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.

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
      i. This answer is correct. After washing her sweater means that Mary did this first. Next she hung it up to dry.
   b. Before
      i. This answer is incorrect. Before washing her sweater means that Mary hung it up dry first. But she would hang something up dry unless it had been washed.
   c. By
      i. This answer is incorrect. By washing her sweater means Mary did this to show or indicate something (i.e., she was clean person). However, the sentence is telling us in what order Mary did her laundry.
   d. Until
      i. This answer is incorrect. First, the phrase would have to read Until she washed her sweater. But this shows a cause relationship; Mary couldn’t do something until she washed we sweater. The sentence is simply telling us what order Mary did her laundry.

2. Some day men and women ___________ to Mars.
   a. will travel
      i. This answer is correct. When will is used with another verb, just the basic verb root is used with no other ending.
   b. will travels
      i. This answer is incorrect. When will is used with another verb, just the basic verb root is used with no other ending, such as –s.
   c. will traveling
      i. This answer is incorrect. When will is used with another verb, just the basic verb root is used with no other ending, such as –ing.
   d. will traveled
      i. This answer is incorrect. When will is used with another verb, just the basic verb root is used with no other ending, such as –ed.

3. Water ___________ at a temperature of zero degrees Celsius.
a. having frozen
   i. This answer is incorrect. The present tense of a verb is used to show something that happens all the time.

b. freezing
   i. This answer is incorrect. The present tense of verb is used to show something that happens all the time. In addition, a verb with –ing (freezing) cannot be a main verb; it has to come after a form of to be (is freezing, was freezing).

c. freeze
   i. This answer is incorrect. Although freeze is the correct present tense, water is a 3rd person noun, and so a present tense verb must have an –s added to show proper agreement.

d. freezes
   i. This answer is correct. The present tense is used to show something that happens all the time; plus, the -s on the verb shows proper subject-verb agreement.

4. __________ get a new haircut?
   a. Have you
      i. This answer is incorrect. When have is used with another verb, that second verb must be in the past participle form (i.e., gotten). This is used to show that this action happened before another one.
   b. Does you
      i. This answer is incorrect. Does is in the wrong tense (present vs. past); plus, when used with you, no –s is added to the verb.
   c. Are you
      i. This answer is incorrect. Are is in the wrong tense (present vs. past); plus, if the verb to be (i.e., is, are, was . . . ) is before another verb, that second verb must end in –ing.
   d. Did you
      i. This answer is correct. Did is in the past tense, and is used to ask certain questions.

5. Jacques Cousteau will be remembered for his inventions and for _______________ to marine science.
   a. dedication
      i. This answer is incorrect. Just like his occurs before inventions, so must his come before dedication.
   b. his dedication
      i. This answer is correct. His dedication matches his inventions from the first part of the sentence.
   c. being dedicated
      i. This answer is incorrect. Just like his occurs before inventions, so must his come before dedication.
   d. his being dedicated
i. This answer is incorrect. *Being* is not needed, and makes the noun phrase too complicated.

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
   i. This answer is incorrect. A *curfew* is a time when a person must be home. By staying out late, he would have broken his curfew, which would not make his parents very happy.
   b. very relieved
   i. This answer is incorrect. A *curfew* is a time when a person must be home. By staying out late, he would have broken his curfew, which would not make his parents relieved or thankful.
   c. very tired
   i. This answer is incorrect. If he staying up late, he would be tired, not his parents.
   d. very angry
   i. This answer is correct. Since he stayed up last past his curfew, when he was supposed to be home, his parents would not be happy, or very angry.

7. __________ children learn to read, whole new worlds and experiences open up to them.
   a. Before
   i. This answer is incorrect. *Before* is used to show an event that happens second. However, the meaning of the sentence is that first children learn to read, and then whole new worlds will open up to them.
   b. Since
   i. This answer is incorrect. *Since* is used to show a cause followed by a consequence. However, the meaning of the sentence is that first children learn to read, and then whole new worlds will open up to them.
   c. Until
   i. This answer is incorrect. *Until* is used to show a condition that must happen first before something else can happen.
   d. After
   i. This answer is correct. Children will first learn to read, and then new worlds will open up to them.

8. When __________ get to the hotel?
   a. have we
   i. This answer is incorrect. To use *have* with another verb requires that second verb to be a past participle (i.e., *have gotten*).
   b. will we
   i. This answer is correct. *Will* is used with another verb to show a future event.
   c. did we
   i. This answer is incorrect. Though grammatically correct, someone would not likely ask another person the time they arrived at a place.
   d. are we
i. This answer is incorrect. When the verb to be is used with another verb, the second verb must end in -ing (i.e., are getting).

