

Answers and Possible Answers for *Successful College Writing*, Sixth Edition – Handbook Exercises

EX 3.1

1. Correct
2. In the United States, for example, colleges and universities provide education to Americans of all classes and backgrounds.
3. At first, state universities were publicly funded schools that trained students in fields such as engineering, education, and agriculture.
4. During the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, graduates of state universities played a key role in America's development as an industrial and economic power.
5. The number of students in college increased greatly in the years after World War II.
6. Federal funding from the 1944 GI Bill made it possible for millions of returning veterans to attend colleges.
7. Many people credit this program with helping to create a strong middle class in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s.
8. Now, about two-thirds of high school graduates will attend college because those with bachelor's degrees earn \$20,000 more a year on average than do people with only high school diplomas.
9. Correct
10. However, as education costs continue to rise, some wonder whether a traditional four-year college is always worth the expense.

EX 3.2

Gila trout are endangered in some stretches of water that are managed as designated wilderness. A hands-off policy would be their doom because exotic trout species now swim in the same streams. Gila trout can survive the competition and the temptation to interbreed only if they swim in isolated tributaries in which a waterfall blocks the upstream movement of other fish. Two decades ago, one such tributary was fortified with a small concrete dam. In other words, a dam was deliberately built in the wilderness. It is often difficult to choose the right way to manage a wilderness area. A scientific grasp of the way the ecosystem works is essential. Such knowledge is not always available, however.

EX 4.1

1. Because nearly every American child . . . Disney World, it has . . . destinations.
2. Shopping . . . convenient, but some people . . . bookstore.
3. Openness is . . . relationship; another is . . . patience.
4. In the 1960s . . . disrespectfully, a situation that has changed dramatically since that time.
5. William Faulkner wrote . . . the U.S. South, and Eudora Welty . . . southern life.
6. With large bodies and tiny wings, bumblebees have long been a puzzle. How do they fly?
7. Glowing in the moonlight with unearthly beauty, the Taj Mahal is aptly called the Pearl Mosque.
8. The Supreme Court . . . decisions because the justices must decide how to interpret the Constitution.
9. Although the clouds . . . struck. However, most boats turned toward shore.
10. Restoring a painting is, indeed, delicate work, and too much enthusiasm can be dangerous.

EX 4.2

Throughout recorded history, people have been fascinated by dreams, and they have wondered what meaning dreams hold. Whether the dreams are ominous or beautiful, people have always wanted to understand them [*correct*]. There are many ancient stories about dream interpretation. One of these is the biblical story of Daniel. Daniel is able to interpret a ruler's dream, a power that convinces the ruler that Daniel is a prophet. Other early writers considered the topic of dream interpretation; to Latin writers, some dreams were meaningful and some were not. Meaningful

dreams could reveal the future, these writers argued, but other dreams were simply the result of eating or drinking too much [*correct*]. Sigmund Freud, the founder of psychoanalysis, dramatically changed the field of dream interpretation. He believed that dreams come from the subconscious. According to Freud, because ideas too frightening for the waking mind often appear in dreams, patients in Freudian therapy need to discuss dream images. Today, not everyone agrees with Freud, but scientists trying to understand the brain still pay attention to dreams. They are certain that dreams reflect modern life because more and more people today dream about computers.

EX 5.1

1. Many members . . . communicate
2. A student . . . expects
3. The United States is
4. laws that require
5. neither a teaching staff nor enough money has been
6. that a person . . . is called
7. Some states . . . have begun
8. Correct
9. children . . . learn a new language and perhaps gain . . .
10. Everyone who studies . . . is likely

EX 5.2

Everyone in the colder climates wants to know whether the next winter will be severe. The National Weather Service, however, usually predicts the weather only a short time in advance. Another method of making weather predictions is popular with many Americans. According to folklore, there are a number of signs to alert people to a hard winter ahead. Among these signs is the brown stripe on a woolly bear caterpillar. If the brown stripe between the caterpillar's two black stripes is wide, some people believe the winter will be a short one. Another of the signs that indicate a hard winter is a large apple harvest [*correct*]. And, of course, almost everyone in the United States has seen news stories on February 2 about groundhogs predicting the end of winter. Folk beliefs, which are not based on science, seem silly to many people. Neither the National Weather Service nor folklore is always able to forecast the weather accurately, however.

