

# LANGUAGE answer key

## Copyediting questions (1–20)

- Marks awarded for each correct edit to a sentence are indicated for each question below.
- 0.25 marks are deducted for each error introduced into a sentence.
- Candidates should aim to make the minimum number of changes required to correct the errors in a sentence. Any sentence that is substantively rewritten such that it is impossible for the markers to tell whether the candidate understands the nature of the corrections required will be awarded 0 marks.

### Q1

How will Robinson's resignation **effect** the **governments** plans?

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing <b>effect</b> to <b>affect</b>
0.5 marks for inserting the apostrophe in <b>governments</b>

#### SOLUTION:

How will Robinson's resignation affect the government's plans?

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### Q2

"How extraordinary!" **!** exclaimed Max, **!** how on earth did that happen?"

**Marks:** 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for deleting comma before <b>exclaimed</b>
0.25 marks for changing the comma after <b>Max</b> to a full stop
0.25 marks for inserting the opening quotation mark before <b>how</b>
0.25 marks for capitalising <b>how</b>

#### SOLUTION:

"How extraordinary!" exclaimed Max. "How on earth did that happen?"

*Capitalising "earth" is neutral for marking: no mark and no deduction.*

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### Q3

When the ship left the shore, it had a full **compliment** of **personel**.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing <b>compliment</b> to <b>complement</b>
0.5 marks for correcting spelling to <b>personnel</b>

#### SOLUTION:

When the ship left the shore, it had a full complement of personnel.

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## Q4

Tran's wallet **had laid** in the street two days.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for fixing the incorrect form of the past tense of irregular verb <b>lie</b>
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### SOLUTION:

Tran's wallet had lain in the street two days.

### Alternative edit:

Tran's wallet lay in the street two days.

*Some additional edits – such as inserting “for” before “two days” – may be neutral for marking purposes.*

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## Q5

Many in the village had a **deep-seeded** fear of outsiders, so Theo's decision caused quite a **raucous**.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing <b>deep-seeded</b> to <b>deep-seated</b>
0.5 marks for changing <b>raucous</b> to <b>ruckus</b>

### SOLUTION:

Many in the village had a deep-seated fear of outsiders, so Theo's decision caused quite a ruckus.

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## Q6

It's not the money, but **principal** that counts

**Marks:** 4 × 0.25 marks. Each edit is worth 0.25 marks in this question.

0.25 marks for changing <b>principal</b> to <b>principle</b>
0.25 marks for inserting <b>the</b> before <b>principle</b>
0.25 marks for deleting the comma before a conjunction ( <b>but</b> ) in a simple sentence
0.25 marks for inserting a full stop after <b>counts</b>

### SOLUTION:

It's not the money but the principle that counts.

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## Q7

To prolong your car's life, change **it's** oil regularly.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing contraction <b>it's</b> to possessive <b>its</b>
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### SOLUTION:

To prolong your car's life, change its oil regularly.

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## Q8

This time the government whip stepped in to **kerb** the honourable member's remarks.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing <b>kerb</b> to <b>curb</b>
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**SOLUTION:**

This time the government whip stepped in to curb the honourable member's remarks.

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## Q9

The accident has blocked the freeway and motorists are urged to take an **alternate** route.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing <b>alternate</b> to <b>alternative</b>
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**SOLUTION:**

The accident has blocked the freeway and motorists are urged to take an alternative route.

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## Q10

Coles **are** one of Australia's biggest retailer**s**.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for fixing subject–verb disagreement by changing plural <b>are</b> to singular <b>is</b>
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0.5 marks for deleting the apostrophe in <b>retailer's</b> when the <b>s</b> indicates plural, not possessive
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**SOLUTION:**

Coles is one of Australia's biggest retailers.

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## Q11

A mammal is a creature that suckles **his** young.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing the male possessive <b>his</b> to a gender-neutral form
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**SOLUTION:**

A mammal is a creature that suckles its young.

**Alternative edit:**

Mammals are creatures that suckle their young.

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## Q12

Neither storm **or** fire could stop the mail coming through.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing <b>or</b> to <b>nor</b> for the negative alternative construction <i>neither ... nor ...</i>
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**SOLUTION:**

Neither storm nor fire could stop the mail coming through.

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### Q13

From 2011-2018 the town's population declined by seven %.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for changing the hyphen to the word <b>to</b> ; or for changing to <b>Between 2011 and 2018</b>
0.5 marks for ensuring consistency with use of symbols and numbers, either by changing % to <b>per cent</b> (or <b>percent</b> ) or by changing <b>seven</b> to <b>7</b>

#### **SOLUTION:**

From 2011 to 2018 the town's population declined by seven per cent.

#### **Alternative edit:**

Between 2011 and 2018 the town's population declined by 7%.

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### Q14

Despite his team's disappointing performance, the coach said he fully intends to see out his contract, **that** runs until 2027.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for changing <b>that</b> to <b>which</b>
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#### **SOLUTION:**

Despite his team's disappointing performance, the coach said he fully intends to see out his contract, which runs until 2027.

