

# TEAS English and Language Usage Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



**Everything you need from our exam experts!**

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# Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

**Remember:** successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

# How to Use This Guide

**This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:**

## **1. Start with a Diagnostic Review**

**Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.**

## **2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions**

**Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.**

## **3. Learn from the Explanations**

**After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.**

## **4. Track Your Progress**

**Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.**

## **5. Simulate the Real Exam**

**Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.**

## **6. Repeat and Review**

**Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.**

**There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!**

## Questions

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1. Which of the following sentences is written in the active voice?
  - A. "The cake was eaten by the children."
  - B. "The children ate the cake."
  - C. "The cake is being eaten by the children."
  - D. "The children are eating the cake."
  
2. How would you rewrite the sentence to use a semicolon correctly? "I have a big test tomorrow I can't go out tonight."
  - A. I have a big test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight
  - B. I have a big test tomorrow. I can't go out tonight
  - C. I have a big test; tomorrow I can't go out tonight
  - D. I have a big test tomorrow, I can't go out tonight
  
3. What role do conjunctions serve in a sentence?
  - A. They clarify meaning
  - B. They express actions
  - C. They connect words, phrases, or clauses
  - D. They introduce questions
  
4. What primarily distinguishes a formal tone from an informal tone in writing?
  - A. A formal tone is more humorous and lighthearted
  - B. A formal tone uses proper language and structure
  - C. A formal tone contains a lot of slang
  - D. A formal tone is characterized by personal anecdotes
  
5. Determine the mood of the sentence: "The haunting melody filled the empty hall."
  - A. Joyful
  - B. Somber
  - C. Excited
  - D. Neutral

- 6. What is an appropriate use of a colon in a sentence?**
- A. To separate two independent clauses**
  - B. To introduce a list**
  - C. To end a statement**
  - D. To indicate a question**
- 7. Which of the following is a simple sentence?**
- A. Once I have finished, I will stop by.**
  - B. The blue and red cars collided, and I called the police.**
  - C. The dog and the young, active cat played together and chased each other.**
  - D. You may think I am getting very old, but I do not share your opinion.**
- 8. What is the function of an introductory clause in a sentence?**
- A. To conclude the main idea**
  - B. To introduce a counterargument**
  - C. To provide context or background information**
  - D. To end the statement with emphasis**
- 9. From which point of view is the passage written: 'One day after school I strayed from my regular routine and decided to go home and fit in a workout'?**
- A. first person**
  - B. second person**
  - C. third person omniscient**
  - D. third person limited**
- 10. When should you use "their," "there," and "they're"?**
- A. They are all interchangeable**
  - B. "They're" indicates possession**
  - C. "Their" indicates possession, "there" indicates a place, and "they're" is a contraction for "they are"**
  - D. "Their" is a contraction**

## Answers

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1. B
2. A
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. C
8. C
9. A
10. C

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## **Explanations**

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1. Which of the following sentences is written in the active voice?

- A. "The cake was eaten by the children."
- B. "The children ate the cake."**
- C. "The cake is being eaten by the children."
- D. "The children are eating the cake."

The sentence "The children ate the cake" is written in the active voice because the subject of the sentence, "the children," performs the action of eating. In active voice constructions, the subject typically comes before the verb and directly engages in the action described, which in this case is the act of eating. This sentence clearly attributes the action to its doer, making it straightforward and concise. Active voice is generally preferred in writing when clarity and directness are desired. The other sentences illustrate the passive voice, where the subject receives the action rather than performing it.

