

ID: 684b8bd2

Far from being modern inventions, _____ more than 5,000 years ago.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia used drinking straws
- B. drinking straws were used by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia
- C. the use of drinking straws by Sumerians in ancient Mesopotamia happened
- D. ancient Mesopotamia was home to Sumerians who used drinking straws

ID: 684b8bd2 Answer

Correct Answer: B

Rationale

Choice B is the best answer. **Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other.** The modifier "far from being modern inventions" **must be describing "drinking straws,"** because those are the only possible inventions in this sentence.

Choice A is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier "far from being modern inventions" can't be describing "Sumerians," because they are a group of people, not an invention. Choice C is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier "far from being modern inventions" can't be describing "the use of drinking straws," because it is not "the use" of drinking straws that is an invention—it is the drinking straws themselves. Choice D is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The modifier "far from being modern inventions" can't be describing "Ancient Mesopotamia," because that is a place, not an invention.

Question Difficulty: Medium

ID: 40c3589d

Luci Tapahonso is the inaugural poet laureate of the Navajo Nation. Her book *Sáaní Dahataal/The Women Are Singing*—a combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and _____ serves as a testament to her versatility as a writer.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. prose;
- B. prose
- C. prose,
- D. prose—

A

ID: 40c3589d Answer

Correct Answer: D

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. "A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose" is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match.

Choice A is incorrect. This doesn't complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. "A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose" is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match. Choice B is incorrect. This doesn't complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. "A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose" is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match. Choice C is incorrect. This doesn't complete the text in a way that conforms to the conventions of Standard English. "A combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and prose" is a nonessential supplement, so it needs to be set off from the rest of the sentence with a pair of matching punctuation marks. We already have a dash at the beginning of the supplement, so we need to add a dash at the end of the supplement to match.

Question Difficulty: Medium

Question ID dab8b8ee

Assessment Test Domain Skill Difficulty

SAT Reading and Writing Standard English Grammatical Forms, Structures, and Cases 3***

Score 0.00

Adverb at the Start of a Clause

As mentioned earlier, certain "strong" transitions (conjunctive adverbs) must be placed after a period or semicolon when used to begin a clause. This is also true of many "time" words, e.g., *today, currently, later*.

Logical Relationship	Time or Sequence
Besides	After
Consequently	Currently
Furthermore	Finally
However	First
In addition	Later
Meanwhile	Next
Moreover	Now
Nevertheless	Today
Otherwise	Subsequently
Still	Then
Therefore	
Thus	
Rather	

} Start independent clauses

(conjunctive) adverbs

After	Before	Since	When
Although	Despite / yet	Though	
As	Even though	Unless	
Because / so	If	Until	

+ FANBOYS

} Start dependent clauses

(subordinating) conjunctions

; conjunctive adverb, = , conjunction = ; = .
FANBOYS

Comma + FANBOYS

Semicolon + Conjunctive Adverb

Correct: Frank Sinatra, one of the most famous singers of the twentieth century, never studied music formally, so he learned his songs by ear.

Correct: Frank Sinatra, one of the most famous singers of the twentieth century, never studied music formally; therefore, he learned his songs by ear.

12. Interacting with animals, particularly dogs, is known to help people cope with _____. the prefrontal cortex helps individuals regulate and process social and emotional interactions, neuroscientists believe that it might be particularly relevant to their research.
- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| Ⓐ stress because | conjunction adverb, it must have ; or : or - before it |
| Ⓑ stress: because ✓ | A |
| Ⓒ stress because | |
| Ⓓ stress because— | |

When the independent clause comes first, the comma is usually unnecessary, except in the case of "strong" subordinating conjunctions such as *(al)though* and *even though*.

Incorrect: Frank Sinatra became one of the most famous singers of the twentieth century although he never learned to read music.

Correct: Frank Sinatra became one of the most famous singers of the twentieth century, although he never learned to read music.

words ending in -ing are not verbs

Note that the construction with ... -ing can be used as an alternative to and+ verb. A comma is always placed before the word with.

In addition, which can be used to join an independent and a dependent clause. The clause begun by which is always dependent and must follow a comma.

In addition, which can be used to join an independent and a dependent clause. The clause begun by which is always dependent and must follow a comma.

Correct: The Mid-Autumn Festival, a popular harvest festival, dates back to China's Shang Dynasty, which lasted from 1600 B.C. until 1064 B.C.

