

SAT Prep

Standard English Conventions 3



Standard English Conventions 3

Boundaries

What are "Boundaries" questions?

On the SAT Reading and Writing Test, some questions will present you with a short passage that contains a blank. The question will then ask you to complete the text in a way that **conforms to the conventions of Standard English**.

Boundaries questions focus on how phrases, clauses, and sentences are linked together in written English.

Which Standard English conventions will be tested in boundaries questions?

Boundaries questions focus on these Standard English conventions:

1. Linking clauses

You may be asked to link clauses using coordination, subordination, or end punctuation.

2. Supplements

You may be asked to format and punctuate supplemental information provided within a sentence.

3. Punctuation

You'll need to know when and where to use (and *not* use) different punctuation marks. Correct punctuation is essential for all the *boundary* questions.



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How to approach boundary questions

Because each question will focus on a specific convention of Standard English, it's a great first step to **identify which grammar rule is being tested**.

Step 1: *Investigate the blank*

Read the text closely.

Where does the blank appear? Within a sentence?

Between clauses?

Compare the choices. What changes from choice to choice? Are conjunctions added or removed? Is different punctuation used?

Any patterns we can identify will be useful in the next step.

Step 2: *Find the focus*

Based on our observations in the previous step, we should be able to identify which Standard English convention is being tested.

For example, if the blank comes between two independent clauses, and the choices offer a mix of commas and conjunctions, we should focus on avoiding errors with *linking clauses*.

If we can narrow our focus to the specific convention being tested, we'll have less to think about. This can save both time and brainpower.

Step 3: *Eliminate the obvious errors*

Now it's time to take a closer look at the choices!

Plug each choice into the blank, and read the passage through. Keeping in mind the grammar rules we identified as the focus, eliminate any choice that creates an obvious error.

Once we eliminate choices that create errors, we'll be left with only one remaining choice. We can select it with confidence!



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Linking Clauses

What are clauses?

A **clause** is a series of words that contains a subject and a conjugated verb. There are two main types of clauses:

An **independent clause** can stand on its own as a complete sentence.

Example: Dolores went to the grocery store.

This independent clause has a subject ("Dolores") and a verb ("went") and makes sense on its own as a complete thought. A **dependent clause** must be linked to an independent clause.

Example: Where she bought milk and eggs

This dependent clause has a subject ("she") and a verb ("bought"), but it wouldn't make sense on its own. To create a complete sentence, this clause would need to be linked to an independent clause:

Example: Dolores went to the grocery store, *where she bought milk and eggs*.

The SAT focuses on how clauses can be linked together (or kept apart). These conventions may be tested in *Boundaries* questions that you encounter on test day.



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Linking clauses

There are several ways to link clauses. The SAT focuses on end-of-sentence punctuation, coordination, subordination, and semicolons.

Let's look at each in turn:

End-of-sentence punctuation

Using end punctuation (like a period or question mark) is the simplest way to separate clauses. You should be very familiar with using end punctuation in your own writing.

There are only two rules for end punctuation:

1. The punctuation mark must match the function of the sentence it follows.

Find errors: I've often wondered how are birds able to navigate?

2. End punctuation can only be used to separate two **independent clauses**.

Find errors: After sliced bread was introduced to the market in 1928. It quickly eclipsed the popularity of unsliced bread.



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Coordination

Coordination involves the linking of two independent clauses within a single sentence. To coordinate independent clauses, we must use two things:

1. a comma (,)
2. a coordinating conjunction

The *only* coordinating conjunctions in English are known as the FANBOYS (for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so).

Find errors:

- Astronomical seasons are based on the position of the sun, meteorological seasons are based on temperature and weather.
- Astronomical seasons are based on the position of the sun but meteorological seasons are based on temperature and weather.



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Subordination

Subordination involves linking two clauses by making one of the clauses dependent. To subordinate an independent clause, we must use two things:

1. a subordinating conjunction
2. a comma (,) *

Subordinating conjunctions are words that turn an independent clause into a dependent clause. There are many subordinating conjunctions, but some examples include *although*, *since*, *because*, *while*, *when*, and *after*.

Find errors: Broccoli, kale, and kohlrabi may seem like very different vegetables, they are all cultivars of the same plant species.

