PRACTICE Grammar Test
English B50

PART 1: Put parentheses around the prepositional phrases, and label them pp. Underline the subjects, and label them S. Underline the verbs, and label them V. (one point per subject, one per verb, one per prepositional phrase)

1. The vivid colors of the flowers in the blue vase on the table brighten the room.

2. Outside the school, on the busy street, happy students were walking home on the last day of school.

3. For dessert, I will have a cup of coffee and a slice of pecan pie.

4. The smell of the coffee made me happy.

5. Do you drink coffee every morning or just on special occasions?

6. Joe could not tell the color of the traffic light because he is color blind.

PART 2: Correct the fragments in the following paragraphs. (2 points per fragment/20 total this section)

The kitchen workers at Arturo’s Pizza have invented several games. To relieve boredom. When business is slow. One of their favorite games is “dough ball.” A game of catch played with a ball of pizza dough. The size of a baseball. When they get tired of playing “dough ball.” They play “dough boy.” A game that involves very wet, sticky dough. Then throwing it at each other. The one with the most dough stuck to him at the end of the game loses. And has to clean up the mess. The kitchen workers have recently invented another game. That they call “beef darts.” The object of the game is to earn points. By throwing small balls of raw hamburger at a pizza sauce target painted on the wall. Whenever Arturo returns to the restaurant. He is amazed at the mess.
PART 3: Correct each of the following run-ons and comma splices. You may use coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, semicolons, and/or conjunctive adverbs as you see fit. Just be sure to use punctuation correctly. (2 points each/20 total this section)

1. The house was painted brown the shutters were painted red.
2. The letter carrier had never seen those two dogs before so she approached cautiously.
3. The park was overgrown with weeds the city workers were on strike.
4. Karen is grouchy when she first wakes up, after a cup of coffee, she feels better.
5. Denise thought she could get by without studying, her grades suffered.
6. Dogs have lost their position as the most popular pet, more Americans now have cats than dogs.
7. In wealthier countries, people can afford to have pets, however in some countries, dogs and cats are used as food.
8. Helen won tickets to the concert she is looking for someone to go with her.
9. A water shortage developed the city imposed a ban on watering lawns.
10. My imagination has saved my life several times so I call on it to get me out of trouble.
11. I was very busy on election day, I still voted.
12. I got home I watched the election results on television.
13. The ballots were counted and a winner was declared.
14. The losing candidate congratulated the winner he was disappointed.
15. The story of Atlantis is probably just a tale but many people have believed it.
PART 4 WRITING COMPOUND AND COMPLEX SENTENCES: On a separate sheet of paper, write TEN compound or complex sentences using TEN of the following coordinating conjunctions, subordinating conjunctions, and conjunctive adverbs. Remember that each sentence must contain two clauses (two ICs or an IC and a DC). Be sure to use the correct punctuation. (2 points each)

after
when
and
while
whatever
instead
in fact
because
yet
until
or
if
as though
yet
however
therefore

1. ____________________________________________
   ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________
7. ____________________________________________
8. ____________________________________________
9. ____________________________________________
10. ____________________________________________
ANSWER KEY

PART 1
1. S=colors; V= brighten; pp=of the flowers, in the blue vase, on the
2. S=students; V=were walking; pp=Outside the school, on the busy street, on the last day, of school.
3. S=I; V=will have; pp=For dessert, of coffee, of pecan pie.
4. S=smell V=made; pp=of the coffee
5. S=you; V=Do drink; pp= on special occasions
6. S=Joe, he V=could tell, is; pp=of the traffic light

PART 2—possible answers
The kitchen workers at Arturo’s Pizza have invented several games to relieve boredom when business is slow. One of their favorite games is “dough ball,” a game of catch played with a ball of pizza dough the size of a baseball. When they get tired of playing “dough ball,” they play “dough boy,” a game that involves very wet, sticky dough and then throwing it at each other. The one with the most dough stuck to him at the end of the game loses and has to clean up the mess. The kitchen workers have recently invented another game that they call “beef darts.” The object of the game is to earn points by throwing small balls of raw hamburger at a pizza sauce target painted on the wall. Whenever Arturo returns to the restaurant, he is amazed at the mess.

PART 3—possible answers
1. The house was painted brown, and the shutters were painted red.
2. The letter carrier had never seen those two dogs before, so she approached cautiously.
3. The park was overgrown with weeds because the city workers were on strike.
4. Karen is grumpy when she first wakes up; after a cup of coffee, she feels better.
5. Although Denise thought she could get by without studying, her grades suffered.
6. Dogs have lost their position as the most popular pet; more Americans now have cats than dogs.
7. In wealthier countries, people can afford to have pets; however, in some countries, dogs and cats are used as food.
8. Helen won tickets to the concert; now, she is looking for someone to go with her.
9. When a water shortage developed the city imposed a ban on watering lawns.
10. My imagination has saved my life several times, so I call on it to get me out of trouble.
11. Even though I was very busy on election day, I still voted.
12. When I got home I watched the election results on television.
13. The ballots were counted, and a winner was declared.
14. The losing candidate congratulated the winner even though he was disappointed.
15. The story of Atlantis is probably just a tale, but many people have believed it.

PART 4—a few possibilities—
After Joe broke his record for running a mile, he decided to try to break his 2-mile record.
When we are late for class on a test day, the teacher doesn’t let us in.
My dogs love to chase squirrels, and once they cornered one.
While the weather is bad, we will stay in more.
I want whatever she is having.
Joe ordered black coffee; instead, the waitress brought him a latte.
Joe asked her to take the coffee back; in fact, he nearly lost his patience with her.
Because we are behind on our homework, we need to stay home and catch up.
It is raining outside, yet we will go to school anyway.
Until you eat your vegetables, you are not leaving this table.
I will only go with you if my brother can come with us.
He looked at Sandra as though he wanted to ask her out.
He did want to ask her out; however, he was very nervous.