

Michigan State University
English Language Examinations

**EXAMINATION
FOR
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S
CERTIFICATE
OF
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

MSU-CELP

**Skills Practice
(with key)**

Volume 2

**Anatolia
College**

Testing Office

THE GRAMMAR AND READING SECTIONS OF THE MSU-CELP

This set of five short practice tests has been produced to help candidates familiarize themselves with the skills tested in two of the four sections of the MSU-CELP examination:

Grammar You Can Use! – MSU-CELP Test of English Grammar
Read About It! – MSU-CELP Test of English Reading Ability.

Below are examples of each of the different types of problems with the correct answer indicated with an asterisk (*).

Grammar You Can Use! – MSU-CELP Test of English Grammar

Candidates are required to choose the word or phrase which best completes the given sentence.

E.g. A year after the floods, the authorities reported _____ the toxicity of soil in the region.
a. that significantly increased b. a significant increase in*
c. to significantly increase d. significant the increase in

Read About It! – MSU-CELP Test of English Reading Ability

VOCABULARY: Vocabulary is not tested discretely in the limited context of isolated sentences but within the context of an entire reading passage or a part of it. Candidates are required to choose the given word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the word highlighted in a sentence from the passage.

E.g. The sentences from the passage may read as follows:

Q1. *The first things children learn in school are very elementary. This is to be expected when they are introduced to something for the first time.*

- a. interesting b. necessary c. unusual d. basic*

READING COMPREHENSION: The question types in this section range from comprehension of the main idea of the passage to discrete points of information, inference, and structure/logic questions, e.g. selecting the correct place in a given text to insert a given sentence.

E.g.

(A) At least 9,000 properties are expected to be inundated completely, and as many as 30,000 damaged as the Bremmer and Brisbane rivers hit record levels over the next two days. The warnings come after a flash flood swept through Queensland's Lockyer Valley on Monday, lifting houses off their foundations and smashing cars into trees.

Many residents were swept away while still in their homes. (B)

The valley funnelled rain from a freak storm—forecasters estimated up to 150 millimetres fell in half an hour near the city of Toowoomba—into a fast-moving stream that left a path of destruction. (C)The raging floodwaters killed at least 10 people, including a four-year-old boy who reportedly died as rescuers tried to save him and his family. (D)

The passage above was taken from an Internet report from CBC News - World

Q1. What can be inferred from what is said in the highlighted text in line 4?

- a. A flash flood usually damages the foundations of houses.
b. A flash flood occurs shortly after a warning.
c. No cars or trees are left standing after a flash flood.
d. People are caught unawares by a flash flood.*

Q2. The direction taken by the floodwaters appears to have been determined by

- a. a freak storm b. Toowoomba c. Lockyer Valley * d. a path of destruction

Q3. At which point in the passage would the following sentence best fit?

“Even more severe flooding has been predicted.”

- a. (A)* b. (B) c. (C) d. (D)

Practice Test 1

Grammar You Can Use!

Choose the answer that best fits the sentence.

1. Greg asked me if I knew _____.
 - a. where was the bus station
 - b. where the bus station it was
 - c. where the bus station was
 - d. where it was the bus station
2. _____, the customer wouldn't have complained.
 - a. If the waiter were to apologize
 - b. Had the waiter apologized
 - c. Were the waiter to apologize
 - d. If the waiter apologizes
3. When he was in high school, Jeff _____ every morning.
 - a. had swum 3 kilometers
 - b. had been swimming 3 kilometers
 - c. swam 3 kilometers
 - d. was swimming 3 kilometers
4. My friend asked me _____ a cup of coffee.
 - a. if I would care about
 - b. to care for
 - c. would I care to have
 - d. if I would care for
5. Susan _____ what you said! Look at her face!
 - a. can't be liking
 - b. can't have liked
 - c. can't have been liking
 - d. can't liking
6. I was not surprised _____ that he had made the same mistake!
 - a. that I heard
 - b. for hearing
 - c. to hear
 - d. I heard
7. _____ he earns a fortune, he is very thrifty.
 - a. Although
 - b. Despite
 - c. Whereas
 - d. However
8. Scientists are examining an enormous _____ that has appeared overnight in a cornfield.
 - a. depressant
 - b. depression
 - c. depressing
 - d. depressed
9. They replaced the cushions, _____ were tattered.
 - a. most of which
 - b. which most of them
 - c. the most of which
 - d. which the most
10. _____ in the shallows, the child found a beautiful seashell.
 - a. Waded
 - b. He had waded
 - c. He was wading
 - d. Wading
11. I've never been to a more boring talk _____ that.
 - a. from
 - b. as
 - c. than
 - d. like
12. _____ my advice, he would have gotten the job.
 - a. If he takes
 - b. Were he to take
 - c. If he took
 - d. Had he taken
13. It was my suggestion that Tim _____ his education at a university abroad.
 - a. had to continue
 - b. to continue
 - c. continue
 - d. continues
14. When organizing the conference, please proceed _____ we discussed at our last meeting.
 - a. along the lines
 - b. with the lines
 - c. among the lines
 - d. through the lines
15. I _____ the noise my new neighbors make every afternoon.
 - a. had used to
 - b. used to
 - c. was used to
 - d. have gotten used to

Read About It!

