

Compass Writing Samples

The only purpose of this study guide is to give you an overview of the type of writing skills needed to successfully complete the Compass writing assessment. The Study Guide is not intended to adequately prepare you for the Compass Test.

Choose the best answer to each question that follows.

Questions 1-9 refer to the following passage.

(1) Most fire-related death's result from household fires, yet many people do not have fire extinguishers in their homes. (2) There is smoke detectors in many homes to warn residents of a fire, but fire extinguishers can actually help people fight fires. (3) In most cases, everyone should evacuate a home when a fire has started or the smoke alarm sounds. (4) Someone outside the home should call the fire department. (5) However, if a fire extinguisher is handy, a quick-thinking person often can use them to put out a small fire. (6) There are several types of fire extinguishers on the market, and each are suitable for particular types of fire. (7) Most extinguishers come with instructions, they are very easy to operate. (8) Fire departments may be contacted for training in operating extinguishers. (9) A person should keep in mind some basic safety rules when you are deciding whether or not to use a fire extinguisher. (10) Buying a fire extinguisher knowing how to use it, and placing it in a location familiar to all family members can help protect families against fire.

1. Sentence 1: **Most fire-related death's result from household fires, yet many people do not have fire extinguishers in their homes.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *death's* with *deaths*
- (2) change *result* to *results*
- (3) remove the comma after *fires*
- (4) change *have* to *has*
- (5) replace *their* with *there*

2. Sentence 2: **There is smoke detectors in many homes to warn residents of a fire, but fire extinguishers can actually help people fight fires.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) There is
- (2) Their is
- (3) They're is
- (4) There are
- (5) Their are

3. Sentences 3 and 4: **In most cases, everyone should evacuate a home when a fire has started or the smoke alarm sounds. Someone outside the home should call the fire department.**

The most effective combination of sentences 3 and 4 would contain which of the following groups of words?

- (1) sounds, and someone
- (2) sounds and call
- (3) sounds, or someone
- (4) sounds unless someone
- (5) sounds and should call

4. Sentence 5: **However, if a fire extinguisher is handy, a quick-thinking person often can use them to put out a small fire.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) them
- (2) him
- (3) it
- (4) they
- (5) theirs

5. Sentence 6: **There are several types of fire extinguishers on the market, and each are suitable for particular types of fire.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *There are* with *There is*
- (2) remove the comma after *market*
- (3) replace *and* with *or*
- (4) replace *each are* with *each is*
- (5) change the spelling of *particular* to *particuler*

6. Sentence 7: **Most extinguishers come with instructions, they are very easy to operate.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) instructions, they are
- (2) instructions and are
- (3) instructions, are
- (4) instructions and they are
- (5) instructions; and are

7. Sentence 8: **Fire departments may be contacted for training in operating extinguishers.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *departments* with *Departments*
- (2) replace *may be* with *were*
- (3) change the spelling of *operating* to *opperating*
- (4) replace *departments* with *department's*
- (5) no correction is necessary

8. Sentence 9: **A person should keep in mind some basic safety rules when you are deciding whether or not to use a fire extinguisher.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) rules when you are deciding
- (2) rules when deciding
- (3) rules you decide
- (4) rules when you decided
- (5) rules. You are deciding

9. Sentence 10: **Buying a fire extinguisher knowing how to use it, and placing it in a location familiar to all family members can help protect families against fire.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) insert a comma after *extinguisher*
- (2) change *placing* to *place*
- (3) replace *members* with *member's*
- (4) insert a comma after *help*
- (5) change the spelling of *families* to *familys*

Questions 10-19 refer to the following passage.

