

E9

Montezuma's
Razor Arrowhead

Montezuma's razor arrowhead:

Combining two English grammar rules to make a new one!

The razorblade rule:

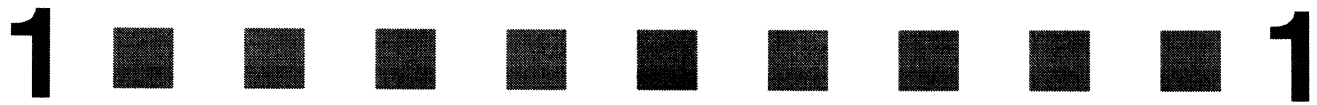
Simple/short answers!

The Hazy pronoun rule:

Be specific! It

~~It, these, them, those, that~~

Simple but not hazy!



he had limited access to formal education, Banneker³² nevertheless demonstrated a keen curiosity and a consuming interest in acquiring knowledge.

[2]

Banneker's grandmother was an indentured servant from England whom, after completing the term³³ of her contract, bought some land and then married a freed slave. 34 Their daughter Mary—Benjamin's mother—also married a freed slave. Benjamin's grandmother taught

him to read, and he attended a one-room Quaker school³⁵ when the farmwork slowed down during the winter.

[3]

In 1753, at the age of twenty-two, Banneker constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts,³⁶ displayed his mechanical skills, and displaying his interest³⁶ in learning. He had dismantled a pocket watch borrowed³⁶

from a traveling merchant, made detailed drawings of it's³⁷ components, and returned it—fully functioning—to the merchant. Based on those drawings, Banneker designed the works for his own clock and carved the gears, wheels,

32. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- F. limiting his access to formal education,
- G. his access to formal education was limited,
- H. it was difficult for him to acquire formal education,
- J. having limited access to formal education,

33. A. NO CHANGE

- B. who,
- C. which,
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

34. At this point, the writer is considering adding the following true statement:

Indentured servants needed a master's permission to leave their place of work, to perform work for others, or to keep money for personal use.

Should the writer add this sentence here?

- F. Yes, because it shows the extent of control that masters held over indentured servants.
- G. Yes, because it is necessary to understanding the essay as a whole.
- H. No, because it provides information that is included elsewhere in the essay.
- J. No, because it would distract readers from the main topic of the essay.

35. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. read; he
- B. read, and he also
- C. read he
- D. read. He

36. Which choice provides the most logical arrangement of the parts of this sentence?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. displayed his skills when he constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts and displayed his interest in mechanical skills.
- H. displayed his interest in learning and his mechanical skills when he constructed a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts.
- J. displayed his interest in mechanical skills by constructing a clock out of hand-carved wooden parts and his interest in learning.

37. A. NO CHANGE

- B. its'
- C. its
- D. their



and other moving parts. The clock keeps precise time

38

for—can you believe it?—over forty years.

39

[4]

Banneker lived and worked on the family farm.

After his father died in 1759, Banneker took over the responsibility of the farm and the care of his mother and younger sisters. In addition, he pursued scientific studies

40

and taught himself to play the flute and violin. 41

[5]

In 1788, a neighbor loaned Banneker some astronomical instruments and four books on mathematics and astronomy. Banneker quickly became engrossed in his studies and began to calculate the paths of the Sun, Moon, and other celestial bodies. Using them, he predicted a solar eclipse that occurred the next year. He also began to calculate annual tables of yearly sets of astronomical data, which became the basis for almanacs published under his name from 1792 through 1797.

42

43

[6]

Grandson of an indentured servant, Benjamin

44

Banneker liked to study music and astronomy.

44

38. F. NO CHANGE

- G. has kept
- H. kept
- I. still keeps

39. A. NO CHANGE

- B. for over forty years. Amazing!
- C. for over forty unbelievable years.
- D. for over forty years.

40. F. NO CHANGE

- G. sisters. Therefore.
- H. sisters. in addition,
- J. sisters. therefore.

41. If the writer were to delete the last part of the preceding sentence (ending the sentence with a period after the word *studies*), the paragraph would primarily lose:

- A. support for the essay's point about Banneker's love of learning.
- B. a direct link to the previous paragraph.
- C. a humorous description of Banneker's other interests.
- D. an extensive digression about music.

42. F. NO CHANGE

- G. these calculations,
- H. those.
- J. these things.

43. A. NO CHANGE

- B. covering a year's worth
- C. about twelve months
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

44. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively concludes and summarizes this essay?

