GRAMMAR PRACTICE 5

To be honest, studying for finals is easy if students do so with their friends. Try it you will be surprised at the results. For example, when Robert began to study with others, his grades increased dramatically. Additionally, he employs mnemonics to help him keep track of information, and to assuage his jitters.

T F  1. There are eight clauses.

T F  2. The subject for the first clause is finals.

T F  3. The predicate for the second clause is do so with their friends.

T F  4. The subject for the third clause is the implied you.

T F  5. There must be a comma between it and you.

T F  6. The verb for the clause that begins with you is will be.

T F  7. The introductory phrase For example is also called a participial phrase.

T F  8. Additionally is a conjunctive adverb.

T F  9. The comma between the two predicates in the last clause should be removed.

T F  10. There are four infinitives in this passage.

## SCROLL DOWN FOR ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE 5 – ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

To be honest, studying for finals is easy if students do so with their friends. Try it you will be surprised at the results. For example, when Robert began to study with others, his grades increased dramatically. Additionally, he employs mnemonics to help him keep track of information and to assuage his jitters.

F  1. There are eight clauses.

There are seven clauses.

To be honest, studying for finals is easy

if students do so with their friends.

Try it

you will be surprised at the results.

For example, when Robert began to study with others,

his grades increased dramatically.

Additionally, he employs mnemonics to help him keep track of information, and to assuage

his jitters.

F  2. The subject for the first clause is finals.

The word studying controls the verb, so *studying* is the subject. Although *for* is sometimes a coordinating conjunction, *for* can also be a preposition with a variety of applications. In this case *for* as a preposition means: to suit the purpose or needs of something (e.g. *doing well*

*on finals*). Disregard the prepositional phrase when identifying the subject.

S Prespositional phrase

*To be honest, studying ~~for finals~~ is easy*

T  3. The predicate for the second clause is do so with their friends.

*if students do so with their friends.*

The main verb is do and everything after that belongs to that verb.

T  4. The subject for the third clause is the implied you.

Try it

This is an imperative (i.e. – a command). Commands have an implied *you* subject, which

can be singular or plural.

F  5. There must be a comma between it and you.

*Try it you will be surprised at the results.*

A comma between two independent clauses creates a run-on. Use a semicolon or a period.

These clauses properly punctuated would look like this:

*Try it; you will be surprised at the results.*

Here are some other options:

*Try it. You will be surprised at the results.*

*Try it, and you will be surprised at the results.*

BTW – I like the semicolon used here much better!

T  6. The verb phrase for the clause that begins with you is will be.

*you will be surprised at the results.*

The verbs are will be. The word surprised is an adjective in this case.

F  7. The introductory phrase For example is also called a participial phrase.

This is a prepositional phrase. Sometimes *for* is a coordinating conjunction and sometimes it

is a preposition. The typical mnemonic I suggest – “anything an airplane can do to a cloud” – does not work in this situation. Because of this, I usually add – “plus other things” – at the

end of that mnemonic.

A participial phrase begins with a participle.

Here is an example that uses a present participle:

*Running all over the place, the children soon became injured.*

Here is an example that uses a past participle:

*Bitten in the leg, the poor man barely made it out of the woods alive.*

T  8. Additionally is a conjunctive adverb.

Yes, it is. Adverbs are often (but not always) words that end with ly.  When a conjunctive

adverb is used between two independent clauses, you use a semicolon or period before it and

a comma after.

F  9. The comma between the two predicates in the last clause should be removed.     
  
 *Additionally, he employs mnemonics to help him keep track of information, and to assuage*

*his jitters.*

It is true that the comma should be removed. You do not use a comma between two equal

things. However, these two equal things are infinitive phrases, not predicates. If any part of

a true or false statement is false, the answer is false.

Infinitive phrase #1 Infinitive phrase #2

*Additionally, he employs mnemonics* to help *him keep track of information and* to assuage *his jitters.*

T  10. There are four infinitives in this passage.

The infinitives in this passage are as follows: to be, to study, to help, and to assuage.