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# Exercises and Sample Solutions

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# Introduction



## Exercise: Spelling (Skern, 2009)

1. You must proof that two plus two equals four!
2. A prove that two plus two equals four is given on the first page.
3. Vaccines safe lives.
4. Spellcheckers chance the way we read our texts.
5. The theory of global warming remains to be proven.
6. Spellcheckers effect our ability to spell.
7. How do tortoises remain a life when hibernating?
8. Only a few scientists have received two Nobel Prices.
9. The affect of technology on the environment is substantial.
10. Tumour cells loose the normal controls of growth.
11. We judge how we live our lives form our own perspective.

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# Guidelines for Writing Good English



## Exercise: Use of the Articles “the” and “a” (Skern, 2009)

Patient-specific design of medicines (PSDM) is novel method which was first described by Smith and Jones. PSDM method is based on the conventional designs modified by using alternative gene-based protocol. Main feature of the PSDM approach is its high specificity of treatment. The principle of the PSDM approach is depicted in the Figure 1. Using PSDM method, we observe the shift in the specificity of the treatment. During the normal design of medicines, specificity is obtained from experience of the scientists. In the PSDM method, the specificity is obtained from the genes of the patient. Specificity of the PSDM method can be augmented by adding information from the family members. The PSDM method is estimated to increase specificity by factor of five.

# Guidelines for Writing Good English



## Exercise: Use of the Articles “the” and “a” (Skern, 2009)

**The patient**-specific design of medicines (PSDM) is a novel method which was first described by Smith and Jones. **The** PSDM method is based on conventional designs modified by using **an** alternative gene-based protocol. **The** main feature of the PSDM approach is its high specificity of treatment. The principle of the PSDM approach is depicted in Figure 1. Using **the** PSDM method, we observe **a** shift in the specificity of the treatment. During the normal design of medicines, specificity is obtained from **the** experience of the scientists. In the PSDM method, specificity is obtained from the genes of the patient. **The** specificity of the PSDM method can be augmented by adding information from family members. The PSDM method is estimated to increase specificity by **a** factor of five.

## Exercise: Shortening Sentences by Splitting Them into Two (Skern, 2009)

- *“To be a good scientist, you have to be tolerant and patient when experiments or interpretations do not turn out as you had predicted, you must be able to stand high levels of frustration.”*
- *“62% of certified drug addicts believe that cannabis has effects on the behavior of car drivers and machine operators which lengthen their reaction time, 45% of students shared this opinion and only 38% of customers interviewed at discotheques were aware of this negative effect of cannabis.”*
- *“Finally, the correlation has been clearly shown, even though not all parameters have as yet been investigated and further investigations have to be done.”*
- *“This results in texts which are extremely difficult to read as well as revealing to the world that their authors are clueless about paragraph structure.”*

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- *“Finally, the correlation has been clearly shown. However, some parameters remain to be examined and further investigations should be done.”*
- *“This results in texts which are extremely difficult to read. In addition, they also reveal to the world that their authors are clueless about paragraph structure.”*

## Exercise: Positive and Negative Sentences (Skern, 2009)

1. The experiment did not work.
2. No changes were observed in any of the variables tested.
3. There is not a piece of evidence supporting this hypothesis.
4. The variation was never more than 1%.
5. None of the alternative explanations seemed likely.
6. Neither the fear of global warming nor the number of fatal accidents influence car drivers.
7. Nothing is dangerous about this method.
8. No-one noticed the discrepancy between the two sets of data.
9. In none of the samples could the desired compound be found.
10. No less than eleven substances were present in the mixture.



## Exercise: Positive and Negative Sentences (Skern, 2009)

1. The experiment failed.
2. All variables tested remained constant.
3. This hypothesis lacks supporting evidence.
4. The variation was always less than 1%.
5. All alternative explanations seemed implausible.
6. Car drivers ignore both the fear of global warming and the number of fatal accidents.
7. This method is safe.
8. Everybody overlooked the discrepancy between the two sets of data.
9. The desired compound was absent from all the samples.
10. The mixture contained at least eleven substances.

## Exercise: Omit Needless Words (Skern, 2009)

1. It can be seen from Figure 1 that there is a significant correlation between the rate of growth of the incidence of cardiac-related disease and illness and the increasing frequency of the possession and use of a television.
2. It is a fact that 20% of the world's population has no clean water or enough to eat.
3. The effect of compound X on blood pressure has not yet been investigated in any detail.
4. Another important reason for this optimization is the fact that we should try to get rid of pollution.
5. Synergy will lead to a significant reduction in the amount of funding required.
6. There is a considerable, if not extensive, body of literature dedicated to demonstrating that the Earth can be considered as a spherical body traversing a circular path around a similarly shaped, although significantly larger and completely different in nature, body which is in common parlance termed the Sun.

# Writing



## Exercise: Omit Needless Words (Skern, 2009)

1. Figure 1 shows that the incidences of heart disease and television viewing correlate well.
2. 20% of the world population lacks clean water and sufficient food.
3. The effect of compound X on blood pressure remains to be determined.
4. Another important reason for this optimization is to eliminate pollution.
5. Synergy will significantly reduce the amount of funding required.
6. Much work has demonstrated that the spherical Earth travels around the similarly shaped Sun.  
(or: The Earth orbits the Sun.)