BEFORE THE 5 DECEMBER SAT

Lesson 1 Worksheet.

Punctuation, grammar and transitions, at hard Module 2 level.

INSIDE

- 21 questions on every rule from Lesson 1
- 5 punctuation questions: the SAT train and its traps
- 7 grammar questions across all six boxes
- 5 transition questions on the five traps
- Last 4: the same rules in disguise
- Answer key with the rule behind each answer
- Why every wrong option fails

HOW TO USE IT

1. Give yourself 25 minutes. No notes.
2. Count the engines or name the box before you look at the options.
3. Write the trap name and tick Sure, 50/50 or Guess.
4. Mark with the key. Redo every wrong one before reading why.

These are harder than most questions you will see on test day, on purpose. If one takes you longer than 3 minutes, mark it and move on, just like the real test.

1 MODULE 2 LEVEL · BOUNDARIES

My answer

The set of clay tablets that archaeologists recovered from the floor of a collapsed palace archive at Ebla in the 1970s _____ some of the earliest known bilingual word lists, pairing Sumerian words with their equivalents in the local language.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) 1970s, contains

(B) 1970s; contains

(C) 1970s contains

(D) 1970s—contains

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

2 MODULE 2 LEVEL · BOUNDARIES

My answer

Many engineers assumed that the bridge's curved support cables were purely decorative. Wind-tunnel tests suggested _____ the curve reduced vibration in strong crosswinds by nearly a third.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) otherwise, however;

(B) otherwise; however,

(C) otherwise, however,

(D) otherwise however

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

3 MODULE 2 LEVEL · BOUNDARIES

My answer

Some deep-sea anglerfish solve the problem of finding a mate in total darkness in an extreme _____ tiny male fuses permanently to the much larger female's body and shares her blood supply for the rest of his life.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) way, the
(B) way the
(C) way. Because the
(D) way: the

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

4 MODULE 2 LEVEL · BOUNDARIES

My answer

In a 2021 study, _____ found that honeybees exposed to low doses of a common fungicide made more errors when returning to their hives than unexposed bees did.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) entomologist, Lara Moreno, and her team
(B) entomologist Lara Moreno and her team
(C) entomologist Lara Moreno, and her team
(D) entomologist—Lara Moreno and her team,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

5 MODULE 2 LEVEL · BOUNDARIES

My answer

In one survey, entomologists collected more than 4,000 beetle specimens from the canopy of a single rainforest tree, nearly a fifth of them _____ to science at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) were unknown
(B) they were unknown
(C) unknown
(D) are unknown

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

6 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

The mapmakers who joined Portuguese voyages along the West African coast in the 1480s, recording harbors, river mouths, and the positions of the stars, _____ charts so precise that sailors relied on them for decades.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) produced
(B) producing
(C) having produced
(D) to produce

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

7 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

Along the walls of the cave, hidden behind a curtain of hanging roots for thousands of years, _____ a series of handprints stenciled in red ochre and a single painted figure of a deer.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) was
(B) has been
(C) is
(D) were

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

8 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

Field linguists working across the region have recorded hundreds of hours of speech since 1990. According to their latest report, the number of local languages that children still learn as a first language _____ by nearly a third over that period.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) have fallen
(B) has fallen
(C) were falling
(D) fall

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

9 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

When the Rosetta spacecraft finally reached comet 67P in 2014, it _____ through space for more than ten years, looping past Earth three times and Mars once to gain speed.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) has traveled
(B) travels
(C) had been traveling
(D) will have traveled

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

10 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

Critics have long noted that photographer Marisol Ortega's portraits look composed rather than captured. Trained as a painter before she ever picked up a camera, _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) Ortega's photographs often borrow the careful framing of classical portraiture.
(B) the careful framing of classical portraiture often appears in Ortega's photographs.
(C) the photographs Ortega made often borrow the careful framing of classical portraiture.
(D) Ortega often borrowed the careful framing of classical portraiture for her photographs.

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

11 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

Working with astronomers from more than twenty countries, the European Space Agency has spent over a decade refining the measurements from its Gaia telescope; _____ final catalog, expected later this decade, will list the positions of nearly two billion stars.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) its
(B) their
(C) it's
(D) they're

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

12 MODULE 2 LEVEL · FORM, STRUCTURE & SENSE

My answer

Researchers tracking forty loggerhead turtles across the Atlantic found that the _____ migration routes shifted northward as ocean temperatures rose; one _____ route moved almost 300 kilometers in a single decade.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) turtle's / turtles'
(B) turtles' / turtle's
(C) turtles / turtle's
(D) turtles' / turtles

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

13 MODULE 2 LEVEL · TRANSITIONS

My answer

The museum's newly restored painting is remarkable for one feature in particular. _____ its background, hidden for two centuries under a later layer of varnish, contains a second, smaller portrait of the artist herself.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) For example,
(B) Moreover,
(C) Nevertheless,
(D) Specifically,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

