Language Quiz Answer Key

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**1)** Which sentence contains a word or phrase that requires a hyphen?

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| A) | The former tenants broke the microwave. |

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| --- | --- |
| B) | When I get home I will unload the dishwasher. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | The clothes in my suitcase need to be repressed. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | Automatic dishwashers are very practical and convenient. |

**Explanation:**  
**The clothes in my suitcase need to be repressed.** To avoid confusion, a hyphen is required in the word *re-pressed*. Without the hyphen, the word denotes *to stifle* or *hold down.* The intended meaning is *to press* or *to iron* the clothes a second time.

**2)**

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| Excerpt from: **Norse Mythology Part C** Kate McConnaughey  (22) They broke his body in pieces and made a planet. |

Read the passage and look closely at the underlined section marked number (22). There may be a mistake in the way the sentence is written. If you find a mistake, choose the answer that corrects the mistake. If there is no mistake, choose 'Correct as is.'

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | Correct as is. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | (22) They broke his body in peaces and made a planet. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | (22) They broke his body in pieces and make a planet. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | (22) They will break his body in pieces and make a planet. |

**Explanation:**  
**Correct as is.** The sentence is free of error. Other answer choices contain either a spelling error (peaces),or verb tense errors (make), or (break, make). The verb tense must remain in past tense to be consistent with the rest of the passage.

**3)**

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| I could not decide \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I would dress up as a superhero or as a ghoulish monster. |

Choose the word with the correct spelling and context meaning to BEST complete this sentence:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | weather |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | wether |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | wheather |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | whether |

**Explanation:**  
The correct usage and spelling is**whether.** The remaining answer choices are either misspelled or refer to temperature and climate.

**4)** *Because of the rainy \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, the picnic was held indoors.*  
  
Choose the word that is spelled correctly and BEST fits the context of the sentence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | weather |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | wether |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | wheather |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | whether |

**Explanation:**  
**Weather** is the correct answer.

**5)**

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| Excerpt from: **Marsupials** Carole Jenkins  3 The cuscus lives in New Guinea, Indonesia, and northern Australia. It is about the size of a house cat and is 8covered with fur to the tip of its coarse, scaly tale. The cuscus is a nocturnal animal and lives in trees. |

Read the underlined section **8.** There is a mistake in the use of Standard American English conventions. Which of these answers **BEST** corrects that error?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | course |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | it's |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | scaley |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | tail |

**Explanation:**  
The correct answer is **tail**. In this context, the correct spelling of the word is "tail." The spelling "tale" means an imaginary story.

**6)**

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| **spring** *noun*  1. a source of water coming from the ground  2. a time or season of growth 3. a device that recovers its original shape after being used 4. the act or an instance of leaping up or forward |

Which dictionary definition of "spring" is used in the following sentence?  
  
The **spring** was a great resource when we went camping for a week in the mountains.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | Definition 1 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | Definition 2 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | Definition 3 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | Definition 4 |

**Explanation:**  
**Definition 1** is the form of "spring" used here since the speaker refers to it being a beneficial resource, and a "source of water coming from the ground" would be found in a natural setting such as a campsite.

**7)**

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| Amanda is working hard with a tutor to improve her skills in grammer, punctuation, and capitalization before the writing test is given. |

Which word in the sentence is not spelled correctly?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | capitalization |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | grammer |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | punctuation |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | tutor |

**Explanation:**  
*Grammar* is the correct spelling.

**8)**

|  |
| --- |
| Is that \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ book or mine? |

Choose the word or phrase that best completes the sentence.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | you'r |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | you're |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | your |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | youre |

**Explanation:**  
**Your** is the correct answer because it is a possessive pronoun.

**9)** Which reference source would provide the most thorough information about a word, including how to spell the word correctly?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | bibliography |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | dictionary |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| C) | glossary |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | thesaurus |

**Explanation:**  
The reference book that would provide the most thorough definition of a word would be a **dictionary**. While a glossary also provides definitions, it is not quite as thorough and limits the definition to a particular context or source. Thesauruses usually only provide a word's synonymns and not its definition. Bibliographies do not provide definitions at all.

**10)**



Which dictionary entry is the best definition for the word flood in this passage?  
  
*After Jasmine told her class about the mouse with two tails, she had to answer a flood of questions from her classmates.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| A) | **flood**- (n) an abundance, a rush |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| B) | **flood**- (v) to overflow, to fill-up |

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| --- | --- |
| C) | **flood**- (adj) a kind of light bulb |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| D) | **flood**-(n) a downpour, a great deal of water |

**Explanation:**  
The correct answer is **flood- (n) an abundance, a rush**. The word is used as a noun in this sentence, but it is not literally about water. It is used figuratively to mean her class posed a lot of questions at once.