

Key for Grammar Practice Test

1. C – The word "like" is used to make a comparison to an object, as in "It looked like an elephant." We use the phrase "as if" to introduce a sentence clause, such as "It looked as if he was going to fall." [The sentence clause here is "he was going to fall."]

2. D – This is a subject/verb agreement question. The word "number," as it states in the Grammar Review Packet, can be singular or plural, depending on the meaning of the sentence. *note: this is really the only case in which we rely on meaning to denote agreement. Here, if our subject is "number" and it denotes a quantity, as in "A number of students were absent," the subject is plural, but if "number" denotes a numerical unit, as in "The number of students seems to be dwindling," the subject and verb are singular.

3. B – In this case, we must replace "them" with "they" because, as we have a tendency to do in English, a fraction of the sentence has been left out for convenience. The complete sentence would read, "Due to their lack of training, we accountants are smarter than they are smart." (If you add the words "are smart," it's easier to see why we need the subject pronoun ("they") here instead of the object pronoun ("them").)

4. E – The main issue in this sentence is that of "who/whom." Here, though the word "whom" is the first word of the sentence, the position which usually denotes our subject, "whom" is actually receiving the action, denoting the person receiving the action of the verb "select."

5. C – This one's easy. It's a little-known fact that the past participle verb form (the -ed/-en form) of the verb "to hang" (as in from a noose, separate from the verb "to hang," as in putting your clothes on a hanger) is "hanged," in order to distinguish it from the verb of the same spelling.

6. B – This is another subject/verb agreement problem. "Here is/are" or "there is/are" constructions are a way of inverting the subject and verb order (in English, subjects usually precede verbs). So, we must look beyond the "to be" verb for our subject, then backtrack to make sure they agree. Because "Casey Martin and Joe

Montana" are two subjects joined by "and," they are treated as plural, and therefore the verb must be "are," the plural.

7. D – Ah, the old "lie or lay" topic. This one's easier if you chart it out, keeping in mind that there are two different verbs here: "to lie," meaning to recline oneself (or to tell an untruth, which is another verb with the same spelling), and "to lay," meaning to put something down on a surface. "Lie" is thus an active verb (performed directly by the actor), while "lay" is passive (performed by the receiver of action). The confusion comes from the simple past tense forms of these verbs and the past participle (has/have/had) forms. Here's a chart to remember the difference:

	To Lie	To Lay
Past Tense Form:	lay	laid
Past Participle Form:	lain	laid

So, in this sentence, obviously "The cat" is performing the action itself, and so we need the past participle ("had") form of the verb "to lie," which is "lain."

8. E – The main issue here is "farther/further." According to the Harbrace College Handbook, "farther" is a word most often used to denote geographic distance, as in "I don't think I can walk any farther," while "further" is used to denote addition, as in "He needed further proof" or "We experienced further delay at the airport." "Farther" refers to physical distance, while "further" refers to an extension of time or degree.

9. A – Again, this is a subject/verb agreement question dealing with the word "number." Here, "number" is a subject denoting a numerical quantity, and so it must be singular, paired with the singular verb "seems."

10.E – As stated in the Grammar Review Packet, the subject/verb agreement topic with "neither/nor" or "either/or," when using two subjects of different number (sing./pl.), depends on which subject is closest to the verb. Here, since "the six guards" is plural, the verb must be the plural "think."

11. C – This one's a pronoun issue, and there's a long explanation and a short one: long explanation – the objective pronoun "him" in this case is incorrect because the "him" is not what has resulted in "Randy's argumentative nature;" instead, it is the "being" that has caused his nature. Thus, in order to allow that the word "being" is the object referred to, we must change "him" to possessive "his," so that it merely modifies "being," instead of taking its power as the object; short explanation – you can shortcut the thinking for this one and just remember that anytime you see an "-ing" verb following a pronoun, you'll need a possessive pronoun, not an objective one.

12. D – This is a faulty predication issue. Again, as is popular in English, a fraction of the sentence here has been left out. If we restore it, the sentence is "His masterful skills in the culinary arts are as good as any professional chef's masterful skills." Here, we can see that the possessive 's is necessary. Otherwise, the sentence makes an error in predication, making a comparison not between one person's skill and another's, but between one person's skill and an actual person, which is illogical and therefore ungrammatical.

13. B – This is another subject/verb agreement question involving additive elements. In this case, the additive element is "as well as," and from the Grammar Review Packet, we see that we can ignore any object which follows an additive phrase. So, our subject is merely "The piano" here, and our verb must be singular "has."

14. A – Again, we have the who/whom topic. An easy shortcut for remembering this one is that any word which follows a preposition in grammar is called an "object of the preposition," and so if we extend this to pronouns that follow prepositions such as "to," that pronoun must automatically be an object pronoun. Thus, here we need "whomever" instead of "whoever." If this is too difficult to remember, you can still use the "actor or receiver?" question to figure it out. For example, here the pronoun "whoever" is actually receiving "this album," so it must be changed to the object/receiver "whom."

15. C – This one's an adjective/adverb issue, and it's tricky because it uses the linking verb "to taste." When we use linking verbs that refer to the quality of something, generally this is closer to an adjective function than an adverb function (adjectives tell us what

kind (quality) of noun we're using, and adverbs tell us how we perform a certain verb). Thus, if "the teriyaki chicken" in this sentence is tasting badly, it has a tongue and is using that tongue in a bad or wrong way. However, if "the teriyaki chicken" is tasting bad, then it has a bad taste, referring more to the noun "taste" than to the verb "to taste," and this of course makes more sense. We need the adjective "bad" instead of "badly."

16. E – A normal tendency for this question is to choose D, replacing the subject pronoun "we" with the object pronoun "us." However, because the phrase "we anarchists" is paired with the verb "will not go away," the pronoun "we" is actually in the correct case, the subjective case.

17. A – This one's easy if you remember that the word "media" is actually the plural form of the word "medium." Don't feel bad if you're a journalism student and you didn't know this, because now you do!

18. A – This is another pronoun issue, similar to # 14 above. The phrase "Jenny and I" follows the preposition "by," and therefore is receiving the action of the verb "granting" and functioning as an object of the preposition. We must change "I" to "me."

19. D – Oh boy, the old tendency to mix reflexive pronouns (–self pronouns) with possessive pronouns! Many of us do it in speech, but it's ungrammatical, so just remember that possessive pronouns (my/mine, your/yours, our/ours, their/theirs, his/her/hers) can never be reflexive (have –self attached).

20. C – In English, when we catalogue (or list) items in a series, we use parallelism to make each element in the list recognizable as equal, meaning they "sound the same." In this sentence, all items but one begin with an –ing verb ("going," "traveling," and "attending"), so we have an easy solution: option C places "playing" in front of "Frisbee," creating perfect parallelism.