

PRETEST- ELA BASIC- PART I

COMPLETE SENTENCE

Directions: Read each of the following. Then choose the part to make a complete sentence.

1. Going down the road _____.
 - a. and whistling a happy tune
 - b. on the way to the city
 - c. I tripped and fell
 - d. a knapsack on her back
2. When the sun comes up, _____.
 - a. and the moon goes down
 - b. in my hometown
 - c. rising in the east
 - d. I get out of bed
3. Writing a letter to my grandmother _____.
 - a. and sitting at my desk
 - b. makes me feel happy
 - c. at my desk in my room
 - d. who lives in San Francisco
4. **Which should be separated into two sentences?**
 - a. For three years she has ridden horses of every breed and has won three trophies.
 - b. The rain fell so hard the streets were flooded then some traffic accidents occurred.
 - c. The best ground for a campsite is dry and level with a supply of water nearby.
 - d. William dribbled the ball down the court and successfully made a basket.
5. **Which should be separated into two sentences?**
 - a. During half time of the football game the band

played two songs while the song-leaders performed a new routine.

- b. I'd like you to meet Gene he is my best friend.
 - c. Turnips and artichokes are vegetables that some people have never tasted.
 - d. Although he enjoyed his trip to San Diego, he would have rather gone to San Jose.
6. **Which should be separated into two sentences?**
- a. Elephants, in general, do not enjoy peanuts as much as fruit.
 - b. Our mailman, Mr. Jackson, always puts our mail inside the screen door so we can find it easily.
 - c. Bob gave me a new watch for my birthday, do you like it?
 - d. Once upon a time in the land of Oz, a girl named Dorothy accidentally killed the wicked witch.

ORGANIZATION

Directions: Read each topic and the word groups below it. Choose the word group in which all of the words relate to the topic.

7. **Metals**
 - a. aluminum, brass, glass, gold
 - b. aluminum, copper, gold, silver
 - c. aluminum, bronze, copper, plastic
 - d. aluminum, stone, gold, silver
8. **Things to Read**
 - a. biography, diary, magazine, school

- b. biography, library, magazine, newspaper
- c. book, comics, dictionary, library
- d. book, comics, magazine, newspaper

9. Read the sentences in the box.

- 1. Eat the soup for lunch.
- 2. Open a can of chicken soup.
- 3. Heat the soup on the stove.
- 4. Add water or milk, salt, and pepper.

Which order of the sentences shows the correct sequence?

- a. 3, 1, 2, 4
- b. 2, 4, 3, 1
- c. 4, 1, 3, 2
- d. 1, 4, 3, 2

10. Read the sentences in the box.

- 1. Over one hundred people attended.
- 2. The music was recorded but well programmed.
- 3. Nearly everyone was dancing by the third song.
- 4. The disc jockey was about 25 years old.

Which sentence would be least important in a paragraph reporting on a school dance?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

11. Which of the following groups of words is arranged from most SPECIFIC to most GENERAL?

- a. female, actress, movie actress, Angelina Jolie
- b. Angelina Jolie, movie actress, actress, female
- c. Angelina Jolie, movie actress, female, actress
- d. female, movie actress, Angelina Jolie

12. Which is the most GENERAL topic?

- a. apple
- b. fruit
- c. food
- d. orange

13. Read the sentences in the box.

- 1. At noon, we had a picnic.
- 2. The sunset was beautiful.
- 3. All the way home we sang songs.
- 4. We had a great day at the beach.

If these sentences were part of a paragraph, which one would tell the MAIN IDEA?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

14. Read the sentences in the box.

- 1. You could see the tube through the rubber.
- 2. The tire was worn from skidding.
- 3. A thumbtack was stuck on the inside.
- 4. The tire was old.

If these sentences were part of a paragraph, which one would tell the MAIN IDEA?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. 4

15. Read the paragraph in the box.

(1) My sister, Mary, is teaching me how to pitch a softball. (2) First, I watch her throw the ball. (3) Mary is good at sports, but she doesn't get very good grades. (4) Then she watches me and helps me improve. (5) We practice over and over until I get better at throwing.

Which sentence does NOT belong in this paragraph?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. All the sentences belong in the paragraph.

16. Read the paragraph in the box.

(1) Sharon's mother uses shorthand and can write very quickly. (2) Shorthand is a system of writing that uses symbols that are quick to write for whole words. (3) Using shorthand, her mother can write everything that is said and never get behind. (4) Sharon doesn't like to write.

