**The Shalersville University Occupational Inventory of Grammatical Knowledge.**

Instructions: Mark each sentence as “C” if it is grammatically correct, “I” if it is incorrect, or “?” if you are uncertain. Wrong answers count for minus two (-2). A question mark answer only counts for minus one (-1). Errors may be of any variety: punctuation, capitalization, spelling, or usage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **I** | 1. When the fire started, we was downtown at the movies.
 |
| **I** | 1. The principal didn’t have no business accusing Josh.
 |
| **C** | 1. Luther and I were there and saw the whole show.
 |
| **I** | 1. Each 30-second television ad shown during the Super Bowl costs sponsors on the average of $1.9 million dollars. Partly because of the 85 to 90 million viewers who tune in.
 |
| **C** | 1. In some playing cards, Charlemagne is represented by the king of hearts, Caesar is represented by the king of diamonds, Alexander the Great is represented by the king of clubs, and King David is represented by the king of spades.
 |
| **I** | 1. During the civil war, a bullet went through Clara Barton’s sleeve and killed the sounded soldier she was treating.
 |
| **C** | 1. After the long day of practice, we sat down to rest.
 |
| **I** | 1. With Texas Hold ‘Em card players, they’re ability to bluff plays a key role.
 |
| **I** | 1. Winning fifty chess games and drawing six Grandmaster George Koltanowski played 56 opponents blindfolded.
 |
| **I** | 1. Maria Sharapova is a Wimbledon Champion, a multimillionaire, and also does very well acting.
 |
| **I** | 1. The large group of students are going in a bus instead of a van.
 |
| **I** | 1. There is hardly no problem more difficult than national defense.
 |
| **I** | 1. Dan’s ability to sing certainly surprised Albert and I.
 |
| **I** | 1. Edgar Allan Poe did not have a steady handle as you can see from his handwriting.
 |
| **I** | 1. Don Braddick landed a 3450 pound great white shark in the Atlantic Ocean off the coast of New York but Frank Mundus, the captain of the charger boat, is given some credit.
 |
| **I** | 1. Mark Twin once wrote a novel about his steam boat experience on the mississippi river.
 |
| **I** | 1. Before buying the car, we set down with the owner and discussed repairs.
 |
| **I** | 1. Their here to see the new movie.
 |
| **C** | 1. Before the Aswan Dam was constructed, the Egyptians used the flooding of the Nile as a natural enrichment for their crops.
 |
| **I** | 1. Stephen King has dreamed of attacking insects, falling elevators and also zombies who walk in the night.
 |
| **I** | 1. The books pages were yellowed with age.
 |
| **I** | 1. Having watched 12 hours of Twilight Zone reruns, the special finally came to an end.
 |
| **C** | 1. The halfback turned, spun, and plowed through the line.
 |
| **I** | 1. Neither the participants nor the tournament director did their job.
 |
| **I** | 1. The Peregrine falcon which can reach speeds of over 175 miles per hour has been sighed passing small airplanes.
 |
| **I** | 1. Will someone let the dog’s in if it rains?
 |
| **I** | 1. The game of Sizzle ended, having used all of the game cards.
 |
| **I** | 1. The collection included books by Jane Leno Dave Barry and Steve Martin.
 |
| **I** | 1. Each of the plans has their problems.
 |
| **I** | 1. Plant smuggling which generates five billion dollars a year is a growing illegal business.
 |

**Confidential Score Sheet**

This is based on the 2010 research of Shalersville University’s Edward McCormick, Ph.D. (formerly with the University of Mottsburg) which has shown that an individual’s grammatical habits correlate with his or her income. The fewer grammatical mistakes an individual makes, the more money that individual tends to earn. This test shows with 85-95% accuracy your future income level based on your current grammatical knowledge.

Each grammatical error listed below reflects two questions on the test. If you missed one or both of the two numbers listed, circle the name of the indicated grammatical concept. For example, if you missed question 11, you would circle 11 and “Subject-Verb Agreement.” If you missed both numbers 4 and 14, you would circle 4 and 14 and “Sentence Fragments.” Identifying the items you missed with help you home in on which concepts you’ll need to pay attention to when you proofread your work (or have somebody else proofread it for you!). Don’t be concerned if you missed a lot of these; they are, in fact, the most commonly made errors.

Fifteen of the most common grammatical errors identified by question number

 1 and 11 Subject-Verb Agreement

 2 and 12 Double Negatives

 3 and 13 Pronoun as Subject and Object

 4 and 14 Sentence Fragments

 5 and 15 Run-On/Fused Sentences and Comma Splices

 6 and 16 Capitalization of Proper Nouns

 7 and 17 Confusion with *Sit, Sat, Set*

 8 and 18 Confusing with *Their* andThey’re, *Your* And *You’re*, And *It’s* And *Its*

 9 and 19 Comma After an Introductory Element

 10 and 20 Lack of Parallel Structure

 21 and 26 Possessive Apostrophe Error

 22 and 27 Dangling Participle

 23 and 28 Commas in A Series

 24 and 29 Pronoun and Antecedent

 25 and 30 Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Clauses

Dr. McCormick says that grammatical patterns correlate with income. Count the number of items you missed and calculate your projected salary and occupational level.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Points Missed** | **Projected Salary** | **Occupational Level** |
| 0 to -1 | $225,000 and above | top executive |
| -2 to -3 | $100,000 to $225,000 | upper management |
| -4 to -5 | $67,000 to $100,000 | key personnel |
| -6 to -8 | $28,000 to $67,000 | semi-skilled |
| -9 to -10 | $11,000 to $28,000 | unskilled |
| -11 or more  | $0 to $11,000 | unemployable |

Make of this what you will!