MASSACHUSETTS ENGLISH 12 · UNIT 4 · 25 QUESTIONS

Language and Style — Practice Test

This practice test was made by AI and there may be mistakes. If a question or answer looks wrong, use the Flag a mistake button to let Brett know so he can fix it.

Source I - Two Ways to Say It

Use this reading for questions 1 to 4.

Version A: The storm was bad. It did stuff to the town. People were upset.

Version B: The storm tore roofs from houses, flooded Main Street, and left families without power for two days. Neighbors shared food and generators, and by Friday, crews had cleared most roads.

Version B does not just name a feeling. It shows specific actions and results, so the reader can picture the storm and judge its impact. Precise verbs and concrete nouns do work that vague words like bad and stuff cannot do.

1 **According to Source I, why is Version B stronger than Version A?**

- **A** it is shorter
- **B** it uses precise verbs and concrete nouns to show specific actions and results
- **C** it uses more vague words
- **D** it names no place

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2 **According to Source I, which words in Version A are vague?**

A bad and stuff

B storm and town

C people and upset

D was and did

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3 **According to Source I, what does Version B help the reader do?**

A ignore the storm

B forget Main Street

C picture the storm and judge its impact

D avoid all details

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4 **According to Source I, a precise verb from Version B is**

A was

B were

C did

D tore

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5 **Connotation is**

A the dictionary definition of a word

B the feelings and associations a word carries beyond its dictionary definition

C the spelling of a word

D the part of speech of a word

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6 **Which pair shows a difference mainly in connotation?**

A house and home, where home suggests warmth and belonging

B cat and dog

C run and walk, where both mean the same speed

D big and large, which never differ

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7 **A metaphor**

A compares two things using like or as

B repeats a sound at the start of words

C says one thing is another without like or as

D exaggerates for comic effect only

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8 **A simile**

A says one thing is another

B repeats a vowel sound

C gives human traits to an object

D compares two things using like or as

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9 **Personification is shown in**

A the wind whispered through the trees

B the wind blew at 20 miles per hour

C the tree is tall

D the leaves fell

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10 **Hyperbole is**

A a mild understatement

B deliberate exaggeration for effect

C a comparison using like

D a short summary

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11 **Which sentence uses active voice?**

A The report was written by Ana.

B The report was finished.

C Ana wrote the report.

D Writing was done.

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12 **Which sentence is in passive voice?**

A Maya painted the fence.

B Painting fences is fun.

C Maya paints fences.

D The fence was painted by Maya.

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13 **A dangling modifier is a problem because**

A the sentence is too short

B a phrase does not clearly attach to the word it should modify

C the verb is in past tense

D the sentence has a comma

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14 **Which sentence has a misplaced modifier?**

A She wore a dress to the party with gold buttons.

B She wore a dress with gold buttons to the party.

C She wore a gold button dress to the party.

D To the party, she wore a dress.

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15 **The word affect is usually used as**

A a noun meaning an emotion

B an adjective meaning happy

C a verb meaning to influence

D a pronoun

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16 **The word effect is usually used as**

A a verb meaning to influence

B a conjunction

C an adverb

D a noun meaning a result

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17 **Which sentence uses its correctly?**

A Its a sunny day.

B The dog wagged its tail.

C Its tail wagged the dog.

D The dog wagged it's tail.

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18 **Which sentence uses a semicolon correctly?**

A She ran to school; he walked to work.

B She ran; and he walked.

C She; ran to school.

D She ran to; school.

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19 **Parallel structure means**

A using different verb forms in a list

B writing only short sentences

C using the same grammatical form for items in a list or series

D repeating the same word

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20

Which list is parallel?

A She likes swimming, to run, and bikes.

B She likes swimming, runs, and biking.

C She likes swim, running, and biking.

D She likes swimming, running, and biking.

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21

Tone in writing refers to

A the length of a paper

B the writer's attitude toward the subject, shown through word choice

C the font size

D the number of paragraphs

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22 **Diction refers to**

A a writer's choice of words

B sentence length only

C the title of a work

D the plot of a story

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23 **Syntax refers to**

A word spelling

B the theme of a work

C the arrangement of words and phrases in sentences

D the author's biography

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24 **The sentence She studied, she passed uses a comma splice joining how many independent clauses?**

ANSWER _____

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25 **Which revision best fixes a comma splice: She studied, she passed?**

A She studied she passed.

B She, studied passed.

C She studied, passed.

D She studied, and she passed.

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ANSWER KEY

1. B
2. A
3. C
4. D
5. B
6. A
7. C
8. D
9. A
10. B
11. C
12. D
13. B
14. A
15. C
16. D
17. B
18. A
19. C
20. D
21. B
22. A
23. C
24. 2
25. D

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