Which sentence does NOT belong in the paragraph?

- a. 1

GO ON TO NEXT PAGE.

MECHANICS

CAPITALIZATION

Directions: The letter in the box contains mistakes in CAPITALIZATION. Read the letter carefully, and answer the questions below.

495 Waveland ave.	1
Barstow, Ca 95301	2
Oct. 30, 1987	3
Dear Carlos,	4
How are you? How is everything going	5
there in Akron, Ohio? I miss all of you.	6
My new school has four floors. It's	7
called President Lincoln Elementary. My teacher's	8
name is mr. smith. He's a pretty good	9
guy for a teacher.	10
I also met governor Smith.	11
Your friend,	12
Robert	13

17. How many **mistakes** are on line 1?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes.

18. How many **mistakes** are on line 2?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes.

19. How many mistakes are on line 6?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes.

20. How many **mistakes** are on line 8?

- a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. No mistakes.

21. How many mistakes are on line 9?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. No mistakes.

22. How many mistakes are on line 11?

a. 1

b. 2

c. 3

d. No mistakes.

23. Read the letter in the box.

204 Park Street
Seaside, Oregon
May 12, 1977

Dear James,

I have two tickets to the baseball game next Friday. If you can spend the weekend with me, we will go to the game.

your friend,
Ricky

Which underlined word should be capitalized?

- a. tickets
- b. baseball
- c. your
- d. friend

24. Which greeting in a business letter is correct?

- a. Dear Ms. Jackson:
- b. dear ms. jackson:
- c. dear Ms. jackson:
- d. Dear Ms. jackson:

GO ON TO NEXT PAGE.

COMMAS/ENDMARKS

Directions: The letter in the box contains mistakes in PUNCTUATION. Read the letter carefully and answer the questions below.

43 Campus Dr.	1
Samson New Jersey	2
Aug 5 1987	3
Dear Margo,	4
How are you. I feel great, but	5
I've been busy tired, and nervous.	6
This is my first semester	7
here at Samson Community College.	8
I really like it. I moved into an	9
apartment with my new roommate	10
last Wed, Aug., 3 rd . Don't write	11
to my Lewis New Jersey address	12
We had to buy dishes, glasses,	13
and a broom?	14
Love,	
Sue	

25. How many **mistakes** are on line 2?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes.

26. How many **mistakes** are on line 3?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes.

27. How many **mistakes** are on line 5?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3

d. No mistakes.

28. How many **mistakes** are on line 6?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

29. How many **mistakes** are on line 11?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

30. How many **mistakes** are on line 12?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

31. How many **mistakes** are on line 13?

- a. 1
- b. 2

c. 3

d. No mistakes

32. How many **mistakes** are on line 14?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

APOSTROPHES

Directions: The note in the box contains mistakes in POSSESSIVES AND CONTRACTIONS. However, some apostrophes in possessives and contractions are correct. Read the entire letter carefully and answer the questions.

I've gone to the super market.	1
I'll also stop by the butcher s shop , and	2
I'll pick up Mom's order of chops	3
and some Wendy's baked potatoes for	4
tonight's dinner. We've already got	5
dessert. The carrots in the refrigerator	6
spoiled, so I'll get some more. Then	7
I'll stop by Sandys, so you can	8
call if you've discovered anything	9
else we need. We'll have time to	10
get everything ready before dinner time.	11

33. How many **mistakes** are on line 1?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

34. How many **mistakes** are on line 2?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No mistakes

35. Read lines **7 and 8**. How many POSSESSIVES are in these 2 lines?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No possessives

36. Read line **9**. How many POSSESSIVES are on **line 9**?

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3
- d. No possessives

37. How many **mistakes** are on **line 6**?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. No mistakes
38. How many **mistakes** are on **line 8**?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. No mistakes
39. How many **mistakes** are on **line 9**?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. No mistakes
40. How many **mistakes** are on **line 10**?
- a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. No mistakes

STOP.

PART II

Directions: Read each question carefully. When you have selected the correct answer to each question, fill in the space on your answer sheet that has the same letter as the answer you have chosen.

SUBJECT/PREDICATE

Directions: In the next two questions, choose the sentence that has the **COMPLETE SUBJECT** underlined.

1.
 - a. Mountains rose around the city.
 - b. Mountains rose around the city.
 - c. Mountains rose around the city.
 - d. Mountains rose around the city.
2.
 - a. The kitten feels soft.
 - b. The kitten feels soft.
 - c. The kitten feels soft.
 - d. The kitten feels soft.