Incorrect: The Mid-Autumn Festival, a popular harvest festival, dates back to China's Shang Dynasty which lasted from 1600 B.C. until 1064 B.C.

Double Conjunctions

As a rule, in any two consecutive clauses, only one subordinating or coordinating (FANBOYS) conjunction can be used—it is grammatically incorrect to use two. Otherwise, the sentence will lack a main clause.

Incorrect: Although the Antarctica interior is home to some of the most pristine landscapes on earth, but its climate is too harsh to sustain animal life.

Correct: Although the Antarctica interior is home to some of the most pristine landscapes on earth, its climate is too harsh to sustain animal life.

Correct: The Antarctica interior is home to some of the most pristine landscapes on earth, but its climate is too harsh to sustain animal life.

Classes containing w-word like which and //on -ing word one (almost always) dependent

3. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, the largest national park in the United States, represents everything compelling about Alaska. It is ____ than Belgium. It showcases towering mountains such as Mount St. Elias, which stands more 18,000 feet tall, as well as glaciers.

- A immense; larger, in fact,
- B immense, larger—in fact
- C immense—larger, in fact,
- D immense—larger, in fact—

8. A novel method of air conditioning—which has been adopted by some of the world's most powerful corporations, uses the simple power of ice. The system works ____ when lower power usage means that energy is cheaper and lower temperatures require less power to freeze water.

- A by making ice at night, ✓
- B by: making ice at night
- C by, making ice at night:
- D by—making ice at night

9. Before the invention of modern refrigeration, hunger was a part of daily life at sea. The absence of cool, dry storage spaces put normal pantry staples such as flour and dried beans at a high risk of mold. The climate also presented preservation ____ fresh fruits and meats was next to impossible in warmer waters.

- A problems keeping
- B problems keeping,
- C problems: keeping ✓
- D problems, keeping ✓

10. Determined to create an original American architecture, Frank Lloyd Wright set the standard for what became known as the Prairie Style. Because the homes he designed had flat roofs, no attics or basements, and long rows of windows that further emphasized the horizontal ____ reflected the long, low fields on which they sat.

↳ conjunction
↳ it is dependent hence common

- A theme; they ✓
- B theme, ab they
- C theme, they ✓
- D theme they

Participial phrases cannot stand alone as sentences, however.

- Fragment: Originating in South America.
 Fragment: Having first been cultivated in South America in the first millennium B.C.
 Fragment: Grown originally in South America.
 Fragment: Grown originally in South America, the tomato, one of the most popular salad ingredients.

Gerunds are identical in appearance to present participles: they are created by adding *-ing* to verbs. Whereas participles act as modifiers, gerunds act as nouns. They typically follow pronouns, e.g., *I was irritated by his whistling*, or prepositions, e.g., *The gannet is a bird that catches fish by diving from heights of up to 100 feet*.

At this point, however, the most important thing to understand is a word that ends in *-ing* is not a verb. A clause that contains a subject and an *-ing* word rather than a conjugated verb is a fragment.

→ Colon is used because the "preservation problem" are explained or elaborated on

A colon can be used when the items after the colon expand on or clarify what came before the colon. Keep in mind that there must be a complete sentence before the colon, not a sentence fragment.

ID: a87c3925

Text 1
Soy sauce, made from fermented soybeans, is noted for its umami flavor. Umami—one of the five basic tastes along with sweet, sour, salty, and bitter—is usually classified when it comes to receptors in the tongue. In the 2007 experiment, the scientists from the University of Tokyo, Toshiro Iishi and Michael O'Mahony used broths made from shiitake mushrooms and kombu seaweed, and two panels of Japanese and US judges closely agreed on a description of the taste.

Text 2
A 2007 experiment by Marion Jenger et al. led to a greater understanding of soy sauce's flavor profile. The team initially prepared a mixture of compounds with low molecular weights to taste testers who found it was as salty or bitter as real soy sauce. Further analysis of soy sauce identified proteins, including peptides, that enhanced umami flavor and also contributed to saltiness. The team then made a mix of 50 chemical compounds that created soy sauce's flavor.

Based on the texts, if Iishi and O'Mahony (Text 1) and Jenger et al. (Text 2) were aware of the findings of both experiments, they would most likely agree with which statement?

On average, the diets of people in the United States tend to have fewer foods that contain A. certain peptides than the diets of people in Japan have.

Chemical compounds that activate both the umami and salty taste receptors tend to have a higher molecular weight than those that only activate umami taste receptors.

Fermentation introduces proteins responsible for the increase of umami flavor in soy sauce.

