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Experiment 2 Materials (Nouns)

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Instructions

This is an experiment in how people comprehend stories. It is NOT a test of your personality or intelligence. In this experiment you will be using the keys in front of you. It is very important that you only press the keys when you are supposed to. Also, do not hold down a key or press it more than once while responding. The keys act just like the keys on a keyboard.

We would like you to use the hand that you normally write with to press the keys labeled “YES” and “NO,” and your other hand to press the key labeled “ADVANCE.” Check to make sure the button pads are on the correct side. So, if you are right-handed the button pad with two keys should be on the right side and if you are left-handed the button pad with two keys should be on the left side. Go ahead and move them now if you need to. Also, we would like you to use your index finger and your middle finger to press the keys labeled “YES” and “NO.”

In this experiment you are going to read a series of stories on the computer monitor. The stories are NOT related. That is, each story should be understood separately from the others. Before the start of each story you will hear the word “Ready?,” and the word “Ready?” will also appear on the screen. To signal that you are ready, press the “ADVANCE” key.

Put on your headphones now. There are volume knobs on each earphone so that you can adjust it to your own comfort level.

TO HEAR AN EXAMPLE OF THE WORD “READY” PLEASE PRESS THE “ADVANCE” KEY.

The stories will be shown in short paragraphs on the computer monitor. As you are reading the stories you will be periodically tested with the name of a person, and this test name will appear centered at the top of the screen. When you see a test name, decide whether that name **has occurred in the STORY you are currently reading**. If the test name **has already occurred**, press the key labelled “YES”; if the test name **has NOT occurred**, press the key labelled “NO.”

We want you to try to respond to each test name as ACCURATELY as you possibly can. In addition to answering as accurately as possible, we also want you to answer as RAPIDLY as you can. The keys that you are pressing are connected to a computer which will record both how rapidly and how accurately you respond to each test name. So, try to answer as QUICKLY but also as CORRECTLY as you can. During the practice stories if you answer correctly, you’ll be shown the word “CORRECT” on the computer screen. If you answer incorrectly you’ll be shown the word “WRONG”, and if you take more than 2 seconds to answer you’ll be shown the words “NO ANSWER.” During the actual experiment you will not be given any feedback, but the computer will keep track

of whether you are correct or wrong.

Now we will try a practice story. First you will hear the word “ready.” Press the “ADVANCE” key and the “READY?” screen will go away, and you will begin reading the story. As you are reading the story test names will appear on the screen. Press the “YES” key if the name **has already occurred** in the story. Press the “NO” key if the name **has NOT occurred** in the story.

PLEASE PRESS THE “ADVANCE” KEY TO READ A PRACTICE STORY.

As you have now seen, the story is presented as separate paragraphs, but remember when you are responding to a test name you should think about the **WHOLE** story and not just the paragraph you read last.

Now that you understand one part of the experiment, we will describe the other part. To make sure that you are indeed reading each story and comprehending it as thoroughly as possible, often at the end of a story you will see the words, “Please continue the story.” When you see those words you should pick up the paper and pen you have been given and begin writing a suitable one line continuation. **You will not be asked to continue EVERY story.** You should only continue the story if you see the words “Please continue the story” on your monitor; therefore, you need to pay attention to the messages during the experiment.

It is important that your continuation demonstrates that you paid attention to the story. We will score these continuations on how well they match what the story was about. Each continuation does not need to be very long, but it does need to demonstrate that you understood the story.

You will have 15 seconds to write your continuation. When those 15 seconds are up, you will hear the word “ready.” Please stop writing at that point, even if you have not finished your sentence, and press the “ADVANCE” key so that the experiment will continue. Now, let’s try another practice story.

PLEASE PRESS THE “ADVANCE” KEY TO READ A PRACTICE STORY.

Okay, before you start the actual experiment we want to remind you of a few important things. First, remember that when you are responding to a test word you should try to recall whether the test name was anywhere in the **WHOLE** story, not just the paragraph that you read last.

Secondly, remember that you will not be writing continuations for every story, only when you see the words “Please continue the story” on your monitor.

And lastly, on the hand that you normally write with you should be using your index (pointer) finger and your middle finger to press the “YES” and “NO” keys. **PLEASE USE ONLY THOSE TWO FINGERS.**

If you have any questions feel free to ask the experimenter now.

PLEASE WAIT. THE EXPERIMENTER WILL START THE EXPERIMENT.

Practice Stories

1. Rementions 1st YNN

Introduction

Karl couldn’t believe how bad his day was going. First, he had forgotten to set his alarm, so he woke up late this

morning. When he got into work there were dozens of files on his desk that needed to be worked on.

Transition Statement 1

Things became progressively worse as the day went on.

TEST 1: DESK

Remention 1st

When Karl went to send a fax he had to wait almost fifteen minutes because someone else was sending an “emergency” twelve page fax. While waiting, the strange office girl started talking to him about death.

TEST 2: FOLDER

Conclusion

He only spilled a large pop on himself once and knocked the pile of papers off his desk twice. A career as a Maytag service representative was looking pretty good right now.

TEST: TEA

Karl wondered what exactly the qualifications were to become a Maytag representative.

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2. Before--Mention 2nd NYY

Introduction

Arnie felt incredibly conspicuous in the long skirt and heels he was wearing. He didn't think that the make-up he had on could even hide the fact that he was a man. Arnie still thought the best way to escape from the men looking for him was by sending himself through the mail.

Transition Statement 1

He had been talked out of that idea for this one instead.

TEST 1: PUMPS

Mention 2nd

Doris, walking beside her friend, was also struck by the thought of how crazy this was. She felt like she was in a movie. Doris would miss her long hair, but the sacrifice would be worth it if the disguise worked.

Transition Statement 2

If they could pull this off it would be a miracle.

TEST 2: SKIRT

Conclusion

The pair tried to appear nonchalant as they stopped to hail a cab, but they couldn't help glancing around nervously from right to left as they surveyed the scene for potential signs of danger. Mexico was a long way away.

TEST 3: CAB

Experimental stories

1. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Zachary peered through his binoculars and gazed at the ship in amazement. Not only had the sails been repaired, but the boat's fiberglass sides had been buffed to a near perfect shine; the old ship gleamed. Zachary couldn't wait to get out there on the water again, and get a good helping of the salty sea air.

Transition Statement 1

Today, the wind was really blowing, just perfect for sailing.

Test 1

Old

Zachary, a cautious sailor, turned on the radio to listen for the weather. Anyone who spent much time sailing in this area realized the importance of checking for storms before venturing out on the water. Zachary would be very disappointed if a storm was blowing in because the season for sailing was nearly over and he might not get another chance this year.

New

Martha, a cautious sailor, turned on the radio to listen for the weather. Anyone who spent much time sailing in this area realized the importance of checking for storms before venturing out on the water. Martha would be very disappointed if a storm was blowing in because the season for sailing was nearly over and she might not get another chance this year.

Neither

The radio was broadcasting the weather. Anyone who spent much time sailing in this area realized the importance of checking for storms before venturing out on the water. Many people would be very disappointed if a storm was blowing in because the season for sailing was nearly over and they might not get another chance this year.

Transition Statement 2

Just then, the announcement came from the radio station, a guaranteed beautiful day without any storms in sight.

Test 2

Conclusion

Zachary knew Martha would be pleased. Today was indeed going to be perfect for sailing, even if it was going to be one of the last days of the season. The boaters began their tasks preparing the boat with a new zeal.

Test 3

TEST WORD: BINOCULARS

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2.

Introduction

Patty grabbed her clipboard and quickly looked over the stage. The props were clearly in the wrong places, extra scripts were randomly scattered around, and the backdrops were still wet with paint, but at least they were finished. Patty, at this point a little skeptical, was still determined to make this production work.