F. NO CHANGE

- G. Calculator of the paths of the Sun and Moon, Benjamin Banneker became interested in how things work when he took apart a pocket watch and made some drawings.
- H. Clock designer and farmer, Benjamin Banneker acquired responsibility for the farm at a young age but retained an interest in learning.
- J. Farmer, inventor, and self-taught mathematician and astronomer, Benjamin Banneker took advantage of every opportunity to learn and contribute to the society of his time.

1



1

Propelling a kayak works the upper-body muscles.

The paddler pulls one end through the water of the paddle on alternating sides of the boat. Skilled kayakers sense the nuances of water movement by means of the kayak hull and adjust their stroke force and pace to keep the kayak on course. But all kayakers can appreciate the nuances of nature as they travel on water in this simple, but

versatile boat. 60

- 58. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
 - F. where it is now.
 - G. after the word *paddler*.
 - H. after the word *pulls*.
 - J. after the word *paddle*.
- 59. A. NO CHANGE
B. simple
C. simple—
D. simple;
- 60. If the writer were to delete this final paragraph from the essay, which of the following would be lost?
 - F. A detailed description of the muscles involved in kayaking
 - G. A comment on the relationships among kayakers, kayaks, and water
 - H. A scientific explanation of how water moves around the hull of a kayak
 - J. A plea to kayakers to be careful of the environment

PASSAGE V

Extremophiles: Amazing Microbial Survivors

[1]

Some live in airless seams of burning rock; miles beneath Earth's surface and around the hydrothermal vents of deep-sea volcanoes. Others, salt-encrusted, "sleep" in ancient caverns, waking after centuries

to feed and to be bred. Radioactive pools of toxic

waste are okay for others to live in; even acid cannot kill them. In lightless vacuums and locales once

thought to hot, to cold or to poisonous, to sustain life, there exists a wealth of microbial organisms.

- 61. A. NO CHANGE
B. seams, of burning rock
C. seams of burning rock
D. seams, of burning rock,
- 62. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
 - F. caverns. Then they wake
 - G. caverns and then wake
 - H. caverns, only to wake
 - J. caverns. Waking
- 63. A. NO CHANGE
B. for breeding.
C. to breed.
D. breeding.
- 64. F. NO CHANGE
G. are all right for others to live in;
H. are home to still others;
J. suit others to a tee;
- 65. A. NO CHANGE
B. too hot, too cold, or too poisonous
C. too hot, too cold, or too poisonous,
D. to hot, to cold, or to poisonous

1



1

These single-celled survivors called extremophiles,
don't merely endure environments too severe for

66

other life forms; they thrive in them.

67

[2]

Heat-loving extremophiles, or

thermophiles, flourished in temperatures over

68

150 degrees Celsius. Scientists have collected

them from the Yellowstone National Park's thermal

pools, the park abounding with geysers like Old Faithful,

69

and from radioactive rock deep within South African

gold mines.

[3]

In the hot waters surrounding Juan de

Fuca Ridge in the Pacific Ocean, thermophiles

ensure the survival of other marine life. 70

Here, the ocean floor is scarred by

71

earthquakes and underwater volcanoes.

71

- 66. F. NO CHANGE
- G. survivors, called extremophiles,
- H. survivors, called extremophiles
- J. survivors called extremophiles;

67. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?

- A. forms; rather, they
- B. forms—they
- C. forms. They
- D. forms they

- 68. E. NO CHANGE
- G. were flourishing
- H. had flourished
- J. flourish

- 69. A. NO CHANGE
- B. pools, in contrast to the cool depths of Scandinavian fjords.
- C. pools, natural wonders formed by geologic magic,
- D. pools

70. The writer is considering deleting the following phrase from the preceding sentence (and revising the capitalization accordingly):

In the hot waters surrounding Juan de Fuca Ridge in the Pacific Ocean,

Should this phrase be kept or deleted?

- E. Kept, because it clarifies that thermophiles live in both the Pacific Ocean and Juan de Fuca Ridge.
 - G. Kept, because it provides specific details about the "Here" referred to in the next sentence.
 - H. Deleted, because it contradicts the preceding paragraph, which makes it clear that thermophiles do not live in water only.
 - J. Deleted, because this information is provided later in this paragraph.
71. Given that all the choices are true, which one most specifically and vividly describes the underwater terrain?
- A. NO CHANGE
 - B. there are signs of both seismic and volcanic activity.
 - C. the results of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions are evident.
 - D. the effect of earthquake and volcanic activity is apparent.