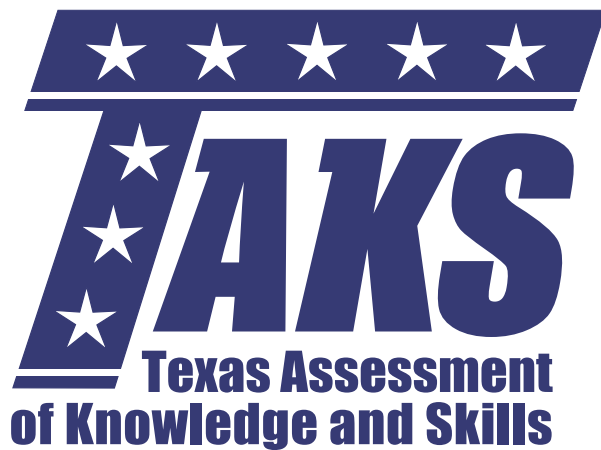


STUDENT NAME _____



**GRADE 4
WRITING**

Administered March 2009

REVISING AND EDITING

Revising and Editing Sample

DIRECTIONS

Read the introduction and the passage that follows. Then read each question and fill in the correct answer on your answer document.

Tai is in the fourth grade. He wrote this report about the mudskipper for his science class. He wants you to help him revise and edit the report. Read Tai's report and think about the changes he should make. Then answer the questions that follow.

The Amazing Mudskipper

(1) Most animals are interesting, but some are quite amazing.
(2) Did you know, for example, that there is a fish that can climb trees. (3) It is called a mudskipper, and it looks like a cross between a frog, a fish, and a tadpole. (4) This strange creature is able to move around on the ground and in the water too. (5) If the mudskipper is hungry, it will crawl on the ground to a low branch. (6) It will then climb onto the branch, and it is in search of insects and also other small creatures to eat.

S-1 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 2?

- A** Change *know* to **no**
- B** Change *is* to **are**
- C** Change the period to a question mark
- D** Make no change

S-2 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 6?

- F** It will then climb onto the branch in search of insects, also in search of other small creatures to eat.
- G** It will then climb onto the branch in search of insects and other small creatures to eat.
- H** It will then climb onto the branch, it is in search of insects, it is also in search of other small creatures to eat.
- J** No revision is needed.



Carlos wrote this paper about an unusual use for pumpkins. Read Carlos's paper and look for the corrections and improvements he should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.



© AP Photo/Akron Beacon Journal, Mike Cardew

Pumpkin Boaters

Row, Row, Row Your *Pumpkin!*

(1) Around the beginning of October, you probably start to notice that pumpkins are everywhere. (2) They're piled high outside markets. (3) People set them in their front yards.

(4) Businesses are decorated with them and schools, too. (5) The festive orange fruits they are a familiar symbol of the fall season.

(6) Pumpkins come in different shapes and sizes. (7) Some are small enough to fit in your hand. (8) Others, however, is enormous.

(9) These giant pumpkins can weigh more than 1,000 pounds.

(10) What can you do with a pumpkin that large? (11) Believe it or not, some people choose to go pumpkin boating.

(12) Wayne Hackney, of New Milford, Connecticut, was the first person to make a boat out of a pumpkin. (13) He wears an orange tuxedo on special occasions. (14) In 1996 he attached a small motor to the back of a large, hollowed-out pumpkin. (15) He then climbed inside he made his way across a lake. (16) Their clever idea gained the attention of several reporters. (17) Before long, pumpkin-boat races were popping up in places all over the country.

(18) According to pumpkin-boat experts, there are some things to remember when making a pumpkin boat. (19) The pumpkin should weigh at least 500 pounds, but the best ones are usually closer to 700 pounds. (20) They are also long and evenly balanced.

(21) Raising giant pumpkins and making boats out of them may seem a little silly to most of us, but pumpkin boaters disagree.

(22) One boater commented “It’s something fun to do with pumpkins other than carve them.”

- 1 What is the **BEST** way to revise sentence 4?
- A Businesses are decorated with them, schools are decorated with them.
 - B Businesses are decorated with them. And schools, too.
 - C Businesses and schools, they are decorated with them.
 - D Businesses and schools are decorated with them.

- 2 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
- F Delete *they*
 - G Change *are* to **were**
 - H Change *season* to **Season**
 - J Make no change

- 3 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 8?
- A Change *Others* to **Other's**
 - B Change *is* to **are**
 - C Change *enormous* to **enormously**
 - D Make no change

- 4 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 15?
- F He then climbed inside and made his way. Across a lake.
 - G He then climbed inside. And made his way across a lake.
 - H He then climbed inside and made his way across a lake.
 - J No revision is needed.

5 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 16?

- A Change *Their* to **His**
- B Change *several* to **sevr**al
- C Change *reporters* to **Reporters**
- D Make no change

6 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 22?

