

English: Choose the Best Word: Hard Practice Paper 1 Answers

Q#	Answer	Explanation
1	A	What follows the gap is a complete clause with its own subject and verb, he had never advertised, and the contrast word that joins a clause to the sentence before it is although . Despite shows contrast too but must be followed by a noun or an -ing form. However and nevertheless would need a full stop or a semicolon in front of them, and moreover adds to a point rather than setting something against it.
2	C	Hardly is always completed by when , and the pair together mean that the second thing happened almost immediately after the first: he had hardly set it down when the bell rang. Than belongs to the matching pattern no sooner ... than, and swapping the two halves round is the commonest mistake here. Then cannot join two clauses, as would suggest the two things went on together, and that has no meaning after hardly.
3	B	The line compares the way she spoke with an imagined situation, and the phrase for that is as if , which is why the verb after it is the unreal were rather than was. Like if and as though that are not English: it is either as if or as though, with nothing added. Even if would make the clock being glass a condition rather than a comparison, and as on its own would mean at the same time.
4	D	Only whether can be followed straight by to and used with or to set out two choices: whether to repair it or to replace it. If can introduce a choice after decide, but it cannot be followed by to, which is the trap here. That does not introduce a choice at all, how would ask about the method rather than the decision, and either pairs with or but cannot follow decide in this way.

5	E	This is a sentence about something that did not happen, written without if by putting Had in front of the subject: Had he known, he would have refused. If would need to be followed by he had known, not he known. Should is used for the same trick in sentences about the future and would need should he know. Have known cannot open the sentence, and Having known would need no he after it.
6	B	When two subjects are joined by neither ... nor, the verb agrees with whichever one is nearer to it, and the nearer one here is the mainspring, which is singular: has ever been replaced. Have is the trap, because the plural wheels comes first and sounds as though it should decide. Had would push the statement further into the past than he means, was cannot be followed by been, and having is not a verb a sentence can stand on.
7	D	The missing word stands in for the whole of the idea before the comma, not for any single noun, and the word that does that after a comma is which . That cannot be used after a comma in this way at all. This and it would each start a brand new sentence and so would need a full stop rather than a comma, and what cannot join two parts of a sentence together.
8	A	Lest means for fear that, and it is the word for something you act to prevent: he worked late lest he be thought idle. So that would say he wanted the old man to think him idle, which is the opposite of his reason, and because would make the old man's opinion the cause rather than the thing feared. Unless would turn it into a condition, and in case of must be followed by a noun, not by a clause.
9	C	Not only at the start of a sentence forces the subject and the helping verb to swap places, so he had becomes had he . He had cleaned, he cleaned and he has cleaned all keep the ordinary order and so cannot follow Not only. Did he clean is inverted correctly but uses the wrong tense: the second half of the line says he had polished, so both halves must match.

10	B	Not only is always completed by but also , and the two halves have to match each other: not only how to mend a clock but also how to listen to one. And also and or do not pair with not only at all. But on its own is not quite the fixed pair, and as well would have to come at the very end of the sentence rather than in the middle.
----	---	--

myfreeschool