

Family name: _____ Given name _____ Student number _____

LIN204H1S English Grammar

Test 1

July 14, 2009

ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY ANSWER KEY

A

Duration: 60 minutes

No aids allowed

Please have photo ID available to show to the invigilator.

Instructions:

1. There are 8 pages in this booklet. Make sure that you have all of them.
2. Print your name and student number ON EVERY PAGE.
3. Page 8 is to be used for grading purposes. Please do not write anything other than your name and student number on page 8.
4. Pen should be used instead of pencil when answering all questions. If pencil is used, you will **not** be able to submit the questions for re-grading considerations.

Section	Total points	Points earned
A	8	
B	7	
C	11	
D	8	
E	20	
F	10	
Total	64	

Section A – Multiple choice (8 points)

For each of the following questions (1-8) circle one (and only one) answer:

1. Which of the following sentences is unacceptable from the descriptive point of view?
 - a. *To boldly go where no one has gone before.*
 - b. *Who are you talking to?*
 - c. *I don't have none.*
 - d. *Goin' to the store, eh?*
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. **None of the above.**

2. Idiolect is
 - a. An ideal dialect, which from prescriptive point of view is more logical than other dialects.
 - b. **A variety of language particular to an individual, differing in some details from that of all other speakers of the same dialect or language.**
 - c. A variety of language particular to a particular group.
 - d. A set of linguistic norms established by some generally accepted political or social authority.
 - e. A language variety spoken by a group of people that share one or more socio-economic characteristics
 - f. Both (a) and (d)

3. English is
 - a. the language with the most complicated grammar
 - b. currently spoken by 6900 native speakers
 - c. a *lingua franca* for purely linguistic reasons
 - d. **a Germanic language**
 - e. Both (c) and (d)
 - f. Both (a) and (d)

4. Which of the following sentences contains an inflectional affix?
 - a. *They shiver with fear.*
 - b. ***I am faster than any other swimmer.***
 - c. *My ex-boyfriend is a singer.*
 - d. *The prisoner will go to jail.*
 - e. *My mother is a doctor.*
 - f. *Bill is a non-smoker.*

5. Which of the following sentences does NOT contain a flat adverb?
 - a. *We slept through and came to work late today.*
 - b. *Bill has been working hard in order to finish this project on time.*
 - c. *I wake up early every day and go running.*
 - d. *When he was younger, he would run 5K daily and not get tired.*
 - e. All of the above.
 - f. **None of the above.**

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6. Which of the following sentences contains a subject complement?
- a. *Leona became a high-fashion model.*
 - b. *We declared Mike our president.*
 - c. *Jane is a talented teacher.*
 - d. *I appointed him my representative.*
 - e. **Both (a) and (c).**
 - f. None of the above.
7. Which of the following sentences contains an example of proximity agreement?
- a. *No one except his close friends understands him.*
 - b. *There are five books on the table.*
 - c. *Either John or you will become president next year.*
 - d. ***Neither me nor my brother is going to the party.***
 - e. (a), (c) and (d)
 - f. All of the above.
8. Which of the following sentences contains a sentential adverb?
- a. *The bread cut easily.*
 - b. *Reluctantly, she turned the TV off and started working.*
 - c. *She probably won't be able to wake up early tomorrow.*
 - d. *Wisely, she changed her health insurance and saved lots of money.*
 - e. **Both (c) and (d)**
 - f. (b), (c) and (d).

Section B – True or False (7 points)

9. For each of the following statements, state whether it is true or false. Circle the appropriate answer.
- i. Descriptivists claim that languages are continually changing in subtle ways without reducing their usefulness, preciseness or aesthetic value. **T** F
 - ii. Linguistic performance is a speaker's (subconscious) knowledge of what can and can't be said in their language. T **F**
 - iii. AAVE (African-American Vernacular English) is an example of regional dialect. T **F**
 - iv. Standard dialects are typically not used in informal situations. T **F**
 - v. In some languages, double negation is required in certain constructions. **T** F
 - vi. In English, inflectional affixes are always prefixes. T **F**
 - vii. Conversion is a process of changing the lexical category of the word by adding derivational affixes. T **F**

Section C – Short answer (11 points)

10. Constituency (7 points)

(i) Determine whether the underlined portion in each of the following sentences is a constituent using the test named. And for each case, darken the appropriate box that describes the result of the test.

a. *Marie threw out her homework.*

Use movement test:

***Out her homework, Mary threw**

yes, a constituent

no, not a constituent

b. *The rich donor considered the bronze statues excellent works of art.*

Use substitution test:

The rich donor considered them excellent works of art.

yes, a constituent

no, not a constituent

(ii) There is a third constituency test. Fill in the name of the test in the blank below and use this test to determine whether the underlined portion in the following sentence is a constituent:

Amy is fond of dark chocolate.