Some subordinating conjunctions can link clauses without a comma but only if the dependent clause comes second.

- I went to the store because I ran out of peanut butter.
- I will go to the store if I run out of peanut butter.

Semicolons

Semicolons can be used to link two independent clauses without any conjunction.

Find errors:

1. The Green Zebra tomato ripens without turning red; which makes it difficult to know when one is ready to eat.
2. The Green Zebra tomato ripens without turning red; and this makes it difficult to know when one is ready to eat.



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How to identify linking clauses questions

When approaching boundary questions, it's important to identify which Standard English conventions are being tested.

You may want to look for errors in linking clauses if

- the choices add or remove commas and FANBOYS conjunctions
- the choices add or remove end punctuation like periods or question marks
- any choice contains a semicolon

If you don't see any of these features, then the question likely doesn't deal with linking clauses.

Tips and Strategies

Use the Before-and-After test

When you see choices that offer a variety of punctuation options, check if what comes before and after the blank are independent clauses. If one side of the blank is *not* an independent clause, then you're likely dealing with a supplements or punctuation question (which focus on different rules).



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Supplements

What are supplements?

Supplements are words, phrases, and relative clauses that add extra information to a sentence, often for the purpose of description or elaboration. There are two main types of supplements:

Essential elements are necessary for the sentence to function and don't require punctuation.

Example: In a basketball game, the team **that scores the most points** will win.

Nonessential elements are *not* necessary for the sentence to function. They must be separated from the main sentence by punctuation.

Example: The basketball team, **which won the state championship last year**, got on the bus.

The SAT focuses on whether supplements should be separated from the rest of the sentence by punctuation, as well as what punctuation marks should be used. These conventions may be tested in *Boundaries* questions that you encounter on test day.



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How are supplements punctuated?

There are several factors that govern how supplements should be treated within a sentence. Let's look at each in turn.

Essential or Nonessential

The first question is *whether* a given supplement should be punctuated. Try reading the sentence without the supplemental information.

- If the sentence no longer makes sense, then the supplement is an essential element. *No punctuation should be used.*
- If the sentence still makes sense, then the supplement is nonessential. *The supplement must be separated from the rest of the sentence by punctuation.*

Position in the sentence

Once you determine a supplement is nonessential, you must decide how to punctuate it.

- If the supplement begins or ends the sentence, it only requires one punctuation mark (between the supplement and the rest of the sentence).
- If the supplement comes in the middle of the sentence, *it requires punctuation on both sides.*

Example:

1. **A striker with 62 goals in international play**, Megan Rapinoe is known for her activism in addition to her soccer stardom.
2. Megan Rapinoe, **a striker with 62 goals in international play**, is known for her activism in addition to her soccer stardom.



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Type of punctuation

Nonessential elements can be separated from the rest of a sentence using three different types of punctuation marks:

- Commas (,)
- Parentheses ()
- Dashes (—)

In formatting supplements, these punctuation marks are basically interchangeable. However, there is one important rule: *the same type of punctuation must appear before and after a nonessential element.*

In other words, we don't want to be mixing different punctuation marks together.

Example:

- The male chaffinch—**with its blueish cap and rusty red feathering**—is more colorful than its female counterpart.
- The male chaffinch, **with its blueish cap and rusty red feathering**, is more colorful than its female counterpart.

Either dashes or commas can be used to punctuate this supplement, but we can't use one of each!



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How to identify supplements questions

You may want to look for errors in supplements if

- the choices add or remove commas, but not conjunctions
- the choices include multiple types of punctuation, like commas and dashes

If you don't see either of these features, then the question likely doesn't deal with supplements.

Example: Luci Tapahonso is the inaugural poet laureate of the Navajo Nation. Her book *Sáanii Dahataal/The Women Are Singing*—a combination of fiction and memoir, poetry and _____ serves as a testament to her versatility as a writer.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. prose—
- B. prose
- C. prose,
- D. prose;



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Tips and strategies

Be consistent!

SAT questions will often include just one side of a nonessential element in the underlined portion of the sentence. Be sure to check the other side of the element for consistency: the same punctuation mark should be used on both sides!

