The correct answers and brief explanations appear below.

1. Even though Jill knew the odds of becoming a famous author, she continued to provide less books to the distributor.
   
   a. Replace “knew” with “know.”
   b. Replace “less” with “fewer.”
   c. Replace “odds” with “evens.”
   d. Replace “books” with “book.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
   If you can count them, use ‘fewer.’

2. The college students on a quest to achieve excellence learns persistence.
   
   a. Replace "quest" with "guest."
   b. Replace "learns" with "learn."
   c. Replace "excellence" with "excellent."
   d. Insert a hyphen between "college" and "students."
   e. The sentence is correct.
   The main subject of the sentence is 'students,' and it needs the plural verb – 'learn.'

3. Whatever the problems that might arise because of the son’s going to graduate school, his dad said he could understand him wanting a better education.
   
   a. Replace "son’s" with "sons."
   b. Replace "whatever the problems" with "the problems."
   c. Replace "him" with "his."
   d. Replace "said" with "would say."
   e. The sentence is correct.
   A gerund is an ‘ing’ word and phrase serving as a noun, and a gerund uses the possessive pronoun.
   ‘Wanting a better education’ is a gerund.

4. Who are they nominating for office?
   
   b. Replace “Who” with “Whom.”
   c. Replace “are they” with “is they.”
   d. Replace “are they nominating” with “will they nominate.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
   Change it to a statement: They are nominating ‘him’ for office.
   Memory aid: Use “who” with he, she, they
   Use “whom” with him, her, them
5. The boy loves yard work and mowing, and he dislikes house chores.
   a. Replace "boy" with "boys."
   b. Replace the comma after "mowing" with a semicolon.
   c. **Replace "and" with "but."**
   d. Replace "dislikes" with "hates."
   e. The sentence is correct.
   *Use 'but' to show contrast for dissimilar items.*

6. Its going to be a long semester, but the journalism major said he graduates in May, and its about time.
   a. Replace "Its" with "It’s."
   b. Replace "it’s" with "its."
   c. Replace "Its" with "It’s" and "its" with "it’s."
   d. Replace "going to be" with "will be."
   e. The sentence is correct.
   *It’s = it is.  Its = possession.*

7. If none of the children are going to the movies, we will stay at home.
   a. Replace "none" with "each."
   b. Replace "will" with "should."
   c. **Replace "are" with "is."**
   d. Replace "at home" with "home."
   e. The sentence is correct.
   *None is singular and requires a singular verb. None = no one; not one.*

8. His wanting to become a minister was a lifelong goal.
   a. Replace "his" with "him."
   b. Replace "become" with "became."
   c. **Replace "lifelong" with "longtime."**
   d. Replace "goal" with "goals."
   e. The sentence is correct.

9. Neither Glen nor Albert have a new edition of the textbook.
   a. Replace “Neither” with “Either.”
   b. Replace “nor” with “or.”
   c. **Replace "have" with "has."**
   d. Replace “edition” with “addition.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
   *Neither is singular. Neither one has … It requires a singular verb.*

10. Texas Tech, along with other state institutions, have worked toward becoming a Tier One university.
    a. Replace “along” with “and.”
    b. Replace “toward” with “towards.”
    c. **Replace “have” with “has.”**
    d. Replace “Tier One” with “Tier Ten.”
    e. The sentence is correct.
    *The subject is Texas Tech, which requires a singular verb.*
11. Each of us is going to the alumni fundraiser.
   a. Replace “is going” with “went.”
   b. Replace “is” with “are.”
   c. Replace “each” with “none.”
   d. Replace “fundraiser” with “fundraisers.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
      “Each” = singular, just like “none.”

12. Tuition nearly costs the equivalent of two years’ pay.
   a. Place “nearly” before “pay.”
   b. Move “nearly” before “two.”
   c. Replace “equivalent” with “the same as.”
   d. Replace “years’” with “year’s.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
      Modifiers such as ‘almost,’ ‘even,’ ‘nearly’ and ‘only’ must be placed immediately before the words each modifies.

13. Although only a young boy, my father expected me to do a man’s work.
   a. Replace “only” with “merely.”
   b. Replace “my father” with “he.”
   c. Replace “a man’s work” with “work.”
   d. Replace “Although only a young boy” with “When I was a young boy.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
      An adverbial phrase must modify the next noun.
      “… a young boy” does not refer to “my father …."
      Use the correct pronoun to correct the sentence.

14. The company is made up of one-third sales, one-third production, and one-third working on development.
   a. Replace the commas with semicolons.
   b. Omit the “working on” before “development.”
   c. Replace “company” with “companies.”
   d. Replace “is” with “are.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
      Parallelism – use consistent grammatical structure in sentences.

15. If I was tall, I would play basketball.
   a. Replace “I was tall” with “I were tall.”
   b. Replace “I was tall” with “I was short.”
   c. Replace “I would play” with “I will play.”
   d. Replace “would” with “will.”
   e. The sentence is correct.
      Conditional tense requires use of a plural verb.

Posted Oct. 17, 2013