

Bell Ringer

December 5, 2011



Passage I

A Microscope in the Kitchen

I grew up with buckets, shovels, and nets

waiting by the back door; hip-waders hanging in
1 the closet; tide table charts covering the refrigerator

door; and a microscope was sitting on the kitchen
2

table. Having studied, my mother is a marine biologist.
3

Our household might have been described as
4 uncooperative. Our meals weren't always served in
4 the expected order of breakfast, lunch, and supper.

1. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. waiting, by the back door,
C. waiting by the back door,
D. waiting by the back door
2. **E.** NO CHANGE
G. would sit
H. sitting
J. sat
3. **A.** NO CHANGE
B. As my mother's interest is science, she is
C. My mother's occupation is that of
D. My mother is
4. Which choice would most effectively introduce the rest of this paragraph?
E. NO CHANGE
G. There seemed to be no explanation for why Mom ran our household the way she did.
H. Our household didn't run according to a typical schedule.
J. Mom ran our household in a most spectacular manner.



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1.

The best answer is A. It provides the best punctuation for the underlined portion. The phrase "waiting by the back door" describes the noun *nets* and is essential because it tells which nets the narrator "grew up with." Therefore, no comma should be placed after *nets*. The semicolon after the word *door* is appropriate because semicolons are used between items in a series when one or more of these items include commas.

2.

The best answer is H. The verb form *sitting* is best here because it creates a parallel structure for all three items in the series: "nets *waiting*," "hip-waders *hanging*," "a microscope *sitting*."

3.

The best answer is D. It offers the clearest, most concise wording for this sentence. "My mother is a marine biologist," is a clear statement that avoids unnecessary or confusing words.

4.

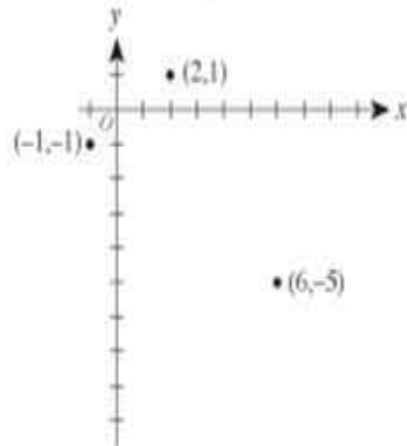
The best answer is H. This is a good introductory sentence because the rest of the paragraph explains how the narrator's household "didn't run according to a typical schedule." The paragraph goes on to say that "meals weren't always served in the expected order" and that the mother operated according to the tides, which were not on a typical household schedule.

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12. In the standard (x, y) coordinate plane below, 3 of the vertices of a rectangle are shown. Which of the following is the 4th vertex of the rectangle?



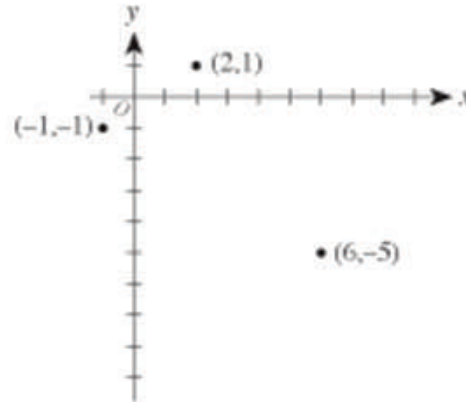
- F. $(3, -7)$
- G. $(4, -8)$
- H. $(5, -1)$
- J. $(8, -3)$
- K. $(9, -3)$



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Correct!



The correct response is F. When moving from $(2, 1)$ to $(-1, -1)$, you can go 3 units left and 2 units down. Since you want to form a rectangle, you will need to move in the same pattern from $(6, -5)$ to the 4th vertex. Subtract 3 from the x-value, and subtract 2 from the y-value, and you will find the point needed:
 $(6 - 3, -5 - 2) = (3, -7)$.



Bell Ringer

December 7, 2011

Prompts used for the ACT Writing Test:

- describe an issue relevant to high school students
- ask examinees to write about their perspective on the issue

As a starting place, two different perspectives on the issue will be provided. Examinees may choose to support one of these perspectives or to develop a response based on their own perspective.

Sample Prompt

Educators debate extending high school to five years because of increasing demands on students from employers and colleges to participate in extracurricular activities and community service in addition to having high grades. Some educators support extending high school to five years because they think students need more time to achieve all that is expected of them. Other educators do not support extending high school to five years because they think students would lose interest in school and attendance would drop in the fifth year. In your opinion, should high school be extended to five years?

In your essay, take a position on this question. You may write about either one of the two points of view given, or you may present a different point of view on this question. Use specific reasons and examples to support your position.

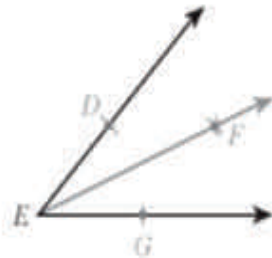
The standard directions in the second paragraph above are a part of all prompts used on the Writing Test.

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December 8, 2011



6. In the figure below, ray \overrightarrow{EF} was constructed starting from rays \overrightarrow{ED} and \overrightarrow{EG} . By using a compass, D and G were marked equidistant from E on rays \overrightarrow{ED} and \overrightarrow{EG} . The compass was then used to locate a point F , distinct from E , so that F is equidistant from D and G . For all constructions defined by the above steps, the measures of $\angle DEF$ and $\angle GEF$:



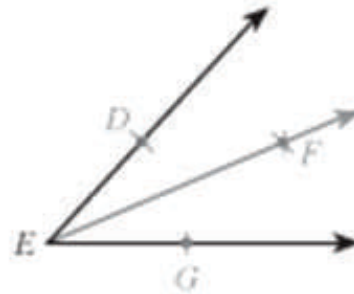
- F. are equal.
- G. are NOT equal.
- H. sum to 30° .
- J. sum to 45° .
- K. sum to 60° .



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Correct!



The correct answer is F. If you draw line segments \overline{DF} and \overline{FG} , you can show $\triangle DEF \cong \triangle GEF$ by SSS (side-side-side congruence). So, $\angle DEF \cong \angle GEF$ because corresponding parts of congruent triangles are congruent.



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December 9, 2011

ACT Math Section Strategies

- You have 60 minutes to answer 60 questions. The questions start off easy and get harder as you go.
- If you're spending more than a couple of minutes on a question, skip it and come back.
- Answer all questions! If you have no clue what the correct answer is, always choose the same answer. You will have a better chance of guessing correctly.
- Know when to use your calculator (A list of calculator sample questions will be given). Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of the questions can be solved using the calculator. This would be around 15 questions that can be easily solved if you know how and when to use the calculator appropriately.
- Solve by "plug and chug" when possible.
 - Start in the middle if the choices are in numerical sequence
 - Start at the bottom if the choices are NOT in numerical sequence
- Don't waste time reading the test directions at the beginning of the test.
- Decide on a strategy for marking your answer sheet.
- Don't waste time showing every single step. No one will be grading your work.
- If you feel like you are doing badly, don't worry, so does everyone else!
- Take the ACT as many times as possible (12 maximum)
- **Take residual ACT tests at your local college or university**
- **Always order a copy of your tests and answers when available**
 - Available on December, April, and June national tests
 - \$18 for a copy of the questions, your answers, and the correct answers
 - You can order when you register or up to 90 days after the test