

STEPS IN COMPOSITION DIAGNOSTIC TEST FOR WRITERS

Form A

You are about to take a test of English skills. The test contains 75 items, each with four possible answers. Select the best answer and mark the appropriate place on your answer sheet.

The test is divided into three sections: I. spelling, plurals, capital letters, and punctuation; II. verbs and pronouns; and III. sentence structure, sentence punctuation, and clarity. Read the directions carefully before starting each section. You will have a total of 45 minutes. Do not spend too much time on any single question. If you do not know the answer, move on to the next question; remember to leave a blank line on your answer sheet.

- I. Each of questions 1 through 35 contains an error in one of the underlined sections. The errors are in spelling, plurals, capital letters, and punctuation. Fill in the blank on your answer sheet that corresponds to the section of the sentence containing the error.

Example: As his whole family looked on with pride, the ninty-year-old man used most of his
 (A) (B) (C)
strength to blow out the candles on his birthday cake.
 (D)

1. If your ever in Washington, D.C., you should be sure to visit the Capitol building and the
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
 White House.
2. I don't know whether that pair of sunglass is actually worth \$500.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
3. Serving on jury duty wont make you rich, but it will help you become familiar with this country's
 (A) (B) (C)
 justice system.
 (D)

4. Using X-ray equipment to examine luggage, airport security officers try to ensure passengers'
safety.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
5. After studying hard for several months, my teacher passed the test to become a High School
principal.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
6. A careless remark can definitely cause a serious arguement.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
7. Many fast foods contain chemical preservatives, large amounts of fat, and too much salt.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
8. According to the city's investigation, the supermarket's cieling collapsed from the weight of the
snow that had collected on the roof.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
9. The Voyager II space probe first passed the Moon on its way to explore Neptune.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
10. A good dictionary should state the definition of the word, indicate its pronunciation, and give
 possible synonyms, and antonyms.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
11. The Wilson's could'nt control their spending habits, so they destroyed their credit cards.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
12. Unskilled workers and people without college degree probably receive lower salaries than college
graduates do.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
13. You may be able to improve your test score if you don't spend to much time on any one item.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

14. Lucy and her husband weren't able to settle their personal problems, so they decided to separate.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
15. Jim was horrified when his beautiful new sports car was totally destroyed in an accident.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
16. Most citizens are angry that the members of congress have voted to give themselves large pay raises.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
17. The Rugby Theater, which was built in 1934, was recently divided into four small theaters, each equipped with comfortable seats and an excellent sound system.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
18. If the Governor refuses to accept the prisoners demands, the inmates will not release the guard who is being held hostage.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
19. Each of the union's member must pay twenty dollars in dues each month.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
20. I do not allow my young children to see most of Sylvester Stallone's movies because their usually filled with violence.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
21. The Parkers are all ready to open their new restaurant at 2160 Belmont Drive, Baltimore, Maryland, 21218.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
22. Although registering for college can be a frustrating experience, its an opportunity for students to take responsibility for their education.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

23. The saleswoman explained that a two-year guarantee is offered with a few of the store's most expensive computer.
 (A) (B) (C)
 (D)
24. The effects of the womens' liberation movement can be seen in the home, the business world, and the political organizations that help run the country.
 (A) (B) (C)
 (D)
25. When you want to get rid of hiccups, you should breathe into a paper bag, for at least a minute.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
26. Some airlines are offering lower fares to those who can travel on a tuesday and return within thirty days.
 (A) (B) (C)
 (D)
27. Even though this community has a leash law, my neighbor's dogs are always runing loose in the streets.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
28. The geese fly south in November, and return when spring brings milder temperatures.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
29. The weather in the Northeast is much milder then it has been for quite some time.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
30. The game show contestant was permitted to choose any one of the prize on the stage.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
31. The brides wedding gown was similar to the one worn by Princess Diana, of Great Britain.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
32. To help prevent my car from being stolen, I park it on a busy, well lighted street, that is a few blocks from my home.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

33. The label on the bottle of kraft salad dressing lists such strange sounding ingredients as xanthan
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
 gum, propylene glycol, and apocarotenal.