(1) A European concept in overnight lodging known as “bed and breakfast” is becoming popular in the United States. (2) Private citizens act as hosts and rent out spare bedrooms in their homes. (3) The hosts provide a home-cooked breakfast and a bedroom appropriately designed to offer their guests privacy in a cozy setting. (4) While most American travelers expect to find lodging in a hotel or motel, the recent popularity of bed and breakfasts offer a new alternative to travelers. (5) Staying in a private home offers travelers a more personal atmosphere; as a result, they feel pampered and enjoy visiting with the hosts. (6) Saying that they feel safer and like being treated as guests, the bed and breakfast hosts make them feel at home. (7) Travelers can learn much about the history and people of the local area; for example, visitors currently stayed on Wisconsin dairy farms and in restored log cabins in Kentucky. (8) If travelers cannot afford a long trip, they can still enjoy a peaceful getaway weekend as houseguests. (9) The hosts also benefit from running such a business because they can stay at home, make money, and meet a variety of people. (10) Most State tourism departments and some travel agencies have bed and breakfast listings.

10. Sentence 1: **A European concept in overnight lodging known as “bed and breakfast” is becoming popular in the United States.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *European* to *European*
- (2) replace *known* with *is known*
- (3) replace *is* with *are*
- (4) replace *States* with *states*
- (5) no correction is necessary

11. Sentence 2: **Private citizens act as hosts and rent out spare bedrooms in their homes.**

What corrections should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *citizens* with *citizen's*
- (2) change *act* to *acted*
- (3) change *rent* to *renting*
- (4) add a comma after *hosts*
- (5) replace *there* with *their*

12. Sentence 3: **The hosts provide a home-cooked breakfast and a bedroom appropriately designed to offer their guests privacy in a cozy setting.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *provide* to *provides*
- (2) insert a comma after *breakfast*
- (3) change the spelling of *appropriatly* to *appropriately*
- (4) replace *designed* with *design*
- (5) no correction is necessary

13. Sentence 4: **While most American travelers expect to find lodging in a hotel or motel, the recent popularity of bed and breakfasts offer a new alternative to travelers.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *expect* to *expects*
- (2) remove the comma after *motel*
- (3) change *offer* to *offers*
- (4) replace *new* with *knew*
- (5) replace *to* with *too*

14. Sentence 5: **Staying in a private home offers travelers a more personal atmosphere; as a result, they feel pampered and enjoy visiting with the hosts.**

If you rewrote sentence 5 beginning with: *Because staying in a private home offers travelers a more personal atmosphere*, the next word would be

- (1) as
- (2) feeling
- (3) hosts
- (4) they
- (5) the

15. Sentence 6: **Saying that they feel safer and like being treated as guests, the bed and breakfast hosts make them feel at home.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) the bed and breakfast hosts make them feel at home.
- (2) feeling at home with the bed and breakfast hosts.
- (3) the bed and breakfast hosts feel at home with travelers.
- (4) are the bed and breakfast hosts feeling at home.
- (5) the travelers feel at home with the bed and breakfast hosts.

16. Sentence 7: **Travelers can learn much about the history and people of the local area; for example, visitors currently stayed on Wisconsin dairy farms and in restored log cabins in Kentucky.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *can* with *did*
- (2) remove the comma after *example*
- (3) replace *stayed* with *can stay*
- (4) add a comma after *farms*
- (5) no correction necessary

17. Sentence 8: **If travelers cannot afford a long trip, they can still enjoy a peaceful getaway weekend as houseguests.**

If you rewrote sentence 8 beginning with *Travelers who cannot afford a long trip* the next word would be

- (1) they
- (2) can
- (3) if
- (4) a
- (5) enjoying

18. Sentence 9: **The hosts also benefit from running such a business because they can stay at home, make money, and meeting a variety of people.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) and meeting
- (2) and meet
- (3) to meet
- (4) and be meeting
- (5) get to meet

19. Sentence 10: **Most State tourism departments and some travel agencies have bed and breakfast listings.**

What corrections should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *State* to *state*
- (2) change *tourism* to *Tourism*
- (3) insert a comma after *departments*
- (4) insert a comma after *agencies*
- (5) change *have* to *has*

Questions 20-30 refer to the following passage.