14 MODULE 2 LEVEL · TRANSITIONS

My answer

Geologists describe the soil on the island's youngest lava fields as "immature." _____ it has formed so recently that it still contains large fragments of the volcanic rock it came from and almost none of the clay found in older soils.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) In other words,
(B) For instance,
(C) Instead,
(D) Consequently,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

15 MODULE 2 LEVEL · TRANSITIONS

My answer

During her lifetime, botanist Ada Kerr's collection of mountain mosses attracted little notice beyond a handful of specialists. _____ when a 1921 report used her specimens to describe four new species, it did not mention her name at all.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) However,
(B) Granted,
(C) Indeed,
(D) Instead,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

16 MODULE 2 LEVEL · TRANSITIONS

My answer

Over the past decade, the price of lithium-ion battery cells has fallen by more than 80 percent. _____ although electric cars still cost more to build than gasoline cars in many markets, the gap has narrowed enough that several manufacturers now expect the two to cost the same within a few years.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) However,
(B) As a result,
(C) For example,
(D) Similarly,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

17 MODULE 2 LEVEL · TRANSITIONS

My answer

The new desalination plant on the coast can produce enough fresh water for half a million people every day. _____ it uses so much electricity that the city will have to build a new power station to run it.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) That said,

(B) Instead,

(C) Specifically,

(D) Similarly,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

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18 MODULE 2 LEVEL · NEW DISGUISE · FENCE

My answer

Of the dozens of comets astronomers tracked that year, the one _____ grew brighter than any other recorded that century and stayed visible to the naked eye for months.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) , which Lin discovered in March,
(B) —which Lin discovered in March—
(C) that Lin discovered in March
(D) that Lin discovered, in March,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

19 MODULE 2 LEVEL · NEW DISGUISE · AGREEMENT

My answer

Measuring the tiny, regular dips in a star's brightness that occur as a planet passes in front of it _____ astronomers to estimate the planet's size without ever seeing the planet itself.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) allow
(B) allowing
(C) have allowed
(D) allows

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

20 MODULE 2 LEVEL · NEW DISGUISE · MODIFIER

My answer

Most research ships cannot break through the thick ice of the Arctic Ocean in early spring. A former icebreaker refitted with six laboratories and bunks for forty scientists, _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

(A) the Polar Dawn now carries research teams from six countries into the ice each spring.

(B) research teams from six countries now share the Polar Dawn each spring.

(C) the Polar Dawn's crew now carries research teams from six countries into the ice each spring.

(D) each spring, research teams from six countries are carried into the ice by the Polar Dawn.

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

21 MODULE 2 LEVEL · NEW DISGUISE · TRANSITION

My answer

Unlike most birds, which build a fresh nest every breeding season, bald eagles return to the same nest year after year, adding new branches each time. _____ one nest in Ohio, used for more than thirty years, weighed nearly two tons when the tree holding it finally fell.

Which choice completes the text with the most logical transition?

(A) Specifically,

(B) For example,

(C) In other words,

(D) Nevertheless,

Trap: _____ How sure? ☐ Sure ☐ 50/50 ☐ Guess

ANSWER KEY

All 21 answers.

Every wrong option breaks a rule from Lesson 1. If you can name the rule, the answer is yours.

#	ANSWER	PART	CORRECT TEXT
Q1	C	Punctuation	1970s contains
Q2	A	Punctuation	otherwise, however;
Q3	D	Punctuation	way: the
Q4	B	Punctuation	entomologist Lara Moreno and her team
Q5	C	Punctuation	unknown
Q6	A	Grammar	produced
Q7	D	Grammar	were
Q8	B	Grammar	has fallen
Q9	C	Grammar	had been traveling
Q10	D	Grammar	Ortega often borrowed the careful framing of classical portraiture for her photographs.
Q11	A	Grammar	its
Q12	B	Grammar	turtles' / turtle's
Q13	D	Transitions	Specifically,
Q14	A	Transitions	In other words,
Q15	C	Transitions	Indeed,
Q16	B	Transitions	As a result,
Q17	A	Transitions	That said,
Q18	C	New disguise	that Lin discovered in March
Q19	D	New disguise	allows
Q20	A	New disguise	the Polar Dawn now carries research teams from six countries into the ice each spring.
Q21	B	New disguise	For example,

EXPLANATIONS

The rule behind each answer.

Q1
C

Pause Trap · Rule 8. The subject is **set** (one), its verb is **contains**. However long the subject, nothing goes between them.

Why not the others: A comma, B semicolon and D dash each cut the subject from its verb. B also needs a full sentence on both sides.

Q2
A

"However" Owner · Trap 2. "However" contrasts the tests with what engineers assumed, so it closes the first clause. The second clause explains what the tests showed, so the semicolon comes after "however".

Why not the others: B is legal punctuation but puts the contrast on the second clause, which agrees with the tests. C is a comma splice. D is a run-on.