EX 6.1

1. nineteenth century changed
2. an island that lies
3. Correct
4. many people in the United States had wanted
5. assumed control of
6. Cuba was allowed
7. a position that placed
8. Correct
9. They rejected it.
10. none of them wants

EX 6.2

Walt Whitman is usually considered one of the greatest American poets. He spent almost his whole life in Brooklyn, New York, but he liked to write about all of America. He was fired from several jobs for laziness and admitted that he liked to lie in bed until noon. But he had a vision: He wanted to create an entirely new kind of poetry [*correct*]. He considered rhyme unimportant, and he did not think new American poetry needed formal structure. Unfortunately for Whitman, his great masterpiece, *Leaves of Grass*, was not an overnight success [*correct*]. Ralph Waldo Emerson admired

it, but Whitman sold very few copies. He revised it continuously until his death. Today, people admire *Leaves of Grass* for its optimism, its beautiful language, its very modern appreciation of the diversity of America, and its astonishing openness about sexuality. Whitman's body of work still moves and surprises readers

EX 7.1

1. That need for communication is always
2. Because of the importance of the information, it must often be
3. because encoded messages baffle the enemy.
4. "Invisible ink," which cannot be seen
5. Lemon juice and vinegar are good choices for invisible ink because they are invisible unless burned.
6. During World War II, U.S. government . . . because Navajo is a difficult and little-studied language.
7. Early code writing involved substituting
8. Because these cryptograms are so simple, they are no longer used to transmit messages.
9. Its complexity was an enormous problem for the Allied forces.
10. Alan Turing, a British civil servant and mathematical genius, finally solved the Enigma code.

EX 7.2

1. could prevent its own extinction.
2. disagree on their conclusions
3. Correct
4. are "weeds" because they have
5. withstand its competitors
6. compete for their survival
7. Correct
8. People should be
9. has its effect
10. take its toll

EX 7.3

1. Whoever discovers
2. Correct
3. Correct
4. from their spelunking.
5. native who searched
6. trapped Collins, who
7. Collins and they worked
8. famous main in Kentucky was he. (*Or: For several days, he was . . .*)
9. Correct
10. Their failing

EX 7.4

Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, who was a wealthy aristocrat, was one of the eighteenth century's most interesting characters. Few women then were as well educated as she. Parents wanted their daughters to be charming, not intellectual, so Lady Mary secretly taught herself Latin. When her husband was appointed ambassador to Turkey, she and he traveled there together [*correct*]. Her letters to friends in London, which were later published, were filled with detail [*correct*]. She described the atmosphere of a Turkish bath so vividly that it became a popular setting for paintings and literature. She also learned that smallpox was rare in Turkey [*correct*]. Of the Turkish people she met, most had gotten their immunity to smallpox from a kind of inoculation. This knowledge had an

effect on Lady Mary herself. Lady Mary's children were among the first British citizens who were inoculated against the terrible disease.

EX 8.1

1. has surprised
2. and whether she agreed
3. Some experts believe that personality is the result
4. Most parents think they have a major influence on their children's
5. peers are much more influential
6. Children strongly desire peer acceptance, and
7. they would realize
8. in childhood, their friends' opinions were extremely important to them.
9. from the way they act with their friends.
10. Anxious parents would be greatly relieved

EX 8.2

Museum visitors can see paintings by the seventeenth-century Dutch artist Jan Vermeer, but they cannot see how he achieved his remarkable effects. Most of his paintings show simply furnished household rooms. The people and objects in these rooms seem so real that the paintings resemble photographs. Vermeer's use of perspective and light also contributes to the paintings' realism. Some art historians believe he used a device called a *camera obscura*. This machine projected an image onto a flat surface so an artist could draw it. For most experts, Vermeer's possible use of technological aids does not make his brilliant results less impressive. Art historians agree that the paintings are masterpieces. His paintings are admired even more now than they were in Vermeer's own lifetime.

EX 8.3

1. Correct
2. Surveys show that . . .
3. Students must be careful . . .
4. The most important qualities in an intern are curiosity and a good work ethic.
5. A good internship provides knowledge and skills . . .
6. . . . so interns do not learn much from the experience.
7. . . . interns for free labor instead of hiring full-time employees.
8. Correct
9. When companies . . . , they must pay minimum wage or face lawsuits.
10. Some worry that strict federal standards will cause companies to eliminate . . .