(1) Recently, educators examined the effectiveness of computer instruction in American schools. (2) The educators were dismayed to find the issue of sexism and immediately analyzed the results. (3) The studies revealing that, for various reasons, girls spent less time working with computers than boys. (4) By the 1980s many American schools had begun to offer computer classes or clubs. (5) Only half as many girls as boys were enrolled in computer-programming classes. (6) Schools with computer clubs and camps reported that membership consisted of many more boys than girls. (7) Some educators were frustrated because they have not become as interested in using computers. (8) One factor to explain this discrepancy was that many of the early computer games were similar to the Space Invader video games that girls viewed as boys games. (9) Researchers also speculate that some teachers might have given boys more computer time because parents and teachers expected boys to need computers for future careers. (10) Some schools, especially at the elementary level, had only a few computers, so teachers had to choose the students which got to use them. (11) Not surprisingly, boys will be more likely to be chosen to use computers than

girls. (12) Because of these findings, educators have recommended that teachers and parents encourage girls to use computers by providing opportunities and exposure to the machines.

20. Sentence 1: **Recently, educators exammined the effectiveness of computer instruction in American schools.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *educators* with *educator's*
- (2) change the spelling of *exammined* to *examined*
- (3) replace *computer* with *computer's*
- (4) change *schools* to *Schools*
- (5) no correction is necessary

21. Sentence 2: **The educators were dismayed to find the issue of sexism and immediatly analyzed the results.**

If you rewrote sentence 2 beginning with *Dismayed to find the issue of sexism,*

The next words should be

- (1) the American schools
- (2) their analysis
- (3) the educators
- (4) computers
- (5) the results

22. Sentence 3: **The studies revealing that, for various reasons, girls spent less time working with computers than boys.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) studies revealing
- (2) studies' revelations
- (3) studies revealed
- (4) studies will reveal
- (5) revealing studies

23. Sentence 4: **By the 1980s many American schools had began to offer computer classes or clubs.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *American* with *american*
- (2) change *had began* to *had begun*
- (3) replace *classes* with *class's*
- (4) change *clubs* to *Clubs*
- (5) no correction necessary

24. Sentences 5 and 6: **Only half as many girls as boys were enrolled in computer programming classes. Schools with computer clubs and camps reported that membership consisted of many more boys than girls.**

The most effective combination of sentences 5 and 6 would include which of the following groups of words?

- (1) classes, schools
- (2) classes in schools
- (3) classes; furthermore, schools
- (4) classes, or schools
- (5) classes; however, schools

25. Sentence 7: **Some educators were frustrated because they have not become as interested in using computers.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) they
- (2) educators
- (3) computers
- (4) girls
- (5) boys

26. Sentence 8: **One factor to explain this discrepancy was that many of the early computer games were similar to the Space Invader video games that girls viewed as boys games.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) add a comma after *was*
- (2) change *were* to *was*
- (3) replace *girls* with *girls'*
- (4) change the spelling of *viewed* to *veiwed*
- (5) replace *boys* with *boys'*

27. Sentence 9: **Researchers also speculate that some teachers might have given boys more computer time because parents and teachers expected boys to need computers for future careers.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) expected
- (2) will have expected
- (3) expecting
- (4) will expect
- (5) will be expecting

28. Sentence 10: **Some schools, especially at the elementary level, had only a few computers, so teachers had to choose the students which got to use them.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change the spelling of *especially* to *especialy*
- (2) remove the comma after *level*
- (3) remove the comma after *computers*
- (4) replace *which* with *who*
- (5) no correction is necessary

29. Sentence 11: **Not surprisingly, boys will be more likely to be chosen to use computers than girls.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) boys will be
- (2) boys' will be
- (3) boys are
- (4) boys' were
- (5) boys were

30. Sentence 12: **Because of these findings, educators have recommended that teachers and parents encourage girls to use computers by providing opportunities and exposure to the machines.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) findings, educators
- (2) findings educators
- (3) findings; educators
- (4) findings. Educators
- (5) findings, and educators

Choose the best answer to each question that follows.

