

**BONUS ENGLISH QUESTIONS Passage 1**

**DIRECTIONS:** In the passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. Following each passage, you will find alternatives for the underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose "NO CHANGE." In some cases, you will find in a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage, or about the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage, but rather are identified by a number in brackets. For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and fill in the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

**PASSAGE I: My "Sister" Ligia**

Every year my high school hosts international exchange students, those teenagers <sup>1</sup> join our senior class. Each student usually lives with the family of one of the seniors. I can recall students from Costa Rica, Italy, Norway, and Nigeria. Last year, one of our school's exchange students being <sup>2</sup> Ligia Antolinez, who <sup>3</sup> came from Bucaramanga, Colombia. I was a junior then <sup>4</sup>. I wasn't in any of Ligia's classes and didn't know her, but I saw her at school events, which are sometimes supported financially by local businesses. <sup>5</sup>

About halfway through the school year, I learned that the exchange program was looking for a new home for Ligia. After a severe storm, the basement of her hosts <sup>6</sup> house had flooded, leaving two bedrooms unusable. The two "little brothers" of Ligia's host family, who had volunteered to move, to those bedrooms for a year <sup>7</sup>, had to be moved upstairs to the room Ligia was using. <sup>8</sup>

I told my parents about Ligia's problem, which needed to be solved <sup>9</sup>. We agreed <sup>10</sup> that it would be fun to host a student from another country. My older sister had gotten married the summer before, so not only did we have a room for Ligia, and <sup>11</sup> we all admitted that the house had seemed too quiet lately.

The second half of my junior year was anything but quiet. Introduced by me to my favorite music, at top volume, I started being taught by Ligia the most popular Colombian dance steps <sup>12</sup>. My father spoke fondly of the days before two teenagers taken <sup>13</sup> over the phone, the stereo, the kitchen-well, most of the house, really. My mother helped Ligia with her math homework, and Ligia taught Mom beginning Spanish. Both Ligia and I were studying French that year, and we practiced it at home. When we planned a surprise anniversary party for my mom and dad, we did it all right under their noses, in French.

At the end of the year, Ligia had gone <sup>14</sup> home to Colombia. This year I'm busy with senior activities and with a part-time job. I'm trying to save enough to go see my new sister next year. <sup>[15]</sup>

1.
  - A. NO CHANGE
  - B. students, he or she is invited to
  - C. students who
  - D. students they
  
2.
  - F. NO CHANGE
  - G. students was
  - H. students, named
  - J. students,
  
3.
  - A. NO CHANGE
  - B. whom
  - C. which
  - D. she who
  
4.
  - F. NO CHANGE
  - G. junior, therefore, so
  - H. junior because
  - J. junior, since
  
5. Given that all of the choices are true, which one provides the most relevant information with regard to the narrator's familiarity with Ligia?
  - A. NO CHANGE
  - B. had read a story about her in our school paper, which is written by students interested in journalism.
  - C. saw her at school events and had read a story about her in our school paper.
  - D. had read a story about her when I was checking our school paper for local movie listings.
  
6.
  - F. NO CHANGE
  - G. her hosts'
  - H. Ligia's hosts
  - J. Ligias hosts'
  
7.
  - A. NO CHANGE
  - B. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year
  - C. volunteered to move to those bedrooms for a year,
  - D. volunteered, to move to those bedrooms for a year,
  
8.
  - F. NO CHANGE
  - G. upstairs to the room Ligia was using, which had been freshly painted just that year.
  - H. upstairs (it was a two-story house) to Ligia's room.
  - J. OMIT the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.

9.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. problem, which was a dilemma.
- C. problem that needed a solution.
- D. problem.

10. Three of these choices indicate that the family felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home. Which choice does NOT do so?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. decided
- H. knew
- J. supposed

11.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. but
- C. while
- D. yet

12.

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. Introducing Ligia to my favorite music, at top volume, she started teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps.
- H. Teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps, Ligia was introduced by me to my favorite music, at top volume.
- J. I introduced Ligia to my favorite music , at top volume, and she started teaching me the most popular Colombian dance steps.

13.

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. took
- C. had took
- D. begun to take

14.

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. will have gone
- H. went
- J. goes

15. Which of the following true sentences, if inserted here, would best conclude the essay as well as maintain the positive tone established earlier in the essay?

- A. I'm afraid of flying, but I think I'll .be OK.
- B. I'm eager to eventually join the workforce fulltime.
- C. I've been practicing my Spanish,--and my dance steps.
- D. Senior activities are a lot of fun.