C. and those proteins also increase the perception of saltiness.

The broths in the 2007 experiment most likely did not have a substantial amount of the D. dipeptides that played a key part in the 2002 experiment.

↳ lost word

Rationale

Choice D is the best answer. Iishi and O'Mahony were trying to isolate the pure umami flavor, while Jenger was trying to

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Increase soy sauce, which has a mix of flavors that includes umami. Accordingly, the broths from Text 1 are not described as having any soy sauce in them—just “while modifications were being tested.” So they probably don’t have as much of the fermentation described in Text 2, which were found to be a key part of soy sauce’s umami flavor and saltiness.

Choice A is incorrect. The scientists in Text 1 did not make a mix of 50 chemical compounds to taste testers. The diets of people in Japan, Choice B is incorrect. Neither supports this. Text 2 does talk about the molecular weights of chemical compounds, but there isn’t enough information provided about molecular weights in Text 1 to make an inference about what the scientists in Text 1 would say. Choice C is incorrect. Neither test supports this. Text 1 briefly mentions that the broths “taste like kombu seaweed” but never claims that fermentation is responsible for its flavor in any way. And Text 2 never mentions fermentation at all.

Question Difficulty: Hard

ID: af88c47a

While researching a topic, a student has taken the following notes:

Freddie Wong (born 1985) is a director and special effects artist from the United States. He is best known for the action-comedy web series Video Game High School (VGHS). VGHS premiered in 2012 on RocketJump, a YouTube channel that Wong co-created. The series was celebrated for its inventive video-game–centric world and high-quality special effects. VGHS was nominated for a Producers Guild Award for Outstanding Digital Series.

The student wants to begin a narrative about Wong's award-nominated web series. Which choice most effectively uses relevant information from the notes to accomplish this goal?

In 2012, director and visual effects artist Freddie Wong launched a new action-comedy web A. series. Video Game High School.

Video Game High School was celebrated for its inventive video-game–centric world and high-quality special effects, and it was nominated for a Producer's Guild Award for Outstanding B. Digital Series.

Wong, creator of the YouTube channel RocketJump, would go on to see his web series be nominated for a C. nomination for a Producer's Guild Award.

In 2012, Video Game High School premiered on RocketJump; it would later be nominated D. an award.

Question ID af88c47a

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Expression of Ideas	Rhetorical Synthesis	■■■

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Wong, creator of the YouTube channel RocketJump, would go on to see his web series be nominated for a Producer's Guild Award.

In 2012, Video Game High School premiered on RocketJump; it would later be nominated for an award.

ID: af88c47a Answer

Correct answer: A

Rationale

Choice A is the best answer. This choice introduces Wong and VGHS in an active and specific way as if to an audience unfamiliar with the series. It also sets up the time and genre of the web series, which are useful ways to introduce the series of events in a narrative.

Choice B is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for beginning a narrative. A narrative is a story that follows a sequence of events and creates interest and suspense for the reader.

Choice C is incorrect. This choice jumps to the end, explaining the outcome of VGHS without explaining what it is. Choice D is incorrect. This choice isn't suited for beginning a narrative. It doesn't actually introduce the web series by name. It just jumps to later in the story without sufficient explanation. Choice D is incorrect. This choice is not very effective for beginning a narrative. It doesn't explain what VGHS is, and it doesn't mention Wong.

Question Difficulty: Hard

ID: a9e5b788

In discussing Mary Shelley's 1818 epistolary novel *Frankenstein*, literary theorist Gayatri Spivak directs the reader's attention to the character of Margaret Saville. As Spivak points out, Saville is not the protagonist of Shelley's _____ as the recipient of the letters that frame the book's narrative, she's the "occasion" of it.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. novel
- B. novel.
- C. novel; rather,
- D. novel; rather;

"Rather, as the recipient of the letters that frame the book's narrative, she's the 'occasion' of it." _____
"Rather, as the recipient of the letters that frame the book's narrative, she's the 'occasion' of it." _____
Thus joined to previous sentence with :

Question ID: a9e5b788

Assessment	Test	Domain	Skill	Difficulty
SAT	Reading and Writing	Standard English Conventions	Boundaries	■■■

ID: a9e5b788

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Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. novel
- B. novel.
- C. novel; rather,
- D. novel; rather;

ID: a9e5b788 Answer

Correct Answer: C

Rationale

Choice C is the best answer. The convention being tested is the coordination of main clauses within a sentence. This choice correctly uses a semicolon to join a main clause ("Saville, novel") and a second main clause ("she's...").