Don't worry about the difference between commas, parentheses, and dashes

While commas, parentheses, and dashes are sometimes better in particular contexts, the SAT *won't test you* on these minor differences. In other words, you'll never be asked to choose between two types of punctuation marks if the choices don't create other grammar errors. So don't sweat it!

Don't pair semicolons or colons!

Commas, parentheses, and dashes are the *only* options when separating a nonessential element from the rest of the sentence. We should never use two semicolons or colons around a nonessential element.



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Punctuation

What punctuation marks are tested on the SAT? Punctuation appears as part of a variety of questions on the SAT. Whether we're linking clauses or adding supplements to a sentence, we'll need to appropriately employ punctuation. We may also need to identify instances where *no punctuation is necessary*.

The SAT may test your knowledge of

- Commas (,)
- Semicolons (;)
- Colons (:)
- Dashes (—)
- Ellipsis (...)

Appropriate punctuation will be essential to all Boundaries questions that you encounter on test day. Different punctuation marks have different uses and different rules. Let's look at each in turn.

**Note: some punctuation marks have additional uses not named here (e.g., formatting dialogue with commas). This article focuses only on how these punctuation marks are tested on the SAT.*



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Commas (,)

Commas should only be used to...

Separate list items

Example: Crafting a chessboard requires **a table saw, a sander, and lots of glue.**

Separate nonessential elements from the sentence

Example: The Bay of Fundy, **a body of water between Nova Scotia and New Brunswick**, experiences the world's highest tidal range.

Link dependent clauses to independent clauses

Example: While they were once endangered by commercial **whaling, humpback** whale populations have recently grown at a rapid rate.

Link independent clauses with help from a coordinating (FANBOYS) conjunction

Example: Almonds are the world's most consumed tree **nut, but** walnuts are a close second.



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Commas should **not**...

Split a subject and a verb

Find errors: Mountain goats, are very nimble.

Mountain goats, which are only distantly related to domestic goats, are very nimble.

Come before prepositions

Find errors: The chicken crossed, to the other side of the road.

Separate items in a list of two

Find errors: Learning archery requires skill and practice.

Using a comma in any of these ways creates an error.



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Semicolons (;)

Semicolons should only be used to...

- Link Independent clauses (*without* conjunction)
Humans have always been troubled by dry **skin**; **lotions** and moisturizers have a history reaching back into ancient times.
- Separate list items that already *contain* commas

While the United Nations is headquartered in New York City, it also has central offices in **Nairobi, Kenya**; **Geneva, Switzerland**; and **Vienna, Austria**.

Any other use of a semicolon creates an error.

Colons (:)

Colons can only come at the end of an independent clause. They can introduce...

- Explanations and extra information
Many upstart tech companies fail for the same **reason**: **a lack** of market need for their product.
- Lists

The advent of cellular biology has led to the classification of organisms into three distinct **domains: bacteria**, archaea, and eukaryota.

Any other use of a colon creates an error.



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Dashes (—)

Dashes should only be used to separate nonessential elements from the rest of the sentence.

There are three characters—**the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion**—that accompany Dorothy on her way to Oz.

There are three characters that accompany Dorothy on her way to Oz—**the Scarecrow, the Tin Man, and the Cowardly Lion**.

Any other use of a dash creates an error.

A single Dash= Colon

An ellipsis

An ellipsis is a punctuation mark of three dots (. . .) that shows an omission of words, represents a pause, or suggests there's something left unsaid.

When to use an ellipsis:

- **An omitted word**

Example: “. . . and you wouldn't believe the smell! We spent the rest of the afternoon cleaning it up.”

- **Pause for dramatic effect or suspense**

Example: With sweaty palms, I reached out for the knob and threw the door open to reveal . . . a lost puppy.

- **Trailing off into silence**

Example: Would you like sugar for your coffee, or...

- **To suggest there's more**

Example: And then only two remained...



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How to identify punctuation questions

Look for errors in punctuation if

- The choices add or remove punctuation
- The choices offer a variety of punctuation marks

If you don't see either of these features, then the question likely doesn't deal with punctuation.

Example: According to Naomi Nakayama of the University of Edinburgh, the reason seeds from a dying dandelion appear to float in the air while _____ is that their porous plumes enhance drag, allowing the seeds to stay airborne long enough for the wind to disperse them throughout the surrounding area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of standard English?

