

WHITE WATER WORRIER PASSAGE

Directions: In the passage that follows, certain words and phrases are underlined and numbered. On the right, you will see suggested corrections for each underlined part. For the most part, you are to choose the option that best expresses the idea, makes the statement appropriate for standard written English, or is worded most consistently with the style and tone of the passage as a whole. “NO CHANGE” is a valid option if you think the original is the best choice. Along with grammar, there will also be questions about the passage’s content; choose the best answer choice. You may also find questions about a section of the passage or about the entirety of it. These questions do not refer to any underlined part of the passage but are identified by numbers in a box.

Read the passage thoroughly before answering the questions. For some questions you must read several sentences beyond the question to determine the correct answer.

Passage 1

White Water Worrier

I looked out nervously at the churning water, I was a confident swimmer, but I wasn’t sure that ¹would matter much when it came to the powerful white water below me. My mom looked at me and saw the expression on my face. She smiled at me and nudged my arm. “It’s okay to be nervous,” she said gently. “I’m really proud of you for trying something outside your comfort zone.”

Behind me, our raft guide called out to us, grouping us together to explain the situation. “Hello everyone! My name is Tahoma. Welcome to Clear Creek,” she said. “This creek is small, but it is mighty. As the water is squeezed between the tight openings between the shores and the rocks, the water speeds up, creating white water! It may seem tight, but our rafts are built to squeeze through quite a lot.” I took a closer look at the rubber inflated raft; it seemed a little bizarre to entrust my life to an inflated raft. ²Colorado was beautiful, but I didn’t want to die here!

“Clear Creek is on the east side of the continental divide. That means that all water that flows this way will eventually flow into the Atlantic. Clear Creek runs into the Platte River, which meets up with the Missouri River; that river goes to the Mississippi River, ³which eventually empties out into the Atlantic Ocean,” Tahoma said. I had never thought about how connected rivers were.

1. Which choice is clearest and most grammatically acceptable in context?
A) No Change
B) water. I
C) water I,
D) water I
2. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?
E) No Change
F) raft? It
G) raft it
J) raft, it
3. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?
A) No Change
B) Missouri River, that river
C) Missouri River. That river
D) Missouri River that, river

"If you fall in," Tahoma continued, "lie on your back with your feet forward. If you hit any rocks, you are wanting to do it with your feet and not with your ⁴head." That scared me. Because falling ⁵in was not a part of the deal! I clutched my ⁶paddle more tightly. Tahoma said a few more words that went in and out of my ears. The next thing I knew, everyone had loaded up the boat.

Tahoma gave all of us seats, luckily, ⁶my seat wasn't up front. We practiced a few ⁶paddle strokes. "Make sure to put your whole core into it!" Tahoma called out. "We are much more efficient when we're using our whole body, not just our arms." She didn't have to tell me twice. I threw my whole body into the practice stroke. "Hold on, everyone," Tahoma said, "Make sure we paddle as a crew! One person isn't as powerful as four. When we paddle together, we're four times as strong!"

That made me feel a little bit better. I wasn't rafting alone, after all. I looked across from me towards mom. Mom smiled and gave me a thumbs up. I looked at my older brother Connor and my dad sitting in front of us even if one ⁷of us fell out, we would help each other get back in.

4. Which choice is clearest and most grammatically acceptable in context?
E) **No Change**
F) wanted
G) want
H) will want
5. Which choice is clearest and most grammatically acceptable in context?
A) **No Change**
B) scared me because falling
C) scared me because. Falling
D) scared me, because falling
6. Which choice makes the sentence most grammatically acceptable?
E) **No Change**
F) seats. Luckily,
G) seats luckily
H) seats luckily,
7. Which choice is clearest and most grammatically acceptable in context?
A) **No Change**
B) in front of us, even if one
C) in front of us. Even if one
D) in front of us even if, one