



# TCS Writing Centre

## Writing Exercises

1. Which sentence does not belong in the following paragraph?

(1) In keeping with tradition, the Olympic flame burned throughout the 2010 Vancouver Games. (2) The flame was flown to Canada from Greece and relayed across the country by 12,000 runners. (3) Imagine running over rough terrain with a torch in hand. (4) The flame even travelled by boat, snowmobile and dogsled. (5) It was extinguished at the closing ceremonies to signal the end of the games.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

2. Choose the sentence that best combines the following sentences.

Computers are useful tools.

Computers allow students to keep their homework neat.

Computers are too expensive for some students.

- (a) Computers are useful tools, but they are too expensive for some students.
- (b) Students can keep their homework neat because computers are useful tools.
- (c) Although they are too expensive for some students, computers are useful tools that allow students to keep their homework neat.
- (d) Computers are useful tools for students, and they allow students to keep their homework neat, and they are too expensive for some students.

3. What punctuation is missing from this sentence?

If I wear my running shoes to school on an icy day I might slip and fall.

- (a) a colon
- (b) a period
- (c) a comma
- (d) a semicolon

4. Which sentence is written correctly?

- (a) Greg and him fixed the car.
- (b) We told her and Sarah the news.
- (c) The bill was addressed to he and I.
- (d) Them and their parents paid for the repairs.

5. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) Me, Raj, and Mo plan to go to the movies.
- (b) My teacher gave the homework to Denna and I.
- (c) Michael and me walked up the hill with our skis.
- (d) Sakinah and I collected leaves for the fall festival.

6. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) Our cars axle broke.
- (b) We had it towed to Daves Garage.
- (c) Many car's were waiting for service.
- (d) We were told it would be an hour's wait.

7. Choose the sentence that does not belong in this paragraph.

(1) Traffic is busy on city streets. (2) Cars, pedestrians and cyclists must share them. (3) Pedestrians often cross the street where it is convenient but not always where it is safe. (4) Tall buildings often line the streets. (5) Navigating city streets can be a challenge.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

8. Choose the best place to insert the following sentence.

They were originally chew sticks made from twigs, feathers, bones and even porcupine quills.

(1) The first toothbrush dates back over 3,000 years. (2) In the 1700s, bristled toothbrushes began to appear. (3) Today, they come in all shapes, sizes and colours. (4) With so many choices, it is easy to have good dental hygiene.

- (a) after sentence 1
- (b) after sentence 2
- (c) after sentence 3
- (d) after sentence 4

9. Which of the following sentences needs revision?

(1) The Tri-Town Snow Travellers is a snowmobile club in Ontario. (2) When the club was formed in 1968, it focuses on teaching safe driving on snowmachines. (3) Since then, it has raised money to purchase two snow groomers. (4) Now, club members maintain the snowmobile trails so that everyone can ride safely.

- (a) sentence 1
- (b) sentence 2
- (c) sentence 3
- (d) sentence 4

10. Which sentence is written correctly?

- (a) Ice fishing, a popular activity in northern regions, requires skill.
- (b) First, you need to drill a hole, in the ice on a lake using an auger.
- (c) Some avid anglers, use an ice shack, while waiting for the fish to bite.
- (d) Ice fishing in the north requires patience a stool to sit on and warm winter clothing.

11. Which sentence does not belong in the following paragraph?

(1) The Olympic games are represented by a flaming torch. (2) The torch is lit in Olympia, Greece, to honour the ancient origins of the games. (3) It travels through the participating countries, representing international harmony. (4) Twelve thousand torches were made for the 2010 Vancouver games. (5) The Olympic torch is a meaningful symbol.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

12. Choose the option that best combines all the information in the sentences below.

Mikko and Paige were friends.

Mikko and Paige had known each other since Grade 3.

Mikko and Paige attended the same college.

- (a) Mikko and Paige, who were friends, attended the same college since Grade 3.
- (b) Mikko and Paige were friends since Grade 3 and attended the same college.
- (c) Mikko and Paige, friends who had known each other since Grade 3, attended the same college.
- (d) Mikko and Paige attended the same college and had known each other and their friends since Grade 3.

13. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) I was waiting Omar said. "In the cold!"
- (b) "Wasn't it hot outside" Oliver responded?
- (c) "I was e-mailing," Sara exclaimed, "for three hours!"
- (d) "I went to a scary movie," Maria said "At two o'clock."

14. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) Our family likes to hike, swim and biking.
- (b) The children like jumping, singing and dancing.
- (c) The student likes drawing, painting and to sculpt.
- (d) The athletes like to train, to practice and competing.

15. Choose the option that best combines all the information in the following sentences.

I love basketball.

The Bears are my favourite team.

I hope they win the championship this year.

- (a) I love basketball, and I hope the Bears win the championship this year.
- (b) I love basketball and the Bears because I hope they win the championship this year.
- (c) I love basketball and hope the Bears, my favourite team, win the championship this year.
- (d) I love basketball, I love the Bears, my favourite team, I hope they win the championship this year.

16. Which option tells how to make the following sentence correct?

John Reid, the mayor of Kapuskasing wondered how his city would survive the economic downturn.

- (a) Capitalize the word "mayor."
- (b) Add a comma after "Kapuskasing."
- (c) Replace the period with a question mark.
- (d) Use quotation marks around "how his city would survive the economic downturn."

17. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) The students is going on the bus.
- (b) Each of the students is going on the bus.
- (c) Two students and their teacher is going on the bus.
- (d) All of the students except for Jim is going on the bus.

18. Choose the sentence that does not belong in the following paragraph.

(1) Eating a variety of nutritious foods is important for good health. (2) Fruits and vegetables provide daily vitamins. (3) Exercise is an important part of healthy living. (4) Protein from meat, dairy foods or legumes is needed for muscle growth. (5) Fat intake should be limited. (6) A proper diet is important.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

19. What should the writer of the following paragraph do to improve its organization?

(1) The Comfort Maple tree stands in a field near Welland, Ontario. (2) It is over 30 metres high and eight metres around the trunk. (3) Today it is a local attraction. (4) The tree was already 300 years old when the Comfort family settled the land in 1816. (5) Few trees like it survive.

- (a) Break sentence 2 into two sentences.
- (b) Switch the order of sentences 3 and 4.
- (c) Insert "Since" at the start of sentence 4.
- (d) Move sentence 5 to the start of the paragraph.

20. Which sentence is written correctly?

- (a) I travelled along the trans-Canada highway near North Bay.
- (b) I then continued toward Sudbury, passing the village of wahnapitei.
- (c) Once I got to Sudbury, I went to the lake laurentian conservation area.
- (d) Mayor Fortin greeted me at the park gate before my tour of the wetland.

21. Choose the best closing sentence for the following paragraph.

Travel is exciting and educational, but preparation is necessary. You should book transportation ahead. Guide books will help you learn about attractions. Knowing about the weather will help you make good decisions when packing your suitcase. \_\_\_\_\_.

- (a) Travel guides are exciting to read.
- (b) Summertime is a popular time to travel.
- (c) Updating travel documents might be necessary.
- (d) Planning will make your vacation enjoyable.

22. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) The flagpole stands on it's own.
- (b) The cat licked its wounded paw.
- (c) Because of the storm, it's roof caved in.
- (d) The game is cancelled because its raining.

23. Choose the best opening sentence for the following paragraph.

\_\_\_\_\_. They have competitive and recreational sports for students who want physical activity. Trivia teams and yearbook committees offer opportunities to students who might not be interested in sports.

- (a) Schools offer opportunities for athletes.
- (b) School spirit is important for safe and successful schools.
- (c) Schools offer a variety of extracurricular activities for all students.
- (d) Schools can encourage better achievement by offering fun activities.

24. Choose the best place to insert the following sentence.

Unfortunately, it doesn't snow as much as it used to.

- (1) Winter in Ontario is a wonderful time.
- (2) There are all kinds of outdoor activities and sports for people to enjoy.
- (3) Many people enjoy skiing or snowshoeing.
- (4) Even without snow, people enjoy skating on outdoor ice rinks.
- (5) Winter can be a truly wonderful season.

- (a) after sentence 1
- (b) after sentence 2
- (c) after sentence 3
- (d) after sentence 4

25. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) "Let's get the car packed," Rohan pleaded, or we'll never get going.
- (b) "Let's get the car packed, Rohan pleaded, or we'll never get going."
- (c) "Let's get the car packed" Rohan pleaded "or we'll never get going."
- (d) "Let's get the car packed," Rohan pleaded, "or we'll never get going."

26. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) When Amit surprised the raccoon in the garbage, it ran away.
- (b) Jenny looks at the new catalogue and choosing a green sweater.
- (c) Sean quickly finishes his homework and then went to the hockey rink.
- (d) When Rhonda looked at the clay, she wonders how she should sculpt it.

27. Which is the best way to combine all the information in the following sentences?

Ontario is Canada's largest province.

Ontario has many different physical regions.

Ontario's wildlife is very diverse.

- (a) Ontario, Canada's largest province, has diverse wildlife and many different physical regions.
- (b) Canada's largest province is Ontario because it has different physical regions and diverse wildlife.
- (c) Ontario has many physical regions because of the diverse wildlife and it is Canada's largest province.
- (d) Ontario is Canada's largest province and it has many different physical regions but its wildlife is very diverse.

28. Which of the following is written correctly?

- (a) Samuel de Champlain a famous explorer lived in the 1600s.
- (b) Samuel de Champlain a famous explorer, lived in the 1600s.
- (c) Samuel de Champlain, a famous explorer lived in the 1600s.
- (d) Samuel de Champlain, a famous explorer, lived in the 1600s.

29. Choose the sentence that does not belong in the following paragraph.

(1) Ottawa offers visitors a variety of things to do. (2) Ottawa is in eastern Ontario. (3) There are many parks for recreation. (4) In the Byward Market district, visitors can find an open-air market and many sidewalk cafés. (5) The museums and historical sites are interesting to visit. (6) A wide selection of activities make Ottawa attractive to tourists.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

30. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) Sam performed more better than before.
- (b) The storm was worser than Nancy expected.
- (c) Luisa became angrier as the argument continued.
- (d) Pedro thought this game was funner than the last one.

31. Choose the sentence that correctly shows possession.

- (a) There's land here.
- (b) Their land is here.
- (c) There is land here.
- (d) They're landing here.

32. Choose the sentence that is written correctly.

- (a) The mayor of Vancouver declared, The 2010 Winter Olympics will attract thousands of tourists.
- (b) The mayor of Vancouver declared, "The 2010 Winter Olympics will attract thousands of tourists."
- (c) The mayor of Vancouver declared that "the 2010 Winter Olympics," would attract thousands of tourists.
- (d) The mayor of Vancouver, declared "that the 2010 Winter Olympics would attract thousands of tourists."

33. Choose the option that best combines all the information in the following sentences.

The work is featured in the gallery.

The artist's paintings are impressive.

Many people can view the paintings in the gallery.

- (a) The artist's impressive paintings are featured in the gallery, where many people can view them.
- (b) Although the artist's paintings are impressive, the work is featured in the gallery and many people can view them.
- (c) Many people can view the paintings in the gallery because the work is featured, so the artist's paintings are impressive.
- (d) The paintings are featured in the gallery and the artist's paintings are impressive when many people can view them.

34. Which sentence does not belong in the paragraph?

(1) Extracurricular activities can be an important part of school life. (2)Joining clubs can help students make friends and develop their skills and interests. (3) Good sportsmanship can be developed on school teams. (4) Learning skills are usually emphasized in school courses. (5) Students who participate in extracurricular activities enjoy many benefits.

- (a) sentence 2
- (b) sentence 3
- (c) sentence 4
- (d) sentence 5

35. Choose the sentence that is correctly written.

- (a) She was interested in applied for the job, and submit her application tomorrow.
- (b) She was interested in apply for the job, and submitted her application tomorrow.
- (c) She is interested in applying for the job and will submit her application tomorrow.
- (d) She is interested in applying for the job, and will submitted her application tomorrow.

Please drop by the Writing Centre anytime to discuss your answers!