- A. falling,
- B. falling:
- C. falling;
- D. falling



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Tips and strategies

Use the Before-After test for semicolons

Unless it appears in a list, a semicolon must have an independent clause both before and after it. If you think a semicolon might be right, check to make sure you have an independent clause on either side. If you don't, **you can't use a semicolon.**

Use the Before test for colons

A colon can only appear at the end of an independent clause. If you think a colon might be right, check to make sure what comes before is a complete independent clause. If it's not, **you can't use a colon.**

Double-check commas

Many writers overuse commas (or use them as a default punctuation mark). Double-check to make sure a comma is both necessary and appropriate before selecting it as your answer.

If the comma is linking clauses, make sure it has the coordinating or subordinating conjunction it needs to do so.

If the comma isn't linking clauses, make sure it serves a purpose and doesn't unnecessarily interrupt some other function of the sentence.



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Conjunctive Adverbs, such as however, nevertheless, in fact, for example, therefore, etc. require different punctuation. For joining two sentences with a conjunctive adverb, you need to have a semi-colon before the word and a comma after it.

Examples:

1. However (contrast): cycling class is a tough workout; however, I still attend three times a week.
2. Therefore (cause/effect): Erin takes regular pilates classes; therefore, she is very strong.
3. For example (general to specific): There are many fun exercises; for example, I take kickboxing and weightlifting.
4. In fact (emphasis): Luna is obsessed with running; in fact, she is out running right now.

‘However/though’ at the End of a Sentence: Put a comma before and end-of-sentence punctuation (period, question mark, or exclamation mark) after however when you use it at the end of a sentence.

Examples:

1. I searched for hours. I did not locate them, however.
2. The baby was hungry. He just couldn’t settle down enough to eat, however.
3. I want to go on vacation! I don’t want to pay for it, though.
4. 'I still find English hard to understand; I can understand more than last year, though!'



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If the contradiction is between the earlier two sentences and the sentence after the blank is an independent sentence extending the idea further, punctuate the sentences in the following two ways:

comma+ conjunctive adverb+ semicolon

1. Wanda demonstrated how the keyboard works of Baroque composers probably sounded in their own times. It would be a mistake to consider Landowska a classicist, however; she had been born in an age of romantic playing dominated by Liszt, Leschetizky, and their pupils.
2. I'm sure it's a well-paying job. I have no interest in it, though; I wish to assist my father in our family business and make money.
3. Agnes Bain has always dreamed of greater things from her marriage, her husband abandons her, however; she finds herself trapped in a decimated mining town with her three children, and descends deeper and deeper into the drink.

comma+ conjunctive adverb+ period

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If the contradiction is between the earlier two sentences and the sentence after the blank is an independent sentence extending the idea further, punctuate the sentences in the following two ways:

4. Willem, Jude, Malcolm, and JB meet at college in Massachusetts and form a firm friendship, moving to New York upon graduation. Over the years their friendships deepen and darken as they celebrate successes and face failures; Jude is their greatest challenge, though; he is an increasingly broken man scarred by an unspeakable childhood.

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1. An element's atomic number is _____ the number of protons in its nucleus, the number of electrons in its uncharged state, and approximately half of its atomic mass.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. equal to:
- B. equal to;
- C. equal to,
- D. equal to

2. When he returned from the Galapagos islands in 1835, Charles Darwin brought back a young tortoise named _____ would live over 170 years before passing away at the Australia Zoo in 2006.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Harriet, she
- B. Harriet; who
- C. Harriet she
- D. Harriet; she



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3. In paleontology, the term *Elvis taxon* gets applied to a newly identified living species that was once presumed to be extinct. Like an Elvis impersonator who might bear a striking resemblance to the late musical icon Elvis Presley himself, an Elvis taxon is not the real thing, _____ is a misidentified look-alike.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. however, it
- B. however it
- C. however but it
- D. however. It

4. Santa Clara Pueblo artist Roxanne Swentzell’s sculpture, *Mud Woman Rolls On*, consists of five human figures made of clay and plant fiber and arranged in descending size; each figure holds the smaller one in front of it. The arrangement of the figures, according to _____ represents her idea that “we all come from the Earth, generation after generation.”

