

Answer to Academic Writing Quiz

1. Original: Having decided on a course of action, it is now possible to make a time plan.

Corrected: Having decided on a course of action, we may now make a time plan.

Explanation: The sentence needs a subject (someone or something that carries out an action). Otherwise it is not clear who decided and who may make a time plan.

2. Original: The test results contradict existing scientific principals.

Corrected: The test results contradict existing scientific principles.

Explanation: The word needed here is principle (moral standard) and not principal (manager of a school).

3. Original: All workers must, at this point in time, first and foremost wear gloves on their hands and a helmet on their heads.

Corrected: All workers must wear gloves and a helmet.

Explanation: The sentence is unnecessarily wordy. People wear gloves on their hands and helmets on their heads, so there is no need to specify the location of the clothing. Also, at this point in time would be better as now, and first and foremost would be better as first. However, in this sentence neither of these is needed because must shows importance and the present tense (must wear) shows present time.

4. Original: You should not drive any further it would be dangerous because of the landslides.

Corrected: You should not drive any further; it would be dangerous because of the landslides.

Explanation: The sentence is actually composed of two separate sentences stuck together with no punctuation marks. The punctuation marks used to connect two sentences are the full-stop (or period) and the semi-colon. Use a semi-colon if you don't intend a very strong pause. Use a full-stop if you intend the pause between the two sentences to be stronger.

5. Original: The decision to introduce computers in all training sessions have been made.

Corrected: The decision to introduce computers in all training sessions has been made.

Explanation: The subject that goes with have is decision (the decision has been made), so it must be singular, not plural (has, not have).

6. Original: The radiation leak effected many people.

Corrected: The radiation leak affected many people.

Explanation: The word needed here is affected. Effect is a noun ("the effect of the radiation..."), not a verb.

7. Original: No changes can be made after the chemicals were sealed in the containers.

Corrected: No changes can be made after the chemicals are sealed in the containers OR No changes could be made after the chemicals were sealed in the containers.

Explanation: The verb tenses do not correspond and so the time aspect of the sentence is not clear. Decide if you want to talk about the past (could...were) or the present (can...are).

8. Original: The company revamped their public image; increasing their popularity by about 100%.

Corrected: The company revamped their public image, increasing their popularity by about 100%.

Explanation: The phrase beginning with increasing is not a complete sentence since it doesn't have both a subject (agent) and a verb (action). Therefore, it should not be separated from the main sentence with a semi-colon. A simple comma will do.

9. Original: The project team recommended to carry out more research, employing a new text editor, and that the sales strategy should be re-formulated.

Corrected: The project team recommended carrying out more research, employing a new text editor, and re-formulating the sales strategy.

Explanation: The three recommendations of the project team should be parallel; that is, they should have a similar structure (in this case, -ing...-ing...-ing). This makes the sentence more coherent and shows that the three points are part of one list.

10. Original: Sunlight reaches it's peak at midday.

Corrected: Sunlight reaches its peak at midday.

Explanation: The word its here is a pronoun referring to the peak of the sun. It's stands for it is or it has. The apostrophe shows that there is something missing between it and s.