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*The Great Grammar Book*

# Diagnostic Test

**Circle the correct word choice.**

1. A necklace made from the claws of a grizzly bear and a Colt .45 six-shooter once owned by "Buffalo Bill" Cody **was/were** sold at an auction in Dallas for more than $40,000 each.
2. A high fat diet, obesity, and lack of exercise **increases/increase** the risk of developing heart disease and Type 2 diabetes, even in young people.
3. **Here's/Here are** news articles about computers being given to a Brazilian jungle tribe.
4. The profit margins at a typical warehouse club **is/are** between 11% and 14%, compared with 25% to 30% at a typical grocery store.
5. A wound infested with maggots **heals/heal** quickly without any threat of infection or gangrene.
6. American consumers have learned that the days of unlimited low cost energy **is/are** over.
7. **There's/There are** 251 school days in China a year, which is 71 more days than in American schools.
8. *Battlefield 3* or *Crysis 2* **has/have** the most realistic game graphics.
9. The pattern of stars that looks like twin boys **is/are** called Gemini, or the Twins.
10. Did you know that **its/it's** the moon that causes the tide to rise and fall?
11. In Texas **its/it's** illegal to shoot a buffalo from the second story of a hotel.
12. For nearly 100 years the Coca Cola Company has been using legal means to protect **its/it's** trademark name.
13. In 1958 a nuclear bomb was lost somewhere along the swampy coast of Georgia and **its/it's** whereabouts remain a mystery to this day.
14. On the island of Santorini, Greece, donkeys are often used in place of taxis for transporting tourists and **their/there** luggage.
15. Teddy Roosevelt, **who's/whose** life was dramatically altered by the tragic deaths of his mother and wife on the same day, went on to become the 26th president of the United States.



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16. When **your/you're** in Florida, remember the special law that prohibits unmarried women from parachuting on Sunday.

17. A woman who was looking for shells on a Washington state beach found a prosthetic leg **their/there** instead and was able to return it to the owner after posting a description on Facebook.

18. The U.S. is one of the windiest **country's/countries** on the planet, sometimes called "the Saudi Arabia of wind."

19. In California, Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, it's against the law to hold a **"Ladys/Ladies/Ladies'** Night" because it's deemed gender discrimination.

20. Humpback **whales/whale's/whales'** low frequency calls are the loudest noise made by living creatures.

21. Men process other **men's/mens'** voices with the part of the brain that processes simple sounds such as car engines and machinery, but they process female voices with the part of their brain that processes music.

22. The question on **everyones/everyone's/everyones'** mind was, "How could a jetliner just disappear?"

23. The reporters waited impatiently for the **voter's/voters'** ballots to be counted.

24. Is that convertible **yours/your's**?

25. Maudie and **them/they** discovered a year is actually 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 46 seconds.

26. According to psychologists, people make a subconscious judgment about someone that **he or she/they** (has/have) just met within 90 seconds.

27. Provided there is water, an average person could survive one or two months without food, depending on **his or her/their** body fat.

28. Neither Mark nor Christopher liked **his/their** seat assignments.

29. Carrie and **him/he** named their goldfish Jaws.

30. Brittany whispered, "This is strictly between you and **I/me**."

31. I didn't know whether to make the check out to Roger or **he/him**.

32. Researchers have demonstrated that people want more choices and information than **they/you** can actually process.

33. Todd and **he/him** discovered in their research that an average person in the U.S. receives 41 pounds of junk mail a year.

34. By the time a child is six, **he or she/they** can recognize almost 200 company logos.

35. Convincing **us/we** students that we need more testing is a difficult task.

36. Brandon told Annie and **I/me** that his father is serving on board the USS Sterett, a $1.3 billion missile destroyer.

37. Since the Bennets buy gourmet cereals, are always in Starbucks, and constantly wear designer clothes, they spend a lot more money than **we/us**.

38. From the Internet's humble beginnings in the 1980s, usage has **rose/risen** dramatically.

39. The ozone layer is a layer of the upper atmosphere that **lies/lays** about 12-15 miles above the earth's surface.

40. Recent research on vitamin D has **showed/shown** that taking this vitamin can cut cancer rates and reduce the risk of heart attacks.

41. This thermos has **sprang/sprung** a leak.

42. Lucy **come/came** in third in the last race.

**In the following "sentences" write 'F' beside each sentence fragment (incomplete sentence), write 'R' beside each run-on sentence, and write 'C' beside each of the sentences that is already correct.**

C 43. First we laughed, then we cried.

C 44. Please speak softly.

F 45. As long as you remember how to get there.

R 46. A study at the University of Toronto found that individuals who identified themselves as conservatives were higher in the personality trait of orderliness, while those who self-identified as liberals were higher in empathy.

F 47. If you really want to be a better employee.

F 48. The left side of your brain controls the right side of your body, the right side of your brain controls the left side of your body.

R 49. The first son of a U.S. president to also become a president was John Quincy Adams, whose father was John Adams.