2. How would you rewrite the sentence to use a semicolon correctly? "I have a big test tomorrow I can't go out tonight."

- A. I have a big test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight**
- B. I have a big test tomorrow. I can't go out tonight
- C. I have a big test; tomorrow I can't go out tonight
- D. I have a big test tomorrow, I can't go out tonight

Using a semicolon correctly requires that it separates two independent clauses that are closely related in thought. In this case, the two clauses are "I have a big test tomorrow" and "I can't go out tonight." Both of these clauses can stand alone as complete sentences, making them suitable candidates for separation by a semicolon. The correct construction, therefore, is: "I have a big test tomorrow; I can't go out tonight." This usage effectively links the two related ideas, indicating that the decision not to go out is a consequence of the upcoming test. The other options do not achieve the correct punctuation or structure. Some create separate sentences without maintaining the connection between the ideas, while others incorrectly use punctuation, such as a comma, that cannot properly connect these independent clauses. Thus, the chosen answer reflects the proper use of a semicolon to convey a related thought succinctly and effectively.

### 3. What role do conjunctions serve in a sentence?

- A. They clarify meaning
- B. They express actions
- C. They connect words, phrases, or clauses**
- D. They introduce questions

Conjunctions play a crucial role in a sentence by connecting words, phrases, or clauses, which helps to create more complex and meaningful sentences. For instance, they can link similar ideas (e.g., "and"), show contrast (e.g., "but"), or present alternatives (e.g., "or"). This connective function enhances the flow of sentences and clarifies relationships between different parts of a sentence, making it easier for readers to understand the connections between ideas. In contrast, the other options inaccurately describe the roles of conjunctions. While clarification of meaning is important in language, that task is more aptly served by other parts of speech, such as adjectives or adverbs. Expressing actions is the primary function of verbs, which are responsible for indicating what the subject is doing. Lastly, introducing questions is typically a function of interrogative words or auxiliary verbs, rather than conjunctions, which are not used for this purpose. Thus, the defining function of conjunctions is to link components within sentences, which is accurately reflected by the correct answer.

### 4. What primarily distinguishes a formal tone from an informal tone in writing?

- A. A formal tone is more humorous and lighthearted
- B. A formal tone uses proper language and structure**
- C. A formal tone contains a lot of slang
- D. A formal tone is characterized by personal anecdotes

A formal tone is primarily distinguished by its use of proper language and structure. This style of writing adheres to grammatical rules, employs sophisticated vocabulary, and follows a clear and organized format. Formal writing is typically seen in academic papers, official documents, and professional correspondence, where clarity and professionalism are paramount. The presence of proper language contributes to the credibility and seriousness of the writing, making it suitable for formal contexts such as business communication or scholarly work. In contrast, other options describe elements that do not align with a formal tone. For instance, humor and lightheartedness (as mentioned in the first option) are usually characteristics of informal writing, which seeks to engage the reader on a more personal level. The inclusion of slang or colloquial expressions (referenced in the third choice) further aligns with informal communication, as it fosters a casual connection with the audience. Personal anecdotes, found in the fourth option, typically create a conversational atmosphere and are more common in informal writing styles. Thus, proper language and structure serve as the defining features of a formal tone, reinforcing formality and clarity in communication.

5. Determine the mood of the sentence: "The haunting melody filled the empty hall."

- A. Joyful
- B. Somber**
- C. Excited
- D. Neutral

The mood of the sentence "The haunting melody filled the empty hall" is best described as somber. The word "haunting" connotes something eerie or ghostly, suggesting an emotional weight or a sense of melancholy. The description of the hall as "empty" further enhances this mood, implying loneliness or a sense of absence. Together, these elements create an atmosphere that is reflective and possibly sorrowful rather than joyful, excited, or neutral. "Somber" captures this emotional depth, aligning with the imagery and feelings conveyed in the sentence.

6. What is an appropriate use of a colon in a sentence?

- A. To separate two independent clauses
- B. To introduce a list**
- C. To end a statement
- D. To indicate a question

A colon is appropriately used to introduce a list, which is why the chosen answer is correct. When you want to provide examples or specify elements that relate to what was stated before the colon, using it helps to cue the reader that further details or items will follow. For instance, in a sentence like, "You will need the following items for the trip: a backpack, a tent, and a sleeping bag," the colon effectively indicates that a list of items is coming next. In contrast, separating two independent clauses with a colon is not correct, as colons do not typically link complete sentences without conjunction or appropriate context. Ending a statement with a colon or indicating a question is also incorrect since colons serve a specific grammatical function that does not align with these uses. Using a colon mainly for lists or explanations helps clarify the relationship between the introductory statement and the following information, enriching the reader's understanding of the text.

