

English: Choose the Best Word: Medium Practice Paper

3 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	B	The word here follows the slightest, so it names a thing and must be a noun, and the noun is effect : it had no effect on our plans. Affect is the verb, the one that does something, as in the rain did not affect our plans, so affect and affects cannot follow the slightest. Effected is a verb too, meaning brought about, and affection means fondness for somebody, which has nothing to do with the sense here.
2	C	In British English the verb is spelt with an s and the noun with a c: you practise your knots at knot practice. The line needs the verb, and after to the plain form is used, so practise is right. Practice here would be the noun spelling, practicing is the American spelling and is wrong after to in any case, and practised and practises are the wrong forms to follow to.
3	A	Planks can be counted one by one, and the word for how many of something countable there are is number : the number of planks. Amount is kept for things that are measured rather than counted, such as the amount of rain, and the amount of planks is the mistake this line is testing. The much, the deal and the many are not English: none of them can follow the in this way.
4	D	The missing word joins the sentence to the tree by telling us about the place, and the joining word for a place is where . Which and that would have to stand in for the oak itself as the subject or object of what follows, but nobody is already the subject there, so both would need a preposition, as in from which. When is used for a time, not a place, and what cannot join two parts of a sentence at all.

5	E	Since marks the start of a stretch of time that reaches right up to now, and the tense for that is the present perfect: the oak has stood there since. The present tense of the second half, is thicker, shows the tree is standing still. Stood and stands do not reach across from then until now, is standing describes only this moment, and had stood would need another past moment to look back from.
6	B	Between is a preposition, and the word after a preposition is always the object form, so it is between Sam and me . Between you and I is a very common mistake, but taking the other person out shows it up: you would say a secret between me and him, never between I and him. Myself is only used when I has already appeared in the sentence, and mine and my both show belonging.
7	D	Looking back at something somebody failed to do is said with should have plus a past participle: you should have told me. Should of is the commonest spelling mistake in English, because should have is squeezed to should've in speech and of sounds the same, but of is a preposition and can never follow should. Should had, should has and should having are all the wrong forms after should, which takes a plain verb.
8	A	Some verbs are followed by an -ing form and others by to, and avoid is one that always takes the -ing form: we avoided using it. To use would follow a verb such as refused or decided, but never avoided. To using doubles the two patterns together, and use and used cannot follow avoided at all without a to in between.
9	E	Enough comes after the adjective it measures, not before it, so the phrase is tall enough to reach. Enough tall is the word order used in many other languages and is the mistake being tested. Too tall would mean his height was the problem, which is the opposite of the sense, while so tall and as tall would each need the sentence to carry on differently, as in so tall that or as tall as.

10	C	The word describes how he hammered, so it must be an adverb, and than shows that two things are being compared, so it must be a comparative: more carefully. Adverbs ending in -ly make their comparative with more rather than with -er. Carefully is the plain adverb and does not compare, most carefully picks one out of several instead of comparing two, and careful and more careful are adjectives, which describe a person rather than an action.
----	---	---

myFreeSchool