ACCUPLACER ESL Language Use Test

The ESL Language Use test measures your proficiency in using correct grammar in English sentences. There are five content areas measured on this test: (a) Nouns, Pronouns, Pronoun Case Structure; (b) Subject–Verb Agreement; (c) Comparatives, Adverbs, Adjectives; (d) Verbs; and (e) Subordination/Coordination.

Sample Questions

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

1. ______ washing her sweater, Mary hung it up to dry.
   A. After
   B. Before
   C. By
   D. Until

2. Some day men and women ______ to Mars.
   A. will travel
   B. will travels
   C. will traveling
   D. will traveled

3. Water ______ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
   A. having frozen
   B. freezing
   C. freeze
   D. freezes

4. ______ get a new haircut?
   A. Have you
   B. Does you
   C. Are you
   D. Did you

5. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and ______ to marine science.
   A. dedication
   B. his dedication
   C. being dedicated
   D. his being dedicated

6. Since my parents always insist that I get a good night’s sleep, they were ______ when I stayed out last night past my curfew.
   A. very happy
   B. very relieved
   C. very tired
   D. very angry
7. ______ children learn to read, whole new worlds and experiences open up to them.
   A. Before
   B. Since
   C. Until
   D. After

8. When ______ get to the hotel?
   A. have we
   B. will we
   C. did we
   D. are we

9. Galileo is most famous ______ that the Earth revolves around the sun, rather than the other way around.
   A. for having discovered
   B. for discovery
   C. his discovery
   D. in discovering

10. Men and women sometimes have difficulty understanding each other because ______ differently.
    A. they communicate
    B. they communicated
    C. have communicated
    D. they communicates

11. Because she had practiced so hard for the gymnastics competition, Stacey was ______ when she achieved a nearly perfect score.
    A. disappointed
    B. tired
    C. victorious
    D. thrilled

12. ______ can speak more than one language, you have the opportunity to make more new friends.
    A. So you
    B. As you
    C. When you
    D. Though you

13. Light ______ than sound, which is why you see lightening before you hear the thunder.
    A. travelling faster
    B. travels faster
    C. having travelled faster
    D. will travel faster

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

14. 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.

15. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.
    A. Lisa and her sister Kelly play 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.

16. 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.

17. Kazuko took her dog for a walk. They went to the park.
    A. Kazuko, going to the park, took her dog for a walk.
    B. Kazuko took her dog for a walk in the park.
    C. Kazuko took her dog for a walk because they went to the park.
    D. Kazuko and her dog went to the park, where they walked.

18. We knew it might get chilly at the football game. We brought along some extra blankets.
    A. We knew it might get chilly at the football game when we brought along some extra blankets.
    B. Bringing along some extra blankets, we knew it might get chilly at the football game.
    C. We brought along some extra blankets because it might get chilly at the football game.
    D. It got chilly at the football game and we brought along some extra blankets.

19. Juan loves to play baseball. His friend Miguel enjoys baseball too.
    A. Both Juan and his friend Miguel enjoy playing baseball.
    B. Juan and his friend Miguel enjoys playing baseball.
    C. Juan enjoys playing baseball and his friend Miguel too.
    D. Juan loves baseball and Miguel too enjoys baseball.
20. Wolves are pack animals. They are rarely spotted alone.
   A. Wolves are rarely spotted alone if they are pack animals.
   B. Being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
   C. After being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
   D. Wolves are rarely spotted alone, although they are pack animals.

21. My aunt invited me to lunch. We went to her favorite restaurant.
   A. My aunt and I went to her favorite restaurant, when she invited me to lunch.
   B. My aunt invited me to lunch because we went to her favorite restaurant.
   C. My aunt invited me to lunch at her favorite restaurant.
   D. My aunt, going to her favorite restaurant, invited me to lunch.

22. It was snowing heavily. Jorge still wished his father would let him drive into town.
   A. Even though it was snowing heavily, Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town.
   B. Because it was snowing heavily, Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town.
   C. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town as it was snowing heavily.
   D. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town; nevertheless it was snowing heavily.

23. Do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan. It is considered impolite.
   A. Because it is considered impolite, do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan.
   B. In Japan, do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant if it is considered impolite.
   C. Pouring your own drink is considered impolite in Japan in a restaurant, so you should not do it.
   D. Do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan while it is considered impolite.