Questions 31-41 refer to the following passage.

1) Many people own and operate microwave ovens, but they were not really aware of exactly how a microwave oven cooks their food. (2) A magnetron tube in the oven convert electrical energy to microwave energy and directs that energy to a fanlike stirrer. (3) The stirrer evenly channels into the oven the short radio waves who penetrate food and cause the molecules in the food to vibrate. (4) This vibration or friction creating the heat that cooks the food. (5) Glass, paper, and most types of china are used in microwave cooking becuase the microwaves can pass through these containers; however, the microwaves do not pass through metal. (6) The microwaves penetrated the food to a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches. (7) As cooking continues, the heat spreads to the interior of the food. (8) When the microwaves stop, the friction action continues, slows, and it stops. (9) Most microwave ovens have settings such as warm, defrost, simmer mediumhigh, and high so that a person can choose the speed at which the food

cooks. (10) The time needed to cook food depends on the amount of food being cooked. (11) One hot dog may cook in one minute, while four hot dogs take about two minutes, and six hot dogs take about four minutes. (12) Microwave ovens vary in features, and size, but owners can safely and effectively use this household appliance by following instructions carefully.

31. Sentence 1: **Many people own and operate microwave ovens, but they were not really aware of exactly how a microwave oven cooks their food.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *own* to *owns*
- (2) remove the comma after *ovens*
- (3) replace *they* with *he* or *she*
- (4) replace *were* with *are*
- (5) replace *their* with *they're*

32. Sentence 2: **A magnetron tube in the oven convert electrical energy to microwave energy and directs that energy to a fanlike stirrer.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) insert a comma after *oven*
- (2) change *convert* to *converts*
- (3) insert a comma after *microwave energy*
- (4) change *directs* to *direct*
- (5) no correction is necessary

33. Sentence 3: **The stirrer evenly channels into the oven the short radio waves who penetrate food and cause the molecules in the food to vibrate.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) insert a comma after *oven*
- (2) change *waves* to *waves'*
- (3) replace *who* with *that*
- (4) insert a comma after *food*
- (5) no correction is necessary

34. Sentence 4: **This vibration or friction creating the heat that cooks the food.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) creating
- (2) may create
- (3) creates
- (4) then creating
- (5) create

35. Sentence 5: **Glass, paper, and most types of china are used in microwave cooking because the microwaves can pass through these containers; however, the microwaves do not pass through metal.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) remove the comma after *Glass*
- (2) replace *china* with *China*
- (3) replace *are* with *is*
- (4) change the spelling of *becuase* to *because*
- (5) replace *containers; however* with *containers, however*

36. Sentence 6: **The microwaves penetrated the food to a depth of $\frac{3}{4}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original way is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) penetrated
- (2) penetrates
- (3) penetrate
- (4) had penetrated
- (5) will penetrate

37. Sentence 7: **As cooking continues, the heat spreads to the interior of the food.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *continues* to *continuing*
- (2) remove the comma after *continues*
- (3) change *spreads* to *spread*
- (4) insert a comma after *interior*
- (5) no correction is necessary

38. Sentence 8: **When the microwaves stop, the friction action continues, slows, and it stops.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) it stops
- (2) they stop
- (3) stops
- (4) to stop
- (5) stopped

39. Sentence 9: **Most microwave ovens have settings such as warm, defrost, simmer medium-high, and high so that a person can choose the speed at which the food cooks.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *have* to *has*
- (2) insert a comma after *simmer*
- (3) replace a *person* with *you*
- (4) change *choose* to *chose*
- (5) change *cooks* to *cooking*

40. Sentences 10 and 11: **The time needed to cook food depends on the amount of food being cooked. One hot dog may cook in one minute, while four hot dogs take about two minutes, and six hot dogs take about four minutes.**

The most effective combination of sentences 10 and 11 would include which of the following groups of words?

