

## English 3 Term 1/3 Week 6 Skills Check

**INSTRUCTIONS:**

Read each passage and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.

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Read the passage carefully while looking for errors. Then answer the following questions.

### Writing A Paper

(1) When it's time to write a paper for class, I either pull out my notebook and pen or find a computer and start typing. (2) Writing a paper is hard enough, but before 1819 it was even more difficult because writers had to make their own writing tools.

(3) If I had lived in Colonial days, I would have had to first go out and find a goose. (4) The word "pen" comes from the Latin word "penna," which means feather. (5) Up until the invention of the steel pen in 1819, pens were made from feathers. (6) Preparing a quill pen took both time and patience. (7) I'd have had to use a penknife to sharpen it after I'd done some cleaning of the shaft and hardened the tip. (8) To sharpen a quill correctly required a great deal of skill. (9) Since it lasted only about a week, even a good quill was a big problem.

(10) However, I still would not have been ready to write my paper because I would have needed ink. (11) If I were wealthy, I would have bought dried ink ingredients at the store, added a bit of water, and writing would begin. (12) Otherwise, I would have had to make my own ink using soot and combining it with egg white and honey, or lampblack mixed with water and glue. (13) I probably could have written only about four lines of script before I would have had to re-dip my pen in the ink.

(14) Nonetheless, I still would not have been ready to write my paper. (15) Really efficient blotting paper wasn't developed until the mid 19th century. (16) Next I'd have had to find and fill a couple of shakers. (17) Writers use to have a shaker of powdered pumice or resin, which would effectively coat thin writing paper so that the ink would not bleed through. (18) The second shaker held sand, which blotted up excess ink. (19) Only when all this was completed, would I have been able to begin my paper.

1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 17?

- A Change **use** to **used**.
- B Change **effectively** to **affectively**.
- C Add a comma after **paper**.
- D Make no change.

- 2 What change should be made in this essay?
- F Delete sentence 2.
  - G Move sentence 6 to after sentence 4.
  - H Delete sentence 12.
  - J Move sentence 15 to after sentence 18.
- 3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 3?
- A Change **Colonial** to **colonial**.
  - B Remove the comma after **days**.
  - C Add a comma after **out**.
  - D Make no change.
- 4 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
- F Change **probably** to **prabably**.
  - G Change **could have written** to **wrote**.
  - H Add a comma after **script**.
  - J Make no change.
- 5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 7?
- A Change **have had to use** to **used**.
  - B Change **it** to **the quill**.
  - C Add a comma after **shaft**.
  - D Make no change.

- 6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 11?
- F Remove the comma after **wealthy**.
  - G Change **added** to **adding**.
  - H Change **writing would begin** to **begun writing**.
  - J Make no change.
- 7 What is the MOST effective way to rewrite sentence 8?
- A Sharpening a quill correctly required a great deal of skill.
  - B A great deal of skill to sharpen a quill correctly.
  - C To sharpen a quill correctly a great deal of skill was required.
  - D Quill sharpening correctly required a great deal of skill.
- 8 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 9?
- F A good quill would last only about a week, it was a big problem.
  - G The big problem was that a good quill would last only about a week.
  - H Only about a week, a good quill was a big problem.
  - J Lasting only about a week was a big problem for even a good quill.



To the student: read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

## THE INTERNET

1) Like many other innovative technologies, the Internet arose out of a confluence of many factors. Beginning at the height of the Cold War in the 1960's, the Rand Corporation, America's premiere military think-tank, was faced with the problem of figuring out how to maintain a system of communication in the event of a nuclear attack. The telephone system of the day was largely susceptible to such an attack as its point to point connections were all dependent on one another for the communication to work: knock out one connection, you knock out *all* the connections. Paul Baran, one of Rand's theorists, conceptualized a network of communication that would be set up like a spider's web or fishnet, where the network or system would remain intact even if entire portions of the network were destroyed. The main principle of Baran's network was decentralization. It would be composed of many nodes or points of origin, each with its own authority to send and receive information. This information would be sent out in "packets," from one node to another, traveling throughout the network until it reached its proper destination. In this way the network would be able, as Baran put it, "to operate while in tatters," since the information would survive within whatever nodes were left after an attack.

