



Chapter 19
English
Practice Test 4



ACT ENGLISH TEST

45 Minutes—75 Questions

DIRECTIONS: In the five passages that follow, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. In the right-hand column, you will find alternatives for each underlined part. In most cases, you are to choose the one that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. If you think the original version is best, choose “NO CHANGE.” In some cases, you will find in the right-hand column a question about the underlined part. You are to choose the best answer to the question.

You will also find questions about a section of the passage or the passage as a whole. These questions do not refer to an underlined portion of the passage but rather are identified by a number or numbers in a box.

For each question, choose the alternative you consider best and blacken the corresponding oval on your answer document. Read each passage through once before you begin to answer the questions that accompany it. For many of the questions, you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the answer. Be sure that you have read far enough ahead each time you choose an alternative.

PASSAGE I

Cheeseburgers and Cats That Can Make You “lol”

Everyone knows that cats love to chase mice, but who knew they also love to eat cheeseburgers? [A] It’s a very special kind of cat that does: a ¹*lolcat*. The concept, which originated in 2006, was simple: take a funny

photograph of a cat and written a humorous caption over it. [B] The name is a compound word combining *cat* and *lol*, the slangy Internet abbreviation for “laughing out loud.” [C] In some ways, the phenomenon of the lolcat was nothing new. [D] In the 1870s, Brighton-based photographer, Henry Pointer took a series of images of his pet cats. The images were intended to form the backgrounds for *cartes de visite*, having at times been called “visiting cards.” To enhance a photo’s appeal, Henry Pointer would often add a humorous caption.

- If the writer were to delete the underlined portion (changing the comma after *mice* to a period), the sentence would primarily lose:
 - a description of one of the things that make lolcats unique.
 - a scientific fact describing a well-known species.
 - a concise statement of the essay’s main idea.
 - nothing at all, because it strays from the topic unnecessarily.
- NO CHANGE
 - is writing
 - wrote
 - write
- NO CHANGE
 - photographer Henry Pointer
 - photographer, Henry Pointer,
 - photographer; Henry Pointer
- NO CHANGE
 - a French term meaning
 - being things called
 - and naming them

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Pointer's first photographs, those without captions, did not sell well initially, though they have recently been better appreciated. Pointer made a good deal of money from his photos because photography equipment was still

relatively rare and expensive for his day. He likely never knew, however, that his pictures would be the basis for a hugely

popular movement over a century later. 7

By the mid 2000s, though, anyone with a camera and a computer could create a lolcat image. The only requirement was a basic fluency in the language of *lolspeak*, a grammatically incorrect, often misspelled form of English. The most famous

phrase known widely in all of *lolspeak* is "I can has cheezburger?", or "Can I have a cheeseburger?"

Additional phrases and the language could be fairly easy to learn, and lolcats became some of the trendiest images on the Internet at the time.

As a result of their popularity, lolcats attracted all kinds of new press. *Time* magazine covered lolcats in a July 2007 issue. Even the American Dialect Society

5. Given that all the choices are true, which one best conveys the idea that captions contributed to the humor of Pointer's photographs?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Pointer would occasionally reuse captions when the picture could communicate most of what he wanted it to.
- C. In fact, he soon understood that the humorous caption could make even the most mundane cat pictures charming or funny.
- D. Pointer took so many pictures and wrote so many captions that neither required much effort of him.

6. F. NO CHANGE

- G. with
- H. in
- J. of

7. If the writer were to divide this paragraph into two, the most logical place to begin the new paragraph would be at Point:

- A. A.
- B. B.
- C. C.
- D. D.