9. Galileo is most famous ________ that the Earth revolves around the sun, rather than the other way around.
   a. for having discovered
      i. This answer is incorrect. Having discovered would be used to say that one event took place before another one in the past, but only one event is mentioned here.
   b. for discovery
      i. This answer is incorrect. Discovery is the noun form, but in this case the verb is needed to show an action happened. In addition, following a preposition, the gerund form of the verb is needed – discovering.
   c. his discovery
      i. This answer is incorrect. The verb famous should be followed by a preposition to introduce why the person is famous – he is famous for . . .
   d. in discovering
      i. This answer is correct. The verb famous should be followed by a preposition to introduce why the person is famous. In addition, the verb after the preposition has to be in the gerund form – discovering.

10. Men and women sometimes have difficulty understanding each other because ____________ differently.
    a. they communicate
       i. This answer is correct. The present tense of the verb is needed to show an action that occurs all the time.
    b. they communicated
       i. This answer is incorrect. Actions that happen all the time need to be in present tense, not the past.
    c. they have communicated
       i. This answer is incorrect. Actions that happen all the time need to be in present tense, not the past perfect.
    d. they communicates
       i. This answer is incorrect. Although the verb is in the correct present tense, the pronoun they does not require that an -s be added to the verb to show agreement.

11. Because she had practiced so hard for gymnastics competition, Stacey was ____________ when she achieved a nearly perfect score.
    a. disappointed
       i. This answer is incorrect. A nearly perfect score is a very good achievement. She would not be sad to get it.
    b. tired
       i. This answer is incorrect. Though the practicing may have made her tired, getting a very good score would not make her tired.
    c. victorious
i. This answer is incorrect. Although she got a very good score, another person may have gotten an even better one, and so that person would be the victor.

d. thrilled
i. This answer is correct. Stacey would be excited or thrilled to get such a good score, especially since she practiced so hard to do well.

12. ___________ can speak more than one language, you have the opportunity to make more new friends.
   a. So you
   i. This answer is incorrect. So is used to show a result of the clause in relation to the second clause. However, making new friends does not result in speaking more than one language.
   b. As you
   i. This answer is incorrect. As is used to show that the clause is happening at the same time as the other clause. However, making new friends does not happen at the same time as speaking more than one language.
   c. When you
   i. This answer is correct. This shows a cause of the first clause leading to the result in the second clause. Because you can speak more than one language, you will be able to make more friends.
   d. Though you
   i. This answer is incorrect. Though is used to show an unexpected result based on the next clause. However, it is very common to be able to make new friends because of being able to speak several languages.

13. Light ___________ than sound, which is why you see lightening before your hear thunder.
   a. travelling faster
   i. This answer is incorrect. A verb that ends in –ing must be preceded by a to be verb (i.e., is travelling).
   b. travels faster
   i. This answer is correct. The present tense is used to show an action that always occurs.
   c. having travelled faster
   i. This answer is incorrect. Having travelled faster is the past perfect tense, which is used to show one action happened before another past action. However, in this sentence, the present tense is needed to show an action that always occurs.
   d. will travel faster
   i. This answer is incorrect. Will is used to indicate a future action. However, the present tense is used to show an action that always occurs.

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.
15. Lisa plays the piano. Her sister Kelly plays the piano, too.
   a. Lisa and her sister Kelly plays the piano.
      i. This answer is incorrect. Because Lisa and Kelly are a plural subject, the verb play does not need an –s to show agreement.
   b. Both Lisa and her sister Kelly play the piano.
      i. This answer is correct. The two subjects of the two sentences are combined into a compound subject, and the –s from the verb play has been removed to show agreement with a plural subject.
   c. Lisa plays the piano and Kelly plays the piano.
      i. This answer is incorrect. Though grammatically correct, it is not the best way to combine the two sentences. Using a compound subject is the better choice.
   d. Lisa and Kelly too play the piano.
      i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence leaves out the important information that they are both sisters.

16. The road was slippery. We put chains on the tires.
   a. Although the road was slippery, we put chains on the tires.
      i. This answer is incorrect. The two sentences show a reason and a result – because of this, the other happened. Although shows a contrary idea.
   b. The road became slippery when we put chains on the tires.
      i. This answer is incorrect. The two sentences show a reason and a result – because of the slippery road, it was necessary to put chains on the tire. This sentence reverses that order.
   c. We put chains on the tires because the road was slippery.
      i. This answer is correct. It is because the roads were slippery that the chains were needed to help the tires grip the road.
   d. Putting chains on the tires, the road we were on was slippery.
      i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence does not show the proper cause and effect relationship between slippery roads and the need for chains to help.

