

PRACTICE SET 6: ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. B Sentence Reorganization

As it is written, the phrase *for inspiration* is awkwardly placed after *Counting Crows*. By moving *for inspiration* after *English literature*, as in B, the reader can then understand the meaning of the sentence.

2. J Idioms

The first sentence conveys that the Counting Crows were inspired by English literature during the process of naming their group. This meaning is clarified by the phrase *when naming*, J. The other answer options make the meaning of the sentence unclear.

3. A Connecting and Transitional Words

As written, the underlined section is part of the introductory phrase *while the verse suggests the futility of counting crows*. A comma is not needed until the end of the whole clause.

4. H Big Picture Purpose

The main point of the essay is that crows can count, a belief held by many people for hundreds of years. The other choices do not support the writer's argument, so H is correct.

5. B Word Choice

Specific details create a vivid picture for readers. Descriptive words, such as *uninvited crow* and *watchtower*, B, are more precise than *bird* and *building*, D.

6. G Sentence Reorganization

The underlined section describes the owner's attitude—the owner had *an unwavering desire to exterminate the nest*. *Unwavering desire* needs to come before *exterminate* because it explains the owner's feelings about exterminating the nest. Only G solves this problem.

7. B Connecting and Transitional Words

However connects two independent clauses, which could both stand alone as sentences. When *however* joins two independent clauses, a semicolon should be placed on the left of *however* and a comma on the right. So, the sentence now reads: *To exterminate the nest with an unwavering desire, the owner dispatched two employees into the tower—one would leave, suggesting a vacant tower, while the other would lie in wait; however, the ruse failed to hoodwink the ingenious crow*. Therefore, B is correct.

8. H Comma Splices

Two sentences have been joined together incorrectly here with only a comma. One way to correct the comma splice is to place a conjunction after the comma, so H is correct.

9. **C** Redundancy
The sentence states that the people entering the tower planned to eradicate and eliminate the crow. *Eradicate* and *eliminate* have the same meaning, so the words are redundant. Therefore, **C** must be the right answer.
10. **F** Transitions and Topic Sentences
Paragraph 3 details the study that attempted to confirm stories about counting crows; however, no reenactment occurred during the experiment. Although crows open containers, that task is not the focus of the paragraph. While the experiment indicated that crows can count to seven, the scientists were not attempting to disprove a hypothesis that crows can count to ten. **F** is correct because it explains the topic of the paragraph.
11. **D** Run-on Sentences
The original creates a run-on sentence by joining two complete sentences with no punctuation. One complete sentence ends with *available to the crows*, and the next sentence begins with *trained*. **D** provides one way to repair the run-on sentence by inserting a period between *crows* and *trained*.
12. **J** Verb Tenses
In the past, the crows were taught how to remove the lids. Extra words such as *be motivated* and *be able* do not improve the clarity of the sentence, so **J** is correct.
13. **D** Paragraph Reorganization
The subject of paragraph 3 is a specific study that tested the ability of crows to count. While the other statements support the idea that crows are intelligent, none of them should be included in the paragraph because they do not relate to the experiment. Therefore, **D** is correct.
14. **G** Word Choice
Because no miracles occurred during the experiment, a crow's intelligence is not *miraculous*, **H**. *Marginal* and *inadequate* would suggest crows are not intelligent, but the experiment revealed that crows have an unexpected, or *uncanny*, intelligence. So, **G** must be correct.
15. **B** Sentence Fragments
The first part of the sentence, *while the author of the old English poem suggests counting crows is a seemingly pointless activity*, introduces the main part of the sentence that begins with *it seems*. A period after *activity* creates a sentence fragment, so the period should be replaced with a comma, **B**.