EX 9.1

1. . . . badly or inaccurately.
2. . . . that reflect well on it . . .
3. There is nothing more convenient . . . really quickly.
4. . . . encyclopedias are unique . . .
5. *Wikipedia* relies heavily . . .
6. . . . real downsides . . .
7. . . . awfully inaccurate.
8. . . . don't allow students . . .
9. rely entirely . . .
10. . . . make it clear . . . their subjects thoroughly.

EX 9.2

Feng shui is taken very seriously in many Asian societies. Some Hong Kong business executives, for example, will not feel comfortable working in an office until it has been approved by a *feng shui* master. Other people are more interested in *feng shui* for its elegance [*correct*]. A room designed with this idea in mind looks tranquil. The name *feng shui* means “wind and water,” and balancing elements is the most important aspect of the art. Some people believe that this balance brings good luck [*correct*]. Others will admit only that surroundings can have a psychological effect. It is easier to feel comfortable in a room designed according to *feng shui* principles than in an ordinary room [*Alternative: It is easy to feel comfortable in a room designed according to feng shui principles.*]. The placement of doors, windows, and furnishings contributes to the peaceful effect [*correct*]. Whether *feng shui* is magic or simply great interior design, something about it seems to work.

EX 10.1

1. Solar systems like our own exist throughout the galaxy.
2. So far, no proof of the existence of life forms on other planets has been found.
3. A tremendously powerful telescope in the Caribbean searches distant stars for signs of life.
4. Astronomers carefully monitor signals . . . system.
5. Wondering . . . universe, scientists hope the telescope may provide answers.
6. Most of the signals received so far have been caused by cell phone and satellite interference.
7. While scientists have tried to . . . other planets, they have also sent a signal from earth.
8. The message, containing information about earth, is on its way . . . galaxy.
9. The message will take twenty thousand years or more to reach its destination.
10. A signal sent to earth would take a similarly long time to reach us.

EX 10.2

Making sure standard weights and measures are the same all over the world is an important task [*correct*]. To trade internationally, people must be confident that a kilogram in Mexico weighs the same as a kilogram in Japan. In the past, countries set standards individually for weighing and measuring. One English king egotistically declared a yard to be the distance from his nose to his thumb. Weight was once measured in barleycorns, so unethical merchants soaked barleycorns in water to make them heavier. Today, the metric system is the worldwide standard, and even the weight of the U.S. pound is based on the standard kilogram. In France, a cylinder made of platinum is the world standard kilogram. This official kilogram is kept securely in an airtight container. Nevertheless, losing a few billionths of a gram of weight each year, the platinum kilogram might eventually affect world standards. Hoping to find a permanent solution, scientists want to base the kilogram measurement on an unchanging natural phenomenon [*correct*].

EX 11.1

1. hemophilia as well.
2. Correct
3. receives a bruise.
4. in terrible pain.
5. a con man?

EX 12.1

1. Seneca Village, . . . Upper West Side, was
2. The city of New York bought
3. The land became part of Central Park, and everyone who lived there had
4. in Central Park today, and a museum
5. A middle-class black settlement called Weeksville.
6. James Weeks, an early resident, owned

7. Another early landholder, Sylvanus Smith, was
8. was born in Weeksville and was
9. the first female African American physician in New York and the third
10. Correct

EX 12.2

A monument to the Lakota Sioux warrior Crazy Horse is under construction in the Black Hills of South Dakota. Korczak Ziolkowski, a sculptor who also worked on Mount Rushmore, began the project in 1948. Ziolkowski was born on September 6, 1908 — thirty-one years to the day after Crazy Horse died. A Sioux chief asked Ziolkowski if he would create a monument to honor Crazy Horse and other Indian heroes. Ziolkowski designed a sculpture of Crazy Horse on horseback that, when it is completed, will be the largest statue in the world [*correct*]. The sculpture is being shaped from Thunderhead Mountain, a six-hundred-foot granite rock. Tons of rock have been blasted from the mountain. The sculptor died in 1982, but his widow, children, and grandchildren have carried on the work. There has been no government funding, so they have paid for the work entirely with donations and admission fees. By the middle of the twenty-first century, the statue should be finished and will depict the great Sioux hero pointing at the hills he loved.