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the **highlighted** word/s in each sentence. In the actual examination, the vocabulary items to be tested will be highlighted within a much longer text, thereby providing candidates with a wider context in which to determine the meaning of the given words. The following sentences are meant to represent such test items when found in longer contexts.

16. Supporters of euthanasia maintain that it is a **humane** act aimed at preventing a patient from further suffering.
a. peaceful b. memorable c. kind d. generous
17. The younger generation tends to **embrace** liberal ideals and reject more conservative ones.
a. adopt b. avoid c. promote d. introduce
18. The board members **deliberated** for four hours before arriving at a solution acceptable to everyone.
a. quarreled b. debated c. consulted d. appointed
19. You'll probably find him in the Red Lion; it's his favorite **haunt**, where he spends endless hours.
a. hideaway b. hangout c. store d. loophole
20. Typewriters have become **obsolete** since computers were introduced; the only ones you now find are kept for sentimental reasons.
a. rare b. inefficient c. scarce d. outdated
21. The speaker's **eloquence** greatly impressed the audience, who listened spellbound to his lecture.
a. clarity b. vocabulary c. phraseology d. accuracy
22. The teenager's parents were afraid that she was **contemplating** something drastic; they were praying she would not lose hope.
a. finalizing b. expecting c. considering d. encouraging
23. Harry hasn't done anything to **merit** promotion within the department, so he shouldn't be disappointed.
a. Exceed b. initiate c. deserve d. miss
24. The teacher explained that there was a **subtle** difference between the two words and that they were not always used interchangeably.
a. clear b. slight c. hidden d. distinct
25. First-time juvenile offenders are often treated **leniently** by the court and given short periods of community service.
a. strictly b. impatiently c. sensibly d. indulgently
26. Coming from a hot country, you'll need time to **accustom** yourself to our winters, which can be quite severe.
a. practice b. adapt c. warm d. change
27. The children were so **engrossed** in watching TV that they did not hear the doorbell ringing.
a. concentrated b. interesting c. employed d. absorbed
28. It was a shame to see his plans go **awry** after all the work he had done to organize the party.
a. wrong b. wasteful c. destructive d. troublesome
29. A teacher's job is not only to **impart** knowledge to her students but to learn from them as well.
a. pass out b. pass through c. pass on d. pass off
30. The three fishermen were awarded medals for their **gallantry** in rescuing the crew of the tanker that sank in the storm.
a. cowardice b. involvement c. bravery d. superstition

READING COMPREHENSION

You come across the following passage taken from *Discover*, Vol. 26, No. 3, while doing research for a biology assignment. Read the passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

Fighting leukemia may soon become as easy as getting a shot. Cancer researchers at the University of Texas are testing a vaccine that can put one form of the disease into remission.

The vaccine fights myelogenous leukemia, which strikes 16,000 people a year, many of them senior citizens. So far tests have been promising. The vaccine slowed the cancer to a crawl in 20 of 33 cases—with few side effects. "We treated people who wouldn't be expected to live three months," says Jeffrey Mollidrem, an immunologist with the university's M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston. "So the fact that some lived four years is quite surprising. That some actually went into remission is astounding."

In both acute and chronic myelogenous leukemia, immature white blood cells in the bone marrow multiply out of control. They fail to fight off infections as they are meant to and collect dangerously in organs, blocking their functions. The vaccine sets off an immune response using a piece of a protein, called PR1 peptide, found on the surface of leukemia cells. The body recognizes the peptides as foreign invaders and, as a result, attacks the leukemia cells. Other cancer vaccines have been created, Mollidrem says, but this is the first one for leukemia that seems to work.

The drug must now go through another round of clinical trials. If they are all successful, the vaccine will become available in three to four years.

31. We learn from the text that tests of the new vaccine have to date
 - a. shown few positive results.
 - b. resulted in a few side effects.
 - c. disappointed researchers.
 - d. kept researchers' hopes alive.
32. Which of the following best explains the phrase **senior citizens** in line 4?
 - a. people in top positions at work
 - b. the elderly
 - c. people with a long life expectancy
 - d. priority patients
33. Which of the following results from testing the vaccine has been most encouraging to researchers?
 - a. Some patients' conditions went into remission.
 - b. Some cancers slowed to a crawl.
 - c. There were people who lived longer than expected.
 - d. There were few side effects.
34. What are we told about the white blood cells of people suffering from acute and chronic myelogenous leukemia?
 - a. Their numbers are slow to increase.
 - b. They are not fully developed.
 - c. They perform their usual function.
 - d. They assist the other organs in their functions.
35. The text tells us that the vaccine
 - a. functions by using part of the leukemia cell.
 - b. works entirely on its own.
 - c. recognizes peptides as foreign invaders.
 - d. attacks the leukemia cells.

Practice Test 2

Grammar You Can Use!

Choose the answer that best fits the sentence.