34. Although some scientists claim it is all right to use animals in medical experiments, other experts
 (A) (B) (C)
 say that much of this research is unnecessary.
 (D)

35. The students who register for Professor Bergman's physics class, had better be very intelligent.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

II. Each of questions 36 through 55 contains a verb or pronoun error. Fill in the blank on your answer sheet that corresponds to the section of each sentence containing the error.

36. Johnson & Johnson manufacture disposable contact lenses that are supposed to be thrown away
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
 after thirty days of use.

37. Your singing has given my friend and I the worst headaches we have ever had.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

38. Our vacation was spoiled when our use car broke down in the middle of a deserted mining town.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

39. The judge, as well as the jurors, was surprised when the murder suspect exclaimed, "I confess! I
 (A) (B) (C)
done it!"
 (D)

40. My evening was ruined when I found out that only one of my friends makes less money than me.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

41. The bookstore manager put out the fire himself before it damaged the carton of rare books that were stored in the basement.
(A) (B)
(C) (D)
42. The baby sitter whom our friends recommended has began working for us.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
43. We almost drowned when our boat sank, so now we are too scare to buy ourselves a new one.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
44. We workers are prepared to welcome whoever the boss hires for this important position.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
45. There is not enough qualified foster parents to take care of all of the children who need a good home.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
46. After walking the beat all night, the tired police officers try to exercise at the gym, but they could not work out for more than a few minutes.
(A) (B) (C)
(D)
47. Our physical education teacher impressed us students when he bragged that he had swam the English Channel and driven in the Indianapolis 500.
(A) (B) (C)
(D)
48. Because the number of street crimes has risen sharply recently, everyone is worried about you walking home alone at 2 A.M.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
49. Just between you and me, these are the worst mashed potatoes that my wife and I have ever ate.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
50. After the flock of pigeons has finish eating the bread crumbs, the old woman will sprinkle some cracked bird seed on the ground.
(A) (B) (C)
(D)

51. The bride chose an old-fashioned wedding gown because she don't like the way today's clothing styles look on her.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
52. Him and his father have come to help me rescue the frightened cat that is trapped in the sewer.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
53. Until Sally finished the race, she did not realized that she had run faster than I.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
54. She and her sister must have grown at least six inches since I seen them last year.
 (A) (B) (C) (D)
55. Does this college provide tutoring for students who needs help with their studies?
 (A) (B) (C) (D)

III. Now you will work on correct sentence structure, sentence punctuation, and clarity. In questions 56 through 75, part of each item is underlined. Immediately following are four ways of writing the underlined part. Choose the best one. Choice A repeats what is underlined; choose it if the original needs no revision. Fill in the appropriate letter on your answer sheet.

Example: Pets are good for our health. When we are playing with a dog or cat. We relax and forget our worries. As a result, our blood pressure usually declines.

- A. Pets are good for our health. When we are playing with a dog or cat. We relax and forget our worries.
- B. Pets are good for our health, when we are playing with a dog or cat, we relax and forget our worries.
- C. **Pets are good for our health. When we are playing with a dog or cat, we relax and forget our worries.**
- D. Pets are good for our health, and when we are playing with a dog or cat. We relax and forget our worries.
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56. Playing on the front lawn, the children's clothing got covered with grass stains.

- A. Playing on the front lawn, the children's clothing got covered with grass stains.
- B. The children's clothing got covered with grass stains, playing on the front lawn.
- C. The children's clothing, playing on the front lawn, got covered with grass stains.
- D. Playing on the front lawn, the children got their clothing covered with grass stains.

57. For the last several years, the television networks have been losing viewers. This has occurred because many people are renting videocassettes or watching cable television stations.

