

Read the selection and answer the multiple choice questions.

Fibonacci's Numbers

The next time you pick up a daisy or a seashell, look at it closely. You will see a spiral pattern beginning in the center of the daisy or the shell. This same pattern is found often in nature.

The spiral pattern can be represented by a series of numbers called the Fibonacci sequence. You might see this pattern in the number of seeds in each circle of the daisy center, for example. You can also see the same pattern in the way branches grow on a tree or in the covering of a pineapple. This series of numbers begins as follows: 0, 1, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 13, 21 Can you figure out the pattern? Each number in the series is equal to the sum of the two numbers before it ($2 + 3 = 5$, $3 + 5 = 8$, and so on). Fibonacci was the person who discovered this number pattern.

Leonardo Fibonacci was born in Italy in about 1180 and lived until 1250. His father worked in North Africa and thought it would be helpful for his son to learn about numbers so he could become a successful merchant. Fibonacci learned more than how to add and subtract.

Fibonacci (whose name means "blockhead" in Italian) became very interested in mathematics. From North Africa he brought the idea of zero back to Europe. He also brought Arabic numerals. These are the numbers you write every day. They replaced Roman numerals, which are much harder to use in computation. Fibonacci also found a math formula for the "Golden Mean," which is a rule for making things that are a certain height and width. Architects use the Golden Mean in planning buildings. The ancient Greeks used it to design temples that are still standing today.

Fibonacci did many more useful things in math. Surveyors and other people who measure land use ideas from Fibonacci. He created math puzzles that people like to solve today. Many of his ideas are difficult for most people to understand. Still, Fibonacci's contributions to math helped make everyone's lives easier.

According to this selection, Fibonacci's name means:

- A zero.
- B seashell.
- C spiral.
- D blockhead.

Which sentence states an opinion?

- A Surveyors and other people who measure land use ideas from Fibonacci.
- B Fibonacci learned more than how to add and subtract.
- C The Golden Mean is a rule for making things that are a certain height and width.
- D Still, Fibonacci's contributions to math helped make everyone's lives easier.

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Just a Lot of Hot Air?

Long, long ago, many Greeks went to visit the oracle at Delphi. The city of Delphi was thought to be the center of the world. In Greek mythology, this place belonged to the god Apollo. His words were supposedly spoken through the oracle. The oracle was a mysterious woman who sat on a three-legged stool and answered people's questions.

People thought that the oracle could tell the future and explain odd events. The people who came paid a tax. They might also offer a pig, a goat, or a cow as a gift. Each person was allowed to ask one important question, such as "Should I marry this person?" "How many children will I have?" "Should I start a war?"

The oracle would listen to the question, and then she would enter Apollo's temple. There she would take deep breaths from a hole in the ground. She would begin to see things and speak in strange words. The Greeks explained that special gases from the ground helped the woman see through mysteries. Others interpreted what she said in order to answer people's questions and help them plan for the future.

In ancient times, why would a person who visited the oracle bring an animal?

- A As a way to pay for his or her trip to Delphi.
- B As a gift to help him or her have a good fortune.
- C To make sure that the oracle was not hungry.
- D To take advantage of the natural gas in Delphi.

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Demeter and Persephone

Long ago in the ancient world, the immortal gods and goddesses of Greece ruled the world from their home on Mount Olympus. One such goddess was Demeter, goddess of the harvest.

Demeter had a beautiful daughter named Persephone, who loved the brightness of spring. One day Persephone was walking through a meadow picking flowers and singing with the birds. Sadly for Persephone, the powerful god of the Underworld, Hades, saw her and immediately fell in love. He climbed into his terrible chariot and emerged from the underworld, captured the lovely Persephone from the meadow, and brought her down to his grim, dark world. There, he hoped Persephone would live happily and become his wife, but that was impossible. Without her mother, Persephone could never be happy or find joy.

Demeter was stricken with grief over the loss of her daughter. She roamed the earth as a very poor old woman until her despair became too great. Then she went to Zeus, the leader of all the gods. She explained what had happened and asked Zeus for his help. Zeus sent a messenger to the underworld telling Hades, who was his brother, to send Persephone back to the earth to spend time by her mother's side.

Hades did not want to give up the girl he loved so well, but no one could deny the great Zeus. So the god of the underworld tricked Persephone. As Persephone prepared to leave the underworld, she ate the seed of a bright red pomegranate. It was juicy and sweet, but it doomed her to return to the underworld for at least a part of every year.

From that day on, Persephone spent the spring and summer with her mother, Demeter. Through the fall and winter, Persephone returned to Hades' side in the dark underworld, far from her mother.

Demeter was overjoyed to be with her daughter again, but she grieved when Persephone had to return to Hades. For this reason, after the harvest Demeter forced the leaves on the trees to wither and fall. If she felt bare and lonely without her dear daughter, she decided that the earth would share her grief, too. When Persephone returned in springtime, Demeter showed her joy in the buds that sprouted into the green leaves on the trees. And that is why tree limbs are bare in winter but full of life and green leaves through the spring and summer.

Which event happened first?

- A Persephone returned to the underworld.
- B Zeus met with Demeter.
- C Persephone ate a pomegranate seed.
- D Demeter roamed the earth as a poor old woman.

If the word mortal refers to "beings who die," the word immortal refers to

- A beings who do not die.
- B the time after death.
- C beings who die again.
- D Those who die first.

Choose the best word or words to complete the sentence.

The World Cup is the most popular sporting event in the world, _____ not the most popular sporting event in the United States.

- A so
- B but
- C because
- D however

Choose the best word or words to replace the underlined words in the sentence.

Yesterday, I will go to the museum to see the new exhibit.

