**Competencies in social skills Answer Key**

**Exercise 1 Definitions**

Cogent: well-reasoned; convincing

Consummate: masterful; complete

Credulousness: gullibility

Disabuse: correct a mistaken belief

Dissemble: deceive; create false impression

Fervid: passionate

Loquacious: talkative

Prevarication: lying

Spurious: false

**Fill ins**

1. She accused my brother of **prevarication**, but in fact he had made an honest mistake.

2. Alice is a **consummate** chef, capable of creating not only delicious entrees but also appetizers, side dishes, and desserts.

3. Someone should gently **disabuse** Mike of his belief that he will be a professional basketball player someday; he is too small and too slow.

4. Because the Senator had never been to Florida, the claim that he had been arrested once in Miami was completely **spurious.**

5. Kyle is a **fervid** writer; sometimes he will work on an essay for three or four hours straight without moving from his desk.

6. She persuaded me to think her way because her arguments were so **cogent** and clear.

7. The Jenkins family was easily swindled by the con man due to their **credulousness.**

8. Tell me what happened; you don’t need to **dissemble** anymore.

9. Although he was an eloquent speaker, Jones also tended to be **loquacious**, and so his speeches often ran longer than scheduled.

**Exercise 2**

**Definitions**

Assiduously: diligently; persistently

Inept: incompetent; awkward onerous: burdensome

Unassailable: impossible to attack; unalterable

Undaunted: not discouraged; resolute

**Fill-ins**

1. She continued to drive toward Anchorage, **undaunted** by the blizzard that was raging outside the car.

2. Trey guessed that the plumber was inept, because when he got home he saw that his basement was knee-deep in water.

3. Reading this chapter in my calculus book is such an **onerous** task!

4. The attorney’s closing statement swayed the jury in her client’s favor; she spoke with passion, and her logic was **unassailable.**

5. Richard studied **assiduously** that night so that he wouldn’t fail his history test the next morning.

**Sentence equivalence Answers**

1.    C, E  
2.    A, D  
3.    B, F  
4.    A, D  
5.    D, F  
6.    A, E  
7.    A, D  
8.    B, D  
9.    C, F  
10.    D, E  
11.    A, F  
12.    E, F  
13.    C, D  
14.    B, E  
15.    A, E  
16.    B, D  
17.    B, C  
18.    D, F  
19.    C, E  
20.    A, E

**Spotting errors Answer key**

1. Corrected Sentence: Seventy-five percent of what we perceive as taste, especially the perception of flavor, is really attributable to our sense of smell.

Explanation for Correct Answer C : The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where there is an unnecessary shift in pronoun, from the first-person plural "we" to the indefinite "one."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The preposition "as" appropriately links the verb "perceive" and the noun "taste."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The adverb "especially" is a necessary part of the explanatory adverbial phrase, "especially the perception of flavor."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The prepositional phrase "of smell" logically follows and completes the noun that precedes it, "sense."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

2. Corrected Sentence: Development of new drugs often requires years of testing and waiting for labeling approval from federal regulators.

Explanation for Correct Answer A : The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where there is subject-verb disagreement. The plural verb "require" does not agree with its singular subject, "Development."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The preposition "of" is a necessary part of the prepositional phrase "of testing and waiting."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The preposition "for" is a necessary part of the prepositional phrase "for labeling approval."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The preposition "from" is a necessary part of the prepositional phrase "from federal regulators."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

3. Corrected Sentence: Although research in the earth and environmental sciences has pieced together narratives of ancient and historical environmental changes, there is still much left to learn about the nature and causes of changing climatic conditions through time.

Explanation for Correct Answer A : The error in this sentence occurs at (A), where there is redundancy. The opening word of the sentence, "Although," signals a contrast between its clause and the clause to follow. Therefore, "but, " another contrast word, is not needed because the contrast has already been created by "Although."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The pronoun "much" appropriately modifies the noun phrase "left to learn."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The infinitive verb phrase "to learn" is an appropriate and necessary part of the noun phrase "much left to learn."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The participial adjective "changing" properly modifies the noun phrase "climatic conditions."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

4. Corrected Sentence: During the reign of Elizabeth I, dozens of commissions were sent out by the central government to investigate the wood shortage around the nation, and each one confirmed the serious decline of the forests.