Q3
D

Colon Test · Rule 4. "Some deep-sea anglerfish solve the problem … in an extreme way" is a full engine, and what follows explains it. A colon is exactly right.

Why not the others: A is a comma splice (two engines, a comma alone). B is a run-on. C leaves "Because the tiny male fuses …" as a fragment.

Q4
B

Fence Trap · Rule 7–8. A title right before a name is essential: it tells you which entomologist. No commas between them, and no mark between the subject and its verb "found".

Why not the others: A fences the name as if it were extra. C puts one comma between the subject and the verb. D opens with a dash and closes with a comma.

Q5
C

Hidden Boundary · Trap 5. A comma is already printed, so the part after it must stay a trolley: "nearly a fifth of them unknown to science".

Why not the others: A, C and D add a real verb, which builds a second engine joined by a comma alone: a comma splice. D is also the wrong tense.

Q6
A

Box 1 · Real verb. Cross out the who-clause and the fenced "recording …" phrase: "The mapmakers [_] charts." The sentence still needs its main verb.

Why not the others: B, C and D are -ing, having + verb and to + verb forms. None can be the main verb, so the sentence would have no verb at all.

Q7
D

Box 2 · Inverted agreement. The subject comes after the verb: "a series of handprints … **and** a single painted figure". Two things joined by "and" are plural → were.

Why not the others: A, B and C are singular. They agree with "series" or "figure" alone, not with both.

Q8
B

Box 2 + Box 3. "The number" is singular, and "since 1990 … over that period" runs up to now → has + verb.

Why not the others: A agrees with "languages" or "children", not "the number". C is plural and past progressive. D is plural and has no time link.

Q9
C

Box 3 · Tense. The travel started before another past event ("reached … in 2014") and kept going up to it → had been traveling.

Why not the others: A ties the action to now. B is present tense in a 2014 story. D points to the future.

Q10
D

Box 4 · Modifier. Ask "who was trained as a painter?" Ortega. Her name must come right after the comma.

Why not the others: A: a possessive does not count, so it says the photographs were trained. B says the framing was trained. C says the photographs were trained.

Q11
A

Box 5 · Pronoun. The catalog belongs to the agency (one organisation) → its. The plural nouns nearby, astronomers and countries, are the trap.

Why not the others: B is plural. C means "it is". D means "they are".

Q12
B

Box 6 · Possessives. Count the owners. Forty turtles own the routes → turtles'. One turtle owns one route → turtle's.

Why not the others: A swaps them. C's first word shows no ownership. D's second word shows no ownership.

Q13
D

Familiar-Word Trap + Specification. "One feature in particular" promises THE exact feature. The next sentence names it → Specifically.

Why not the others: A: there is only one feature, so there is no list to take an example from. B adds a separate point. C: nothing is true despite anything.

Q14
A

Example vs. Specification vs. Restatement · Trap 2. The second sentence explains what "immature" means here. That is restatement.

Why not the others: B: it is not one case of immaturity; it is the definition. C: nothing is replaced. D: being called immature does not cause the soil to be young.

Q15
C

Emphasis vs. Contrast · Trap 3. Little notice → not even her name: same direction, stronger → Indeed.

Why not the others: B: nothing opposes anything. C: the writer is not admitting a point against a claim. D: nothing is replaced.

Q16
B

Nearest-Sentence Trap · Trap 4. Cover the inside "although". Cheaper batteries → the cost gap has narrowed. Cause → effect.

Why not the others: A is pulled by the inside "although". C: the narrowing gap is a result, not an example of falling battery prices. D: not a new, parallel case.

Q17
A

Contrast vs. Concession vs. Replacement · Trap 5. A strength, then a drawback that is true despite it → That said.

Why not the others: B: nothing replaced the plant. C: the electricity use is not THE exact detail of the water output. D: a drawback is not a similar case.

Q18
C

Fence Trap in disguise. Without the clause you cannot tell WHICH comet of dozens. It is essential, so it takes no fence.

Why not the others: A and B fence the clause as extra, but it is what tells you which comet. D splits "discovered in March" with commas for no reason.

Q19

D

Box 2 in disguise. The subject is the action "Measuring ..." (one action), not "dips" or "planet". Cross out everything after "Measuring the dips" and it reads "Measuring ... allows".

Why not the others: A and C are plural, agreeing with "dips". B is not a real verb, so the sentence would have none.

Q20

A

Box 4 in disguise. There is no -ing or -ed word at the start, but the opening phrase still describes a noun: "a former icebreaker". The ship must come right after the comma.

Why not the others: B says the research teams are a former icebreaker. C says the crew is. D puts "each spring" after the comma, so the phrase describes nothing.

Q21

B

The habit is general (all bald eagles); the Ohio nest is ONE case of it → For example. Yes, the familiar word can be right: name the relationship, never pick by star words alone.

Why not the others: A needs "the exact one" the text pointed to, and no single nest was mentioned. C would restate the habit, not give a case. D: nothing is true despite anything.

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BETWEEN LESSONS

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HELP

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