1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: 30-minute Pack

GL ASSESSMENT / CSSE 11+ Entrance English (GL Assessment / CSSE style) · about 30 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions.

The Night Ferry

Source written for Revision Library (original, copyright-free). This extract has been deliberately punctuated with errors in sentences [1] to [5], for editing practice in this worksheet; those five lines are not a model of correct usage. Sentences [6] to [10] are correctly punctuated and are used later in the worksheet as reference examples.

[1] Its a cold October evening and the ferry is late again.

[2] The harbour master checked his watch, then he shouted across the quay.

[3] "Wheres the ferry gone" asked Priya, staring into the fog.

[4] Layla packed her bag's: a torch, a flask of tea, and an old brass compass.

[5] The three sailor's coats were soaked through by the time they reached the pier.

[6] At last a light flickered somewhere out on the water, small and steady.

[7] The ferry was not fast, but it was reliable; nobody on the quay doubted it would arrive.

[8] Passengers needed three things: a ticket, a torch and a little patience.

[9] "Climb aboard," called the ferryman, "before the tide turns."

[10] By the time the ferry reached the harbour, the fog had lifted and the stars had returned.

1 Choose the correctly written contraction to complete the sentence.

"I hope _____ not late again."

- ☐ A) they're
- ☐ B) they'r'e
- ☐ C) t'heyre
- ☐ D) they're'
- ☐ E) the'yre

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2 Where should commas be added to this sentence?

"The explorers carried ropes blankets tents and maps."

- [ ] A) after 'blankets'
- [ ] B) after 'carried', 'ropes' and 'blankets'
- [ ] C) after 'carried' and 'ropes'
- [ ] D) after 'ropes'
- [ ] E) after 'ropes' and 'blankets'

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3 One word in this sentence needs an apostrophe. Which word is it?

"The mice voice is the topic of the next lesson."

- [ ] A) mice
- [ ] B) voice
- [ ] C) next
- [ ] D) The
- [ ] E) topic

---

4 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"The train leaves in ten minutes_____" muttered the coach.

- [ ] A) :
- [ ] B) ;
- [ ] C) ,
- [ ] D) ?
- [ ] E) .

---

5 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) Ill' call you when I get home.
- [ ] B) I'll call you when I get home.
- [ ] C) Ill call you when I get home.
- [ ] D) I'l'l call you when I get home.
- [ ] E) I ll call you when I get home.

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6 Where should the comma go in this sentence?

"During the night Jack began to paint the fence."

- [ ] A) after 'to'
- [ ] B) after 'During'
- [ ] C) after 'the'
- [ ] D) after 'night'
- [ ] E) after 'Jack'

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7 This sentence has one comma that should not be there. Which comma is it?

"Our classroom has, posters, chairs, plants, bookshelves and tables."

- [ ] A) the comma after 'posters'
- [ ] B) the comma after 'plants'
- [ ] C) the comma after 'has'
- [ ] D) the comma after 'chairs'

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8 Which phrase correctly shows that the kennel belongs to the geese?

- [ ] A) the geeses' kennel
- [ ] B) the geese's kennel
- [ ] C) the geeses kennel
- [ ] D) the goose's kennel
- [ ] E) the geese' kennel

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9 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"I have finished my homework_____" whispered Tom.

- [ ] A) ;
- [ ] B) ?
- [ ] C) .
- [ ] D) ,
- [ ] E) :

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10 Which sentence uses capital letters correctly?

- [ ] A) On tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the river.
- [ ] B) On Tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the River.
- [ ] C) On tuesday, omar and amira are going to the river.
- [ ] D) on Tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the river.
- [ ] E) On Tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the river.

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11 Which sentence has its comma correctly placed after the fronted adverbial?

- [ ] A) Without a sound; Amira found a silver coin.
- [ ] B) Without, a sound Amira found a silver coin.
- [ ] C) Without a sound Amira found a silver coin.
- [ ] D) Without a sound Amira found, a silver coin.
- [ ] E) Without a sound, Amira found a silver coin.

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12 This sentence has one comma that should not be there. Which comma is it?

"The shelf was full of, atlases, puzzles, magazines and novels."