2) Baran's idea soon stirred interest in the academic and military communities. Scientists from MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) and UCLA working in conjunction with ARPA, the Pentagon's Advanced Research Projects Agency, developed the first prototype of the Internet. The ARPANET, as the infant network was named in 1969, was comprised of 4 nodes (each being a supercomputer housed at a different academic institution) connected via a high speed transmission line. These four computers were able to transfer information and even program one another. This was an amazing breakthrough, as supercomputers had never before been remotely linked, let alone share information. Interestingly enough, complex programming and computing were not to be the main use for this developing network; email, or electronic mail, became the primary traffic on the network. Scientists and academics found themselves sharing personal information, news, and ideas rather than long distance computation. Over the next decade, electronic mail dominated the network which had grown from 4 to 213 hosts (1981) .

3) The advent of the personal computer in the mid 1980's, in addition to the development of a sophisticated internet language called TCP/IP, brought about a tremendous expansion of the Internet. Transmission Control Protocol, commonly known as TCP, allowed for more and more information to be transmitted over the network at faster rates of speed. IP, or Internet Protocol, allowed the network to connect to other networks throughout the world using a variety of connections such as Ethernet, FDDI, and X.25. In other words, connectivity was no longer limited to just the ARPANET network of computers. IBM and Apple had made home computing possible with the

release of their personal computers and soon thousands and thousands of people were connecting to this global network. The ARPANET, once the original network designed for the military and science became a smaller and smaller part of this growing "web." The "Internet" was now the official name of the world wide network.

4) The early 1990's also brought about a great expansion of the Internet. Up until 1991, the National Science Foundation's NSFNET, the regulatory backbone of the Internet, had banned commercial use of the Internet. Under pressure from the business industry and the government, the NSF lifted the ban and almost immediately commercial use of the Internet exploded. Businesses and individuals from all over the world were now transacting "online" as the term came to be known. As the 1990's progressed a language known as Hypertext Markup Language or HTML was developed that allowed words, pictures and sounds to be combined into a multimedia interface or "web page." This allowed for a sophisticated transfer of information between all types of users on the Internet: businesses, artists, scientists, educators, individual consumers etc. A universal way of connecting and navigating the myriad web pages was then developed by Marc Andreessen and a group of student programmers. This graphical interface or web browser soon became known as Netscape Navigator. The World Wide Web had been born.

5) Today, the Internet and World Wide Web have become as universal as technologies such as television and the telephone. In fact, the Internet, more than any other technology, has brought us into the Information Age, an era of exponential growth in information sharing, research, and other technologies. The uses for the Internet seem limitless and are growing almost every day. Today, we not only use the Internet for basic communication and commerce but also for education in schools, medical consultation, news reporting, traffic regulation, environmental monitoring, personal banking, and the list goes on and on.

6) As with other technologies of the past, the Internet will continue to grow and evolve to reflect the ever-changing needs and wants of the global community. It is a technology that holds great promise not only for research and the conveniences of sophisticated communication and consumerism but also for the equal distribution of goods and services throughout the world. One thing is for sure, with millions and millions of users world-wide and new countries getting online almost every day, the Internet is here to stay.

**9** In paragraph 4, the word **myriad** means —

- A** countless.
- B** colorful.
- C** foreign.
- D** blank.

**10** In paragraph 1, the word **confluence** means —

- F** gathering
- G** conflict
- H** selection
- J** substitution

**11** Read the dictionary entry below to answer the next question.

**Promise** -*noun*

**1** A pledge that one will or will not do something **2** A hint of something favorable to come; a promise of autumn in the cooler air. **3** An indication of future excellence or success **4** A guarantee of a favorable outcome to a specific situation.

Which definition BEST fits the word promise as it is used in the last paragraph?

- A** definition 1
- B** definition 2
- C** definition 3
- D** definition 4



- 12** The initial idea for the Internet or a *network of communication* arose from —
- F** the advent of the personal computer, mobile phones and various peripheral devices.
  - G** the rising costs and inefficiency of the standard telephone communication system.
  - H** America's need to maintain a system of communication in the event of a nuclear attack.
  - J** America's desire to help underdeveloped nations obtain essential goods and services.
- 13** What allowed for the development of the multimedia interface or *web page* ?
- A** the removal of the NSFNET's commercial ban
  - B** the advent of Hypertext Markup Language
  - C** the advent of Transmission Control Protocol
  - D** the creation of Ethernet, FDDI, and X.25
- 14** This is an example of what type of passage?
- F** propaganda
  - G** informational
  - H** autobiographical
  - J** persuasive