

English 151A Lab

Activity 5: Proofreading Exercise

Name: _____

Class & Section: 151A- _____ Instructor: _____

Directions: Read the following rough draft of an illustration paragraph. After the paragraph are editing and proofreading questions. For questions 1-9, answer using **complete sentences**.

(1) I have never understood my mom's obsession with the holiday season. (2) My mom always wants everyone to get along during this time of year. (3) The tension begins about a week before Thanksgiving she starts bringing alot of different foods into the house. (4) For example, cranberries. (5) She also goes to neighborhood cookie swaps. (6) She brings home at least fifteen dozen cookies. (7) We has evergreen wreaths on every door, evergreen candle holders, evergreen tableclothes with matching napkins, and evergreen baskets with pine cones. (8) At about the same time the strange foods come into the house, she decides that every room in the house need decorations of some sort. (9) Last year, there was so many ornaments that smelled like cinamon in our house that I dreamed I was working in a spice factory. (10) Then, when Mom decides that our entire house should smell like evergreens and look like a pine forest, it does. (11) Mom, who is usually a stable person, has finally gone off the deep end with her holiday cheer.

1. What is the main idea of the paragraph? _____

2. Does the topic sentence appear as the first or last sentence of the paragraph? **Yes No**

3. Write out the topic sentence of the paragraph. _____

4. After reading the topic sentence, what do you think the rest of the paragraph will be about?

5. What are the three main examples the writer provides?

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

- 6a. Do any of the main examples need more specific details? **Yes No**
6b. If yes, state which main example needs more specific details and provide one such detail.

- 6c. If no, explain your answer. _____

- 7a. Do all of the details support the topic sentence? **Yes No**
7b. If no, which sentence is not directly related to the topic sentence? Sentence _____

8. How is the paragraph organized?
(a) chronological order
(b) spatial order
(c) order of importance
(d) general to particular
(e) particular to general

- 9a. Which sentence is out of order? Sentence _____

- 9b. Where should it be moved? _____

10. List three transitions that are used in the paragraph.

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

11. Find the three spelling mistakes in the paragraph. Write the misspelled word and then its correction next to it.

misspelled word: _____ correction: _____

misspelled word: _____ correction: _____

misspelled word: _____ correction: _____

- 12a. In sentence 1, what is the subject of the sentence? _____

- 12b. What is the verb in the sentence? _____

13. Reread each sentence in the paragraph. Which sentences contain errors in subject/verb agreement? List the subject and then write the correct form of the verb (use present tense).

Sentence _____ subject: _____ verb: _____

Sentence _____ subject: _____ verb: _____

Sentence _____ subject: _____ verb: _____

14a. In the paragraph, reread line (4). This is an example of:

- (a) a complete sentence
- (b) a fragment
- (c) a run-on sentence

14b. Choose what would be the best way to write what is stated in line (4):

- (a) For example, cranberries.
- (b) For example, we eat cranberries in some form or another every day until Christmas.
- (c) For example, my mom loves cranberries, we eat them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

15a. In the paragraph, reread line (3). This is an example of:

- (a) a complete sentence
- (b) a fragment
- (c) a run-on sentence

15b. Choose what would be the best way to write what is stated in line (3):

- (a) The tension begins about a week before Thanksgiving she starts bringing a lot of different foods into the house.
- (b) The tension begins about a week before Thanksgiving, she starts bringing a lot of different foods into the house.
- (c) The tension beginning about a week before Thanksgiving, and she starts bringing a lot of different foods into the house.
- (d) The tension begins about a week before Thanksgiving because she starts bringing a lot of different foods into the house.

16. Reread line (10). What type of sentence is it?

- (a) simple
- (b) compound
- (c) complex
- (d) compound-complex

17a. Which two simple sentences could you combine together? Sentences _____ and _____

17b. Combine these two simple sentences together to write a compound sentence using a coordinating conjunction.
