

PMC Grammar Diagnostic Test Items

Need for a proprietary test: Because PMC has a unique student population and mix of international students, our diagnostic test must also assess grammar errors commonly made by ELLs. Many other universities provide grammar tests designed only for native speakers, which do not include errors that ELLs make. The test I developed assesses the following grammar items:

| | <u>Category</u> |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. comma splices | CS |
| 2. fragments | CS |
| 3. run-ons | CS |
| 4. S-V (group nouns and AAVE-transfer errors) | SV |
| 5. variety of advanced Verb tense/forms | Verb tense/form |
| 6. capitalization | Cap |
| 7. punctuation in quotes and parentheses | Mech |
| 8. commas in relative clauses | comma |
| 9. comma after introductory element | comma |
| 10. commas in lists of adjs and nouns (long noun phrases) | comma |
| 11. embedded questions | sentence structure |
| 12. tense shift | Verb tense/form |
| 13. plurality shift (everyone, his or her) – Get from Pearson diagnostic 1 | pronouns |
| 14. pronoun case (I vs. me, who vs whom) - get from "Rules for Writers, p. 64-75 | pronouns |
| 15. pronoun-antecedent agreement - get from "Rules for Writers, p. 60-63 | pronouns |
| 16. tone (rules for writers, p. 37) | tone |
| 17. noun clauses with "if" and "whether" | sentence structure |
| 18. reported speech | sentence structure |
| 19. adj vs adv (good/well, bad/badly, real/really) | vocab /parts of speech |
| 20. correct use of transition (consequently, on the one hand, in conclusion (not "conclusion", etc) | vocab /parts of speech |
| 21. appropriate collocations with prepositions | vocab /parts of speech |
| 22. commas in compound sentences (if adverb in first clause, needs a comma) | comma |
| 23. Common spelling errors (its / it's, there/their/they're, | Common spelling/punct errors |
| ESL errors: | |
| 24. articles – use examples from student writing | Art (ESL) |

| | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 25. Plural & count/non count (many, much) | Number |
| 26. gerunds/infinitives | gerunds/infinitives (ESL) |
| 27. tenses in conditionals | Verb tense/form |
| 28. part of speech - grow/growth health/healthy (see Grammar & Beyond 4, p. 84) | vocab /parts of speech (ESL) |
| 29. past modals | Verb tense/form |
| 30. passive | Verb tense/form |

Ideas for test items and grammar points to cover were borrowed from:

1. Walden Univ. grammar modules:

<https://events->

na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1106109475/en/events/event/private/1106126484/1160246744/event_registration.html?connect-session=na11breez7oh5nho2i9roqege&scoid=1177964985& charset =utf-8

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na11.adobeconnect.com/content/connect/c1/1106109475/en/events/event/private/1106126484/1160246744/event_registration.html?connect-session=na11breez7oh5nho2i9roqege&scoid=1181654084& charset =utf-8

2. Towson University:

<https://webapps.towson.edu/ows/exercises/INDEXdiagnostictests.aspx>

3. <https://www.grammar-quizzes.com/genreviewbeg1.html>

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4. Pearson Longman:

http://wps.pearsoncustom.com/long_longman_mtcl_1/69/17820/4562050.cw/-/4562055/index.html