- A had went
 - B will be going
 - C went
 - D have gone
-

Suppose you are reading about dinosaurs for a report, and you want to remember important facts. Which sentence or phrase from the paragraph below would be the most important to include in your report?

Dinosaurs! (A) They are a great mystery to everyone. (B) Dinosaurs disappeared 65 million years ago. (C) No one knows why, (D) but many people have ideas.

- A A
- B B
- C C
- D D

Choose the answer that shows apostrophes used correctly.

- A The sign in the store window read, "Todays Special Apple's Half Price."
- B Is that yours' or Stevens'?
- C Don't come in here with those muddy boots!
- D Lets' go for a ride in Dannys' car.

Read the selection and answer the multiple choice question.

14 Arlington Road
Little Rock, AR 72201
March 18, 2004

Dear Nick,

I'm sorry to hear that you've been so sick. Your dad told me you're starting to feel much better. I'm glad.

We've all missed you at school. Recess just isn't the same without you!

_____.

Your friend,

Sam

Sam has written this get-well note to his friend. Choose the sentence that is the best way to end this get-well note.

- A It'll be great to see you again when you're well.
- B You've missed a lot of work you'll have to make up.
- C I sure hope I won't catch what you had!
- D Once when I was really sick, I missed two weeks of school.

ANSWERS TO MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

1. D 2. D 3. B 4. D 5. A 6. B 7. C 8. B 9. C 10. A

College Success Writing Sample Test

When deciding which students to admit, colleges consider many factors about each student. After all, colleges are interested in building a student body that is academically curious, but also diverse and actively engaged in a range of productive, creative activities.

Write a personal statement to be read by a college admissions officer. In this statement, discuss how your academic interests, extracurricular activities, and life experiences will benefit the college community.

As you write, remember your essay will be scored based on how well you:

- develop a multi-paragraph response to the assigned topic that clearly communicates your controlling idea to the audience.
- support your controlling idea with meaningful examples, reasons, and information based upon your research or readings.
- organize your essay in a clear and logical manner, including an introduction, body, and conclusion.
- use well-structured sentences and language that are appropriate for your audience.
- edit your work to conform to the conventions of standard American English.

Please keep in mind:

- Essay portion must be completed to receive a passing score.
- Organize your essay by developing an outline or diagram.
- Essay prompt should not be repeated nor cut and pasted into essay.
- Express your ideas in a clear and coherent manner using a minimum of 300-500 words with multiple paragraphs.
- Be careful to maintain your focus and avoid repeating the same words and thoughts.
- It takes time to develop a college-level essay. You should devote a minimum of forty-five minutes to an hour on your essay.

Essay Planning Form and Sample essay for practice VPT English Placement Test

Essay is scored based on:

- Focus and Meaning**
- Content and Development**
- Organization**
- Language Use & Style**
- Mechanics and Conventions**

Essay should contain between 300 and 500 words for College English 111

Paragraph 1:

Attention grabber

Thesis statement

Reference three major supporting details

Paragraph 2: Major supporting detail 1

Minor detail/Example 1

Minor detail/Example 2

Minor detail/Example 3

Paragraph 3: Major supporting detail 2

Minor detail/Example 1

Minor detail/Example 2

Minor detail/Example 3

Paragraph 4: Major supporting detail 3

Minor detail/Example 1

Minor detail/Example 2:

Minor detail/Example 3

Paragraph 5: Statement of conclusion

Reference the thesis statement

Sample essay to get into college

The essay below demonstrates the principles of writing a basic essay. The different parts of the essay have been labeled. The thesis statement is in bold, the topic sentences are in italics, and each main point is underlined. When you write your own essay, of course, you will not need to mark these parts of the essay unless your teacher has asked you to do so. They are marked here just so that you can more easily identify them.

"A dog is man's best friend." That common saying may contain some truth, but dogs are not the only animal friend whose companionship people enjoy. For many people, a cat is their best friend. **Despite what dog lovers may believe, cats make excellent house pets as they are good companions, they are civilized members of the household, and they are easy to care for.**

In the first place, people enjoy the companionship of cats. Many cats are affectionate. They will snuggle up and ask to be petted, or scratched under the chin. Who can resist a purring cat? If they're not feeling affectionate, cats are generally quite playful. They love to chase balls and feathers, or just about anything dangling from a string. They especially enjoy playing when their owners are participating in the game. Contrary to popular opinion, cats can be trained. Using rewards and punishments, just like with a dog, a cat can be trained to avoid unwanted behavior or perform tricks. Cats will even fetch!

In the second place, cats are civilized members of the household. Unlike dogs, cats do not bark or make other loud noises. Most cats don't even meow very often. They generally lead a quiet existence. Cats also don't often have "accidents." Mother cats train their kittens to use the litter box, and most cats will use it without fail from that time on. Even stray cats usually understand the concept when shown the box and will use it regularly. Cats do have claws, and owners must make provision for this. A tall scratching post in a favorite cat area of the house will often keep the cat content to leave the furniture alone. As a last resort, of course, cats can be declawed.

Lastly, one of the most attractive features of cats as house pets is their ease of care. Cats do not have to be walked. They get plenty of exercise in the house as they play, and they do their business in the litter box. Cleaning a litter box is a quick, painless procedure. Cats also take care of their own grooming. Bathing a cat is almost never necessary because under ordinary circumstances cats clean themselves. Cats are more particular about personal cleanliness than people are. In addition, cats can be left home alone for a few hours without fear. Unlike some pets, most cats will not destroy the furnishings when left alone. They are content to go about their usual activities until their owners return.

Cats are low maintenance, civilized companions. People who have small living quarters or less time for pet care should appreciate these characteristics of cats. However, many people who have plenty of space and time still opt to have a cat because they love the cat personality. In many ways, cats are the ideal house pet.