

**ACCUPLACER®**  
Sample Questions for Students

# Sentence Skills

In an ACCUPLACER® placement test, there are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type is sentence correction questions

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20. If I want your opinion, I will ask for it.

Rewrite, beginning with

I won't ask for your opinion

The next words will be

- A. if I want it
- B. when I want it
- C. although I want it
- D. unless I want it

21. It began to rain, and everyone at the picnic ran to the trees to take shelter.

Rewrite, beginning with

Everyone at the picnic ran to take shelter

The next words will be

- A. beginning to rain
- B. when it began to rain
- C. although it began to rain
- D. and it began to rain

22. Lucy saw an amazing sight when she witnessed her first sunrise.

Rewrite, beginning with

Witnessing her first sunrise

The next words will be

- A. an amazing sight was seen
- B. when Lucy saw an amazing sight
- C. Lucy saw an amazing sight
- D. seeing an amazing sight

23. After three hours of walking the museum, the entire family felt in need of a rest.

Rewrite, beginning with

The entire family felt in need of a rest

The next words will be

- A. walking through the museum for three hours
- B. having walked through the museum for three hours.
- C. and they walked through the museum for three hours
- D. despite having walked through the museum for three hours.

24. Bats see extremely well in the dark; in fact, much better than humans.

Rewrite, beginning with

Unlike bats,

The next words will be

- A. humans can see
- B. humans do not see
- C. it is not easy to see
- D. seeing is difficult

25. The big celebration meal was over, and everyone began to feel sleepy.

Rewrite, beginning with

Everyone began to feel sleepy

The next words will be

- A. and the big celebration meal
- B. before the big celebration meal
- C. after the big celebration meal
- D. although the big celebration meal

# Reading Comprehension

In an ACCUPLACER placement test, there are 20 questions of two primary types in Reading Comprehension.

- The first type of question consists of a reading passage followed by a question based on the text. Both short and long passages are provided. The reading passages can also be classified according to the kind of information processing required, including explicit statements related to the main idea, explicit statements related to a secondary idea, application, and inference.
- The second type of question, sentence relationships, presents two sentences followed by a question about the relationship between these two sentences. The question may ask, for example, if the statement in the second sentence supports that in the first, if it contradicts it, or if it repeats the same information.

2. Unemployment was the overriding fact of life when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president of the United States on March 4, 1933. An anomaly of the time was that the government did not systematically collect statistics of joblessness; actually it did not start doing so until 1940. The Bureau of Labor Statistics later estimated that 12,830,000 persons were out of work in 1933, about one-fourth of a civilian labor force of more than 51 million.

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## Reading Comprehension Sample Questions

Read the passage below. Answer the questions that follow.

1. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I've got it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The main idea of the paragraph maintains that the memory

- A. always operates at peak efficiency.
- B. breaks down under great strain.
- C. improves if it is used often.
- D. becomes unreliable if it tires.

5. In 1848, Charles Burton of New York City made the first baby carriage, but people strongly objected to the vehicles because they said the carriage operators hit too many pedestrians. Still convinced that he had a good idea, Burton opened a factory in England. He obtained orders for the baby carriages from Queen Isabella II of Spain, Queen Victoria of England, and the Pasha of Egypt. The United States had to wait another 10 years before it got a carriage factory, and only 75 carriages were sold in the first year.

Even after the success of baby carriages in England,

- A. Charles Burton was a poor man.
  - B. Americans were still reluctant to buy baby carriages.
  - C. Americans purchased thousands of baby carriages.
  - D. the United States bought more carriages than any other country.
6. All water molecules form six-sided structures as they freeze and become snow crystals. The shape of the crystal is determined by temperature, vapor, and wind conditions in the upper atmosphere. Snow crystals are always symmetrical because these conditions affect all six sides simultaneously.

The purpose of the passage is to present

- A. a personal observation.
  - B. a solution to a problem.
  - C. actual information.
  - D. opposing scientific theories.
7. In the words of Thomas DeQuincey, "It is notorious that the memory strengthens as you lay burdens upon it." If, like most people, you have trouble recalling the names of those you have just met, try this: The next time you are introduced, plan to remember the names. Say to yourself, "I'll listen carefully; I'll repeat each person's name to be sure I have it, and I will remember." You'll discover how effective this technique is and probably recall those names for the rest of your life.