Transition Statement 1

It did seem a bit overwhelming now that opening night was only two weeks away.

Test 1

Old

Patty, the stage manager, wanted everything ready for Saturday night’s dress rehearsal. The crucial step was going to be getting the actors ready. Patty knew that with some effort, the production would eventually come together, and with any luck at all, might even be a success.

New

Jack, the stage manager, wanted everything ready for Saturday night’s dress rehearsal. The crucial step was going to be getting the actors ready. Jack knew that with some effort, the production would eventually come together, and with any luck at all, might even be a success.

Neither

Everything was supposed to be ready for Saturday night’s dress rehearsal. The crucial step was going to be getting the actors ready. With some effort, the production would eventually come together, and with any luck at all, might even be a success.

Transition Statement 2

There was nothing so heartbreaking as getting bad reviews.

Test 2

Conclusion

It was what made the first night so important. Everyone knew it, and as opening night approached the tension got higher.

Test 3

It was only a high school performance, but for many of these kids it was the biggest thing they had ever done.

TEST WORD: CLIPBOARD

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3. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Rick put on his lucky ring and took a long look at himself in the dressing room mirror. The tight black leather pants and mesh tank top were perfect for opening night. Rick could feel his adrenaline pumping when he heard the roar of the crowd.

Transition Statement 1

Even from back stage you could hear the crowd’s steady chants, anxious for the hot new band to get started.

Test 1

Old

Rick, the lyrical genius behind the success of the band, was probably the least known member. Typically, hitting the charts meant notoriety and loss of privacy. Rick was happy to miss out on some of the limelight and was content with the knowledge that his song-writing was the glue that held the band together, and led them to the top of the charts.

New

Melissa, the lyrical genius behind the success of the band, was probably the least known member. Typically, hitting the charts meant notoriety and loss of privacy. Melissa was happy to miss out on some of the limelight and was content with the knowledge that her song-writing was the glue that held the band together, and led them to the top of the charts.

Neither

The success of the band was due mostly to the genius of the lyrics. Typically, hitting the charts meant notoriety and loss of privacy. The lyrics were definitely the glue that held the band together, and led them to the top of the charts.

Transition Statement 2

Tonight's concert was the first of three on the East Coast.

Test 2

Conclusion

Melissa called to everyone to get ready. This show was being recorded so it was even more important that everyone was in tune. The band was great live, so the album was sure to be a hit.

Test 3

TEST WORD: RING

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4.

Introduction

Janet, weary of traveling, pulled the blanket tightly around herself. The train had rattled and bumped through several states. Janet had but one main concern: to get to her destination before nightfall on Tuesday.

Transition Statement 1

Dark clouds were gathering in the sky.

Test 1

Old

Janet, seated near the window, looked out at the large open fields. It was getting dark now because of the approaching storm, and the wind was whipping hard against the long grass. Janet's active imagination envisioned the storm as an omen of impending turmoil.

New

David, seated near the window, looked out at the large open fields. It was getting dark now because of the approaching storm, and the wind was whipping hard against the long grass. David’s active imagination envisioned the storm as an omen of impending turmoil.

Neither

The windows looked out at the large open fields. It was getting dark now because of the approaching storm, and the wind was whipping hard against the long grass. The storm seemed an omen of impending turmoil.

Transition Statement 2

The train began slowing down for the next stop.

Test 2

Conclusion

There, the many weary passengers could get some fresh air and stretch before continuing on their journey. There were still many miles to go before the train would reach its final destination.

Test 3

The air was heavy with humidity. In the distance, flashes of lightning lit up the dark clouds.

TEST WORD: BLANKET

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5. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Patrick hurriedly zipped up his orange parka and looked once more over the sled, every crack filled with ice and snow. One strap was badly weathered, but probably would make it through the rest of the day without needing to be repaired. Patrick was more concerned about the dogs having enough food to make it.

Transition Statement 1

That afternoon was miserably cold, and the wind howled as it whipped through the narrow valley of the mountain where the group had stopped to rest.

Test 1

Old

Patrick, one of the research geologists, had never made such a difficult trip to a site. The job involved making a rugged trek across Alaska’s frozen tundra to collect samples of some newly discovered mineral deposits. Patrick felt he was not cut out for this kind of adventure and was quickly losing interest in the assignment.

New

Janice, one of the research geologists, had never made such a difficult trip to a site. The job involved making a rugged trek across Alaska’s frozen tundra to collect samples of some newly discovered mineral deposits. Janice felt she was not cut out for this kind of adventure and was quickly losing interest in the assignment.

Neither

The team of research geologists had never made such a difficult trip to a site. The job involved making a rugged

trek across Alaska's frozen tundra to collect samples of some newly discovered mineral deposits. Many felt they were not cut out for this kind of adventure and were quickly losing interest in the assignment.

Transition Statement 2

The research assignment was scheduled to run through the end of February, but the way things were going, the group probably wouldn't make it that long.

Test 2

Conclusion

It was Janice's job to navigate. During the frequent snow flurries it was difficult to spot any of the landmarks. Patrick found himself doubting her abilities, although he hadn't expressed it to anyone.

Test 3

TEST WORD: PARKA

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6. [WAS FILLER #2]

Introduction

Alan sat with his laptop computer, waiting for his flight to leave the airport. Everyone had waited in the terminal for almost two hours before the passengers were allowed to board, and now they had been waiting on the runway for half an hour. Alan realized that even if they took off right now he might not make his connecting flight.

Transition 1

Many of the passengers looked relieved when the plane finally took off around dusk.

Test 1:

Old

Alan, a businessman, had traveled enough to know that there would often be delays. Accepting the inevitability of delay eased one's mind considerably. Alan knew the best solution was to schedule flights early enough, so that a delay would not be a disaster.

New

Meagan, a businesswoman, had traveled enough to know that there would often be delays. Accepting the inevitability of delay eased one's mind considerably. Meagan knew the best solution was to schedule flights early enough, so that a delay would not be a disaster.

Neither

Anyone who traveled enough knew that there would often be delays. Accepting the inevitability of delay eased one's mind considerably. The best solution was to schedule flights early enough, so that a delay would not be a disaster.

Transition 2

Once the plane was in the air, the time seemed to pass quickly.

Test 2:

Conclusion

The flight was smooth and uneventful. However, some passengers were more relaxed than others. As they came into New York the lights of the city lit up for miles around. Truly this was the city that never slept.

Test 3:

When the plane finally landed, the rush to get off the plane ensued.

TEST WORD: COMPUTER

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7. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Sam pulled on his down coat and stumbled down the hall. Waking up at three in the morning never seemed to get any easier. Sam was grateful that this was the last house on the “hit” list.

Transition Statement 1

Outside, a dog started yapping.

Test 1

Old

Sam, the instigator of these late night escapades, had planned tonight’s mission carefully. It would be the finale and the most complicated one yet. Sam took pride in the fact that all of the previous missions had gone off without a hitch.

New

Liz, the instigator of these late night escapades, had planned tonight’s mission carefully. It would be the finale and the most complicated one yet. Liz took pride in the fact that all of the previous missions had gone off without a hitch.

Neither

Tonight’s mission had been planned carefully. It would be the finale and the most complicated one yet. All of the previous missions had gone off without a hitch.

Transition Statement 2

The target was only three blocks away.

Test 2

Conclusion

Liz had discovered that the house had both an alarm system and a dog. The alarm system could be avoided, but they just had to hope the dog was sleeping inside tonight.

Test 3

The group met at the designated spot and headed toward the house armed with several rolls of toilet paper.

TEST WORD: COAT

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8.