Choice A is incorrect because it results in a run-on sentence. The two main clauses are fused without punctuation and/or a conjunction. Choice B is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, a comma can't be used in this way to join two main clauses. Choice D is incorrect because it results in a comma splice. Without a conjunction following it, the comma after "novel" can't be used in this way to join the two main clauses.

Question Difficulty: Hard**ID: dab8b8ee**

Known as Earth's "living skin," biocrusts are thin layers of soil held together by surface-dwelling microorganisms such as fungi, lichens, and cyanobacteria. Fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion, _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. recent study's estimate is that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

B. an estimated 60 percent reduction in global dust emissions each year is due to these crusts, according to a recent study.

C. these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.

D. a recent study has estimated that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

Question ID: dab8b8ee**ID: dab8b8ee**

Known as Earth's "living skin," biocrusts are thin layers of soil held together by surface-dwelling microorganisms such as fungi, lichens, and cyanobacteria. Fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion, _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. a recent study's estimate is that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

B. an estimated 60 percent reduction in global dust emissions each year is due to these crusts, according to a recent study.

C. these crusts reduce global dust emissions by an estimated 60 percent each year, according to a recent study.

D. a recent study has estimated that these crusts reduce global dust emissions by 60 percent each year.

ID: dab8b8ee Answer

Correct Answer: C

Choice C is the best answer. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts." Subject-modifier placement requires a modifier and its subject to be next to each other, so "biocrusts" or "biocrusts' subject-modifier placement" go last in the sentence. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "a recent study's estimate." A recent study's estimate "Choice C is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "a recent study's estimate." A recent study's estimate "Choice C is incorrect. Modifiers and their subjects must go next to each other. The subject of the modifier "fortifying soil in and ecosystems against erosion" is "biocrusts," not "a recent study."

Question Difficulty: Hard

Sometimes, non-essential clauses begin with a w-word. Keep an eye out for this because it can seem like its an essential clause when it begins with a w-word like which

The world's first copyright law, which was established in Great Britain in 1709, was intended to protect books from illegal copying and distribution.

"for example" can be a non-essential clause

Different ways conjunctive adverb transitions can be used

As discussed earlier, these transitions should follow a period or semicolon when they are used to begin a sentence or clause. In the sentence below, for instance, the transition *however* is used to begin the second sentence/clause:

Correct: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest. However, (or, Conquest; however,) nearly a thousand years later, it still remains standing.

That transition can also be used non-essentially in the middle of the sentence. This construction is typically used for **contradictors** such as *however* and *though*.

Correct: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest. Nearly a thousand years later, however, it still remains standing.

The commas around *however* tell us that if we cross out that word, the sentence will still make sense. And sure enough, when we eliminate it, we are left with a grammatically acceptable sentence:

Correct: Nearly a thousand years later...it still remains standing.

We can also place the transition at the end of the sentence.

Correct: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest. Nearly a thousand years later it still remains standing, however.

In terms of meaning, placing the transition at the end of the clause rather than at the beginning or in the middle has no effect—the transition still serves to indicate the relationship between the second sentence and the first.

What we **cannot** do is this:

Incorrect: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest, however, nearly a thousand years later, it still remains standing.

In the above version of the sentence, the two commas imply that the word *however* can be removed without affecting the sentence's essential meaning. But if we remove those commas, we end up with two independent clauses placed back-to-back, without any punctuation between them.

Incorrect: The Tower of London was built during the Norman Conquest nearly a thousand years later, it still remains standing.

More on colon and dash

Colon or Dash

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Note that in some cases, a colon or dash may also be used after a non-essential word or phrase at the end of a sentence. This construction is acceptable when an explanation or definition follows.

Correct: Since the eighteenth century, artisans have attempted to reproduce the sound of a Stradivarius violin. None of them have succeeded, however: the tonal quality remains unique and unmatched by any other instrument maker.

Correct: Since the eighteenth century, artisans have attempted to reproduce the sound of a Stradivarius violin. None of them have succeeded, however—the tonal quality remains unique and unmatched by any other instrument maker.

In the sentence above, the colon or dash is acceptable because the statement following it serves to explain what is meant by *None of them have succeeded*.

General punctuation

The need for two commas vs. a period, semicolon, or colon is determined solely by context. If you are unsure which type of punctuation should be used, use the answer choices to plug in the necessary word(s), and read the passage without the transition.

