

# POWERSCORE

## SAT SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT PRACTICE

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The following sentences test correctness and effectiveness of expression. Part of each sentence or the entire sentence is underlined; beneath each sentence are five ways of phrasing the underlined material. Choice (A) repeats the original phrasing; the other four choices are different. If you think the original phrasing produces a better sentence than any of the alternatives, select choice (A); if not, select one of the other choices.

In making your selection, follow the requirements of standard written English; that is, pay attention to grammar, choice of words, sentence construction, and punctuation. Your selection should result in the most effective sentence—clear and precise, without awkwardness or ambiguity.

- Due to last year's active hurricane season, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has urged coastal residents to develop a family evacuation plan, organize important documents and valuables, creating a disaster supply kit for use in the car and at the evacuation destination.
  - creating a disaster supply kit for use
  - to create a disaster supply kit for use
  - creating a disaster supply kit for using
  - and create a disaster supply kit for using
  - and create a disaster supply kit for use
- While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem, the introduction of invasive species has the potential to destroy nearly all of the aquatic plants and animals that inhabit the river.
  - While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem
  - While global warming has already made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem
  - Global warming has already made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem
  - Global warming has already made the Hudson River a seeming fragile ecosystem;
  - Although global warming has made the Hudson River a seemingly fragile ecosystem
- Reports from New York and Paris indicate that this season's style is an eclectic mix of fashions from past decades, ranging from the empire-waist dresses of the relaxed and liberated 1960s and the legwarmers of the excessive and indulgent 1980s.
  - and
  - with
  - to
  - and to
  - from
- Unlike Freud's belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories, Jung asserted that the unconscious also contained creative reservoirs.
  - Freud's belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
  - Freud and his belief that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
  - the belief of Freud that states the unconscious is solely a storehouse of repressed memories
  - Freud, who believed that the unconscious was solely a storehouse of repressed memories
  - Freud and the belief that the unconscious solely stores of repressed memories
- The blue whale was thriving in all of the world's oceans until the turn of the century, at which time they became hunted to the point of extinction.
  - The blue whale was thriving in all of the world's oceans until the turn of the century
  - Blue whales were thriving in all of the world's oceans until the turn of the century
  - The blue whale had been thriving in all of the world's oceans until the turn of the century
  - At the turn of the century, blue whales were thriving in all of the world's oceans
  - Blue whales had been thriving in all of the world's oceans up until the turn of the century
- Scientists believe that all domestic dogs originally have descended from three dogs that lived in China over 15,000 years ago.
  - have descended from three dogs that lived in China
  - descended by three dogs that lived in China
  - descended from three dogs that lived in China
  - have descended from three dogs living in China
  - descended from three dogs that had lived in China

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### ANSWER KEY

#### 1. E

In this sentence, NOAA has urged residents to do three things using three verbs: *to develop*, *to organize*, and *creating*. When three verbs are listed this way, they must be *parallel*, meaning they are composed in similar form. Therefore, the list should read *to develop*, *to organize*, and *to create*. When three or more verbs are listed, *to* can be used with just the first verb, or all three verbs. Thus, *to develop*, *organize*, and *create* is also correct.

Choice (B) omits the essential conjunction *and*. Choice (C) fails to use the infinitive form of *to create*, and illegally changes *use* from a noun (*use*) to a verb (*using*). Choice (D) also changes *use* to *using*. Only (E) is correct.

#### 2. B

Adjectives modify nouns, and adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. The error in this sentence occurs in the word *seeming*. *Seeming* is an adjective, meaning the same thing as *apparent*: his *seeming* honesty, the report's *seeming* inaccuracies. However, in this sentence, *seeming* is modifying *fragile*, an adjective. Therefore, *seeming* should be the adverb, *seemingly*.

Choice (B) is correct. Choice (C) has lost its subordinating conjunction (*while*), creating two complete sentences separated by a comma (a common error called a comma splice). Choice (D) does not correct *seeming*. Choice (E) uses the subordinating conjunction *although*, changing meaning of the sentence. The reader now expects a reverse effect on the river.

#### 3. C

The correct idiom is *ranging from x to y*, rather than the current use of *ranging from x and y*. The current style is *ranging from* the empire-waist dresses (x) to the legwarmer (y).

Only Choice (C) makes this correction.

#### 4. D

Just as verbs have to be parallel, two or more items being compared must be parallel, meaning they must be in similar form. Currently, this sentence is comparing *Freud's belief* to *Jung*. To correct it, we must compare *Freud's belief* to *Jung's belief* (thing to thing) OR *Freud* to *Jung* (person to person).

Choice (B) compares *Freud* (person) and *his belief* (thing) to *Jung* (person). Choice (C) compares *the belief of Freud* (thing) to *Jung* (person). Choice (D) correctly compares *Freud* (person) to *Jung* (person). Choice (E) compares *Freud* (person) and *his belief* (thing) to *Jung* (person).

#### 5. B

In the beginning of this sentence, *the blue whale* is mentioned as a singular object. However, it is later referred to as *they*, meaning more than one. Pronouns must agree in number to the noun referent. Because *the blue whale* is in the underlined portion of the sentence, it must be changed to *blue whales*. If *they* had been underlined, it could have been changed to *it*.

Choice (B) correctly changes *the blue whale* to *blue whales*. Choice (C) does not make this change. Choice (D) moves *at the turn of century*, leaving *at which time* to incorrectly modify *oceans*. Choice (E) changes the verb and adds the redundant *up*.

#### 6. C

The use of *has* or *have* with a verb (*has watched*, *have spoken*) indicate events that started in the past, continued until the present, and may continue into the future. This sentence requires a simple past tense (*descended*) to show that the event took place in the past.

Choice (B) corrects the verb *descended*, but changes the preposition to *by*. Correct idiom is *descended from x*, rather than *descended by x*. Choice (C) is correct. Choice (D) does not remove *have* from the verb, and changes the past tense of *lived* to the present tense *living*. Choice (E) adds *had* to the verb *lived*. *Had* is only used to show a past event that occurred before another event in the sentence. It is unnecessary here.