Introduction

Andrew closed the trunk tightly, amazed that he was even able to. There was so much camping gear loaded in the tiny sports car that it looked like it was going to explode. Andrew was so excited to get started on his long-awaited adventure throughout the western states.

Transition Statement 1

This summer, a special research team was hired to study the impact of increased tourism on several National Parks.

Test 1

Old

Andrew, a self-proclaimed environmentalist and activist, was anxious to get going on his work in the deep woods. There was much surveying, marking, and documenting to be done over the next few weeks. Andrew was well-prepared for the long hours ahead of him.

New

Kathy, a self-proclaimed environmentalist and activist, was anxious to get going on her work in the deep woods. There was much surveying, marking, and documenting to be done over the next few weeks. Kathy was well-prepared for the long hours ahead of her.

Neither

All the self-proclaimed environmentalists and activists assigned to the project were anxious to get going on their work in the deep woods. There was much surveying, marking, and documenting to be done over the next few weeks. The staff was well-prepared for the long hours ahead.

Transition Statement 2

Working fifty to sixty hour weeks was not uncommon for this type of project.

Test 2

Conclusion

The research team was composed of students from across the country, mostly the larger state universities. Many of the students had never been to the western half of the country.

Test 3

This project would be a learning experience for them in more than one way.

TEST WORD: TRUNK

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9. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Janie wiped her forehead with a bandana and looked over the gorgeous garden built up over the side of the hill.

It was a miracle of engineering. Jeanie was pleased with her most difficult challenge as a landscape architect.

Transition Statement 1

Dedicated workers had helped the company really take off this year and profits had doubled.

Test 1

Old

Jeanie, a tireless worker, had spent countless hours this summer working on the project. The sloped area required a lot of difficult terracing. Jeanie worked meticulously in order to maintain the reputation of the business.

New

Sean, a tireless worker, had spent countless hours this summer working on the project. The sloped area required a lot of difficult terracing. Sean worked meticulously in order to maintain the reputation of the business.

Neither

Everyone had spent countless hours this summer working on the project. The sloped area required a lot of difficult terracing. Work was performed meticulously in order to maintain the reputation of the business.

Transition Statement 2

Now that the work was finally done it was time to celebrate.

Test 2

Conclusion

Jeanie was planning a small celebration for two. The champagne had been chilling since this morning. Her heart sank briefly when she realized that Sean might have made other plans. It was that brief anguish that finally inspired her to get up the courage to ask him right away.

Test 3

TEST WORD: BANDANA

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10.

Introduction

Jennifer quickly put on her tall riding boots and slammed the front door loudly in her hurry to escape the house and its infuriating inhabitants. The recent high humidity combined with temperatures in the nineties was making it impossible to sleep at night and everyone was cranky in the mornings. Jennifer headed straight for the stables at a brisk pace.

Transition Statement 1

The stables were situated at the top of a small hill and the house was at the head of a narrow valley.

Test 1

Old

Jennifer, an expert rider and trainer, had become a common sight in the stables and could usually be found lingering by the stalls of the beautiful horses, greeting each one on her way through. The stables were extensive,

holding up to 200 horses at a time. Jennifer planned for a long day of work today, preparing several of the horses for a show.

New

Thomas, an expert rider and trainer, had become a common sight in the stables and could usually be found lingering by the stalls of the beautiful horses, greeting each one on his way through. The stables were extensive, holding up to 200 horses at a time. Thomas planned for a long day of work today, preparing several of the horses for a show.

Neither

The expert riders and trainers employed there often lingered as they walked by the stalls of beautiful horses, greeting each one. The stables were extensive, holding up to 200 horses at a time. Everyone planned for a long day of work today, preparing several of the horses for a show.

Transition Statement 2

It was the biggest horse show of the year.

Test 2

Conclusion

Hopefully the hard work would pay off and they would bring home several awards. Maybe then, the owner would be satisfied with everyone's work.

Test 3

In the meantime, there were several horses to groom.

TEST WORD: BOOTS

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11. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Melvin got up to sharpen a third "No. 2" pencil. The annual math-science scholarship award exam was about to begin. Melvin sat down, cracked his knuckles, and turned on his trusty calculator (and long-time friend).

Transition Statement 1

The group was silent with anticipation.

Test 1

Old

Melvin, seated in the front row, saw the tall stack of exams beginning to slide off the table. Like a rush of water from a flood gate, the exams flowed onto the floor. Melvin was too nervous to laugh.

New

Marcie, seated in the front row, saw the tall stack of exams beginning to slide off the table. Like a rush of water from a flood gate, the exams flowed onto the floor. Marcie was too nervous to laugh.

Neither

At the front of the room, the tall stack of exams began to slide off the table. Like a rush of water from a flood gate, the exams flowed onto the floor. Everyone was too nervous to laugh.

Transition Statement 2

It would probably take ten minutes to get them all stacked again.

Test 2

Conclusion

The proctor decided to have everyone come up to the front of the room and take an exam from off the floor rather than pass them out. Marcie thought it seemed like a good idea. However, as the mob rushed forward it became obvious that it was a very bad idea.

Test 3

TEST WORD: PENCIL

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12.

Introduction

Christina opened her diary and wrote about the day's events within the castle walls; another day spent safe from the ruthless pagans, but unhappy. The ancient castle, nestled between two small villages in the lush countryside of Northern Ireland, was a well-protected fortress. Christina had spent her sheltered life yearning for adventure.

Transition Statement 1

It was rumored that a revolt was planned for tonight at midnight.

Test 1

Old

Christina, who was one of the main servants to the king, was eager to join the commotion in the streets. It would be the perfect opportunity for adventure. Christina would slip out as soon as everyone was asleep.

New

Philip, who was one of the main servants to the king, was eager to join the commotion in the streets. It would be the perfect opportunity for adventure. Philip would slip out as soon as everyone was asleep.

Neither

Many of the king's servants were ready to join the commotion in the streets. It would be the perfect opportunity for adventure. Slipping out would be possible as soon as everyone was asleep.

Transition Statement 2

Life in the kingdom had become unbearable for many.

Test 2

Conclusion

The streets had become unsafe. There was so much energy, tension, and anger. There were fire pits at every corner, marking off gathering centers for the rebels.

Test 3

The streets were filling up as the night wore on. Midnight was approaching fast.

TEST WORD: DIARY

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13. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Clarice let out a disgusted sigh as she walked toward the huge pot to stir up the thick bubbly mixture. This recipe, found on the very last page of the Witch Handbook, called for several warts off a toad’s back, a few strands of a troll’s hair, as well as a few gallons of swamp water. Clarice was glad that brewing such concoctions was rarely required.

Transition Statement 1

Just then, a groan came from the basement.

Test 1

Old

Clarice, the torturer, was reminded what was still down there. Hopefully the spell wasn’t wearing off too quickly. Clarice realized this would be a good opportunity to test out a brand new piece of equipment.

New

Mortimer, the torturer, was reminded what was still down there. Hopefully the spell wasn’t wearing off too quickly. Mortimer realized this would be a good opportunity to test out a brand new piece of equipment.

Neither

It was a reminder of what was still down there. Hopefully the spell wasn’t wearing off too quickly. This would be a good opportunity to test out a brand new piece of equipment.

Transition Statement 2

The way to the basement was through a trap door.

Test 2

Conclusion

Since it was his turn, Mortimer headed over to the trap door to check out the noise. For some reason the door was stuck. It was extremely heavy, as if someone or something was hanging on it to keep it shut.

Test 3

TEST WORD: POT

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14.

Introduction

Ralph straightened his bright red tie and began his walk to the subway downtown. It would no doubt arrive at 8:15 sharp as it did every morning. Ralph enjoyed his morning ritual of grabbing a morning paper, a donut and a cup of coffee, and heading for the station.

