

Name: _____ Date: _____

Sharpen Your Syntax: 9th Grade Mastery of the Mark

Navigate the nuances of standard English by resolving complex clause conflicts and fixing sophisticated grammatical glitches through direct application.

1. Which sentence correctly utilizes a semicolon to join two independent clauses regarding geopolitical history?

- A. The Berlin Wall fell in 1989; however, the ideological shifts took much longer to solidify.
- B. The Berlin Wall fell in 1989; because the ideological shifts took much longer to solidify.
- C. The Berlin Wall fell in 1989, however; the ideological shifts took much longer to solidify.
- D. The Berlin Wall fell; in 1989, however, the ideological shifts took longer.

2. Which of the following correctly completes the sentence regarding the plural possessive? 'The _____ demands for climate reform were heard by the UN General Assembly.'

- A. protestors
- B. protestor's
- C. protestors'
- D. protestors's

3. True or False: In a list of complex items that already contain internal commas, semicolons should be used as the primary separators to avoid 'comma clutter.'

- A. True
- B. False

4. Choose the sentence that correctly uses a colon to introduce a formal quotation.

- A. In his 'Letter from Birmingham Jail,' King famously wrote: 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'
- B. King famously wrote: that injustice everywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
- C. King wrote in: 'Letter from Birmingham Jail' that injustice is a threat.
- D. In his letter: King claimed 'Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.'

5. Identify the error in the following sentence: 'The physicist's theories—while revolutionary—were not widely accepted, until the solar eclipse of 1919.'

- A. The em-dashes should be replaced with parentheses.
- B. The comma after 'accepted' is unnecessary and creates a fragment error.
- C. The word 'physicist's' should not have an apostrophe.
- D. The year '1919' should be followed by a period inside the quote marks.

6. Which option provides the correct punctuation for the parenthetical citation in an academic essay?

- A. Fitzgerald describes the light as 'green'. (Fitzgerald 92)
- B. Fitzgerald describes the light as 'green' (Fitzgerald 92).

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- C. Fitzgerald describes the light as 'green,' (Fitzgerald 92).
- D. Fitzgerald describes the light as, 'green' (Fitzgerald 92).

7. True or False: A colon can be used to separate two independent clauses if the second clause illustrates or explains the first.

- A. True
- B. False

8. Identify the correct punctuation for the following appositive phrase: 'Marie Curie _____ the first woman to win a Nobel Prize _____ studied radioactivity.'

- A. (no punctuation) / (no punctuation)
- B. — / ;
- C. , / ,
- D. ; / ;

9. Analyze the use of the Oxford comma in the following technical sentence. Which version is most clear?

- A. The lab results tracked the growth of the mold, the temperature of the incubator and the humidity.
- B. The lab results tracked the growth of the mold; the temperature of the incubator, and the humidity.
- C. The lab results tracked: the growth of the mold, the temperature of the incubator, and the humidity.
- D. The lab results tracked the growth of the mold, the temperature of the incubator, and the humidity.

10. True or False: When a quotation is interrupted by a speaker tag, such as 'she argued,' the second half of the quotation should always begin with a capital letter.

- A. True
- B. False