

ANSWER KEY

*for*

GRAMMAR-ON-THE-GO   
 FOR BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION

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Answer Key

Diagnostic Test of English Skills

1. E 16. E 31. B 46. A

2. D 17. D 32. A 47. A

3. E 18. C 33. A 48. E

4. C 19. A 34. B 49. B

5. E 20. E 35. B 50. E

6. A 36. B

7. E 21. A 37. B 51. A

8. B 22. B 38. A 52. A

9. D 23. B 39. B 53. B

10. C 24. A 40. A 54. A

25. B 55. A

11. C 26. B 41. D 56. B

12. B 27. A 42. B 57. A

13. A 28. B 43. D 58. B

14. D 29. B 44. D 59. B

15. B 30. A 45. E 60. A

1.1 Nouns

Practice Session

1. City 9. company’s

2. Building / building 10. editor-in-chief’s

3. hotels 11. businesses’

4. *t*’s / *i*’s 12. passengers’

5. 1990s 13. day’s

6. shelves 14. Dallas’s

7. specialties 15. Jones’s

8. cases

Level 1: Self-Assessment: Nouns

1. Give the balance sheet to Melissa. (1.1.1)

2. We’d like to order 50 more cases for Craigmont Stores, and 3 each for the other stores on

our list. (1.1.1)

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3. Tarnower Corporation donates a portion of its profits to charity every year. (1.1.1)

4. Which aluminum bolts are packaged? (1.1.1)

5. Please send the Joneses a dozen of the following: stopwatches, canteens, headbands, and

wristbands. (1.1.1)

6. The technician has already repaired the machine for the client. (1.1.2)

7. An attorney will talk to the group about incorporation. (1.1.2)

8. After her vacation, the buyer prepared a third-quarter budget. (1.1.2)

9. The new flat monitors are serving our department very well. (1.1.2)

10. Accuracy overrides speed in importance. (1.1.2)

11. copies Make sure that all copys include the new addresses. (1.1.2)

12. employees’ Ask Jennings to collect all employee’s donations for the United Way

drive. (1.1.4)

13. sons-in-law/businesses Charlie now has two son-in-laws to help him with his two online

business’s. (1.1.3, 1.1.4)

14. parentheses Avoid using too many parenthesises when writing your reports. (1.1.3)

15. Burgess’s/week’s Follow President Burgesses rules about what makes up a weeks work.

(1.1.4)

Level 2: Workplace Applications

1. If a broken-down, unproductive guy like Carl can get a raise, why can’t a take-charge guy   
 like me get one? [*Or, with more appropriate tone and vocabulary for most business   
 situations:* If a less productive employee like Carl can get a raise, why can’t an employee   
 with initiative and ambition like me get one?]

2. Visit our Web site and sign up for *On Your Toes*, our free newsletter that keeps you informed   
 about promotions, discounts, and Internet-only specials.

3. As of March 2009, the Board of Directors has nine members, including three women, one

First Nations person, and one Canadian of East Asian descent. [*Identifying gender and ethnic identity in business communication is usually not acceptable practice. Here, the writer is making a point of the board’s inclusiveness.*]

4. We urge you, as one of the nearly 275 000 [*or:* 275,000] Maritime Life policyholders eligible   
 to vote, to approve the new investment advisory agreement.

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5. Gerrald Higgins, Vice-President for Marketing, told us reporters that CIBC provides   
 financial services to one-eighth of homes in Canada.

6. Our customer relations associates work with people every day to answer questions, provide   
 assistance, and help solve problems.

7. If tenants breach the lease, the landlord is likely to file legal action against them to collect on   
 the remainder of the lease. [*Preferable to:* If anyone breaches the lease, it is likely that the   
 landlord will file legal action against him or her to collect on the remainder of his or her   
 lease. *If the tenants are the people being addressed,“anyone” could also be replaced by   
 “you,” which changes verb agreement.*]

8. An RESP is one of the most common plans for educational savings because it’s easy to set up   
 and administer.

9. My advice to you is to put your mission statement on your Web site [*or:* website].

10. According to Karen Smith’s report, small-business owners don’t recognize the full effect that   
 layoffs and terminations can have on the motivation of the remaining employees.

11. To facilitate the processing of your tax return, use the mailing label and bar-coded envelope   
 that come with your tax package.

12. The Student Association has implemented an exciting array of programs that make it easy for   
 you to voice your opinions and concerns.

13. Keep in mind the old saying “When you laugh, the world laughs with you; when you cry,   
 you cry alone.”

14. Albert Edmunds and I are owners of the real estate firm Edmunds & Cale, which has recently   
 opened a new office in Corner Brook, Newfoundland.

15. The memo implied that the economic downturn will have a greater effect on the company’s   
 bottom line than we previously assumed; this is the worst news we could have gotten [*or:* could have got].

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Level 3: Document Critique—Well-Written Solution

MEMO

TO: All Employees

FROM: R. Smith, Personnel Director

DATE: December 28, 2009

SUBJECT: Time Cards

After reviewing our current method of keeping track of employee hours, we have concluded that   
time cards leave a lot to be desired. So starting Monday, we will have a new system: a time   
clock. You will just have to punch in and punch out whenever you come and go from your work   
area.

The new system may take a little while to get used to, but it should be helpful to those of us who are making a New Year’s resolution to be more punctual.

Happy New Year to all!

eg

1.2 Pronouns: Practice Session

1. me 6. its 11. her 16. your

2. she 7. his or her 12. him or her 17. its

3. him 8. Who 13. her 18. I

4. We 9. whom 14. its 19. their

5. me 10. Whom 15. Who 20. its

Level 1: Self-Assessment: Pronouns

1. whom To which retailer will you send your merchandise? (1.2)

2. them Have you given John and Nancy a list of parts? (1.2)

3. It/them The main office sent the invoice to Mr. and Mrs. Litvak on December 5. (1.2)

4. its The company settled the company’s accounts before the end of the year (1.2)

5. Whose Which person’s umbrella is this? (1.2)

6. The sales staff is preparing guidelines for its (*their, its*) clients. (1.2.5)

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7. Few of the sales representatives turn in their (*their, its*) reports on time. (1.2.5)

8. The board of directors has chosen its (*their, its*) officers. (1.2.5)

9. Donna and Eileen have told their (*her, their*) clients about the new program. (1.2.1)

10. Each manager plans to expand his or her (*his, their, his or her*) sphere of control next

year. (1.2.3)

11. Has everyone supplied his or her (*his, their, his or her*) social insurance number? (1.2.3)

12. After giving every employee a (*his,* *their, a*) raise, George told them (*them, they, all*)

about the increased workload. (1.2.3, 1.2.4)

13. Bob and Tim have opposite ideas about how to achieve company goals. Who (*Who,*

*Whom*) do you think will win the debate? (1.2.4)

14. City Securities has just announced whom (*who, whom*) it will hire as CEO. (1.2.4)

15. Either of the new products would readily find its (*their, its*) place in the marketplace.

(1.2.5)