Transition Statement 1

But something on today's front page of the paper was dead wrong, and anyone reading the headlines that morning would notice it right away.

Test 1

Old

Ralph, who had been a journalist for the local newspaper for the last eight years, took it upon himself to look for any small errors in the final copy that had been overlooked. Today there was a big one. Ralph's heart sank, as he thought about how this one mistake would surely bring the paper more embarrassment than ever before.

New

Joan, who had been a journalist for the local newspaper for the last eight years, took it upon herself to look for any small errors in the final copy that had been overlooked. Today there was a big one. Joan's heart sank, as she thought about how this one mistake would surely bring the paper more embarrassment than ever before.

Neither

Those who worked for the local paper took it upon themselves to look for any small errors in the final copy that had been overlooked. Today there was a big one. This one mistake would surely bring the paper more embarrassment than ever before.

Transition Statement 2

The front page headline, in all capital letters and in bold face type, had one important letter altered.

Test 2

Conclusion

The meaning of the word changed entirely with that one letter in an unplanned and definitely tasteless way. The announcement of the new governor of the city was completely botched.

Test 3

The governor's term was certainly not off to a strong start.

TEST WORD: TIE

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15. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

As Caroline put on the polyester pantsuit, she thought about how much fun it had been helping to plan the surprise party. The theme for the party was the 1970's. Caroline was even able to find some old disco music.

Transition Statement 1

The party was a combined effort of family and friends.

Test 1

Old

Caroline got most of the decorations at a garage sale. The apartment was set up like a nightclub with strobe lights and a sparkly globe. Caroline laughed with delight to see it all set up; it looked positively groovy.

New

Roger got most of the decorations at a garage sale. The apartment was set up like a nightclub with strobe lights and a sparkly globe. Roger laughed with delight to see it all set up; it looked positively groovy.

Neither

Most of the decorations were from a garage sale. The apartment was set up like a nightclub with strobe lights and a sparkly globe. It was a delight to see it all set up; it looked positively groovy.

Transition Statement 2

All that was left was to bring out the food.

Test 2

Conclusion

Just then the doorbell rang. Was it possible that Kevin, the guest of honor, had arrived early?

Test 3

It would be totally out of character. Roger peeked through the hole in the door. Sure enough, it was Kevin. Why did he pick tonight to be early?

TEST WORD: PANTSUIT

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16.

Introduction

Jake kissed the gold cross pendant hanging on a chain around his neck, as he waited near the starting line. The area was crowded with racers and coaches. Jake was now at the peak of his training after several grueling months.

Transition Statement 1

There had been several delays, but it now looked as if the race was going to begin in just a few minutes.

Test 1

Old

Jake, more than just an amateur athlete, wanted above all else to be “number one.” When looking over the competition, the other runners looked anxious and tense, but most importantly, able to be beaten. Jake used the final few moments before the race to focus and prepare mentally.

New

Alicia, more than just an amateur athlete, wanted above all else to be “number one.” When looking over the competition, the other runners looked anxious and tense, but most importantly, able to be beaten. Alicia used the final few moments before the race to focus and prepare mentally.

Neither

Anyone who was more than just an amateur athlete wanted above all else to be “number one.” Looking over the starting line, the runners looked anxious and tense. It was wise to use the final few moments before the race to focus and prepare mentally.

Transition Statement 2

Winning the race meant not only a medal and recognition, but a rather hefty monetary prize as well.

Test 2

Conclusion

Surely thousands would be in the stands cheering on the participants and awaiting a victor. All eyes would be on the runners as they gradually neared the finish line.

Test 3

TEST WORD: CROSS

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17. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Carol awoke with a start and looked around for her sandals as the cold wet nose of her dog nuzzled her feet. The storm had cleared, and the early morning sun was streaming through the window. Carol and her dog went outside to survey the damage of the past night’s storm.

Transition Statement 1

During the storm a huge tree had fallen.

Test 1

Old

Carol, the groundskeeper, walked up to the tree and sighed; it was obviously a job that would require a chain saw. Half of the tree was still standing but the rest of it was lying across the yard, some of it in the driveway, and one large branch was leaning against the house very close to a window. Carol thought it was going to be tricky to remove the tree without causing more damage.

New

Robert, the groundskeeper, walked up to the tree and sighed; it was obviously a job that would require a chain saw. Half of the tree was still standing but the rest of it was lying across the yard, some of it in the driveway, and one large branch was leaning against the house very close to a window. Robert thought it was going to be tricky to remove the tree without causing more damage.

Neither

It was obviously a job that would require a chain saw. Half of the tree was still standing but the rest of it was lying across the yard, some of it in the driveway, and one large branch was leaning against the house very close to a window. It was going to be tricky to remove the tree without causing more damage.

Transition Statement 2

A soft breeze rustled the leaves of the fallen tree.

Test 2

Conclusion

Robert was sorry to see the old tree go. For many years, it had served the neighborhood. It provided a great tree swing for the neighborhood children, a nice shady picnic spot, and a haven for birds.

Test 3

Robert went off to rummage in his garage for his chain saw.

TEST WORD: SANDALS

.....

18.

Introduction

Andrea tightened the strap of her sunglasses and thought about how thoroughly she was enjoying this river rafting trip. The Rouge River offered a good number of rapids and plenty of slow areas with beautiful land formations along the banks. Andrea gripped her paddle hard and watched expectantly as the boat approached some rapids.

Transition Statement 1

The sound of the rushing water was getting louder.

Test 1

Old

Andrea, an experienced guide, sighted the path through the rapids. This area was tricky, with many hidden rocks just under the surface of the water. Andrea felt the raft pick up speed.

New

Jason, an experienced guide, sighted the path through the rapids. This area was tricky, with many hidden rocks just under the surface of the water. Jason felt the raft pick up speed.

Neither

Only an experienced guide could sight the path through the rapids. This area was tricky, with many hidden rocks just under the surface of the water. The raft picked up speed.

Transition Statement 2

The quickening water began to pull the raft toward some rocks.

Test 2

Conclusion

The group worked together to steer the raft back onto the correct path. It was a battle of strength, and the river was threatening to win.

Test 3

It was closer than anyone would have liked, but they made it. Another success.

TEST WORD: SUNGLASSES

.....

19. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Sue twisted a handkerchief in her hands as she nervously awaited the call from the adoption agency. Today, more and more couples were taking advantage of adoption agencies, and the ventures were proving successful. Sue knew that she had a great deal of love and affection to give to a child, and that she would be an excellent mother.

Transition Statement 1

Now all there was left to do was to wait for the final word from the agency.

Test 1

Old

Sue, pacing the floor, was extremely anxious. The call was supposed to come before noon. Sue's whole body trembled at the thought of finally being able to adopt a baby girl or boy.

New

Joe, pacing the floor, was extremely anxious. The call was supposed to come before noon. Joe's whole body trembled at the thought of finally being able to adopt a baby boy or girl.

Neither

It was impossible not to be extremely anxious. The call was supposed to come before noon. The thought of finally being able to adopt a baby was so exciting!

Transition Statement 2

The clock ticked loudly.

Test 2

Conclusion

Numerous sighs, anxious pacing back and forth on the carpet, and drumming of knuckles on the end tables could be heard throughout the house. Soon enough, new and very important decisions would have to be made. Just then, the telephone rang.

Test 3

Joe jumped from his chair to answer it.

TEST WORD: handkerchief

.....

20.

Introduction

Ian held a bunch of pins in his mouth as he put the finishing touches on a hem. This season's line was sure to be a hit. Ian was starting to feel the effects of sleep deprivation.

Transition Statement 1

Outside the sky was already growing lighter.