- (1) cooked, one hot dog
- (2) cooked, but one hot dog
- (3) cooked; however, one hot dog
- (4) cooked; for example, one hot dog
- (5) cooked although one hot dog

41. Sentence 12: **Microwave ovens vary in features, and size, but owners can safely and effectively use this household appliance by following instructions carefully.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *vary* to *varies*
- (2) remove the comma after *features*
- (3) remove the comma after *size*
- (4) insert a comma after *safely*
- (5) change the spelling of *carefully* to *carfully*

Questions 42-53 refer to the following passage.

1) Americans have been jogging for several years, and most of us were aware of the many physical and psychological benefits of running or walking outdoors. (2) For many people, however, hectic schedules make it difficult to find the time to go out and run around the neighborhood. (3) Some people do not want to be seen perspiring and jiggling along their neighbors sidewalks, and others are afraid to jog after sundown, the only time they have to exercise. (4) A good alternative to outdoor jogging are staying inside one's room, apartment, or house and running in place. (5) Although some joggers enjoy the privacy of this form of exercise, its main advantage is convenience. (6) A person who does not relish the idea of jogging outdoors in the heat of summer or the cold of Winter can find a spot on the floor and run in place. (7) Experts state that they should jog for at least fifteen minutes and run more vigorously than they would outside. (8) Knees and feet should be raised high off the floor the runner must be careful of wearing the carpet thin! (9) Wearing good running shoes and running on a thick carpet or folded throw rug may reduce stress on feet and ankles. (10) Indoor runners can relieve the boredom by watching television, listening to music, or including children in the exercise time. (11) If parents have to stay home alone with small children who need supervision, indoor jogging be a good way for them to keep fit. (12) Indoor runners may not breath fresh air or appreciate nature, but those who would otherwise be sitting in front of their televisions are better off jogging.

42. Sentence 1: **Americans have been jogging for several years, and most of us were aware of the many physical and psychological benefits of running or walking outdoors.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *years* with *year's*
- (2) remove the comma after *years*
- (3) change *were* to *are*
- (4) change the spelling of *benefits* to *bennefits*
- (5) no correction is necessary

43. Sentence 2: **For many people, however, hectic schedules make it difficult to find the time to go out and run around the neighborhood.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) people, however, hectic
- (2) people. However, hectic
- (3) people; however, hectic
- (4) people however, hectic
- (5) people however hectic

44. Sentence 3: **Some people do not want to be seen perspiring and jiggling along their neighbors sidewalks, and others are afraid to jog after sundown, the only time they have to exercise.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *do* to *does*
- (2) replace *their* with *there*
- (3) replace *neighbors* with *neighbors'*
- (4) remove the comma after *sidewalks*
- (5) change the spelling of *exercise* to *exercize*

45. Sentence 4: **A good alternative to outdoor jogging are staying inside one's room, apartment, or house and running in place.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *are* to *is*
- (2) replace *one's* with *ones*
- (3) remove the comma after *room*
- (4) insert a comma after *house*
- (5) no correction is necessary

46. Sentence 5: **Although some joggers enjoy the privacy of this form of exercise, its main advantage is convenience.**

If you rewrote sentence 5 beginning with *While the main advantage of this form of exercise is convenience*, the next word should be

- (1) so
- (2) although
- (3) enjoy
- (4) before
- (5) some

47. Sentence 6: **A person who does not relish the idea of jogging outdoors in the heat of summer or the cold of Winter can find a spot on the floor and run in place.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *who* with *which*
- (2) insert a comma after *outdoors*
- (3) change *summer* to *Summer*
- (4) change *Winter* to *winter*
- (5) insert a comma after *floor*

48. Sentence 7: **Experts state that they should jog for at least fifteen minutes and run more vigorously than they would outside.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) they
- (2) the experts
- (3) you
- (4) a person
- (5) indoor joggers

