

Sentence Skills

In an ACCUPLACER® placement test, there are 20 Sentence Skills questions of two types.

- The first type consists of sentence-correction questions that require an understanding of sentence structure. These questions ask you to choose the most appropriate word or phrase for the underlined portion of the sentence.
- The second type consists of construction-shift questions. These questions ask that a sentence be rewritten according to the criteria shown while maintaining essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

Within these two primary categories, the questions are also classified according to the skills being tested. Some questions deal with the logic of the sentence, others with whether or not the answer is a complete sentence, and still others with the relationship between coordination and subordination.

Sentence Skills Sample Questions

Directions for questions 1–11

Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.

1. Stamp collecting being a hobby that is sometimes used in the schools to teach economics and social studies.
A. being a hobby that is
B. is a hobby because it is
C. which is a hobby
D. is a hobby
2. Knocked sideways, the statue looked as if it would fall.
A. Knocked sideways, the statue looked
B. The statue was knocked sideways, looked
C. The statue looked knocked sideways
D. The statue, looking knocked sideways,
3. To walk, biking, and driving are Pat's favorite ways of getting around.
A. To walk, biking, and driving
B. Walking, biking, and driving
C. To walk, biking, and to drive
D. To walk, to bike, and also driving
4. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this is an example of jaywalking.
A. When you cross the street in the middle of the block, this
B. You cross the street in the middle of the block, this
C. Crossing the street in the middle of the block
D. The fact that you cross the street in the middle of the block
5. Walking by the corner the other day, a child, I noticed, was watching for the light to change.
A. a child, I noticed, was watching
B. I noticed a child watching
C. a child was watching, I noticed,
D. there was, I noticed, a child watching
6. Going back to his old school, everything there looked smaller than Don remembered.
A. Going back to his old school,
B. When he went back to his old school,
C. To go back to his old school,
D. As he went back to his old school,
7. Painting, drawing and to sculpt are some of the techniques artists such as Picasso used to express themselves.
A. Painting, drawing and to sculpt
B. To paint, to draw, and sculpting
C. Painting, drawing, and sculpting
D. To paint, draw, and sculpting
8. Playing sports in school which is an activity meant to teach teamwork and leadership skills students can use later in life.
A. which is an activity
B. is an activity because it is
C. being an activity which is
D. is an activity
9. Glancing at his watch, Daniel picked up his speed.
A. Glancing at his watch,
B. He glanced at his watch, and
C. To glance at his watch,
D. He glanced at his watch,
10. For a snake, shedding their skin up to eight times a year is part of a natural process.
A. For a snake, shedding their skin
B. A snake's shedding its skin
C. When a snake sheds its skin
D. To shed its skin, for snakes

11. I was surprised by the noise peering through the window to see who was at the door.
- A. I was surprised by the noise peering
 - B. I was surprised by the noise, peered
 - C. The noise surprised me, peering
 - D. Surprised by the noise, I peered

Directions for questions 12–22

Rewrite the sentence in your head following the directions given below. Keep in mind that your new sentence should be well written and should have essentially the same meaning as the original sentence.

12. It is easy to carry solid objects without spilling them, but the same cannot be said of liquids.

Rewrite, beginning with

Unlike liquids,

The next words will be

- A. it is easy to
- B. we can easily
- C. solid objects can easily be
- D. solid objects are easy to be

13. Although the sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light, it will bravely resist any force that threatens its nest.

Rewrite, beginning with

The sandpiper is easily frightened by noise and light,

The next words will be

- A. but it will bravely resist
- B. nevertheless bravely resisting
- C. and it will bravely resist
- D. even if bravely resisting

14. If he had enough strength, Todd would move the boulder.

Rewrite, beginning with

Todd cannot move the boulder

The next words will be

- A. when lacking
- B. because he
- C. although there
- D. without enough

15. The band began to play, and then the real party started.

Rewrite, beginning with

The real party started

The next words will be

- A. after the band began
- B. and the band began
- C. although the band began
- D. the band beginning

16. Chris heard no unusual noises when he listened in the park.

Rewrite, beginning with

Listening in the park,

The next words will be

- A. no unusual noises could be heard
- B. then Chris heard no unusual noises
- C. and hearing no unusual noises
- D. Chris heard no unusual noises

17. It is unusual to see owls during the daytime, since they are nocturnal animals.

Rewrite, beginning with

Being nocturnal animals,

The next words will be

- A. it is unusual to see owls
- B. owls are not usually seen
- C. owls during the daytime are
- D. it is during the daytime that

18. If I want your opinion, I will ask for it.

Rewrite, beginning with

I won't ask for your opinion

The next words will be

- A. if I want it
- B. when I want it
- C. although I want it
- D. unless I want it

19. It began to rain, and everyone at the picnic ran to the trees to take shelter.

Rewrite, beginning with

Everyone at the picnic ran to the trees to take shelter

The next words will be

- A. beginning to rain
- B. when it began to rain
- C. although it began to rain
- D. and it began to rain

20. Lucy saw an amazing sight when she witnessed her first sunrise.

Rewrite, beginning with

Witnessing her first sunrise,

The next words will be

- A. an amazing sight was seen
 - B. when Lucy saw an amazing sight
 - C. Lucy saw an amazing sight
 - D. seeing an amazing sight
21. After three hours of walking the museum, the entire family felt in need of a rest.

Rewrite, beginning with

The entire family felt in need of a rest

The next words will be

- A. walking through the museum for three hours
 - B. having walked through the museum for three hours
 - C. and they walked through the museum for three hours
 - D. despite having walked through the museum for three hours
22. The big celebration meal was over, and everyone began to feel sleepy.

Rewrite, beginning with

Everyone began to feel sleepy

The next words will be

- A. and the big celebration meal
- B. before the big celebration meal
- C. after the big celebration meal
- D. although the big celebration meal

Answer Key

| SENTENCE SKILLS | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| QUESTION NUMBER | CORRECT ANSWER |
| 1 | D |
| 2 | A |
| 3 | B |
| 4 | C |
| 5 | B |
| 6 | B |
| 7 | C |
| 8 | D |
| 9 | A |
| 10 | B |
| 11 | D |
| 12 | C |
| 13 | A |
| 14 | B |
| 15 | A |
| 16 | D |
| 17 | B |
| 18 | D |
| 19 | B |
| 20 | C |
| 21 | B |
| 22 | C |