

## Check your ECCE Grammar Skills – Activity 1

### Key and Item Analysis

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#### Item (1)

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

"Where were you when John arrived?"

"I \_\_\_\_\_ a nap."

- A. am taking
- B. took
- C. was taken
- D. was taking

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is D. The first sentence is in the past and signals that the time frame for the action of the second sentence also should be in the past. Note: The word 'nap' is not used in the passive.

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#### Item (2)

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

"Mom, look at my grades!"

"Wonderful! It's really \_\_\_\_\_ what you can do when you try hard."

- A. amaze
- B. amazed
- C. amazement
- D. amazing

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is D. The present participle (amazing) is used to describe people or things that cause feelings while the past participle is used to describe how people feel.

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#### Item (3)

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

He advised \_\_\_\_\_ to apply for the position of head of department.

- A. for me
- B. me
- C. my
- D. to me

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is B as you 'advise someone to do something'. The 'someone' in this sentence is 'me'. Note: You can also advise someone about something as in "I advised John about his work."

**Item (4)**

**Item Difficulty:** Less challenging

Jane spends most of her free time \_\_\_\_\_ TV.

- A. for watching
- B. to watch
- C. watch
- D. watching

**Answer: D**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is D. The expression 'spend time' is followed by a gerund as in 'spend time doing something'. Note: The expression 'spend time' can also be followed by on + noun phrase as in "I spend most of my free time on video games."

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**Item (5)**

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"Did you know that Mary had twins?"

"Oh, that's great! She \_\_\_\_\_ be really excited!"

- A. could
- B. might
- C. must
- D. would

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is C as 'must' is used to signal a logical conclusion. Given that the second speaker begins with "Oh, that's great!", the second speaker is expressing a logical conclusion.

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**Item (6)**

**Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"I don't think I'll be able to take you to the movies tonight."

"But you promised \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. me to take
- B. me you would
- C. to take
- D. you would to me

**Answer : B**

**Explanation:** The correct choice is B. 'Promise' can be used in the following ways: 'promise someone something' or 'promise to do something'. Choices A & C are also wrong because 'take' needs to be followed by an object (me to the movies). Choice D is wrong as 'would' is not followed by 'to' (to me).

**Item (7)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

The man \_\_\_\_\_ in the corner is a friend of mine.

- A. he's standing
- B. he stands
- C. standing
- D. stands

**Answer: C.**

**Explanation:** The correct answer choice is C. The sentence contains a reduced adjective clause (standing in the corner). A reduced adjective clause is formed by omitting the relative pronoun and the helping verb (who is standing in the corner = standing in the corner). Both Answer choices A (he's standing) and B (he stands) are wrong as they contain both full subjects and verbs. However, the main subject of the sentence is 'the man' and as such answer choices A and B repeat the subject and introduce another main verb. The sentence already contains a main verb (is) and as such answer choice D (stands) is wrong.

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**Item (8)****Item Difficulty:** Moderate

"How do you know Bob returned the book to Ann?"

"Because I saw \_\_\_\_\_ leave it on her desk."

- A. he
- B. him
- C. him to
- D. that he

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct choice is B. The verb 'see' is a verb of perception and can be followed by an object + bare infinitive (without to): "I saw him do it!"

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**Item (9)****Item Difficulty:** More challenging

"My boss always comes to work after ten in the morning."

"\_\_\_\_\_ the boss, she can come any time she likes."

- A. Although
- B. Because
- C. Being
- D. Though

**Answer: C**

**Explanation:** The correct answer is C. 'Being' is followed by a noun phrase (the boss). The other three choices (although, because, though) must be followed by a main clause (subject and full verb): "Although/ Because/ Though she is the boss, she can come ...."

**Item (10)**

**Item Difficulty:** More challenging

\_\_\_\_\_ he had found somewhere to live, he started looking for a job.

- A. Just
- B. Once
- C. Until
- D. While

**Answer: B**

**Explanation:** The correct choice is B. 'Once' has the same meaning as 'as soon as' and 'after' in the sentence. The other three choices, 'just', 'until', and 'while', result in an illogical sentence.