ENGLISH PROFICIENCY PRACTICE

Circle the correct answer.

1. During the long, harsh winter of 1918, the people of Europe were especially conscious of the extremely low temperature.
   a. correct as is
   b. remove first comma
   c. remove second comma
   d. tempereture, not temperature
   e. conscience, not conscious

2. One of the students forgot their homework.
   a. correct as is
   b. his, not their
   c. forget, not forgot
   d. comma after “students”
   e. home-work, not homework

3. Each of the contestants won a shopping spree in a famous womens’ designer clothing store.
   a. correct as is
   b. shoping, not shopping
   c. comma after “contestants”
   d. women’s, not womens’
   e. contestents, not contestants

4. The works of Darwin, Freud, Nietzsche, and Einstein led many people to question absolutes, especially in the wake of the (Great) War.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit parentheses
   c. expecially, not especially
   d. war, not War
   e. comma after “Einstein”

5. Before sending in the form, the student had to complete all of the nesassary requirements.
   a. correct as is
   b. no comma after “form”
   c. requirments, not requirements
   d. necessary, not nesassary
   e. omit comma
6. While his secretary was in Europe during the months of January and February.
   a. correct as is
   b. colon after “Europe”
   c. february, not February
   d. not a complete sentence
   e. secretary, not secretary

7. The grammar teacher asked, “Did all of you fill out the last blank on the questionnaire?”
   a. correct as is
   b. second quotation mark before question mark
   c. grammer, not grammar
   d. omit comma
   e. questionnaire, not questionnaire

8. Because of the illegal activities of the criminals, the government of the United Kingdom sentenced them to life in Australia.
   a. correct as is
   b. illegel, not illegal
   c. goverment, not government
   d. omit comma
   e. not a complete sentence

9. Neither of the workers wants to work the night shift.
   a. correct as is
   b. want, not wants
   c. Niether, not Neither
   d. comma after workers
   e. not a complete sentence

10. After going through basic training, the recruits were already to endure the most extreme environments.
    a. correct as is
    b. all ready, not already
    c. recrutes, not recruits
    d. threw, not through
    e. replace comma with semicolon

11. Todays lunch was very good, but I was not hungry.
    a. correct as is
    b. ‘Todays’, not Todays
    c. comma after very
    d. Today’s, not Todays
    e. well, not good
12. The magazines on the rack is very helpful when looking for a job.
   a. correct as is
   b. semicolon after “helpful
   c. are, not is
   d. comma after “magazines”
   e. magezines, not magazines

13. We were planning on coming home tomorrow, our flight was canceled.
   a. correct as is
   b. planing, not planning
   c. remove the comma
   d. tommrow, not tomorrow
   e. insert “but” after the comma

14. The president of the college is Jacob P. Rigsby Ph. D., a graduate of Harvard University.
   a. correct as is
   b. comma after “Rigsby”
   c. President, not president
   d. university, not University
   e. replace comma with semicolon

15. From the day they were born, the two sisters couldn’t be separated.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit apostrophe
   c. seperated, not separated
   d. comma after “two”
   e. was, not were

16. Sunday is a day of well-deserved rest to most people; except to those who work on Sunday.
   a. correct as is
   b. replace semicolon with a colon
   c. well deserved, not well-deserved
   d. exept, not except
   e. replace semicolon with comma

17. We did not have much time, nevertheless, we got a lot accomplished.
   a. accomplished, not accomplished
   b. replace first comma with a semicolon
   c. remove first comma
   d. remove second comma
   e. remove both commas
18. Neither the shirt nor the jacket was worth its price.
   a. correct as is
   b. were, not was
   c. it’s, not its
   d. comma after shirt
   e. neither, not neither

19. Josh photocopied his brother’s article, “The Life of a Cowboy in the Twentieth Century,” for all the members of his immediate family.
   a. correct as is
   b. brothers, not brother’s
   c. articel, not article
   d. imediate, not immediate
   e. omit quotation marks

20. Billy asked me, “Can I have that last peanut-butter sandwich”?
   a. correct as is
   b. omit comma
   c. sandwitch, not sandwich
   d. second quotations after the question mark, not before

21. The shoe company always uses the best marketting techniques to sell their products.
   a. correct as is
   b. marketing, not marketting
   c. compeny, not company
   d. technickes, not techniques

22. When I went to the supermarket, there were only three things on my list; milk, bread, and bubble-gum.
   a. correct as is
   b. suppermarket, not supermarket
   c. replace semicolon with a colon
   d. omit comma after supermarket
   e. replace period with a question mark

23. Dogs running in the street behind the butcher shop at night.
   a. correct as is
   b. not a complete sentence
   c. bucher, not butcher
   d. insert a comma after “street”
   e. insert a comma after “Dogs”
24. That car belongs to my wife and I, not to the neighbors.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit comma
   c. me, not I
   d. neighbor’s, not neighbors
   e. Wife, not wife

25. Though everything else fell off the desk during the earthquake, the stationary did not.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit comma
   c. stationery, not stationary
   d. not a complete sentence
   e. comma after desk

26. Bob’s tomatoes were nearly as ripe as Marge’s, but her’s were not as tasty.
   a. correct as is
   b. tomatoes, not tomatoes
   c. tastey, not tasty
   d. hers, not her’s
   e. omit comma

27. This letter is from Mr. J. Anderson, 3490 West Lake Ave. Sherwood, CA 90032.
   a. correct as is
   b. comma after “Ave.”
   c. period after “CA”
   d. comma after “3490”
   e. separate “CA” from “90032” by a comma

