

# **English I**

**Administered April 2014**

**RELEASED**



# WRITING

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Damian is excited about being eligible to vote in the next presidential election, but he's also disappointed that many Americans do not participate in the voting process. He has written this paper to persuade people to vote. Read Damian's paper and think about the revisions he needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



## **Vote!**

(1) According to the United Nations, the right to vote is a fundamental human right. (2) It's the most direct way for people to influence the decisions of their government. (3) This right is not guaranteed in all nations of the world, but it is part of the U.S. Constitution. (4) Surprisingly, however, many Americans fail to exercise this right. (5) In fact, in 2008 only 64 percent of eligible Americans voted in the presidential election. (6) And in local elections the percentages were even smaller. (7) This isn't a wise move for you or the country.

(8) Before the American Revolution the British government taxed the colonists living in what is now the United States. (9) These colonists had no say in the decisions about taxes made by the government in Great Britain. (10) This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined. (11) They wanted to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation. (12) Thousands of Americans fought and died in the revolution that followed, which eventually led to independence and voting rights for many.

(13) Even today this right is very limited in some countries around the world. (14) Therefore, in Saudi Arabia the government operates under an absolute monarchy, and people have no opportunity to vote in national elections. (15) And in communist North Korea, citizens are allowed to vote, but there is only one name on the ballot. (16) Voting rights activists say that absurdities like these have been alleged in other countries as well, including Egypt and Iran. (17) As Americans, we should appreciate the fact that we live in a democracy where we are free to voice our opinions. (18) The best way to demonstrate gratitude for this right is by showing up at the polls.

(19) Government decisions affect your life every day. (20) How can you complain about issues concerning school funding, the environment, and health care if you don't even take the time to vote on proposals involving those issues? (21) It's astounding to me that one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States is what Texas has. (22) In fact, in a recent presidential election, only about 55 percent of eligible Texans cast a vote. (23) And in local elections sometimes less than 10 percent of the voting population chooses who will make them.

(24) At one time only white male citizens could vote in the United States, but today most citizens who are 18 or older are eligible to vote. (25) And registering to vote is a simple process. (26) You just need to complete a voter registration application and mail it to the voter registrar in your county. (27) So when you turn 18, take the time to become a registered voter. (28) Then pay attention to election candidates and issues.

- 1 Damian has not effectively stated the position he is taking in this paper. Which of the following could best replace sentence 7 and provide a stronger position statement for Damian’s paper?
- A Can you believe this outrageous statistic?
  - B This low voter turnout is appalling, and all Americans should exercise their right to vote.
  - C I plan to vote in both national and local elections.
  - D There are groups that review human rights violations in this country as well as in other countries around the world.
- 

- 2 What is the most effective way to combine sentences 10 and 11?
- F This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined, who wanted to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation.
  - G This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined to separate from Great Britain and form their own nation.
  - H This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined because they separated from Great Britain and formed their own nation.
  - J This idea of taxation without representation is part of the reason our forefathers were determined separating from Great Britain and forming their own nation.
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- 3 Damian would like to use a more appropriate transition in sentence 14. Which of the following is the best replacement for **Therefore**?
- A Furthermore
  - B Meanwhile
  - C However
  - D For example

- 4 What is the most effective way to revise sentence 21?
- F Because it's astounding to me, Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
  - G It's astounding to me what Texas has being one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
  - H It's astounding to me that Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
  - J As astounding as it is, it's also shocking that Texas has one of the lowest voter turnout rates in the United States.
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- 5 The meaning of sentence 23 is unclear. What is the most effective way to clarify the meaning of this sentence?
- A Change *sometimes* to **there are times when**
  - B Change *population* to **citizenry**
  - C Change *chooses* to **selects**
  - D Change *them* to **those important decisions**
- 

- 6 Damian needs a stronger closing for his paper. Which sentences should he add after sentence 28 to bring his paper to a more effective conclusion?
- F You must be the one who changes this. It isn't fair to make others think they have all the rights.
  - G Don't be lazy. Get off the couch and do something that matters.
  - H When Election Day comes, go to the polls and cast your vote. It's not only your right but also your responsibility.
  - J You'll feel better if you persuade people to vote. You can help make your community more vibrant.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Katy read about some newlyweds who created an unusual home for themselves. She wrote this paper to tell about the couple's experience. Read Katy's paper and think about the revisions she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*



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## Home Sweet Rosie

(1) In today's world many people live in smaller apartments and houses than they would like, especially in cities where space is limited and prices are high.

(2) But for some people, living in small quarters isn't a necessity; it's a choice.