EX 13.1

1. movie fixture in America
2. *Les Vampires* (1915), a French film; *Nosferatu* (1921), a German film; and *London After Midnight* (1927), an American film.
3. Correct
4. traits, yet it remains remarkably versatile.
5. movie western, for example, in *Billy the Kid*
6. The popular *Blacula* (1972), . . . in 1970s Los Angeles, inspired
7. . . . like *Fright Night* (1985), *The Lost Boys* (1987), and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (1992).
8. TV series starring Sarah Michelle Gellar.
9. movie goers, who remain fascinated
10. forever if only in books

EX 13.2

In medicine, a placebo is a substance, often a sugar pill, that has no medicinal use. Placebos alone cannot cure any medical problem; nevertheless, many patients improve when taking them. Because patients who receive placebos do not know that the pills are useless, they think they are getting help for their condition, and they get better. This strange but true fact — recognized by doctors, pharmacists, and other professionals — is called the placebo effect. Chemically, a placebo does nothing; theoretically, the patient should not respond, but somehow this trick works on many people. The placebo effect is often seen in patients, but it is not widely understood. Since the Middle Ages, people have considered the mind and the body as separate; the placebo effect indicates that this separation may not really exist [*correct*]. The mind can play tricks on the body; for example, the brain produces phantom-limb pain in amputees. Doctors wonder if the mind can also help to heal the body. If the answer is “yes,” then the advances in medical knowledge could be enormous [*correct*].

EX 14.1

1. 10:00 a.m.
2. 2 : 1.
3. sources such as turntables,
4. Correct
5. of all sports is baseball.

6. Correct
7. the following areas: the northern
8. The neon lights gleamed above
9. We were not hungry: We [*or hungry; we*]
10. reached its peak in the 1930s.

EX 15.1

1. entitled, “‘To Be or Not to Be’: Shakespeare and Existentialism.”
2. assign “To an Athlete Dying Young”?
3. was “Hasta la vista, baby.”
4. to “fight terror.”
5. Correct
6. “Come live with me and be my love,” pleads
7. The grand jury was not completely convinced
8. could play only “Chopsticks.”
9. Correct
10. announced, “The special is prime rib”; unfortunately, we are vegetarians.

EX 16.1

1. “The structure of DNA . . . is a double helix.”
2. “Halle Berry was the first African American woman to win the Academy Award for Best Actress.”
3. Hamlet muses, “To be or not to be.”
4. “[P]eople of all classes receive financial help from the government.”
5. “Cole Porter cultivated a suave, sophisticated urban persona.”
6. “Zora Neale Hurston’s collections of folklore proved to be valuable.”
7. “[T]wo hundred years ago households . . . had to make their own soap.”
8. “Folic acid . . . can help prevent certain birth defects.”
9. “[S]altwater aquariums . . . are difficult and expensive to maintain.”
10. “She wrote rather doubtful grammar sometimes, and in her verses took . . . liberties with the metre” (Thackeray 136–37).

EX 17.1

1. Ours
2. lives of others . . . friends’ days . . . status reports
3. users
4. Today’s parents . . . sons and daughters’ personal lives
5. they’ll have to . . . LOL’s, BTW’s, . . . their kids’

EX 18.1

1. “but one life to give for [his] country.”
2. Correct
3. Malcolm X (1925–1965) was
4. (including lengthy surgery).
5. Children believe what they see on television (at least most of it), and

EX 19.1

1. One issue particularly concerns scholars of food — why are certain foods . . . [A colon is also acceptable.]
2. Some foods were once popular, but today hardly anyone has heard of them.
3. Correct. [*Alternative: In the 1990s, people in Great Britain were alerted to a new danger — mad cow disease.*]

4. In the 1960s, frozen foods — icy blocks of corn, peas, and string beans — were popular and convenient alternatives to fresh produce.
5. Correct. [*Alternative:* Today fresh fruits and vegetables are valued once again — unless a busy cook has no time for peeling and chopping.]

EX 20.1

During World War II, the governments of twenty-six countries pledged their willingness to continue fighting on behalf of the Allies. United States President Franklin Roosevelt came up with a name for the group: the United Nations. The “Declaration by United Nations” promised the support of those twenty-six governments for the war effort. The nations signed this document on New Year’s Day of 1942. By 1945, the number of countries involved in the United Nations had grown to fifty-one. From April through June of that year, fifty representatives attended the United Nations Conference on International Organization in San Francisco. There, the nations debated the contents of a charter. Although the war was nearing an end, the governments foresaw a need to continue international cooperation. The charter was ratified on October 24, 1945, by China, France, the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, the United States, and a majority of the other nations. Every year since then, October 24 has been known as United Nations Day.

