

Planning, Revising, Editing, and Rewriting

Name: _____

Date: _____

Score: _____ / 10



Quick Review

REVISING is changing what the writing SAYS (cutting wordiness, adding specific detail, fixing coherence). EDITING is fixing surface mistakes (spelling, capitalization, punctuation). Strong writers do BOTH - and they fix the actual problem without creating a new one.

PART 1 — READ

Read the passage. Then answer the questions.

Student first draft - My Trip to the Aquarium (with line numbers)

(1) Last Saturday I went to the aquarium with my family. (2) It was very, very, very cool. (3) We saw a lot of stuff. (4) The first thing we saw was the jellyfish tank, which was lit up with blue and pink lights. (5) The jellyfish were drifting like floating umbrellas.

(6) After the jellyfish, we went to the next exhibit. (7) It had a bunch of fish and stuff in it. (8) Their was a big sea turtle that swam right up to the glass. (9) my little brother screamed when he saw it.

(10) The aquarium was good. (11) I had fun. (12) It was a good day.

PART 2 — PRACTICE

Use the student draft below to answer the items.

- Which REVISION of sentence (2) *It was very, very, very cool* is BEST?
 - It was very very cool.
 - The aquarium was the most awesome amazing incredible place ever.
 - The aquarium was unlike any place I had ever visited.
 - It was, in my opinion, sort of pretty cool I guess.
- Sentence (3) says *We saw a lot of stuff*. Which revision adds SPECIFIC DETAIL without creating a new problem?
 - We saw a whole lot of really interesting and cool stuff in there.
 - We saw jellyfish, a sea turtle, and a tank of seahorses.
 - We saw some things, including various items of interest.
 - We saw stuff that was awesome and stuff that was cooler than other stuff.



3. Sentence (8) reads *Their was a big sea turtle that swam right up to the glass*. Which is the BEST EDIT?
- A. There was a big sea turtle that swam right up to the glass.
 - B. Their was a sea turtle, big, that swam up to the glass right up.
 - C. There was a turtle (which is a kind of reptile) that came over near the glass area.
 - D. Their, a big sea turtle, swam right up to the glass.
4. Sentence (9) reads *my little brother screamed when he saw it*. Which is the BEST EDIT?
- A. my little Brother Screamed When he saw it.
 - B. My little brother screamed when he Saw it.
 - C. my little brother screamed when he saw it!!
 - D. My little brother screamed when he saw it.
5. Sentences (10), (11), and (12) end the draft with three short, similar sentences. Which is the BEST REVISION?
- A. The aquarium was good. I had fun. It was a good day. The end.
 - B. The aquarium was a good place that I had fun at on my fun day.
 - C. Walking out of the aquarium that afternoon, I already wanted to go back, especially to see the jellyfish one more time.
 - D. The aquarium = good. Fun = had. Day = good.
6. Sentence (6) *After the jellyfish, we went to the next exhibit* followed by Sentence (7) *It had a bunch of fish and stuff in it*. What is the BEST coherence revision?
- A. After the jellyfish, we went to the next exhibit. It had a bunch of fish and stuff in it. Yes, it really did.
 - B. After the jellyfish, we went to the next exhibit, which was a coral reef tank full of bright clownfish, blue tangs, and one giant green moray eel.
 - C. We went to the next exhibit, after the jellyfish, where there was a bunch of stuff and also some fish.
 - D. After the jellyfish exhibit, we went to a next thing that was an exhibit with various fish-like items.
7. Read this sentence the writer wants to add: *The lights changed slowly from blue to pink while soft music played*. Where would it BEST fit?
- A. Inside paragraph 1, between sentences (4) and (5), with the jellyfish description.
 - B. Inside paragraph 2, with the sea turtle.
 - C. After sentence (1), as part of the introduction.
 - D. After sentence (12), as the final sentence of the piece.



8. Which revision FIXES ONE PROBLEM but creates a NEW one?
- A. Replacing *very, very, very cool* with *memorable* (cuts wordiness; keeps meaning).
 - B. Replacing *a lot of stuff* with *jellyfish, a sea turtle, and seahorses* (adds specifics).
 - C. Capitalizing *my* at the start of sentence (9) (fixes capitalization).
 - D. Replacing *The aquarium was good* with *The aquarium was good and it had a lot of nice stuff inside it that was good* (cuts repetition by ADDING more repetition).
9. Rewrite this flat sentence to be more SPECIFIC: *The food at lunch was good.*

10. Read this sentence: *my dog ran threw the yard yesterday.* Find and FIX the TWO surface errors (capitalization and a homophone). Write the corrected sentence.



Answer Keys

- 1 A B C D
- 2 A B C D
- 3 A B C D
- 4 A B C D
- 5 A B C D

- 6 A B C D
- 7 A B C D
- 8 A B C D
- 9
- 10

Explanations

| | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. C | C cuts the empty intensifier <i>very, very, very</i> and replaces it with a specific, content-rich sentence - that's revision for word choice. A only removes punctuation. B swaps one stack of intensifiers for another. D weakens the statement with hedges. |
| 2. B | B swaps the vague word <i>stuff</i> for SPECIFIC nouns (jellyfish, sea turtle, seahorses). A adds intensifiers without specifics. C is a thesaurus rewrite that's still vague. D adds wordiness and repetition. |
| 3. A | A fixes the homophone error (<i>Their then There</i>) and changes nothing else - clean editing. B reorders without fixing the spelling. C edits the spelling but adds an off-topic aside. D rewrites in a way that creates a confusing comma-only sentence. |
| 4. D | D capitalizes the first word of the sentence - the only edit needed. A over-capitalizes. B capitalizes a random word. C adds extra punctuation but ignores the actual capitalization error. |
| 5. C | C combines and revises the three flat sentences into ONE specific, image-rich closing that ties back to the jellyfish from earlier. A just adds The end. B reuses the same vague words. D collapses into note form, not a sentence. |
| 6. B | B combines the two weak sentences and replaces a bunch of fish and stuff with SPECIFIC species - that's both coherence AND specific-detail revision. A just repeats. C reorders without fixing vagueness. D rewrites with even vaguer language. |
| 7. A | The new sentence describes the JELLYFISH TANK lighting. Paragraph 1 already mentions blue and pink lights and drifting jellyfish, so the sentence belongs there. C is too early (before any setting). B is the wrong exhibit. D drops new information after the conclusion. |
| 8. D | D names a revision that tries to fix flatness but introduces MORE wordiness and repetition (good ... good) - fixing one problem, creating a new one. A, B, and C all improve the draft cleanly. |
| 9. | Answer: Examples: (1) The grilled cheese had crisp golden edges and stretched into long strings of melted cheddar when I pulled it apart. (2) Lunch was warm tomato soup with little oyster crackers floating like rafts on top. (3) The pasta was buttery, salty, and topped with so much parmesan I could smell it from across the table. Accept any rewrite that (a) replaces the vague word <i>good</i> with SPECIFIC details (a named food, a sense detail, a description). NOT acceptable: a rewrite that just adds intensifiers (very, very good, super good) without specifics. |
| 10. | Answer: Correct: My dog ran through the yard yesterday. Accept ONLY a sentence that (a) capitalizes <i>My</i> at the start and (b) corrects the homophone <i>threw then through</i> . Reject any version that introduces new errors or rewrites the sentence beyond fixing those two issues. |



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