(3) Mike and Natalie Young, of Austin, are two people who have made that choice.

(4) They have a bus and have named it Rosie.

(5) "For years I have been interested in the mobile lifestyle, tiny houses, repurposing useful materials, and auto mechanics," Mike Young wrote in his blog.

(6) So in 2011, when he and his fiancée Natalie began discussing where they would live after they got married, the idea of a bus came up. (7) They investigated some low-budget apartment rentals but quickly concluded that living in a school bus would be even less expensive. (8) The pair first contacted school districts to try to find a used bus that they could afford. (9) They eventually found the perfect vehicle on a website specializing in classified ads.

(10) It all started then. (11) Although the former owner had already removed all the seats inside the bus, there was still a lot of work to do before the space would be livable. (12) As a resourceful twist on traditional wedding gifts, Mike and

Natalie decided to create a wedding registry for their project. (13) Friends and family could then purchase materials such as flooring, kitchen equipment, and an air conditioner that would help the couple turn their bus into a home. (14) In his blog Mike referred to their efforts as “an experiment in simplicity.”



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(15) A few months later the bus was ready, and the newlyweds were preparing to move in. (16) They were pleased that their new home had a living area, a bedroom, and a small kitchen, complete with running water and a propane stove. (17) But Mike and Natalie weren't finished yet. (18) They wanted Rosie to feel like a home rather than a recreational vehicle. (19) They carefully selected artwork to display in the foyer, or entrance, of the bus. (20) They added potted plants and rugs. (21) Wooden furniture was topped with photos, books, and lamps. (22) Mike explained, “We choose the few things that have the most impact, that mean the most to us.”

(23) Living in a bus has presented a few questions, especially during the hot Texas summers. (24) “We're basically in a metal box,” Natalie explained. (25) Even with an air conditioner, the midday heat is brutal. (26) But since Mike works during the day and Natalie is a full-time nursing student, they are usually able to avoid being home during the hottest hours of the day, at least for now.

(27) The Youngs say they are content living in their small space. (28) And just as they hoped, Rosie has become a gathering place for family and friends.

- 7 Katy wants to create a more effective thesis statement for her paper. Which of the following could replace sentence 4 and more accurately convey the thesis of this paper?
- A Fearing life in the city, they chose a more rural existence in a big yellow school bus.
  - B This couple didn't have to, but they decided that a bus is what they wanted to have.
  - C This young couple lives in a uniquely converted school bus that they have affectionately named Rosie.
  - D Instead of a normal dwelling, they have chosen a vehicle—something quite rare, strange, and out of the norm.
- 

- 8 Katy's transition from the second paragraph (sentences 5–9) to the third paragraph (sentences 10–14) is weak. Which of the following could best replace sentence 10 and provide a more effective transition between these two paragraphs?
- F It was time to begin all the hard work.
  - G Finding the bus on an Internet site had seemed like a miracle.
  - H Then the couple faced the task of turning the school bus into a home.
  - J What a joy it was to begin an eco-friendly project!
- 

- 9 Katy realizes that she left the following detail out of the fourth paragraph (sentences 15–22).

*While the Youngs had fun decorating their new home, they knew they had to be wise about what they brought into such a small space.*

Where is the most effective place to insert this sentence?

- A At the beginning of the paragraph
- B After sentence 21
- C After sentence 22
- D This sentence is not relevant to the main idea of the paragraph and should not be inserted.

**10** Katy wants to use a more appropriate word than *questions* in sentence 23. Which of these could best replace the word *questions*?

- F** challenges
- G** curiosities
- H** landmarks
- J** points

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**11** Katy would like to add a quotation to the end of her paper to directly support the idea expressed in sentence 28. Which of the following could best follow and support sentence 28?

- A** "We both struggle with putting things where they go," Natalie said. "It's easy to find space to dump stuff on. I think every home has that."
- B** "We can cook full meals and people migrate between inside the bus, the backyard, and the campfire," commented Mike. "We've been blessed with this space and the chance to exercise this experiment."
- C** "Unfortunately, I do get attached to vehicles, so I think we do have to figure out what to do with it for about the next 30 years," Mike added.
- D** "And, honestly, between the hours of 11 A.M. and 6 P.M., we weren't able to live in here comfortably even with the AC," Natalie once admitted. "We burned one out, it was so hot."

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Jasmine wrote this paper to tell about a personal experience that turned out different than she expected. Read Jasmine's paper and look for the corrections she needs to make. Then answer the questions that follow.*

## **Bunkmate Surprise**

(1) My bulletin board is covered with pictures of Carmen and me. (2) In almost all of them, we are at Camp Flaming Rock. (3) Every summer for the past five years, we've been camp bunkmates. (4) We're great friends, so I was estatic to be returning to camp for another fun summer together. (5) You can imagine my shock when I got to the registration table and discovered that I had been assigned to bunk with Kaitlyn. (6) How could anyone seriously expect Kaitlyn and me to bunk together?

