

Writing and Research

This is a rough draft of a story. It has some mistakes. Read the story. Then answer the questions that follow.

Josh's Mistake

Josh's big dream was to be a basketball star one day. He would be entering Thompson Middle School next year, and he and his friends wanted to try out for the basketball team. After they took an elective course on basketball, he could try out for the team. Josh was just filling out his course sheet to sign up for the third-period basketball class when his friend Matt appeared. Matt and him, with their athletic skills, would really help the team.

"Hey, Josh, let's go shoot some hoops," Matt called, ball in hand.

"Sure, just let me finish this course sheet," Josh replied and hurriedly selected his courses for next year.

The summer went by quickly, and some kids were sad to see it go. Josh on the other hand was enthusiastic to start classes, especially his basketball class. But when he looked at his schedule, he got an unwelcome surprise. Rather than a third-period basketball class, he saw a course called "Basics of Cooking." He immediately went to speak with his guidance counselor, Mr. Martin. When Josh checked his original course sheet, he saw that he had mistakenly signed up for the cooking class. Mr. Martin told Josh that the mistake could be corrected, but he didn't know when. Meanwhile, Josh had to go to the cooking class, which didn't please him at all.

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When third period came around, Josh walked hesitantly into the classroom. Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys in the class, and they even looked pleased to be there. He couldn't wait to make his escape at the earliest opportunity. As the days went by, Josh discovered something—he enjoyed cooking. He still planned to leave to take the basketball class, but he was definitely taking the cooking class next year.

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Read this sentence from the story.

After they took an elective course on basketball, he could try out for the team.

Which word should replace the underlined pronoun to make the sentence correct?

- A they
- B him
- C them
- D himself

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Read this sentence from the story.

Matt and him, with their athletic skills, would really help the team.

Which of the following should replace the underlined part of the sentence?

- A himself, with their athletic skills,
- B he, with their athletic skills,
- C him, with they athletic skills,
- D he, with they athletic skills,

Go On



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Read this sentence from the story.

Josh on the other hand was enthusiastic to start classes especially, his basketball class.

On the lines below, rewrite the sentence with correct punctuation.

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Read this sentence from the story.

Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys in the class, and they even looked pleased to be there.

Which revision uses pronouns in a way that calls attention to the fact that the boys were pleased?

- A** Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys themselves in the class, and they themselves even looked pleased to be there.
- B** Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys in the class, and they themselves even looked pleased to be there.
- C** Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys in the class itself, and they even looked pleased to be there.
- D** Josh was surprised to see quite a few boys in the class, and they even looked pleased to be there itself.



The paragraph below is from a writer's informational essay for history class. Read the paragraph. Then answer the question that follows.

The Golden Gate Bridge in California, built between 1934 and 1937, is one of the most recognizable bridges in the world. Before it was built, however, many people doubted such a structure could possibly be made. Never before had a bridge been built at an ocean entrance that regularly experienced high winds, rough waters, and dense fog. What's more, the bridge would be located in an earthquake zone and cover an expanse of nearly two miles. But the bridge was built, and it has been an important part of California's economy and landscape for nearly 80 years. More than 100,000 cars cross the bridge each day.

Which sentence is the **best** closing statement for this student's report?

- A** Recent improvements have made the Golden Gate Bridge even safer from earthquake damage.
- B** The Golden Gate Bridge connects the city of San Francisco to Marin County.
- C** Despite early doubts, the Golden Gate Bridge has become one of the nation's greatest landmarks.
- D** The Golden Gate Bridge is a type of structure called a suspension bridge.

Go On

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A student is writing a report for science class on the fur of the sea otter. She needs to include more sentences that elaborate on the topic and include details for support. Read the sentences below, the student's notes, and the directions that follow.

Sea otters are small, furry marine mammals with thick fur to keep them warm and dry in cold ocean waters. Otters spend many hours each day grooming their dense fur, which helps them survive in the water but has made them the target of hunters.

Student's Notes
• Grooming keeps the coat waterproof and full of insulating air bubbles.
• Fewer than 2,000 sea otters were alive in the early 1900s.
• One square inch of sea otter skin has more than one million hairs.
• Most humans have fewer than 100,000 hairs on their head
• In the 1700s and 1800s, sea otters were hunted for their fur.
• Sea otters are protected by law today.
• Sea otters live along the coast of the northern Pacific Ocean.

Using information from the notes, rewrite the paragraph, adding relevant evidence.

Write your answer on the lines below.



A student wrote a brief narrative for a writing contest. Her teacher suggested that she improve her story by adding more dialogue. Read the story and the directions that follow.

The last thing Mom had said was, "Don't let C. J. out of your sight, Jemma!" and to her little brother, Mom cautioned, "C. J., be sure to stay right next to Jemma. You don't want to get lost!" Now Jemma was fighting a rising sense of panic. C. J. had gone missing. Anxiously she scanned the sea of bodies, all trying to exit the huge stadium. How could a seven-year-old disappear so quickly? Jemma had only stopped for a second while Casey, her best friend, had retied her shoe. But in that instant, C. J. was gone, swallowed up by the shuffling crowd. What should she do?

In desperation Jemma tried the "family whistle," the sound that carried throughout the neighborhood when Dad called them in to dinner. At first, her mouth was too dry. Finally, though, she managed the shrill, high-pitched tune.

Suddenly, she saw a pair of wildly waving arms. It was C. J.! She ran up to her brother and hugged him tight. Too relieved to scold C. J., Jemma told him she had been worried and asked him to hold her hand.

Revise the underlined text by writing **one or more** sentences of dialogue, making sure it is consistent with the narrative and the feelings of the characters.

Write your answer on the lines below.

Go On



For an English class assignment, a student wrote an argumentative essay. His teacher suggested that he add a stronger concluding statement. Read the draft and the directions that follow.

Being a “babysitter” or “parent’s helper” is an ideal job for kids your age. Not only will you get paid, but you also will get to choose who you work for and when you work. Most likely, the parents you already know are the ones who will ask for your help. So you will usually know ahead of time how easy or hard a job will be and what you will be paid. If babies make you nervous, you can accept only jobs watching school-age kids. You also get to decide when you babysit. This means you can schedule jobs around baseball games, play practice, trips, and the like. In other words, you can be choosy. And even though you’re responsible for keeping kids safe and happy, you can have fun as you work! As you play with the kids, you can run through a sprinkler or build a pillow fort without being labeled a dork. How can you lose?

Which revision **best** replaces the underlined sentence and provides a concluding statement that follows from the argument?

- A** Because babysitting offers teenagers so many choices, it is an excellent way to earn money while having fun.
- B** Boys can babysit children just as well as girls can; therefore, they should not shy away from taking on this type of job.
- C** As you get more practice with taking care of young children, you will gain confidence in yourself and your babysitting skills.
- D** If you are not sure of your ability to take care of children on your own, many communities offer babysitting classes to teach you what to expect.

