

Please read this test carefully and answer the questions to the best of your ability. It is always wise to glance through a test before beginning to answer questions.

The Christmas Cookie Massacre

I. Sentences

Find the complete subject and underline it once; underline the subject plus associated modifiers. Find the complete predicate and underline it twice; underline the main verb plus auxiliary verbs plus objects or complements plus associated modifiers. Every part of the sentence should be underlined one way or another (unless there is an interjection). 2 pt. each

1. Throughout the Christmas season, the Taylor family was preoccupied by hockey.
2. Eight children, two parents, and sundry spouses were especially involved in trading hockey cards.
3. Sporting three cards plus a stick of gum for fifty cents, a pack of trading cards was a bargain.

II. Active and Passive Voice

Identify voice of the verb in each following sentence, then rewrite the paragraph reversing the voice in each sentence. While you do not have to use each word in your revised sentences, the general sense of the original must remain. Just change the voice.

For most of the year, the family traded cards infrequently. Around Christmas, it was immersed by a mania of disquieting proportions. Chris, Jim, Cue, Tim, and Dan gave much anxious thought to their holdings and to possible acquisitions. Beth, Pat, and Sue had traded cards with the best in previous years.

4. Voice of 1st _____

5. Voice of 2nd _____

6. Voice of 3rd _____

7. Voice of 4th _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

III. *Prepositions and Prepositional Phrases*

Place parentheses around all the prepositional phrases in the following sentences.

To the disgust of the boys, the girls had vowed to cease trading during the current year. The brothers didn't mind that the sisters no longer coveted their cards in the usual manner, but they hoped for the chance to trade for their sisters' treasures. Pat's husband from Massachusetts, Glenn, had suggested she place a moratorium on trading all Boston players. Beth and Sue were simply pleased by the variety of their collections and thought poorly of this year's pool.

Place parentheses around all prepositional phrases in the following sentences and draw an arrow to the word that each phrase modifies.

16. Rosemary, from another part of town, was disgusted with the entire process of trading.

17. Mom and Dad acted as referees over the Christmas-day trading session.

IV. Objects & Complements

Identify the verb object(s) and complement(s) in the following sentences by writing DO, IO or OC or PN or PA above the appropriate word. If there are verbals or verbal phrases functioning as verb objects or complements, identify them as noted above. If there is more than one clause in a sentence, identify the verb objects and complements in each clause. I have identified dependent clauses; if they function as verb objects or complements, identify them appropriately.

18. In a terrible turn of events, Beth found Mrs. Dan Hill, a family friend, lying on the dining room table.

19. She had been poisoned, **and** in her left hand she held a half-eaten Christmas cookie.

20. The family was thunderstruck and sorrowful, **but** soon a lively trading session was started by the boys.

21. Beth decided to join the group, **and** Tim's young son, Paul, joined the group as well.

22. [As traders held cards aloft and advertised their wares], someone grabbed a tray of cookies and passed them around.
23. Suddenly Tim slapped his face, made a noise like Curley of the Three Stooges, and fell to the ground.
24. Trading continued, **and** soon Beth swooned to the ground with cookie in hand.
25. Amidst the continuing trading, Cue passed Paul a cookie.
26. Young, innocent Paul chewed and then spat out the cookie.
27. It was too late; the awful tasting cookie brought death.

V. Phrases

Identify the type of verbal(s) or verbal phrase(s) underlined and/or italicized in the following sentences. You don't have to explain their function – just identify them.

28. After four deaths by poisoning, the family decided *to suspend trading*. {Identify the underlined words and the word in italics.}
29. Realizing [that such events called for an expert], Dad asked Cue ball to locate Fred.
30. A well-traveled cat, Fred had maturity and wisdom [that might help solve this mystery].

31. Cue located him sitting under the front porch on a worn rug LEFT FOR HIS USE. {There are three verbals here: one is underlined; another is in italics; the third is placed in small caps. Identify each.}

Underline and identify all verbals and verbal phrases. Tell how each functions by labeling its function or drawing an arrow to the word(s) that it modifies.

32. After sauntering into the house, Fred immediately asked witnesses to describe the circumstances of the deaths.

33. Cue, weeping bitterly, explained that it all started with the demise of Mrs. Dan Hill.

34. Exploring this first detail, the wise feline asked about enemies of Mrs. Dan Hill.

35. Did she perhaps own something valuable to the others?

36. With a worried look, Beth exclaimed [that Mrs. Dan Hill owned a Wayne Gretzky rookie card but it was now missing].

37. Fred, smiling knowingly, then inquired [whether anyone had been seen running from the crime scenes].

Identify the type of phrases underlined (name them) and draw arrows to the word or words each modifies.

38. For another forty minutes, Fred questioned everyone in the family.

39. [As he sat in a living-room armchair, thinking through possible scenarios], he spied a plaid-covered mouse seeming to run into the coat closet.

40. Knowing that was curious, he walked excitedly into the closet.

41. Suddenly the door was pulled to, **and** [as he attempted to escape], an unmistakable odor assailed his senses – catnip, his old nemesis.

Given the instructions above, any comment on sentence number 41?

Describe the function of “catnip” and “nemesis” in sentence number 41.

VI. Case

Choose the correct pronoun.

42. Fred, [**who/whom** the family thought of as a hero], had once found catnip irresistible.

43. Since a slow, hot night in a July long past, he had been as sober as any other cat [**who/whom** held his various trusts and responsibilities].

44. Now, he, [**who/whom** others regarded highly], was stuck in a closet with a big bale of fresh, fragrant catnip. Of course, it was a trap.

45. Luckily, his integrity enabled **he/him** to resist the evil temptation.

46. *Identify and explain the function of the pronoun in question in sentence 45.*

VII. *Something is Wrong*

In terms of rule-based grammar explain why the following sentences are incorrect.

47. “Between you and I,” said Fred after he had escaped, “I thought I was a goner.”

48. While inside of the closet, he had also discovered whom had most reason to commit the crimes.

49. It was not him who had perpetrated the massacre.

50. It was Rose, who hated the trading sessions, was jealous of Mrs. Dan Hill's beauty (and loved Dan Hill), and was determined to celebrate Christmas in a more conventional manner.

Extra Credit

Write both clauses of the following sentence using the passive voice. 4 pts.

Tom, where Ken had had "had," had had "had had"; "had had" had had better success.
