Rephrasing tutorial 3

Transformation exercises to practise
for the University Access Exam

These are some other types of questions you may find in the sentence transformation exercise of the University Access Exam. Among these there are a few not very common ones. Read the examples and explanations, and answer the questions.

13 Sentences with SINCE, FOR, or AGO

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? Change a sentence using SINCE, AGO, or FOR.

HOW WILL I KNOW THIS? The original sentence refers to how long something has happened, so it usually mentions a time period and is often in the present perfect.

Example:

I haven't visited my grandmother for two months.
It's...
It's two months since I (last) visited my grandmother.

TIP: Sometimes the sentence may be in the past simple. It may help you to translate the sentence into Spanish to see what is the best alternative sentence, but remember that some examples can't be translated literally.

The last time I ate a good curry was ages ago.
I...
I haven't eaten a good curry for ages.
I last ate a good curry ages ago.

Practice:

1.- The last time I was in England was three years ago. (?)

I haven't

2.- I've worked here for two years. (?)

I started

LIVEWORKSHEETS

14 Sentences with SO / SUCH

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?	Change a sentence using SO or SUCH.
HOW WILL I KNOW THIS?	If the original sentence has SO, you have to use SUCH, and viceversa.

Example:

The film was so boring I fell asleep in front of the TV.
It...

It was such a boring film (that) I fell asleep in front of the TV.

TIP: Remember that SUCH is always followed by a noun, sometimes also by a preceding adjective, whereas SO is only followed by an adjective, never by a noun.

Also, after SUCH we use "a / an" only if the noun which follows it is countable and it is in the singular.

Examples:

The weather was so horrible that we stayed at home.
It was...

It was such horrible <u>weather</u> that we stayed at home.
→ uncountable noun

The boys were so bad-mannered that I was glad to leave.
They were...

They were such bad-mannered <u>boys</u> that I was glad to leave.
→ plural noun

TIP 2: Remember that the examiner wants to know if you can use SO and SUCH. The following answer is a correct sentence, but it does not show that you can use both words correctly:

The day was so cold that we couldn't swim in the lake.
It was...

It was so cold that we couldn't swim in the lake.

While it is true that the second sentence is correct and means the same as the first one, it does not prove that the student knows anything: very little has been changed in the original sentence, really.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

TIP 3: Be careful not to confuse this type of exercise with others about verb tenses (see section 17 below) or comparatives (see section 12 in rephrasing tutorial 2):

I have not seen such a beautiful ballet for five years.
The last...

The last time I saw such a beautiful ballet was five years ago.

I had never seen such a bad film.
It was...

It was the worst film I had ever seen.

Practice:

3.- The exams were so bad that their teacher got angry. (?)

They were...

4.- As a writer he was so awful that he never published a single book. (?)

He was...

15 Sentences with TOO / ENOUGH

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO? You have to replace too with enough, or viceversa.
HOW WILL I KNOW THIS? You only have to look out for those two words.

Example:

It's too cold to go outside.
It isn't...

It isn't warm enough to go outside.

TIP: Don't forget to change the polarity of the sentence: if it is affirmative, make it negative, and viceversa. Then use the opposite of the adjective given to preserve the same meaning.

TIP 2: Alternatively, the examiner may ask you to begin with a different part of the sentence, as in the following example, where the direct object of the second clause is now the subject of the first one (but it is not a passive). In

LIVEWORKSHEETS

many cases, using your common sense is the best option, so just translate the sentence into Spanish and see how you can transform it:

Example:

He was not strong enough to lift the box.
The box...

The box was too heavy for him to lift (it).

Practice:

5.- You're not old enough to drive. (?)
You are...

6.- He's too inexperienced for this post. (?)
He's not...

16 Sentences with YET, STILL, ALREADY

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?	Rephrase a sentence with "yet", "still", or "already" using a different word.
HOW WILL I KNOW THIS?	You have to look out for those three words, and discard any other kind of transformation.

Remember that the negative form for "already" is "no longer" or "no more", and the negative form for "still" is "not yet".

Examples:

We're still trying to decide.
We haven't...

We haven't decided yet.
OR *We haven't taken a decision yet.*

They no longer live here.
They don't...

They don't live here any more.

TIP: Translate the example and do the exercise in Spanish first, then translate your answer into English using your common sense: sometimes you will

LIVEWORKSHEETS

also have to think of a suitable verb:

My grandfather is still working.
My grandfather hasn't...

My grandfather hasn't retired yet.

Practice:

7.- They haven't finished the exam yet. (?)
They are...

8.- They moved from Sheffield. (?)
They don't...

17 Sentences with FIRST and LAST

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?	Change a sentence using "the first time..." or "the last time..."
HOW WILL I KNOW THIS?	You will find the words "never (before)" if you have to use "the first time"; you may find "last" or "not... since" if you have to use "the last time".

Remember that the negative form for "already" is "no longer" or "no more", and the negative form for "still" is "not yet".

Examples:

I last visited Paris when I was a student.
The...

The last time I visited Paris was when I was a student.

TIP: Look carefully at the beginning of the sentence you have to write, and think in Spanish. A typical beginning is "This is..."

Example:

I've never tasted anything so delicious before.
This...

This is the first time I've tasted something so delicious.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Practice:

9.- There hasn't been such a strong earthquake since 1935. (?)
The last...

10.- The last time I saw a film at that cinema was in September. (?)
I ...

18 Antonyms

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?	You must replace a word with an antonym, and change the sentence from affirmative to negative, or the other way round. This is similar to what happened with TOO and ENOUGH (see section 15 above).
HOW WILL I KNOW THIS?	The beginning of the sentence will force you to find an antonym in order to keep the same meaning.

Remember that the negative form for "already" is "no longer" or "no more", and the negative form for "still" is "not yet".

Examples:

I like my soup hot.
I don't...

I don't like my soup cold.

TIP: Remember that there are other ways to express the opposite, not just a negative sentence:

I love going to bed late.
I hate...

I hate going to bed early.

Practice:

11.- I feel like going out this evening. (?)
I don't...

12.- I forgot to water the plants.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

I didn't ... (?)

Mixed types mini-test:

13.- The weather we had was so horrible that we don't want to go there again.

We had...

14.- I haven't played rugby for three years.

It's...

15.- I last saw my uncle Frank three months ago.

I haven't...

16.- This car is too slow to catch them.

This car isn't...

17.- Are you still driving the same old car?

Haven't you... ?

18.- Make sure you don't get up too late to get to your interview on time.

Make sure you get up...

19.- I'm still trying to understand this type of exercise.

I can't...

Write the question for the underlined information:

20.- We walked <u>nearly twenty miles</u> on our first day in Santiago's Way.

LIVEWORKSHEETS