

Grammar Review for the OSSLT



How Grammar is Tested

- Explicit multiple choice questions

3 What punctuation is missing from this sentence?

If I wear my running shoes to school on
an icy day I might slip and fall.

- A a colon
- B a period
- C a comma
- D a semicolon

- In your written answers

7 State a main idea of this selection and provide one specific detail from the selection that supports it.

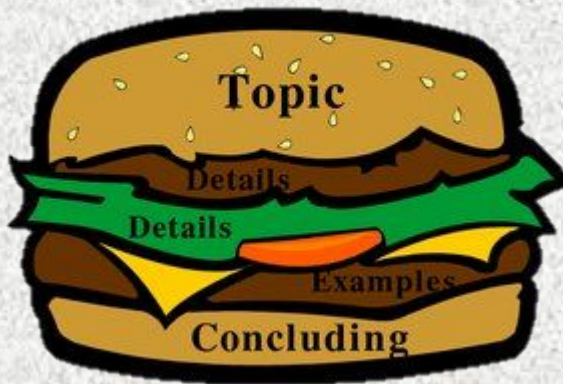
Common Grammar Questions

- Proper **paragraph** organization
 - Topic sentences
 - Concluding sentences
 - Spotting sentences that don't belong or are out of place
- Proper use of **commas, colons and capitals**
- Proper use of **quotation marks**
- How to best **combine** three sentences into one

Proper Paragraphs

Paragraphs Need Focus

The topic sentence tells you what the paragraph is about. Every sentence in the paragraph should clearly relate to the topic sentence.



Paragraphs Need Topic Sentences

The topic sentence (also called opening sentence) tells what the paragraph will be about. All sentences in the paragraph must support the topic sentence.

Paragraphs Need Concluding Sentences

The concluding sentence (also called closing sentence) sums up what the paragraph is about. It often repeats the idea in the topic sentence, but in different words.

Paragraphs Need Organization

Make sure you can recognize breaks in a paragraph's organization and know how to correct them.

Paragraphs Need Focus

1. Which sentence does **not** belong in the following paragraph?

Eating a variety of nutritious foods is important for good health. **(2)** Fruits and vegetables provide daily vitamins. **(3)** Exercise is an important part of healthy living. **(4)** Protein from meat, dairy foods, or legumes is needed for muscle growth. **(5)** A proper diet is important.

- a sentence 2
- b sentence 3
- c sentence 4
- d sentence 5

Paragraphs Need Concluding Sentences

1. Choose the best closing sentence for this paragraph.

Travel is exciting and educational, but preparation is necessary. You should book transportation ahead. Guide books will help you learn about attractions. Knowing about the weather will help you make good decisions when packing your suitcase. _____

_____ .

- a** Travel guides are exciting to read.
- b** Summertime is a popular time to travel.
- c** Planning will make your vacation enjoyable.
- d** Updating travel documents might be necessary.

Paragraphs Need Organization

1. What should the writer of the following paragraph do to improve its organization?

The Comfort Maple tree stands in a field near Welland, Ontario. **(2)** It is over 30 metres high and eight metres around the trunk. **(3)** Today it is a local attraction. **(4)** The tree was already 300 years old when the Comfort family settled the land in 1816. **(5)** Few trees like it survive.

- a Break sentence 2 into two sentences.
- b Switch the order of sentences 3 and 4.
- c Insert “Since” at the start of sentence 4.
- d Move sentence 5 to the start of the paragraph.

Commas, Colons and Capitals

Commas

- **Introductory Phrases**

During the long summer afternoon, we were able to take a nap.

- **Items in a series**

Bring food, extra clothing, a first aid kit and matches.

- **Set off Appositives**

Our team, The Wildcats, is in first place.

Colons

- In sentences, a colon must follow a complete sentence

You should bring the following items: a sleeping bag, a change of clothes, and matches.

- To introduce a list, a colon is used only if it follows a complete sentence

The introductory course will cover three topics:

1. Algebra
2. Geometry
3. Trigonometry

The introductory course will cover

1. Algebra
2. Geometry
3. Trigonometry

Capital Letters

- At the beginning of sentences

Do not get lazy on the test. do your best.

- At the beginning of a speech

Suddenly my mom asked, “Where have you been?”

- For proper nouns (names, cities, titles)

Eastview, Mr. Bean, Toronto

- With the personal pronoun ‘I’

Quotation Marks

- **Around all words in a direct quotation**

“We worked hard to save the money,” said one traveler, “and the trip was well worth it.”

- **If a question mark belongs to the quote, place it inside, if it belongs to the sentence, place it outside**

Fredrico asked, “Why are you always late?”

Didn't you hear him say, “I'm in trouble”?

- **To set off titles of short stories or poems**

Marjorie Pickthall wrote “Stars.”