Test 1

Old

Ian, assistant to the designer, was getting used to these pressure situations. A couple times a month there was some sort of emergency. Ian was at first surprised that the fashion industry could be so high pressure.

New

Helen, assistant to the designer, was getting used to these pressure situations. A couple times a month there was some sort of emergency. Helen was at first surprised that the fashion industry could be so high pressure.

Neither

It was another high pressure situation. A couple times a month there was some sort of emergency. It was surprising that the fashion industry could be so high pressure.

Transition Statement 2

In the fast-paced world of fashion it was possible to be a famous designer by the age of 30.

Test 2

Conclusion

Working with an established designer was a good start, but apprentices were often regarded with suspicion. Many designers were threatened by new talent and were protective of their designs. It was best to go off on your own as soon as possible.

Test 3

TEST WORD: PINS

.....

21. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Paulina adjusted her bullet-proof vest and looked again at the time. It was just one more minute before the covert operation was set to begin. Paulina's heart jumped with a mixture of fear and excitement.

Transition Statement 1

The timing of these operations was crucial.

Test 1

Old

Paulina, the chief undercover agent, waited for the exact predetermined time and set off the fire alarm. The alarm was the signal for the operation to begin. Paulina watched as chaos suddenly erupted.

New

Everett, the chief undercover agent, waited for the exact predetermined time and set off the fire alarm. The alarm was the signal for the operation to begin. Everett watched as chaos suddenly erupted.

Neither

At the exact predetermined time the fire alarm went off. The alarm was the signal for the operation to begin. Chaos suddenly erupted.

Transition Statement 2

It was nearly time for the second phase of the operation to begin.

Test 2

Conclusion

The agents hid out as several hundred people filled the halls and stairways on their way out of the building. Then they put on their gas masks and awaited the next signal. Everett waited for two minutes and then gestured to the agent down the hall to set off the tear gas.

Test 3

It would surely bring the notorious head of the drug cartel out of his hiding place.

TEST WORD: VEST

.....

22.

Introduction

Eric sat back, picked up his wineglass, and sighed. The pasta with homemade Alfredo sauce, the garlic bread, and slice of cheesecake had been a perfect ending to a perfect day. Eric, now more than ever, appreciated spending a quiet evening at home with good friends and good food.

Transition Statement 1

For the employees of the small private airport on the island, it hadn't always been like that though.

Test 1

Old

Eric, a pilot for the airport, used to live a very busy life with little time for himself or anyone else. During the early years of a pilot's career, it is necessary to get as much air time as possible. In order to move up, Eric spent more time in the air than on the ground.

New

Diane, a pilot for the airport, used to live a very busy life with little time for herself, or anyone else. During the early years of a pilot's career, it is necessary to get as much air time as possible. In order to move up, Diane spent more time in the air than on the ground.

Neither

Pilots for the airport were used to living very busy lives with little free time for themselves or anyone else. During the early years of a pilot's career, it is necessary to get as much air time as possible. In order to move up, more time is spent in the air than on the ground.

Transition Statement 2

The island was becoming more popular as a tourist spot.

Test 2

Conclusion

Business had picked up and several more pilots had been hired, so the older, more established pilots were able to cut back on their hours substantially. They had all paid their dues and were entitled to a little time off. It was a welcome break.

Test 3

TEST WORD: WINEGLASS

.....

23. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Russ lit a cigarette and thought about how bleak things were looking on this latest murder case; however, he hadn't been stumped yet. The grounds of the mansion were extensive, and it took a long time to search for clues. Russ reviewed the facts of the case while roaming the grounds, still unable to find a motive for murder.

Transition Statement 1

Suddenly, from the enclosed garden, a blood-curdling scream pierced the air.

Test 1

Old

Russ was nearby and ran quickly to the deserted garden. At first glance, nothing seemed out of order. Russ began carefully searching the site for clues.

New

Beth was nearby and ran quickly to the deserted garden. At first glance, nothing seemed out of order. Beth began carefully searching the site for clues.

Neither

The garden was deserted. At first glance, nothing seemed out of order. The site would have to be carefully searched for clues.

Transition Statement 2

All the plants looked undisturbed, the walks were neatly swept, the wind chimes were silent, and the old wooden swing was motionless.

Test 2

Conclusion

But there was something wrong...something missing...it was the antique marble cherub statue that stood directly in the middle of the fountain. It was gone! Beth was astonished by its loss. It had been in the family for years.

Test 3

TEST WORD: CIGARETTE

.....

24.

Introduction

Libby was sweating through her T-shirt even though the cell was kept very cool. It was going to be difficult to break out of the maximum security prison. Libby had been training for months in preparation.

Transition Statement 1

A politically oppressed group called the Renegades had formed to save the world from a robot technology that had gotten out of hand.

Test 1

Old

Libby, a renegade fighter, had convinced a few dedicated followers that the technology needed to be destroyed. The government was funding the whole project, which made the fight nearly impossible. Libby couldn't understand how the government could be completely blind to the lethal flaws in the technology.

New

Paul, a renegade fighter, had convinced a few dedicated followers that the technology needed to be destroyed. The government was funding the whole project, which made the fight nearly impossible. Paul couldn't understand how the government could be completely blind to the lethal flaws in the technology.

Neither

The technology needed to be destroyed. The government was funding the whole project, which made the fight nearly impossible. The government was completely blind to the lethal flaws in the technology.

Transition Statement 2

The world was unprepared for the chaos it would create.

Test 2

Conclusion

It was time for the breakout plan to be put into action. Libby climbed up above the door and waited for the guard. She had surprising strength. This, combined with her street-fighting abilities, allowed her to overcome the guard.

Test 3

There were several more challenges ahead, however.

TEST WORD: T-SHIRT

.....

25. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Clyde was an infamous gun-slinger in these parts, distinguishable by his sparkling white hat, so it was no surprise that people stared at him when he rode into town. The Black Breath Saloon was known for its late night gambling games, dancing girls, and homemade moonshine. Clyde strode through the swinging doors of the saloon with his head high, knowing full well that the usual rumors of his misdeeds were being spread at that very moment.

Transition Statement 1

Just then, the old bell in the tower at the top of the hill began ringing.

Test 1

Old
Clyde, who had spent his whole life in the town, knew all too well what this meant. There was going to be another shoot-out in front of the trading post, right in the middle of town for all to see. Clyde looked out the window to see who was involved this time.

New
May, who had spent her whole life in the town, knew all too well what this meant. There was going to be another shoot-out in front of the trading post, right in the middle of town for all to see. May looked out the window to see who was involved this time.

Neither
Everyone knew all too well what this meant. There was going to be another shoot-out in front of the trading post, right in the middle of town for all to see. The only question was, who was involved this time.

Transition Statement 2
The street was suddenly vacant.

Test 2

Conclusion
Scanning the scene outside, May thought it was still too soon to tell who would be competing. But by looking at the town, it was obvious what was about to ensue. A tall stranger stepped out of a shadowed doorway.

Test 3

TEST WORD: HAT
.....

26.

Introduction
Samantha put on her goggles, a gift from her father, and fastened all the loose straps attached to her. Today, the “High Flyers” parachuting class was taking its quintessential final test: the big jump! Samantha took a deep full breath and tried to relax as she heard the engine of the small plane start.

Transition Statement 1
The plane suddenly hit some turbulence and jostled everything around.

Test 1

Old

Samantha, shaking nervously, tried to keep her mind steady and her concentration fixed. There was no turning back now; it was much too late for that. Samantha had been an attentive student and had learned all the necessary techniques of skydiving, but she just had to reassure herself one last time.

New

Greg, shaking nervously, tried to keep his mind steady and his concentration fixed. There was no turning back now; it was much too late for that. Greg had been an attentive student and had learned all the necessary techniques of skydiving, but he just had to reassure himself one last time.