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

- F. in fact,
- G. however,
- H. by contrast,
- J. on the other hand,

9. A. NO CHANGE

- B. phrase
- C. phrase that many people know
- D. phrase that is pretty popular

10. F. NO CHANGE

- G. is being
- H. is
- J. was

11. A. NO CHANGE

- B. Now earning lots of money,
- C. With their cameras in hand,
- D. Promoting them on the Internet,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



named “lolcat” one of the mainly creative coinages of the decade. There were financial gains as well: in 2007, the “I Can Has Cheezburger?” website was purchased by a group of investors for \$2 million and spawned many spinoffs. It seemed at the time, then, that the lolcat would be here to stay and that cheeseburger-flavored cat food couldn’t be far off. ¹² 13

12. F. NO CHANGE
 G. more
 H. most
 J. a lot
13. If the writer were to delete the phrase “cheeseburger-flavored” in the preceding sentence and replace it with “another line of,” the paragraph would primarily lose:
- A. a particular detail that ends the essay on a humorous note.
 B. a more detailed discussion of the different types of cats discussed in the essay.
 C. a resolution to a difficult problem posed earlier in the essay.
 D. an open question that is left to the reader to decide.

Question 14 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

14. Suppose the writer’s goal had been to write a brief essay describing a new generation’s interest in animal photography. Would this essay accomplish that goal?
- F. Yes, because it shows how important lolcats were to a broader interest in photography.
 G. Yes, because it narrates the simultaneous rise of digital photography and Internet usage.
 H. No, because it details the different types of animal photography popular on the Internet.
 J. No, because it focuses on lolcats and their history, not on photography more generally.

PASSAGE II

My Summer as a Teacher . . . or as a Student?

I was there only for a summer, but the memories I have of teaching English in Mexico have stayed with me. The experience didn’t start well. I was assigned to a small village—located a few hours west of Monterrey; in ¹⁵ the central north part of the country, in the state of Durango. The most direct

15. A. NO CHANGE
 B. Monterrey. In
 C. Monterrey in
 D. Monterrey—in

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



route was to fly into the large city of Monterrey and then take a seven-hour bus ride. Once we got out of the city, the ride was bumpy, and the bus's air conditioning was no match for the heat of the desert sun burning overhead.¹⁶

Mexico's climate is warmer than that of the United States¹⁷ because Mexico is closer to the equator. The adults in the village, many of whom did not even know I was coming,

welcomed me when they got around to it.¹⁸ More than that, my host family had reserved a room in their house exclusively for me, so I could have some privacy when I needed it. Even though I was in a new place, I already felt like I was at home.

The language situation was more difficult than I expected. I learned very quickly that the good grades I had received in my Spanish classes would not necessarily translate to success here where people spoke the Spanish language and no other.¹⁹ Still, my host family and others in the village were very patient

with me. Before long, we had held²⁰ all of our conversations in Spanish.

The family I was hosting²¹ in Mexico asked me about my family and encouraged my school interests. They told me about their

16. F. NO CHANGE
G. burning.
H. scorching.
J. DELETE the underlined portion and end the sentence with a period.
17. Given that all the choices are true, which provides material most relevant to what follows in this paragraph?
A. NO CHANGE
B. I had only been to Mexico one time before, when I went with my parents to the beach.
C. Once I got there, though, I didn't have any of the problems that I had worried about in advance.
D. The heat from the sun was nothing compared to the heat of the spicy food my family liked to cook.
18. Which choice most effectively expresses that the narrator's host family was extremely welcoming?
F. NO CHANGE
G. as if I had lived there my whole life.
H. and asked how long I would be staying.
J. to their town.
19. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
A. no language other than Spanish.
B. Spanish language others or no.
C. Spanish and no other language.
D. no other language.
20. F. NO CHANGE
G. hold
H. have held
J. held
21. A. NO CHANGE
B. family that hosted me
C. family I hosted
D. family, which hosted me,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



lives and some of their childrens' previous English teachers. In particular, my host father became a very close friend, and I still correspond with him today.

I had been sent to this town to teach English to some of the children and their parents, but I soon realized that I was learning all about Mexican food and culture. I was learning

in circumstances not only how to speak everyday Spanish, but

also how to coexist with people who lived unlike my own. 25

On my last day of class. I noticed a map of North America on the wall. I realized then what I had sensed all along.

