

Quiz 1: Grammar, Spelling, Punctuation

Take the following quiz. Some of these shouldn't give you much trouble. Others might, because bureaucrats, spokesmen, public officials, ad copywriters, sports broadcasters and journalists regularly screw them up. Too often, they don't give you much in the way of role models.

1. She is older than (he, him).
2. Researchers have detected the presence of a nonlethal (bacteria, bacterium) at the Army base.
3. Aspirin has no (affect, effect) on viruses.
4. No data (has, have) been lost.
5. The new building will be located at this (sight, site, cite).
6. Her questions were intended to (elicit, illicit) useful answers.
7. Had someone else said it, everyone would have laughed and (went, gone) on with life.
8. We cannot succumb to threats (comma, semicolon, no punctuation) however (comma, no comma; semicolon) we can let every voice be heard.
9. The editor had trouble deciding which (course, coarse) of action to take.
10. Mary chose to (forgo, forego) the offer of legal (counsel, council).
11. The water was treated with chlorine and smelled (bad, badly).
12. The organizers were disappointed at the small (amount, number, quantity) of supporters.
13. The school's president announced his (eminent, imminent) retirement.
14. When the train wrecked, rescuers (sprung, sprang) into action.
15. The media (has, have) not served (their, its) audiences well.
16. Mother went camping with Ruth, Maynard and (I, me, myself).
17. Everyone who has an interest in cultivating roses in (his, her, their) garden will be fascinated.
18. She is the one (whose, who's) coming to dinner.

19. I usually (lie, lay) on the sofa to watch baseball.
20. His message appeals to people (that, who, whom) see the world in simple terms.
21. She said she had (lay, laid, lain) there for an hour before anyone found her.
22. The Southern Military Academy library has far (less, fewer) books than the Harvard library.
23. That lawyer gave the newspaper wise (counsel, council) in (their, its) (liable, libel) suit.
24. Food is in short supply because (there's, there are, they're) so many people.
25. Neither Jim nor Martha (like, likes) crab cakes.
26. Meagan LeBlanc jumped (off, off of, from) the cliff to save the child.
27. A leader can do many things to try (and, to) buffer negative consequences.
28. Was the (family's, families) privacy invaded?
29. He was charged with drunk driving after swerving and hitting a car coming (towards, toward) him.
30. Hunter was living with his girlfriend (comma, no comma) Topping (comma, no comma) who was also injured in the accident.
31. He had to choose (between, among) four alternatives.
32. The death of the Queen Mother (effected, affected) her deeply.
33. Then they found the other girls (comma, no comma) who were in (their, there, they're) beds sleeping.
34. His arraignment has been set for tomorrow morning (comma, no comma) at which time he could (loose, lose) his freedom.
35. He was (arrested for, charged with) selling drugs to a (miner, minor).
36. This needs to be resolved by you, (I, me), and (he, him).
37. Was it (she, her) (who, whom) he was referring to?
38. Just as I (lay, laid, lie) down, the chicken started clucking because she had (lay, laid, leid) an egg.

39. When the hotel dining room caught fire, the guests were evacuated (without injury) to the parking lot (without injury).

40. A dromedary is different (than, from) a Bactrian camel.

41. (It's, Its) pretty clear that the organization wants nothing to stand in (its, it's, their) way.

42. She said she (will, would) go if it doesn't rain.

43. The first time I did my laundry in college I (shrunk, shrank) all my jeans.

44. She said after the accident that she was feeling (alright, all right).

45. According to the police report, the prisoner (snuck, sneaked) out of the van when the driver stopped for gas.

46. He stops for an ice cream cone on the way home almost (every day, everyday).

47. The streaker (dived, dove) into the bushes when he saw a campus security guard coming.

48. At one minute past midnight (comma, no comma) the police spokesman said (comma, no comma) the convicted murderer was executed.

49. The senator said (hopefully, he hoped) a budget would be passed soon.

50. If McNab (throws, had thrown) the ball a yard (farther, further), that play (goes, went, would have gone) for a touchdown.