

The Complete GMAT® Sentence Correction Guide

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2. NON-ESSENTIAL CLAUSES

Before we get started looking in-depth at the various types of errors, we're going to do some foundational work that will help you to simplify questions, and thus to identify a variety of errors more quickly and efficiently. We looked at non-essential clauses briefly in the previous section, but now we're going to consider them in more detail.

We're going to start with these clauses because they are an extremely common “distractor” item in GMAT Sentence Corrections. While they are directly tested in many questions, **they also appear in many questions in which they perform no function other than to make sentences longer and more difficult to follow.**

Recall that not all of the information that a given sentence contains will be relevant, and that you may only need to consider a small part of a very long sentence in order to determine the correct answer. Non-essential clauses are, as their name suggests, not essential to the meaning of a sentence. In many cases, eliminating a non-essential clause can provide a straightforward method of reducing a mass of confusing information down to something more manageable, thus preventing you from becoming sidetracked by irrelevant details.

For example, consider the following question:

William Makepeace Thackeray and Charles Dickens were both renowned as authors during the nineteenth century, but today the novels of Dickens, once criticized for their sentimentalism and lack of psychological depth, are more widely read than Thackeray.

- (A) more widely read than Thackeray
- (B) more widely read than is Thackeray
- (C) more widely read than are those of Thackeray
- (D) more widely read than Thackeray has been
- (E) more widely read than Thackeray's novels would be

If we consider the sentence as a whole, we can see that it contains a non-essential clause that, when removed, brings the error more clearly into focus:

William Makepeace Thackeray and Charles Dickens were both renowned as authors during the nineteenth century, but today the novels of Dickens...are more widely read than Thackeray.

With the non-essential clause removed, it becomes easier to spot the error – namely, that the novels of Dickens (things) are being compared to Thackeray (person). In order to correct the sentence, novels must be compared to novels. That reduces the possibilities to (C) and (E). (E) contains an unnecessary tense switch, making the answer (C).

To be clear, you may not always find it necessary to go through the trouble of mentally eliminating non-essential clauses; however, being able to do so quickly, especially when you are stuck, can help you grasp the underlying structure of complex sentences and more easily identify any potential problems they contain.

In order to apply this strategy effectively, however, you must be able to consistently recognize non-essential clauses.

Non-essential clauses have the following main features:

- 1) They are usually set off by commas, but can also be set off by dashes.
- 2) If they are removed from a sentence, the sentence will still make grammatical and logical sense.
- 3) They can begin with “w-words” (e.g. *which* or *who*), participles, or nouns.
- 4) They are usually followed by verbs.

Let’s look at some examples.

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, **which was written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide* – **which was written sometime between 1757 and 1758** – has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Although there is no grammatical difference between a comma and a dash here, the dash creates a stronger, more dramatic break between the parts of the sentence. **The GMAT, however, is not concerned with testing this type of stylistic nuance**; the only thing you need to know is that this use of a dash is acceptable.

If you encounter a question that contains some answers with two commas and others with two dashes you can assume that the punctuation is a distraction tool and that the correct answer will depend on a separate factor.

Note that some GMAT sentences may include multiple non-essential clauses. Although such sentences may strike you as unnecessarily complex and awkward, there is nothing inherently wrong with this type of construction.

Correct: Cleopatra, the last of the pharaohs and presumably the only one fluent in the common speech, probably spoke Greek, the language of the ruling class, in private.

The sentence contains two non-essential clauses, which can be crossed out as follows:

Correct: Cleopatra, ~~the last of the pharaohs and presumably the only one fluent in the common speech~~, probably spoke Greek, ~~the language of the ruling class~~, in private.

Because the sentence that remains when the non-essential clauses are removed makes perfect grammatical sense (*Cleopatra probably spoke Greek in private*), there is no error.

On the flip side, the presence of two commas does not always indicate a non-essential clause. (Dashes appear so infrequently that the presence of two is effectively guaranteed to signal a non-essential clause.)

