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## The file: English skills Quiz

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# B. Over to You

1 Read the original emotionally charged sentence and the corrected sentence. Check ( ) the technique the writer used to make it more objective.

Original Sentence: The professor's ideas about multitasking are ridiculous. Students who believe his theories are crazy.

Corrected Sentence: The professor's ideas about multitasking may not be based on actual research. It is possible that students who believe in his theories do not fully understand the issues.

a. Emotionally charged words were replaced with more neutral words or phrases.
b. The writer provided a fact to support the opinion.
c. The writer indicated a potential area of agreement.

#### 2 Circle the more neutral words.

- 1 Multitasking while trying to learn something new is unwise | stupid.
- 2 It is problematic | outrageous to assume that focusing on new information while checking e-mail and writing text messages is possible.
- 3 The ability to absorb new information may be ruined | limited by multitasking.
- 4 It is misguided | ridiculous to believe that multitasking is fundamentally better than doing just one task at a time.
- 5 Because they are accustomed to multitasking in all areas of their lives, many students dislike | hate waiting until after class to check their text messages.
- 6 Concentrating on schoolwork is important; therefore, it is idiotic | risky to study while watching television and talking on the phone.
- 7 The belief that a student can read a magazine during class and retain the details of the lecture may well be crazy | irrational.
- 8 Focusing on more than one thing at a time is stupid | ill-advised when the goal is to absorb new and complex information.
- 9 People who multitask while learning tend to perform poorly | horribly on analytic test questions.
- 10 Researchers at Toringville University conducted an exciting | informative experiment to study the effects of multitasking.

# C. Practice

1	Read	the original sentences and suggested corrections. Check (✓) the best ction.	
	1 Mu	ltitasking is a useless technique for completing tasks effectively.	
		<ul> <li>a. People may believe they can get more accomplished by doing several things at once, but they are wrong. Multitasking is useless for completing tasks effectively.</li> <li>b. Although people may believe they can get more accomplished by doing several things at once, multitasking is not a very efficient way to complete tasks.</li> </ul>	
		earchers have found that multitasking can actually have a terrible effect on the brain's ming processes.	
		<ul><li>a. While it may seem that multitasking is harmless, researchers have found that it can actually have a negative effect on the brain's learning processes.</li><li>b. While it may seem that multitasking is harmless, researchers have found that it has a disastrous effect on the brain's learning processes.</li></ul>	
	3 The	researchers discovered that multitasking kills the brain's normal learning process.	
		<ul> <li>The researchers discovered that multitasking negatively impacts the brain's normal learning process.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>The researchers discovered that multitasking destroys the brain's normal learning process.</li> </ul>	
	4 Relying on the part of the brain that does not store information for long periods of time is crazy.		
		<ul> <li>Relying on the part of the brain that does not store information for long periods of time is a horrible idea.</li> </ul>	
		<ul> <li>Relying on the part of the brain that does not store information for long periods of time is unwise.</li> </ul>	
2	Read the sentences and decide which technique the writer included to make the writing objective and impersonal. Write NL for Neutral Language, E for Example, or Pl for Partial Agreement.		
	_1	Although multitasking may be effective when performing simple tasks such as making photocopies or organizing papers, it is not an ideal way to learn.	
	_2	Many mistakenly believe that multitasking means doing several things at once, but it is actually the process of quickly switching from one activity to another.	
	_3	The human brain is not capable of doing two tasks at once that require equal focus. A person cannot, for instance, read and understand an article while writing an effective essay about a different topic.	
	4	Many teenagers make the questionable decision to do three or four things simultaneously rather than focus on one activity at a time.	
	5	As a group, teenagers actually make more errors when they attempt to multitask, although they may get things done more quickly.	
	6	Multitasking often introduces errors that could have been avoided by doing one task at a time. One study indicated that a teenager doing homework while talking on a cel phone made more errors than a teenager who performed each activity separately.	

# D. Skill Quiz

# Check (✓) the correct answer for each item. 1. The best way to persuade someone to

	e best way to persuade someone to ree with your opinion is to	6 Choose the sentence that is the most objective and impersonal.	
	a. use emotionally charged language.     b. state your opinion so strongly that     it cannot be opposed.     c. be impersonal and objective.	a. Teenagers should not multitask     because they tend to make horrible     mistakes when they do several     things at once.  b. Even though temagers are better of	
2 Or	a. cite sources carefully. b. use neutral language. c. avoid descriptive adjectives.	<ul> <li>b. Even though teenagers are better a multitasking than older adults, they tend to make horrible mistakes when they do several things at once.</li> <li>c. Teenagers may be better at</li> </ul>	
3 Ar		multitasking than adults, but they tend to make more mistakes when doing several things at once.	
	b. present strong opinions using subjective language. c. avoid an overabundance of details.	7 How is the original sentence revised to make it more objective, impersonal, and persuasive?  Original: The human brain is not capable of	
Another way to maintain an objective tone is to      a. explain why the opposite point of view is completely false.		doing two complex tasks at the same time.  Revised: While it may be manageable to do two simple tasks at the same time, it is considerably more difficult to do two complex tasks simultaneously.	
	b. show that you agree with part of the opposing point of view.      c. mention all the points of view that oppose yours.	a. made language more neutral b. included an example c. included an area of agreement	
	noose the sentence that is the most jective and impersonal.	8 How is the original sentence revised to make it more objective, impersonal, and	
	a. People are unwise to believe that multitasking is as efficient as doing one activity at a time.     b. People are foolish to believe that	persuasive? Original: For teenagers, multitasking may have negative effects on brain development. Revised: For teenagers, multitasking may have negative effects on brain development. Some studies show that it can lead to poor critical thinking and analytical skills.  a. made language more neutral b. included an example	
	multitasking is as efficient as doing one activity at a time.  c. People are wrong to believe that multitasking is as efficient as doing		
	one activity at a time.	a landed of an arm of an arm of	

c. included an area of agreement