- The exam supervisor will require that each candidate _____ acceptable identification.
 - shows
 - showed
 - showing
 - show
- Julie's sister reminds me _____ my chemistry teacher in high school.
 - of
 - for
 - about
 - from
- When Carl's microwave was giving him trouble, he _____ at it.
 - had an electrician to look
 - had an electrician look
 - got an electrician looking
 - got an electrician look
- An annex _____ to provide extra classrooms.
 - is being building
 - is being built
 - has built
 - is building
- No sooner _____ than the telephone rang.
 - had Jake entered his office
 - Jake had entered his office
 - Jake's entering his office
 - was Jake entering his office
- Sheila finally decided to buy _____ evening dress.
 - a silk green beautiful Thai
 - a beautiful silk green Thai
 - a beautiful green Thai silk
 - a green beautiful Thai silk
- Samantha is _____ of the twins, but Tania is more athletic.
 - the smartest
 - more smart
 - the smarter
 - smarter
- Dimitris hadn't done any work, _____ he failed the exam.
 - that
 - so
 - but
 - however
- Try _____ a short nap if you are feeling dizzy.
 - taking
 - to take
 - if you can take
 - the taking of
- _____ her supervisor's approval, she shouldn't begin the project.
 - Unless Susan doesn't get
 - If Susan will not get
 - Were Susan to get
 - Unless Susan gets
- I was just leaving _____ work when May called with the good news.
 - at
 - to
 - for
 - towards
- I wish I _____ Disneyland when I was in France last month.
 - would visit
 - had visited
 - could visit
 - was visiting
- _____ an old bed and two chairs in the room.
 - There's
 - It's
 - Is
 - They are
- The new secretary is _____ worker.
 - a so hard
 - very hard
 - such a hard
 - too hard
- The witness appeared quite _____ while he was being questioned.
 - calmed
 - calmly
 - calming

d. calm

Read About It!

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the **highlighted** word/s in each sentence. In the actual examination, the vocabulary items to be tested will be highlighted within a much longer text, thereby providing candidates with a wider context in which to determine the meaning of the given words. The following sentences are meant to represent such test items when found in longer contexts.

16. The board's decision to **veto** the proposal surprised everyone. They were certain it would be adopted.
a. sponsor b. interpret c. rephrase d. reject
17. Through **prudent** investments, George soon amassed a small fortune, proving what a shrewd businessman he was.
a. careful b. informed c. risky d. prime
18. Unless lecture notes are written **legibly**, they aren't of much use, so make sure you write neatly.
a. roughly b. briefly c. credibly d. clearly
19. The judge read out to the court several editorials on the recent **spate** of racist attacks.
a. quota b. incident c. phenomenon d. wave
20. Harry complained about the **intolerable** noise his neighbors were making and threatened to lodge an official complaint.
a. frequent b. unbearable c. endless d. perpetual
21. The new strategy was adopted in the hope that it would **yield** better results and help increase the company's market share.
a. show b. introduce c. produce d. improve
22. The company is hoping to **expand** its overseas market with a new range of health food products.
a. improve b. enlarge c. promote d. capture
23. A skin **blemish** can usually be covered up with makeup that is expertly applied.
a. condition b. deformity c. mark d. stigma
24. Her grandfather becomes **irritable** when he doesn't get his way, so don't argue with him!
a. depressed b. touchy c. desperate d. timid
25. Trying hard to impress his classmates, Ben ended up becoming a figure of their **ridicule**.
a. derision b. hysteria c. pity d. parody
26. Sally's so **arrogant** that she refuses to talk to the employees and treats them with utter contempt.
a. humble b. benign c. extrovert d. conceited
27. Their new house is really **spacious**; it has six large bedrooms and as many bathrooms!
a. luxurious b. infinite c. enormous d. roomy
28. There's **an embargo** on the sale of arms to that country, which is believed to be planning to invade its northern neighbor.
a. a treaty b. a truce c. a restriction d. a boycott
29. Bears and other large animals move in **an ungainly** way and are quite funny to watch.
a. a graceful b. a clumsy c. a rapid d. a swift
30. To get the best effect, the sound has to be **amplified**; you don't enjoy it half as much if it is played softly.
a. increased b. filtered c. muffled d. echoed

READING COMPREHENSION

You come across the following passage taken from *Discover*, Vol. 25, No. 9, while doing research for a natural history assignment. Read the passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

The relatively small fossil site in Niger, no bigger than a football field, was in operation for only two months. But University of Chicago paleontologist Paul Sereno is ecstatic about what he is finding as he sifts through the 20 tons of fossils recovered there. "This was probably the most successful expedition I will ever lead," Sereno says, "and I've led a lot of expeditions."

Among the fossils excavated by Sereno and his team was the skull of an unknown 95-million-year-old carnivore from the abelisaurid ("wrinkle faced") family, which he named *Rugops primus*. This 30-foot animal may have scavenged carcasses; markings on the bone imply its head was covered with keratin, the material in our fingernails, which might have protected its face while it tore into its food. The most intriguing aspect of *Rugops primus*, however, is where it lived. Until now, the fossil record implied that abelisaurids lived only on what remained of Gondwanaland, the early landmass that included modern India and South America. Africa supposedly separated from this massive continent 120 million years ago, long before the rise of the wrinkle-faced dinosaurs. Finding *Rugops primus* in Africa therefore came as a shock. Sereno regards the discovery as evidence that land bridges connected Africa to Gondwanaland much later than previously believed.