In one sense, I was farther away from home than I'd ever was. However, in another sense, I had simply found a new place that

I could call home. Remembering the details of my trip, I'm more and more convinced that the river that separates

22. F. NO CHANGE
G. childrens's
H. childrens
J. children's

23. Which choice most logically contrasts with the first part of this sentence?
A. NO CHANGE
B. my way around the town.
C. more than I could ever teach.
D. about the lives of those in my host family.

24. The best placement for the underlined portion would be:
F. where it is now.
G. after the word *speak*.
H. after the word *Spanish*.
J. after the word *lived*.

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

In Spanish, the word for “coexistence” sounds just like ours: *coexistencia*.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A. Yes, because it clarifies the narrator's earlier discussion of how welcome he felt with his host family.
B. Yes, because it supports the paragraph's main idea by translating a word into Spanish.
C. No, because it digresses from the main topic of the paragraph.
D. No, because it shows that the narrator's Spanish was not as proficient as he claimed.
26. F. NO CHANGE
G. class, I
H. class but I
J. class; I
27. A. NO CHANGE
B. had been.
C. been.
D. being.
28. F. NO CHANGE
G. Identified as one of the borderlands,
H. Showing all the mountains and rivers,
J. Becoming a new place for me,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Mexico and the United States is actually very small next to all of the wonderful things that bring us together. ²⁹

29. Which of the following sentences, if added here, would most effectively express one of the main ideas of the essay?
- A. To be honest, though, I was really glad to get home when it was all over.
 - B. The main thing I miss about the trip is the opportunity to practice my Spanish.
 - C. Ever since that time, I've often thought how alike my two homes really are.
 - D. That was my initial reaction, but I don't think I really want to go back.

PASSAGE III

“Haunted” Authors

[1]

In 1915, Maurice E. McLoughlin, a well-known tennis player³⁰ published an instructional autobiography called *Tennis as I Play It*. Two years earlier, McLoughlin had become the first American finalist at the Wimbledon tournament in England, and tennis fans were excited to uncover the tricks³¹ of his success. Anticipation for McLoughlin's story grew even more

in 1914. He was winning a number of major tournaments that year, he was declared³² the Number 1 tennis player in the world. When *Tennis as I Play It* finally did come out in 1915, no one had any reason to suspect that it might have been written by someone else. However, the author of *Tennis as I Play It*³³ was not McLoughlin at all, but the as-yet unknown novelist Sinclair Lewis, his ghostwriter. Why, then, is *Tennis as I Play It* considered the tennis player's³⁴ book? [A]

30. F. NO CHANGE
G. McLoughlin a well-known tennis player
H. McLoughlin, a well-known tennis player,
J. McLoughlin a well-known tennis player,
31. A. NO CHANGE
B. skills
C. secrets
D. abilities
32. F. NO CHANGE
G. Won
H. He won
J. Winning
33. A. NO CHANGE
B. for
C. about
D. DELETE the underlined portion.
34. F. NO CHANGE
G. athletes'
H. tennis players
J. athletes

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



[2]

A ghostwriter is an author who writes a text that is officially credited to another author, and the history of such practices

are lasting longer than we might expect. ³⁵ [36]

In other words, *Tennis as I Play It* was not, the first famous ghostwritten book, and it won't be the last. Ghostwriting can

happen for a number of reasons, and although it's merits are debatable, it remains an acceptable practice in the publishing world. [B]

[3]

Today, ghostwriting can take a number of different forms. It is perhaps most prominent in the autobiographies and memoirs of celebrities. How does a celebrity decide to ask a ghostwriter to write his or her book? No, ghostwriting is equally prominent in lesser-known spheres as well. [C] Political speeches, for example, are often credited to the politician who