## 100+ BONUS ENGLISH QUESTIONS: EXPLANATORY ANSWERS

### PASSAGE I: My "Sister" Ligia

**Question 1. The best answer is C** because it appropriately uses the relative pronoun *who* to introduce the clause that modifies *students* —“who join our senior class.” Besides introducing that clause, the pronoun *who* also functions as the subject of the clause.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because it creates a comma splice (two or more complete sentences separated only by a comma). The phrase “those teenagers” is the subject of the second complete sentence.

**B** because it, too, produces a comma splice. In addition, it creates grammatical disagreement between the plural *students* and the singular *he or she*.

**D** because it creates a run-on, or fused, sentence. There is no punctuation or conjunction (connecting word) between the two statements.

**Question 2. The best answer is G** because it provides the predicate *was*, which produces a complete sentence. Remember that a statement that has no predicate verb is a sentence fragment (an incomplete sentence).

**The best answer is NOT:**

**F** because it uses the verb form *being*, which is a participle. Because it is a verb form, a participle is often mistaken for the main verb in a sentence. This statement has no predicate, so it is a sentence fragment.

**H** because it has no predicate verb. Without a predicate, the statement is a sentence fragment and does not express a complete thought.

**J** because it lacks a verb and therefore creates another sentence fragment.

**Question 3. The best answer is A** because it correctly uses the pronoun *who* to introduce the clause that describes Ligia Antolinez. In this sentence, *who* is required because it refers to a person. The pronoun *who* is also appropriate because it functions as the subject of the clause.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**B** because it uses the object pronoun *whom* instead of the subject pronoun *who*.

**C** because it uses the pronoun *which* when the personal pronoun *who* is required. In general, *who* refers to people and *which* refers to objects, events, or animals.

**D** because it inserts an unnecessary pronoun, *she*. Because *who* is the subject of the descriptive clause, the pronoun *she* has no function in this sentence.

**Question 4. The best answer is F** because this short sentence expresses a complete thought and is clear, concise, and grammatically sound. It also logically fits between the preceding sentence and the sentence that follows.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**G** because it creates a statement that is not logical. The conjunction (connecting word) *therefore* suggests a cause-effect relationship that makes no sense. The fact that the narrator "was a junior then" was not the cause of her not being in classes with Ligia.

**H** because it makes no sense. It illogically suggests that the narrator was a junior because she "wasn't in any of Ligia's classes."

**J** because it creates the same error as **H** does by illogically suggesting that the narrator was a junior because she "wasn't in any of Ligia's classes."

**Question 5. The best answer is C** because it adds a relevant detail that fits with the point of the rest of the sentence. The narrator didn't know Ligia but knew of her. The narrator "saw her at school events and had read a story about her." Considering the other choices, C provides the most relevant information about the narrator's familiarity with Ligia.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because the phrase "which are sometimes supported financially by local business" is not relevant with regard to the narrator's knowledge of Ligia.

**B** because the information that the school paper "is written by students interested in journalism" is irrelevant to the writer's purpose here.

**D** because information about the narrator checking the paper "for local movie listings" is a detail that distracts the reader from main point of the sentence.

**Question 6. The best answer is G** because the plural possessive form *hosts'* is the correct punctuation here. The phrase "her hosts' house" shows possession and requires an apostrophe.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**F** because it fails to use the required apostrophe to show possession.

**H** because again, it fails to use an apostrophe after the *sin hosts*.

**J** because although it does use the required apostrophe after *hosts*, it fails to use the required apostrophe to show possession in *Ligia's*.

**Question 7. The best answer is C** because it correctly inserts a comma after the word *year*.

Notice that this comma is necessary to set off the nonessential clause "who had volunteered to move." A nonessential clause adds information that is not necessary to the main idea.

Nonessential clauses are set off with commas on both ends.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma after *move*.

**B** because it fails to insert the required comma after *year*. This comma is necessary to set off the nonessential clause that begins with "who had volunteered ...."

**D** because it inserts an unnecessary and confusing comma after *volunteered*.

**Question 8. The best answer is F** because it provides the best explanation of the host family's situation and why Ligia needed a place to stay. This choice provides relevant information to show that after the storm, the two brothers needed their upstairs room back-the same room that Ligia had been using.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**G** because it adds irrelevant information. The detail that the upstairs room "had been freshly painted" distracts the reader from the main point of the sentence, which is to show why Ligia needed another place to live.

**H** because the statement in parentheses, "it was a two-story house," is also irrelevant to the writer's purpose here.

**J** because if the sentence simply ended with "had to be moved," it would not clearly explain why Ligia needed a new place to live.