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Swentzell,
- B. Swentzell:
- C. Swentzell
- D. Swentzell—



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5. In her book *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, author Maxine Hong Kingston examines themes _____ childhood, womanhood, and Chinese American identity by intertwining autobiography and mythology.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. of—
- B. of
- C. of:
- D. of,

6. In a 2016 study, Eastern Washington University psychologist Amani El-Alayli found that, among the study participants who experienced frisson (a physiological response akin to goosebumps or getting the chills) while listening to music, there was one personality trait that they scored particularly _____ openness to experience.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. high on;
- B. high on
- C. high. On
- D. high on:



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7. Humans were long thought to have begun occupying the Peruvian settlement of Machu Picchu between 1440 and 1450 CE. However, a team led by anthropologist Dr. Richard Burger used accelerator mass spectrometry to uncover evidence that it was occupied _____ 1420 CE, according to Burger, humans were likely inhabiting the area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. earlier, which in
- B. earlier, in
- C. earlier. In
- D. earlier in

8. Emperor Ashoka ruled the Maurya Empire in South Asia from roughly 270 to 232 BCE. He is known for enforcing a moral code called the Law of Piety, which established the sanctity of animal _____ the just treatment of the elderly, and the abolition of the slave trade.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. life;
- B. life:
- C. life
- D. life,



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9. The field of geological oceanography owes much to American _____ Marie Tharp, a pioneering oceanographic cartographer whose detailed topographical maps of the ocean floor and its multiple rift valleys helped garner acceptance for the theories of plate tectonics and continental drift.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. geologist
- B. geologist:
- C. geologist;
- D. geologist,

10. A sub seasonal weather forecast attempts to predict weather conditions three to four weeks in _____ its predictions are therefore more short-term than those of the seasonal forecast, which attempts to predict the weather more than a month in advance.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. advance and
- B. advance;
- C. advance,
- D. advance



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11. In the novel *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe, Okonkwo is a leader of Umuofia (a fictional Nigerian clan) and takes pride in his culture’s traditions. However, when the arrival of European missionaries brings changes to Umuofia, the novel asks a central question: How _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected?
- B. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected?
- C. Umuofia’s traditions will be affected.
- D. will Umuofia’s traditions be affected.

12. In discussing Mary Shelley’s 1818 epistolary novel *Frankenstein*, literary theorist Gayatri Spivak directs the reader’s attention to the character of Margaret Saville. As Spivak points out, Saville is not the protagonist of Shelley’s _____ as the recipient of the letters that frame the book’s narrative, she’s the “occasion” of it.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. novel
- B. novel,
- C. novel; rather,
- D. novel, rather,



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13. In 1959, marine biologist Dr. Albert Jones founded the Underwater Adventure Seekers, a scuba diving _____ that is the oldest club for Black divers in the United States and that has helped thousands of diving enthusiasts become certified in the field.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. club
 - B. club, and
 - C. club—
 - D. club,
14. While one requires oxygen and one does _____ and anaerobic respiration are both forms of cellular respiration—that is, they are processes by which cells break down glucose to use as energy.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. not. Aerobic
- B. not; aerobic
- C. not aerobic
- D. not, aerobic



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15. The study involved testing blood for a key biomarker of Alzheimer’s called *p-tau217*, which increases at the same time as other damaging proteins _____ build up in the brains of people with the disease. Currently, to identify the buildup of *beta amyloid* and *tau* in the brain, patients undergo a brain scan or spinal tap, which often can be inaccessible and costly.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. *beta amyloid and tau*
- B. — *beta amyloid and tau* —
- C. — *beta amyloid and tau.*
- D. — *beta amyloid, and tau* —

16. Fundamentally, we know that light is both a particle and a wave. We also know that light travels *extraordinarily* _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. fast!
- B. fast;
- C. fast—
- D. fast . . .



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17. "_____ I'm late for work!" Emily called fruitlessly after the departing bus.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Stop.
- B. Stop!
- C. Stop?
- D. Stop

18. In his 1532 book of political theory, *The Prince*, Niccolò Machiavelli poses the question of whether it is better to be loved or _____

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. feared?
- B. feared—
- C. feared.
- D. feared. . .