Explanation for Correct Answer C : The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where there is improper coordination. Two independent clauses ("dozens of commissions...around the nation" and "each one...forests") are connected by only a comma, without the conjunction "and" to introduce the second independent clause.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The preposition "During" is an appropriate and necessary part of the prepositional phrase "During the reign of Elizabeth I."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The infinitive verb phrase "to investigate" properly completes the verb phrase "were sent out" by explaining why the commissions were sent out.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The adjective "serious" properly modifies the noun "decline."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

5. Corrected Sentence: While sperm whales are usually seen in offshore waters, they can also be found near the shore, where the continental or island shelf is narrow and the water is deep.

Explanation for Correct Answer D : The error in this sentence occurs at (D), where there is an error in parallelism. The coordinating conjunction "and" requires that the grammatical structures on either side of it be parallel. A clause ("the continental or island shelf is narrow") precedes "and," so another clause ("the water is deep") should follow it.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The subordinating conjunction "While" properly introduces the clause "sperm whales are usually seen in offshore waters."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The verb phrase "are usually seen" properly follows the subject "sperm whales."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The relative pronoun "where" properly connects the prepositional phrase "near the shore" with the clause "the continental or island shelf is narrow."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

6. Corrected Sentence: A farmer's field can have more than 50,000 weed seeds per square meter buried beneath the soil; surface seeds buried more than about one centimeter below the soil surface do not receive enough light to germinate.

Explanation for Correct Answer B : The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where there is a lack of punctuation between two sentences. "Surface seeds...below the soil surface" is a new subject, and "do not receive" is a new verb, so a new independent clause is present. But no punctuation or conjunction separates this new clause from the preceding independent clause, resulting in a run-on sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The phrase "per square meter" is appropriate and necessary to complete the phrase "50,000 weed seeds."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The preposition "below" is an appropriate and necessary part of the prepositional phrase "below the soil surface."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The determining adjective "enough" is an appropriate and necessary part of the noun phrase "enough light."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

7. Corrected Sentence: In 1952, when the Federal Communications Commission lifted its ban on new television station licenses, there were 105 stations and 15 million households with television sets, but by 1956 the number of stations had grown to almost 500 and the number of households with sets to nearly 35 million.

Explanation for Correct Answer D : The error in the sentence occurs at (D), where there is an improper idiom. The coordinating conjunction "and" requires parallel grammatical structures on either side of it, so the phrase "at nearly 35 million" should be "to nearly 35 million," to be parallel with the phrase that precedes "and" ("to almost 500").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The clause "there were" properly introduces the noun phrase "105 stations and 15 million households with television sets."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The conjunction "but" properly shows a contrast between the clause that precedes it and the clause that follows it, and the preposition "by" is an appropriate and necessary part of the prepositional phrase "by 1956."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The past-tense verb phrase "had grown" is consistent with the tense of the rest of the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

8. Corrected Sentence: Halley's comet is a potato-shaped lump about ten miles long with a mass estimated at 10 billion tons, most of which is water ice.

Explanation for Correct Answer E : There is no error in this sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The adjectival phrase "about ten miles long" properly modifies the noun phrase "a potato-shaped lump."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The prepositional phrase "with a mass" properly modifies the noun phrase "a potato-shaped lump."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The words "estimated at" are an appropriate and necessary part of the participial verb phrase "estimated at 10 billion tons."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The noun phrase "most of which" properly refers back to the noun "mass."

9. Corrected Sentence: The Neuse River in North Carolina is thought to be about two million years old, and there have likely been human settlements in the basin for at least 14,000 years.

Explanation for Correct Answer B : The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where there is a lack of agreement between subject and verb. The plural noun "human settlements" requires the plural verb "have," not "has."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The words "thought to be" appropriately complete the verb "is," forming the verb phrase "is thought to be."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The preposition "for" is an appropriate and necessary part of the prepositional phrase "for at least 14,000 years."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The adjectival prepositional phrase "at least" properly modifies the noun phrase "14,000 years."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

10. Corrected Sentence: Shortly after Queen Eleanor arrived in Nottingham in 1257 for a visit, she fled the town because she could not stand the smell of coal smoke and feared for her health.

