

Assessment: Mastery Tests

Mechanics Mastery Test (Form A)

Part 1 In most of the following items, either the expression in column A or the one in column B is correctly capitalized. On the line provided, write the letter of the column in which the correct expression appears. If neither expression is correct, write N on the line. [2 points each]

A	B
_____ 1. the Labor Day weekend	the Labor day weekend
_____ 2. a Presbyterian Minister	a Presbyterian minister
_____ 3. reading <i>The Diary Of Anne Frank</i>	reading <i>The Diary of Anne Frank</i>
_____ 4. at a High School in Chicago	at a high school in Chicago
_____ 5. going West on Lake Avenue	going west on Lake avenue
_____ 6. the Aztec ruler of Mexico	the Aztec Ruler of Mexico
_____ 7. the county seat of Suffolk County	the county seat of Suffolk county
_____ 8. a theater in Elmhurst	a Theater in Elmhurst
_____ 9. a course in Latin-American History	a course in latin-American history
_____ 10. the Governors of these states	the governors of these states

Part 2 Most of the following sentences need either one comma or two commas. On the line provided, write each word that should be followed by a comma, and add the comma. If a sentence is correct as it stands, write C on the line. [2 points for each sentence]

Example: *The Tempest* which was the last play Shakespeare wrote was first performed in 1616.

Tempest, wrote,

1. The child was wearing a ragged pair of trousers and a faded badly torn shirt.

2. When they heard that the coach was going to leave the girls on the swimming team decided to give a farewell party for her.

3. Among his prized possessions were two broken alarm clocks a bowl of odd-looking fish and several Mickey Mouse comic books.

4. No one whom we know has ever been to Alaska but my best friend and I would like to go there this summer.

5. On the evening of the Autumn Frolic the school gymnasium was appropriately decorated in red and orange and yellow.

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6. Several students believed that Mr. Prinz the science teacher always gave too much homework.

7. Yes I'd be glad to take care of your Saint Bernard while you're in Europe.

8. No one who lived through the disastrous flood of 1977 is likely to forget the experience.

9. Huddling close to the fire the lost explorers sang songs and cracked jokes trying to forget the cold north wind that swept the trackless waste outside their tent.

10. I am sure that you will understand why our secretary had trouble spelling your last name Mr. Wyrklwsk.

Part 3 Most of the following sentences have a comma or no mark of punctuation at all where a semicolon or a colon should have been used. On the line provided, write the word preceding the error, and add the semicolon or colon. If a sentence is correct as it stands, write C on the line. [2 points each]

1. This is one of the oldest houses in the city, it has recently been restored by the historical society.

2. I have signed up for courses in the following subjects, Spanish, English, chemistry, and history.

3. Michael had warned the rest of us against bringing unnecessary supplies, but he himself turned up with a knapsack containing a pocket dictionary, two electric razors, and a set of naval signaling flags.

4. Miss Soames has gone on a business trip to Luxembourg however, she is expected to return tomorrow.

5. The Outing Club usually sponsors a picnic in June, this year the members are planning to hold a regatta instead.

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Part 4 Supply italics (underlining) and quotation marks as needed in the following sentences. [2 points for each sentence]

1. I can't find a copy of Dickens's A Tale of Two Cities anywhere in the library, Belinda said to me.
2. Does the assignment include the last chapter, Civics and Your Future?
3. We asked him whether this month's issue of the Reader's Digest was on sale yet.
4. Janet exclaimed, Mr. Alvarez is going to let me play in the game Friday!
5. The drama director said that he could think of nothing more ridiculous than a production of Hamlet done in punk clothing.

Part 5 In most of the following sentences, apostrophes and hyphens either are missing or are incorrectly used. Draw a line through each expression containing an error; then write the expression correctly on the line provided. If a sentence is correct as it stands, write C on the line. [2 points for each sentence]

Example: ~~Two-thirds~~ of the students voted in favor of ~~Timothys~~ proposal that we start a class newsletter.
Two thirds, Timothy's

1. Certainly, I know the Josephson twins'—don't you remember that I used to be their neighbor?

2. Nearly seventy five percent of the students in last years senior class are now attending colleges or technical schools.

