

English as a Second Language

The ESL test consists of two parts; the Reading Skills and Language Use tests are used in combination to place students into the appropriate reading and writing classes.

These tests are used for placement into the following classes:

- *ESL 67 – Introduction to College English Skills
- *ESL 76 – Intermediate Reading & Comprehension Skills
- *ESL 78 – Intermediate Writing Skills
- *ESL 86 – High Intermediate Reading Comprehension
- *ESL 88 – High Intermediate Writing Skills
- *ESL 96A – Introduction to College Reading & Study Skills
- *ESL 98A – Introduction to College Writing

How long will the test take?

The ESL test has a time limit of one and a half hours for completion of both sections.

How many questions are on the test?

A total of 20 multiple choice questions are administered on the Language Use test and 20 multiple choice questions on the Reading Skills test.

When will the results be available?

Results will be available immediately upon completion of the test. Results are valid for two years.

Reading Skills Sample Questions

1. Television has been introduced to almost every country in the world, reaching a large number of viewers on every continent. About 600 million people saw the first person walk on the moon, and a billion people watched the twentieth Olympic Games. Television has in many ways promoted understanding and cooperation among people. It does this by showing educational and cultural programs.

According to the passage, which of the following is true?

- A. Television is watched in nearly every country.
- B. Not everybody who had a television set could watch the 1998 World Cup finals.
- C. Watching television makes people dissatisfied with their own lives.
- D. Television was invented in 1980.

2. Janet's parents bought her a new sports car as a birthday present. It was blue. Janet sold her 7-year-old blue pickup truck to a high school student. The truck could not go very fast, but the student was happy with it.

According to the passage, which of these statements is true?

- A. Janet bought a pickup truck and a sports car.
- B. The pickup truck was faster than the sports car.
- C. The high school student traded cars with Janet.
- D. The pickup truck was older than the sports car.

3. Some of Edward Weston's black-and-white photographs of American nature scenes are considered superb examples of visual art. Indeed, some of his photographs have commanded top prices at art galleries.

Which of the following best characterizes Weston's photographs?

- A. They belong to famous collectors.
- B. They have been sold in art galleries for large sums of money.
- C. They introduced many Americans to visual art.
- D. They contrast American cities with natural settings.

4. Speaking to a group of people can be a frightening experience. Some speakers cope by looking above the heads of the audience. Others try to imagine that they are talking to a friend. A few try picturing the audience in some non-threatening way, such as in their pajamas.

The author of the passage assumes that speakers should

- A. feel comfortable when addressing an audience.
- B. scare the audience.
- C. encourage people to talk during the speech.
- D. speak only to familiar people.

5. People have different ways of learning. Some are better at making mental pictures of new ideas. Others are more comfortable with writing lists of things to memorize. Certain people can learn best when listening to music, while others need silence to concentrate.

Which of the following is the main idea of the passage?

- A. Mental pictures help many to learn.
- B. Some people prefer lists to making mental pictures.
- C. To learn well you need to be comfortable.
- D. Different individuals have different ways of acquiring information.

6. Before giving first aid to an accident victim, you should obtain his or her consent. Asking for consent takes a simple question. Say to the victim, "I know first aid, and I can help you until an ambulance arrives. Is that okay?"

"Asking for consent" means asking for

- A. permission to help the victim.
- B. thanks from the victim.
- C. help from onlookers.
- D. information about the victim's injuries.

Language Use Sample Questions

The sentence below has a blank space. Choose the word or phrase that makes a grammatically correct sentence.

7. _____ washing her sweater, Mary hung it up to dry.

- A. After
- B. Before
- C. By
- D. Until

8. Some day men and women _____ to Mars.

- A. will travel
- B. will travels
- C. will traveling
- D. will traveled

9. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for _____ to marine science.

- A. dedication
- B. his dedication
- C. being dedicated
- D. his being dedicated

10. Water _____ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.

- A. having frozen
- B. freezing
- C. freeze
- D. freezes

11. _____ get a new haircut?

- A. Have you
- B. Does you
- C. Are you
- D. Did you

Read the two sentences below and choose the best way of combining them.

12. Her puppy ran out into the street chasing a cat. The owner quickly went to retrieve it.

- A. The owner quickly went to retrieve it after a cat was chased into the street by her puppy.
- B. The owner quickly retrieved it after her puppy chased a cat into the street.
- C. When her puppy ran into the street after a cat, the owner quickly went to retrieve the puppy.
- D. Quickly retrieving it, the owner went quickly after her puppy that ran out into the street after a cat.

13. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.

- A. Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
- B. Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
- C. Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
- D. Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.

14. The road was slippery. We put chains on the tires.

- A. Although the road was slippery, we put chains on the tires.
- B. The road became slippery when we put chains on the tires.
- C. We put chains on the tires because the road was slippery.
- D. Putting chains on the tires, the road we were on was slippery.

- 1) A 2) D 3) B 4) A 5) D 6) A 7) A
8) A 9) B 10) D 11) D 12) C 13) B 14) C