Because GMAT sentences often contain multiple clauses and multiple commas, you must be able to distinguish between two commas that mark a non-essential clause and two commas used for other, unrelated reasons.

Let’s start by considering the following pairs of sentences:

Sentence #1: London, **which was one of the largest and most important cities in Europe during the Middle Ages**, remains an important financial and cultural center today.

When the non-essential clause is removed from the sentence, the sentence still makes sense.

Crossed out: London...remains an important financial and cultural center today.

Now take a look at this sentence:

Sentence #2: During the Middle Ages, **London was one of the largest and most important cities in Europe, and** today it remains an important financial and cultural center.

If we cross out the information between the commas, we get this:

Sentence #2: During the Middle Ages...and today it remains an important financial and cultural center.

The remaining sentence does not make sense, indicating that the commas do not signal a non-essential clause.

Important: Sentences that contain commas setting off non-essential clauses may *also* contain commas that serve unrelated purposes. In such cases, you must consider the meaning of the sentence in order to determine whether and where non-essential clauses appear.

Correct: The sport of sumo wrestling, whose competitors must attempt to force one another out of a circular ring, originated in Japan, which remains the only country in the world where it is practiced.

The above sentence contains only one non-essential clause that can be removed without creating a problem:

Correct: The sport of sumo wrestling, ~~whose competitors must attempt to force one another out of a circular ring,~~ originated in Japan, which remains the only country in the world where it is practiced.

If the information between a different set of commas is removed, however, we are left with nonsense:

Incorrect: The sport of Sumo wrestling, whose competitors must attempt to force one another out of a circular ring, ~~originated in Japan,~~ which remains the only country in the world where it is practiced.

Logically, a circular ring cannot be *the only country in the world where it is practiced* because a circular ring is not a country. The two commas thus do not create a non-essential clause.

If you cannot instinctively determine where a non-essential clause belongs, take your pencil (not a pen!), draw a line through the section you want to test out, and read the sentence without it. If that doesn't work, erase the line, cross out a different section, and try again.

To reiterate: While you obviously cannot cross anything out while you are working on the computer, this type of trial and error should be a key aspect of your paper-based prep. If you have difficulty identifying non-essential clauses on paper, you will almost certainly find that skill even more challenging when you work on a screen.

Appositives

Although non-essential clauses frequently begin with “w-words,” that is not always that case. A non-essential clause that begins with a noun or participle rather than a “w-word” is known as an **appositive**.

Correct: Voltaire’s *Candide*, **a satirical novel written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Some appositives begin by repeating a noun from earlier in the sentence, for stylistic effect.

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, **a novel written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

An appositive can also appear at the beginning or end of a sentence. In case of the latter, a comma or dash can be used.

Correct: **Written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide* has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide* has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century, **an epithet derived from its obviously irreverent and illicit content**.

Yet other appositives begin with participles, either present (–ING) or past (–ED, –NK, –NG).

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, **having been written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, quickly developed a reputation as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

In the case of past participles, the “w-word” is implied but omitted from the sentence.

Correct: Voltaire’s novel *Candide*, **(which was) written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

In addition, a modifier can also correctly be placed before the participle.

Correct: Voltaire’s novel *Candide*, **reputedly written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Note that an appositive can only begin with a past participle – it cannot begin with the simple past. When a verb has different past participle and simple past forms, you must make sure that the correct form is used. (For a list of irregular verbs, see p. 52.)

Incorrect: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, **wrote** sometime between 1757 and 1758, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Correct: Voltaire’s satirical novel *Candide*, **written** sometime between 1757 and 1758, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

The decision to construct a non-essential clause in a particular way is a purely stylistic one. As a result, if you encounter a GMAT question whose answer choices contain different types of (correctly constructed) non-essential clauses, the answer will depend on a separate factor.

You may also encounter sentences with short non-essential clauses or phrases that form brief interruptions. Do not be fooled by the unexpected syntax. This construction is perfectly acceptable.

Correct: A planet capable of harboring life, **astronomers think**, may be identified sometime within the next decade and very possibly within the next five years.

