

English Punctuation & Grammar: Hard Practice Paper 4 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The comma after 1914 closes the words that tell us when, the comma before and separates two complete sentences, and Endurance is a name and so takes a capital letter. So there is no mistake in this line.
2	C	'in all set out' is where the description of the crew ends. Twenty-eight men in all is extra information dropped into the middle of the sentence, and information of that kind needs a comma at both ends, not just the first: in all, set out. The mistake is in group C.
3	A	'The strength of the ice were' does not agree. The subject is strength, which is singular, so the verb must be was. The words of the ice sit between them and pull the ear towards a plural, but they are not the subject: The strength of the ice was. The mistake is in group A.
4	B	'only what mattered,' introduces a list, and the mark that introduces a list is a colon, not a comma: only what mattered: a compass, a diary and a sledge. The commas that follow are right, because they separate the items themselves. The mistake is in group B.
5	D	'less biscuits than before.' uses the wrong word. Biscuits can be counted one by one, so the word is fewer; less is kept for things that cannot be counted, such as less daylight or less water: fewer biscuits than before. The mistake is in group D.
6	C	'hundred miles' is where the bracket should close. A bracket that is opened must always be closed again, and the words inside it here are the distance: east (some eight hundred miles) across open sea. The mistake is in group C.
7	E	Every mark in this line is correct. The comma before and separates two complete sentences, and nothing inside either of them has to be marked off. So there is no mistake in this line.

8	A	'South Georgias mountains' means the mountains of South Georgia, so it is a possessive and needs an apostrophe before the s: South Georgia's mountains. A place name takes an apostrophe just as a person's name does. The mistake is in group A.
9	B	'nor the compass were' does not agree. After neither... nor, the verb matches whichever subject is nearer to it, and the nearer one here is the compass, which is singular: nor the compass was. The mistake is in group B.
10	D	'men could be?' should not end with a question mark. Nobody's exact words are given here; the sentence only reports that a question was asked, so it is a statement and closes with a full stop: who these men could be. A question mark would be right only for "Who are these men?" The mistake is in group D.