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### Q15

Andrew is taller than Sean and **I**. Karen is the taller of **she** and Lin.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for fixing case error by changing <b>I</b> (nominative case) to <b>me</b> (objective case)
0.5 marks for fixing case error by changing <b>she</b> (nominative case) to <b>her</b> (objective case)

#### **SOLUTION:**

Andrew is taller than Sean and me. Karen is the taller of her and Lin.

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### Q16

The success of the evening was enhanced by the high**h** quality program and the finely**-** dressed guests.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for inserting a hyphen in the compound adjective <b>high quality</b>
0.5 marks for removing the hyphen in the adverb and adjective combination <b>finely dressed</b>

#### **SOLUTION:**

The success of the evening was enhanced by the high-quality program and the finely dressed guests.

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### Q17

Borrowers who fixed their mortgages at last year's lower interest rates, have avoided the recent rate hikes.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for deleting the comma after <b>rates</b>
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**SOLUTION:**

Borrowers who fixed their mortgages at last year's lower interest rates have avoided the recent rate hikes.

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### Q18

It is a **totally** unique **phenomena**, and more money is needed to research it fully.

**Marks:** 2 × 0.5 marks. Each edit is worth 0.5 marks in this question.

0.5 marks for deleting the redundant <b>totally</b> when applied to an absolute like <b>unique</b>
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0.5 marks for correcting plural <b>phenomena</b> to singular <b>phenomenon</b>
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**SOLUTION:**

It is a unique phenomenon, and more money is needed to research it fully.

### Q19

Residents whose homes have been affected by flooding may be eligible for financial help.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark.

1 mark for selecting <b>OK</b> to show that no change is needed.
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**SOLUTION:**

OK

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### Q20

Jane not her sister was the one who attended school in Wellington.

**Marks:** 1 × 1 mark. Each edit is worth 1 mark in this question.

1 mark for adding punctuation to set off the parenthetical phrase.
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**SOLUTION:**

Jane – not her sister – was the one who attended school in Wellington.

**Alternative edits:**

Jane, not her sister, was the one who attended school in Wellington.

Jane (not her sister) was the one who attended school in Wellington.

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## Multiple-choice questions (21–24)

**Marks:** Each correct choice is worth 1 mark. Correct answers are **highlighted**.

### Q21

The following 2 sentences have the same grammatical flaw.

The consistent excellence of Panufnik's orchestral and choral works, chamber pieces and operas are staggering.

Unfortunately, high fire danger and a forecast storm means that the event must be cancelled.

What is the flaw?

- A comma splice
- B misplaced modifier
- C non-parallel structure
- D subject–verb disagreement**

#### EXPLANATION:

In the first sentence, the subject “excellence” is a single noun, but the verb “are” is plural. In the second sentence, the subject is compound – “high fire danger and a forecast storm” – and therefore plural, but the verb “means” is singular. Both are examples of the number of the subject disagreeing with the number of the verb.

### Q22

Select the sentence that contains a noun string (sometimes called a “noun train” or “noun stack”).

- A Student teachers aren't required to do playground duty.
- B The new library's state-of-the-art technology has made it simple to retrieve items.
- C We based our decision on the staff remuneration framework review recommendations.**
- D Wetlands, grasslands, shrublands and woodlands: there's a range of habitats across the district.

#### EXPLANATION:

C is the correct answer because it has 5 nouns in a row (without punctuation): a noun string.

A, B and D are incorrect answers because the nouns in A are compound nouns of only 2 words (“Student teachers” and “playground duty”); B has a long, hyphenated compound adjective; and D has a simple list of 4 nouns.

### Q23

Select the sentence that contains a dangling modifier.

- A Covering more than 12 hectares, you'll be amazed by our feature gardens.**
- B Dishevelled and downhearted, the travellers settled in for a well-earned rest.
- C Founded in 1869, it is the country's oldest university.
- D Juggling, on the other hand, was a skill I never quite got the hang of!

#### EXPLANATION:

A is the correct answer because the modifying phrase, “Covering more than 12 hectares”, does not describe the subject of the main clause (“you”); it can only describe the gardens. The phrase is dangling: it is not clearly connected to its intended subject.

B is an incorrect answer because the phrase “Dishevelled and downhearted” describes the subject of the main clause (“the travellers”). It is not dangling.

C is an incorrect answer because the phrase “Founded in 1869” describes the subject of the main clause (“it”, meaning the university). It is not dangling.

D is an incorrect answer because there is nothing dangling.

Note: A dangling modifier that contains a verb participle, as in A (“Covering”), can also be called a dangling participle.

## Q24

Select the sentence in which every pronoun has a clear antecedent.

- A Gia left the cash in the glovebox of her car, but it was stolen.
- B Mr Lee had a lot to say about his son’s behaviour when he came to visit for New Year.
- C The Lions play the Swans next week, and they’ll be a force to be reckoned with.
- D When the butterflies reach their destination in Mexico, they hibernate over the winter.**

### EXPLANATION:

D is the correct answer because “their” and “they” refer to “the butterflies”. Both have a clear antecedent.

A is an incorrect answer. While “her” clearly refers to “Gia”, it is not clear whether “it” refers to the cash or the car.

B is an incorrect answer. While “his” clearly refers to “Mr Lee”, it is not clear whether “he” refers to Mr Lee or to his son.

C is an incorrect answer because it is not clear whether “they” refers to the Lions or the Swans.