Neither

The novices, shaking nervously, tried to keep their minds steady and their concentration fixed. There was no turning back now; it was much too late for that. The students had been attentive and had learned all the necessary techniques of skydiving, but they just had to reassure themselves one last time.

Transition Statement 2

The moment had arrived.

Test 2

Conclusion

The plane was at the appropriate altitude, and the parachutists were correctly positioned. All there was to do now was jump. Suddenly, the plane started shaking as if it were breaking up. Someone yelled, "The plane is in trouble! Everybody jump!"

Test 3

The parachutists were out the door in a second, and the pilot was left alone in the plane chuckling to himself.

TEST WORD: GOGGLES

.....

27. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Grant entered some numbers into the portable keypad attached to his wrist then moved to check the control panels of the spacecraft. All the systems were ready. Grant was equally ready for this next mission of discovery.

Transition Statement 1

Just as the spacecraft crossed the border into a new universe, the red light of danger started to flash on the control panel, and the alarm began to scream.

Test 1

Old

Grant, being the well-trained and organized leader, remained calm and began searching the database for information. There was clearly another spaceship within a few light-years away. Grant prepared the computer system to initiate communication with the foreign beings.

New

Alexa, being the well-trained and organized leader, remained calm and began searching the database for information. There was clearly another spaceship within a few light-years away. Alexa prepared the computer system to initiate communication with the foreign beings.

Neither

It was necessary to remain calm and begin searching the database for information. There was clearly another spaceship within a few light-years away. The next step was to prepare the computer system to initialize communication with the foreign beings.

Transition Statement 2

Once the computer was ready, the identity of the aliens could be established.

Test 2

Conclusion

Alexa turned on the monitor. Their hail was being answered. Hopefully, they would be cooperative. Often times they were, but there was no guarantee.

Test 3

TEST WORD: KEYPAD

.....

28.

Introduction

Alfred poured one bubbling test-tube into another, almost spilling on his smock. The greenish, smelly steam hung in the air of the dark musty laboratory. If this last attempt was a success, Alfred may well have just helped to create a new and improved, and most definitely infallible, love potion!

Transition Statement 1

All of a sudden, a horrible bang sounded, followed by a huge puff of smoke.

Test 1

Old

Alfred, the local mad-scientist's apprentice, had spent two years on this experiment. If this worked, maybe the whole dating industry would be revolutionized once and for all. Alfred would be keeping his fingers crossed.

New

Diedra, the local mad-scientist's apprentice, had spent two years on this experiment. If this worked, maybe the whole dating industry would be revolutionized once and for all. Diedra would be keeping her fingers crossed.

Neither

Two years had been spent on this experiment. If this worked, maybe the whole dating industry would be revolutionized once and for all. Everyone was keeping their fingers crossed.

Transition Statement 2

Now it was ready for testing.

Test 2

Conclusion

The next step would be to find some loveless “guinea pig” in search of a mate. That shouldn’t be too hard in this day and age of rows upon rows of personal ads in every newspaper.

Test 3

Some of the more desperate lovelorn folk certainly would be willing to give the new potion a try.

TEST WORD: SMOCK

.....

29. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Vincent lay in his bed, waiting, his head throbbing. A call had been made hours ago for more medicine, yet none had arrived. Vincent was growing weaker and weaker by the day.

Transition Statement 1

Disease was spreading rampantly through the small island village.

Test 1

Old

Vincent, the owner of the farm, had lived in the village since he was a child. The village was rural and the people who lived there prided themselves on their simple lifestyle accentuated by their rich customs and strong sense of community . Vincent, along with many others, had been looking for a cure for this new and very frightening disease attacking the villagers.

New

Maria, the owner of the farm, had lived in the village since she was a child. The village was rural and the people who lived there prided themselves on their simple lifestyle accentuated by their rich customs and strong sense of community. Maria, along with many others, had been looking for a cure for this new and very frightening disease attacking the villagers.

Neither

Most of the island’s farmers had lived in the village since their childhood. The village was rural and the people who lived there prided themselves on their simple lifestyle accentuated by their rich customs and strong sense of community. Many of the villagers worked together to uncover a cure for this new and frightening disease.

Transition Statement 2

Hopefully, a cure would be discovered before too long.

Test 2

Conclusion

Since the start of the outbreak, the one village doctor was greatly overextended. Maria, along with several oth-

ers, had been lending a hand whenever possible. The sense of community was strong here and had carried them through many hard times.

Test 3

TEST WORD: BED

.....

30.

Introduction

Amanda, dressed in her new overalls for school, froze at the sound of footsteps outside her bedroom door. Today was the first day of school and it was time to leave. Amanda dove under the bed in a desperate attempt to avoid reality.

Transition Statement 1

Several kids were already gathered at the corner of Chestnut and Blake, waiting for the bus to arrive.

Test 1

Old

Amanda, now a first-grader, had never liked riding the bus. It was a war zone where spitballs were the ammunition. Amanda decided to come prepared this year, armed with a straw for long distance shooting.

New

George, now a first-grader, had never liked riding the bus. It was a war zone where spitballs were the ammunition. George decided to come prepared this year, armed with a straw for long distance shooting.

Neither

First-graders never liked riding the bus. It was a war zone where spitballs were the ammunition. Many decided to come prepared this year, armed with a straw for long distance shooting.

Transition Statement 2

This year, however, spitballs were not going to be tolerated.

Test 2

Conclusion

There was a new bus driver. Her name was Melba. Melba was small and deceptively frail looking, but within a few days she had even the most unruly and overgrown boys under control.

Test 3

TEST WORD: OVERALLS

.....

31. Rementions 2nd character in conclusion

Introduction

Mark reached into his pocket for his cellular phone when he realized he was going to be late. The drive east

would take nearly two more hours and it was already well past the supposed arrival time. Mark knew he had better do something to salvage an otherwise catastrophic situation.

Transition Statement 1

Just then a loud clanking noise came from underneath the hood of the car.

Test 1

Old
Mark, sitting in the passenger seat, realized that knowing something about cars would be really useful right now. The closest town was miles away and it would cost a fortune to get anyone to come out this far. Mark was beginning to think that this trip was a mistake.

New
Cindy, sitting in the passenger seat, realized that knowing something about cars would be really useful right now. The closest town was miles away and it would cost a fortune to get anyone to come out this far. Cindy was beginning to think that this trip was a mistake.

Neither
Knowing something about cars would be really useful right now. The road was rarely traveled and it could be hours before another car came by this way. Perhaps this trip was a mistake after all.

Transition Statement 2

To make matters worse the sun was beginning to set, and before too long it would be dark.

Test 2

Conclusion
Luckily, Cindy knew of a garage located off the last exit. She only hoped that the car would make it there before it closed. If not, it was possible she could persuade the mechanic, who was an old friend, to stay open and help them out.

Test 3

TEST WORD: PHONE

.....

32.

Introduction

Margaret sat at the bar, her untouched martini beside her. This week had been extra tough on everyone involved. Margaret was just glad that Friday had finally rolled around, and she would be able to take a break for the weekend.

Transition Statement 1

The court proceedings were taking much longer than anyone would have expected.

Test 1

Old

Margaret, the lawyer assigned to the case, was convinced there could never be a fair trial. There had been too much media attention and the public was furious about the crime. Margaret was growing tired of being on the “wrong” side of the debate.

New

Gavin, the lawyer assigned to the case, was convinced there could never be a fair trial. There had been too much media attention and the public was furious about the crime. Gavin was growing tired of being on the “wrong” side of the debate.

