

# Sentence Skills

This test measures your understanding of sentence structure — of how sentences are put together and what makes them complete and clear. You may be asked to: choose the most appropriate word or phrase to substitute for the underlined portion of the sentence.

- identify sentences that have the same meaning.
- recognize incomplete sentences.
- recognize relationships of coordination and subordination.
- follow the logic of a sentence.

**Directions:** Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

1. Ms. Rose planning to teach a course in biology next summer.
  - (a) planning
  - (b) plans
  - (c) with a plan
  - (d) are planning
2. The professor listing only four journals on psychology.
  - (a) listing
  - (b) are listing
  - (c) with a list
  - (d) listed

**Directions:** Follow the directions for rewriting the sentences below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the sentence given.

3. Being a female jockey, she was often interviewed.

Rewrite beginning with:

She was often interviewed...

The next words will be

- (a) on account of she was
- (b) by her being
- (c) because she was
- (d) being as she was

4. Copies of the proposed rules were provided by the president of the college to the members of the committee.

Rewrite, beginning with:

The president of the college...

The next words will be

- (a) to the members of the committee
- (b) providing proposed rules from
- (c) provided copies of the proposed
- (d) proposed copies of the rules

5. Having no air conditioning, her condo is very hot.

Rewrite, beginning with:

Her condo is very hot...

The next words will be

- (a) on account of it has
- (b) because it has
- (c) by it being
- (d) being as it is

6. The praise of the other officers was earned by the young sergeant who solved the murder.

Rewrite beginning with:

Having solved the murder ...

The new sentence will include

- (a) earned the praise
- (b) earning the praise
- (c) praising of
- (d) praised the young sergeant

# Solutions

## Sentence Skills Sample Items

1. Mrs. Rose *plans* to teach a course in biology next summer.
  - (a) Planning is wrong. This is simply a participle; the sentence needs a singular verb.
  - (b) Plans is the **correct answer**. It supplies the needed verb (grammatically correct) and the tense is consistent with the meaning since *she plans* for an act that will occur in the future.
  - (c) With a plan is wrong. It is a prepositional phrase and does not supply the necessary verb.
  - (d) Are planning is wrong. A plural verb does not agree with the singular subject.
  
2. The professor *listed* only four...
  - (a) Listing is wrong. It is a participle. A singular verb is needed to complete the sentence.
  - (b) Are listing is wrong. It is a plural verb inconsistent with the singular subject.
  - (c) With a list is wrong. It is a prepositional phrase and does not supply the requisite verb.
  - (d) Listed is the **correct answer**. It agrees grammatically and fits the logic of the sentence.
  
3. She was often interviewed *because she was*...
  - (a) On account of is wrong. It is an overabundance of prepositional phrases, cumbersome and a faulty usage for *because*.
  - (b) By her being is wrong. It is another prepositional phrase, cumbersome usage and illogical reference following *interviewed*.
  - (c) Because she was is the **correct answer**. It is a subordinate clause, properly connected, and an adverbial use logically consistent with *interviewed*.
  - (d) Being as she was is wrong. It is cumbersome usage and circumlocution for *because*.
  
4. The president of the college *provided copies*...
  - (a) To the is wrong. It is a prepositional phrase that is not only awkward but also a verb is needed to complete the logic of what the president did.
  - (b) Providing is wrong. It is a participial form and the reference is unclear after college unless correctly punctuated. It still does not address the issue of the needed verb.
  - (c) Provided is the **correct answer**. It supplies the verb and the meaning is consistent with the original sentence.
  - (d) Proposed is wrong. It supplies the verb but the meaning is inconsistent with the original sentence.

5. Her condo is very *hot because it has...*

- (a) On account is wrong because it is an overabundance of prepositional phrases, cumbersome and a faulty usage for *because*.
- (b) Because it has is **correct**. It is a subordinate clause, properly connected and its adverbial use is logically consistent with *hot*. It supplies the reason.
- (c) By it being is wrong. It is another prepositional phrase that is cumbersome usage and an illogical reference following *hot*.
- (d) Being as it is... also wrong because it is faulty usage and cumbersome circumlocution for *because*.

6. Having solved the murder, the young sergeant *earned the praise...*

- (a) Earned the praise is the **correct answer**. It supplies the needed verb. Logically, *sergeant* will follow the introductory phrase, and this verb is consistent with *sergeant* and with the original meaning of the sentence.
- (b) Earning is wrong. It is a participial phrase, excessive use and dangling. It does not supply the needed verb consistent with the original meaning.
- (c) Praising of is wrong. It is a participial phrase that is awkward and inconsistent with the original meaning.
- (d) Praised the young is wrong since *sergeant* logically follows the introductory phrase and this verb form would not be logically consistent with what the *sergeant* did.