Further study of the Niger fossils may expose additional unexpected family connections. Sereno believes he has found the bones of a variety of other dinosaurs and other animals never before encountered in Africa. "There is a coming together of evidence that is hard to deny," he says. "We have unearthed a new chapter with lots of new players."

31. We learn in the first paragraph that Paul Sereno
 - a. has never led many successful expeditions.
 - b. is cautiously considering the value of the fossil site in Niger.
 - c. is disappointed that the fossil site is no bigger than a football field.
 - d. bases his judgment on the fossil site in Niger on his wide experience.
32. Which of the following statements does NOT appear to describe *Rugops primus*?
 - a. It lived on a diet of plants and thorny vegetation.
 - b. It had sharp teeth.
 - c. The surface of its face was uneven.
 - d. It was flesh-eating.
33. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to the word **intriguing** in line 9?
 - a. confusing
 - b. puzzling
 - c. frightening
 - d. fascinating
34. The "evidence" that Paul Sereno refers to in line 18 will most certainly consist of
 - a. fossils that paleontologists before him had kept hidden.
 - b. a more complete fossil record.
 - c. samples of earth and rocks from the former land bridges.
 - d. eyewitness accounts of dinosaurs that once lived in Africa.
35. The passage implies that Sereno's findings in Niger may
 - a. attract a lot of new paleontologists to the area.
 - b. prove that our knowledge of pre-historic land bridges is incomplete.
 - c. indicate that many African dinosaurs migrated to Gondwanaland.
 - d. prove that abelisaurids were originally to be found in Africa.

Practice Test 3

Grammar You Can Use!

Choose the answer that best fits the sentence.

1. Does anyone know _____ with those old movie magazines I had?
 - a. what has Mom done
 - b. what did Mom do
 - c. what Mom has done
 - d. what did Mom
2. Sue has become _____ with the idea that everyone envies her.
 - a. obsessive
 - b. obsessing
 - c. obsessed
 - d. obsession
3. The children simply adore the new housekeeper, _____ says a lot for her.
 - a. who
 - b. which
 - c. that
 - d. whose
4. The minister's limousine _____ by a brick thrown by a demonstrator.
 - a. its windshield was shattered
 - b. had its windshield shattered
 - c. whose windshield was shattered
 - d. had shattered its windshield
5. _____, I will let you know what you have to do.
 - a. When a decision will have reached
 - b. As soon as a decision is going to be reached
 - c. Once a decision will be reached
 - d. When a decision has been reached
6. _____ his toy truck, the little boy walked away.
 - a. Picking up
 - b. He picked up
 - c. When picking up
 - d. Picked up
7. The director's recommendation was that the secretary _____ a crash course in accounting.
 - a. begin
 - b. has begun
 - c. begins
 - d. will begin
8. _____ all of last year, he wouldn't have the problems he has today.
 - a. If John worked
 - b. If John was working
 - c. Were John working
 - d. Had John been working
9. Joe _____ our appointment. He's an hour late!
 - a. must forget
 - b. must be forgetting
 - c. must have forgotten
 - d. must forgotten
10. Reports coming in confirm that thousands of homes _____ by the fire.
 - a. to be threatened
 - b. are being threatened
 - c. have being threatened
 - d. are threatening
11. The farmers in that region have had _____ rain for over two months.
 - a. scarcely
 - b. scarcely none
 - c. almost any
 - d. hardly any
12. I got a mechanic _____ my lawn-mower.
 - a. look at
 - b. looking at
 - c. to have looked at
 - d. to look at
13. The Swiss contingent has just checked _____ at the Olympic village.
 - a. on
 - b. in
 - c. through
 - d. by
14. The course seems interesting, _____ I think it's going to be difficult.
 - a. since
 - b. in spite
 - c. but
 - d. despite
15. Don't dream of leaving on vacation without _____ where they can contact you!
 - a. informing your parents
 - b. you inform your parents
 - c. to inform your parents
 - d. to informing your parents

Read About It!

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the **highlighted** word/s in each sentence. In the actual examination, the vocabulary items to be tested will be highlighted within a much longer text, thereby providing candidates with a wider context in which to determine the meaning of the given words. The following sentences are meant to represent such test items when found in longer contexts.

