple
 - C. based upon a fountain in a Chinese temple
 - D. based on a fountain in a Chinese temple

5. The most amazing thing about a firefly that twinkles like stars in the night is that it can produce its own LIGHT. THIS FEATURE, known as bioluminescence or cold light, actually appears in nature quite often. Which of the following is NOT an acceptable alternative for the capitalized portion?
- A. light, this feature
 - B. light; this feature
 - C. light, and this feature
 - D. light. This dramatic feature
6. Once BENEATH THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT CHURCH'S STRUCTURED WALLS, among the graves, she felt immune to the world, and safer within the thick churchyard wall than being in another country. The writer would like to change this portion to indicate the vast size of the church. Given that all the choices are true, which one best accomplishes the writer's goal?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. beside the great church's fearsome brick facade
 - C. under the shadow of the great looming church
 - D. adjacent to the stony, secure walls of the great church
7. I was sure that like everything else about her, the cookies would for certain be perfect, although she warned that she hadn't tried her hand at baking sweets for some time. Which of the following sentences is the most logically organized?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. Although she warned that she hadn't tried her hand at baking sweets for some time, I knew the cookies would be perfect for certain, just like everything else about her was perfect.
 - C. Despite the fact that she warned that she hadn't tried her hand at baking sweets for some time, I knew that like everything else about this woman, the cookies for certain would be perfect like her.
 - D. Although she warned that she hadn't tried her hand at baking sweets for some time, I was certain that like everything else about her, the cookies would be perfect.
8. It has been exactly 100 years since artist Vincent van Gogh ALMOST propped his easel against a haystack near the Chateau d'Auvers in France and fired a bullet into his chest. The best placement for the bold word would be:
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. after the word "been"
 - C. after the word "exactly"
 - D. after the word "years"

9. Adrienne said that I must always be intolerant of ignorance but understanding of ILLITERACY; THAT some people, unable to go to school, were more educated and even more intelligent than college professors.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. illiteracy, and that
 - C. illiteracy. That
 - D. illiteracy, that
10. Many living organisms, FROM BACTERIA AND MUSHROOMS TO CERTAIN SEA CREATURES, PARASITES, INSECTS, AND OTHERS, ARE capable of producing their own light.
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. from bacteria and mushrooms to certain sea creatures, parasites, insects, and others, is
 - C. from bacteria and mushrooms to certain sea creatures, parasites, and insects, are
 - D. from bacteria, mushrooms, and certain sea creatures, parasites, are

Answers:

1. C
2. C
3. A
4. D
5. A
6. C
7. D
8. B
9. B
10. C