

NATIONAL LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 7 - Grade 8 - Grade 9 Contest

PART I: VOCABULARY

DIRECTIONS: From the box above each group of sentences, choose the word that is closest to the meaning of the underlined word in each sentence. Write the letter of the word that you choose in the space on the answer sheet. You will not use all the words in the box.

A. potent	B. solution
C. repugnance	D. decrepit

1. Emily had a distaste for the speaker's words.
2. The movie had a powerful effect on the audience.

A. assailed	B. mesmerized
C. coordinate	D. snivel

3. It is not good to whine all the time.
4. His attitude was attacked by the reporters.

A. joust	B. illusion
C. barrage	D. tumult

5. There was a misapprehension about the role of the leadership.
6. There was a commotion in the stands during the game.

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. One word means the same or nearly the same as the word that is underlined in the sentence. Write the letter of that word on your answer sheet.

7. Paul had an aesthetic appreciation of the painting.
A. modern B. conclusive
C. tasteful D. jarring
8. The meeting of the two parties revealed the antagonism that existed.
A. indulgence B. hostility
C. demeanor D. cumbersome
9. The doctor thought that the boy looked pallid.
A. grateful B. tense
C. colorful D. sallow
10. Judith didn't want to mar her friend's reputation.
A. blemish B. ignore
C. lament D. sterilize
11. There was a lucidity about the presentation.
A. rapport B. erosion
C. indulgent D. clarity
12. The possibility of a reward was a stimulus for working hard.
A. projection B. incentive
C. coherence D. pacifier

PART II: PUNCTUATION, CAPITALIZATION, AND GRAMMAR

DIRECTIONS: Read each sentence. Decide what if any correction in punctuation, capitalization, or grammar the sentence needs. Write the correct letter on the answer sheet.

13. New York, I know, has some of the best Italian restaurants.
A. change small r in restaurants to capital R
B. change capital I in Italian to small i
C. omit comma after know
D. no change
14. Two-thirds of sixteen-year-old Americans do not know that the Civil War takes place between 1815 and 1900.
A. add comma after old
B. change takes to took
C. change capital W in War to small w
D. no change

15. "Here is an old saying: "Keep your eyes on the road."
 A. remove quotation marks before Here
 B. remove colon after saying
 C. change capital K in Keep to small k
 D. no change
16. The arrival of many friends promise good times.
 A. change promise to promises
 B. change small f in friends to capital F
 C. add comma after friends
 D. no change
17. The pepper burned my tongue it was too hot.
 A. add semicolon after tongue
 B. add comma after tongue
 C. change too to to
 D. no change

DIRECTIONS: Read the following sentences. There may be one grammatical error or none in each sentence. Write the correct letter on the answer sheet.

- (a) (b) (c)
 18. There are, / if I calculated right, / \$200 left in my bank.
 A. error in a
 B. error in b
 C. error in c
 D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
 19. Last year / I'm going crazy / from standardized tests.
 A. error in a
 B. error in b
 C. error in c
 D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
 20. Neither of us / want to go / to that movie.
 A. error in a
 B. error in b
 C. error in c
 D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
 21. Whenever you bring a friend to visit, / make sure they bring / his bathing suit.
 A. error in a
 B. error in b
 C. error in c
 D. no error

- (a) (b) (c)
22. Between you and I / this is the greatest novel / I've ever read.
- A. error in a
 - B. error in b
 - C. error in c
 - D. no error

PART III: READING COMPREHENSION

DIRECTIONS: Read each paragraph. Answer each question by writing the letter of the correct answer in the space provided on the answer sheet.

Paragraph A:

Thinking about items you like--
 Remembering where you saw them--
 Eagerly trying to find them--
 Always having an eye open for a new treasure--
 Seeing the perfect item to add to your collection--
 Using every available space to display treasures--
 Receiving compliments on your display--
 Eagerly looking for new additions--
 Showing your treasures to others--

To find the next item is fun--
 Offering what you can to buy it--

Carefully keeping items in good condition--
 Only collecting the best items--
 Letting friends share in the fun--
 Leaving treasures in a place they can be seen--
 Even giving a treasure as a gift--
 Collecting is fun--
 Take the time to find a thing you like to collect--

23. The persona (speaker in the poem) suggests _____.
 A. throwing out items that you are tired of
 B. giving an item as a gift
 C. never letting anyone see the treasures
 D. giving everything away and starting over
24. The persona feels that collecting should _____.
 A. cost much money
 B. be private
 C. be fun
 D. last only a short time

25. The persona feels that the collection should be _____.
A. hidden
B. only one of a kind
C. very expensive
D. displayed in every possible place
26. The persona thinks it's good to _____.
A. receive compliments on the display
B. get treasures quickly
C. buy anything he/she sees
D. collect only for a short time
27. Reading the first letter in each line of the selection says _____.
A. Pleasures to Collect
B. Treasures to Neglect
C. Treasures for Pleasure
D. Treasures to Collect
28. The best title for the selection would be _____.
A. "My Hobby"
B. "Money Makers"
C. "Buy and Sell"
D. "Keeping Good Material"