- F Insert a comma after *commented*
- G Change *It's* to **Its**
- H Delete the quotation marks at the end of the sentence
- J Make no change

7 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this paper?

- A Sentence 9
- B Sentence 11
- C Sentence 13
- D Sentence 14

Gail wrote this story about her dog. Read Gail's story and look for the corrections and improvements she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Our Very Own Houdini

(1) We named our dog Rosie, but we should have named her Houdini. (2) Like the famous escape artist Harry Houdini, Rosie could get out of anything. (3) As a puppy Rosie gave no hint of her special ability. (4) She was a year old before we learned about her unusual skill.

(5) Maybe Rosie didn't like being locked in the backyard. (6) Maybe she wanted attention. (7) Maybe she was just curious about what was beyond the fence. (8) Whatever the reason, we were simply unable to keep that dog in our backyard.

(9) It must have been hard to dig through the dry, packed dirt under there. (10) Rosie wasn't a skinny dog, either! (11) However, over and over again she would find a way to squeeze under our wooden fence and escape.

(12) Later we would find Rosie, return her to the backyard, and fill up the hole she had dug. (13) Within a few days a new hole would appear. (14) This went on for months, and we all got frustrated. (15) My cousins came to visit for a month. (16) Finally my dad decided to put concrete under the fence. (17) We were sure

this would stop our little Houdini. (18) There was no way she would be able to dig through concrete. (19) Do you think the concrete kept Rosie in our backyard. (20) Think again. (21) Rosie just started chewing on the bottom of the fence. (22) As soon as she had chewed an opening big enough, she would crawl right out and begin roaming the neighborhood again.

(23) My family could think of only one way to stop Rosie. (24) And brought her inside and made her a house dog. (25) From that day on, Rosie spent a lot less time in the backyard. (26) Whenever we did put her outside, she didn't try to escape or get out anymore. (27) Maybe being an inside dog is what Rosie had wanted all along.

- 8 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 4?
- F She was a year old. Before we learned about her unusual skill.
 - G She was a year old, then we learned about her unusual skill.
 - H She was a year old before we learned about it. Her unusual skill.
 - J No revision is needed.

- 9 The meaning of sentence 9 can be improved by changing *there* to —
- A the fence
 - B the dirt
 - C the dog
 - D it

- 10 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 13?
- F Change *new* to **knew**
 - G Insert **it** after *hole*
 - H Change *appeer* to **appear**
 - J Make no change

- 11 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 19?
- A Change *you* to **I**
 - B Change *kept* to **keep**
 - C Change the period to a question mark
 - D Make no change

12 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 24?

- F** We brought her inside and made her a house dog.
- G** We brought her inside, we made her a house dog.
- H** We brought her inside. To make her a house dog.
- J** No revision is needed.

13 What is the **BEST** way to rewrite the idea in sentence 26?

- A** Whenever we did put her outside. She didn't try to get out anymore.
- B** Whenever we did put her outside, she didn't try to escape. Or try to get out anymore.
- C** Whenever we did put her outside, she didn't try. To escape or get out anymore.
- D** Whenever we did put her outside, she didn't try to escape anymore.

14 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this story?

- F** Sentence 8
- G** Sentence 15
- H** Sentence 17
- J** Sentence 21

Mindy wrote about an exciting day at her house. Read Mindy's paper and look for the corrections and improvements she should make. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

Bees in the Wall

(1) You could see the honeybees gathered outside our garage.

(2) Bees flew in and out of a hole just under the roof. (3) Inside the garage you could hear them softly buzzing in the wall. (4) How would you get rid of a huge colony of bees! (5) My mom decided to call some local beekeepers.

(6) On saturday the beekeepers came to our house. (7) I could tell that they were ready to get to work. (8) They wore special hats and thick nets. (9) The nets covered their faces. (10) They had gloves on their hands and rubber bands around the bottoms of their pants. (11) The rubber bands kept their pant legs closed so that the bees could not fly up them. (12) Although I made sure to stay a safe distance away from them, I watched the beekeepers for a long time.

(13) First the team sent smoke down into the wall. (14) The smoke made the bees sleepy. (15) The beekeepers explained that sleepy bees are not likely to be angry bees. (16) Next the beekeepers removed part of the wall. (17) All I could see was bees and more bees. (18) The workers had a special vacuum it sucked

the bees into a box. (19) It took two boxes to hold all the bees.

(20) Later we learned that there had been about 80,000 bees in our garage wall!

(21) The beekeepers was happy to have all our bees.

(22) They took the bees to a safe place, where the insects could

start a new colony. (23) I can't say that I was sad when the

beekeepers left with there boxes. (24) However, I can say that it

had been a very interesting day.