A non-essential clause cannot, however, begin with a pronoun such as *it* or *they*:

Incorrect: Voltaire's satirical novel *Candide*, **it was written sometime between 1757 and 1758**, has been referred to as the most clandestine work of the eighteenth century because of its obviously irreverent and illicit content.

Exercise: Identifying Non-Essential Words and Phrases

In the following sentences, place commas around non-essential phrases as necessary. Note that some sentences may contain additional unrelated commas. (Answers p. 165)

1.	Over the next 50 million years, the cesium fountain atomic clock considered the most precise form of timekeeper ever created is expected to become inaccurate by less than a single second.
2.	Each year, the field of fluid dynamics a field that is as mathematically demanding and challenging to the nonscientist as any field of physics produces compelling and beautiful videos by capturing motion and movement that cannot be seen with the naked eye.
3.	More than any other recent innovation in entertainment, Internet streaming has the potential even the likelihood to create an entirely new genre of narrative: one with elements of television, film and the novel.
4.	Used in some martial arts, the Red Belt one of several colored belts intended to denote a practitioner's skill level and rank originated in Japan and Korea.
5.	Patients who receive anesthesia during surgery are put into a semi-comatose state, not as many people assume a deep state of sleep.
6.	Because dams supply relatively little water independent experts and most environmental groups argue aggressive modern methods of water storage and management are required.
7.	Centered in Nantucket, Massachusetts, whaling a risky pursuit that led sailors halfway across the world and sometimes to the bottom of the ocean was a highly lucrative business during the early nineteenth century.
8.	Human "computers" once responsible for performing basic numerical analysis for laboratories were behind the calculations for everything from the first accurate prediction of the return of Halley's Comet to the success of the Manhattan Project.
9.	Entertainment sources such as movies and books are not some critics claim responsible for shaping a culture, only for reflecting it.
10.	The Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Power Plan a major component of governmental efforts to push electricity generators away from coal and toward natural gas provides businesses with some incentives for renewable-power generation.
11.	Illegal logging has declined in recent years, but the practice which was once nearly responsible for destroying the monarch butterfly's winter habitat persists in a number of regions.
12.	Norman Rockwell's intricately conceived narrative paintings reproduced widely in magazines appealed to a vast audience of readers who recognized themselves in the stories the images told.
13.	Unlike programs created for internet distribution, network television shows which produce new episodes while the seasons air can alter their storylines midseason when ratings drop or a new character is rejected.
14.	The right and left portions of the amygdala two almond-shaped groups of nuclei located deep and medially within the temporal lobes of the brain have independent memory systems but work together to store, encode, and interpret emotion.
15.	Forensic biology the application of biology to law enforcement has been used for a wide range of purposes, including identifying illegal products from endangered species and preventing collisions between birds and wind turbines.

4. SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

All verbs must agree with their subject in number:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs.
- Plural subjects take plural verbs.

GMAT questions testing number ask about verbs in the 3rd person singular (*he/she/it*) and plural (*they*) forms.

Important: 3rd person singular verbs always end in –s; 3rd person plural verbs do not. Note that this is the opposite of nouns, which take an –s in the plural.

	Correct	Incorrect
Singular subject	The rate increases.	The rate increase.
Plural subject (simple)	The rates increase.	The rates increases.
Plural subject (compound)	The rate and the velocity increase.	The rate and the velocity increases.

Important: *is/are, was/were, and has/have* are the most frequently tested verbs. When you see the conjugated form of one of these verbs underlined, you should immediately begin by identifying its subject.

Unfortunately, most subject-verb agreement questions that appear on the GMAT are considerably longer than the above examples, not to mention a good deal more complex. Furthermore, subjects and verbs are unlikely to appear next to one another, making disagreements difficult to spot.

That said, there are a limited number of ways in which subjects and verbs are likely to be separated from one another in GMAT sentences. The following pages detail these common constructions, as well as a number of additional formats in which subject-verb agreement errors could potentially appear.

