



smart for life

The purpose of this study guide is to prepare you for the placement test that places you in English courses at Central Piedmont Community College. As you work through this study guide you may go back and change answers; however, on the actual placement test, you cannot go back to previous answers; once an answer is submitted, it cannot be changed. You are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to practice because the actual placement test is a serious endeavor since your test scores will determine your placement into your classes. In most cases, retesting is not allowed. Because of this, it is very important that you do your very best.

The following sample questions are similar to the format and questions on the CPCC Sentence Skills test. Reviewing these samples will give you a good idea of how the test works and just what grammar, punctuation, and sentence skills you may wish to review before taking the actual test itself. Please note the Reading Comprehension placement test is required in combination with the Sentence Skills test for placement into ENG 111.

Here are some test-taking strategies that may help you when you are ready to take your placement test.

- Schedule your test at a date and time that will allow you to be well-rested and fully alert. You should reschedule your test if you are feeling tired or sick.
- Get a good night's sleep the day before.
- Take your time. The placement tests are not timed, so relax and choose your answers carefully.
- Read all directions and test questions carefully. Be sure of your answer before going on to the next question. Since each question is scored as you go, it is not possible to go back and change answers.
- Use scratch paper to work out problems.

Sentence Skills Tutorial

Part I. *Select the best version of the underlined part of the sentence. The first choice is the same as in the original sentence. If you think the original sentence is best, choose the first answer.*

1. My biology instructor planning to give the class time to study for the final exam.
 - a. planning
 - b. are planning
 - c. with a plan
 - d. plans

2. After an hour, the dancers changing their routines and partners.
 - a. changing
 - b. is changing
 - c. change
 - d. with a change

3. The people in the library looking happy.
 - a. looking
 - b. look
 - c. are looking
 - d. looks

4. When an accountant learns a foreign language, he or she gets access to a wider job market.
 - a. gets
 - b. got
 - c. get
 - d. getting

5. The company that I worked for last summer gone bankrupt.
 - a. gone
 - b. going
 - c. has went
 - d. went

6. After they had eaten, their mother arrive with cartons of ice cream for dessert.
 - a. arrive
 - b. arrives
 - c. arrived
 - d. arriving

7. Can another mountain climber rescued those men?
- rescued
 - rescue
 - rescuing
 - has rescued
8. Arnold's parrot greets visitors and sometimes flew outside the house.
- flew
 - flown
 - flies
 - fly
9. After his boring speech, the mob threw rotten fruit at the pompous politician.
- threw
 - threwed
 - have thrown
 - throwing
10. Mr. Tyler taught Harriet and Betsy a good lesson.
- teached
 - taughted
 - taught
 - teaching

ANSWERS:

1. D	3. B	5. D	7. B	9. A
2. C	4. A	6. C	8. C	10. C

Part II. *In this part of the study guide you are asked to rewrite sentences. You will be given four choices. Pick the one that makes your new sentence grammatically correct. The new sentence should have essentially the same meaning as the original.*

1. The banjo player was strumming his banjo, was stomping his feet, and was singing enthusiastically.
 - a. The banjo player strummed his banjo, stomped his feet, and sang enthusiastically.
 - b. The banjo player was strumming his banjo, stomping his feet, and singing enthusiastically.
 - c. The banjo player had been strumming his banjo, stomping his feet, and singing enthusiastically.
 - d. The banjo player strummed his banjo, was stomping his feet, and sang enthusiastically.

2. Julie sometimes comes over to visit us, her little brother comes too.
 - a. Julie sometimes comes over to visit us: her little brother comes too.
 - b. Julie sometimes comes over to visit us; her little brother comes too.
 - c. Julie sometimes comes over to visit us her little brother comes too.
 - d. Julie sometimes comes over to visit us as her little brother comes too.

3. The waiter suggested lamb chops, green beans, and that we try the scalloped potatoes.
 - a. The waiter suggested lamb chops, green beans, and scalloped potatoes be tried by us.
 - b. The waiter suggested that we try lamb chops, green beans, and scalloped potatoes.
 - c. The waiter suggested lamb chops, green beans, and scalloped potatoes.
 - d. Trying lamb chops, green beans, and scalloped potatoes was suggested by the waiter.

4. If Susan wins first prize, she will have been getting many offers to perform.
 - a. If Susan wins first prize, she will have gotten many offers to perform.
 - b. If Susan wins first prize, she was getting many offers to perform.
 - c. If Susan wins first prize, she had been getting many offers to perform.
 - d. If Susan wins first prize, she will get many offers to perform.

5. The car has front-wheel drive and is equipped with power brakes.
 - a. The car has front-wheel drive and is equipped with power brakes.
 - b. The car has front-wheel drive and was equipped with power brakes.
 - c. The car has front-wheel drive and has been equipped with power brakes.
 - d. The car has front-wheel drive and will have been equipped with power brakes.

6. Him and Beth will take care of the arrangements.
 - a. Him and her will take care of the arrangements.
 - b. Beth and him will take care of the arrangements.
 - c. He and her will take care of the arrangements.
 - d. He and Beth will take care of the arrangements.

7. They're are three chickens in the basket.
 - a. They're three chickens in the basket.
 - b. There are three chickens in the basket.
 - c. There're three chickens in the basket.
 - d. There is three chickens in the basket.

8. Charles Lindbergh flew the airplane named the *Spirit of St. Louis* across the Atlantic ocean.
 - a. Charles Lindbergh flew the airplane named the *spirit of st. louis* across the Atlantic Ocean.
 - b. Charles Lindbergh flew the airplane named the *Spirit of St. Louis* across the Atlantic Ocean.
 - c. Charles Lindbergh flew the airplane named the "Spirit of St. Louis" across the Atlantic Ocean.
 - d. Charles Lindbergh flew the airplane named the *spirit of st. louis* across the atlantic ocean.

9. The boys therefore decided to call a tow truck.
 - a. The boys, therefore decided to call a tow truck.
 - b. The boys; therefore, decided to call a tow truck.
 - c. The boys, therefore, decided to call a tow truck.
 - d. The boys therefore, decided to call a tow truck.

10. Thomas painted a picture of the old barn, and in the picture he painted the barn as mysterious an deserted.
 - a. Thomas painted a picture that was mysterious and deserted of the old barn.
 - b. Thomas painted a picture of the old mysterious, deserted barn.
 - c. Thomas painted a picture of the old barn, and he painted the barn as mysterious and deserted.
 - d. Thomas painted a picture of the old barn that was mysterious and deserted.

ANSWERS:

- | | | | | |
|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. A | 3. C | 5. A | 7. B | 9. A |
| 2. B | 4. D | 6. D | 8. B | 10. B |