16. The lofty forest **canopy** is home to thousands of tree-dwelling mammals that seldom visit the forest floor.
a. undergrowth b. covering c. bush d. vegetation
17. The farm workers **toiled** for hours in the hot sun for a meager wage that was barely enough to support their families.
a. camped b. sweated c. labored d. lazed
18. Owls and other **nocturnal** animals hunt under the cover of darkness and are rarely seen by humans.
a. night-time b. predatory c. carnivorous d. forest
19. The soldiers fought **valiantly** to defend their position but were overwhelmed by the enemy's greater numbers.
a. patriotically b. courageously c. endlessly d. proudly
20. Marathon runners must have remarkable **endurance** to be able to cover a distance of 42 kilometers without stopping.
a. capacity b. ability c. capability d. stamina
21. The government will **compensate** farmers for the loss of their crops in the recent floods.
a. recompense b. refund c. finance d. economize
22. The tourists made a[n] **futile** attempt to communicate with the villagers, none of whom understood a word of what they were asking.
a. diverse b. edible c. optical d. unsuccessful
23. The actress confirmed that she had signed a contract with a Hollywood producer but refused to **elaborate** when questioned by the press.
a. extend b. interpret c. explain d. detail
24. Many creatures use **camouflage** to escape the attention of predators around them.
a. undergrowth b. concealment c. habitat d. plumage
25. Sally is one of the most **competent** secretaries I have ever met; she never does a thing wrong.
a. capable b. workable c. laborious d. confident
26. The **pitiful** look on the child's face aroused sympathy in every passer-by, each of whom dropped a few coins in his tin can.
a. pathetic b. hungry c. starved d. impoverished
27. The police have promised to **investigate** the matter in the hope of finding the culprit.
a. examine b. uncover c. prove d. detect
28. The **prelude** to the play was written by the playwright's sister, who was a brilliant writer in her own right.
a. history b. opening c. introduction d. scenario
29. Interest in the new fashion began to **fade**, and it was soon ignored by young trendsetters.
a. soar b. decrease c. resist d. swell
30. Many **dormant** volcanoes, which are fairly safe to explore, dot the surface of our planet.
a. lethargic b. inactive c. primitive d. subterranean

READING COMPREHENSION

You come across the following passage taken from Discover, Vol. 25, No. 11, while doing research for an anthropology assignment. Read the passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

- Medieval monks may have been more gluttonous than godly. Most of the paintings and literature of the time portray them as fat, almost obese. But was that really the case? University College London archaeologist Philippa Patrick decided to find out.
- She examined 100 skeletons from the 11th to the 16th centuries from three abbeys in the vicinity of London. She then compared the monks' remains with those of 200 secular Londoners of similar ages. Not only did the monks have higher rates of thickened bones and certain patterns of ossification that are **hallmarks** of the severely obese, but they also showed higher rates of arthritis and other weight-related joint problems. All in all, Patrick estimates, the monks were more than five times as likely to be overweight as contemporary merchants and courtiers.
- Patrick then enlisted the help of a historian, who used written records of menus and food shopping lists to calculate the average monk's diet—a staggering 6,000 calories a day. Even during fasting periods, a monk's daily intake topped 4,000 calories. The monks' abundant eating often outraged those on the outside, but inside the abbey it probably helped keep the peace, Patrick suggests. "Abbeys were highly political places; there are numerous records of head abbots being overthrown for all sorts of reasons," she says. "I suspect that food was one of the few pleasures allowed in the monasteries, so if it wasn't good and plentiful, there could be a lot of unrest in the ranks."
31. The opening paragraph asks the reader to consider whether medieval monks
 - a. tended to eat more than was good for them.
 - b. were favorably portrayed in the paintings and literature of the time.
 - c. were less godly than monks of other centuries.
 - d. did not take their religion seriously.
 32. Patrick's initial investigation involved a comparison between
 - a. the remains of monks from three abbeys in the area around London.
 - b. the remains of monks from different centuries.
 - c. the remains of two different groups of people.
 - d. the body size of medieval monks and modern Londoners.
 33. Which of the following expressions best retains the meaning of the word **hallmarks** in line 7?
 - a. usual symptoms
 - b. unfortunate results
 - c. characteristic signs
 - d. frequent complaints
 34. It is implied that during fasting periods, medieval monks
 - a. ate much less.
 - b. finished their meals in less time.
 - c. kept a written record of what they ate.
 - d. did not significantly reduce their food intake.
 35. The passage suggests that medieval monks were given good food in large quantities
 - a. in order to prevent them from becoming rebellious.
 - b. to show them how pleasurable it was to be in a monastery.
 - c. to show them how benevolent the head abbot was.
 - d. to outrage those living outside the monastery.

Practice Test 4

Grammar You Can Use!

Choose the answer that best fits the sentence.