(7) If Carmen and I were like two peas in a pod, Kaitlyn and I were like the repelling ends of magnets. (8) The idea of spending two weeks with her as my bunkmate was hard to imagine. (9) Although I was to old to cry about the situation, tears threatened to spill down my cheeks anyway. (10) I shuffled to the cabin, now dreading the weeks to come as much as I had anticipated them before.

(11) Kaitlyn's gear was already on the top bunk when I got there. (12) As I grudgingly unpacked, she sorted her belongings and completely ignored me. (13) For the rest of the day, neither of us spoke, it was obvious that she was no happier about the arrangement than I was.

(14) At Camp Flaming Rock your bunkmate is also your partner for daily activities. (15) That meant that Kaitlyn and I were thrust into each other's presence all day long. (16) At first, grouchiness prevailed, but as the days passed on, both of our attitudes started to change. (17) While we were canoeing one day, I was stung by a bee, and my hand began to swell. (18) Kaitlyn paddled the rest of the way back by herself. (19) By the time we got to the shore, she was hot and sweaty, but she didn't complain; she just walked with me to the nurse's station. (20) Another day our group played a game based on identifying sounds. (21) I was blindfolded and had to find my way to Kaitlyn by listening to a sound she typically made. (22) When she started making the snoring noises I had been hearing every

night, I was able to find her in no time. (23) As soon as the blindfold came off, we both laughed hysterically.

(24) Over time, I noticed some things about Kaitlyn that I had never really seen before. (25) I had always thought she was a bit of a snob, but the more I got to know her, the more I realized that she was just shy. (26) She seemed snobbish because like me, she often worried about what other people would think of her.

(27) As we began to open up to each other, I started to see how Kaitlyn and I were really a lot alike. (28) We both loved singing, we both had pesky little brothers, and we both insisted on sleeping in fuzzy socks!

(29) The end of camp rolled around faster than either of us could have imagined. (30) As Kaitlyn and I packed our suitcases, we laughed about how awkward our first few days together had been. (31) We were both surprised at what close friends we had become. (32) Although I missed bunking with Carmen that summer, I'm glad I made another close friend. (33) Now there's a new picture on my bulletin board at home. (34) It's of me and my special friend Kaitlyn. (35) And both of us are wearing fuzzy socks!

12 How should sentence 4 be changed?

- F Delete **so**
  - G Change **was** to **am**
  - H Change **estatic** to **ecstatic**
  - J Sentence 4 should not be changed.
- 

13 What change is needed in sentence 9?

- A Delete **Although**
  - B Change **to old** to **too old**
  - C Delete the comma
  - D Change **cheeks** to **cheek's**
- 

14 What is the correct way to write sentence 13?

- F For the rest of the day, neither of us spoke, and it was obvious. That she was no happier about the arrangement than I was.
- G For the rest of the day, neither of us spoke it was obvious that she was no happier about the arrangement than I was.
- H For the rest of the day, neither of us spoke. Which made it obvious that she was no happier about the arrangement than I was.
- J For the rest of the day, neither of us spoke. It was obvious that she was no happier about the arrangement than I was.

15 What change, if any, needs to be made in sentence 27?

- A Delete the comma
- B Change *Kaitlyn and I* to **Kaitlyn and me**
- C Change *a lot* to **alot**
- D No change needs to be made.

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16 What change should be made in sentence 31?

- F Change **We** to **Because we**
- G Insert a comma after *surprised*
- H Change *became* to **become**
- J Sentence 31 should not be changed.

**Read the selection and choose the best answer to each question. Then fill in the answer on your answer document.**

*Raúl wrote the following paper in response to a class assignment. Proofread Raúl's paper and think about any corrections he needs to make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.*

## **Killer Venoms**

(1) Imagine a poison so potent that it could kill you before you even realized you had been exposed to it. (2) Some of the most dangerous venoms on the planet are produced by creatures that seem innocuous at first. (3) These animals, however, carry a deadly bite.

(4) One example is the cone snail found in the Coral Reefs near Australia. (5) On the outside this snail looks unremarkable, but what cannot be seen is its deadly stinger. (6) A spear-like projection from the cone snail can inject a paralyzing venom into a victim. (7) Just a few microliters of this venom, less than the amount most eyedroppers hold is enough to kill 10 people!