The writer believes people remember names best when they

- a. meet new people
  - b. are intelligent
  - c. decide to do so
  - d. are interested in people
8. Many people have owned, or have heard of, traditional

- B. because he wanted to communicate with people far away
- C. because of a personal tragedy in his life
- D. because he was fascinated by science

12. Leonardo DaVinci is not only one of the most famous artists in history, he was also a botanist, a writer and an inventor. Even though most of his inventions were not actually built in his lifetime, many of today's modern machines can be traced back to some of his original designs. The parachute, the military tank, the bicycle and even the airplane were foretold in the imaginative drawings that can still be seen in the fragments of Leonardo's notebooks. Over 500 years ago, this man conceived ideas that were far ahead of his time.

The author of this passage is praising Leonardo DaVinci for his:

- A. artistic talent
- B. intelligence
- C. vision
- D. fame

**Directions for questions 13–22**

For each question, select the best answer choice. Read each question carefully, and choose the best answer.

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20. Compared with the rest of the country, North Dakota has a thriving economy, making it a place where more people want to live.

Winters in North Dakota are inhospitable, with average temperatures in January ranging from 2 degrees Fahrenheit to 17 degrees.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It reinforces the first.
  - B. It explains what is stated in the first.
  - C. It contradicts the first.
  - D. It analyzes a statement made in the first.
21. Some stores are testing a new checkout system that allows shoppers to use their mobile phones to scan items as they walk through stores and pay at self-service kiosks, skipping the cashiers' lines.

The new mobile checkout system is intended to reduce long lines and customer wait times in stores.

What does the second sentence do?

- A. It expands on the first.
  - B. It states an effect.
  - C. It contrasts with the first.
  - D. It gives an example.
22. According to the American Sleep Disorders Association, the average teenager needs around 9.5 hours of sleep per night, possibly because critical growth hormones are released during sleep.

The average adult requires between six and eight hours of sleep per night for optimal health and productivity.

How do the two sentences relate?

- A. They establish a contrast.
- B. They contradict each other.
- C. They reinforce each other.
- D. They provide a problem and solution.

## WritePlacer®

This test measures your ability to write effectively, which is critical to academic success.

Your writing sample will be scored on the basis of how effectively it communicates a whole message to the readers for the stated purpose. Your score will be based on your ability to express, organize and support your opinions and ideas, not the position you take on the essay topic. The following five characteristics of writing will be considered:

- **Focus** — The clarity with which you maintain your main idea or point of view
- **Organization** — The clarity with which you structure your response and present a logical sequence of ideas
- **Development and Support** — The extent to which you elaborate on your ideas and the extent to which you present supporting details
- **Sentence Structure** — The effectiveness of your sentence structure
- **Mechanical Conventions** — The extent to which your writing is free of errors in usage and mechanics

## WritePlacer Sample Topic

People are often asked to participate in organized school sports. Some schools require each student to participate in an organized school sport chosen by the student. People at these schools argue that athletics is an important part of the educational experience and that there should be a rule requiring participation. Others argue that students should be free to decide whether or not they wish to participate in organized school sports. Write an essay for a classroom instructor in which you take a position on whether participation in organized school athletics should be required. Be sure to defend your position with logical arguments and appropriate examples. Your essay must be 300–600 words in length.

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## Arithmetic

This test measures your ability to perform basic arithmetic operations and to solve problems that involve fundamental arithmetic concepts. There are 17 questions on the Arithmetic tests, divided into three types.

- **Operations with whole numbers and fractions:** Topics included in this category are addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, recognizing equivalent fractions and mixed numbers, and estimating.
- **Operations with decimals and percents:** Topics include addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with decimals. Percent problems, recognition of decimals, fraction and percent equivalencies, and problems involving estimation are also given.
- **Applications and problem solving:** Topics include rate, percent and measurement problems; simple geometry problems; and distribution of a quantity into its fractional parts.

## Arithmetic Sample Questions

Each question is followed by four possible answers. You are to select the correct answer.

1.  $2.75 + .003 + .158 =$

- A. 4.36
- B. 2.911
- C. 0.436
- D. 2.938

2.  $7.86 \times 4.6 =$

- A. 36.156
- B. 36.216
- C. 351.56
- D. 361.56

3.  $\frac{7}{20} =$

- A.

8. Three people who work full-time are to work together on a project, but their total time on the project is to be equivalent to that of only one person working full-time. If one of the people is budgeted for one-half of his time to the project and a second person for one-third of her time, what part of the third worker's time should be budgeted to this project?

- A.  $\frac{1}{3}$
- B.  $\frac{3}{5}$
- C.  $\frac{1}{6}$
- D.  $\frac{1}{8}$

9. 32 is 40 percent of what number?