1. Everyone _____ present at the meeting voted against the proposal.
 - a. which was
 - b. that were
 - c. who was
 - d. who they were
2. Not until we use up the current stock _____ a new order.
 - a. will we place
 - b. we are going to place
 - c. will there place
 - d. we will place
3. The boss congratulated Dora _____ developing an excellent sales plan.
 - a. through
 - b. about
 - c. with
 - d. on
4. John doesn't remember _____ any calls yesterday morning.
 - a. receiving
 - b. to receive
 - c. he received
 - d. of receiving
5. Fortunately, the _____ child was not awakened by the sudden noise.
 - a. asleep
 - b. slept
 - c. sleeping
 - d. being asleep
6. The old lady is on _____ for her heart condition.
 - a. medicine
 - b. medical
 - c. medicinal
 - d. medication
7. Investigators asked the witness when _____.
 - a. had the explosion taken place.
 - b. the explosion had taken place.
 - c. did the explosion take place.
 - d. had taken place the explosion.
8. It is preferable that vegetables _____.
 - a. to not be overcooked.
 - b. not be overcooked.
 - c. be not overcooked.
 - d. not to be overcooked.
9. _____, our goalkeeper had to be replaced in the second half.
 - a. Despite his injury
 - b. Because his injury
 - c. Although his injury
 - d. Because of his injury
10. Fortunately, the driver _____ escape from the burning car.
 - a. was able to
 - b. could
 - c. had to
 - d. managing to
11. You really shouldn't _____ so much coffee!
 - a. drinking
 - b. to drink
 - c. drink
 - d. to drinking
12. Do you know _____?
 - a. what Tim's number is
 - b. what is Tim's number
 - c. what number has Tim
 - d. what number is Tim
13. Jerry can't do all that work alone, but he won't let anyone _____.
 - a. to help him
 - b. help him
 - c. can help him
 - d. helps him
14. Ask Sue to phone whenever she can, _____ it's late.
 - a. even if
 - b. despite
 - c. however
 - d. whereas
15. It's necessary _____ before she applies for that job.
 - a. that Pam sees me
 - b. Pam saw me
 - c. Pam to see me
 - d. that Pam see me

Read About It!

Choose the word or phrase closest in meaning to the **highlighted** word/s in each sentence. In the actual examination, the vocabulary items to be tested will be highlighted within a much longer text, thereby providing candidates with a wider context in which to determine the meaning of the given words. The following sentences are meant to represent such test items when found in longer contexts.

16. Employment opportunities are **infinitely** better for people with experience.
a. definitely b. enormously c. understandably d. encouragingly
17. Our new neighbors can be a bit too **inquisitive** at times. They are always asking very personal questions.
a. Picky b. choosy c. nosy d. sly
18. Reports are coming in of an earthquake of unprecedented **magnitude**.
a. velocity b. volume c. scale d. scope
19. The expedition does not expect to **encounter** any serious problems, but its leaders are prepared to deal with them.
a. run into b. run up c. run down d. run off
20. The employee's contract was **terminated** because she had made a false declaration in connection with her travel expenses.
a. resigned b. extended c. reviewed d. ended
21. Homeowners took the necessary **precautions** after the storm warning was released.
a. priority moves b. escape routes c. plans of action d. safety measures
22. Hand-made carpets with **intricate** designs were for sale at the bazaar, but they were much more expensive than those with simpler designs.
a. cheap b. unique c. complex d. plain
23. **Debris** from the devastating *tsunami* littered the coast and hampered the efforts of rescue workers.
a. Damages b. Fragments c. Wreckage d. Bodies
24. **Stagnant** water usually provides a perfect breeding ground for mosquitos.
a. Still b. Stale c. Muddy d. Flowing
25. My brother owns a **pedigreed** bulldog called Churchill, which he enters in dog shows.
a. cross-bred b. pure-bred c. half-bred d. well-bred
26. The Amazon is a region of **dense** vegetation, which makes it difficult to explore.
a. invaluable b. unusual c. overgrown d. impenetrable
27. He did what he could to **rectify** the situation, but the damage had already been done.
a. set right b. set off c. set straight d. set back
28. The bully's behavior was so **despicable** that he made many enemies among his peers.
a. incorrect b. unfriendly c. abrupt d. disgraceful
29. He was charged with **abusing** his children whenever he was drunk.
a. spoiling b. pampering c. mistreating d. punishing
30. The old cinema was closed down when attendance began to **dwindle** in the mid 1970s.
a. soar b. disappoint c. fall d. discourage

READING COMPREHENSION

You come across the following passage taken from *Discover*, Vol. 26, No. 3, while doing research for a natural history assignment. Read the passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

Birds are under siege. A recent World Conservation Union report says that 12 percent of all birds on the planet are threatened with extinction, and a team of Stanford University ecologists believes that up to 14 percent worldwide could be extinct within a century. By then a quarter of all birds may be as good as gone, says Stanford conservation ecologist Cagan Sekercioglu. Their populations could become so small that their ecological contribution would be virtually nil.

The losses would be devastating. Many birds are important pollinators and seed dispersers; their absence would have wide ecological ramifications. Others eat insects or are important links in the food chain. Still others are scavengers that clear away carcasses or keep pests in check. In India, for example, a rapid decline of vultures in the 1990s led to a rise in feral dogs and, as a result, an increase in the number of rabies outbreaks. "There are consequences when birds are not doing their ecological jobs," says Sekercioglu.

Researchers blame humans. The World Conservation Union ranks the loss of native habitat and the introduction of invasive species as the most crucial problems, but unchecked activities like fishing, hunting, and logging play a role—as does human-induced climate change. Worst off are specialist-birds that eat only one type of food and live in only one place. Because they are so intertwined with their environments, they can't adapt to changes. Marine birds are also particularly at risk because they live long, breed slowly, and are prone to accidental death by long-line fishing.

