

## CTBS Usage Practice #2

Read the following underlined sentences. Choose the sentence that best combines those sentences into one.

1. England is a very small country.  
England is in Europe.  
In the nineteenth century, England was the center of one of the world's largest empires.
  - a. England, a small country in Europe, was the center of the world's largest empire in the nineteenth century.
  - b. In the nineteenth century, England was the center of one of the world's largest empires in the world.
  - c. Europe, in the nineteenth century was the center of one of the world's largest empires, England.
  - d. England, a small country was the center of the world's largest empire.
  
2. England is an island separated from the continent by the North Sea and the English Channel.  
The Irish Sea separates England from Ireland.
  - a. An island is separated from the continent by the North Sea, English Channel, and the Irish Sea separates the island, England, from Ireland.
  - b. The Irish Sea separates England from Ireland; the North Sea and the English Channel separate England from the continent.
  - c. England is separated by the North Sea, the English Channel, and the Irish Sea.
  - d. Ireland is separated from England by the Irish Sea. And England is separated from the continent by the North Sea and the English Channel.
  
3. The Magna Carta was signed in 1215.  
This document has remained the basis for the political liberties of the English.
  - a. The Magna Carta, the document that remains the basis for the political liberties of the English, was signed in 1215.
  - b. The document that has remained the basis for the political liberties of the English is the Magna Carta.
  - c. In 1215 a document was signed, it was the Magna Carta.
  - d. The document signed it 1215 was the Magna Carta which is still used today.
  
4. British literature flourished under the reign of Elizabeth I.  
Some of the greatest dramas of all time were written then.
  - a. Elizabeth I made literature flourish, and some of the dramas written then were the best.
  - b. British literature flourished with some of the greatest dramas of all time when Elizabeth I was queen.
  - c. Under the reign of Elizabeth I, British literature flourished, and some of the all time greatest dramas were written.
  - d. Some of the greatest dramas of all time were written during the reign of the queen, who made British literature flourish.

**Read the following paragraphs and determine which multiple choice answer is the best choice for a topic sentence.**

5. \_\_\_\_\_ In time, employers came to feel that women had unusual skills for work requiring precision. The women handling factory materials and tools often did a better job than had been done before. Through precision women provided insight and skill to their job, along with a resourcefulness in tough situations. In this way women surpassed the expectations of their employers, and re-defined their position in a working world. Proving to previous critics that women can compete in a working environment.
  - a. It should have been no surprise that women can work hard.
  - b. Women have always had skills with crafts and in jobs requiring the use of hammers.
  - c. Men and women work hard.
  - d. Women are the greatest at precision.
  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ However, the sun is a medium star. There are stars in the sky which are really 100 million times brighter than the sun. Some stars, not as large as our sun, are believed to be 10 or 20 times as hot as the sun. There is one bright red star, Betelgeuse, in the constellation Orion that is more than 25 million times as big as the sun!
  - a. The sun appears to be the hottest and brightest star in the night sky.
  - b. The sun controls the climate on earth.
  - c. Stars are created through combustion.
  - d. Small as it is in comparison with other stars, the sun gives out billion times more heat and light than the earth absorbs.

7. \_\_\_\_\_ Morning, night, and sometimes even at noon, I watch my fellow commuters lined up, scowling, inching and honking their way to work or school. I used to share their fender benders, foul air, fouler tempers, frazzled nerves, clenched jaws, high blood pressure, high insurance premiums, the same old tunes on the radio, the wasted time, and boredom. But no more. Not since I parked my car and began commuting by bicycle.
- For most Americans the worst part of any weekday is the time spent in traffic.
  - Bicycles not only provide a stress free commute, but they are cheap and pleasant way to spend the day.
  - Cars take the world everywhere.
  - People drive all the time.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ The first has all the standard sets and best sellers- unread and untouched. The second has a great many books- a few of them read through, most of them dipped into, but all of them as clean and shiny as the day they were bought. The third has few books or many- every one of them ripped and used, shaken and loosened by continual use, marked and scribbled in front to back.
- Some people read books all of the time.
  - There are three kinds of book owners, and they all vary in their treatment and collection of books.
  - Books come in different shapes, sizes, and colors.
  - Book owners collect different types of books for different reasons, and they like to keep a number of titles on hand for anything that might come up.

**Read the paragraph. Choose the sentence that does not belong.**

9. Oedipus's tragic flaw is that he is too good. For example, when he speaks to everyone, he acts over assertive and somewhat pompous. His confidence makes him feel that he is above everyone and that he can withstand all of the suffering for the people and himself. But in reality no one person can protect everyone else. Even Superman loses to kryptonite, and puts the world in jeopardy. Oedipus in the same way antagonizes tragedy due to his pride.
- His confidence makes him feel that he is above everyone and that he can withstand all of the suffering for the people and himself.
  - Oedipus's tragic flaw is that he is too good.
  - Even superman loses to kryptonite, and puts the world in jeopardy.
  - For example, when he speaks to everyone, he acts over assertive and somewhat pompous.
10. CTBS tests are mandatory tests for all graduating students of the Federal Way School District. A lot of students don't like the tests. The competency tests evaluate a student's English capabilities, and set up a tenth grade requirement for passing. In this way the Federal Way School district tests set a standard to insure that all graduating students are successful outside of high school. Therefore mandatory competency testing is beneficial to students.
- CTBS tests are mandatory tests for all graduating students of the Federal Way School District.
  - A lot of students don't like the tests.
  - The competency tests evaluate a student's English capabilities, and set up a tenth grade requirement for passing.
  - In this way the Federal Way School district tests set a standard to insure that all graduating students are successful outside of high school.

**For questions 11 – 14, read the sentence and identify the simple subject.**

11. The door swung open as the girl ran past.
- door
  - swung
  - girl
  - ran
12. Tim's gaping face hung in astonishment, he couldn't believe the cow flew.
- Tim's face
  - hung
  - believe
  - cow
13. Crushed marigolds, which line the walkway, are my favorite kind of flower.
- marigolds
  - line
  - walkway
  - are

14. Screaming Billy sits by the door as his mom occupies herself with grief.
- screaming
  - Billy
  - Sits
  - door

**Read questions 15 – 19 and then identify the simple predicate.**

15. Dancing Dan, the man in the annoying blue tuxedo, watched as his date stole the floor.
- Dan
  - Annoying
  - Tuxedo
  - Watched
16. Roberta cried softly into her flowing taffeta dress.
- Roberta
  - Cried
  - Flowing
  - Dress
17. Steve, an amazing singer, lost his voice during the last song.
- Steve
  - Amazing
  - Lost
  - Voice
18. The plucky little dog advanced on the porcupine if only to be sorely disappointed.
- dog
  - advanced
  - porcupine
  - disappointed
19. Esmarelda washes her shirts in a remote controlled machine.
- Esmarelda
  - Washes
  - Shirts
  - Remote controlled