- [ ] A) the comma after 'puzzles'
- [ ] B) the comma after 'of'
- [ ] C) the comma after 'atlases'

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13 One word in this sentence needs an apostrophe. Which word is it?

"The women lunch was noticed by everyone."

- [ ] A) The
- [ ] B) everyone
- [ ] C) noticed
- [ ] D) women
- [ ] E) lunch

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14 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"We are going to the seaside_____" explained the coach.

- [ ] A) .
- [ ] B) :
- [ ] C) ,
- [ ] D) ;
- [ ] E) ?

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15 One word in this sentence has a capital letter that it should not have. Which word is it?

"On Wednesday, Ravi and Tom are going to the Garden."

- [ ] A) Garden
- [ ] B) On
- [ ] C) Tom
- [ ] D) Wednesday
- [ ] E) Ravi

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16 Which sentence uses the contraction correctly?

- [ ] A) I h'avent seen that film before.
- [ ] B) I havent seen that film before.
- [ ] C) I haven't' seen that film before.
- [ ] D) I haven t seen that film before.
- [ ] E) I haven't seen that film before.

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17 This sentence has one comma that should not be there. Which comma is it?

"For the school fair we need, prizes, balloons, tables, helpers and cakes."

- [ ] A) the comma after 'prizes'
- [ ] B) the comma after 'balloons'
- [ ] C) the comma after 'need'
- [ ] D) the comma after 'tables'

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18 The nest belongs to the people.

Which sentence uses the apostrophe correctly?

- [ ] A) The peoples' nest was described in the report.
- [ ] B) The peoples nest was described in the report.
- [ ] C) The person's nest was described in the report.
- [ ] D) The people' nest was described in the report.
- [ ] E) The people's nest was described in the report.

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19 Which punctuation mark is missing from the gap?

"Put your books away now_____" said the coach.

- [ ] A) ;
- [ ] B) ,
- [ ] C) .
- [ ] D) :
- [ ] E) ?

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20 One word in this sentence has a capital letter that it should not have. Which word is it?

"Ben told me that the Beach in Spain closes on Monday."

- [ ] A) Beach
- [ ] B) Spain
- [ ] C) Ben
- [ ] D) Monday

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21 Which two words does the contraction 'shouldn't' stand for?

- [ ] A) might not
- [ ] B) cannot
- [ ] C) need not
- [ ] D) does not
- [ ] E) should not

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22 Which words are the fronted adverbial in this sentence?

"At half past three, the team ran onto the pitch."

- [ ] A) the
- [ ] B) At half past three the
- [ ] C) the team ran onto the pitch
- [ ] D) At half past three
- [ ] E) the team

---

23 Where should commas be added to separate the items in the list?

"In her pencil case Mia keeps sharpeners pencils pens and rubbers."

- [ ] A) after 'keeps', 'sharpeners' and 'pencils'
- [ ] B) after 'keeps' and 'sharpeners'
- [ ] C) after 'sharpeners' and 'pencils'
- [ ] D) after 'sharpeners'
- [ ] E) after 'pencils'

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24 Which sentence is punctuated correctly?

- [ ] A) "The match starts at three o'clock,", replied the librarian.
- [ ] B) "The match starts at three o'clock" replied the librarian.
- [ ] C) "The match starts at three o'clock," Replied the librarian.
- [ ] D) "The match starts at three o'clock," replied the librarian.
- [ ] E) The match starts at three o'clock, replied the librarian.

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25 How many words in this sentence need a capital letter?

"every wednesday, amira walks to the school with nadia."

- [ ] A) 4
- [ ] B) 2
- [ ] C) 5
- [ ] D) 6
- [ ] E) 3

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26 Where should the comma go in this sentence?

"After lunch the team ran onto the pitch."

- ☐ A) after 'ran'
- ☐ B) after 'team'
- ☐ C) after 'lunch'
- ☐ D) after 'onto'
- ☐ E) after 'After'

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27 Correct the apostrophe error in this sentence, given that Tom and Priya jointly own one boat: "Toms and Priyas boat drifted from the mooring."