28. The waitress, who had ties to organized crime, brought a cup of coffee to the professor with poison in it.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit commas
   c. profesor, not professor
   d. organised, not organized
   e. dangling modifier

29. Its advantageous to receive an education from a respected four-year liberal arts institution.
   a. correct as is
   b. receieve, not receive
   c. it’s, not its
   d. advantagious, not advantageous
   e. comma after “advantageous”
30. Neither of the elderly circus clowns could don their large shoes without assistance.
   a. correct as is
   b. there, not their
   c. assistance, not assistance
   d. his, not their
   e. comma after “clowns”

31. The way the rest of the world views we Americans is based in large part upon the international influence of our leaders.
   a. correct as is
   b. are, not is
   c. comma after “Americans”
   d. not a complete sentence
   e. us, not we

32. During practice after school, the coach told me to pick whoever I thought could run the fastest.
   a. correct as is
   b. whomever, not whoever
   c. comma after “practice”
   d. omit comma
   e. faster, not fastest

33. Did the assistant’s wife just say, “The French eat nails”?
   a. correct as is
   b. assistant, not assistant
   c. assistent, not assistant
   d. french, not French
   e. place final quotation mark outside question mark

34. The best electives to take for an English major is classes on the humanities.
   a. correct as is
   b. humanity’s, not humanities
   c. english, not English
   d. are, not is
   e. comma after “take”

35. I had a question about my degree plan, so I asked my advisor—the chair of her department—to advice me on the matter.
   a. correct as is
   b. advise, not advice
   c. omit dashes
   d. Department, not department
   e. contains a misplaced modifier
38. The team of doctors was awarded a congressional honor on July 14, 1998 because of its service during the conflict.
   a. correct as is
   b. their, not its
   c. contains misplaced modifiers
   d. not a complete sentence
   e. insert comma before and after “1998”

39. A building contractor must carefully consider his or her job before beginning the manual labor.
   a. correct as is
   b. their, not his or her
   c. carefully, not carefully
   d. beginning, not beginning
   e. insert comma after “job”

40. Managing two stressful jobs each day, the night out with a good friend seemed appealing to Herbie.
   a. correct as is
   b. contains a misplaced modifier
   c. omit comma after “day”
   d. insert comma after “friend”
   e. not a complete sentence

41. Either my dad or my uncle are going to set up the entertainment center for me, but I am in charge of connecting the devices.
   a. correct as is
   b. omit comma
   c. Dad, not dad
   d. is, not are
   e. entertainment, not entertainment

42. Intellectual property laws are important because copyrights and patents have always been an essential part of our country’s law system.
   What error in reasoning is illustrated in this sentence?
   a. Appeal to tradition
   b. Hasty generalization—claim based on too little evidence
   c. Appeal to popularity
   d. No error
43. Highlighters and post-it notes are not often thought to be similar to one another, but in many ways they are quite similar. Highlighters are often yellow, though they sometimes come in green, orange, pink, or even blue. Likewise, classic post-it notes are yellow, while other varieties are also available. Obviously, both are used in an office or classroom setting; both are also used to draw attention to text—the highlighter draws attention to the highlighted text while the post-it note draws attention to the text that is written on it.

What method of structuring a composition is used in this passage?
   a. Classification
   b. Illustration
   c. Comparison/contrast
   d. Enumeration
   e. None of the above

44. 1 Dogs are much more loving than cats. 2 Dogs are also more easily housebroken than cats. 3 Cats tend to tear up the furniture with their claws, and they cough up hairballs. 4 This is why I believe we should get a dog instead of a cat.

Which sentence is the topic sentence in this paragraph?
   a. 1
   b. 2
   c. 3
   d. 4
   e. none of the above

45. Public transportation has been an integral part of metropolitan growth since the industrial revolution. Subways, streetcars, trams, and buses alleviate overcrowding in city centers by allowing people to live further away from their places of work. Every major city in America has some kind of public transportation system, from San Francisco’s trolleys to New York City’s subways. I will now present my case to the council on why our city needs to establish a bus route.

What introductory paragraph technique does this passage illustrate:
   a. Stating the conflict
   b. Establishing a larger context
   c. Catching the audience by surprise
   d. Presenting an antithesis
   e. None of the above
46. One of the most important literary contributions of the 1800s is Charles Dickens’ *Great Expectations*. The ending is rather ambiguous, and it leaves the reader wondering whether or not Pip and Estella will remain together. Charles Dickens is known for writing about the lower class. Another important 19th century British author is William Makepeace Thackeray.

What is the writing flaw in this paragraph?
   a. Fused sentences
   b. Unnecessary shift in grammatical person
   c. Lack of unity
   d. None of the above

47. What is the best title for a paper explaining how to catch more fish?
   a. I Smell Something Fishy!
   b. Up the Creek Without a Paddle
   c. Improving Your Catch
   d. Not the Brightest Fish in the Sea
   e. None of the Above

48. I like to eat peanut butter and jelly sandwiches at night my roommate says I need to do more of the cleaning in the apartment.

What is the writing flaw in this passage?
   a. Poor word choice
   b. Unnecessary shift in verb tense
   c. A fused sentence
   d. Incorrect plural forms of nouns
   e. No error

49. Although the student had practiced many hours for the performance. He still played some wrong notes when playing in the recital.
   a. a coordinate construction
   b. a transition sentence
   c. a sentence fragment
   d. a dense noun clause
   e. a dangling modifier

50. Jenny was hungry. So she made a sandwich. Then she sat down at the table to eat it. Then she put away her plate. Finally she went outside to play.
   a. monotonous, choppy sentence style
   b. dangling modifiers
   c. omission of transitions
   d. presence of jargon
   e. no error