GRAMMAR, COMPOSITION, AND LITERATURE DIAGNOSTIC TEST

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this test is for me to determine what your child already knows so that I can properly place him or her in the right class. Please do not worry if your student does not know the answers to many of these items. I do not expect them to know it all. Remember this is only a diagnostic.

Please supervise your child as he or she completes this diagnostic test. In order for me to get an honest assessment, I ask that you follow these instructions.

- Please do not assist your child at all.
- Students should take the exam all in one sitting.
- Do not allow students to use any reference materials such as, but not limited to, grammar books or dictionaries.
- Once your student has finished the test, place it in an envelope and mail it to me at the following address.

  Vanessa Bush  
  7609 NW 73rd Ave.  
  Tamarac, FL 33321

- Diagnostic tests will not be returned.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

God bless,
Vanessa Bush
vanessabush@bellsouth.net
I. **Parts of Speech**

Directions: Fill in the answer sheet at the end of the paragraph with the correct letter of the italicized word. You may use a letter more than once or not at all.

A. noun  B. verb  C. pronoun  D. adjective  
E. adverb  F. preposition  G. conjunction  H. interjection

These (1) *are* the proverbs of Solomon, David's son, king of Israel. The purpose (2) *of* these proverbs (3) *is* to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand (4) *wise* sayings. (5) *Through* these proverbs, people (6) *will receive* (7) *instruction* in discipline, good conduct, (8) *and* doing what is right, (9) *just*, and fair. (10) *These* proverbs will make the (11) *simple-minded* clever. (12) *They* will give knowledge and purpose to young people. Let those who are wise listen to these proverbs and become (13) *even* wiser. And let those who understand receive guidance by exploring the depth of meaning (14) *in* these proverbs, parables, wise sayings, and riddles.

(15) *Fear* of the LORD is the (16) *beginning* of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline. (17) *Listen*, my child, to what your father teaches (18) *you*. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. What you learn (19) *from* them will (20) *crown* you with grace and clothe you with honor. Proverbs 1:1-9
II. Parts of the sentence
Directions: Underline the simple subject of the sentence one time. Underline the verb twice.

1. A wise son brings joy to his father.
2. He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress.
3. Hatred stirs up dissension.
4. Love covers over all wrong.
5. The prospect of the righteous is joy.
6. To man belong the plans of the heart.
7. Do you see a man who is wise in his own eyes?
8. There is more hope for a fool than for him.
9. Humility and the fear of the Lord bring wealth and honor and life.
10. In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil.

III. Making sentences
Directions: Fill in the answer sheet at the end of this section with the correct letter.
A. sentence fragment  B. run-on sentence  C. complete sentence

1. Pay attention to my wisdom.
2. My son, if you have put up security for your neighbor, if you have struck hands in pledge for another, if you have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth.
3. Keep my commands and you will live.
4. When I was a boy in my father’s house.
5. The wise in heart accept commands, a chattering fool comes to ruin.
6. When words are many, sin is not absent he who holds his tongue is wise.
7. Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.
8. Whoever trusts in his riches and delights in the perverse.
9. A gossip betrays a confidence a trustworthy man keeps a secret.
10. The way of a fool seems right to him; a wise man listens to advice.

1. Fortunately the math and French assignments are short. _____    _____
2. The smallest puppy licked me affectionately. ______  ______
3. The long ticket line stretched around the corner. _____  _____
4. Everything inside the spacecraft suddenly began to float. _____  _____
5. Hold on to that fishing pole! Whoops! _____  _____

IV. Parts of speech
Directions: On the blank lines write the letter of the answer that best describes each underlined word or words. There are two answers for every sentence.
A. noun     B. pronoun     C. verb     D. adjective
E. adverb     F. preposition     G. conjunction     H. interjection
1. Fortunately the math and French assignments are short. _____    _____
2. The smallest puppy licked me affectionately. ______  ______
3. The long ticket line stretched around the corner. _____  _____
4. Everything inside the spacecraft suddenly began to float. _____  _____
5. Hold on to that fishing pole! Whoops! _____  _____

V. The sentence
Directions: On the blank line, write the letter of the answer that best describes the underlined part of the sentence.
A. complete subject     B. complete predicate
C. simple subject     D. simple predicate
E. none of these
1. The top of the tower rose above the fog in the valley. _____
2. Where can your new kitten be hiding now? _____
3. Isn’t your friend Dora marching in the Veterans’ Day parade? _____
4. Down the hill crashed the huge boulder and some smaller rocks. _____
5. The proud old rooster and hens were squabbling again. _____

VI. Complements
Directions: On the blank line, write the letter of the answer that best describes the underlined part of the sentence.

A. direct object B. indirect object C. predicate nominative
D. predicate adjective E. none of these

1. After the storm the driving conditions became dangerous. _____
2. Jeff returned his ice skates after he fell and cut his face. _____
3. The alert goalie prevented a score. _____
4. The professor gave the detective an unbreakable alibi. _____
5. Because of his injury, the tennis player was only a spectator. _____

VII. Phrases
Directions: On the blank line, write the letter of the answer that best describes the underlined part of the sentence.

A. prepositional phrase B. appositive phrase
C. participial phrase D. gerund phrase
E. infinitive phrase

1. Climbing effortlessly, Mr. Morris led the way up the mountain. _____
2. Climbing Mt. Washington was the hikers’ goal today. _____
3. They would go to the top. _____
4. To find they way was not at all difficult. _____
5. Morris, the most experienced climber, was the leader. _____

VIII. Clauses
Directions: On the blank line, write the letter of the answer that best describes the underlined part of the sentence.

A. independent clause B. adjective clause
C. adverb clause D. noun clause

1. When the cat hissed, the snake slithered away. _____
2. Anyone who wishes to go should be at the bus stop at noon. _____
3. The judge banged his gavel because the spectators were loud. _____
4. Whoever has a blue ticket may enter now. _____
5. Give the tricycle to whoever can make use of it. _____
IX. **Written Multi-paragraph Essay**

Directions: Write a multi-paragraph essay on **ONE** of the following topics. *Please type this, print it out, and send it in with the rest of your test.*

Follow these guidelines to the best of your ability.
- Avoid using “be” verbs (am, is, are, was, were, be, being, been) whenever possible.
- Try to not to begin sentences the same within a paragraph.
- Try to begin your paragraphs differently as well.
- Avoid using contractions.

**Choice 1:** King Solomon composed many proverbs so he could advise young people how to live. The older you get, the more life lessons you learn. Based upon your own life experience, develop a piece of personal wisdom or advice for someone younger than you or your own age. How did you discover this personal wisdom? Why would it be important for others to follow?

**Choice 2:** What is the difference between wisdom and intelligence? Make sure to give specific details and examples in your essay.