49. Sentence 8: **Knees and feet should be raised high off the floor the runner must be careful of wearing the carpet thin!**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) floor the
- (2) floor, the
- (3) floor, and the
- (4) floor; and the
- (5) floor, to the

50. Sentence 9: **Wearing good running shoes and running on a thick carpet or folded throw rug may reduce stress on feet and ankles.**

If you rewrote sentence 9 beginning with *To reduce stress on feet and ankles*, the next word should be

- (1) wearing
- (2) joggers
- (3) running
- (4) should
- (5) to

51. Sentence 10: **Indoor runners can releive the boredom by watching television, listening to music, or including children in the exercise time.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *runners* with *runners'*
- (2) change the spelling of *releive* to *relieve*
- (3) replace *listening* with *they can listen*
- (4) change *including* to *include*
- (5) no correction is necessary

52. Sentence 11: **If parents have to stay home alone with small children who need supervision, indoor jogging be a good way for them to keep fit.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *have* to *has*
- (2) insert a comma after *alone*
- (3) remove the comma after *supervision*
- (4) replace *who* with *which*
- (5) change *be* to *is*

53. Sentence 12: **Indoor runners may not breath fresh air or appreciate nature, but those who would otherwise be sitting in front of their televisions are better off jogging.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change the spelling of *breath* to *breathe*
- (2) change the spelling of *appreciate* to *apreciate*
- (3) remove the comma after *nature*
- (4) replace *but* with *or*
- (5) no correction necessary

Questions 54-64 refer to the following passage.

(1) Mars, a small rocky planet is about half the size of Earth. (2) Transmitted by an unmanned Mariner IV space probe, we on Earth first saw close-range photos of Mars in 1965. (3) In view was cratered landscapes, deserts, and mountains. (4) The highest mountain on Earth, Mt. Everest, is 5.5 miles high, one mountain on Mars reaches a height of 15 miles. (5) In 1976, Vikings I and II orbited and landed on Mars, produsing more high-quality, close-up photographs. (6) The additional photos will reveal huge mountains, deep holes, and sandy dunes on Mars. (7) Another feature revealed by the photos was large cracks in the surface of the planet one crack is larger than our Grand Canyon. (8) Dried-up riverbeds suggested that water once may have flowed on the Planet. (9) Also noticeable in the photos was that Mars looked red. (10) Looking for the source of the red color, scientist tested samples of Mars atmosphere and soil. (11) In the future, scientists will continue to study this planet that may tell us more about Earth's origins, development, and what may be ahead.

54. Sentence 1: **Mars, a small rocky planet is about half the size of Earth.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) remove the comma after *Mars*
- (2) insert a comma after *planet*
- (3) change *is* to *are*
- (4) change *Earth* to *earth*
- (5) no correction is necessary

55. Sentence 2: **Transmitted by an unmanned Mariner IV space probe, we on Earth first saw close-range photos of Mars in 1965.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portions of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) we on Earth first saw close-range photos of Mars in 1965
- (2) Mars was first seen by us on Earth in close-range photos in 1965
- (3) Mars was first seen close-range by us in photos on Earth in 1965
- (4) Mariner IV photos of us on Mars were first seen in 1965
- (5) the first close-range photos of Mars were seen by us on Earth in 1965

56. Sentence 3: **In view was cratered landscapes, deserts, and mountains.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) was
- (2) were
- (3) are
- (4) is
- (5) have been

57. Sentence 4: **The highest mountain on Earth, Mt. Everest, is 5.5 miles high, one mountain on Mars reaches a height of 15 miles.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) high, one
- (2) high, so one
- (3) high; in contrast, one
- (4) high; consequently, one
- (5) high one

58. Sentence 5: **In 1976, Vikings I and II orbited and landed on Mars, produsing more high-quality, close-up photographs.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *Viking* with *vikings*
- (2) change the spelling of *orbited* to *orbitted*
- (3) change *landed* to *land*
- (4) change the spelling of *produsing* to *producing*
- (5) no correction is necessary

