



In Class Exercises Set A

Answers and Explanations: WR Modifiers

PART I

- 1) Adjective
- 2) Adverb
- 3) Participle adjective
- 4) Adjective
- 5) Appositive phrase
- 6) Past participle phrase
- 7) Adjective
- 8) Present participle phrase
- 9) Adverb + adjective
- 10) Infinitive + prepositional phrase

PART II

- 1) The answer is **D**). The phrase most tied to the author's intent in the sentence (describing the origins of memes) is accomplished through providing the origins of the word. The other options (types of memes, users of memes, and sites for memes) are all unrelated.
- 2) The answer is **B**). This is a misplaced modifier question: the phrase "due to their increasing popularity" describes the subject of the sentence: memes are increasingly popular, not the public, mediums, or restrictions.
- 3) The answer is **B**). The reasoning is almost a carbon copy of the previous question. The misplaced modifier "much like the modern meme" should describe a headline, and not authors, a challenge, or scientists.
- 4) The answer is **C**). For your college entrance exams, agreement and pronouns are important concepts. People should be replaced by the proper plural pronoun "their". The other choices are redundant, clunky or plain wrong.
- 5) The answer is **B**). "Shrinking much earlier than schedule" describes brains, so this noun must be both present and the subject of the sentence. Choice D is a misplaced modifier in that the phrase modifies 'rates' instead of 'brains.' Choices A and C are dangling modifiers: the noun brain is nowhere to be found, only the possessive "brain's" or "brains'," which can't be modified by adjectival phrases.
- 6) The answer is **D**). "As a result" is a transitional phrase that describes one event happening due to another. 'Furthermore' introduces a further fact, 'however' shows contrast, and 'therefore' draws a conclusion rather than provide explanation for an action.
- 7) The answer is **A**). Don't jump to fix a sentence when the modifier seems as though it's modifying the correct part of the sentence: here it is. Choices B, C, and D would state that memes, influence, and elections are the things in the minds of sociologists and would be misplaced modifiers.
- 8) The answer is **C**). This is a clause and phrase question, no tricks. The sentence needs an independent clause, made by taking the verb 'saw' out of a relative clause, as is done by choice C.
- 9) The answer is **B**). Upset is an adjective that must be modified by an adverb. 'Really' has the same meaning as very, which is the author's intent (the individuals were very upset). 'Truly' and 'verily' have slight connotative differences: they mean that the upset-ness of the consumers is true. The author, unfortunately, wants to emphasize the magnitude, rather than the certainty of the upset-ness.