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Find the Gap

Free KS2 SATs SPaG Diagnostic

36 original questions designed to reveal repeated grammar, punctuation and spelling misconceptions - not just produce a score.

How to use it

Ask the pupil to complete the diagnostic independently. Mark each question, then group errors by skill. A repeated pattern is a stronger teaching clue than one isolated mistake. Use the map at the end to select a matching mastery module.

Questions 1-9

1 Identify the adjective: 'The narrow path curved uphill.' [Word classes & function]

Answer:

2 Identify the adverb: 'Maya answered calmly.' [Word classes & function]

Answer:

3 What word class is 'under' in 'The shoes are under the bench'? [Word classes & function]

Answer:

4 What word class is 'those' in 'Those apples are ripe'? [Word classes & function]

Answer:

5 Identify the main clause: 'When the bell rang, the pupils packed away.' [Phrases, clauses & sentence structure]

Answer:

6 Identify the subordinate clause in the same sentence. [Phrases, clauses & sentence structure]

Answer:

7 What is the subject in 'The old oak tree shaded the bench'? [Phrases, clauses & sentence structure]

Answer:

8 What is the object in that sentence? [Phrases, clauses & sentence structure]

Answer:

9 Change to simple past: 'They walk to school.' [Verb forms, tense & aspect]

Answer:

Questions 10-18

10 Change to present progressive: 'He reads.' [Verb forms, tense & aspect]

Answer:

11 Change to past progressive: 'The dog barks.' [Verb forms, tense & aspect]

Answer:

12 Change to present perfect: 'We complete the task.' [Verb forms, tense & aspect]

Answer:

13 Correct: 'The dogs runs across the field.' [Standard English & agreement]

Answer:

14 Correct: 'My brother and I was early.' [Standard English & agreement]

Answer:

15 Choose: 'Everyone is/are ready.' [Standard English & agreement]

Answer:

16 Correct: 'I done my homework.' [Standard English & agreement]

Answer:

17 Add commas: 'We bought apples pears bread and milk.' [Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation]

Answer:

18 Add a comma after the fronted adverbial: 'After lunch we played outside.' [Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation]

Answer:

Questions 19-27

19 Add the contraction apostrophe: 'do not' -> ? [Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation]

Answer:

20 Add possession: 'the bicycle belonging to Sam'. [Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation]

Answer:

21 Add a colon: 'She had one aim to finish the race.' [Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens]

Answer:

22 Join with a semicolon: 'The path was steep. We kept climbing.' [Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens]

Answer:

23 Which is suitable before a list: colon or semicolon? [Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens]

Answer:

24 Add punctuation for emphasis: 'The answer was obvious nobody knew.' [Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens]

Answer:

25 Replace repetition: 'The dog picked up the dog's ball.' [Pronouns, determiners & cohesion]

Answer:

26 What does 'they' refer to in 'The twins arrived, and they sat down'? [Pronouns, determiners & cohesion]

Answer:

27 Choose a determiner: '___ books on the shelf are mine.' [Pronouns, determiners & cohesion]

Answer:

Questions 28-36

28 Choose a cohesive device for contrast: therefore/however/meanwhile. [Pronouns, determiners & cohesion]

Answer:

29 Add the suffix -ment to 'achieve'. [Spelling patterns & word building]

Answer:

30 Add -ly to 'immediate'. [Spelling patterns & word building]

Answer:

31 Choose affect/effect: 'The weather may ___ the journey.' [Spelling patterns & word building]

Answer:

32 Choose effect/affect: 'The new rule had little ___.' [Spelling patterns & word building]

Answer:

33 Correct: 'After lunch the childrens coats was still wet.' [Mixed editing & reasoning]

Answer:

34 Correct: 'Maya dont know whether its finished.' [Mixed editing & reasoning]

Answer:

35 Improve punctuation: 'We needed three things a map a torch and water.' [Mixed editing & reasoning]

Answer:

36 Correct: 'The players was tired however they continued.' [Mixed editing & reasoning]

Answer:

Diagnostic answers

1. Word classes & function: narrow

2. Word classes & function: calmly

3. Word classes & function: preposition

4. Word classes & function: determiner

5. Phrases, clauses & sentence structure: the pupils packed away

6. Phrases, clauses & sentence structure: When the bell rang

7. Phrases, clauses & sentence structure: The old oak tree

8. Phrases, clauses & sentence structure: the bench

9. Verb forms, tense & aspect: They walked to school.

10. Verb forms, tense & aspect: He is reading.

11. Verb forms, tense & aspect: The dog was barking.

12. Verb forms, tense & aspect: We have completed the task.

13. Standard English & agreement: The dogs run across the field.

14. Standard English & agreement: My brother and I were early.

15. Standard English & agreement: is

16. Standard English & agreement: I did my homework / I have done my homework.

17. Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation: We bought apples, pears, bread and milk.

18. Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation: After lunch, we played outside.

19. Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation: don't

20. Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation: Sam's bicycle

21. Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens: She had one aim: to finish the race.

22. Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens: The path was steep; we kept climbing.

23. Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens: colon

24. Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens: The answer was obvious - nobody knew. / Depending meaning, semicolon may also work if both are main clauses.

25. Pronouns, determiners & cohesion: The dog picked up its ball.

26. Pronouns, determiners & cohesion: the twins

27. Pronouns, determiners & cohesion: those/the/these, depending meaning

28. Pronouns, determiners & cohesion: however

29. Spelling patterns & word building: achievement

30. Spelling patterns & word building: immediately

31. Spelling patterns & word building: affect

32. Spelling patterns & word building: effect

33. Mixed editing & reasoning: After lunch, the children's coats were still wet.

34. Mixed editing & reasoning: Maya doesn't know whether it's finished.

35. Mixed editing & reasoning: We needed three things: a map, a torch and water.

36. Mixed editing & reasoning: The players were tired; however, they continued. / The players were tired. However, they continued.

Turn the result into a teaching plan

Repeated issue	Suggested mastery module
Word classes & function	Module 1
Phrases, clauses & sentence structure	Module 2
Verb forms, tense & aspect	Module 3
Standard English & agreement	Module 4
Commas, apostrophes & speech punctuation	Module 5
Colons, semicolons, dashes & hyphens	Module 6
Pronouns, determiners & cohesion	Module 7
Spelling patterns & word building	Module 8
Mixed editing & reasoning	Module 9

Important

This diagnostic is designed to guide teaching. It is not an official SATs paper and should not be used to predict an exact scaled score.