EX 21.1

1. Catskill Mountains
2. five feet four inches
3. ninety pages
4. Black Monday
5. . . . films such as *Fargo* and *Inside Llewyn Davis*.

EX 22.1

1. Seventy-seven percent
2. \$87.14.
3. hundreds of small pieces
4. ninety-car train
5. February 22

EX 23.1

1. Correct
2. *Soap Opera Digest*
3. *The Simpsons*
4. *Mayflower*
5. the article “Africa: The Hidden History.”

EX 24.1

1. increasingly popular option
2. self-conscious teens
3. sixteen-year-olds
4. nose jobs
5. Correct

EX 25.1

In 1542, the first European visitors arrived in Japan. Traders and missionaries from the West brought firearms, tobacco, and Christianity to the island nation, which was suffering from internal strife. Japanese rulers welcomed Christianity at first, seeing it as a way to reunify the country. However,

after large numbers of Japanese converted, some official intolerance toward Christianity appeared. Finally, the rebellion of a Catholic Japanese community ensured that the government would act to prevent Western missionaries and merchants from joining forces with Japanese dissidents [*correct*]. In 1640, a policy of isolation took effect. No foreigners were allowed to enter Japan, and no Japanese were permitted to travel abroad. This policy was finally relaxed in 1853, and a new era began in 1868, with the arrival of a new imperial government. The new leaders were youthful and visionary, and they wanted to bring their country up to date [*correct*]. Although some Japanese who had enjoyed privileges in the old society lost them during modernization, most people were delighted with the country's new direction.

EX 26.1

1. an; a
2. The
3. the
4. The; the; the
5. No article; the

EX 27.1

1. have been
2. receive, earn
3. relied
4. have become
5. will surpass

EX 27.2

1. should
2. may *or* might
3. could have *or* would have
4. will, may, *or* might
5. will, may, *or* might

EX 27.3

1. considered changing
2. expect to find
3. suggested changing
4. Correct
5. keep digging

EX 28.1

1. in
2. in
3. at; in; at; in
4. in; on
5. at; in

EX 29.1

1. his favorite horse
2. for declaring war
3. Caligula's brief, violent reign . . . afraid of their emperor.

4. those unfortunate Romans
5. Many upstanding citizens

EX 30.1

1. bats hunt mosquitoes
2. Correct
3. One bat can eat a huge number of insect pests in a single night.
4. At the cave entrance at dusk, the bats provide a spectacular show to curious onlookers. [*Or: At the cave entrance at dusk, the bats provide curious onlookers with a spectacular show.*]
5. They give the crowds who come to see them a thrilling experience when they fly out of the cave. [*Or: When they fly out of the cave, they give a thrilling experience to the crowds who come to see them.*]

EX 30.2

1. whose implications
2. Early laws, which
3. Correct
4. Some Americans who want
5. New immigrants, whose
Dreams

EX 30.3

1. have never confirmed
2. is seldom difficult
3. almost never offer convincing proof.
4. Correct
5. have not arrived

Possible Revisions Summary Exercise for Sections 26–30:

Between 1980 and 2008, the obesity rate among Americans increased from 15 percent to 34 percent. According to recent studies, over 30 percent of children in the United States are now either overweight or obese. These studies also suggest that most overweight teenagers will become overweight adults. All that excess weight will cause harm to their health, including an increased risk of cancer and heart disease. While most people agree that obesity is a real problem, they disagree about its causes. Some claim that Americans make bad food choices, eat too much, and exercise too little. Those with this point of view want overweight people to take more responsibility for their own health. At the same time, others see obesity as an economic, social, and cultural problem. They point to the popularity of fast-food restaurants, junk food, and sugary soft drinks, especially among younger people. In fact, companies that sell unhealthy products appeal to children in their advertising. People with this view also argue that healthy foods are often more expensive than unhealthy foods. Whatever its causes, widespread obesity has enormous social and financial effects. According to a study by Cornell University, the annual cost of treating obesity and obesity-related illnesses is \$168 billion. Clearly, Americans should not ignore this problem.