59. Sentence 6: **The additional photos will reveal huge mountains, deep holes, and sandy dunes on Mars.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) replace *photos* with *photo's*
- (2) change *will reveal* to *revealed*
- (3) replace *mountains* with *Mountains*
- (4) insert a comma after *dunes*
- (5) no correction is necessary

60. Sentence 7: **Another feature revealed by the photos was large cracks in the surface of the planet one crack is larger than our Grand Canyon.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) planet one
- (2) planet, one
- (3) planet. One
- (4) planet and one
- (5) planet; however, one

61. Sentence 8: **Dried-up riverbeds suggested that water once may have flowed on the Planet.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) change *riverbeds* to *Riverbeds*
- (2) change *suggested* to *suggests*
- (3) change *flowed* to *flown*
- (4) change *Planet* to *planet*
- (5) no correction is necessary

62. Sentence 9: **Also noticeable in the photos was that Mars looked red.**

If you rewrote sentence 9 beginning with *The fact that Mars looked red*, the next word would be

- (1) was
- (2) being
- (3) noticeable
- (4) and
- (5) photos

63. Sentence 10: **Looking for the source of the red color, scientists tested samples of Mars atmosphere and soil.**

What correction should be made to this sentence?

- (1) remove the comma after *color*
- (2) replace *scientists* with *scientist's*
- (3) replace *Mars* with *Mars's*
- (4) add a comma after *atmosphere*
- (5) no correction is necessary

64. Sentence 11: **In the future, scientists will continue to study this planet that may tell us more about Earth's origins, development, and what may be ahead.**

Which of the following is the best way to write the underlined portion of this sentence? If you think the original is the best way, choose option (1).

- (1) what may be ahead
- (2) what may lie ahead
- (3) days ahead
- (4) years ahead
- (5) future

WRITING SKILLS ANSWER KEY

1. (1) The plural of *death* is *deaths*. No possession (*death's*) is shown.
2. (4) The subject is *detectors*, so the verb must agree with the plural subject.
3. (1) The new sentence would read, "In most cases, everyone should evacuate a home when a fire has started or the smoke alarm sounds, and someone outside the home should call the fire department."
4. (3) The pronoun *them* incorrectly refers to the singular noun *extinguisher*. The pronoun *it* is singular.
5. (4) The indefinite pronoun *each* is always singular, so the verb must agree with a singular subject.
6. (2) The original sentence is a comma splice. It incorrectly joins two complete thoughts with only a comma. Only choice (2) is punctuated correctly.
7. (5) No correction is necessary.
8. (2) This choice eliminates the incorrect pronoun *you*, which does not fit in the passage.
9. (1) This sentence contains a series of three items that should be separated by commas.
10. (1) The word *European* is derived from the name of a continent, *Europe*, so it should always be capitalized.
11. (5) The possessive pronoun *their* should be used here to show that the homes belong to the hosts.
12. (3) Keep a silent *e* when adding *ly* to *appropriate*.
13. (3) The subject, *popularity*, is singular, so the verb must agree with a singular subject: *popularity offers*.
14. (4) The new sentence would read, "Because staying in a private home offers travelers a more personal atmosphere, they feel pampered and enjoy visiting with the hosts."
15. (5) The phrase *Saying that they feel safer and like being treated as guests* describes the travelers, not the hosts. Choice (5) puts the phrase next to *travelers*.
16. (3) This sentence, as well as the passage as a whole, is written in present tense: *travelers can stay*.
17. (2) The new sentence would read, "Travelers who cannot afford a long trip can still enjoy a peaceful getaway weekend as houseguests."
18. (2) Each of the parts of the series, *can stay at home*, *make money*, and *meet a variety of people*, must be parallel in wording.
19. (1) The term *state tourism departments* is not the name of a specific agency. *State* should not be capitalized.
20. (2) This commonly misspelled word has one *m*, not two.
21. (3) The new sentence would read, "Dismayed to find the issue of sexism, the educators immediately analyzed the results."
22. (3) The original sentence is a fragment because the verb, *revealing*, requires a helping verb. The verb form *revealed* is complete.
23. (2) The past participle of the irregular verb *begin* is *begun*: *had begun*.
24. (3) The new sentence would read, "Only half as many girls as boys were enrolled in computer-programming classes; furthermore, schools with computer

clubs and camps reported that membership consisted of many more boys than girls.”