**Question 9. The best answer is D** because, of the four choices, **D** makes the point in the clearest, most concise way.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because it is redundant; that is, it repeats an idea that has already been stated. The sentence states that the narrator was aware of "Ligia's problem." Adding that this problem "needed to be solved" is overstating the obvious. It is better to end the sentence with the word *problem*.

**B** because it, too, is unnecessarily wordy. The word *problem* already implies a *dilemma*.

**C** because it is incorrect in the same way that **A** and **B** are. That Ligia's problem "needed a solution" overstates the obvious and lacks conciseness.

**Question 10. The best answer is J.** You need to pay close attention to the stated question.

It asks you for the choice that does *not* show that the narrator's "family felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home." In other words, the question tells you that the best answer is the *worst* word choice with respect to the writer's purpose. The verb *supposed* is the only choice that does not show that "the family felt confident," so it is the best answer to this question.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**F** because it does indicate the family's confidence. Because the family *agreed* to host Ligia, they "felt confident about inviting Ligia to live in their home."

**G** because it, too, does indicate the family's confidence.

**H** because the word *knew* is appropriate in this context and, like **F** and **G**, does indicate confidence.

**Question 11. The best answer is B** because it correctly uses the correlative conjunctions *not only* and *but*. Correlative conjunctions connect similar ideas and are always used in pairs. In this sentence, the pair is "*not only* did we have a room..., *but*... the house had seemed too quiet."

The conjunctions *not only* and *but* logically connect the two reasons that the family agreed to host Ligia.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because "not only ... and" does not logically connect the two reasons, and it is not idiomatic (it does not conform to standard written English).

**C** because it is incorrect in the same way that **A** is. It creates a statement that is not logical.

**D** because it is incorrect in the same way that **A** and **C** are. It also fails to use proper correlative conjunctions.

**Question 12. The best answer is J** because it is the clearest and most logical, and it is the most structurally sound. The two clauses in this sentence are parallel and logically follow one another. The second clause, "she started teaching me ... dance steps," logically follows "I introduced Ligia to my favorite music."

**The best answer is NOT:**

**F** because using the passive voice ("I started being taught by Ligia") makes the sentence confusing. It is difficult for the reader to tell what the subject and object of this sentence are. The arrangement of the sentence elements is also confusing and garbled.

**G** because it has an incorrect modifier. When a modifying phrase containing a verbal comes at the beginning of a sentence, the phrase is followed by a comma. The word that the phrase modifies should immediately follow the comma. In this case, the modifying phrase "Introducing Ligia to my favorite music, at top volume," is followed by the pronoun *she*, instead of the pronoun *I* (to refer to the narrator).

**H** because the modifying word after the introductory phrase is correct, but the rest of the sentence is weak because it relies on the passive voice ("was introduced by me"). In addition, the phrase at the end of the sentence, "at top volume," is misplaced.

**Question 13. The best answer is B** because it uses the correct verb form. The entire essay is in the past tense, so the past tense *took* is required here.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because it uses an incorrect verb form here—the past participle *taken* without an auxiliary verb (for example, *had*).

**C** because *had took* is an incorrect verb form.

**D** because it uses an incorrect verb form— the past participle *begun* without an auxiliary (helping) verb.

**Question 14. The best answer is H** because it appropriately uses the past tense verb form (*went*) to show that the event (Ligia's going home) occurred at a specific past time.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**F** because it inappropriately uses the past perfect tense. The perfect tenses are mainly used to show that one event happened before another event, which is not the case here.

**G** because it uses a future tense (in this case, the future perfect) to refer to a past event. You can tell that this is a past event by reading the sentence that follows.

**J** because it uses the present tense *goes* to refer to an event that happened in the past.

**Question 15. The best answer is C** because it concludes the essay by referring back to topics that were previously mentioned: that Ligia spoke Spanish and that she taught the narrator Colombian dance steps. In addition, it logically follows the preceding sentence by explaining how the narrator continues to make plans for a visit to Ligia.

**The best answer is NOT:**

**A** because it does somewhat follow the preceding sentence, but it does not refer back to any of the ideas mentioned in the essay. It is therefore a poor conclusion when compared with **C**.

**B** because this is a poor conclusion for the essay because it introduces an entirely new topic: joining the workforce.

**D** because although the essay does refer earlier to "senior activities," this is also a weak conclusion because it is a vague generalization. In addition, it does not logically follow the statement that the narrator is "trying to save enough to go see my new sister next year."