(2)

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28 Correct the punctuation error in this sentence: "The dog wagged it's tail happily."

(2)

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Mark scheme · 1.6 Punctuation Error-Spot: 30-minute Pack

Question 1

A) they're - 'they're' is the contraction of 'they are', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: A) they're

Question 2

E) after 'ropes' and 'blankets' - commas separate the items in a list, but there is none before 'and' and none after the lead-in words **B1**

Answer: E) after 'ropes' and 'blankets'

Question 3

A) mice - 'mice' names the owner of the voice, so it is the word that needs the apostrophe **B1**

Answer: A) mice

Question 4

C) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: C) ,

Question 5

B) I'll call you when I get home. - 'I'll' is the contraction of 'I will', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: B) I'll call you when I get home.

Question 6

D) after 'night' - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence **B1**

Answer: D) after 'night'

Question 7

C) the comma after 'has' - a comma must not separate the lead-in words from the first item of the list **B1**

Answer: C) the comma after 'has'

Question 8

B) the geese's kennel - the irregular plural does not end in s so 's is added **B1**

Answer: B) the geese's kennel

Question 9

D) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: D) ,

Question 10

E) On Tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the river. - capital letters are used for the start of a sentence and for names of people, places, days and months, but not for common nouns **B1**

Answer: E) On Tuesday, Omar and Amira are going to the river.

Question 11

E) Without a sound, Amira found a silver coin. - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence **B1**

Answer: E) Without a sound, Amira found a silver coin.

Question 12

B) the comma after 'of' - a comma must not separate the lead-in words from the first item of the list **B1**

Answer: B) the comma after 'of'

Question 13

D) women - 'women' names the owner of the lunch, so it is the word that needs the apostrophe **B1**

Answer: D) women

Question 14

C) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: C) ,

Question 15

A) Garden - 'garden' is a common noun, so it does not need a capital letter **B1**

Answer: A) Garden

Question 16

E) I haven't seen that film before. - 'haven't' is the contraction of 'have not', with the apostrophe where the letters are missing **B1**

Answer: E) I haven't seen that film before.

Question 17

C) the comma after 'need' - a comma must not separate the lead-in words from the first item of the list **B1**

Answer: C) the comma after 'need'

Question 18

E) The people's nest was described in the report. - the irregular plural does not end in s so 's is added **B1**

Answer: E) The people's nest was described in the report.

Question 19

B) , - a comma ends spoken words that are followed by the reporting clause **B1**

Answer: B) ,

Question 20

A) Beach - 'beach' is a common noun, so it does not need a capital letter **B1**

Answer: A) Beach

Question 21

E) should not - 'shouldn't' is short for 'should not' **B1**

Answer: E) should not

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Question 22

D) At half past three - the fronted adverbial is the opening phrase that says when, where or how, followed by a comma **B1**

Answer: D) At half past three

Question 23

C) after 'sharpeners' and 'pencils' - commas separate the listed items; the optional comma before the final and is not required, and no comma separates the verb from its list of objects **B1**

Answer: C) after 'sharpeners' and 'pencils'

Question 24

D) "The match starts at three o'clock," replied the librarian. - spoken words go inside inverted commas, with the punctuation inside the closing mark and a lower-case reporting verb **B1**

Answer: D) "The match starts at three o'clock," replied the librarian.

Question 25

A) 4 - the first word of a sentence and every name of a person, place, day or month needs a capital letter **B1**

Answer: A) 4

Question 26

C) after 'lunch' - a comma follows a fronted adverbial at the start of a sentence **B1**

Answer: C) after 'lunch'

Question 27

identifies that both names need an apostrophe, but because the boat is jointly owned, only the second name takes the possessive apostrophe plus 's' **B1**

writes the full corrected sentence: 'Tom and Priya's boat drifted from the mooring.' (cao) **B1**

Answer: Tom and Priya's boat drifted from the mooring.

Question 28

identifies that 'it's' is wrong here: this is the possessive pronoun (the tail belongs to the dog), which never takes an apostrophe **B1**

writes the full corrected sentence: 'The dog wagged its tail happily.' (cao) **B1**

Answer: The dog wagged its tail happily.

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