- A. networks have been losing viewers. This has occurred because many people are renting videocassettes or watching cable television stations.
- B. networks have been losing viewers, this has occurred because many people are renting videocassettes or watching cable television stations.
- C. networks have been losing viewers. This has occurred because many people are renting videocassettes. Or watching cable television stations.
- D. networks have been losing viewers this has occurred because many people are renting videocassettes or watching cable television stations.

58. Because ticks are spreading Lyme disease in many parts of the country. Hikers should use a spray that protects against the insects and should wear long pants that are tucked into high boots.

- A. Because ticks are spreading Lyme disease in many parts of the country. Hikers should use a spray that protects against the insects and should wear long pants that are tucked into high boots.
- B. Because ticks are spreading Lyme disease in many parts of the country. Hikers should use a spray that protects against the insects. And should wear long pants that are tucked into high boots.
- C. Because ticks are spreading Lyme disease in many parts of the country, hikers should use a spray that protects against the insects and should wear long pants that are tucked into high boots.
- D. Because ticks are spreading Lyme disease in many parts of the country, hikers should use a spray that protects against the insects. And should wear long pants that are tucked into high boots.

59. My father is a dentist, but I am not interested in it.

- A. My father is a dentist, but I am not interested in it.
- B. My father is a dentist, but I am not interested in becoming one.
- C. Although my father is a dentist, I am not interested in it.
- D. My father practices dentistry, but I am not interested in becoming one.

60. Most people do not realize how demanding a professional dancer's life is. For example, you must practice for several hours each day to keep yourself in shape.
- A. you must practice for several hours each day to keep yourself in shape.
 - B. for several hours each day, you must practice to keep yourself in shape.
 - C. a dancer must practice for several hours each day to keep yourself in shape.
 - D. a dancer must practice for several hours each day to keep in shape.
61. According to the Surgeon General of the United States. People can greatly reduce their chances of having a heart attack if they stop smoking and eat fewer fatty foods.
- A. According to the Surgeon General of the United States. People can greatly reduce their chances of having a heart attack if they stop smoking and eat fewer fatty foods.
 - B. According to the Surgeon General of the United States, people can greatly reduce their chances of having a heart attack if they stop smoking and eat fewer fatty foods.
 - C. According to the Surgeon General of the United States, people can greatly reduce their chances of having a heart attack. If they stop smoking and eat fewer fatty foods.
 - D. According to the Surgeon General of the United States. People can greatly reduce their chances of having a heart attack. If they stop smoking and eat fewer fatty foods.
62. Cleaning up litter costs taxpayers millions of dollars each year, therefore, be sure to put candy wrappers and empty cigarette packs in trash baskets.
- A. each year, therefore, be sure to put candy wrappers
 - B. each year therefore be sure to put candy wrappers
 - C. each year; therefore, be sure to put candy wrappers
 - D. each year, therefore; be sure to put candy wrappers
63. While eating a slice of pizza, a small stone in the sauce broke my front tooth.
- A. While eating a slice of pizza, a small stone in the sauce broke my front tooth.
 - B. While I was eating a slice of pizza, a small stone in the sauce broke my front tooth.
 - C. While eating a slice of pizza, my front tooth was broken by a small stone in the sauce.
 - D. A small stone in the sauce broke my front tooth while eating a slice of pizza.
64. Ellen Carroll lived a much longer life than most people do she was over 115 years old when she died in Canada in 1943.
- A. most people do she was over 115 years old when she died in Canada in 1943.
 - B. most people do, she was over 115 years old when she died in Canada in 1943.
 - C. most people do. She was over 115 years old. When she died in Canada in 1943.
 - D. most people do. She was over 115 years old when she died in Canada in 1943.

65. The young couple announced their engagement at the New Year's Eve party which delighted everyone.

- A. The young couple announced their engagement at the New Year's Eve party which delighted everyone.
- B. The young couple, which delighted everyone, announced their engagement at the New Year's Eve party.
- C. Everyone was delighted when the young couple announced their engagement at the New Year's Eve party.
- D. Everyone was delighted at the New Year's Eve party, and the young couple announced their engagement.

