

EXPLORE Sample Test Items

ENGLISH TEST

DIRECTIONS: In the passage that follows, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for each underlined part. You are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.”

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an

underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box. Sometimes, the paragraphs or the sentences of a paragraph will be numbered and referred to in these questions.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding circle on your answer sheet. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. You cannot determine most answers without reading several sentences beyond the question. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

[1]

[1] When the floor is buffed to a shine, I can get up enough speed to hang ten the entire length of the kitchen. [2] In my family we’re a little wild and crazy—that is, we kids are wild and our mom is crazy. [3] But she’s crazy in a good way. [4] For instance, while other moms might plead threaten, or yell to get chores done, our mom turns everything into a game. [5] She organizes wall washing competitions, followed by floor mopping contests, followed by towel surfing, which happens to be my specialty. 2

1.
 - A. NO CHANGE
 - B. plead, threaten, or yell
 - C. plead threaten or yell,
 - D. plead, threaten or, yell

2. For the sake of unity and coherence, Sentence 1 should be placed after Sentence:
 - F. 2.
 - G. 3.
 - H. 4.
 - J. 5.

[2]

3 We've come up with a lot of odd schemes to make grocery shopping fun. Once we

pretended we were visitors as a future time. Mom acted casual as we pushed the cart through the store speaking gibberish to one another. When a curious shopper had rose an eyebrow, Mom merely smiled and spoke a greeting in our "future" tongue.

[3]

When chores are done, and when the weather is nice, I usually head for the beach or a park. Unfortunately, to get to these places,

the old station wagon is piled into by us. The family car looks terrible, and it doesn't have air-conditioning.

[4]

One hot afternoon, we hatched an idea to roll up the windows and make it *look* as if we had air-conditioning.

Tilting our noses in the air, we pretended we were positively freezing from all the cold air. In spite of our charade, no one seemed the slightest bit impressed

3. Which of the following sentences, if added at this point, would most effectively lead the reader from Paragraph 1 to the description of grocery shopping in Paragraph 2?

- A. Another chore we help Mom with is grocery shopping.
- B. Mom makes us have fun when we do chores.
- C. We speak gibberish when we do chores.
- D. Grocery shopping is so awful that we have to speak gibberish just to make it fun.

4. F. NO CHANGE

- G. near
- H. by
- J. from

5. A. NO CHANGE

- B. had risen
- C. rose
- D. raised

6. F. NO CHANGE

- G. we
- H. they
- J. she

7. A. NO CHANGE

- B. the old station wagon must be piled into by us.
- C. we have to pile into our old station wagon.
- D. it is necessary that our old station wagon be piled into.

8. F. NO CHANGE

- G. Pretending, we tilted our noses in the air that
- H. To pretend, we tilted, in the air, our noses so
- J. We pretended, it being that by tilting our noses in the air

with us. Finally, when Mom couldn't see through her perspiration to drive. She insisted we roll down the

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windows. **10** Never have I more appreciated *natural* air-conditioning. Since then we've been a little less wild and crazy. When we're tempted to try another prank, Mom likes to remind us of the time our half-baked idea nearly left us that way.

9. A. NO CHANGE
B. drive. She then
C. drive, she
D. drive. So she

10. Suppose the writer wanted to add a sentence at this point to illustrate the dramatic effect of rolling down the car windows. Which of the following sentences would most effectively achieve this effect?

- F. What a relief!
G. This time we were a little too wild.
H. We felt a change.
J. The car is cooler.

Answer Key

1	B
2	J
3	A
4	J
5	D
6	G
7	C
8	F
9	C
10	F