A. Subject – Non-Essential Clause – Verb

On the GMAT, non-essential clauses may be inserted between subjects and verbs in order to distract from the fact that the subject is singular and the verb is plural or vice-versa.

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, **are** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which is prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, **is** one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Whenever you encounter a non-essential clause, you should immediately cross it out. Most often it is used to distract you from spotting subject-verb agreement errors, but it can be used to distract from other types of errors as well (discussed later). Do not forget this step! Otherwise, you risk overlooking errors that can be easily spotted.

Subject-verb agreement errors can also appear *within* non-essential clauses, so if you've eliminated a non-essential clause and can't find another problem in the sentence, go back and check.

Incorrect: Moroccan green tea, which **are** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

Correct: Moroccan green tea, which **is** prepared with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is one of the most popular drinks across North Africa.

You may also encounter subject-verb agreement questions based on essential clauses (“that”) clauses.

Incorrect: Green tea, a drink typically served with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is a beverage that **have** long been used as a form of medicine in many North African countries.

Correct: Green tea, a drink typically served with a healthy amount of sugar and mint leaves, is a beverage that **has** long been used as a form of medicine in many North African countries.

B. Subject – Prepositional Phrase – Verb

A prepositional phrase is a phrase that begins with a preposition, e.g. *in the box*, *under the table*, *over the hill*.

Prepositional phrases may be inserted between subjects and verbs to distract from disagreements. When this is the case, the last word of the prepositional phrase (or series of prepositional phrases) will be the last word before the verb.

In the sentences below, the prepositional phrase is underlined.

Incorrect: **Changes** in the balance of trade **seems** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect the ways in which consumers choose to spend their money.

Correct: **Changes** in the balance of trade **seem** remote from everyday concerns, but they can drastically affect the ways in which consumers choose to spend their money.

The above sentence contains a classic trick: the subject (*changes*) is plural and thus requires a plural verb (*seem*).

However, the prepositional phrase inserted between the subject and the verb has as its last word a singular noun (*trade*). If you are not paying close attention, *trade* can easily appear to be the subject of the verb that follows.

C. Prepositional Phrase – Verb – Subject

In this structure, the normal word order (or **syntax**) of a sentence is reversed so that the prepositional phrase appears at the beginning of a sentence or clause, followed by the verb and then the subject.

In the sentences below, the subject is underlined, the prepositional phrase is italicized, and the verb is in bold.

Incorrect: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extends** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Correct: *Along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **extend** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

The preposition can also appear as the second word in a clause. In such cases, it will most likely be preceded by a participle, either present (-ING) or past (-ED, -OWN, -UNG).

Incorrect: Running *along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **is** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Correct: Running *along the Loup Canal in Nebraska* **are** parks, lakes, and trails owned and operated by the Loup power district, a public power utility serving residents of four separate counties.

Although the reversed syntax makes the sentence sound odd, the syntax itself is not the problem. Rather, it is a distraction tool that makes the disagreement between the subject and the verb more difficult to hear.

In addition, errors may appear in which the verb comes before the subject but is not preceded by a prepositional phrase:

Incorrect: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **is** its long-term effects.

Correct: Radioactivity is generally not considered harmful when people are exposed to it at low levels for brief periods, but less clear **are** its long-term effects.

D. Compound Subjects

When two singular nouns are connected by *and*, the result is a **compound subject**. Compound subjects are always plural and require plural verbs.

If you only notice the second noun – the noun closer to the verb – you are likely to think that a singular verb is correct. As a result, you should always make sure to back up and determine the *complete* subject before deciding whether a given verb is correct.

Incorrect: Louise Erdrich's fiction and poetry **draws** on their author's Chippewa heritage to examine complex familial relationships among Native Americans as they reflect on issues of identity in American culture.

Correct: Louise Erdrich's fiction and poetry **draw** on their author's Chippewa heritage to examine complex familial relationships among Native Americans as they reflect on issues of identity in American culture.

Note that compound subjects can also appear in conjunction with other features, such as prepositional phrases or flipped subjects and verbs. Particularly in the case of the latter, you must be very careful to identify the complete subject. If you stop reading after the noun that follows the verb and do not notice the word *and*, you are likely to think that the subject is singular.

