

Rachel Writing Lab

Grammar Diagnostic Kit

Grade 8 Edition

Declarative → Procedural Knowledge Assessment

Name: _____	Date: _____
Grade: _____	Score: _____ / 20

*20 Questions · No time limit · No outside resources
Do your best. There are no trick questions — just honest ones.*

SECTION A Error Identification

Each sentence contains one underlined word. If it is the *WRONG* form, write the correct form. If it is correct, write 'No error.' — Warning: some sentences are correct.

1. The subtly of her argument was lost on most of the audience, who expected a more direct approach.

Answer: _____

2. The new legislation would adversely affect thousands of families who rely on public healthcare.

Answer: _____

3. Many scholars have attribute the decline of the Roman Empire to a combination of political and economic factors.

Answer: _____

4. She was widely known for her innate ability to connect with people from all walks of life.

Answer: _____

5. The professor's meticulous attention to detail made her lectures both exhaust and deeply rewarding.

Answer: _____

6. The data from the longitudinal study strongly suggests that sleep deprivation significantly impairs cognitive function in adolescents.

Answer: _____

7. Despite his eloquent speech, the candidate failed to address the underline issues that voters cared about most.

Answer: _____

8. The committee's decide to postpone the vote was met with widespread disappointment among community members.

Answer: _____

SECTION B Multiple Choice

Choose the option that *BEST* completes the sentence. All four options may sound similar — read carefully.

9. The author's use of metaphor throughout the novel can best be described as _____.

- A) subtle
- B) subtly
- C) subtlety
- D) subtler

10. Scientists are now _____ the long-term effects of microplastics on marine ecosystems.

- A) investigation
- B) investigative
- C) investigating
- D) investigated

11. The mayor's proposal was _____ by community leaders, who argued it failed to address structural inequality.

- A) critic
- B) critical
- C) critically
- D) criticized

12. The new evidence _____ the defendant's claim that he was not present at the scene of the crime.

- A) corroborate
- B) corroborates
- C) corroborating
- D) corroboration

13. The journalist wrote _____ about the _____ effects of poverty on early childhood education.

- A) extensively / devastating
- B) extensive / devastatingly
- C) extensively / devastate
- D) extensive / devastation

SECTION C Write the Correct Form

Use the word in parentheses to fill in the blank. You must determine the correct part of speech.

14. The senator's sudden _____ (RESIGN) sent shockwaves through the entire nation.

Answer: _____

15. The study's findings were _____ (SIGNIFICANCE) enough to be published in three peer-reviewed journals.

Answer: _____

16. She _____ (CONSISTENT) outperformed her peers on standardized tests, yet struggled with open-ended writing tasks.

Answer: _____

17. The committee was unable to reach a _____ (CONCLUDE) agreement on how to proceed with the investigation.

Answer: _____

SECTION D Paragraph Error Hunt

Each paragraph contains EXACTLY TWO word form errors. Find both, underline them, and write the corrections below.

18.

"The anthropologist's research offered a fascinate glimpse into the daily lives of an ancient civilization. Her findings challenged previous assumptions about early human societies, suggesting that social structures were far more complexity than historians had previously believed."

Error 1 — Incorrect: _____ Correct: _____

Error 2 — Incorrect: _____ Correct: _____

19.

"Although the novel was initially dismiss by critics, it has since become regarded as one of the most important works of the twentieth century. Its explore of themes such as identity, loss, and displacement resonates deeply with readers across generations."

Error 1 — Incorrect: _____ Correct: _____

Error 2 — Incorrect: _____ Correct: _____

20.

"The economy's recover from the recession has been gradual but consistently positive. Economists credit the government's decision to invest heavily in infrastructure and education, arguing that these policies have create a more resilient and sustainable economic foundation."

Error 1 — Incorrect: _____ Correct: _____

Error 2 — Incorrect: _____ Correct:

ANSWER KEY

Grade 8 Edition · For Parent / Instructor Use

Q	Correct Answer	Explanation / Grammar Point
1	subtly → subtlety	subtlety (noun after 'The')
2	No error — 'adversely' is correct (adverb modifying 'affect')	No error — 'adversely' is correct (adverb modifying 'affect')
3	attribute → attributed	attributed (past participle in present perfect)
4	No error — 'innate' is correct (adjective)	No error — 'innate' is correct (adjective)
5	exhaust → exhausting	exhausting (active participle as predicate adjective)
6	suggests → suggest	suggest — 'data' is plural in formal academic English; 'suggests' is incorrect
7	underline → underlying	underlying (adjective: 'that lie beneath')
8	decide → decision	decision (noun after possessive 'committee's')
9	A — subtle (predicate adjective after 'be described as')	A — subtle (predicate adjective after 'be described as')
10	C — investigating (present participle)	C — investigating (present participle)
11	D — criticized (passive voice)	D — criticized (passive voice)
12	B — corroborates (3rd person singular, present tense)	B — corroborates (3rd person singular, present tense)
13	A — extensively (adverb) / devastating (adjective)	A — extensively (adverb) / devastating (adjective)
14	resign → resignation	resignation
15	significance → significant	significant
16	consistent → consistently	consistently
17	conclude → conclusive	conclusive
18	fascinate → fascinating; complexity → complex	fascinate → fascinating; complexity → complex
19	dismiss → dismissed; explore → exploration	dismiss → dismissed; explore → exploration
20	recover → recovery; create → created	recover → recovery; create → created

Scoring Guide

Score	Level	What It Means
19 – 20	Excellent	Strong procedural command. Ready for advanced analytical writing.
15 – 18	Proficient	Solid foundation. Some word form errors under writing pressure — needs targeted practice.
10 – 14	Developing	Declarative knowledge in place; procedural application is inconsistent. Focus: writing in context.
0 – 9	Emerging	Significant procedural gap. Grammar instruction should shift from rule-memorization to context-based production.

Note for Parents

A low score does not mean your child hasn't worked hard. It means the type of knowledge they have — knowing grammar rules — hasn't yet become the type they need: using grammar automatically in their own writing. This is a normal and solvable gap. The questions in this kit were designed to reveal exactly that difference.

For questions or to schedule a consultation, contact Rachel Lee via email: rachel@semonemo.us