35. A. NO CHANGE
B. were
C. are
D. is

36. At this point, the writer is thinking about adding the following true statement:

Some suggest that ghostwriting is as old as authorship itself.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- F. Yes, because it provides a transition from the previous paragraph to this one.
G. Yes, because it expands upon a point made in the preceding sentence.
H. No, because it does not apply to the main subject discussed in this paragraph.
J. No, because it suggests that most historical texts are ghostwritten.
37. A. NO CHANGE
B. was not the first,
C. was not the first
D. was, not the first,

38. F. NO CHANGE
G. its
H. her
J. their

39. Which choice provides the most logical and effective transition to the rest of the paragraph?
- A. NO CHANGE
B. Is the practice restricted to celebrity autobiographies and memoirs?
C. Why would celebrities want other people to tell their stories?
D. What makes celebrities think ghostwriters know all the details of their lives?

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



delivers them, and then that politician just reads the speech from a teleprompter. [D] In addition, many popular songs

40

claim a popular singer or performer as songwriter, although they have been shaped more by a producer than by any of the credited songwriters.

[4]

Ghostwriting—whether we approve of it or not—is here to stay. Sometimes, as in the case of Sinclair Lewis, the ghostwriters will eventually become famous authors in their own right. [43] Much more often, though,

since we are moved by the writing of authors whose names we will never learn.

44

40. Given that all the choices are true, which one provides the best support for the statement in an earlier part of this sentence?
- F. NO CHANGE
 G. but the speeches are usually written by a team of speechwriters.
 H. but very few politicians have the oratorical skills of politicians from the last century.
 J. although many politicians like to speak from notes rather than fully written speeches.
41. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- A. songwriter, yet
 B. songwriter; therefore,
 C. songwriter, but
 D. songwriter; however,
42. F. NO CHANGE
 G. not
 H. not,
 J. not;
43. The writer is thinking about deleting the preceding sentence. Should this sentence be kept or deleted?
- A. Kept, because it shows the importance of ghostwriting to Sinclair Lewis's career.
 B. Kept, because it provides a contrast to the fact stated in the next sentence.
 C. Deleted, because it discusses a famous novelist in a paragraph about ghostwriters.
 D. Deleted, because Sinclair Lewis is already mentioned in the first paragraph.
44. F. NO CHANGE
 G. because
 H. yet
 J. DELETE the underlined portion.

Question 45 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

45. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:
- Some in the industry suggest that as many as half of non-fiction books are written with help from ghostwriters.
- If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:
- A. Point A in Paragraph 1
 B. Point B in Paragraph 2
 C. Point C in Paragraph 3
 D. Point D in Paragraph 3

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



PASSAGE IV

From Broadcasts to Podcasts

In the first half of the twentieth century, Americans couldn't spend their evenings in front of the TV. The television didn't become a regular feature of the American home until well into the 1960s. Instead, the major form of mass entertainment in this period was provided by the radio. The radio had begun its rise to prominence in the 1930s. It was especially popular in the 1940s, when most American households, as many as 91%, had a radio. ⁴⁶ The residents of many small towns and rural

areas in non-urban parts of the country didn't have access to the newest movies or books, but those residents did have radios.

[1] Throughout the 1930s and 1940s, Americans turned to radio for all that. [2] During World War II, listeners could get more frequent information from their radios than they could from

the newspapers. [3] In 1932, U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, began his series of "fireside chats" over the radio. [4] For those

looking for lighter fare, the radio had plenty of mystery

46. The writer is considering deleting the phrase "as many as 91%" from the preceding sentence (adjusting the punctuation accordingly). Should this phrase be kept or deleted?
- F. Kept, because it supports the idea that radio was on the decline after the 1930s.
 G. Kept, because it gives specific evidence of radio's popularity in the 1940s.
 H. Deleted, because it discusses American households in a passage about radio listening.
 J. Deleted, because it doesn't describe the households that had radios.
47. A. NO CHANGE
 B. in parts of the country outside cities
 C. despite their possession of radios
 D. DELETE the underlined portion
48. F. NO CHANGE
 G. their wants and other things that might be perceived as needs, but were more likely wants.
 H. the things they needed to listen to, such as comedy, news, sports, and drama, or other kinds of programs sometimes.
 J. their listening needs.
49. A. NO CHANGE
 B. President Franklin Roosevelt
 C. President, Franklin Roosevelt
 D. President, Franklin Roosevelt,
50. Which of the following alternatives to the underlined portion would NOT be acceptable?
- F. scouring
 G. desiring
 H. wanting
 J. seeking

