

Chapter 5: Verbal Skills Practice Test

In the following practice test, be sure to take it in realistic conditions: time yourself and do not cheat by going over the time limit. Remember, this practice is for you, not anyone else. Use this as an opportunity to improve and evaluate where you might need more work.

For questions 1 – 10, select the best segment to replace the underlined segment of the sentence.

1. Rod cells are found in the human eye so they can absorb light to see in even dim environments.
 - a) “eye, but can absorb light to see in even dim environments.”
 - b) “eye to see in dim environments even by absorbing light.”
 - c) “eye and can absorb light to see in even dim environments.”
 - d) “eye and are absorbing light to see in even dim environments.”
 - e) “eye so they can absorb light to see in even dim environments.”

2. Having already finished her essay, washing the truck was the thing Maricela was ready to do.
 - a) “washing the truck was the next thing Maricela did.”
 - b) “Maricela had another thing she was ready to do and that was washing the truck.”
 - c) “washing the truck Maricela was ready to do.”
 - d) “Maricela was ready to wash the truck.”
 - e) “washing the truck was the thing Maricela was ready to do.”

3. The information gathered from the national census is used to determine political boundaries, inform policies, and planning transportation systems.
 - a) “is used to determine political boundaries, inform policies, and plan transportation systems.”
 - b) “determines political boundaries and informs policies and plans transportation systems.”
 - c) “is determining political boundaries, informing policies, and planning transportation systems.”
 - d) “is used to determine political boundaries, informing policies, and planning transportation systems.”
 - e) “is used to determine political boundaries, inform policies, and planning transportation systems.”

4. Many artists and producers disagree over how copyright laws should be applied, they have different perspectives on what best protects and encourages creativity.
 - a) “should be applied since it is that they have different perspectives”
 - b) “are applied with different perspectives”
 - c) “should apply on differing perspectives”
 - d) “are applied, because they have different perspectives”
 - e) “should be applied, they have different perspectives”

5. Many consider television shows to be eroding of our nation’s imaginations and attention spans.
 - a) “to have eroded our nation’s imaginations and attention spans.”
 - b) “erosion of our nation’s imaginations and attention spans.”
 - c) “to be eroding of our national imaginations and attention spans.”
 - d) “to be eroding of the national imagination and attention span.”
 - e) “eroded our nation’s imaginations and attention spans.”

6. In the early 1960's, the Civil Rights movement in the United States has swiftly grown to encompass such movements as the Freedom Rides and the integration of universities.
- "has grown swiftly to encompass"
 - "has swiftly grown, encompassing"
 - "growing swiftly has encompassed"
 - "had swiftly grown to encompass"
 - "has swiftly grown to encompass"
7. Raul, the most knowledgeable of us all regarding physics, maintain that we would be needing better equipment.
- "maintaining that we would need"
 - "maintains that we would be needing"
 - "maintains that we would need"
 - "maintain we would have needed"
 - "maintain that we would be needing"
8. Does anyone have an informed guess that they would like to share before I reveal the answer?
- "Do anyone have an informed guess that they would like"
 - "Is anyone having an informed guess that they would like"
 - "Does anyone have an informed guess that they have wanting"
 - "Anyone with an informed guess would like"
 - "Does anyone have an informed guess that they would like"
9. The meals at this restaurant have so much more salt in them than the restaurant we went to last week.
- "The meals at this restaurant have so much more salt in them than that other restaurant."
 - "The meals at this restaurant are so much saltier than the restaurant we went to last week."
 - "The meals at this restaurant have much more salt in them than the restaurant we went to last week."
 - "The meals at this restaurant have so much more salt in them than those at the restaurant we went to last week."
 - "The meals at this restaurant have so much more salt in them than the restaurant we went to last week."
10. The Bernina Range runs along eastern Switzerland and is considered to be a part of the Central Eastern Alps.
- "is running along eastern Switzerland and is considered to be a part of the"
 - "runs along eastern Switzerland and is considered part of"
 - "run along eastern Switzerland, consider to be a part of the"
 - "run along eastern Switzerland and is considered to be a part of the"
 - "runs along eastern Switzerland and is considered to be a part of the"

For the following questions, select which of the underlined selections are incorrect within the sentence.

11. When cooking with hot oil, it is prudent for one to wear long sleeves so that want the oil does not splatter onto your arms and burn them.
- a) "oil, it is prudent"
 - b) "one to wear"
 - c) "splatter onto"
 - d) "them."
 - e) No error.
12. Jordan and I practiced our show over and over; we would have only twenty minutes to play, and we wanted to make sure to play our best songs.
- a) "Jordan and I"
 - b) "over and over;"
 - c) "would have"
 - d) "to play"
 - e) No error.
13. Aliyah asked Timothy and I to help her run the student election; so this week we are hanging posters, printing the ballots, and editing speeches.
- a) "Timothy and I"
 - b) "election"
 - c) "we are hanging"
 - d) "and editing speeches."
 - e) No error.
14. The difficulty with navigating subway systems are compounded when some stations are closed for repair.
- a) "subway systems"
 - b) "are compounded"
 - c) "when some"
 - d) "repair."
 - e) No error.
15. We were given explicit instructions for how to deal with this exact situation: we are to immediately halt production and be contacting the supervisor.
- a) "were given"
 - b) "this exact"
 - c) "to immediately halt"
 - d) "and be contacting"
 - e) No error.

