

Answers and Teaching Tips, Worksheet 1, 7 Exercises

1. The chef forgot to include basil in making the spaghetti sauce. This caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

Answer 1: This **mistake** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

Answer 2: This **minuscule oversight** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

Answer 3: This **gross omission** caused the meal to be bland and led to a bad review in Food magazine.

Teaching Tip: There is an infinite number (or at least very many) of plausible answers. The key is for the student to think about the intended purpose. Is it to slant the tone in favor of the chef, as in Answer 2? Or is it to cast the chef in a severely negative light, as in answer 3? Answer 1 maintains a certain neutrality while still being clear.

2. Mary Ellen made the honor roll, won an essay contest, and was admitted to Mu Alpha Theta. This improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

Answer 1: **These accomplishments** improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

Answer 2: **These achievements** improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

Answer 3: **These honors** improved her chances of being admitted to a top university.

3. Maria waits until the last minute to do everything. This causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

Answer 1: This **procrastination** causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

Answer 2: This **bad habit** causes her to lose out on financial aid and lose the classes she needs to take.

4. Xavier always completed his assignments on time, never complained about coworkers, and seldom took any sick time. This led to his promotion.

Answer 1: This **positive attitude** led to his promotion.

Answer 2: These **important virtues** led to his promotion.

5. Marble Slab Creamery offers waffle cones, wafer cones, several ice cream flavors, and many different toppings. This is what makes their ice cream so delicious.

Answer 1: **These options** make their ice cream so delicious.

Answer 2: **This variety** makes their ice cream so delicious.

6. Alicia forgot she had to take care of her little sister and went out with her friends instead. This got her in trouble with her mom.

Answer 1: This **negligence** got her in trouble with her mom.

Answer 1: These **lapses** got her in trouble with her mom.

7. Our server did not bring drink refills, communicated our order wrongly to the chef, and sat down to speak with other guests while we waited for our check. This kept her from getting a generous tip.

Answer 1: This **poor service** kept her from getting a generous tip.

Answer 2: These **transgressions** kept her from getting a generous tip.

Answers and Teaching Tips, Worksheet 2, 14 Exercises

1. Arnold stopped eating ice cream at night. This helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.

Answer 1: This **habit** helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.

Answer 2: This **self-denial** helped him lose the weight he wanted before going away to college.

2. Selena started taking acting lessons and auditioning for local plays. This proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.

Answer 1: This **determination** proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.

Answer 2: These **proactive steps** proved to her parents that she was serious about a career in show business.

3. When Dr. Shriver decided to suspend the field trip, the 5th grade parents wrote a letter to the district president. This led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.

Answer 1: This **poor decision** led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.

Answer 2: This **ill-advised letter** led to Dr. Shriver's dismissal as principal.

Teaching Tip: Answer 1 focuses on Dr. Shriver's decision. The writer makes it clear that he or she believes that Dr. Shriver's decision to suspend the field trip was a poor one. Answer 2, on the other hand, focuses on the letter from the parents to the district president. Note that in this case the writer believes that the letter from the parents was "ill-advised," unfair to Dr. Shriver. Using a noun after "This" clarifies the writer's rhetorical stance.

4. After Justin earned perfect scores on spelling tests for three weeks, Mrs. Schmidt awarded him a gold star. This prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.

Answer 1: This **hard work** prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.

Answer 2: This **achievement** prompted his parents to take him to Universal Studios.

5. Danika compiled over 400 index cards to study for her AP World History test. This helped her to get a 5 on the test.

Answer 1: This **hard work** helped her to get a 5 on the test.

Answer 2: These **study habits** helped her to get a 5 on the test.

6. Coach Farley started a body building program at the high school. Some parents do not support this because they believe it detracts from the academics.

Answer 1: Some parents do not support this **program** because they believe it detracts from the academics.

Answer 2: Some parents do not support this **superfluous and expensive program** because they believe it detracts from the academics.

7. Unless Shelly raises her GPA to a 3.5, her parents will not allow her to play softball. This made Shelly more determined to do well in school.

Answer 1: This **motivation** made Shelly more determined to do well in school.

Answer 2: This **parental rule** made Shelly more determined to do well in school.

8. Ronaldo scored four goals in a soccer match. This improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.

Answer 1: This **performance** improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.

Answer 2: These **goals** improved his chances of earning a soccer scholarship at a top university.

9. Many Catholics do not eat meat on Good Friday, attend mass regularly, and receive communion. They believe that this brings them spiritual renewal.

Answer 1: They believe that **these practices** bring them spiritual renewal.

Answer 2: They believe that **these observances** bring them spiritual renewal.

10. Some Wal-Mart stores carry items that cater to Latino tastes. This helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.

Answer 1: This **marketing strategy** helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.

Answer 2: This **sensitivity to its customers** helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.

Answer 3: This **recognition of cultural diversity** helps the stores appeal to a broader base of shoppers.

Tips: **Answer 1** makes it seem as if Wal-mart carries different items simply as a marketing ploy, while **Answers 2** and **3** suggest that Wal-mart supports diversity.

11. Because Mr. Gomez was promoted to chief of security, his department threw him a surprise party. This was held after work hours at the TGIF.

Answer 1: This **party** was held after work hours at the TGIF.

Answer 2: This **celebration** was held after work hours at the TGIF.

12. Robert decided to apply to Stanford University after earning high scores on the SAT. This made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.

Answer 1: This **decision** made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.

Answer 2: This **goal (of making it to Stanford)** made his family and friends look at Robert with new-found respect.

13. Bryce Harper dropped out of high school and passed the GED so that he could enroll at a community college and play baseball. This made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.

Answer 1: This **dangerous tactic** made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.

Answer 2: This **manipulation** made him eligible for the 2011 Major League baseball draft.

14. Barry Bonds is believed to have taken performance enhancing drugs and lied about their use while he set home run records in baseball. This might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Answer 1: These **allegations** might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Answer 2: This **belief among sports writers** might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.

Answer 3: These **facts** might prevent him from being elected to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.