31. If Sekercioglu's prediction were realized, the percentage of all birds that would become extinct or near-to-extinct would be in the region of
- 12%
 - 14%
 - 25%
 - 39%
32. Which of the following is NOT given as an important function of birds?
- They keep pests to feed their young.
 - Some eat the remains of dead animals.
 - Many help the reproduction and spread of plants and trees.
 - Some form an important part of the food chain.
33. What is given as a consequence of the rapid decline in vultures in India in the 1990s?
- An increase in the number of feral dogs posed a threat to human health.
 - Fewer domestic dogs were attacked and killed by them.
 - Fewer carcasses remained to be cleared.
 - Pests no longer needed to be kept in check.
34. The word **unchecked** in line 13 refers to activities that
- have never been examined before.
 - are practiced by environmentally conscious parties.
 - have resulted in human-induced climatic change.
 - are carried out without proper restrictions.
35. The birds referred to as "specialist-birds" in line 16 are more threatened than other species because
- they are marine species.
 - their environments change them.
 - they cannot adapt to their natural environments.
 - their natural diet and habitat are restricted.

Practice Test 5

Grammar You Can Use!

Choose the answer that best fits the sentence.

1. The world was shocked _____ the news of the devastating *tsunami*.
 - a. for
 - b. with
 - c. by
 - d. from
2. Several offshore islands _____ to the mainland by a causeway.
 - a. will soon have linking
 - b. will soon have linked
 - c. will soon be linked
 - d. will soon be linking
3. You _____ so many copies; two would've been sufficient.
 - a. shouldn't make
 - b. needn't have made
 - c. mustn't make
 - d. needn't make
4. Tony has been riding _____ scooter for the last 15 years.
 - a. an Italian old bright red
 - b. an old bright red Italian
 - c. an old red bright Italian
 - d. a bright old red Italian
5. The exam instructions require that every candidate _____ a 2B pencil.
 - a. using
 - b. to use
 - c. uses
 - d. use
6. Never in her life _____ a bad word about anybody.
 - a. Pauline will say
 - b. has Pauline said
 - c. is Pauline saying
 - d. Pauline has said
7. _____ and I'll tell you everything you want to know.
 - a. If you sit down
 - b. As long as you sit down
 - c. Sit down
 - d. Provided you sit down
8. The old man stayed home that morning as he was afraid _____.
 - a. of falling on the icy roads.
 - b. his falling on the icy roads.
 - c. would fall on the icy roads.
 - d. to fall on the icy roads.
9. Susan soon found gainful _____ after leaving school.
 - a. employment
 - b. employer
 - c. employee
 - d. employing
10. Young children _____ are away from home for long periods of time often feel neglected.
 - a. those their parents
 - b. that their parents
 - c. whose parents
 - d. which their parents
11. There are children for my son to play with in the neighborhood, but they 're _____ older.
 - a. some
 - b. mostly
 - c. a few
 - d. few
12. _____ harder, he could do quite well.
 - a. If Bob had worked
 - b. Were Bob to work
 - c. Had Bob worked
 - d. Did Bob work
13. Her hair is shorter; she's just _____.
 - a. had it cut
 - b. had cut it
 - c. had them cut
 - d. had cut them
14. I was amazed at _____ beautifully Mia sings.
 - a. what
 - b. such
 - c. so
 - d. how
15. Fortunately, I _____ all the questions on the test and got an A+.
 - a. could answered
 - b. could have answered
 - c. was able to answer
 - d. was answering

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16. Deborah showed her **gratitude** by sending her boss an expensive bottle of wine.
a. appreciation b. concern c. contentment d. satisfaction
17. Julie gave us a **vivid** description of her trip to the Amazon.
a. extended b. clear c. brief d. live
18. The child **admitted** having trampled the seedlings in the flower bed.
a. laughed at b. paid for c. confessed to d. apologized for
19. A cow from a neighboring farm **strayed** into our back garden.
a. waded b. stampeded c. escaped d. wandered
20. The kidnappers demanded a[n] **ransom** of \$1 million for the return of the millionaire's son.
a. payment b. refund c. instalment d. pension
21. The overdose the addict took proved **fatal** and the paramedic's efforts to revive her were in vain.
a. dramatic b. excessive c. enormous d. lethal
22. The passengers **miraculously** escaped after their plane crashed on take-off.
a. nearly b. luckily c. amazingly d. narrowly
23. All animals arriving on the island are kept in **quarantine** for a period of four months in an attempt to prevent the spread of rabies.
a. detention b. isolation c. quarters d. suspension
24. The security guard eyed me **suspiciously** as I got out of my car in front of the foreign embassy.
a. intentionally b. warily c. intently d. casually
25. Quick thinking by the captain of the oil tanker averted a **collision** that could have had terrible environmental consequences.
a. collapse b. sinking c. crash d. problem
26. The policeman **compelled** the suspect to stand away from the car while he examined it.
a. encouraged b. forced c. cautioned d. directed
27. The flaw in the diamond was **imperceptible** to a non-expert but not to the specialist from one of the leading retailers of gemstones.
a. transparent b. undetectable c. valueless d. irrelevant
28. The price of real estate has been **plummeting** of late and is expected to reach an all-time low in a month or two.
a. plunging b. slumping c. fluctuating d. dipping
29. The driver did everything he could to **avert** an accident when he realized that his brakes had failed.
a. overtake b. avoid c. overcome d. expel
30. Don't argue over such **trivial** things! There are much more important matters to worry about!
a. cheap b. indifferent c. costly d. petty

READING COMPREHENSION

You come across the following passage taken from *Discover*, Vol. 25, No. 11, while doing research for a natural history assignment. Read the passage carefully; then answer the questions that follow.

