

**MISD ELA Post Assessment 7.1—Persistent Pursuits—Grammar—Teacher (test ID 10851)**  
**THEME: Solving problems/mysteries involves persistence and attention to all of the evidence.**  
*(MI GLCE Correlation: W.GR.07.01 )*

**DIRECTIONS:** The following assessment consists of twenty underlined words and phrases in context or general questions about the passages. Most of the underlined passages contain errors or inappropriate expressions. You are asked to compare each with the four alternatives in the answer column. If you consider the original version best, choose the letter A: NO CHANGE. Read each passage through before answering the questions based on it.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Passage 1</b></p> <p><i>The Westing Game</i> by Ellen Raskin</p> <p>(1) <u>The sun sets in the (west just about everyone knows that),</u> but Sunset Towers faced east. Strange!</p> <p>Sunset Towers faced east and had no towers. This glittery, glassy apartment house stood alone on the Lake Michigan shores five stories high. Five empty stories high.</p> <p>(2) <u>Then one day (it happened to be the Fourth of July),</u> a most uncommon-looking delivery boy rode around town slipping letters under the doors of the chosen tenants-to-be. The letters were signed <i>Barney Northrup</i>.</p> <p>(3) <u>The delivery boy was sixty-two, years old and there was no such person as Barney Northrup.</u></p> <p>+++++</p> <p>Dear Lucky One:</p> <p>(4) <u>Here it is—the apartment you’ve always dreamed of, at a rent you can afford, in the newest, most luxurious building</u> on Lake Michigan.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SUNSET TOWERS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Picture windows in every room</li> <li>• Uniformed doorman, maid service</li> <li>• Central air conditioning, hi-speed elevator</li> <li>• Exclusive neighborhood, near excellent schools</li> <li>• Etc., etc.</li> </ul>	<p>1. A NO CHANGE  B The sun sets in the west (just about everyone knows that)*  C The sun sets in the west just about everyone knows that)  D The (sun sets in the west) just about everyone knows that</p> <p><i>Correct use of parentheses</i></p> <p>2. A NO CHANGE *  B Then (one day) it happened to be the Fourth of July  C Then one day it happened to be the Fourth of July)  D Then one day (it happened to be the Fourth of July</p> <p><i>Correct use of parentheses</i></p> <p>3. A NO CHANGE  B The delivery boy was sixty-two years old, and there was no such person as Barney Northrup. *  C The delivery boy was sixty-two years old, and there was no such person, as Barney Northrup.  D The delivery boy was sixty-two years old and there was no such person, as Barney Northrup.</p> <p><i>Correct use of commas with conjunctions</i></p> <p>4. A NO CHANGE *  B Here it is—the apartment you’ve always dreamed of, at a rent you can afford, in the newest, more luxurious building  C Here it is—the apartment you’ve always dreamed of, at a rent you can afford, in the newest, less luxurious building  D Here it is—the apartment, you’ve always dreamed of, at a rent you can afford, in the newest, least luxurious building</p> <p><i>Using the correct adjective form</i></p>
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You have to see it to believe it. But these unbelievably elegant apartments will be shown by appointment only. So hurry, (5) there are only a few left!!! (6) Call me now at 276-7474 for this once-in-a lifetime offer.

Your servant,

*Barney Northrup*

P.S. I am also renting ideal space for:

- Doctor's office in lobby
- Coffee shop with entrance from parking lot
- Hi-class restaurant on entire top floor

+++++

(7) Six letters were delivered just six.

(8) Six appointments were made, and one by one, family by family talk talk talk Barney Northrup led the tours around and about Sunset Towers.

(9) "Take a look at all that glass. One-way glass" Barney Northrup said. "You can see out, nobody can see in."

(10) Looking up, the Wexler's (the first appointment of the day) were blinded by the blast of morning sun that flashed off the face of the building.

5. A NO CHANGE \*  
B there are only fewer left!!!  
C there are only less left!!!  
D there are only least left!!!

*Using the correct adjective form*

6. A NO CHANGE  
B Call me now at 276-7474 for this once-in-a-lifetime offer. \*  
C Call me now at 276-7474 for this once in-a-lifetime offer.  
D Call me now at 276-7474 for this once-in a-lifetime offer.

*Correct use of hyphens*

7. A NO CHANGE  
B Six letters, were delivered just six.  
C Six letters, were delivered, just six.  
D Six letters were delivered, just six. \*

*Correct use of commas*

8. A NO CHANGE  
B Six appointments were made, and one by one, family by family talk, talk, talk, Barney Northrup led the tours around and about Sunset Towers.  
C Six appointments were made, and one by one, family by family, talk talk talk Barney Northrup led the tours around and about Sunset Towers.  
D Six appointments were made, and one by one, family by family, talk, talk, talk, Barney Northrup led the tours around and about Sunset Towers.\*

*Correct use of commas*

9. A NO CHANGE  
B "Take a look at all that glass. One-way glass," Barney Northrup said. \*  
C "Take a look at all that glass. One-way glass." Barney Northrup said.  
D "Take a look at all that glass. One way glass," Barney Northrup said.