Directions: In the next two questions, choose the sentence that has the **COMPLETE PREDICATE** underlined.

3.
 - a. Mike and several of his friends attended the showing.
 - b. Mike and several of his friends attended the showing.
 - c. Mike and several of his friends attended the showing.
 - d. Mike and several of his friends attended the showing.

4.
 - a. The best song leaders led the school song.
 - b. The best song leaders led the school song.
 - c. The best song leaders led the school song.
 - d. The best song leaders led the school song.

Directions: In the next two questions, which shows the subject and predicate divided correctly?

5.
 - a. The silver /Jaguar streaked by the crowd.
 - b. The silver Jaguar /streaked by the crowd.
 - c. The silver Jaguar streaked/ by the crowd.
 - d. The silver Jaguar streaked by/ the crowd.
6.
 - a. The spotted dog/ chased my cat.
 - b. The spotted/ dog chased my cat.
 - c. The spotted dog chased/ my cat.
 - d. The/ spotted dog chased my cat.

PARTS OF SPEECH/USAGE

7. Choose the prepositional phrase that FITS BEST in the following sentence:

They looked _____.

- a. into the problem
 - b. in the problem
 - c. about the problem
 - d. on the problem
8. Choose the prepositional phrase that BEST REPLACES the underlined words:

He found the snake in the box.

- a. on the box
 - b. into the box
 - c. within the box
 - d. in front of the box
9. Which is the MOST SPECIFIC NOUN to use in the following sentence?

The _____ was parked outside.

- a. car
 - b. thing
 - c. vehicle
 - d. convertible
10. Which is the MOST SPECIFIC NOUN to use in the following sentence?

Isaac received a(an) _____ to help him work on his school assignments.

- a. appliance
- b. machine
- c. Apple computer
- d. computer

11. Which pronoun CORRECTLY REPLACES the underlined words?

All answers were recorded in the back of the book.

- a. we
 - b. they
 - c. that
 - d. them
12. Which pronoun CORRECTLY REPLACES the underlined word?

Jane stopped to watch the end of the game.

- a. they
 - b. her
 - c. she
 - d. some
13. Read the sentence in the box.

I hurried so fast that I dropped my book on my toe; now I am in a cast and walk on crutches.

Choose the NON-ACTION (state-of-being) VERB in the sentence.

- a. hurried
 - b. dropped
 - c. am
 - d. walk
14. Choose the sentence which contains an ACTION VERB.
- a. Mother was sleepy after the huge meal.
 - b. Janet is nervous about her speech.
 - c. Evalyne received a bouquet of flowers.

- d. Curtis was not there yesterday.

15. Which is the MOST DESCRIPTIVE VERB to use in the following sentence?

The eggs _____ over the high heat.

- a. heated
- b. fried
- c. cooked
- d. sizzled

16. Which is the MOST DESCRIPTIVE VERB to use in the following sentence?

Randee _____ to a stop in front of the sign.

- a. came
- b. drove
- c. skidded
- d. slowed
- e.

17. Which conjunction CORRECTLY COMBINES these sentences?

Today I noticed my locket was missing. I was extremely upset.

- a. and
- b. either
- c. but
- d. or

18. Which conjunction CORRECTLY COMBINES these sentences?

I like donuts. I don't like candy.

- a. and
- b. nor
- c. or
- d. but

19. Which adjective FITS BEST in the following sentence?

John saw the _____ kite in the sky.

- a. colorful
- b. impolite
- c. brightly
- d. bad

20. Which adjective FITS BEST in the following sentence?

The _____ puppy sat quietly upon command.

- a. fun
- b. happily
- c. obedient
- d. old

21. Which adverb FITS BEST in the following sentence?

Bill walked _____ into the room.

- a. careful
- b. slow
- c. soon
- d. happily

22. Which adverb FITS BEST in the following sentence?

As she drifted off to sleep, her eyelids began to droop _____.

- a. up
- b. good
- c. heavily
- d. now

23. Choose the correct sentence.

- a. Were you on time for fifth period?
- b. Sue don't know all the words to that song.

- c. Have they went all to the games?
- d. When was you robbed?

24. Choose the correct sentence?

- a. Al and Jan talks too much.
- b. Hamburgers and hot dogs doesn't cost much.
- c. Is freshmen or seniors more popular?
- d. Students and teachers work together.

PART III

Directions: Read each question carefully. When you have selected the correct answer to each question, fill in the space on your answer sheet that has the same letter as the answer you have chosen.