Compound subject with prepositional phrase:

Incorrect: The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree **distinguishes** that species from the equally common English Elm tree.

Correct: The highly textured bark and distinctive silhouette of the Dutch Elm tree **distinguish** that species from the equally common English Elm tree.

Compound subject with flipped subject and verb:

Incorrect: In the galleries of the Louvre museum **hangs** Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Eugene Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, two of the best-known paintings in the world.

Correct: In the galleries of the Louvre museum **hang** Leonardo da Vinci's *Mona Lisa* and Eugene Delacroix's *Liberty Leading the People*, two of the best-known paintings in the world.

E. There is/There are, etc.

There is
There was
There has been

} take **singular** nouns

There are
There were
There have been

} take **plural** nouns

Incorrect: In recent months, there **has been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances, increasing speculation that it may soon declare bankruptcy.

Correct: In recent months, there **have been** many questions raised about the handling of the company's finances, increasing speculation that it may soon declare bankruptcy.

F. Neither...Nor + Verb

When *(n)either... (n)or* is used, the verb must agree with the noun that immediately precedes the verb.

Incorrect: Neither the senator nor her aide **are** expected to appear at the press conference today.

Correct: Neither the senator nor her aide **is** expected to appear at the press conference today.

When *(n)either* is used without *(n)or*, a singular verb should be used. *(N)either* is short for *(n)either one*.

Incorrect: Both the senator and her aide appeared at the press conference, but neither **were** willing to speak to reporters about the recent scandal.

Correct: Both the senator and her aide appeared at the press conference, but neither **was** willing to speak to reporters about the recent scandal.

In addition:

Collective (group) nouns = singular, e.g. *agency, company, board, institution, organization, team, family, and committee*. Note that while British English considers these nouns plural, the GMAT only considers them singular.

Incorrect: Founded in 1948, the World Health Organization **support** countries' attempts to improve the health of their citizens by coordinating the efforts of multiple sectors.

Correct: Founded in 1948, the World Health Organization **supports** countries' attempts to improve the health of their citizens by coordinating the efforts of multiple sectors.

A number = plural

The number = singular

Incorrect: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, a number of workers **has** unexpectedly begun to protest the new administration's economic policies.

Correct: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, a number of workers **have** unexpectedly begun to protest the new administration's economic policies.

Incorrect: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, the number of workers beginning to protest the new administration's economic policies **are** unexpectedly high.

Correct: Although company executives and labor leaders were able to reach a rapid agreement, the number of workers beginning to protest the new administration's economic policies **is** unexpectedly high.

One = singular

Although this rule may seem exceedingly obvious, it is easy to become confused if a prepositional phrase is inserted between the subject and the verb.

Incorrect: According to a view held by many economists, one of the fundamental causes of inflation **involve** changes in the demand for goods.

Correct: According to a view held by many economists, one of the fundamental causes of inflation **involves** changes in the demand for goods.

Each (one) = singular

Incorrect: Each of the labor union's members **are** expected to attend the meeting at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Correct: Each of the labor union's members **is** expected to attend the meeting at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Every (one) = singular

Incorrect: Every one of the labor union's members **are** expected to attend the meeting, at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Correct: Every one of the labor union's members **is** expected to attend the meeting, at which next year's contract will be negotiated with company officials.

Gerunds (-ING words) = singular

Incorrect: Playing parlor games such as charades **were** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

Correct: Playing parlor games such as charades **was** a popular pastime in the early twentieth century, before the invention of radio and television.

Infinitives (TO + verb) = singular

Incorrect: To train for competition in an athletic event at the Olympics **are** to be subjected to a grueling regime of discipline and training, one that must be followed strictly for months or even years.

Correct: To train for competition in an athletic event at the Olympics **is** to be subjected to a grueling regime of discipline and training, one that must be followed strictly for months or even years.