Neither

There could never be a fair trial. There had been too much media attention and the public was furious about the crime. It was tiring being on the “wrong” side of the debate.

Transition Statement 2

Fortunately the court wasn't scheduled back into session until late Tuesday afternoon.

Test 2

Conclusion

The judge obviously couldn't take much more of the case until then either. Everyone involved would probably spend the long weekend trying to avoid the press.

Test 3

Margaret was tempted to get on a plane and fly somewhere, it didn't really matter where, as long as she was out of L.A.

TEST WORD: MARTINI

Fillers

1. YNN Remention 1st

Introduction

Rebecca, a mother of three, picked up a rag and started her day working in her house in the usual manner. The monotony of her routine had gotten harder to deal with though. Rebecca was finding it increasingly difficult to be happy with her life. With her kids at school, a long drive seemed to be an appealing idea.

TEST 1: RAG

Remention 1st

Rebecca got in her car with no particular destination in mind. As time passed, the scenery changed from urban to rural. Rebecca felt free for the first time in years. All cares were left behind with the subways and skyscrapers.

TEST 2: BARN

Conclusion

The option to keep right on driving presented itself, but rationality soon returned. She turned away from the

rolling hills and corn fields and back into high rises and crowded streets.

TEST 3: GARAGE

Escaping was nice for a while, but could never be a permanent solution.

.....

2. YNN Mention 2nd [WAS EXPT 6]

Introduction

Angie’s heart sank because as she pulled on her sweater, she realized the ID bracelet was missing. It was a 30 minute drive back to the theater. Angie was too young to drive and didn’t want to admit the loss to anyone. In junior high, ID bracelets held the mark of “going steady.”

TEST 1: SWEATER

Mention 2nd

Harold, the bracelet owner, arrived at the empty theater the next morning. The first show didn’t start until 11:00 am. Harold thought there must be a lost and found box somewhere. Hopefully the bracelet had been turned in to the front desk.

TEST 2: MOVIE

Conclusion

The friendly manager looked around but it seemed that the bracelet was lost or stolen. “I’ll keep an eye out,” he said, trying to be reassuring.

TEST 3: POPCORN

But all hope was lost.

.....

3. YNN No (re)mention

Introduction

Maggie cooled herself off with her fan , paying close attention not to ruin her hair or freshly applied make-up. By now, nearly all the guests would be escorted down the aisle to their appropriate seats. Maggie, soon enough, would be making the journey down the aisle, but she would no doubt attract more attention than the others. Just then, the earsplitting voice of the long-lost cousin hired to sing began to belt out the first few bars of “The Rose.”

TEST 1: FAN

No (re)mention

The slow walk to the altar began, and hopefully the song would end before it caused too much misery. Flower petals were scattered along the aisle and bows decorated the pews. It was hard to relax after having heard so many stories about weddings that had gone bad. There was still hope that this would be a successful one.

TEST 2: RIBBON

Conclusion

The flowers were alive upon delivery, the caterers had not dropped the cake, and there had been no fist fights the night before at the bachelor party. Certainly, everyone would be able to overlook one poor singer.

TEST 3: COMB

Except for Aunt Alma, of course; according to her, nothing could compare to her own daughter's wedding.
.....

4. YYN Two char intro

Introduction

Nicholas, the village tailor, was overwhelmed with gowns. Within the past two weeks over 20 ladies had brought in ball gowns to be hemmed, mended, or refashioned. Just yesterday his wife, Holly, had delivered ten outfits only to return with thirteen more. Now Holly had gotten word that she had to go out of town to care for her sick mother. There was no way he would be able to finish all these gowns for the ball at the palace the next week.

TEST 1: GOWNS

No (re)mention

It was to be an extravagant affair. Royalty from all over Europe were coming, along with many of the rich bourgeoisie. Food and wine would flow freely, as would the gossip. Everyone wanted to look their very best for the ball.

TEST 2: FOOD

Conclusion

Even the best tailor could not keep up to these demands though. It would take night and day to finish all the gowns that sat on the workbench.

TEST 3: STOCKINGS

Nicholas sighed and continued working. It was time he began looking for a seamstress who could help him during these busy weeks.
.....

5. YNN NO (re)mention

Introduction

Anita ran into her office and dialed as fast as her fingers would allow. The local radio station was giving away the last four front row tickets to the summer's biggest concert. Anita was determined to get through. Everyone within earshot of the station was trying desperately to get through.

TEST 1: TICKETS

No (re)mention

Avid concert-goers have a special knack for getting the best seats in the house. There is something incredible about having front row seats to a sold-out performance in an auditorium packed with fans. Knowing the music business inside and out makes friends come to expect the occasional ticket and chance to go backstage. The city's summer concert series was a tradition that brought crowds from all backgrounds.

TEST 2: STADIUM

Conclusion

For ten days in July, everything from New York City jazz to Nashville bluegrass was being performed by the biggest names in the business.

TEST 3: GUITAR

This event was definitely a must-see.

.....

6. YYN Mention 2nd

Introduction

Edna sat down on the stoop of the crumbling old brownstone apartment building, the first chance she'd had all day. The broken pipes and overflowing toilets hadn't ceased once today. Edna's aching back and sore muscles were telling her she was way too old to try to keep up with every mishap that happened in the nearly thirty apartments. Just then, a beat-up 1966 Chevy pulled up in front of the building and started to honk its miserable horn.

TEST 1: STOOP

Mention new character

Harvey, who had lived in the building for many years and was used to the noise, barely heard a thing. It just seemed so much easier to ignore it. Harvey sighed, leaned back, and rested his head against the wall, thinking of far away places. Whatever trauma ensued was sometimes best handled by overlooking it.

TEST 2: BUILDING

Conclusion

Around the old brownstone, there never seemed to be a dull moment. You could be sure some commotion or small tragedy would involve at least one of the tenants on any given day.

TEST 3: AWNING

.....

7. YYN Two char intro

Introduction

Ellen clenched her fists thinking of how sick and tired she was of having fights with her roommate. The arguments were always about cleaning, bills, or other insignificant things. Nathan didn't feel that he had to clean up after himself or lift a hand to help Ellen with the upkeep of the apartment. The tension in the apartment was unbearable.

TEST 1: BILLS

Remention 1st

Ellen, in order to get out of the apartment, took a walk down to the lake to watch the ducks. The lake had risen from all the spring run-off. Ellen felt the warm spring sun on her face. There was a soft breeze blowing off the lake and carrying the smell of the coming summer.

TEST 2: APARTMENT

Conclusion

It was a wonderful day to be out in nature. Now that the weather was warmer people wouldn't be stuck inside all day. Ellen was just happy to be able to get outside and away from her roommate.

TEST 3: STREAM

Ellen began to consider moving out of her apartment. She had hoped that she wouldn't have to move again this year, but she would even put up with moving again to get away from Nathan.

.....

8. YNN Remention 1st

Introduction

Duane took off his apron, wiped his brow, and went over to get himself an ice cold soda straight from the machine. Today, the Big Burger Bonanza was packed with customers dying for the daily special of two double hamburgers, fries, and a chocolate malt. Duane, however, was a little less impressed with the daily special, and frankly he'd had just about enough of the fast food business for one afternoon. It was hard to believe that this job was the best one around.

TEST 1: APRON

Remention 1st

Duane, the newest employee, had made "employee of the month" just last Tuesday. It certainly could not have had anything to do with the fact that the other four prep cooks quit. Duane was contemplating what was worse, the lunch crowds at this job, or dressing up in a chicken suit all day at Al's Chicken Shack down the street, his last job. Any way you looked at it, morale at the Big Burger Bonanza was way too low.

TEST 2: SHAKE

Conclusion

The manager would definitely have to plan a serious pep talk soon. Perhaps the incentive of being "employee of the month" just wasn't quite doing the trick anymore.