Explanation for Correct Answer D : The error in this sentence occurs at (D). The verb phrase "was afraid" is redundant with "and feared for." It should be deleted from the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The adverbial phrase "Shortly after" correctly modifies the verb "arrived."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The adverbial prepositional phrase "for a visit" appropriately modifies the verb "arrived" by telling why the Queen arrived.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The subordinating conjunction "because" is an appropriate and necessary part of the subordinate clause "because she could not stand the smell of coal smoke."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

11. Corrected Sentence: The great white shark is the most infamous of all sharks, the star of Peter Benchley's bestselling novel Jaws, four Hollywood movies, and many television specials.

Explanation for Correct Answer A : The error in this sentences occurs at (A), where there is an incorrect adjective form. The prepositional phrase "of all sharks" calls for the superlative form of the adjective ("most") rather than the comparative form "more," which would be appropriate if only two sharks were being compared.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The prepositional phrase "of all sharks" logically follows and completes the subject complement ("the...sharks") that follows the "be" verb.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The words "star of" are a necessary part of the appositive phrase ("the star of...specials").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The adjective "many" properly modifies the noun phrase "television specials."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

12. Corrected Sentence: The San Andreas Fault in California is just one section of an active circle of earthquake zones and volcanoes known as the "Ring of Fire" that surrounds the Pacific Ocean.

Explanation for Correct Answer B : The error in this sentence occurs at (B), where there is a use of an improper idiom. The preposition "to" is used to follow the noun "section" where it would be more idiomatic to use the preposition "of."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The adverb "just" properly modifies the adjective "one."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). The participial phrase "known as" properly modifies the noun phrase "an active circle of earthquake zones and volcanoes."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The singular verb "surrounds" agrees with its subject, "circle," and its tense is also consistent with that of the rest of the sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

13. Corrected Sentence: Relying on dams for large-scale water storage and for delivering water to places where it does not naturally occur has long-term effects on the balance between groundwater and surface water and on the quality of the surrounding soil.

Explanation for Correct Answer C : The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where there is lack of subject-verb agreement. The subject of the verb is "relying," so a singular verb, "has," is required.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The prepositional phrase "for delivering water" is appropriately parallel to the preceding prepositional phrase "for large-scale water storage."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The relative pronoun "where" properly links the noun "places" to the clause "it does not naturally occur."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The preposition "between" is an appropriate and necessary part of the prepositional phrase "between groundwater and surface water."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

14. Corrected Sentence: Despite a protest by 300 angry drivers, the five members of the bridge authority voted unanimously to raise the passenger-car toll on the bridge from $1.00 to $2.00.

Explanation for Correct Answer E : There is no error in this sentence.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The preposition "Despite" is a necessary part of the prepositional phrase "Despite a protest."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The preposition "by" is an appropriate choice to follow the noun "protest," and it is a necessary part of the prepositional phrase "by 300 angry drivers."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer C : There is no error at (C). Nothing in the sentence suggests that the verb "voted" is in error in tense or in any other aspect. The word "unanimously" also fits the sentence, following upon previous information ("five members of the bridge authority").

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The infinitive phrase "to raise" logically follows and completes the verb "voted."

15. Corrected Sentence: Harpsichords, their sound made by quills plucking strings that are stretched over a soundboard, dominated European music in the 1700's; they were replaced late in the century by the fortepiano, in which hammers struck the strings.

Explanation for Correct Answer C : The error in this sentence occurs at (C), where faulty coordination occurs. The sentence's two independent clauses ("Harpsichords...1700's" and "they...strings") are joined by only a comma. The comma should be replaced with a (or semicolon), punctuation that can stand alone between two independent clauses.

Explanation for Incorrect Answer A : There is no error at (A). The subordinate clause "that are stretched" logically and appropriately connects the noun "strings" with the prepositional phrase "over a soundboard."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer B : There is no error at (B). The preposition "in" is a necessary and idiomatic part of the prepositional phrase "in the 1700's."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer D : There is no error at (D). The relative pronoun "which" properly refers back to the noun "fortepiano."

Explanation for Incorrect Answer E : There is an error in the sentence.

**Sentence Correction Answer Key**

1. C;

2. B;

3. D;

4. A;

5. D;

6. B;

7. C

8. B

9. B

10. A

11. C

12. B

13. C

14. D

15. C

16. E

17. D