

Diction Exercise 1

Following the examples from the EN102 diction list, make up original sentences for diction items 1-10. Write in your neatest penmanship, and make sure each sentence is written in Standard English.

1. A, AN

The indefinite article *a* is used before words starting with a consonant sound.

Correct: _____

The indefinite article *an* is used before words starting with a vowel sound.

Correct: _____

2. ACCEPT, EXCEPT

The word *accept* is a verb and means to receive.

Correct: _____

The word *except* is most often used as a conjunction or a preposition. Whatever follows the word is not to be included with the context of the facts preceding it.

Correct: _____

3. ACCESS, EXCESS

The word (and transitive verb) *access* means "to get into."

Correct: _____

The word (and adjective) *excess* means "an abundance of."

Correct: _____

4. AD, ED, EXAM, LAB, MATH, PHONE

These words are colloquial (pertaining to conversation) and should not to be used in formal writing. In formal writing, use the full form: **advertisement, education, examination, laboratory, mathematics, and telephone.**

5. ADOPTED, ADOPTIVE

The correct use of these words has been summarized this way by usage commentators: "adopted children, adoptive parents."

Correct: _____

Correct: _____

6. ADVISE, ADVICE

Do not confuse the word *advise* with *advice*. *Advise* is a verb. *Advice* is a noun.

Correct: _____

Correct: _____

7. AIN'T

The contraction *ain't* is the improper form of *am not* or *is not*.

Correct: _____

Correct: _____

8. ALL

The word *all* is a perfectly good English word, and it is correctly used in sentences like this:

Correct: _____

The word *all* is used incorrectly when it is used to mean 'said' in the popular culture.

9. ALL, ALL OF

Though either may be used in a sentence, *all of* should be used before personal pronouns, indefinite pronouns, and possessive nouns.

Correct: _____

Correct: _____

10. A LOT, LOTS

Use these words informally when indicating a considerable sum. In formal writing consider using *much* or *many*.

Informal: _____

Formal: _____