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19. Be _____ hurricane is expected to arrive any minute now!

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. careful! The
- B. careful the
- C. careful. The
- D. careful? The

20. On their strange *American Foods Tour*, Ida and Jeff discovered three of the country's oddest (and most delicious) _____ deep-fried Coke, bacon doughnuts, and crumple—three pies inside a cake.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. desserts:
- B. desserts,
- C. desserts;
- D. desserts



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21. I prefer tea over coffee for the following _____ a more aromatic flavor, a milder aftertaste, and a greater health benefit.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. reasons;
- B. reasons
- C. reasons,
- D. reasons:

22. Kudzu is an invasive plant species in the American _____ that climbs shrubs and trees and kills by heavy shading.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. South,
- B. South;
- C. South
- D. South—



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23. With only one wish, Gwen gazed into the _____ wanted to see into her future.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. orb she

B. orb: she,

C. orb; she

D. orb, she,

24. Drinking water is scarce in desert areas like Las _____ it needs to be shipped from water-rich states.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. Vegas,

B. Vegas

C. Vegas: and

D. Vegas;



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25. Crows and ravens are both large, black _____ the difference in their voices. The American Crow makes a "caw, caw, caw" sound, whereas the Common Raven makes deep, croaking vocals.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. birds, they can be distinguished by
- B. birds. Distinguished by
- C. birds they can be distinguished by
- D. birds. They can be distinguished by

26. In order to retrieve and study the bones of the early _____ paleoanthropologist hired a team of explorers who were thin enough to fit through the cave's extremely narrow chute.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. hominids. The
- B. hominids; the
- C. hominids, the
- D. hominids the



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27. Hindus routinely bathe in India's sacred Ganges _____ home to the Ganges shark.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. River. Also,

B. River, also

C. River; also

D. River and this river is also

28. The art school granted Kyle admission even though he couldn't name the three primary _____ red, and yellow.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

A. colors. Blue,

B. colors, blue,

C. colors: which are blue,

D. colors: blue,



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29. A supermoon is so named because it appears larger and brighter than usual. It happens at the closest point to Earth on the moon's _____ known as the perigee.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. orbit. Also
- B. orbit also
- C. orbit; also
- D. orbit, also

30. How do scientists determine what foods were eaten by extinct hominins such as Neanderthals? In the past, researchers were limited to studying the marks found on the fossilized teeth of skeletons, but in 2017 a team led by Laura Weyrich of the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA tried something _____ the DNA found in Neanderthals fossilized dental plaque.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. new. Sequencing
- B. new: sequencing
- C. new; sequencing
- D. new, sequencing:



Standard English Conventions 3

31. *Cadillac Ranch* is an art installation in Amarillo, Texas that was created in 1974 by a group of artists called Ant Farm. It consists of ten half-buried Cadillac cars that have been placed nose-down in the ground, all lined up in a row. The installation, visible from Route 66 and the newer and busier _____ has become a popular tourist attraction and an iconic symbol of Americana.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Interstate 40;
- B. Interstate 40,
- C. Interstate 40
- D. Interstate 40—



Standard English Conventions 3

32. In 2008, two years after the death of science fiction writer Octavia Butler, the Huntington Library in _____ received a collection of more than 8,000 items, including Butler’s private notes, research materials, manuscripts, photos, and drawings. Today, the Octavia E. Butler Collection is one of the most researched archives at the library.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. California
- B. California,
- C. California:
- D. California—



Standard English Conventions 3

33. The 2022 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was awarded to three pioneers in the field of click chemistry: two-time Nobel Laureate Barry Sharpless, who coined the term “click chemistry” in 1998; Carolyn Bertozzi, founder of The Bertozzi Group at _____ and Morten Meldal, a professor at the University of Copenhagen in Denmark.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Stanford;
- B. Stanford,
- C. Stanford
- D. Stanford:



Standard English Conventions 3

34. In 1727, dramatist Lewis Theobald presented a new play, *Double Falsehood*, at a London theater. Theobald claimed that his drama was based on a little-known play by William Shakespeare, *Cardenio*. Many, including poet Alexander Pope, were _____ historians have determined that Shakespeare's company did perform a play called *Cardenio* in 1613.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. skeptical
- B. skeptical but
- C. skeptical,
- D. skeptical, but



