

Standardized Tests: Choosing the Better Sentence Level: Middle School

Standardized tests often require students to choose the best of two or more sentences. They will give choices. For example, if choice (a.) is a sentence fragment and choice (b.) is a full sentence, choice (b.) is the correct choice. Follow the directions 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 leaves fluttered in the wind as the clouds whisked across the sky.
 b. The leaves fluttering in the wind and the clouds whisking across the sky.
2. a. The ball flew out of bounds groaning with frustration, they left the stadium.
 b. Groaning with frustration, the fans watched the ball fly out of bounds.
3. a. She hurried.
 b. Realizing she was late, she hurried off to her appointment.
4. a. Hearing him coming, she ran and hid, changed her mind, and walked openly from behind the tree so that he would not know that she had been hiding because she was embarrassed.
 b. Hearing him coming, she ran, but then she changed her mind and walked openly from behind the tree.
5. a. General George Washington was famous after the Revolutionary War, he was soon elected as the United States of America's first president.
 b. General George Washington was famous after the Revolutionary War, and he was soon elected as the United States of America's first president.
6. a. She picked out apples, oranges, and kiwis; she paid for her produce.
 b. She picked out apples, oranges, and kiwis she paid for her produce.

Circle the letter in front of the sentence in which all the capitalization is correct.

- 7.
- a. John and martha walked to see the Lincoln Memorial.
 - b. John and Martha walked to see the Lincoln Memorial.
 - c. John and Martha walked to see the Lincoln memorial.

Circle the letter in front of the sentence that correctly combines the ideas from this set of sentences:

The dog sniffed. It sniffed the ground. It looked for a cat to chase.

- 8.
- a. The dog sniffed, it sniffed the ground, it looked for a cat to chase.
 - b. The dog sniffed; it sniffed the ground it looked for a cat to chase.
 - c. The dog sniffed the ground, looking for a cat to chase.

Circle the letter in front of the sentence that correctly combines the ideas from this set of sentences:

He cried out. He fell over the slippery rocks. He was sliding.

- 9.
- a. Sliding over the slippery rocks, he cried out and fell.
 - b. He cried out, over the slippery rocks and fell, sliding.
 - c. He cried out, fell, and sliding over the slippery rocks.

Standardized Tests: Choosing the Better Sentence Answer Sheet

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