- How did *Tyrannosaurus rex* get so big? After four years zigzagging around the world begging museums for samples of the relatively rare tyrannosaur bones, paleontologist Greg Erickson of Florida State University has found the answer.
- Layers of bone can be read like tree rings, but, until now, nobody had enough specimens to study how giant meat-eating dinosaurs matured. *T. rex*, Erickson now finds, lived fast and died young—"sort of the James Dean of dinosaurs." Unlike many modern reptiles, it didn't grow continuously throughout its life. Instead, the creature underwent an explosive teenage growth spurt, acquiring 70 percent of its adult body mass in five years. *T. rex's* accelerated adolescence may have been necessary, given the **brutal** competition for survival. "The oldest ones might have made it to 30, but even that would have been rare," Erickson says. "It was a tough life, and most of them would have been killed before they reached their largest size."
- In order to fuel its rapid growth, *T. rex* must have been a ravenous eating machine. Building on work by Erickson, Emily Rayfield of Cambridge has figured out the mechanics of *T. rex's* feeding strategy. She modeled bone stress and found that elastic tissue between plates of bone in *T. rex's* four-and-a-half-foot-long skull acted as a shock absorber, allowing the creature to bite down on prey with an intensity that would crack the skull of most animals. "It ate using the puncture-pull method. It would have bitten down with enough force to crush through bone and then pulled back, tearing off the flesh," Rayfield says. It might not have been pretty, but it was clearly effective: at its peak, an adolescent *T. rex* probably packed on five pounds a day—and that was on the Cretaceous version of the Atkins diet.
31. Like tree rings, layers of bone provide information to paleontologists on
 - a. how much meat dinosaurs ate.
 - b. how many specimens are needed for a meaningful study.
 - c. similarities between trees and dinosaurs.
 - d. the growth process.
 32. Erickson believes that five years represents the time *T. rex* took
 - a. to grow continuously.
 - b. to begin to age.
 - c. to gain almost three-quarters of its adult weight.
 - d. to maintain a stable body weight.
 33. The word **brutal** in line 9 is used to describe the competition for survival because
 - a. *T. rex* was threatened by every other brute in its environment.
 - b. brute force helped many dinosaurs live to the age of 30.
 - c. many of *T. rex's* rivals were just as savage or even more savage than it was.
 - d. the extent of the brutality that dinosaurs suffered at man's hands was enormous.
 34. Emily Rayfield's research indicates that the elastic tissue between plates of bone in *T. rex's* skull
 - a. allowed it to safely deliver a bite of enormous force.
 - b. guaranteed it would crack the skull of most of its victims.
 - c. made the puncture-pull method of eating unnecessary.
 - d. absorbed the shock created by its heavy steps.
 35. At the height of its growth, an adolescent *T. rex* is thought to have
 - a. survived on five pounds of flesh each day.
 - b. gained five pounds in weight every day.
 - c. increased its food intake by five pounds a day.
 - d. suffered weight loss amounting to five pounds a day.

ANSWER KEY

Practice Test 1	Practice Test 2	Practice Test 3	Practice Test 4	Practice Test 5
1. c	1. d	1. c	1. c	1. c
2. b	2. a	2. c	2. a	2. c
3. c	3. b	3. b	3. d	3. b
4. d	4. b	4. b	4. a	4. b
5. b	5. a	5. d	5. c	5. d
6. c	6. c	6. a	6. d	6. b
7. a	7. c	7. a	7. b	7. c
8. b	8. b	8. d	8. b	8. a
9. a	9. a	9. c	9. d	9. a
10.d	10.d	10.b	10.a	10.c
11.c	11.c	11.d	11.c	11.b
12.d	12.b	12.d	12.a	12.b
13.c	13.a	13.b	13.b	13.a
14.a	14.c	14.c	14.a	14.d
15.d	15.d	15.a	15.d	15.c
16.c	16.d	16.b	16.b	16.a
17.a	17.a	17.c	17.c	17.b
18.b	18.d	18.a	18.c	18.c
19.b	19.d	19.b	19.a	19.d
20.d	20.b	20.d	20.d	20.a
21.a	21.c	21.a	21.d	21.d
22.c	22.b	22.d	22.c	22.c
23.c	23.c	23.c	23.c	23.b
24.b	24.b	24.b	24.a	24.b
25.d	25.a	25.a	25.b	25.c
26.b	26.d	26.a	26.d	26.b
27.d	27.d	27.a	27.a	27.b
28.a	28.c	28.c	28.d	28.a
29.c	29.b	29.b	29.c	29.b
30.c	30.a	30.b	30.c	30.d
31.d	31.d	31.a	31.c	31.d
32.b	32.a	32.c	32.a	32.c
33.a	33.d	33.c	33.a	33.c
34.b	34.b	34.d	34.d	34.a
35.a	35.b	35.a	35.d	35.b