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



programs, comedy and variety shows, westerns, and quiz programs. [5] These chats were intended to be as informal as a chat between friends and family members by the fireside, but they tackled some of the most complex political issues of the day:

51

war, depression, and international affairs. [52]

By the 1950s, however, radio was losing its dominant position. The main reason for radio's decline was the advent of television. As television's continuing success has shown, Americans would rather *see* their favorite stars mere than *hear*

53

them. Listening (to anything other than music) to appear with a thing of the past.

54

[55] This portable device could hold more music than any record, tape, or CD ever could before. The iPod also brought back forms other than music. New *podcasts* hearkened back to

old-time radio programs called *broadcasts*. Whether funny or

56

serious, whether they're mainstream or they're underground, these podcasts might never reach the heights of old-time radio

57

51. A. NO CHANGE
B. day, these included
C. day,
D. day having been
52. For the sake of the logic and coherence of this paragraph, Sentence 5 should be placed:
F. where it is now.
G. before Sentence 1.
H. after Sentence 2.
J. after Sentence 3.
53. A. NO CHANGE
B. merely then
C. mere then
D. than merely
54. F. NO CHANGE
G. was apparently
H. to appearance was
J. appeared as
55. Given that all the following statements are true, which one, if added here, would most clearly and effectively introduce the main subject of this paragraph?
A. Radio's most popular programs, such as *Gunsmoke*, became popular television hits.
B. At least it seemed like a thing of the past until the iPod came along in 2001.
C. One of the last popular programs, *The Zero Hour*, was on in the early 1970s.
D. The presidential radio address has become a custom ever since Roosevelt's early broadcasts.
56. F. NO CHANGE
G. broadcasts.
H. broadcasts'.
J. broadcast's.
57. A. NO CHANGE
B. being mainstream in the underground,
C. mainstream or underground,
D. if they're so underground they're actually mainstream,

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



broadcasts, but there basically bringing non-musical listening to a whole new generation. These days, when it can seem like everyone wants *more* visual culture—IMAX screens, 3D movies—along comes the podcast to provide a welcome but not altogether unfamiliar alternative.

58. F. NO CHANGE
G. they're
H. it's essentially
J. their

Question 59 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

59. Suppose the writer's goal had been to write a brief essay focusing on how contemporary broadcasters have been influenced by earlier broadcasters. Would this essay fulfill that goal?
- A. Yes, because it makes clear that the podcast would not be likely to exist without old-time radio.
B. Yes, because it implies that the podcast has encouraged listeners to go back to earlier recordings.
C. No, because it does not offer a contemporary equivalent for Roosevelt's fireside chats.
D. No, because it is more focused on sketching the rise in popularity of the podcast.

PASSAGE V

Vladimir Nabokov, Books, and Butterflies

[1]

Vladimir Nabokov (1899–1977) is best known as a novelist.

His first novels were written in Russia in the 1920s.