16. The way the shadows play across the leaves provide the artist with innumerable challenges in painting the twilit landscape.
- "shadows play"
 - "provide the artist"
 - "innumerable"
 - "the twilit landscape"
 - No error.
17. Along the banks of the Colorado River grow many different kinds of bushes and trees which serve as habitats for the deer mice, raccoons, jackrabbits, and toads that live there.
- "Along the banks"
 - "grow many different kinds"
 - "which serve"
 - "that live there"
 - No error.
18. Gerald slung his arm about me very familiar, although we had only met hours ago.
- "slung his arm"
 - "very"
 - "familiar, although"
 - "only met hours ago"
 - No error.
19. After hiking all afternoon in the rocky desert, we had a desperate need of water bottles and long, soothing showers.
- "all afternoon"
 - "we had"
 - "need of"
 - "long, soothing showers"
 - No error.
20. It took nearly half an hour to dish out the meals to the large group. First, we had to give everyone food, and then we had to make sure that everyone got their beverage as well.
- "half an hour"
 - "give everyone food"
 - "that everyone got"
 - "their beverage"
 - No error.
21. When considering what kind of car to purchase, it is important to factor in hidden costs such as how much gas the car consumed and how expensive maintenance will be.
- "what kind of"
 - "factor in hidden costs"
 - "the car consumed"
 - "maintenance will be"
 - No error.

22. Just before the guests arrived Sarah realized that we were going to run out of paper plates, so her and David went to the store to buy some.
- "the guests arrived"
 - "we were going"
 - "her and David"
 - "some"
 - No error.
23. Regardless by how much one likes or appreciates a gift, it is absolutely necessary to thank the giver in person, by telephone, or even with a card.
- "Regardless by"
 - "likes or appreciates"
 - "absolutely necessary"
 - "or even with"
 - No error.
24. Even though Alaina was generally cautious when it came to daring physical feats, she was excited to try spelunking for the first time; she'd heard that the caves were breathtaking.
- "was generally cautious"
 - "to try"
 - "she'd heard"
 - "the caves were"
 - No error.
25. The borders of Rasco County is comprised of the river to the north and east and interstates along the south and the west.
- "borders of"
 - "is comprised"
 - "and east"
 - "along the south"
 - No error.
26. Each applicant for the open time slot was asked to give his opinion on the best way to improve the radio station's programming.
- "applicant for"
 - "was asked"
 - "his opinion on"
 - "station's programming"
 - No error.
27. There will likely never be a general consensus on which is best: the sunrise or the sunset.
- "will likely never"
 - "consensus on"
 - "is best"
 - "or"
 - No error.

28. The storm drew menacing near the town where citizens had been warned to move down to their cellars.
- "menacing"
 - "where"
 - "had been"
 - "their"
 - No error.
29. There are some difficulties inherent for moving across the country. One must secure housing remotely and transport belongings great distances.
- "for moving"
 - "One must"
 - "remotely"
 - "transport"
 - No error.
30. When driving on a major road, to have gone the speed limit is prudent.
- "When driving"
 - "major"
 - "to have gone"
 - "is prudent"
 - No error.
31. Salvador and me, who take Spanish class together, often study in the library prior to exams.
- "and me"
 - "who take"
 - "together"
 - "prior to"
 - No error.
32. Because of the stringent law enacted in the state, legislators must be careful to review policies.
- "Because of"
 - "enacted in"
 - "must be careful"
 - "policies"
 - No error.
33. If the candidate the company had endorsed were to win, the CEO is very pleased.
- "If the candidate"
 - "had endorsed"
 - "to win"
 - "is very"
 - No error.

34. Even though we already understood the solution, the tutor insisted on explaining the steps again to Sara and I.
- a) "Even though"
 - b) "already understood"
 - c) "insisted on"
 - d) "and I"
 - e) No error.

35. It is essential to applying the criteria uniformly across all of the candidates in order to judge the contest fairly.
- a) "applying"
 - b) "criteria"
 - c) "in order to"
 - d) "fairly"
 - e) No error.

For the following questions, rewrite the sentence in your mind using the provided start of the sentence, then choose the correct answer for what should follow.

36. Ice, which expands when frozen, will take up more space within the container holding it.

Rewrite, beginning with: Expanding when frozen.

The next words will be:

- a) "the container holding it"
 - b) "take up more space"
 - c) "space is taken"
 - d) "ice will take up"
 - e) "holding it"
37. Michael, John, and Jerry all enjoy playing football on warm summer mornings if they can find a team to join them.
- Rewrite, beginning with: On warm summer mornings.
- The next words will be:
- a) "Michael, John, and Jerry"
 - b) "playing football"
 - c) "enjoy the playing of"
 - d) "finding a team to join them"
 - e) "the team that joins them"

38. The office party was a success, everyone agreed happily, especially because of the good food.
Rewrite, beginning with: Especially because of the good food.

The next words will be:

- a) "agreed"
- b) "happily agreed"
- c) "a success"
- d) "the office"
- e) "everyone agreed"

39. Dogs are faithful companions, and can be great addition to any family; but not all dogs are well-suited for hunting and outdoor activities.

Rewrite, beginning with: A great addition to any family.

The next words will be:

- a) "All dogs"
- b) "dogs are faithful"
- c) "companions are"
- d) "my dog is black"
- e) "hunting and outdoor"

40. Jill was excited after finally learning how to ride a bike.

Rewrite, beginning with: Finally learning how to ride a bike

The next words will be:

- a) "was excited"
- b) "afterwards Jill"
- c) "she was riding"
- d) "excited Jill"
- e) "finally excited"