- A. 12.8
- B. 128
- C. 80
- D. 800

10.  $3\frac{1}{3} - 2\frac{2}{5} =$

- A.  $1\frac{1}{2}$
- B.  $\frac{1}{15}$
- C.  $\frac{14}{15}$
- D.  $1\frac{1}{15}$

11.  $2\frac{1}{2} + 4\frac{2}{3} =$

- A.  $6\frac{1}{6}$
- B.  $6\frac{5}{6}$
- C.  $7\frac{1}{6}$
- D.  $7\frac{5}{6}$

12. What is  $\frac{8}{9}$  rounded to the nearest integer?

19. Erica bought  $3\frac{1}{2}$  yards of fabric. If she uses  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the fabric to make a curtain, how much will she have left?

7.  $\frac{4 - (-6)}{-5} =$

A.  $\frac{2}{5}$

B.  $-\frac{2}{5}$

C. 2

D. -2

8. If  $2 - 3($







# ACCUPLACER ESL Reading Skills Test

The ESL Reading Skills test measures your ability to



8. If you hold a piece of copper wire over the flame of a match, heat will be conducted by the copper wire to your fingers, and you will be forced to drop the wire. You will, however, still be able to hold the match because the match is a poor conductor of heat. Anyone, child or adult, can try this simple experiment.

Which of the following is implied in the passage above?

- A. Copper is a good conductor of heat.
  - B. A match and copper conduct heat equally.
  - C. A match is an excellent conductor of heat.
  - D. Matches should be kept out of the reach of small children.
9. Many people own different pets. Dogs, cats, birds, and fish are common household pets. Other pets are considered to be exotic animals. These include snakes, lizards, and hedgehogs.

Snakes are

- A. uncommon pets.
  - B. likely to be found in a household with dogs.
  - C. found only in zoos.
  - D. not allowed in people's homes.
10. Cesar Chavez was an influential leader for farmworkers. He fought for their rights and better working conditions. Chavez led many strikes that angered farm owners. Eventually he succeeded in getting increased wages and improved living situations for farmworkers.

Chavez changed lives because he

- A. helped the farmers get more workers.
  - B. worked for the farmers.
  - C. helped work on the farms every day.
  - D. changed the conditions for the farmworkers.
11. When cartoonist Charles M. Schulz was a boy in elementary school, other boys teased him for being small and not very good at sports, and his art teacher told him he had no talent for drawing. He had few friends, and was too shy to talk to a red-haired girl he admired. Later in life, Schulz used his childhood experiences in his comic strip "Peanuts," using the strip's main character, the sad and lonely Charlie Brown, to represent himself as a little boy. "Peanuts" was unique at the time because it contained no adult characters. Readers fell in love with Charlie Brown, and "Peanuts" eventually became one of the most popular comic strips of all time.

What is the main idea of the passage?

- A. "Peanuts" was the world's most widely read comic strip.
- B. Charles M. Schulz was a very famous cartoonist.
- C. Schulz turned the pain of his youth into fame as an adult.
- D. The "Peanuts" comic strip featured children as its only characters.

12. Money has existed for thousands of years in nearly every culture as a means of exchange. However, today, the use of cash is becoming less and less common in modern societies all over the world. Every year, a higher percentage of purchases is made online, and even in stores customers are now using credit cards more often than cash. Many people today do all of their banking on the Internet rather than going to the bank in person.

The author of the passage probably assumes that

- A. cash will become virtually obsolete in the near future
  - B. using cash will become popular again
  - C. paying with credit cards all the time is dangerous
  - D. societies that do business online will prosper
13. Insomnia — the inability to fall asleep or to stay asleep — is a condition that plagues many people at one time or another in their lives. It can be uncomfortable, but is usually not harmful, and most people who believe they have been awake all night have actually slept more than they think. While some people rely on prescription medication to help them sleep, insomnia can be controlled by changing behavior. Insomnia is often caused by stress or anxiety, but it can also be made worse by eating too heavily too late; consuming a lot of caffeine; or watching television.

17. The "Peanuts" comic strip was created by Charles M. Schulz. It is one of the most popular comic strips of all time.

16. Dogs and cats make very different types of pets. Before deciding whether to buy or adopt a dog or a cat, prospective owners need to carefully consider their own lifestyles and personalities. Dogs may make more affectionate companions, but they require more care and attention. They must be taken out several times a day and should not be left alone for more than a few hours. Larger dogs require significant exercise to remain fit and healthy. Cats are usually more independent in nature and interact less with their owners. Also, a cat can be left on its own all day, or even for several days, as long as it has food and clean water to drink.

