

Sample Question #1

Brian Walker's study of American illustration starts with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continues with the cartoons of Robert Crumb.

- (A) starts with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continues
- (B) that starts with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continues
- (C) has started with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continued
- (D) starting with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continuing
- (E) is started with the comic strips of Winsor McCay and continued



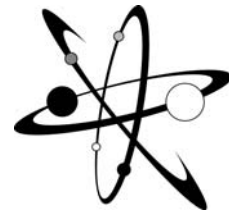
Remember: Check the Time.

MACology: Thoughts of the Master Tester

This question is all about consistency. How many times has The Man thrown verb tenses at us? How many times have we corrected errors by putting all the verbs into the same tense? If you're counting (I haven't—waste of time) add another one to the list.

First, we **Read Aloud**. The original sentence actually sounds pretty good. The two verbs—"starts" and "continues"—are singular and agree with the singular subject "study." Nothing stands out, so it may be **A**. But let's see if there's a better answer around here somewhere.

At first glance, it seems we have two **Nuclear Families**. **Check the Time**: in **E** and **C**, the first main verb is "started," but the second verbs' tenses are different. Wrong **Time**! Choices **B** and **A** form a better **Nuclear Family** because they both start and end with the same verb tenses.





Let's **Plug & Play** choice **B** to see how it goes. It doesn't sound right, does it? *That* is another **Tip Word** that signals the introduction of a clause. It puts the verbs in a separate

clause and leaves the main clause without one. It's not even a complete sentence! Adios, **B**.

The other choices have the same problem. **Check the Time**: each choice has at least one verb in the wrong tense. Choice **E** starts off with "is started" (which doesn't even sound right) and ends with "continued." Choice **D** uses two gerunds and contains no real verbs at all. Choice **C** does almost the same thing as **E**. Goodbye, **E**, **D**, and **C**.

Hello, **A**. It's all we've got left. And for once, it sounds good. Choice **A** is the best answer.

<h1>MAC</h1>  <p>Multiple Analysis of Choices</p>	<p>The Nuclear Family is B and A. They both use "starts." Plug & Play.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) starts with the comic strips of Winsor McCay(B) that starts with the comic strips(C) Outside the Nuclear Family(D) Outside the Nuclear Family(E) Outside the Nuclear Family
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	<p>Books and movies are usually present tense: "First Liz gets kidnapped by spies, and then she steals their truck and gets away." If all this happened to Liz, she would tell it in past tense. "They kidnapped me, those %\$*#&!" Then they would make a movie about her and summarize it in present tense.</p>
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Sample Question #2

Lumber companies requesting the opportunity to cut down sections of Brazilian rainforests claimed that the benefits to the populace of the area would be -----.

- (A) ostensible
- (B) inconsequential
- (C) catastrophic
- (D) appreciable
- (E) trifling



Remember: Do the hard questions last.

MACology: Thoughts of the Master Tester

This question is one of **The Ugly**. So **Simplify**. “Lumber companies claimed benefits would be -----.” Now let’s **Feel the Blank**. These guys want to cut down the rainforests. So these “benefits” they’re claiming...are they big? Small? Definitely big. Let’s see if any choices mean something like “big.”

Whoa—take a look at those choices. Two techniques will help us here: **Break It Down** and the **Nuclear Family**. Assuming you don’t know what all those words mean (I didn’t until I spent some quality time at www.m-w.com), we’ll go with a family based on looks.

The **Nuclear Family** is answers **D** and **A**, both of which end in *-ble*.

Choice **D**, *appreciable*, looks familiar. **Break It Down**: it contains the word *appreciate* and the suffix *-able*. It means “able to be appreciated.” That sounds like something a lumber company would say to suck up. We’ll keep **D** in mind.



Choice **A**, *ostensible*, is a nasty-looking word. It means “apparent or seeming,” as in, “The *ostensible* reason to memorize this word is that it will be on the test.” If we don’t


know what it means, we'll venture to cross it off, since we've already found a word that fits. How about the other choices?

Choice **E**, *trifling*, is a small word that means, basically, "small." That's exactly the opposite of what we're looking for, so we can cross it off.

Choice **C**, *catastrophic*, contains the word *catastrophe*. That definitely doesn't sound like something lumber companies want to call their work. Eliminate **C**.

Finally, choice **B**, *inconsequential*, means the same thing as *trifling*—that is, "insignificant" or "meaningless." That's the opposite of what we're looking for, so we can eliminate **B**.


That leaves **D** as our first and best choice.


<h1>MAC</h1>  <p>Multiple Analysis of Choices</p>	<p>Although this one is The Ugly, the Nuclear Family was easy to spot because both choices ended in <i>-ble</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(A) ostensible(B) Outside the Nuclear Family(C) Outside the Nuclear Family(D) appreciable(E) Outside the Nuclear Family
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Up the List, we see that not all its parts are the same. The list here tells us everything Carlos (whoever he is) does when getting ready to ride his horse. He has to gather:

1. “her brush”
2. “her pad”
3. “set up her saddle”

Wait a minute. That sounds almost as crazy as your mom needing a “cut my hair.” The list should contain either all verbs or all nouns—not two nouns and one verb. Because the verb is out of place and is underlined, choice **C** is the correct answer.

<h1>MAC</h1>  <p>Multiple Analysis of Choices</p>	<p>The Man tends to test the same grammatical concepts over and over. If you see a list in the sentence, you can be pretty sure it’s there to test your knowledge of lists. Line Up the List to see that all the elements are the same part of speech.</p>
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	<p>Using the word list to describe things in a sentence may feel a little strange. Just look at it this way: whenever you have three or more things separated by commas and joined by <i>and</i> or <i>or</i>, it’s a list. In the sentence, “Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are the best days of the week,” <i>Friday</i>, <i>Saturday</i>, and <i>Sunday</i> form make a list.</p>
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