66. The doctor treated the woman who had burned her hand in her oven carefully.

- A. The doctor treated the woman who had burned her hand in her oven carefully.
- B. The doctor carefully treated the woman who had burned her hand in her oven.
- C. The doctor treated the woman who had carefully burned her hand in her oven.
- D. The doctor treated the woman who had burned her hand carefully in her oven.

67. After her husband died, Helen moved to another city. To be close to her married daughter.

- A. After her husband died, Helen moved to another city. To be close to her married daughter.
- B. After her husband died. Helen moved to another city. To be close to her married daughter.
- C. After her husband died. Helen moved to another city to be close to her married daughter.
- D. After her husband died, Helen moved to another city to be close to her married daughter.

68. Professor Moore's English class is fun because he has a good sense of humor.

- A. Professor Moore's English class is fun because he has a good sense of humor.
- B. Because he has a good sense of humor, Professor Moore's English class is fun.
- C. Because Professor Moore has a good sense of humor, his English class is fun.
- D. Professor Moore's English class is fun since he has a good sense of humor.

69. Motorcycles are dangerous to ride. People only wearing helmets should be allowed to ride them.

- A. People only wearing helmets should be allowed to ride them.
- B. Only people wearing helmets should be allowed to ride them.
- C. People wearing only helmets should be allowed to ride them.
- D. People wearing helmets only should be allowed to ride them.

70. Before starting my first semester of college. I worked for a year so that I would be able to pay the tuition.
- A. Before starting my first semester of college. I worked for a year so that I would be able to pay the tuition.
 - B. Before starting my first semester of college. I worked for a year. So that I would be able to pay the tuition.
 - C. Before starting my first semester of college, I worked for a year. So that I would be able to pay the tuition.
 - D. Before starting my first semester of college, I worked for a year so that I would be able to pay the tuition.
71. The government publishes a list of many of our country's most unusual events, one of the strangest is the Ice Worm Festival held each February in Cordova, Alaska.
- A. unusual events, one of the strangest is the Ice Worm Festival held each February in Cordova, Alaska.
 - B. unusual events one of the strangest is the Ice Worm Festival held each February in Cordova, Alaska.
 - C. unusual events. One of the strangest is the Ice Worm Festival held each February in Cordova, Alaska.
 - D. unusual events. One of the strangest is the Ice Worm Festival. Held each February in Cordova, Alaska.
72. When Rita and her sister went shopping yesterday, she discovered that her wallet was missing.
- A. When Rita and her sister went shopping yesterday, she discovered that her wallet was missing.
 - B. When Rita and her sister Susan went shopping yesterday, she discovered that her wallet was missing.
 - C. Rita and her sister went shopping yesterday, and she discovered that her wallet was missing.
 - D. Rita discovered that her wallet was missing when she and her sister went shopping yesterday.
73. To lose weight permanently, only small portions of fattening foods should be eaten.
- A. To lose weight permanently, only small portions of fattening foods should be eaten.
 - B. To lose weight permanently, dieters should eat only small portions of fattening foods.
 - C. To lose weight permanently, fattening foods should be eaten only in small portions.
 - D. To lose weight permanently, a person's diet should contain only small portions of fattening foods.
74. Plants seem to respond favorably to soothing music, for example, music that is piped into some corn fields makes the plants grow faster and bigger.
- A. soothing music, for example, music that is piped
 - B. soothing music for example music that is piped
 - C. soothing music; for example, music that is piped
 - D. soothing music, for example; music that is piped

75. While attending a theater performance on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Who was killed in a shootout twelve days later.

- A. While attending a theater performance on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Who was killed in a shootout twelve days later.
- B. While attending a theater performance on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth. Who was killed in a shootout twelve days later.
- C. While attending a theater performance on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, who was killed in a shootout twelve days later.
- D. While attending a theater performance on April 14, 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth, who was killed in a shootout twelve days later.