From this passage a reader can conclude that

- A. owning a cat requires less work than owning a dog
  - B. people who travel a lot should not own a cat
  - C. people who like to play with their pets should own a cat
  - D. owning a cat is more responsibility than owning a dog
17. People's moods are largely a matter of focus. It is a natural tendency of many people to focus on what is wrong in their lives, or on the day-to-day events that make them angry or irritated. However, anyone can change this by directing the mind. When feeling down or upset, a person can change his or her state of mind by recalling happy memories, by paying

5. Having recorded many of the most beloved songs of the 1940s, jazz singer Ella Fitzgerald \_\_\_\_\_ one of the most prominent musical performers of her time.

- A. had been
- B. has been
- C. was
- D. will be

6. As we drove through the darkness, we saw another car coming \_\_\_\_\_ the bend in the road.

- A. through
- B. under
- C. over
- D. around

7. Sonia is so determined and stubborn, she never \_\_\_\_\_ until she gets exactly what she wants.

- A. gives up
- B. gives out
- C. gave in
- D. gave away

8. At only 43, John F. Kennedy was the \_\_\_\_\_ American president ever to be elected.

- A. most young
- B. more young
- C. youngest
- D. younger

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a e . C e e c e c a e e e .

9. Elena found a tomato that was much bigger than all the others in the garden.

How did the tomato compare to the others in the garden?

- A. It was the smallest.
- B. It was not very large.
- C. It was larger than some.
- D. It was the largest.

10. When the popular entertainer canceled her appearance, the Latin American festival was postponed indefinitely.

When will the festival likely take place?

- A. Tonight
- B. Tomorrow
- C. Next week
- D. Many weeks later

11. Janet is never late to meet her friends, and sometimes arrives early.

Which best describes Janet?

- A. Lonely
- B. Punctual
- C. Talkative
- D. Tardy

12. Bram Stoker is best known for his classic horror novel *Dracula*, which was published in 1897.

What did Bram Stoker do?

- A. He was a doctor.
- B. He was a merchant.
- C. He was a writer.
- D. He was an engineer.

13. Exhausted from her transatlantic flight, Judy could not stay up past 9 p.m.

C.

18. Early for her dentist appointment, Beth killed time by looking in all the store windows on the block.

What was Beth doing?

- A. exercising
- B. shopping
- C. hunting
- D. waiting

19. Even though Maria's puppy Sparky was the runt of the litter when she picked him out, he grew up to be the biggest dog in the neighborhood.

When Maria first got Sparky,

- A. he was larger than the other puppies
- B. he was the smallest of all the puppies
- C. he was larger than some of the other puppies
- D. he was not very small

20. When Miguel ran for class president, he won by a mile.

How many votes did Miguel get compared to the other candidate?

- A. He got just enough votes to win.
- B. He got about the same number of votes.
- C. He got significant

7. \_\_\_\_\_ children learn to read, whole new worlds and experiences open up to them.
- Before
  - Since
  - Until
  - After
8. When \_\_\_\_\_ get to the hotel?
- have we
  - will we
  - did we
  - are we
9. Galileo is most famous \_\_\_\_\_ that the Earth revolves around the sun, rather than the other way around.
- for having discovered
  - for discovery
  - his discovery
  - in discovering
10. Men and women sometimes have difficulty understanding each other because \_\_\_\_\_ differently.
- they communicate
  - they communicated
  - they have communicated
  - they communicates
11. Because she had practiced so hard for the gymnastics competition, Stacey was \_\_\_\_\_ when she achieved a nearly perfect score.
- disappointed
  - tired
  - victorious
  - thrilled
12. \_\_\_\_\_ can speak more than one language, you have the opportunity to make more new friends.
- So you
  - As you
  - When you
  - Enough you
13. Light \_\_\_\_\_ than sound, which is why you see lightening before you hear the thunder.
- travelling faster
  - travels faster
  - having travelled faster
  - will travel faster

Read the sentence and choose the correct word to complete the sentence.

14. Her puppy ran out into the street chasing a cat. \_\_\_\_\_ the owner quickly went to retrieve it.
- The owner quickly went to retrieve it after a cat was chased into the street by her puppy.
  - The owner quickly retrieved it after her puppy chased a cat into the street.
  - When her puppy ran into the street after a cat, the owner quickly went to retrieve the puppy.
  - Quickly retrieving it, the owner went quickly after her puppy that ran out into the street after a cat.
15. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.
- Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
  - Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
  - Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
  - Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.
16. \_\_\_\_\_ the road was slippery. We put chains on the tires.
- Although the road was slippery, we put chains on the tires.
  - The road became slippery when we put chains on the tires.
  - We put chains on the tires because the road was