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.
   i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence does not clearly say that Kazuko took her dog for a walk in the park.
b. Kazuko took her dog for a walk in the park.
   i. This answer is correct. This sentence clearly tells where Kazuko took her dog for a walk.
c. Kazuko took her dog for a walk because they went to the park.
   i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence shows a cause relationship, but the second sentence simply gives more detail where Kazuko took a walk with her dog.
d. Kazuko and her dog went to the park, where they walked.
   i. This answer is incorrect. Though sentence has the right idea, it is too complicated and can be stated more directly (see choice b).

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.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *When* shows a time order relationship, but it’s really the fact it might get cold that they brought blankets to keep warm.
b. Bringing along some extra blankets, we knew it might get chilly at the football game.
   i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence to give the proper cause and effect relationship. Because it might get chilly, they brought along blankets to keep warm.
c. We brought along some extra blankets because it might get chilly at the football game.
   i. This answer is correct. This sentence clearly states why they brought along blankets (to stay warm if it got chilly).
d. It got chilly at the football game and we brought along some extra blankets.
   i. This answer is incorrect. *And* is used to express an added, similar thought. However, the meaning is actually a cause and effect – because it might get chilly, they brought along some blankets to keep warm.

19. Juan loves to play baseball. His friend Miguel enjoys baseball, too.
   a. Both Juan and his friend Miguel enjoy playing baseball.
      i. This answer is correct. This sentence combines the two similar subjects to make one sentence.
b. Juan and his friend Miguel enjoys playing baseball.
   i. This answer is incorrect. Though it correctly joins Juan and Miguel into one subject, the verb *enjoys* has incorrect agreement. No *–s* is attached to the verb with a plural subject.
c. Juan enjoys playing baseball and friend Miguel too.
   i. This answer is incorrect. This sentence does not join both Juan and Miguel into one subject.
d. Juan loves baseball and Miguel too enjoys baseball.
   i. This answer is incorrect. Both Juan and Miguel should be joined as one subject since they both enjoy the same thing.
20. Wolves are pack animals. They are rarely spotted alone.
   a. Wolves are rarely spotted alone if they are pack animals.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *If* shows a condition that might happen, but the two
         sentences have a cause and effect relationship.
   b. Being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
      i. This answer is correct. This sentence shows that because wolves are pack
         animals, they are always with a group of other wolves, and not by themselves.
   c. After being pack animals, wolves are rarely spotted alone.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *After* shows a time relationship, but the two
         sentences are in a cause and effect relationship.
   d. Wolves are rarely spotted alone, although they are pack animals.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *Although* indicates a contrary idea. However, it is
         because they are pack animals that you rarely see wolves on their own.

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.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *When* indicates a time relationship, but the second
         sentence simply gives more information (where they went for lunch).
   b. My aunt invited me to lunch because we went to her favorite restaurant.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *Because* gives a reason why, but the second sentence
         simply gives more information (where they went for lunch).
   c. My aunt invited me to lunch at her favorite restaurant.
      i. This answer is correct. This sentence adds the location of where they went to
         lunch.
   d. My aunt, going to her favorite restaurant, invited me to lunch.
      i. This answer is incorrect. It does not clearly state where they went 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.
      i. This answer is correct. This sentence correctly states that despite of the snow,
         Jorge wanted to drive.
   b. Because it was snowing heavily, Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *Because* gives a reason why, but in this case, Jorge
         wants to drive despite of the snow.
   c. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town as it was snowing heavily.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *As* gives a reason why, but in this case, Jorge wants to
         drive despite of the snow.
   d. Jorge wished his father would let him drive into town; nevertheless it was snowing
      heavily.
      i. This answer is incorrect. *Nevertheless* is used to show the reason for not being
         able to do something. It is not that it was snowing, but that his father did not want
         him to drive in the snow.
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.
   i. This answer is correct. This sentence shows the correct reason and result relationship.

b. In Japan, do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant if it is considered impolite.
   i. This answer is incorrect. If shows a conditional – what might be. However, these two sentences show a reason and result relationship.

c. Pouring your own drink is considered impolite in Japan in a restaurant, so you should not do it.
   i. This answer is incorrect. The first clause is fine, but adding the second clause simply repeats the idea of improper behavior.

d. Do not pour your own drink when eating in a restaurant in Japan while it is considered impolite.
   i. This answer is incorrect. While is used to show a contrary idea, but the two sentences show a reason and a result relationship.