

PSAT Writing and Language Practice Test 1

Passage I—The Weekly Visit

The requisite visit happened most typically¹ on sunny Saturdays, when my child spirits were at their highest and could be most diminished by the cramped interior of her house. My mother, accustomed to the bright spacious farmhouse² that was once Grandma's, seemed no less susceptible to the gloom. She would set her jaw as Grandma described the many ailments attendant on age and would check her watch—an hour is³ the minimum she expected herself to withstand. Her barely contained impatience, and⁴ my grandmother's crippling age radiated out around me. We were the women of the Carlson clan, each throbbing with agitation, like eccentric,⁵ blinking circles on a radar screen.

(1) I would sit at the white, red, metal table⁶ with the pull-out leaves and built-in silverware drawer, cracking (2) I would be lifting⁷ the lid carefully and try to set it down

on the metal table quietly, and then attempt to crack the nuts without scattering the shell crumbs. (3) This was the one good thing at Grandma's house, the almonds, which she kept in a green Depression glass bowl. (4) It was not good to draw attention to myself at Grandma Carlson's house.⁸ Sounding angry, she would call to me in her croupy drawl. When I failed to understand her, she would reach out to me with her palsied, slick, wrinkled hand and shout, "Here"!⁹ She would be offering some of her horehound candy, which tasted like a cross between butterscotch and bitter sticks.

There was this lamentable air in the dim house with its itchy mohair furniture and its dark colors, an awareness—Grandma's— underlying¹⁰ the mentholatum, that her age scared her grandkids. I would during the dutiful visit yearn¹¹ to get outside into the yard, where Grandma had transplanted a few flowers when she moved from the farm. But even the yard, with its overgrown hedges and rusted metal lawn chairs,¹² seemed dreary. When I came back inside, light and air would burst in with me. Grandma, her hair up in a gray bun, would rock a little and smile.¹³ I would lean then against my mother's chair, Grandmas' fond eyes¹⁴ peering at me, and whisper out of the corner of my mouth, "Mom, can we go?"

1. A. NO CHANGE

B. most usually

C. typically

D. most typical

Answer: _____

2. A. NO CHANGE

B. bright-spacious farmhouse

C. bright, and spacious farmhouse

D. bright, spacious farmhouse

Answer: _____

3. A. NO CHANGE

- B. would be
- C. being
- D. were

Answer: _____

4. A. NO CHANGE

- B. impatience. And
- C. impatience; and
- D. impatience and

Answer: _____

5. A. NO CHANGE

- B. concentric,
- C. egocentric,
- D. centric,

Answer: _____

6. A. NO CHANGE

- B. white, red and metal
- C. white and red metal
- D. white, and red, metal

Answer: _____

7. A. NO CHANGE

- B. was lifting
- C. lifted
- D. would lift

Answer: _____

8. A. NO CHANGE

- B. Grandma Carlsons house.
- C. Grandma Carlson house.
- D. Grandma's Carlson house

Answer: _____

9. A. NO CHANGE

- B. "Here."
- C. "here"!
- D. "Here!"

Answer: _____

10. A. NO CHANGE

- B. laying under

- C. underlying
D. lying under

Answer: _____

11. A. NO CHANGE
B. During the dutiful visit, I would yearn
C. I during the dutiful visit would yearn
D. I would, during the dutiful visit yearn

Answer: _____

12. The writer is considering deleting the underlined portion. Should this be kept or deleted?

- A. It should be kept, because the sentence would not be grammatically correct without it.
- B. It should be kept, because the images enhance the description of the yard.
- C. It should be deleted, because the description is off the topic of family.
- D. It should be deleted, because the grammar is incorrect.

Answer: _____

13. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. Grandma would, her hair up in a gray bun, rock a little and smile.
- B. With her gray hair up in a bun, grandma would rock a little and smile.
- C. Grandma, her hair up in a gray bun, would smile and rock a little.
- D. Grandma—her hair up in a gray bun—would rock a little and smile.

Answer: _____

14. A. NO CHANGE
B. Grandmas's fond eyes
C. Grandma's fond eyes
D. Grandmas fond eyes

Answer: _____

15. The most appropriate order for the first four sentences of the second paragraph would be

- A. 1, 2, 3, 4
- B. 2, 1, 3, 4
- C. 1, 2, 4, 3
- D. 1, 3, 2, 4

Answer: _____

Answers Keys and Explanation Link

<https://gotestprep.com/psat-writing-and-language-practice-test/>