

Standardized Tests: Choosing the Better Sentence

Level: Elementary School

Some tests ask students to choose the better sentence. They will give you two choices. For example, if choice (a.) is a sentence fragment and choice (b.) is a full sentence, choice (b.) is the correct choice. Read the sentences carefully, eliminating those that are either fragments or run-ons or choppy, loose, or confusing constructions. Then, choose sentences that are direct and make sense.

Read the sentences below. Circle the letter in front of the better sentence.

1. a. The dog running and barking.
 b. The yellow dog ran to the door and barked.
2. a. I wanted to see the crowd, so I climbed over the fence.
 b. Pushing and shouting, he wanted to see the crowd on the other side of the fence.
3. a. The bunny was pretty she looked so soft with her brown fur.
 b. The brown, furry bunny looked soft and pretty.
4. a. Finish your work and stop wiggling because it is time for lunch and after that, play time.
 b. Concentrate and finish so you can go to lunch and have play time.
5. a. The dog sat.
 b. My dog sat down on his favorite rug.
6. a. Sleeping and sleeping, never even getting up to eat.
 b. She was so tired that she slept through breakfast.
7. a. I wanted to go, but he didn't, and she refused, too, though she usually likes it there.
 b. I wanted to go, but they decided we should stay home.
8. a. The lights of the tall house illuminated the steep path up the mountain.
 b. The tall brown house stood at the top of a very steep path, its lights shining out like the tip of a candle, its body like the candle and the mountain the candle holder.



Standardized Tests: Choosing the Better Sentence Answer Sheet

1. b
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. b
6. b
7. b
8. a