Paragraph B:

Arthur Miller was born in 1915 in the Harlem section of Manhattan, New York. He attended the same public school from which his mother was graduated. Until he was seventeen, he read such books as The Rover Boys. He was more interested in playing football and hockey than in reading weightier novels. He was a poor student and failed many subjects. The book that changed Miller's life was The Brothers Karamazov. After reading this piece of literature, he felt that he was born to write. He read this work after he finished high school and was working in a warehouse. On the subway going to and from work, he continued reading literature. He saved his money and entered the University of Michigan. He wrote his first play in the ten days after spring vacation. This work won some prizes and gave Miller confidence that he could write. This is how his career started. He is known for writing such works as Death of a Salesman, All My Sons, and The Crucible.

29. Arthur Miller went to the same school as his _____.
A. father
B. mother
C. brother
D. cousin
30. As a student Arthur Miller was _____.
A. excellent
B. good
C. average
D. weak

31. The book that changed his life was _____.
A. The Rover Boys
B. All My Sons
C. The Brothers Karamazov
D. The Crucible
32. He entered the University of Michigan _____.
A. with a scholarship
B. by saving his money
C. because his parents paid the tuition
D. by playing football
33. The best title for the selection is _____.
A. "The Hockey Player"
B. "Something That Changed His Life"
C. "Plays in His Youth"
D. "New York, New York"

Paragraph C:

Photography is generally thought to have begun with Daguerre in 1831; he was the first man to make it practical as well as possible. From the announcement in August of that year of his success, his "daguerreotype" was supreme for twelve years. But the world's first photo had been taken thirteen years before by Daguerre's friend, Niépce. It is a view from his window, and, though it is blurred and faint, a tree and a courtyard can be seen. The principle by which it was taken, by which photos are still taken--that sunlight turns certain salts of silver black--had been noticed centuries before. Whether it was the heat or the light that did it, no one knew. No one considered a possible application of the phenomenon. Then in 1727 in Germany, Johann Schulze proved that the effect was caused by light. He succeeded in transferring the outline of stenciled letters in sunlight onto a white mixture of chalk grains and nitrate of silver, rather like a birthday message on a cake. The grains went dark where the light reached, stayed white where it did not. But there was no way of retaining Schulze's impression. As soon as it was studied under ordinary light, all the grains went black. Nothing further was done for a hundred years. Then Niépce discovered while he experimented with new methods of printing that an image cast in a darkroom would leave an impression on a metal plate covered with a special bitumen which bleached easily in strong light. Meanwhile Daguerre was working on similar lines, and in 1829 he created a partnership with Niépce. The first daguerreotype required only 20 minutes to produce--a still life. Two years later they made their first picture of a living subject and published the details. They had reverted from bitumen to salts of silver and had discovered that a very short exposure, which had no noticeable effect on the photographic plate, could be developed so that the picture was clear. They also found a chemical means of fixing the image so that further exposure to light did not darken the whole of the plate. From this date photography began.

- (a) (b) (c)
41. The class was so hesitant / about greeting the ambassador / that it became comical.
A. error in a
B. error in b
C. error in c
D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
42. When making the choice, / it was preferable / to select the most expensive item.
A. error in a
B. error in b
C. error in c
D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
43. The cargo carried / on this particular railroad / was very exclusive.
A. error in a
B. error in b
C. error in c
D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
44. The salary requested / by the organization / was considered inadequate.
A. error in a
B. error in b
C. error in c
D. no error
- (a) (b) (c)
45. The expected size of the audience / made it necessary / to forcibly restrain the crowd.
A. error in a
B. error in b
C. error in c
D. no error

PART V: WORD RELATIONSHIPS

DIRECTIONS: In each of the incomplete statements below, two words are related to each other. Following these words are four pairs of related words. Select the pair of words which are related to each other in the same way. Put the correct letter on your answer sheet.

EXAMPLE: Canine is to dog as _____.

- A. reptile is to crocodile
- B. cat is to lion
- C. bull is to cow
- D. frog is to tadpole

THE CORRECT ANSWER IS A.

46. Rock is to pebble as _____.

- A. peak is to mountain
- B. driveway is to gravel
- C. desert is to sand
- D. fish is to minnow

47. Florist is to flowers as _____.

- A. jeweler is to rings
- B. pharmacist is to pharmacy
- C. arrangement is to roses
- D. doctor is to stethoscope

48. Actor is to playwright as _____.

- A. custodian is to architect
- B. musician is to composer
- C. celebrity is to biographer
- D. judge is to lawyer

49. Happiness is to smile as _____.

- A. apathy is to boredom
- B. food is to cook
- C. anger is to frown
- D. mutiny is to resentment

50. Passenger is to bus as _____.

- A. tire is to car
- B. cargo is to freighter
- C. pilot is to plane
- D. caboose is to train