25. (4) The pronoun *they* is vague. It should be replaced by *girls* to make the meaning of the sentence more clear.
26. (5) The plural possessive, *boys'*, should be used to show that the sentence means “games for boys.”
27. (1) There is no error.
28. (4) The pronoun *who* should be used to refer to people.
29. (5) The passage as a whole is written in the past tense, so *were* is correct.
30. (1) There is no error.
31. (4) The verb *are* is consistent with the present tense of this sentence
32. (2) The verb form *converts* agrees with the singular subject *tube*.
33. (3) The relative pronoun *who* is never used to refer to things. The relative pronoun *that* can refer to either things or people.
34. (3) The original sentence is a fragment because *creating* requires a helping verb. The verb form *creates* does not.
35. (4) The correct spelling is *because*.
36. (3) *Penetrate* agrees with the rest of the passage, which is written in the present tense.
37. (5) No correction is necessary.
38. (3) Each of the parts of the series should have parallel structure: *continues, slows, stops*.
39. (2) Always separate the items in a series with commas.
40. (4) The new sentence would read, “The time needed to cook food depends on the amount of food being cooked; for example, one hot dog may cook...”
41. (2) No comma is needed to separate only two items.
42. (3) The verb *are* is consistent with the present tense of the sentence and of the passage as a whole.
43. (1) There is no error.
44. (3) The plural possessive *neighbors'* shows that several neighbors have sidewalks.
45. (1) The verb *is* agrees with the singular subject *alternative*.
46. (5) The new sentence would read, “While the main advantage of this form of exercise is convenience, some joggers enjoy its privacy.”
47. (4) The names of seasons are not capitalized.
48. (5) In the original sentence, *they* incorrectly refers to *experts*. Substituting *indoor joggers* makes the meaning clear.
49. (3) The original sentence is a run-on. Using the conjunction *and* joins the two independent clauses correctly.
50. (2) The new sentence would read, “To reduce stress on feet and ankles, joggers should wear good running shoes and run on a thick carpet or folded throw rug.”
51. (2) The spelling of *relieve* follows the general “I before E” rule.
52. (5) The correct present-tense form of *be* for the singular subject *indoor jogging* is *is*.
53. (1) *Breathe* is a verb, the action of taking air into the lungs. *Breath* is a noun.

- 54. (2)** The phrase *a small rocky planet* is a renaming phrase and should be set off by commas.
- 55. (5)** The modifying phrase *Transmitted by an unmanned Mariner IV space probe* is misplaced. It describes the first photos, not we on Earth.
- 56. (2)** The plural compound subject *landscapes, deserts, and mountains* requires the verb *were*.
- 57. (3)** The original sentence contains a comma splice. This choice joins the two independent clauses correctly.
- 58. (4)** Even though *producing* sounds like it contains an *s*, it is spelled with a *c*.
- 59. (2)** The past tense *revealed* should be used to be consistent with the rest of the passage.
- 60. (3)** This run-on can be corrected by dividing the independent clauses into two separate sentences.
- 61. (4)** *Planet* is not a specific name and should not be capitalized.
- 62. (1)** The new sentence would read, "The fact that Mars looked red was noticeable in the photos."
- 63. (3)** The possessive *Mar's* shows that the atmosphere and soil were of Mars.
- 64. (5)** The noun *future* is in parallel form with *origins* and *development*.