

English Spelling: Hard Practice Paper 7 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	A	'secratary' should be spelled 'secretary'. The middle vowel is an e , not an a: sec-re-tary. It helps to remember that a secretary was once the keeper of a secret, and secret is spelled with an e. The mistake is in group A.
2	C	'greatful' should be spelled 'grateful'. The word has nothing to do with great; it comes from an older word grate meaning pleasing, so it is grate + ful, with a single l. The mistake is in group C.
3	E	Every word here is spelled correctly. Conscience keeps the silent c of science after the n, troubled has the ou of trouble, and verdict ends -dict as in dictate. So there is no mistake in this sentence.
4	B	'wierd' should be spelled 'weird'. It is an exception to the i-before-e rule, and a famous one: the e comes first even though there is no c in front of it. The mistake is in group B.
5	D	'abscence' should be spelled 'absence'. There is no c after the s. The word is absent with the ending changed to -ence, and absent has no c in it either. The mistake is in group D.
6	A	'publically' should be spelled 'publicly'. Adjectives ending in -ic normally add -ally (basic becomes basically, tragic becomes tragically), but public is the odd one out and takes -ly on its own. The mistake is in group A.
7	E	Every word here is spelled correctly. Manoeuvre keeps its French vowels oe-u-v-re, remarkable ends -able, and patience ends -ence. So there is no mistake in this sentence.
8	C	'perseverence' should be spelled 'perseverance'. The ending is -ance , matching the verb persevere and the adjective perseverant. The mistake is in group C.
9	B	'tounge' should be spelled 'tongue'. The letters are ton-gue: the u sits after the g, not before the n, and the final e is silent. The mistake is in group B.

10	D	'irresistable' should be spelled 'irresistible'. Where the root is not a complete English word on its own, the ending is usually -ible , as in possible, terrible and visible. The mistake is in group D.
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