Use coordination test:

Amy is fond of dark chocolate and raspberry ice cream.

yes, a constituent

no, not a constituent

11. Identify the verb tense (e.g. simple present, past perfect progressive, etc.) in each the following sentences (4 points)

i. *By next week, we will have been living here one year.* ___ **future perfect progressive**

ii. *He must be on his way home now.* **Simple present** _____

iii. *Eric hasn't considered all his options.* ___ **present perfect** _____

iv. *They were looking for their younger brother.* ___ **past progressive** _____

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Section D - Short answer (8 points)

12. We often encounter words that we don't know. However, by using clues from word morphology and syntactic context, we can often figure out the lexical category of these words.

For each of the two underlined nonsense words, determine its lexical category, and give three pieces of evidence to support your answer.

For decades, scientists have been debloomberizing this ingreanable phenomenon.

a. *debloomberizing* This word's lexical category is verb

Three pieces of evidence:

1. *de-* is a derivational prefix that attaches to verbs
2. *-ize* is a derivational suffix that attaches to verbs
3. *-ing* is an inflectional suffix that attaches to verbs forming past participle
4. there are two auxiliaries in the clause *have been* so lexical verbs have to follow them.
5. to make present perfect progressive the auxiliaries *have been* have to be followed by a lexical verb (in its past participle form).
6. followed by the determiner *this* which begins a NP that could be the direct object.

b. *ingreanable* This word's lexical category is adjective

Three pieces of evidence:

1. *in-* is a derivational prefix that attaches to adjectives
2. *-able* is a derivational prefix that attaches to adjectives
3. preceded by the determiner and followed by the noun *phenomenon*.

Section E – Fill in and short answer (20)

13. For each of the following sentences, state whether the underlined word is a gerund. (2 points)

gerund **not a gerund** *John is driving his father to the airport.*

gerund not a gerund *Driving my parents crazy was my favorite activity as a child.*

14. Identify the adjective phrases in the following sentences and their syntactic functions (attributive, subject complement or object complement). (14 points)

- a. She looked very happy at her wedding.
- b. My new boyfriend considers my dog extremely stupid.
- c. She is unaware of the benefits of healthy eating.
- d. The federal judge found the robber innocent of all charges.

Adjective phrase	Syntactic function
Very happy	Predicative - Subject complement
New	Modifier of noun (attributive)
Extremely stupid	Predicative - Object complement
Unaware of the benefits of healthy eating	Predicative – subject complement
Healthy	Attributive (modifier of noun)
Federal	Attributive (modifier of noun)
Innocent of all charges	Predicative – object complement

15. Consider the sentences below and the boldface items in each. Determine if the italicized item is a count or non-count noun in the given sentence, and give one piece of evidence for your decision from the word’s morphology and/or syntactic context. (4 points)

a. *Jamie often sneezes three or more **times** in a row.* **count** non-count
Evidence:

Preceded by determiner three/more
Can be pluralized

b. *Jamie has little **patience** for unhappy costumers.* count **non-count**
Evidence:

Preceded by the determiner little

Section F – Short answer (10 points)

- 16. Explain why Sentence A below is ungrammatical while Sentence B is grammatical. Use terminology that you have learned in class. (4 points)**

Sentence A: *The these books are very interesting.

Sentence B: All these books are very interesting.

Both *the* and *these* are central determiners (1pt), and more than one central determiner cannot co-occur (1pt), that's why A is ungrammatical. *All* is a predeterminer (1pt), so it can co-occur with the central determiner *these* (1pt), so that's why B is grammatical.

- 17. Identify the syntactic functions of the underlined NPs and give two reasons for your answer in each case. (6 points)**

- a. A generous donor gives our library thousands of dollars every year.

syntactic function: subject

two reasons:

1. normally occurs before the predicate in declarative sentences.
2. can be replaced by a pronoun in nominative/subject case (he)
3. is the topic of the clause.
4. is the 'agent'/doer of the action.
5. determines the verb agreement
6. in passive will become the subject of a prepositional phrase headed by *by*

- b. Everybody considered James a genius, since he always received such good marks.

syntactic function: object complement

two reasons:

1. normally occurs directly after the direct object
2. describes the direct object
3. often appears in clauses with verbs like *think, consider, deem, judge, and believe*.
4. CANNOT be replaced by a pronoun, except for *one*
5. CANNOT become the subject in a passive alternation.

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