

# Sentence Auction

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## **APPENDIX A: *Sample Auction Handout***

### **Sentence Auction**

**Objective:** You and your team have been given a budget of \$5,000. Your goal is to buy the most correct sentences with the least amount of money. Do not exceed your budget or your team will be disqualified.

### **Before the auction**

1. With your team, carefully read the following sentences. Confer with your group to decide if the sentences have errors in punctuation or grammar. (Sorry, no notes or internet help allowed.)
2. Identify the sentences you believe are correct. Your group will bid for these when the auction opens.
3. It may be helpful to appoint one of your members to keep track of your spending and another to be the team bidder.

### **During the auction**

1. When you want to bid on a sentence, shout out your bid in \$200.00 increments. Competition may be fierce, so act fast!
2. Keep track of your spending so that you don't go bankrupt.
3. You may want to bid on a sentence you don't want in order to make other groups spend more money.
4. Once the auctioneer declares "Sold!" the bidding is closed for that sentence, which goes to the highest bidder.

**Sentence Auction**

| <b>Sentences For Auction</b>   | <b>Final Bid</b> | <b>Team</b> |
|--|------------------|-------------|
| 1. At a romantic dinner with his date, (Name) opened the expensive French wine and poured it into his own glass first so that he would get the cork and not his date.  |                  |             |
| 2. (Name) disliked <i>Brad Pitt</i> , but she disliked him far less than she disliked <i>Ryan Gosling</i> ; in her opinion, neither of the actors were worth the price of a movie ticket.  |                  |             |
| 3. It's hard for (Name) to imagine an engineer or manager who doesn't need to communicate clearly as part of their job.  |                  |             |
| 4. (Name's) favorite quote by Mark Twain is the following:<br>"The coldest winter I ever spent was a summer in San Francisco."   |                  |             |
| 5. (Name) claims that the findings regarding the investigation of air pollutants support that measures need to be taken to improve overall air quality.  |                  |             |
| 6. (Name) has been surprised by the casual attitude he has found among U.S. students regarding dress, classroom behavior, and talking to their instructors.  |                  |             |
| 7. (Name) turned down an interesting position at a new company. (Name) believes that if the commute were easier, she would accept the new position offered to her.   |                  |             |
| 8. To commemorate our successful completion of this class, (Name) suggests that the class do one of the following: write a letter of appreciation to (School Name), or at least to (Director); bind our papers in a soft Italian leather folder with gold lettering and present it to (Teacher Name); or plan a final get-together at (local site)._____ |                  |             |
| 9. (Name) estimates that a scientific principle has a life expectancy of approximately a decade before it is drastically revised or even replaced.   |                  |             |

**APPENDIX B: Sentence Auction Answer Key**

1. Incorrect. Error: dangling modifier. Have the students rewrite for clarity.

At a romantic dinner with his date, (Name) opened the expensive French wine and poured it into his own glass first so that he would get the cork → *so that he would get the cork and his date wouldn't.*

Or . . . *so that he, and not his date, would get the cork.*

2. Incorrect. Error: subject-verb agreement. *Neither* is singular; *were* should be *was*. Repeating *she disliked* is not an error but a matter of choice or style.

3. Incorrect. Errors: articles; pronoun agreement

An engineer or manager . . . part of their job → *an engineer or a manager . . . part of his or her job.*

It's preferable to make the nouns plural, as in *It's hard to imagine engineers or managers who don't need to communicate clearly as part of their job/s.*

Note: It may be useful to point out that *they* can be considered acceptable as a singular pronoun in spoken English.

4. Correct.

5. Incorrect. Error: *Support* cannot be directly followed by a *that*-clause.

(Name) claims that the findings regarding the investigation of air pollutants support that measures need to be taken → *support the fact that measures need to be taken*

Or

support that measures need to be taken → *support the need for new measures to improve air quality*

6. Incorrect. Error: Lacks parallel structure.

(Name) has been surprised by the casual attitude he has found among U.S. students regarding dress, classroom behavior, and talking to their instructors → *the way they address their instructors.*

7. Incorrect. Error: conditional.

(Name) believes that if the commute were easier, she would accept → *would have accepted the job.*

Also,

(Name) believes that if the commute were easier → *had been easier*, she would accept → *would have accepted*

8. Correct.

Correct. Some students, however, may want to argue that life expectancy is uncountable and should not be used with a.