⁶⁰

However, his novels and books that people seem to like the most were published in the United States and England in the 1940s and 1950s. The most notorious of all was *Lolita* (1955), a novel praised for its skillful construction and beautiful style but often banned for its lurid descriptions and shocking plot. [2]

60. F. NO CHANGE
G. was written
H. were wrote
J. was wrote
61. A. NO CHANGE
B. most famous works
C. works that are the most popular among readers
D. books that are very popular among critics and general readers alike
62. The writer is considering deleting the parenthetical information (and the parentheses) from the preceding sentence. If the writer were to make this deletion, the paragraph would primarily lose:
- F. a detail that helps to place *Lolita* chronologically in Nabokov's literary career.
G. the time during which Nabokov stopped writing to conduct his entomological research.
H. a detail needed to understand the historical and literary significance of *Lolita*.
J. the number of years that Nabokov spent writing *Lolita*.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Nabokov left Russia to escape persecution from the newly formed Soviet government.⁶³

[2]

In fact, he made significant contributions to entomology;⁶⁴

the study of insects. Nabokov's work in charting the structure,⁶⁵ and migration patterns of butterflies was a major contribution to science. [A] Moreover, at what might have seemed a high

point in his literary career⁶⁶ Nabokov accepted a research fellowship from Harvard University's Museum of Comparative

Zoology. Then, he used this fellowship to conduct his fieldwork and to curate the museum's butterfly collection at a time when

he could just as well, of⁶⁸ been earning a fellowship to work exclusively on writing.

[3]

Although Nabokov's work was occasionally dismissed by the scientific community as the ideas of an amateur, recent findings have supported some of his hypotheses. [B] For example, Nabokov was the primary one in a long list of scientists⁶⁹ to suggest that the *Polyommatus blue* species of butterfly came to North America from Asia in five waves over the Bering Strait.

63. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively leads the reader from this paragraph into the remainder of the essay?

- A. NO CHANGE
- B. Nabokov's other novels include *Prin*, *Pale Fire*, and the highly experimental *Ada*.
- C. However, Nabokov was not exclusively a novelist and a man of letters.
- D. *Lolita* is now considered an American classic, despite its original reception.

64. F. NO CHANGE
G. entomology being
H. entomology of
J. entomology,

65. A. NO CHANGE
B. structure of
C. structure
D. structure;

66. F. NO CHANGE
G. career;
H. career.
J. career,

67. A. NO CHANGE
B. He
C. Finally, he
D. Consequently, he

68. F. NO CHANGE
G. could just as well, have
H. could, just as well of
J. could just as well have

69. A. NO CHANGE
B. first
C. one before anyone else
D. scientist that was before others in the field

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.



Moreover, Nabokov was mainly interested in the study of moths and butterflies but studied some plants. In belated recognition of his contributions, a genus of butterfly was

renamed. *Nabokovia* in his honor. [C]

[4]

We can't know whether Nabokov's fiction or his scientific work was more important, than which pursuit Nabokov found

more enriching. Nabokov the famous novelist could of been Nabokov the famous entomologist. [D] Who can say? What we can say is that Nabokov's story is a reminder of the vastness of human potential. One might say that Nabokov was just

an exceptional person, but isn't it equally possible that these alternate personalities exist inside of all of us?

70. Given that all the choices are true, which one most effectively concludes the sentence by giving a specific example of Nabokov's contribution to the study of moths and butterflies?

- F. NO CHANGE
- G. aided in his scientific researches by his wife, Vera, who drove Vladimir to his research sites.
- H. the first to describe some species of moth and butterfly, including the Karner blue.
- J. working on his novels at the same time that he made his scientific discoveries.

71. A. NO CHANGE

- B. renamed,
- C. renamed
- D. renamed;

72. F. NO CHANGE

- G. for example
- H. nor
- J. DELETE the underlined portion.

73. A. NO CHANGE

- B. could have
- C. has
- D. have

74. F. NO CHANGE

- G. an exception to
- H. exceptionally a
- J. an exceptionally

Question 75 asks about the preceding passage as a whole.

75. The writer is considering adding the following sentence to the essay:

The posthumous recognition continued as a number of moth and butterfly species were named after characters in his novels.

If the writer were to add this sentence, it would most logically be placed at:

- A. Point A in Paragraph 2.
- B. Point B in Paragraph 3.
- C. Point C in Paragraph 3.
- D. Point D in Paragraph 4.

END OF TEST 4
STOP! DO NOT TURN THE PAGE UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO.