

PRACTICE PUNCTUATION TEST

The correct answer for each question appears below, along with a brief reference as to why a change was necessary.

1. Jeri Martin is an attractive intelligent woman she should do well in the public relations field.

- A. there should be a comma between "attractive" and "intelligent"
- B. there should be a comma between "woman" and "she"
- C. there should be a hyphen between "attractive" and "intelligent"
- * D. there should be a comma between "attractive" and "intelligent" and a semicolon between "woman" and "she"**
- E. the sentence is correct.

Tips: Equal adjectives; independent conclusion without a conjunction.

2. The fully-experienced members of the group will conduct special sessions of the organization the next three Wednesday's.

- A. the hyphen between "fully" and "experienced" should be eliminated
- B. the apostrophe in "Wednesday's" should be eliminated
- * C. eliminate both the hyphen between "fully" and "experienced" and the apostrophe in "Wednesday's"**
- D. there should be a comma after "sessions"
- E. the sentence is correct

**Tips: Attach no hyphen to a word using an "ly" suffix.
Also, "Wednesdays" is merely plural, so no apostrophe is needed.**

3. Two hours before going fishing, James decided to visit his grandmother.

- A. the comma after "fishing" should be eliminated
- B. the period after "grandmother" should be eliminated and replaced with a question mark
- C. there should be a hyphen between "two" and "hours"
- D. there should be a semicolon after "fishing"
- * E. the sentence is correct**

4. "If I were a thoughtless woman I'd ignore the hungry and homeless," Sarah said.

- A. there should be a dash after "woman"
- B. there should be a hyphen between "thoughtless" and "woman"
- * C. there should be a comma after "woman"**
- D. move the comma after "homeless" outside the quotation mark
- E. the sentence is correct

Tip: The first six words are introductory - use a comma after "woman"

5. Its never wise to overspend using your credit cards.

- A. there should be a hyphen between "credit" and "cards"
- * B. the "t" and "s" in the word "Its" require an apostrophe**
- C. there should be a comma between "never" and "wise"
- D. the period after "cards" should be eliminated
- E. the sentence is correct

Tip: The contraction of "it" and "is" requires the apostrophe.

6. Both the 5-and 6-year-old-girls were excited to receive praise for their contribution to the team's success.

- A. the hyphen after "5" should be eliminated
- B. the hyphen after "6-year-old" should be eliminated
- C. there should be a hyphen between "and" and "6"
- * D. There should be a space after the hyphen following "5," and the hyphen between the words "old" and "girls" should be eliminated**
- E. the sentence is correct

Tips: The space after the "5" hyphen implies suspensive hyphenation, while the modifying term is 6-year-old - without the "girls" attached.

7. Mary brought the sandwiches, and Geraldine delivered the chips, drinks and desserts.

- A. the comma after "sandwiches" should be eliminated
- B. there should be a colon after "brought"
- C. the comma after "chips" should be eliminated
- D. there should be a comma after "Geraldine"
- * E. the sentence is correct**

8. The two children wanted to stay at home without a baby sitter, their parents strongly disagreed with them.

- A. there should be a hyphen between "strongly" and "disagreed"
- B. the comma after "sitter" should be eliminated
- * C. eliminate the comma after "sitter" and replace it with a semicolon**
- D. there should be an apostrophe "s" after the word "children"
- E. the sentence is correct

Tip: The phrases are independent with no conjunction - semicolon.

9. Nine-tenths of the students attending the football game were wearing Texas Techs colors.
- A. there should be a dash between "Nine" and "tenths"
 - B. the hyphen between "Nine" and "tenths" should be eliminated
 - C. there should be a comma after the "s" in "Tech"
 - * D. there should be an apostrophe after the "s" in "Tech"**
 - E. the sentence is correct

Tip: Tech has ownership of these colors. An apostrophe before the "s" shows possession of a singular word, while an apostrophe after the "s" indicates plural ownership.

10. The board made the decision Dec. 18, 2011 in Abilene, Texas.
- A. the period after "Dec" should be eliminated
 - B. the comma after "Abilene" should be eliminated
 - * C. the sentence requires a comma after "2011"**
 - D. there should be a dash inserted after "board"
 - E. the sentence is correct

Tips: A phrase with date and year requires a pair of commas: Dec. 18, 2011, in The same is true with city and state when the sentence continues beyond the phrase: The decision in Abilene, Texas, occurred Dec. 18, 2011.

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