That/whether/what = singular

Although the use of these words as subjects may sound odd to you, it is perfectly acceptable grammatically. If anything, answers containing these constructions are more likely to be correct and should therefore be considered very carefully, precisely because they sound so odd to most test-takers.

Correct: That Jane Goodall became the world's foremost expert on chimpanzees **was** hardly a surprise to those who had observed her childhood fascination with animals.

Correct: What has been repeatedly criticized **is** the author's refusal to discuss her work publicly, not the content of her novels.

Correct: Whether *The Tale of Genji* was actually written entirely by Murasaki Shikibu **is** unlikely to ever be determined unless a major archival discovery is made.

Note that some of these words are condensed versions of longer phrases that do use nouns as subjects, e.g. *that* = the fact that, *whether* = the question whether. You may find it helpful to plug in the complete phrase.

With that information, we can return to our question.

The presence of mysterious paintings in a cave located outside Columbia, Missouri, remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying the images created by ancient residents of the Mississippi Valley.

- (A) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (B) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began to study
- (C) remains puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (D) remains puzzling to archaeologists, beginning in the mid-1980s to study
- (E) remain puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s would begin to study

Because *The presence*, the subject of the verb, is singular, the verb must be singular as well: *remains*, not *remain*. (A), (B), and (E) can thus be eliminated.

Notice that the question of whether *began* should be followed by the gerund (*studying*) or the infinitive (*to study*) has become entirely irrelevant. (In fact, both versions are acceptable.)

Now let's consider just choices (C) and (D):

- (C) remains puzzling to archaeologists, who in the mid-1980s began studying
- (D) remains puzzling to archaeologists, beginning in the mid-1980s to study

Neither of these answers is flat-out grammatically wrong, although if you have a good ear, you can probably hear that (D) sounds somewhat awkward and be reasonably confident that (C) is correct.

Otherwise, you can think of it this way: the date *mid-1980s* indicates that the sentence is describing a completed action in the past, and that a verb in the simple past should therefore be used. (C) contains such a verb (*began*), along with a subject (*who*), whereas (D) contains only a participle (*beginning*). The construction in (C) is thus clearer and more precise, making that answer correct.

Cumulative Review #3: Chapters 1-12 (Answers p. 175)

1. The signing of the Treaty of Paris in 1763 marked the end of the Seven Years' War, also known as the French and Indian War, and signaling the start of British dominance outside of Europe.
 - (A) and signaling
 - (B) signaled
 - (C) and signaled
 - (D) and has signaled
 - (E) and to signal
2. Tiny houses, generally defined as dwellings that are smaller than 400 square feet and often being built on wheels, first appeared in the early 2000s and have become mainstream in the years since.
 - (A) and often being built on wheels
 - (B) and has often been built on wheels
 - (C) that have often been built on wheels
 - (D) and that are often built on wheels
 - (E) and that have often built on wheels
3. Chatbots, text-based services let users complete tasks such as checking news, organizing meetings, or booking reservations, are usually powered by artificial intelligence but can also rely on humans.
 - (A) let users complete tasks such as checking news, organizing meetings, or booking reservations, are
 - (B) that let users complete tasks such as checking news, organizing meetings, or booking reservations, are
 - (C) which lets users complete tasks like checking news, organizing meetings, or booking reservations,
 - (D) that lets users complete tasks like checking news, organizing meetings, and booking reservations, is
 - (E) which let users complete tasks such as checking news, organizing meetings, or booking reservations by sending short messages, are
4. So voracious is the hippo's appetite for tasty greens and, when given the chance, they do not hesitate to maraud farmers' cash crops.
 - (A) and, when given the chance, they do not hesitate
 - (B) and, when it is given the chance, it does not hesitate
 - (C) and, when it is given the chance, not hesitating
 - (D) that, when given the chance, hippos do not hesitate
 - (E) that, when given the chance, does not hesitate
5. In the 1960s and '70s, leaders of the self-sufficiency movement urged their audience to return to a more traditional way of life and to become less reliant on the outside world because they believed that doing this would free people from their dependence on a damaging industrial society.
 - (A) life and to become less reliant on the outside world because they believed that doing this
 - (B) life and become less reliant on the outside world because they believed that doing so
 - (C) life and becoming less reliant on the outside world because of their belief that this
 - (D) life and becoming less reliant on the outside world because they believed that it
 - (E) life and they became less reliant on the outside world because they believed that doing so
6. In nineteenth century China, the Qing Dyanasty was weakened not by a single event but rather by a large number of factors, including widespread social strife, an exploding population, and economic stagnation.
 - (A) widespread social strife, an exploding population, and economic stagnation
 - (B) widespread social strife, a population that was exploding, and the stagnation of the economy
 - (C) widespread social strife, a population that was exploding, and a stagnating economy
 - (D) the wide spread of social strife, an exploding population, and the stagnation of the economy
 - (E) widespread social strife, an exploding population, and the stagnation of the economy
7. Once primarily restricted to a single season, some places now are experiencing forest fires as a constant threat, burning earlier and later in the year.
 - (A) some places now are experiencing forest fires as a constant threat,
 - (B) some places experience forest fires now are a constant threat,
 - (C) forest fires are now a constant threat in some places,
 - (D) forest fires are now a constant threat in some places and
 - (E) some places experience forest fires as a constant threat now,