TEST 3: TABLE

Duane was constantly thinking of ways to better manage a restaurant. His experience at Big Burger Bonanza was teaching him many things about how NOT to manage a restaurant.

.....

9. YNN No (re)mention

Introduction

Steven knew that he didn't need to set his alarm because he was so excited for the coming day. He had been awake for almost an hour now, wondering how his big day would turn out. Steven was going back to school to earn an advanced degree. The campus was crowded and bustling with activity.

TEST 1: ALARM

No (re)mention

Most of the students flowing in and out of classes were just a couple years out of high school, but there were also a significant number of non-traditional students. For many, a higher degree would help them move up on the professional ladder. They took classes that were related to their field in order to gain more knowledge about their jobs.

Transition 2

Earning an advanced degree not only meant a better job position, but many times a raise, too.

TEST 2: BOOK

Conclusion

Surely, with all the new college graduates entering the job market this was one of the only ways to ensure job security. Plus, it was a great way to meet new people and to keep up with the times.

TEST 3: DIPLOMA

The best part was that the company agreed to pay for Steven’s schooling.

.....

10. YYN Mention 2nd

Introduction

Louis looked at his poker hand. There were four queens and a nine, which made him feel pretty confident, even though he had only played poker a few times. Louis surely hoped his opponent did not have the cards that could beat his hand because too many things depended on whether he won or lost this poker game. Louis hesitantly started the betting at one hundred dollars.

TEST 1: HAND

Mention new character

Trudy, wearing her lucky socks, sat on the other side of the table nonchalantly looking at her cards. She had earned the respect of many with her business savvy and hoped that it would work for her again in this game. Trudy’s cards were good, but she needed to make her adversary think beyond a shadow of a doubt that she had the winning hand. She bet all the money she had in front of her.

TEST 2: SOCKS

Conclusion

A crowd gathered around the card table to see what the outcome of the game would be. Everyone in town had heard of the grudge each player held against the other, and of the poker game that was to settle this grudge once and for all. The loser not only lost all his money to the winner, but had to leave town quietly that night.

TEST 3: CASH

Louis looked into Trudy’s eyes, trying to decide whether it was a bluff or not. He began to sweat with uncertainty.

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11. YYN Two char intro

Introduction

Rosa held on to her purse and she and Carlos walked into the market. The food peddlers were yelling out what beautiful goods they had and how cheaply they were selling them. The smell of the bread, fruits, and meats started to make Carlos' stomach growl. Everything looked so wonderful here in the bustling square.

TEST 1: PURSE

No (re)mention

Foods from around the country sat in vendors' carts or hung from the stands that were set up. Fruit and vegetables from the agricultural areas, peppers and spices from the southern part of the country, and beef, pork, and homemade sausages from the cattle ranches in the mountains all made their appearance here. Whatever you wanted, you could find at the market.

TEST 2: CARTS

Conclusion

While walking through the market it was easy to imagine the distant places that produced all these foods. There were so many places to go.

TEST 3: WALLET

Carlos awoke from his daydreams and realized his mother was quite a ways ahead already. He caught up to her in a flash. Perhaps if he was good his mother would buy him something special.

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12. YNN Remention 1st

Introduction

Vinnie, infamous for his pink suspenders, had been a used car salesman for years. Some people say that you can never trust a salesman, especially a used car salesman. Vinnie was no exception to the rule. Over the course of the last twenty years, the sales team at the Lemons Are Forever Car Corporation had swindled many.

TEST 1: SUSPENDERS

Remention 1st

Vinnie's sales division was made up of swindlers with shifty eyes and crooked smiles to prove it. What went on behind the closed office doors was quite a sight to see. It was there that Vinnie, the master of words (and of other people's open pocketbooks), came to life. Many of the other salesmen would watch in amazement.

TEST 2: MOTORCYCLE

Conclusion

Who said a little trickery once in a while didn't pay? The company's annual profit margin couldn't have done better in the last five years.

TEST 3: LIME

As long as there were people coming through the doors, there would be lemons going out, and buckets of money rolling in.

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13. YYN Mention 2nd

Introduction

Hank took a swig of his beer and watched enviously as the others on the dance floor swayed rhythmically to the country music. The dancers looked so beautiful in their brightly colored vests and cowboy hats, reflecting perfectly the lights above. Hank looked down in disgust at his two miserable left feet, and walked off the dance floor. Just then the music stopped and the dancers slowed to a stop.

TEST 1: BEER

Mention new character

Ginny, sitting on a stool at the bar, looked toward the direction of the band. Apparently, one of the local couples was going to announce their engagement. Ginny felt sad and a little lonely as the happy couple held each other for a moment, and then proceeded back to the dance floor to await their promised request of “their song.” That night was a classic example of young love coming together over the sounds and sights of country music.

TEST 2: STOOL

Conclusion

Although it was not for everyone, that bar out in the middle of nowhere proved to be a magical and romantic place for couples. The charm of a little place somewhere along a country road brought many together.

TEST 3: PITCHER

Ginny hoped it would be her night for romance.

14. YNN Remention 1st

Introduction

Dana looked at her clock and realized it was time to go. The office had cleared out early because it was the Friday before a three-day weekend. Dana shut off the lights as she headed out the door. There were only a few cars left in the parking lot.

TEST 1: CLOCK

Remention 1st

Dana headed out to her usual parking spot. The wind was blowing pretty hard. Dana pulled her coat tightly around her. The parking lot was just around the building.

TEST 2: SCARF

Conclusion

As she walked around the corner Dana was shocked. In the parking lot was a deserted rusty bike chained to a parking meter and an overturned garbage can, but not her car! Confused for a moment, she stood looking around for a glimpse of her car, and wondered if someone was playing a trick on her.

TEST 3: LOCK

After a minute she realized that her car had been stolen.

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15. YNN No (re)mention

Introduction

Jacob sat on a bench in front of the crowd and waited for his turn to speak. Hundreds had turned out for the abolition rally in the courtyard today. Jacob stood up as the previous speech ended. A hush fell over the filled courtyard.

TEST 1: BENCH

No (re)mention

Eyes and ears turned toward the podium in search of words of encouragement. Many who had been active in the abolition movement for years knew that the war being fought was partly because of the abolitionist cause. Lives were being lost on battlefields this very day. Everyone, however, knew that this was the only way to end slavery. Hopefully, the war would end soon.

TEST 2: MICROPHONE

Conclusion

The haggard faces in the crowd showed the strain of the war. Everyone, it seemed, had lost some loved one. Many had decided to pack up and head west, toward the frontier.

TEST 3: WAGON

Jacob realized that while escaping to the frontier had its appeal, there were still plenty of others like him who believed that the nation would one day come together again.

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16. YYN Two char intro

Introduction

Walking along the beach, Brandon spotted an interesting rock and pointed it out to Alexander. It had a smooth surface with sharp angles and was pointed on one end. Brandon, an avid rock collector in his youth, was feeling a bit nostalgic for his boyhood hobby and picked up the rock. On closer examination they recognized it as an arrowhead.

TEST 1: ROCK

Remention 1st

Alexander, an amateur archeologist, was excited by the discovery. He took the arrowhead and held it up, turning it to examine all the sides. Alexander thought they should take it up to the visitor's center nearby to see if anyone would be interested in its discovery. The center was only a couple blocks away.

TEST 2: ARROWHEAD

Conclusion

On the way there, they kept their eyes on the ground, looking for other artifacts. That one discovery had sparked their interest and excitement about past civilizations. By existing in both worlds, the arrowhead bridged the gap

between past and present.

TEST 3: BONE

Alexander hoped he would be allowed to keep the arrowhead.