

HSPT Practice: LANGUAGE SECTION PRACTICE

Directions: Look for errors in capitalization, punctuation, or usage. If you find an error, mark the letter in front of that choice as your answer. On some questions the fourth choice may have the option, "No mistakes." On these items, if you find no errors, mark d, "No mistakes," as your answer. "No mistakes" will be the best answer for some of these questions.

1. a) The following sections will be on the HSPT: Verbal Skills, Quantitative Reasoning, Mathematics, Reading, and Language.
b) Bring three number two pencils to the test, please.
c) Additionally you may want to bring a bottle of water.
d) No mistakes.
2. a) I told my friend "You shouldn't cheat on the test."
b) She replied, "I don't plan on cheating."
c) We both promised not to cheat.
d) No mistakes.
3. a) Class, are you prepared for the history test?
b) Mr Juniper is in a terrible mood today.
c) If we all fail, I think he'll feel even worse.
d) No mistakes.
4. a) "I would love to attend the ceremony," she said.
b) "I would like to go to the party" I replied.
c) "What if we go to both?" she responded.
d) No mistakes.
5. a) Dr. Marshall will see you now.
b) The doctor is ready to see you, Ms. Kennedy.
c) The doctor, Dr. Marshall, is ready to see you now.
d) No mistakes.
6. a) Mr. Becker asked "Do you want another napkin?"
b) Mrs. Becker replied, "Yes. Ribs are very messy."
c) Their son added, "I'm just going to hose myself down in the yard."
d) No mistakes.
7. a) I am too tired to drive you to the airport.
b) However, taxis are too expensive in this town.
c) Therefore I will pay for your bus ticket.
d) No mistakes.

8. a) "Sit down quietly" the teacher instructed.
b) However, no one listened to her.
c) The teacher repeated, "Get in your seats!"
d) No mistakes.
9. a) I can't believe we arrived to the campsite after nightfall.
b) It's very difficult to see our materials clearly.
c) Nonetheless we should begin to set up camp.
d) No mistakes.
10. a) Carlos, are you ok?
b) Are you ok, Carlos?
c) Hey, Carlos, are you ok?
d) No mistakes.
11. a) You dance gracefully.
b) He dance gracefully.
c) We all dance gracefully.
d) No mistakes.
12. a) Timothy fell into the pool with all of his clothes on.
b) He was sad because we all laughed at him.
c) You shouldnt laugh at friends when they fall.
d. No mistakes.
13. a) "I need a new dress" said the ballerina.
b) However, she didn't have any money.
c) Therefore, she got a job.
d) No mistakes.
14. a) He replied, "The game is cancelled."
b) The team was very upset.
c) They decided to reschedule there game for another day.
d) No mistakes.
15. a) I feel extremely proud of how hard I have studied for the HSPT.
b) I feel confident that I will do well.
c) I am ready to dominate this test!
d) No mistakes.

ANSWER KEY

1. The answer is c. There needs to be a comma after the word “Additionally” because it is an introductory word. This is the correct version:

Additionally, you may want to bring a bottle of water.

2. The answer is a. There needs to be a comma after the word friend. For quotations, you must have a comma before them. This is the correct version:

I told my friend, “You shouldn’t cheat on the test.”

3. The answer is b. You always need a period after a title. This is the correct version:

Mr. Juniper is in a terrible mood today.

4. The answer is b. You need a comma after the word party. For quotations, always include the ending punctuation **inside** of the quotation marks. This is the correct version:

“I would like to go to the party,” I replied.

5. The answer is d. There are no mistakes. Let’s look at them one by one to see why:

Dr. Marshall will see you now.

- There is a period after the title (Dr.)

The doctor is ready to see you, Ms. Kennedy.

- There is a comma isolating Ms. Kennedy’s name from the rest of the sentence. This is correct because this is a direct address.

The doctor, Dr. Marshall, is ready to see you now.

- There is a comma before Dr. and after Marshall. This is correct because this is something called an **appositive**. An appositive is when you get more information (usually a name) about the subject. You can remove it and the sentence would still make sense. In this case, it’s the doctor’s full name. You always isolate an appositive from the rest of the sentence.

6. The answer is a. You need a comma after asked because you are introducing a quotation. This is the correct version:

Mr. Becker asked, “Do you want another napkin?”

7. The answer is c. You need a comma after therefore because it is an introductory word. This is the correct version:

Therefore, I will pay for your bus ticket.

8. The answer is a. You need a comma after quietly. With quotations, you must put the ending punctuation **inside** of the quotation marks. This is the correct version:

“Sit down quietly,” the teacher instructed.

9. The answer is c. You need a comma after nonetheless because it is an introductory word. This is the correct version:

Nonetheless, we should begin to set up camp.

10. The answer is d. There are no mistakes. Look at your direct address notes from this morning.

11. The answer is b. This is an example of a usage error. We call this subject verb agreement. If the subject is “he”, then the verb needs to be “dances” instead of “dance.” This is the correct version:

He dances gracefully.

12. The answer is c. You need an apostrophe between the n and t in “shouldn’t” because it is a contraction (should not). This is the correct version:

You shouldn’t laugh at friends when they fall.

13. The answer is a. you need a comma after dress. For quotations, always include the ending punctuation **inside** of the quotation marks.

“I need a new dress,” said the ballerina.

14. The answer is c. This is a usage error. “There” should really be “Their”.

there = a place (Example: Put your books over there.)

they’re = contraction of they are (Example: They’re late to the show.)

their = shows ownership (Example: Their cat is adorable.)

This is the correct version:

They decided to reschedule **their** game for another day.

15. The answer is d. There are no mistakes. You’re ready to rock the HSPT! :)