

Name: _____

Date: _____

1.

What is the correct way to write the sentence below?

Phillis Wheatley, a famous poet of the 18th century once wrote a poem dedicated to George Washington.

- A. Phillis Wheatley a famous poet of the 18th century, once wrote a poem dedicated to George Washington.
 - B. Phillis Wheatley, a famous poet of the 18th century, once wrote a poem dedicated to George Washington.
 - C. Phillis Wheatley, a famous poet of the 18th century, once wrote a poem, dedicated to George Washington.
 - D. Leave as is.
-

2. How should the sentence below be changed to correct the problem of capitalization?

Our high school has a brilliant Norwegian exchange student who has signed up for chemistry III.

- A. use a capital *H* and *S* in *high school*
 - B. use a lowercase *n* in *Norwegian*
 - C. use a capital *E* and *S* in *exchange student*
 - D. use a capital *C* in *chemistry*
-

3. How should the sentence below BEST be revised?

It's supposed to rain the rest of the day, we've already had several inches.

- A. It's supposed to rain the rest of the day; we've already had several inches.
 - B. It's supposed to rain the rest of the day we've already had several inches.
 - C. It's supposed to rain the rest of the day. Having already rained several inches.
 - D. It's supposed to rain, the rest of the day we've already had several inches.
-

4.

In a little time I made great proficiency in the business and became a useful hand to my brother.

As used in the above sentence, the phrase *made great proficiency* means

- A. became skillful.
 - B. gained wealth.
 - C. created works of art.
 - D. learned manners.
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Flying Without Wings

By C.F. Holder

1. As I write, there is a curious little brown-eyed creature darting around about me in the trees. Now, spread out like a parachute, it springs in the air, coming down lightly, only to dart to some other elevation, thence to repeat its antics again and again.
2. As you must by this time suspect, this creature is a flying-squirrel one of the familiar examples of a large number of animals that can move through the air without wings. If we closely examine this pretty little creature, we find that between the fore and hind legs there is an expansion of the skin, which, when the legs are spread out, offers a decided resistance to the air and buoys the animal up exactly as though it carried a parachute. When in mid-air, notice how careful it is to hold its feet and hands out as far as possible, to catch all the air it can. If we look closely, we shall find attached to each of the hands a delicate bone, which, when the squirrel is in flight act as booms for the curious sail in front.
3. But it is in the woods, in their native haunts, that these beautiful animals make their most wonderful leaps. From the tops of the tallest trees they launch themselves fearlessly into the air, coming down with a graceful swoop for a hundred feet or more; then, by a movement of the head, changing their course to an upward one, they rise ten or twelve feet, and finally alight upon the tree of their choice. They immediately scramble to the top to soar away into the air, thus traveling through the woods from tree to tree much faster than you can follow them. How alike they are to birds, building nests for their young, and moving through the air with almost equal freedom!
4. One of the most curious of this family is the sugar-squirrel a beautiful creature, with large, curling ears of a delicate ash-color above and white beneath. Like many squirrels, it is a nocturnal or night animal, lying concealed in its nest in some hollow tree until the sun disappears, when it comes out, and spends the night in wonderful leaps from tree to tree, in search of food and perhaps amusement. When descending from a great height, it seems as though they must inevitably dash headlong against the ground, so precipitate is their flight; but this never happens. That they are able to change the direction of their flight while in mid-air seems a very natural and reasonable supposition, though only on one occasion has the accomplishment of this feat been observed.
5. In the forests of the islands constituting the Indian Archipelago is found a curious flying animal that resembles the lemur and the bat. The natives call it the colugo, and also the "flying-fox." Like bats, these animals sleep in the day-time, hanging from the limbs and branches of trees, head downward; but as evening

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comes on, they sally forth, often doing great harm to the fruit on the neighboring plantations. In some parts of Java they are so numerous that it is found necessary to protect the fruit-trees with huge nets. The extent of their flights through the air is something astonishing. They sometimes drop to the ground and hop along with a shuffling kind of leap, but if they are alarmed, they spring to the nearest tree and in a moment reach its top by a series of bounds. Out upon the branches they dart, and with a rush are off into space. Sailing through the air like some great bird, down they go obliquely, swift as an arrow, a hundred and fifty feet or more, rising again in a graceful curve and alighting safely on a distant tree. In these great leaps they carry their young, which cling to them, or sometimes follow them in their headlong flight, uttering hoarse and piercing cries. The colugos live almost exclusively on fruit, preferring plantains and the young and tender leaves of the cocoa-palm. The flying-lemurs are perfectly harmless. They have lovely dark eyes and very intelligent and knowing faces.

