

Name: _____ Date: _____

Complex Grammar for 10th Grade Punctuation Power

Sophomores refine their rhetorical precision by mastering nuances like em-dashes, semicolons, and sophisticated clause separation within academic and creative contexts.

1. Which sentence correctly utilizes an em-dash to signal a sharp break in thought or an emphatic explanation?

- A. The artifacts—found deep within the Peruvian highlands—rewrote the entire history of the region.
- B. The artifacts—found deep within the Peruvian highlands, rewrote the entire history of the region.
- C. The artifacts: found deep within the Peruvian highlands—rewrote the entire history of the region.
- D. The artifacts (found deep within the Peruvian highlands—rewrote the entire history of the region.

2. True or False: A semicolon is required when joining two independent clauses with a conjunctive adverb like 'nevertheless' or 'consequently.'

- A. True
- B. False

3. Choose the correct punctuation to complete the following sentence: 'The committee identified three primary areas for reform _____ economic policy, environmental protections, and judicial oversight.'

- A. ; (Semicolon)
- B. , (Comma)
- C. : (Colon)
- D. — (Em-dash)

4. In the context of technical writing, which sentence correctly handles punctuation with a quotation?

- A. According to the physicist, the data was "anomalous"; however, the team proceeded anyway.
- B. According to the physicist, the data was "anomalous;" however, the team proceeded anyway.
- C. According to the physicist, the data was "anomalous", however, the team proceeded anyway.
- D. According to the physicist, the data was "anomalous; however," the team proceeded anyway.

5. True or False: If a dependent clause follows an independent clause, a comma is generally not necessary before the subordinating conjunction.

- A. True
- B. False

6. Identify the punctuation needed for the possessive form in this sentence: 'The three _____ testimony changed the jury's perspective on the case.'

- A. witnesses'
- B. witness's
- C. witnesses
- D. witness'es

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7. Which sentence demonstrates the correct use of a semicolon to separate items in a complex list?

- A. The tour includes stops in Tokyo, Japan, Seoul, South Korea, and Beijing, China.
- B. The tour includes stops in Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; and Beijing, China.
- C. The tour includes stops in: Tokyo, Japan; Seoul, South Korea; and Beijing, China.
- D. The tour includes stops in Tokyo; Japan; Seoul; South Korea; and Beijing; China.

8. True or False: An ellipsis (...) should be used to indicate that words have been omitted from a direct quote, provided the original meaning is preserved.

- A. True
- B. False

9. Select the correct punctuation for the parenthetical aside: 'The Renaissance ___ which literally means "rebirth" ___ began in Italy.'

- A. ()
- B. , ,
- C. — —
- D. All of the above

10. Identify the error in this sentence: 'The architect's vision was bold, however, the structure was ultimately deemed unsafe.'

- A. The comma after 'bold' should be a semicolon.
- B. The word 'however' should be capitalized.
- C. The apostrophe in 'architect's' is misplaced.
- D. There should be no comma after 'however'.