**LESSON THREE: GRAMMAR AND THE THREE C’S**

**COMMUNICATES MEANING**

What an answer choice means, what it COMMUNICATES, actually matters on the ACT. In these cases, do not look for the answer that is grammatically correct. Find the one that makes SENSE and fits the meaning of the sentence and paragraph.

Example One:

Bypassing the liquid water phase, those molecules condense directly onto the established hexagonal pattern.

If the writer were to delete the underlined portion (adjusting the capitalization as needed), the sentence would primarily lose:

1. an explanation of the process water molecules undergo to change from liquid to vapor to solid.
2. a detail that mentions a step some water molecules skip in changing from vapor to solid.
3. a visual description of what water vapor molecules look like
4. an explanation of how molecules react to various air temperatures.

Example Two:

Snowflakes form from tiny water droplets following a specific process of chemical bonding as they freeze, which results in a six-sided figure. The rare “triangular” snowflake, similarly, confounded scientists for years because it apparently defied the basic laws of chemistry.

1. NO CHANGE
2. for example,
3. additionally,
4. however,

How does understanding the intended meaning help you to come to the correct choice?

Example Three:

Every thousand feet, we came to a small station constructed of tin and cement, barely able to block the wind. At each one, we noted the roof piled high on fallen rocks and felt both unsettled and reassured by this evidence of the station’s protective ability.

1. NO CHANGE
2. Piling high with
3. Piled high with
4. Piling high on

You need to choose from either the preposition “on” or “with.” How does understanding the meaning help you to choose the correct answer?

**EXTREMES**

Extreme statements in answer choices make for easy elimination. If a statement stretches beyond what is supported in the passage, it should be dropped from consideration.

TAKE EXTREME STATEMENTS LITERALLY. ELIMINATE THEM LIBERALLY.

Example:

Such snowflakes offer evidence that even when impurities interfere, the basic laws of chemistry still apply.

Which choice most effectively concludes the sentence of the essay?

1. NO CHANGE
2. Scientists can be certain that a solution to even the most confusing event will be found.
3. Snowflakes will still fall if atmospheric conditions are favorable.
4. Snowflakes come in many different shapes and sizes.

Which options can you eliminate immediately because it is an extreme statement?

**SENTENCE STRUCTURE AND FORMATION**

Sentence Structure Disturbances ([Appositives](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QFcaUTd8DgY), [Restrictive and Nonrestrictive clauses](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwKLXNpxWDc))

[Misplaced Modifiers and Phrases](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lEH-iVK_hgo)

[Parallelism](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2l2FgUrln1A)

[Verbals](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8c2b-zhk1DQ)

NOTES:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sentence disturbances |  |
| Misplaced Modifiers and Phrases |  |
| Parallelism |  |
| Verbals |  |

Example One:

How can identifying verbals help to eliminate choice options?

Tourists and New Yorkers alike regularly filling this theater to its 900-seat capacity.

1. NO CHANGE
2. alike, regularly filling
3. alike, regularly fill
4. alike regularly fill

Which answers can you eliminate because they create a run-on or

Most are there to attend a performance; a few, however, are likely to be architecture buffs they come to admire the stunning the stunning building itself.

1. NO CHANGE
2. there to
3. whom
4. They

Which choice can be eliminated because it forms a comma splice?

The balcony is fenced with balustrade, a stone railing by a row of waist-high, vase-shaped pillars.

1. NO CHANGE
2. balustrade. Which is
3. balustrade. It being
4. balustrade, this is

**LESSON FOUR: BREAK IT DOWN**

**QUESTION ANALYSIS**

**Passage One:** 8 Minutes

Answer the questions independently.

Record your answers for passage one:

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

13.

14.

15.

In partners, work through your answers. Using the strategies and rules that we have reviewed this week and using prior knowledge, explain how you decided on the answer. How did you do?

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. | 2. | 3. | 4. | 5. |
| 6. | 7. | 8. | 9. | 10. |
| 11. | 12. | 13. | 14. | 15. |

Now, let’s talk about it. What have you learned this week that you can use on the ACT English portion of the exam? Use the video links to review and prepare. Tomorrow, you will take an entire practice test. Use these strategies to help you beat the test. :)