*Correct use of punctuation in quotations*

10. A NO CHANGE  
B Looking up, the Wexlers the first appointment of the day) were blinded  
C Looking up, the Wexlers (the first appointment of the day) were blinded \*  
D Looking up, the Wexlers (the first appointment of the day were blinded

*Correct use of parentheses*

**Passage 2**

***BUGS ON THE BEAT***

by Janet Halfmann

*A Bug's Life Can Be Key in Helping Police Detectives Crack Tough Murder Mysteries.*

(11) Investigators collect squirming white maggots from the corpse at a murder scene. Gross? Sure. Disgusting? Certainly. But these insects are more than grimy grubs. They are important clues to whodunit and when.

(12) Not long ago, maggots would be washed away as a nuisance a gruesome reminder of what can happen to a dead body. Now, insects and the scientists who study them are worming their way into courtrooms as witnesses.

(13) "Insects found on dead bodies are specific to dead things," says Dr. Neal Haskell, one of only about 40 experts in the world who gather criminal information from insects, a field called **forensic** entomology. "We know these insects are coming specifically for the dead body, so that pinpoints a time of death."

***BLOW FLIES ZOOM IN***

The first insect witnesses to arrive are big shiny blow flies.

"What makes the blow flies so important is they get there so quick," says fly expert Dr. Stephen W. Bullington. (14) Outside on a hot day the insects, arrive almost instantly. Indoors, within a day.

(15) Blow flies and other insects act as clocks because they grow up in set stages. Adult blow flies fly to a dead body and lay thousands of eggs. Tiny eating machines called larvae--or maggots--soon hatch.

(16) The fattened maggots crawl away from the body to form pupae and they later emerge as adults. Scientists have studied the time it takes for each stage.

11. A NO CHANGE \*

- B Investigators collected squirming white maggots
- C Investigators will collect squirming white maggots
- D Investigators will be collecting squirming white maggots

***Consistent verb tense***

12. A NO CHANGE

- B Not long ago, maggots would be washed away as a nuisance, a gruesome reminder of what can happen to a dead body. \*
- C Not long ago maggots would be washed, away as a nuisance, a gruesome reminder of what can happen to a dead body.
- D Not long ago, maggots, would be washed away as a nuisance, a gruesome reminder of what can happen to a dead body.

***Correct use of commas***

13. A NO CHANGE \*

- B "Insects found on dead bodies are specific to dead things" says Dr. Neal Haskell,
- C "Insects found on dead bodies are specific to dead things," says Dr. Neal Haskell
- D "Insects, found on dead bodies are specific to dead things," says Dr. Neal Haskell,

***Correct use of punctuation in quotations***

14. A NO CHANGE

- B Outside, on a hot day the insects arrive almost instantly.
- C Outside on a hot day, the insects arrive almost instantly.\*
- D Outside on a hot day, the insects arrive, almost instantly. Indoors, within a day.

***Correct use of commas***

15. A NO CHANGE \*

- B Blow flies and other insects acted as clocks
- C Blow flies and other insects shall act as clocks
- D Blow flies and other insects had acted as clocks.

***Consistent verb tense***

16. A NO CHANGE

- B The fattened maggots crawl away from the body to form pupae, and they later, emerge as adults.
- C The fattened maggots crawl away from the body to form pupae, and they later emerge as adults. \*
- D The fattened maggots crawl, away from the body to form pupae, and they later emerge as adults.

***Correct use of commas with conjunctions***

**PIG IN BLANKETS**

An insect expert can find the largest maggot that has infested a corpse and count backward in the fly's life cycle to figure out when the person died. (17) Such information can blast a hole in a suspects' excuse.

But what if, say, the body is wrapped in blankets? How long will it take blow flies to find it then? That was entomologist Dr. M. Lee Goff's challenge in a case that began in 1989 in Hawaii. So he simulated the crime by wrapping a dead pig in blankets. (18) It took two-and-a-half days longer for the blow flies to find the body (information that helped lead to the suspect's arrest).

(19) Often insect evidence is a piece of a larger puzzle. In one of Dr. Haskell's cases, the extremely dried and mummified bodies of a man's two elderly aunts were found in his house when he died in 1987. Haskell calculated an October death for one aunt because he found remains of a blow fly common in the fall. (20) The other aunt had no blow flies, pointing to death in late December or early January, when blow flies aren't present.

Forensic science article  
**BOYS' LIFE**  
July 2000, pp. 42-45

17. A NO CHANGE

- B Such information can blast a hole in a suspect's excuse.\*
- C Such information can blast a hole in a suspects's excuse.
- D Such information can, blast a hole in a suspects excuse.

**Correct use of apostrophe**

18. A NO CHANGE \*

- B It took two and a half days longer for the blow flies to find the body (information that helped lead to the suspect's arrest).
- C It took two and a half days longer for the blow flies to find the body information that helped lead to the suspect's arrest).
- D It took two and-a-half days longer for the blow flies to find the body information that helped lead to the suspect's arrest.

**Correct use of parentheses**

19. A NO CHANGE

- B Often, insect evidence, is a piece of a larger puzzle.
- C Often insect evidence, is a piece of a larger puzzle.
- D Often, insect evidence is a piece of a larger puzzle. \*

**Correct use of commas**

20. A NO CHANGE \*

- B The other aunt had no blow flies, pointing to death, in late December
- C The other aunt, had no blow flies pointing to death in late December
- D The other aunt had no blow flies pointing, to death in late December

**Correct use of commas**