- 15 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?
- A Change *How* to **how**
 - B Change *you* to **yourself**
 - C Change the exclamation point to a question mark
 - D Make no change

- 16 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 5?
- F Change *mom* to **Mom**
 - G Change *desided* to **decided**
 - H Change *to call* to **too call**
 - J Make no change

- 17 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 6?
- A Change *saturday* to **Saturday**
 - B Insert **they** after *beekeepers*
 - C Change *came* to **come**
 - D Make no change

- 18 What is the **BEST** way to combine sentences 8 and 9?
- F They wore special hats, and they wore thick nets, and they covered their faces.
 - G They wore special hats and thick nets, the nets covered their faces.
 - H They wore special hats and thick nets and covered their faces.
 - J They wore special hats and thick nets that covered their faces.

19 What revision is needed in sentence 18?

- A The workers had a special vacuum they sucked into a box with bees.
- B The workers having a special vacuum. It sucked the bees into a box.
- C The workers had a special vacuum. And sucked the bees into a box.
- D The workers had a special vacuum that sucked the bees into a box.

20 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 21?

- F Change *was* to **were**
- G Change *happy* to **happier**
- H Change the period to a comma
- J Make no change

21 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 23?

- A Change *can't* to **cant**
- B Change *left* to **leave**
- C Change *there* to **their**
- D Make no change

Alex wrote this story about his sister. Read Alex's story and think about ways you would correct and improve it. When you finish reading, answer the questions that follow.

To the Emergency Room

(1) We're not exactly sure just how it happened. (2) But somehow my sister's finger got stuck in a folding chair on the back porch. (3) After a while she got it free, but then she couldn't stop crying. (4) Cameron doesn't usually cry, so the tears were a bad sign.

(5) Dad took one look at Cameron's injured finger, wrapped her hand in a towel, and hustled her into the car. (6) The nurse in the emergency room studied the cut carefully. (7) It wasn't bleeding much by then, but it was deep. (8) Cameron was going to need stitches. (9) She was really scared. (10) Dad told her to be brave and think about what she would like to eat when the hospital visit was over. (11) Through her sobs Cameron asked, "How about pizza and a chocolate shake?"

(12) She had to be very still the doctor gave her little shots in her finger. (13) The numbing medicine must have really stung because Cameron yelled loudly. (14) But after a minute Cameron couldn't even feel it when the doctor touched her finger.

(15) Dr Wong carefully sewed up the cut. (16) I waited just outside while Dad stayed next to Cameron and held her other hand.

(17) When the doctor was finished, he put a bandage on Cameron's finger. (18) The doctor has three children of his own.

(19) It was beginning to get late, but Dad kept his promise.

(20) He stopped at Pizza Palace on the way home. (21) Cameron had three chocolate shakes with her pizza that night. (22) She was convinced that chocolate would help her finger heal more quickly!

22 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 4?

- F Change *doesn't* to **doesn't**
- G Change *usually* to **usally**
- H Change *were* to **was**
- J Make no change

23 What change should be made in sentence 6?

- A Change *nurse* to **Nurse**
- B Change *studied* to **studyed**
- C Change *the cut* to **it**
- D Change *careful* to **carefully**

24 Which sentence could **BEST** follow sentence 9?

- F The big dog next door had scared her last week.
- G She was frightened and scared.
- H She had never had stitches before, and she was afraid it would hurt.
- J The nurse had a white hat and a friendly voice.

25 What revision, if any, is needed in sentence 12?

- A She had to be very still, the doctor gave her little shots in her finger.
- B She had to be very still while the doctor gave her little shots in her finger.
- C She had to be very still. Since the doctor gave her little shots in her finger.
- D No revision is needed.

26 What change should be made in sentence 14?

- F** Change *couldn't* to **could'nt**
- G** Change *even* to **hardly**
- H** Change *fell* to **feel**
- J** Change *touched* to **touching**

28 Which sentence does **NOT** belong in this story?

- F** Sentence 8
- G** Sentence 17
- H** Sentence 18
- J** Sentence 20

27 What change, if any, should be made in sentence 15?

- A** Change *Dr* to **Dr.**
- B** Change *sewed* to **sewn**
- C** Change the period to a comma
- D** Make no change

BE SURE YOU HAVE RECORDED ALL OF YOUR ANSWERS
ON THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.



WRITTEN COMPOSITION

Write a composition about a time when something surprising happened.

The information in the box below will help you remember what you should think about when you write your composition.

REMEMBER—YOU SHOULD

- write about a time when something surprising happened
- make sure that each sentence you write helps the reader understand your composition
- write about your ideas in detail so that the reader really understands what you are saying
- try to use correct spelling, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and sentences

USE THIS PREWRITING PAGE TO
PLAN YOUR COMPOSITION.

MAKE SURE THAT YOU WRITE YOUR COMPOSITION ON
THE TWO LINED PAGES IN THE ANSWER DOCUMENT.

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