

English Punctuation & Grammar: Hard Practice Paper 3 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The semicolon joins two complete sentences that belong closely together, and the full stop closes the line. So there is no mistake in this line.
2	B	'pour out of a volcano,' is followed by the list of those three things, and a list introduced like this takes a colon, not a comma: pour out of a volcano: lava, ash and hot gas. The mistake is in group B.
3	A	'Scientists tools' means the tools belonging to the scientists. Scientists is already plural, so the apostrophe goes after the s: Scientists' tools. The mistake is in group A.
4	C	'it's long history' uses the wrong word. It's is short for it is, and Mount Etna is not famous for it is long history. The possessive its never takes an apostrophe: its long history. The mistake is in group C.
5	E	Every mark in this line is correct. Two complete sentences are joined by and, and the comma before it is right. So there is no mistake in this line.
6	B	'(some say twenty miles' opens a bracket and never closes it. Brackets work in pairs, so one must close after miles: (some say twenty miles) that it darkened the sky. The mistake is in group B.
7	A	'Ash clouds are dangerous,' is a complete sentence, and they can stop an engine in flight is another. A comma cannot join two sentences: a semicolon or a full stop is needed. The mistake is in group A.
8	C	'are the biggest' does not agree. Neither... nor points at one thing at a time, so it takes a singular verb: neither the ash nor the lava is the biggest danger. The mistake is in group C.
9	D	'out with the lava' ends the sentence, but nothing closes it. A statement finishes with a full stop: out with the lava. The mistake is in group D.

10	B	'people still farms' does not agree. People is a plural word, meaning more than one person, so the verb loses its s: people still farm. The mistake is in group B.
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