Cone Snail

(8) Measuring in at just five inches across, the Brazilian wandering spider is another menacing creature. (9) Although far from the world's largest spider, it can be one of the most venomous. (10) This spider doesn't spin a web and wait for its prey; it stays on the move, wandering about on the forest floor and even venturing into neighborhoods and homes. (11) It is especially dangerous because it is more aggressive than most spiders and will attack if it senses that its territory

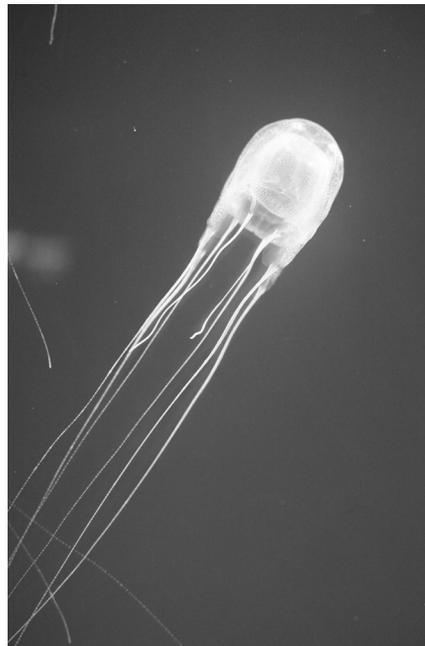
is threatened. (12) An attack by this spider could be more than just excruciatingly painful, it could be fatal.



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Brazilian Wandering Spider

(13) Perhaps the most frightening creature in the world is the box jellyfish, which is found in many of the world's oceans. (14) The tentacles of this jellyfish are covered with thousands of stinging cells that can flood a victim with poison. (15) Even worse, the tentacles become extra sticky when they're in contact with skin, so trying to remove it can make a sting even more severe. (16) A person exposed to the venom of this creature may not even have enough time to get to shore before going into shock.



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Box Jellyfish

(17) As toxic as these and other venoms can be, scientists are discovering that they sometimes have beneficial uses. (18) For example, the venom of the Brazilian pit viper is the source of a drug used to treat high blood pressure. (19) While a component found in copperhead snake venom may soon be used to treat breast cancer. (20) In addition, the venom of the cone snail is currently being evaluated in research laboratories as a possible painkiller. (21) Studying the affects of these potent venoms is dangerous work, but scientists say that it's worth the risk, especially if one of these "killer venoms" can actually save lives someday.

**17** How should sentence 4 be changed?

- A** Change *is* to **was**
- B** Change *found* to **it is found**
- C** Change *Coral Reefs* to **coral reefs**
- D** Sentence 4 should not be changed.

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**18** What change needs to be made in sentence 7?

- F** Change *than* to **then**
- G** Insert a comma after *hold*
- H** Change *is* to **are**
- J** No change needs to be made in this sentence.

19 What change needs to be made in sentence 9?

- A Change ***Although far*** to ***It is far***
- B Delete the comma
- C Change ***venomus*** to ***venomous***
- D No change needs to be made.

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20 What change needs to be made in sentence 15?

- F Change ***become*** to ***became***
- G Change ***they're*** to ***their***
- H Delete ***so***
- J Change ***it*** to ***them***

**21** What is the correct way to write sentences 18 and 19?

- A** For example, the venom of the Brazilian pit viper is the source of a drug used to treat high blood pressure, a component found in copperhead snake venom may soon be used to treat breast cancer.
- B** For example, the venom of the Brazilian pit viper is the source of a drug used to treat high blood pressure, and there is a component found in copperhead snake venom. Which may soon be used to treat breast cancer.
- C** For example, the venom of the Brazilian pit viper is the source of a drug used to treat high blood pressure, while a component found in copperhead snake venom may soon be used to treat breast cancer.
- D** For example, the venom of the Brazilian pit viper. It is the source of a drug used to treat high blood pressure, while a component found in copperhead snake venom may soon be used to treat breast cancer.

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**22** What change needs to be made in sentence 21?

- F** Change *affects* to **effects**
- G** Change *is dangerous* to **are dangerous**
- H** Delete the comma after *work*
- J** Change *lives* to **lifes**



## WRITTEN COMPOSITION: Expository

Read the following quotation.

The greatest glory in living lies not in never  
falling, but in rising every time you fall.  
—*Nelson Mandela*

Think carefully about the following question.

Can failure make you stronger?

Write an essay explaining whether failure can strengthen a person.

Be sure to —

- clearly state your thesis
- organize and develop your ideas effectively
- choose your words carefully
- edit your writing for grammar, mechanics, and spelling

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO  
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION  
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