6. So the next time you are out in the woods, look closely at the animal flying overhead. You may be surprised at what you see.

5. The author describes the colugo by

A. defining it through technical terms.

B. comparing it to similar animals.

C. focusing on its natural habitat.

D. explaining the extent of its activities.

6.

Sailing through the air like some great bird, down they go obliquely, swift as an arrow...

In this excerpt, *obliquely* MOST nearly means

A. awkwardly.

B. upwardly.

C. slantingly.

D. haltingly.

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7. In the first paragraph, why does the author compare the flying-squirrel to a parachute?

- A. to show how flexible the animal is in the air
 - B. to illustrate how the animal moves through the air
 - C. to explain the forces that allow the animal to fly
 - D. to describe the grace that the animal displays
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8. In the third sentence in Paragraph 4, the word *precipitate* means

- A. smooth.
 - B. hushed.
 - C. reckless.
 - D. awesome.
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9. Which sentence is too formal to be included in a note thanking someone for a present?

- A. I'll have no trouble finding a spot for the framed picture you gave me.
 - B. How did you know that I liked works by American poets?
 - C. The decision to send me a token of your affection is appreciated.
 - D. It's always nice to be remembered in a thoughtful way.
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10. Which topic has a limited enough scope for writing a research report?

- A. the history of machines
 - B. the effects of industry on the Hudson River
 - C. the effects of automation on international industry
 - D. the products made from plastic
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11. Irene is writing a paper on the origins of the modern sport of bowling. She has just read this passage and copied this note:

Today we think of bowling as an indoor sport, but one other variant that was very popular was "lawn bowling." Lawn bowling was played outside on long, level strips of grassy land. Lawn bowling was so popular that many cities established public "bowling greens" for the sport.

For Irene's research on the origins of bowling, which source would be the MOST helpful?

- A. an article about popular sports
 - B. a book about the history of sports
 - C. an advertisement for a new bowling alley
 - D. an interview with the owner of a bowling alley
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12. Which Internet site would have the BEST information for a research paper on the life of the author John Steinbeck?

- A. John Steinbeck: The Making of a Writer
 - B. A Bibliography of John Steinbeck's Work
 - C. *The Grapes of Wrath*, a novel by John Steinbeck
 - D. My Memories of Steinbeck
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13. Ramone wrote the following paragraph. Use it to answer the next question.

1)Yesterday morning I visited the Book Exchange, my favorite used bookstore. 2)I wandered from floor to floor, as I often do, searching for bargain books. 3)Finally, on the second floor, in a dusty nook at the back, I found three mystery novels on sale. 4)After browsing for a long time, I purchased all three of the second-hand mystery novels. 5)I'd have purchased more if I hadn't run out of money (must be time for that summer job). 6)Leaving the store, I was surprised by the intensity of the heat. 7)Could it already be early afternoon? 8)I glanced at my watch and, sure enough, it was nearly 2:00. 9)I didn't mind, though. 10)Those two hours—or was it three?—couldn't have been better spent.

Which sentence would BEST fit after sentence 3?

- A. They are part of the popular series I've been reading for years.
- B. I may ask Mr. Owens for a job at his grocery store.
- C. The air conditioning was turned down too low.
- D. The Book Exchange opens around 9:00 on the weekends.

14. Audrey is researching the annual rainfalls of major U.S. cities. Which source is the MOST appropriate for her search?

- A. thesaurus
- B. dictionary
- C. atlas
- D. almanac

Answer Key

1. B) Phillis Wheatley, a famous poet of the 18th century, once wrote a poem dedicated to George Washington.
2. D) use a capital *C* in *chemistry*
3. A) It's supposed to rain the rest of the day; we've already had several inches.
4. A) became skillful.
5. B) comparing it to similar animals.
6. C) slantingly.
7. B) to illustrate how the animal moves through the air
8. C) reckless.
9. C) The decision to send me a token of your affection is appreciated.
10. B) the effects of industry on the Hudson River
11. B) a book about the history of sports
12. A) John Steinbeck: The Making of a Writer
13. A) They are part of the popular series I've been reading for years.
14. D) almanac