Do not write in your test booklet.

READING COMPREHENSION

Directions: Read the selection in the box. Then answer the questions below.

Blue whales are awesome creatures, so large they stagger the imagination. With their massive bulk, blue whales are larger than any dinosaur that ever lived. These colossal mammals grow to 100 feet in length and weigh as much as thirty elephants. Their heart alone weighs 1,200 pounds, and a small child could crawl through some of the blue whales' larger arteries. Blue whales normally cruise at about six knots, twice as fast as a person walks. They have the capacity to go as fast as twenty knots and have been known to keep up with large ocean liners.

Blue whales, however, are not all brawn with no brains. These majestic sea creatures have highly developed minds capable of communication. Whales "sing" in eerie, high-pitched voices that can be heard by other whales over 180 miles away. The pattern of their songs changes seasonally and yearly. Scientists are just starting to understand their singing. Because they are rare and their world is hidden from man, the study of

is difficult.

Although whales have lived in the ocean's depths for millions of years, they may become extinct. This is the result of their senseless slaughter by commercial whaling fleets. Modern "killer ships"- really floating factories- use sonar, radar, helicopters, and high-powered weapons to do their grisly job. Whales are turned into perfume, oil, cosmetics, pet food, and fertilizer. Yet, substitutes exist for all these products. Whales continue to be exterminated only because the largest whaling nations, Russia and Japan, have so much money tied up in their whaling ships. Only pressure from many concerned citizens of the world can stop the senseless killing of whales. Will your voice be heard, or will your children have to be content with looking at pictures of these exquisite animals?

1. In writing the passage, the authors **main purpose** was to _____.
 - a. describe the whale's size
 - b. convince the reader that the whales must be saved

- c. inform the reader about the whale's singing abilities
 - d. provide details about commercial whaling
2. What is the **main idea** in the first paragraph of this reading selection?
- a. Blue whales are very intelligent.
 - b. We must act now to prevent the senseless slaughter of whales.
 - c. The number of whales is decreasing every year.
 - d. Blue whales are some of the largest animals that have ever lived.
3. In the reading selection, which of the following causes the study of whales to be difficult?
- a. Whales grow to 100 feet in length.
 - b. Whales are rare and hidden from man.
 - c. Whales sing in eerie, high-pitched voices.
 - d. Whales are intelligent.
4. Which of the following is an **opinion**?
- a. Whales are turned into perfume, oil, cosmetics, pet food, and fertilizer.
 - b. Their hearts alone weigh 1,200 pounds.
 - c. These mammals grow to 100 feet in length.
 - d. Only pressure from many concerned citizens of the world can stop the senseless killing of whales.
5. The author feels future generations may only see pictures of whales because_____.
- a. there will be no living whales left to observe.
 - b. people will lose interest in whale products
 - c. no one will be allowed near the whales
 - d. whales will return to the ocean's depths
6. The author feels that whales are _____.
- a. interesting and intelligent creatures
 - b. dangerous to ocean liners
 - c. of no value to man
 - d. large and clumsy animals
7. In this passage, the word colossal means _____.
- a. brave
 - b. nice
 - c. huge
 - d. strong

GO ON TO NEXT PAGE.

Directions: Read the passage in the box. Then answer the questions.

How polite should you be to a male mountain gorilla? Before you answer this question, consider his size. He may stand as tall as six feet, and weigh as much as four hundred and fifty pounds. Generally speaking, you'd be wise to respect his animal. So allow me to present a few rules of gorilla etiquette.

My first tip is simple. never approach a gorilla in an upright position. Instead, lower your body by bending forward at the waist. If you march right up to a gorilla, he'll consider it a threat. And that's something you want to avoid. As you near the gorilla, clear your throat twice. The first sound you make should be short and harsh. Follow that quickly with a gentler, longer sound. This noise, known as a DBV, is used by gorillas to signal a friendly approach.

It's rude to stare directly into a gorilla's eyes. Shift your eyes when you look in his direction. A gorilla's face reflects emotions just as yours does. A smile means he's happy, a frown means he's not. If he smiles, you may smile back, but don't show your teeth. That would threaten the mountain gorilla.

If, upon meeting the gorilla, you forget your manners, don't panic. Your chances of being attacked are small. The mountain gorilla can be very gentle, especially when given his due respect.