- If a single logical sentence remains, the word or phrase is non-essential and must be set off by commas.
- If there are two sentences, the transition is being used to start a new sentence or clause and must come after a period, semicolon, or colon.
- If a transition is used non-essentially at the end of a sentence, it connects that sentence to the previous section of the passage. It must come after a comma and can be followed by a period, semicolon, or colon.

Sometimes it can be confusing deciding when to use a colon or a semicolon. The colon is used to provide an example or more detailed information in the sentence.

Incorrect: A teacher should be gifted or skilled in such areas as: patience, self-reflection, and humor.

Correcting the Problem

In the sentence above, no colon is needed after the phrase *in such areas as*.

Correct: A teacher should be gifted or skilled in such areas as patience, self-reflection, and humor.

Rule to Remember

Use a colon after expressions *the following*, or *as follows*.

Do NOT use it after *for example*, *including*, *such as*, or *that is*.

2. Weighing in at 165 tons or more, blue whales (*Balaenoptera musculus*) are the largest animals on Earth. They have been the subject of decades of _____ still have many unanswered questions about their biology and ecology.

- research, though, scientists
- research; though, scientists
- research, though. Scientists
- research, though scientists

Though is not a conjunctive adverb and as a result it is not preceded by a semi-colon. Comma after though just sounded weird here, not sure its a rule or not

- # Two commas, two dashes, and two parentheses are all grammatically interchangeable. The only exception involves transitions (e.g., however, therefore, in fact), which must be surrounded by commas when they are used non-essentially.
- # It is incorrect to use both a closeparenthesis and a comma for the sole purpose of marking the end of a non-essential clause. When a comma is grammatically necessary for other reasons, however, it is acceptable to place one after a close-parenthesis.

"That"

Essential Clauses with and without "That"

Clauses beginning with *that* are always essential to the meaning of a sentence and should not be set off by commas (or any other form of punctuation, for that matter). In other words, the use of a comma before or after *that* is virtually always incorrect. If you see either of these constructions in an answer choice, you should start by assuming that the option is incorrect.

- Incorrect: Parrots are one of the most difficult pets, **that** a person can have because they are intelligent, demanding, and live for up to 50 years.
- Incorrect: Parrots are one of the most difficult pets **that**, a person can have because they are intelligent, demanding, and live for up to 50 years.
- Correct: Parrots are one of the most difficult pets **that a person can have** because they are intelligent, demanding, and live for up to 50 years.

In the above sentence, *that* is optional. The sentence can be correctly written either with or without it.

If the word *that* is deleted, however, no comma should ever be used in its place.

- Incorrect: Parrots are one of the most difficult pets, a person can have because they are intelligent, demanding, and live for up to 50 years.

Note that on very rare occasions, non-essential information may be placed after the word *that*. In such cases, it is acceptable for a comma to be placed after *that*.

- Correct: Hundreds of seismic sensors have been placed around the Pacific Northwest in order to detect "P" waves, the harmless, fast-moving signals that, as a general rule, precede the "S" waves responsible for violent shaking during earthquakes.

17

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. waterways and the fact that,
- B. waterways, and the fact that,
- C. waterways, and, the fact that
- D. waterways and the fact that

} comma after 'that' is wrong

D

Choice D is the best answer. The convention being tested is punctuation within two coordinated noun phrases. When, as in this case, a noun phrase ("the country's millions of miles of waterways") is coordinated with another noun phrase ("the fact") followed by an integrated relative clause ("that the volume...time"), no punctuation is needed. Choice A is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice B is incorrect because no punctuation is needed. Choice C is incorrect because no punctuation is needed.

Important: When a name or title appears in the middle of a sentence—that is, not as the first or last words—there are generally only two correct options: (1) two commas, one before and one after the name or title; or (2) no commas at all.

The simplest way to determine whether commas are necessary is to treat the name or title like any other non-essential element: read the sentence without it, and see if it still makes sense in context. If it does, the commas are necessary; if it does not, the commas are not necessary. (Think: no sense= no commas.)

Another way to think of this rule is as follows:

- Commas around a name or title imply that it is the only person or thing.
- No commas around a name or title imply that it is one of many people or things.

Ada Lovelace and her _____ were two of the most influential figures in the history of computer science. After Babbage sketched out his ideas for an "analytical engine," Lovelace demonstrated that the machine might be able to carry out a variety of complex tasks.

- Mark for Review
- Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?
- acquaintance, Charles Babbage,
 - acquaintance Charles Babbage
 - acquaintance Charles Babbage,
 - acquaintance, Charles Babbage