7. Which of the following is a simple sentence?

- A. Once I have finished, I will stop by.
- B. The blue and red cars collided, and I called the police.
- C. The dog and the young, active cat played together and chased each other.**
- D. You may think I am getting very old, but I do not share your opinion.

A simple sentence consists of a single independent clause, which means it contains a subject and a verb and expresses a complete thought. In this case, the option that qualifies as a simple sentence is actually none of the ones provided, but let's clarify the details around choice C. Choice C contains the subjects "The dog and the young, active cat" and combines two actions linked by "and." This structure clearly indicates multiple subjects and actions, moving it into the realm of a compound sentence. To understand why other options also do not represent simple sentences, consider the remaining choices. Choice A features a dependent clause "Once I have finished," which introduces the independent clause "I will stop by," making it a complex sentence. Choice B presents two independent clauses joined by "and," which categorizes it as a compound sentence. Choice D also combines two independent clauses with "but," making it another compound sentence. In summary, none of the choices provided are simple sentences since all contain additional clauses or multiple subjects and verbs. A simple sentence should not contain any conjunctions or additional phrases that create complexities. For effective identification of simple sentences, look for a single subject and predicate that conveys a clear, standalone idea.

8. What is the function of an introductory clause in a sentence?

- A. To conclude the main idea
- B. To introduce a counterargument
- C. To provide context or background information**
- D. To end the statement with emphasis

An introductory clause serves to provide context or background information, which establishes the setting for the main point of the sentence. By beginning with an introductory clause, the sentence can clarify what the main idea will be about, giving the reader a better understanding of how the details that follow relate to that initial context. This helps to guide the reader's comprehension and prepares them for the main clause that follows. For example, in the sentence, "Although it was raining, we decided to go for a hike," the introductory clause "Although it was raining" sets up context for why the decision might seem surprising or noteworthy. It enhances the reader's understanding of the situation. In contrast, options that suggest the introductory clause functions to conclude the main idea, introduce a counterargument, or end with emphasis do not accurately reflect its primary role in constructing meaningful and coherent sentences.

9. From which point of view is the passage written: 'One day after school I strayed from my regular routine and decided to go home and fit in a workout'?

- A. first person
- B. second person
- C. third person omniscient
- D. third person limited

The passage is written from the first-person point of view, which is indicated by the use of first-person pronouns such as "I." This perspective allows the narrator to express personal thoughts and experiences directly, providing a subjective account of their decision to deviate from their typical routine. This type of narration establishes a personal connection between the narrator and the reader, as it invites the reader to see the world through the narrator's eyes. The other perspectives listed, such as second person or third person, do not utilize first-person pronouns and would instead involve addressing the reader directly or presenting the thoughts and feelings of other characters without the intimate engagement found in a first-person narrative.

10. When should you use "their," "there," and "they're"?

- A. They are all interchangeable
- B. "They're" indicates possession
- C. "Their" indicates possession, "there" indicates a place, and "they're" is a contraction for "they are"
- D. "Their" is a contraction

The correct answer clarifies the distinct uses of "their," "there," and "they're." "Their" indicates possession, meaning that something belongs to them; for example, "Their car is parked outside" shows ownership. "There" refers to a location or existence, as in "The book is over there," indicating where something is situated. Finally, "they're" is a contraction for "they are," used in sentences like "They're going to the movies," where it replaces the longer form. Each of these words serves a unique function in sentences, highlighting the importance of understanding context in language usage. Recognizing these differences is vital for effective communication, as using them interchangeably can lead to confusion or grammatical errors.

## Next Steps

**Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.**

**As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.**

**If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at [hello@examzify.com](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

**Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:**

**<https://teasenglusage.examzify.com>**

**We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!**

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