Standard English Conventions 3

35. Archaeologists have estimated that the pre-Columbian Native American city of Cahokia, located across the Mississippi River from modern-day St. Louis, Missouri, had as many as 20,000 inhabitants in the year 1150 _____ it one of the largest cities in North America at the time.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. CE; making
- B. CE. Making
- C. CE, making
- D. CE making



Standard English Conventions 3

36. In 2022, mountain guide Phil Henderson led the Full Circle expedition, a team of _____ that became the first all-Black team of climbers to summit Mt. Everest and that works to promote diversity and representation in outdoor adventure sports.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. mountaineers;
- B. mountaineers and
- C. mountaineers
- D. mountaineers,



Standard English Conventions 3

37. Nine months before Rosa Parks made history by refusing to comply with the segregated seating policy on a Montgomery, Alabama bus, a fifteen-year-old Montgomery girl named Claudette Colvin was arrested for the same _____ to some historians, Colvin's arrest led to Parks's action and eventually to the desegregation of Montgomery's bus system.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. offense according
- B. offense, according
- C. offense. According
- D. offense and according



Standard English Conventions 3

38. Quantum particles of light—photons—provide an unhackable means of transmitting encryption keys over networks, as attempts to observe particles in quantum states will invariably alter the particles _____ dismantle any information they transmit.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. and in the process—
- B. and, in the process
- C. and in the process,
- D. and, in the process,



Standard English Conventions 3

39. People who experience chromesthesia report seeing different colors and shapes when they hear different sounds. Interestingly, studies have identified two groups of people that chromesthesia is particularly _____ musicians and composers.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. common in:
- B. common in
- C. common. In
- D. common in;



Standard English Conventions 3

40. Using satellite remote sensing, Dr. Catherine Nakalembe, director of NASA’s Harvest Africa initiative, gathers important data on crop health. Nakalembe doesn’t just compile the _____ she also shares her findings with African farmers, enabling them to make data-driven decisions about managing critical food crops.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. information, though,
- B. information; though
- C. information, though;
- D. information though,



Standard English Conventions 3

41. The Tantaquidgeon Museum in Uncasville, Connecticut, was founded in 1931 with the goal of showcasing the culture and history of the Mohegan _____ today, nearly a century later, it is the oldest Native-owned-and-operated museum in the country.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Tribe, and
- B. Tribe and
- C. Tribe,
- D. Tribe



Standard English Conventions 3

42. With some 16,000 in attendance, the Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and _____ or FESTAC '77, as the event was more commonly known—became the largest pan-African event on record. FESTAC drew people from around the world to Lagos, Nigeria, for a month-long celebration of Black and African art, scholarship, and activism.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Culture:
- B. Culture,
- C. Culture
- D. Culture—



Standard English Conventions 3

43. Detroit natives Timothy Paule and Nicole Lindsey have combined their two passions, Detroit and beekeeping, to improve the health of their city's flowers and other vegetation. In 2017, the couple converted a vacant lot in the city into an _____ in the years that followed they acquired nine additional lots and established more than 35 hives.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. apiary
- B. apiary,
- C. apiary and
- D. apiary, and



Standard English Conventions 3

44. It is tempting to glamorize the hunt for dinosaur _____ majority of fieldwork is characterized by a daily routine of heat, insects, and tedious labor.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. fossils, the
- B. fossils the
- C. fossils but the
- D. fossils, but the

45. Though Paul Revere is best known today for his "midnight ride" during the American _____ was famous in his own day as a prosperous silversmith and businessman.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Revolution; he
- B. Revolution, but Revere
- C. Revolution, he
- D. Revolution he



Standard English Conventions 3

46. The sandhill _____ to North America, has the longest fossil history of any extant bird at ten million years.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. crane a large bird native
- B. crane—a large bird native
- C. crane, a large bird native,
- D. crane, a large bird native

47. Saint Lucia—a sovereign island in the _____ the only country in the world named after a historical woman.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A. Caribbean, is
- B. Caribbean—is
- C. Caribbean is
- D. Caribbean; is





Thank you