

## Wordiness, Redundancy, and Ambiguity (Advanced)

1. During World War II, a group of Navajo soldiers developed a code that became one of the most successful in US military history. This group, known as the Navajo code talkers, took part in every assault the US Marines conducted in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945, transmitting information on tactics, troop movements, orders, and other vital communication over telephones and radios.  
A) NO CHANGE  
B) group which was  
C) group was  
D) group
2. Unfortunately, the code talkers sometimes faced dangerous peril from their own side. Many code talkers needed bodyguards to protect them from other American soldiers, some of whom mistook the Navajo for Japanese.  
A) NO CHANGE  
B) hazardous  
C) risky  
D) DELETE the underlined portion
3. Raptors are diurnal, or daytime-hunting animals, meaning they must be in prime physical condition to make sure they can catch their prey before they realize they are being attacked. The premature loss of a flight feather to injury, then, is not an incidental matter to raptors, most of which hunt during the day. If a feather breaks off with the stub of its hollow quill shaft still in place, the bird's body mistakenly believes the feather is intact, leading the raptor to fly at speeds lower than what it is accustomed to.  
A) NO CHANGE  
B) raptors.  
C) raptors, most of which are mainly active during the day.  
D) raptors, daytime-hunting creatures for the most part.
4. My friend Ellen is typical of many potters in that some pieces she shapes on a spinning potter's wheel and others she builds on a work table from coils or slabs of clay. Over many weeks, as time goes by, her collection of pottery slowly grows: clay bowls, cups, vases, and sculptures fill the studio. She dries them on racks, dips them in glazes, and dries them again.  
A) NO CHANGE  
B) with the passing of time,  
C) gradually,  
D) DELETE the underlined portion
5. The chamber is just big enough for her to crouch in as she stoops to carefully arrange the pieces inside. When the objects are in place, she backs out gingerly and seals the chamber shut with bricks.  
A) NO CHANGE  
B) carefully arranges  
C) bends over to arrange with care  
D) carefully stoops over to arrange

6. Tortoises are land-dwelling, vegetarian turtles. They can experience satisfaction through a diet of grass clippings, lettuce, broccoli, melons, and other vegetables and fruit.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) reap their necessary nutritional requirements from
  - C) be kept as happy as a clam with
  - D) be adequately nourished by
7. In 1788, a neighbor loaned Benjamin 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.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) these calculations
  - C) the studies and paths he calculated
  - D) the astronomical instruments and books
8. 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.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) covering a year's worth
  - C) about twelve months
  - D) DELETE the underlined portion.
9. Kayaks are lightweight canoes originally used for hunting and fishing by the Inuit peoples of the northern coasts of North America. Today, many people use kayaks recreationally for white-water sports and for touring wilderness areas that are extremely wild.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) of great remoteness.
  - C) that are uncivilized.
  - D) DELETE the underlined portion and adjust the punctuation as necessary.
10. Heat-loving extremophiles, or thermophiles, flourish in temperatures over 150 degrees Celsius. Scientists have collected them from Yellowstone National Park's thermal pools, the park abounding with geysers like Old Faithful, and from radioactive rock deep within South African gold mines.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) pools, in contrast to the cool depths of Scandinavian fjords,
  - C) pools, natural wonders formed by geologic magic,
  - D) pools
11. Planes, when compared with drones, are more expensive, provide worse-quality images, and they can't fly low to the ground, can only take pictures on clear days.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) and
  - C) and therefore
  - D) and, because they

12. Representing a Paralympic athlete triumphantly crossing the finish line, the sculpture evocatively fuses athletic and artistic achievement; however, the lack of publicity about the Paralympics consigned the sculpture to virtual obscurity.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) consigned and then relegated the sculpture
  - C) consigned the sculpture—since not many people had heard about it-
  - D) led
13. Advocates of compulsory volunteering who are in favor of it point out that it allows young people to receive the benefits of volunteering.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) volunteering, in favor of it,
  - C) volunteering
  - D) volunteering and its proponents
14. It's impossible to predict which people will dig into their pockets or if they would open their purses, and I've stopped trying to guess.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) would have opened
  - C) open
  - D) might be opening
15. This change in outlook eventually led to the occurrence of the Protestant Reformation after some amount of time.
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) after some time.
  - C) of the Protestant Reformation.
  - D) DELETE the underlined portion and adjust the punctuation as necessary.