8. What was the author's **main purpose** in writing the passage?
 - a. The author wanted to entertain the reader with a story about gorillas.
 - b. The author wanted to persuade the reader to join the wildlife organization protecting gorillas.
 - c. The author wanted to inform the reader of the dangers that now threaten the mountain gorilla.
 - d. The author wanted to inform he reader about communicating with a gorilla.

9. What is the **main idea** of the passage?
 - a. Certain behaviors are commonly seen among mountain gorillas.
 - b. The mountain gorilla is a very social animal.
 - c. There is a certain way to behave when meeting a mountain gorilla.
 - d. Threatening actions have often provoked attacks by mountain gorillas.

10. Which of the following statements is an **opinion**?
 - a. The first sound of a DBV is short and harsh.
 - b. The mountain gorilla is an entertaining animal.
 - c. The DBV is used to signal nonthreatening movement.
 - d. The mountain gorilla may stand as tall as six feet.

11. Clearing your throat twice when giving a DBV is helpful because ____.
- a. the sound frightens the gorilla into leaving you alone
 - b. the sound tells the gorilla you are alone
 - c. the sound is part of the language used by gorillas
 - d. the sound hides the panic in your voice

12. To a mountain gorilla, how is a DBV **different** from a toothy smile?
- a. A DBV is friendly.
 - b. A DBV is impolite.
 - c. A DBV is dangerous.
 - d. A DBV is threatening.

13. Which of the following causes a gorilla to feel threatened?
- a. Shifting eyes back and forth.
 - b. Giving a DBV.
 - c. Facing him with a toothy smile.
 - d. Lowering your posture to his level.

14. In this passage, the word etiquette means ____.
- a. anger
 - b. proper behavior
 - c. sounds to make
 - d. play

VOCABULARY

15. Read the sentence in the box. Then decide the meaning of the underlined word.

I have always like deciduous trees because they allow sun to filter through in the winter months.

If the prefix de means “away from,” deciduous probably means:

- a. away from winter
- b. trees that lose their leaves in winter
- c. trees that keep their leaves in winter
- d. straying from the sun

16. Choose the correct meaning for the prefix in the following words:

subway, submarine, submerge.

- a. under
- b. water
- c. duck
- d. train

17. Which suffix would you add to the word beauty to form a word that means “full of beauty”?

- a. very
- b. ful
- c. ness
- d. ly

18. Pleasantly ends with a suffix. What meaning does the suffix add to the base word?

- a. opposite of pleasant
- b. not pleasant
- c. one who is pleasant
- d. in a pleasant way

19. Choose the root (base) word of development.

- a. develop
- b. elope
- c. envelope
- d. ment

20. Choose the root word of unthoughtful.

- a. ought
- b. unthought
- c. thought

d. thoughtful

21. Choose the connotation of the word white.

- a. opposite of black
- b. pure, good
- c. the lightest color/shade
- d. a combination of all colors

22. Choose the denotation of the word shark.

- a. a large fish with a big fin
- b. mean; hungry
- c. bad
- d. searching for people to eat

STOP.

Pretest Key—Part I

1.	C	Correct fragments
2.	D	
3.	B	
4.	B	
5.	B	Run-ons
6.	C	
7.	B	Categorize
8.	D	
9.	B	
10.	D	Sequencing
11.	B	
12.	C	Main idea
13.	D	
14.	D	
15.	C	
16.	D	
17.	A	Punctuation
18.	A	Capitalization
19.	D	
20.	D	
21.	B	
22.	A	
23.	C	Commas & periods
24.	A	
25.	A	
26.	B	
27.	A	
28.	A	
29.	A	
30.	B	
31.	D	
32.	A	
33.	A	Contractions
34.	A	Possessives
35.	A	
36.	D	
37.	D	
38.	A	
39.	D	
40.	D	

Pretest Key—Part II

1.	D	Subject/predicate
2.	B	
3.	C	
4.	D	
5.	B	
6.	A	
7.	A	Usage
8.	C	
9.	D	Parts of speech
10.	C	
11.	B	
12.	C	
13.	C	
14.	C	
15.	D	
16.	C	
17.	A	
18.	D	
19.	A	
20.	C	
21.	D	
22.	C	Subject /verb agreement
23.	A	
24.	D	

Pretest Key Part III

1.	B	Reading
2.	D	
3.	B	
4.	D	
5.	A	
6.	A	
7.	C	
8.	D	
9.	C	
10.	B	
11.	C	
12.	A	
13.	C	
14.	B	
15.	B	Vocabulary
16.	A	
17.	B	
18.	D	
19.	A	
20.	C	
21.	B	Connotation
22.	A	Denotation