

ESL/COMPASS Grammar/Usage Sample Questions

Level 1 Item Type: Word order

Our children enjoy this garden. _____ it every day.

- A. They visit
- B. Visit they do
- C. Visit they
- D. Visit do they

Level 2 Item Types: (1) Word order in Wh-questions; (2) Simple past tense

SPEAKER A: This soup is too spicy. (1) _____ so much pepper?

SPEAKER B: Maybe the cook (2) _____ it was **hot** pepper.

1.

- A. Why the cook did use
- B. Why the cook use
- C. Why the cook used
- D. Why did the cook use

2.

- A. doesn't knows
- B. didn't know
- C. didn't knew
- D. don't know

Level 3 Item Types: (1) Punctuation; (2) Two-word and phrasal verbs; (3) Modal verbs

TEACHER: In addition to your textbooks, there are a couple of other materials you need to buy for this course. Because you will be writing weekly (1) _____ I want you to have a notebook that you can (2) _____ to me every Friday. Make sure that the size is 8 1/2 by 11, not a smaller one. You also need a set of index cards. You will be taking notes on books that you will read, and you will write your notes on these cards. One set (3) _____. Any questions?

1.

- A. journals;
- B. journals,
- C. journals
- D. journals.

2.

- A. turn up
- B. turn on
- C. turn down
- D. turn in

3.

- A. should be enough
- B. should have been enough
- C. should enough
- D. should been enough

Level 4 Item Types: (1) Passive voice verbs; (2) Punctuation conventions:

parentheticals; (3) Conjunctions; (4) Noun clauses; (5) Noun clauses

The lion (1) _____ the "king of beasts," but in fact, this king doesn't do much to deserve the title. Lions live in groups; each group, or "pride," of lions consists of one dominant male and several females and their offspring. However, all the (2) _____ is done by the lionesses, the females. Males spend their time (3) _____ what they have killed. Occasionally, males may have to scare off

possible threats to the group, but for no more effort than this, they get to eat first, and to eat until they are full. Male lions are also guilty of what (4) _____ not very kindly behavior. When a new male takes over the pride, he will usually kill all the cubs of the male that formerly led the pride. This ensures that only his own offspring will survive. This may seem brutal, but it is how (5) _____. Perhaps we might want to reconsider calling the lion the "king of beasts."

1.

- A. is often been calling
- B. has often called
- C. is often been called
- D. has often been called

2.

- A. work—the stalking, chasing, and killing of prey—
- B. work—the stalking, chasing, and killing of prey:
- C. work;—the stalking, chasing, and killing of prey;
- D. work:—the stalking, chasing, and killing of prey

3.

- A. either sleeping while the females hunt or eating
- B. sleeping while either the females hunting or eat
- C. either sleeping while the females hunt or eat
- D. sleeping while the females either hunt or eating

4.

- A. would we probably call
- B. we would probably call
- C. we would probably call it
- D. would we probably called

5.

- A. nature does working
- B. is nature working
- C. nature works
- D. does nature work