8. A report from the security firm Symantec suggests that in comparison to 2014, the number of fake technical support scams reported rose by 200% in 2015.
- (A) in comparison to 2014, the number of fake technical support scams reported rose by 200% in 2015
 - (B) as compared to 2014, the number of fake technical support scams reported had risen by 200% in 2015
 - (C) there were 200% more reports of fake technical support scams in 2015 than in 2014
 - (D) there were 200% more reports of fake technical support scams in 2015 than 2014 was
 - (E) there have been 200% more reports of fake technical support scams in 2015 than 2014 had
9. In the early 1960s, shortly after lasers were invented, Robert Forward, a physicist and science fiction writer, had suggested that it could be used to push sails in space.
- (A) had suggested that it could be used
 - (B) had suggested that they can be used
 - (C) has suggested that they could be used
 - (D) would suggest that it could be used
 - (E) suggested that they could be used
10. In order to protect their property, owners of historical homes are being encouraged to update electrical, plumbing, and heating systems in accordance with local code requirements, and insuring their properties for their full assessed values.
- (A) and insuring
 - (B) and to insure
 - (C) and will insure
 - (D) and insured
 - (E) and have insured
11. With a call that exceeds 188 decibels, the blue whale is often thought to vocalize louder than any creature in the animal kingdom.
- (A) louder than any creature
 - (B) louder than any other creature
 - (C) more loudly than any creature
 - (D) more loudly than any other creature
 - (E) louder in comparison to any other creature
12. Many successful startup companies have raised hundreds of millions of dollars, of which the majority must be repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before employees receive any funds.
- (A) of which the majority must be repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before employees receive any funds
 - (B) of which the majority must be repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before employees had received any funds
 - (C) the majority of it must be repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before employees receive any funds
 - (D) the majority of this must be repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before the reception of any funds by employees
 - (E) the majority of which are repaid to investors and other preferred shareholders before employees receive any funds
13. By the time the Spanish arrived in Central America in 1517, the political and economic power that had erected the region's iconic pyramids and that had once sustained a population of some two million people, had vanished.
- (A) and that had once sustained a population of some two million people, had vanished
 - (B) and that had at one time sustained a population of some two million people, has vanished
 - (C) and that once sustained a population of some two million people, would vanish
 - (D) and once to sustain a population of some two million people, had vanished
 - (E) and once sustaining a population of some two million people, had vanished
14. The court of Versailles was the center of political power in France from 1682, when Louis XIV moved from Paris, until the beginning of the French Revolution; not until the royal family was forced to return to the capital in October 1789 that Paris again became the seat of government.
- (A) that Paris again became
 - (B) when Paris again became
 - (C) that Paris would again become
 - (D) has Paris again become
 - (E) did Paris again become