

I) **Common And Proper Nouns**

A common noun is a person, place or thing. A common noun does not need to be capitalized. A proper noun is a specific person, place or thing. A proper noun always begins with a capital letter.

Directions: Read each sentence and decide if the word in bold is a common or proper noun, if the noun needs to begin with a capital letter choose the correct option.

1. My **neighbor** has an in-ground pool.
2. I left my **purse** at work.
3. My birthday is in **november**.
4. The largest country in the world is **russia**.
5. Our local baseball team is called the **blue crabs**.
6. I always do my writing on the **computer**.
7. Karen brought **cookies** to class.
8. My favorite kind of apple is **granny smith**.
9. My father has a job with **boeing**.
10. I like for my **cell phone** to have a very big screen.
11. All of our electronics are **samsung**.

## II) Contractions

A contraction is a shortened form of two words. In a contraction, an apostrophe takes the place of the missing letters. Examples: I am = I'm you have = you've it is = it's

Directions: Change the words in ( ) into a contraction.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (we are) going to the fair this weekend.
2. He said that he \_\_\_\_\_ (would not) go with me.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ (it is) time to go to bed.
4. It \_\_\_\_\_ (is not) too late to enter the contest.
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (will not) be able to finish my homework.
6. Do you think \_\_\_\_\_ (you will) have fun at the party.
7. I \_\_\_\_\_ (do not) know what \_\_\_\_\_ (should have) been done.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ (who did) you say was coming for dinner tonight?
9. \_\_\_\_\_ (we will) ask them if \_\_\_\_\_ (they have) seen our dog.
10. You \_\_\_\_\_ (will not) have time to complete the project.
11. \_\_\_\_\_ (there is) never enough money to pay the bills.
12. The answer \_\_\_\_\_ (was not) correct.
13. If \_\_\_\_\_ (you would) like to go, \_\_\_\_\_ (I will) take you.
14. I knew \_\_\_\_\_ (she would) want to buy that ring.

## III) Homographs

Homographs are words that have the same spelling but could have different meanings.

Directions : Choose the correct answer for each sentence.

1. I sat \_\_\_\_\_ to the fireman and the three ladies.
2. I will wash my hands in the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ flew around in circles as we walked through the cave.
4. The brown \_\_\_\_\_ was big and was able to carry the trunk of the tree.
5. I need to go to the \_\_\_\_\_ to get some money.
6. I am \_\_\_\_\_ to the end of the road.
7. I need a baseball \_\_\_\_\_ to play the game.

8. We will \_\_\_\_\_ our leftover food rather than throw it in the trash can.
9. The boat began to \_\_\_\_\_ because there was too much water.
10. The pain was too much to \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Could you \_\_\_\_\_ the door and protect our floor?
12. The \_\_\_\_\_ of sand was too much for the deck to withstand.

#### IV) Find and Write the Homonyms

Homonyms are words that sound the same but have different meanings.

Homonyms may also be spelled differently.

Directions: For the sentence pairs below, there is a homonym in each sentence that sounds like the one in another sentence. Find and write down each homonym.

1. \_\_\_\_\_

A. The man could write many stories about it.

B. I have the right to stand on this hill beside the road.

2. \_\_\_\_\_

A. The principal was punctual to the dance.

B. The only way to prevent this is to develop a principle that works.

3. \_\_\_\_\_

A. I would like to roll up the window to see the sun set.

B. Can we audition for the role together?

4. \_\_\_\_\_

A. The tail of the cow was swaying in the wind.

B. I heard a tale about the animals that comes out at night to scare the town.

5. \_\_\_\_\_

A. I have a vein that is bothering me.

B. She tried in vain to get the books back from the man.

6. \_\_\_\_\_

A. The two girls skipped down the street.

B. He will go to the village too.

7. \_\_\_\_\_

A. Can you wait for me?

B. I will not measure my weight this week.

### V) Homophones

Directions: Choose the correct answer for each sentence.

1. Get up my (sun / son).
2. You (ought / aught) to have said it long ago.
3. (Buoys / Boys) float on the sea to warn ships of danger.
4. He skidded because he did not apply the (brake / break).
5. I did not have the (hart / heart) to disappoint her.
6. He told me the (tail / tale) of a fox. Answer
7. The children have been playing for (two / too) .
8. What is the (prize / price) of it.
9. Please (pray / prey) for me.
10. We (peel / peal) the orange with a knife.
11. Please (pass / pause) for a while.
10. The time is half (passed / past) ten.
11. There is a (whole / hole) in the bucket.

### VI) Dependent and Independent Clauses

**Instructions:** Each sentence contains a clause in CAPITAL letters. Decide whether this clause is dependent or independent by ticking the button next to your choice.

1. If you don't fix the car, IT WILL CONTINUE TO LEAK OIL.

- a.) dependent clause
- b.) independent clause

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2. WHILE THE CAR IS BEING FIXED, we will need to take the bus.

- a.) dependent clause
- b.) independent clause

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3. It isn't necessary to cram all night IF YOU HAVE STUDIED A LITTLE EACH DAY.

- a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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4. Before you begin studying for the exam, YOU WILL PROBABLY WANT TO REST.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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5. I can't go to the movies SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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6. WHETHER HE ATTENDS THE PARTY OR NOT, I have decided to go.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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7. I WILL STOP PLAYING THE DRUMS when you go to sleep.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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8. SINCE YOU'VE TAKEN YOUR EXAM IN BIOLOGY, you probably don't feel like studying for tomorrow's exam in math.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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9. Until he apologizes to me for his rude behavior, I REFUSE TO SEE HIM.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

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10. I wore my boots BECAUSE IT LOOKED LIKE IT MIGHT SNOW.

a.) dependent clause

b.) independent clause

## VII) Subject and predicate

Do the words in **red** function as a subject or as a predicate?

1. **The beautiful woman** was wearing a red dress.
2. Next month, **my daughter** is getting married in London.
3. My father and my uncle **are discussing how to set up a new business together.**
4. My students **always do their homework.**
5. The teacher and the administration **are fed up with the behavior of a difficult student.**
6. **He** has a huge beautiful house.
7. The soup **tastes good.**
8. They **are watching a horror film.**
9. Every weekend, **my wife** goes jogging.
10. A rich pretty woman **was walking home at night along a dark road.**

## VIII) Reading

Nonfiction Reading Test:

Directions: Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Refer to the text to check your answers when appropriate.

### Chess

Chess is called the game of kings. It has been around for a long time. People have been playing it for over 500 years. Chess is based on an even older game from India. The chess we play today is from Europe.

Chess is a two-player game. One player uses the white pieces. The other uses the White Chess Pieces black pieces. Each piece moves in a special way. One piece is called the king. Each player has one. The players take turns moving their pieces. If a player lands on a piece, he or she takes it. The game ends when a player loses his or her king. There are a few more rules, but those are the basics.

Some people think that chess is more than a game. They think that it makes the mind stronger. Good chess players use their brains. They take their time. They think about what will happen next. These skills are useful in life and in chess. Chess is kind of like a workout for the mind.

You don't always have lots of time to think when playing chess. There is a type of chess with short time limits. It's called blitz chess. In blitz chess, each player gets ten minutes to use for the whole game. Your clock runs during your turn. You hit the time clock after your move. This stops your clock. It also starts the other player's clock. If you run out of time, you lose. Games of blitz chess are fast-paced.

Chess is not just for people. Computers have been playing chess since the 1970s. At first they did not play well. They made mistakes. As time went on they grew stronger. In 1997, a computer beat the best player in the world for the first time. It was a computer called Deep Blue. Deep Blue was big. It took up a whole room. By 2006 a cell phone could beat the best players in the world. Chess sure has come a long way. Don't you think so?

**1. What is the author's purpose in writing the second paragraph?**

- a. To explain the rules of chess
- b. To compare different types of games
- c. To talk about game pieces
- d. To persuade people to play chess

**2. Which is not a reason that chess is a good workout for the mind according to the text?**

- a. Good chess players think about what will happen next.
- b. Good chess players take a lot of risks.
- c. Good chess players take their time.
- d. Good chess players use their brains.

**3. How long have people been playing chess?**

- a. Over 100 years
- b. Over 500 years
- c. Over 1000 years
- d. Over 5000 years

**4. Where did the game that chess is based on come from?**

- a. Europe
- b. America
- c. India
- d. All of these

**5. Which best describes the main idea in the fourth paragraph?**

- a. This paragraph argues that players should think less.
- b. This paragraph explains how blitz chess is played.
- c. This paragraph explains time clocks work.
- d. This paragraph describes many different ways to play chess.

**6. How does a game of chess end according to the text?**

- a. One player takes all of the other player's pieces.
- b. One player makes it to the end of the board.
- c. One player becomes king.
- d. One player loses his or her king.

**7. Which happened first?**

- a. Computers did not play chess well.
- b. Deep Blue won an important game.
- c. Cell phones got good at playing chess.
- d. Deep Blue took up a whole room.

**8. How is blitz chess different from regular chess?**

- a. Each player has two kings.
- b. Players are blindfolded.
- c. Players only have ten minutes to play.
- d. Players start from a random position.

**9. If it's your turn in blitz chess, what happens when you hit the clock?**

- a. Both your clock and the other person's clock keep running.
- b. The other person's clock stops running and yours starts.
- c. Both clocks stop running.
- d. Your clock stops running, and the other person's clock begins.

**10. When did a computer first beat a strong human player in chess?**

- a. 2006
- b. 1997
- c. 1970
- d. 1976