C 50. Hurry!

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R 51. Since members of Congress must run for re-election every two years and successful candidates, on average, spend over a million dollars on the campaign.

F 52. Seen Carson lately?

**In the following sentences add commas and quotation marks where they are needed.**

53. Since the NCAA basketball tournament moved to the 64 game format there has never been a year that all four #1 seeds made it to the Final Four.

54. The world's largest outdoor food festival Taste of Chicago takes place annually in Chicago's downtown Millennium Park.

55. Al McGuire said The only mystery in life is why the kamikaze pilots wore helmets.

56. In 2002 Philadelphia Eagles' star Brian Dawkins became the only player in history to have an interception sack a quarterback recover a fumble and make a touchdown in one game.

57. According to a recent survey many kids in the U.S. are too busy too distracted and too tired to read a book for fun.

58. For days it seemed likely that Hurricane Rita would hit Houston Texas and more than a million people evacuated but the storm veered into Louisiana.

59. Terry Pratchett said The trouble with having an open mind of course is that people will insist on putting things in it.

60. Mr. Barnes said Laptop computers use up to 90% less energy than desktop models.

-½ 61. The economic rebound so many experts have predicted including the Federal Reserve chairman is starting to look doubtful.

62. David said Vinny get lost.

63. Although U.S. life expectancy recently rose to more than 78 years the country still lags behind 30 other countries in estimated life span.

64. Before you assume something learn the facts.

65. Claire Danes has a swing in her apartment and she said My parents had a swing a trapeze and a trampoline in their apartment

66. Rick Shenkman author of *Just How Stupid Are We? Facing the Truth About the American Voter* states that only 40 percent of voters can name the three branches of American government.

**In the following sentences add capital letters and underlining (to indicate italics) where they are needed. (One sentence is already correct.)**

67. John Steinbeck's novel the grapes of wrath tells how poor oklahoma farmers traveled to california during the great depression of the 1930s.

68. The restoration is an english historical period during which the monarchy was restored, following a period known as the commonwealth, when england had no king or queen.

69. Weather forecasters are predicting heavy spring rains which will help fill our reservoirs to meet the heavy demand of summer and fall.

70. Bryan Cranston, portraying President Lyndon Johnson, won the 2014 Tony Award for best actor in the Broadway play All the Way.

71. Hundreds of native american reservations and pueblos are open to the public including taos pueblo in new mexico, pine ridge reservation in south Dakota, and hopi villages in arizona.

72. The six official languages of the united nations are english, french, arabic, chinese, russian, and spanish.

73. Blake said that the band destiny's child was a loser on star search.

74. Angel falls, which plunges 3,212 feet into the churun river in eastern venezuela, has a longer drop than any other waterfall in the world.

75. As a young, struggling dancer in new york city, madonna worked as a counter clerk at dunkin' donuts in times square.

76. Jay gatsby, the main character in f. scott fitzgerald's novel the great gatsby, hopelessly attempts to revive an old romance.

**In each of the following sentences, correct the one grammatical mistake by crossing out the error and making the correction above it.**

77. I'm not going in that cave because it's to spooky in there.

78. President James Monroe's daughter was the first member of a presidents family to be married in the White House.

79. You never realize how boring you're life is until someone asks you what you do for fun.

80. In Tokyo riding a bicycle for short trips is alot faster than taking a car.

81. Please give me there e-mail address as soon as possible.

82. I should have knew that it was Isaac Newton, the English physicist, who discovered the law of gravity.

83. He ain't afraid of heights.

84. The pioneer settlers were almost froze by the time they made it through the mountains.

85. Britains secret spy agency is recruiting people who speak Mandarin, Arabic, Persian, Dari, and Pashto.

86. We seen that Raju the elephant cried tears of joy after he was rescued from 50 years of being chained and tortured by his owners.

87. The jeans I bought on sale must of been defective because one of the pant legs is shorter than the other.

88. By reading history we come to understand that civil wars have occurred in many countries including England, Spain, and Russia.

89. Scott's mother has spoke to him about moving his head-banging band's rehearsals to someone else's house.

90. Katie said to her mother, "please take me to the carnival, so I can see the man who eats fire."

91. There's three golf balls on the moon.

92. Us two believe that taking notes with the old-fashioned pen and paper method helps us remember more information than taking notes on a laptop.

93. One in every four Americans have appeared on television at least once.

94. Some widely advertised "Speed up your computer" programs work really good, and others don't work at all.

95. Neither of us remember how the argument started.

96. Vikings, the ancestors of todays Norwegians, lived during the Middle Ages.

97. Oh! didn't see you standing there.

98. Since EPA standards for tap water are much stricter than FDA standards for bottled water, tap water is usually cleaner than bottled.

99. Binh and Natalie are confident about winning the tennis championship because they have won every previous match against Jillian and she.

100. If a person can't follow simple directions, you're likely to get lost frequently.