3. Didn't you know that his brother had been chosen to play in the all-star game?

4. Traditionally, the president elect of the student council always conducts the final assembly of the year.

5. Lets see whether the mens' department carries the kind of cuff links you're looking for.

Part 6 Insert punctuation wherever needed in the following prose passage. The punctuation that already appears in the passage is correct and need not be changed. [1 point for each numbered line]

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1. Lorraine Hansberry I feel made an important contribution to the American
2. stage. She is best known for her first play, *A Raisin in the Sun*, which
3. opened on March 11 1959. It received an award from New York critics.
4. The play was later made into a successful movie starring Sidney Poitier
5. Ossie Davis, and Ruby Dee. Her final play, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's*
6. *Window*, also won critical acclaim Shortly after the play's opening on
7. Broadway, Hansberry died. Her death was a great loss for America.
8. Another writer I admire is Gwendolyn Brooks. *The Bean Eaters* is
9. my favorite poem by her. *A Street in Bronzeville*, her first book, contains
10. many other poems I have enjoyed. The American Academy of Arts and Letters
11. gave Brooks an award shortly after its publication. In 1949, Brookss *Annie*
12. *Allen* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize. One critic said, She is one
13. of America's most admired poets. Born in Topeka, Kansas Brooks grew up
14. in Chicago, where she graduated from Wilson Junior College. Much of her
15. poetry reflects Chicago life; however her messages are universal.

Part 7 Each of the following sentences contains one misspelled word. Find each misspelled word; then write the word correctly on the line provided. [1 point each]

1. The principle of the school made the arrangements herself. _____
2. She said it would be alright to alter the plans, if necessary. _____
3. The actors should speak their lines to each other, not to the audiance. _____
4. The rebel leaders may succeed in siezing control of the government. _____
5. Three of the churches in the neighborhood are planning to hold early-morning services during the summer months. _____

Part 8 Following are five groups of words. One word in each group is misspelled. Find the wrong word; then write this word correctly on the line provided. [2 points each]

1. stubbornness, quietly, readyness, rarely _____
2. vacuum, withhold, naive, proved _____
3. awfully, cruelty, liquor, meadow _____
4. disappear, disimilar, misuse, dissolve _____
5. deferred, dwarfs, loaves, potatos _____

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Assessment: Mastery Tests

Usage Mastery Test (Form A)

Part 1 Many of the following sentences contain an error in agreement. Cross out each error, and write the correct form on the line provided. Write C if the sentence is correct as it stands. [2 points each]

Example: his or her Each of the students may use ~~their~~ notes to complete this assignment.

- _____ 1. The reason for all the requests and demands were not apparent to those of us not involved with the negotiations.
- _____ 2. For football players, neither one of us are very big; consequently, we spend most of our time on the bench.
- _____ 3. Every registered voter is asked to cast their vote in the upcoming election.
- _____ 4. One of those math problems that are difficult for most students is on page 132.
- _____ 5. Your chances of finding a job this summer is not good.
- _____ 6. There was only two cars parked in front of the grocery store that opened today.
- _____ 7. A number of people from the factory has volunteered their time for the fund drive.
- _____ 8. The librarian asked everyone to pay their fines on overdue books before the end of the month.
- _____ 9. Two weeks without a car seems to be excessive punishment for coming home late.
- _____ 10. The principal, in addition to the students, help make this school a credit to our community.

Part 2 Decide whether *who* or *whom* belongs on the line in each of the following sentences. Write the correct form on the line provided before the sentence. Base your answers on standard formal usage. [2 points each]

Example: Who —is the person I saw Jerry with yesterday?

- _____ 1. The woman — was our guest speaker left her briefcase on the airplane.
- _____ 2. —did you say brought us these grapefruit from Florida?
- _____ 3. —did the party nominate for their presidential candidate?
- _____ 4. I finally remembered—won the Nobel Prize for chemistry last year.
- _____ 5. We saw—she was waiting for when a child ran toward her.
- _____ 6. Behzad knew—he wanted to be responsible for the project.

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- _____ 7. Our tour guide did not realize—the diplomat was until a tourist told him.
- _____ 8. —did they invite to the reception?
- _____ 9. We looked for Naomi,—we were told would be wearing a dark blue coat.
- _____ 10. They asked—the most qualified accountant was.

Part 3 Many of the following sentences contain an error in the use of verbs. Cross out each incorrect verb, and write the correct form on the line provided. If the sentence is already correct, write C in the space. [2 points each]

Example: frozen The water in the basin had ~~frozen~~ overnight.

- _____ 1. I was bit by our neighbor's dog yesterday.
- _____ 2. After standing nervously by the front door for several minutes, Mateo finally rung the doorbell.
- _____ 3. Pedro finally begun to realize why his parents had always laid down such strict rules.
- _____ 4. We waited for Gato, our new cat, for two hours before she finally come home.
- _____ 5. The book lay in my dresser drawer for a week because I had been too busy to read it.
- _____ 6. I have shook out the scatter rugs, and now you can vacuum the floors.
- _____ 7. The thief had stoled everything that had a value of a hundred dollars of more.
- _____ 8. Angelita could not understand why she felt so lonely until she realized that she had not talk with her friend for two days.
- _____ 9. The door on the barn swang back and forth in the violent windstorm.
- _____ 10. Chiseki had rode the bus all the way to the pool before he realized that he had left his swimming trunks at home.

Part 4 Following are ten correct sentences. The word or words in parentheses following each sentence are to be inserted at the place indicated by the caret (^). These added words will require a change in the sentence. Write this change on the line provided. [2 points each]

Example: My theme is the best written one^. (of the two)
better

- 1. He came closest to the truth ^. (than anyone else in the group) _____
- 2. The cake she baked tasted good ^. (than her sister's cake) _____

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3. Of the ^ singers, I enjoy Tracy Chapman most. (two) _____
4. During the dog show our Dalmatian looked nervous ^ (at the judge) _____
5. She was considered capable ^ (than her co-worker) _____
6. Today we went over the plans carefully ^ (than we had intended) _____
7. Mai performed well in the variety show ^ (than I did) _____
8. You left the party early ^ (than we did) _____
9. After getting a traffic ticket, Roberto drove slowly ^ (than before) _____
10. Of the ^ vocal solos entered in the contest, hers was the best. (two) _____

Part 5 Following are ten sets of expressions. One expression in each set contains an error in usage. Find the wrong expression; then write the expression correctly on the line provided. Base your answers on standard formal usage. [2 points each]

1. (a) as far as I can throw (b) cannot help but disagree (c) The effects were noticeable. _____
2. (a) a large amount of diamonds (b) He could hardly wait. (c) a credible witness _____
3. (a) have not gone anywheres (b) fewer students each year (c) accepted the invitation _____
4. (a) Immigrants adapt to new customs. (b) a notorious gangster (c) all the faster he could go _____
5. (a) They could have written. (b) Where is the game being played at? (c) discovered gold _____
6. (a) Bring your football, helmet, pads, etc. (b) did not affect the outcome (c) walked in the theater late _____
7. (a) a huge amount of gold (b) She was kind of lazy. (c) a famous politician _____
8. (a) Leave me go. (b) A number of parents were late. (c) She has no ticket. _____
9. (a) gave credible testimony (b) acted like they were older (c) these kinds of foods _____
10. (a) invented a gas-saving engine (b) It is quite a way from here. (c) We hadn't but a few minutes. _____