

## Answers to extended language section – Olympiad 2019

- 1 Explain the use of the
  - 1.1 exclamation mark in line 1  
It indicates strong emotion/ a command.
  - 1.2 apostrophes in “who’s” (line 2), “don’t” (line 3) and “I’m” (line 3)  
They all mark missing letters.
  - 1.3 semicolon in line 4  
It separates one part of the sentence from another demanding a longer pause because the connecting phrase “on the contrary” is used.
  - 1.4 dash in line 5  
It emphasises what comes before it/ it adds extraneous information.
  
- 2 What do we call words that are formed by using a hyphen such as “go-getter” (line 4) and “well-known” (line 5)?  
They are compound words (go-getter = noun and well-known = adjective)
  
- 3 There are two sets of ellipsis dots in rows 7 and 8.
  - 3.1 Why are they used?  
The first (line 7) indicates an interruption and long pause.  
The second (line 8) indicates words understood i.e “perhaps I could try and host the party.”
  - 3.2 Why has the set in line 8 got four dots?  
The fourth stop is a full stop to mark the end of the sentence. The first three are ellipsis dots
  - 3.3 Is it ever permissible to use more than three dots?  
It is never permissible.
  
- 4 Consider why the writer states that “Mrs Colon was one of those sophisticated punctuation people who reflected back on what had come before”. Use the following sentences to explain your reason:
  - 4.1 Sibongile and Mike are typical of those scholars who enter the English Olympiad: resourceful, deep-thinkers and intelligent.  
The colon here introduces an explanation of what has gone before it. In this case “those scholars who enter the Olympiad” are typically “resourceful, deep-thinkers and intelligent”.
  - 4.2 Being a teenager is the same problem everyone faces in some way or another: balance. It’s important to socialise, but also to be engaged and focused on our studies and be loving children to our parents.  
The colon here introduces an explanation of what have gone before it. In this case “the same problem” is “balance”.
  
- 5 Explain the use of the following punctuation marks in line 29:
  - 5.1 the semicolon  
It is doing the work of a comma as there are too many commas in the sentence and it indicates a longer pause than a comma here.
  - 5.2 the dash.  
It sets apart a reflection.
  
- 6 The abbreviations “Mr”, “Mrs”, “Miss” and “Ms” have no full stop after them.
  - 6.1 Explain why this is correct.

- There are no full stops as they all end on the last letter of the full word.
- 6.2 Write out each of these abbreviations in full.  
 Mr = Mister  
 Mrs = Mistress  
 Miss = Mistress  
 Ms = Mistress
- 7 Correct the two tweets in line 36.  
 Enjoy the weekend's braais.  
 lots of love.
- 8 Explain the use of the dash in line 40.  
 It is an afterthought or a reflection.
- 9 With which punctuation marks could the dashes in line 42 be replaced?  
 They could be replaced with brackets or commas..
- 10 What do we call a word like "let's" (line 43)? What does it stand for?  
 They are contractions. It stands for "Let us".
- 11 Explain the use and effect of the ellipsis dots in line 50.  
 They mark an interruption and a dramatic pause that has the effect of emphasising the final phrase "a touch of class".

**1 Write out the following contractions in full:**

I'll, there's, they'd, shouldn't, she's I will/shall, there is, they had, should not, she is/ has

**2 Write contractions for the following:**

It is, would have, might not, we will not it's, would've, mightn't, won't

***It's and Its***

Note that **it's ALWAYS** stands for **it is** or **it has**.

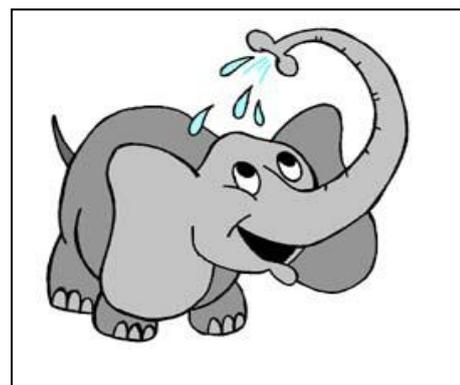
e.g. **It's** great weather.

**It's** been hot here.

The possessive form **its NEVER** has an apostrophe.

e.g. The dog chased **its** tail.

The elephant squirted water on **its** head.



**3 Correct the following incorrect usages of *it's* and *its* and tick the correct ones:**

(Hint: When in doubt say "it is" or "it has" to yourself to decide whether or not it is correct.)

Natalie: The car is making a dreadful noise in **its** engine.

Mark: It's the exhaust. **It's** got a hole in it.

Natalie: It's done that before and it was very expensive to fix!

Mark: It's because we bought a cheap one last time. They corrode very quickly here near the sea.

Natalie: Shouldn't **its** guarantee be valid still? I'm sure that **it's** within a year since we bought it.

Mark: You're right – **it's** worth looking up.

Natalie: Where did you put that guarantee?

Mark: **It's** in the dresser in the lounge.

Natalie: Oh, that's where it is! It's been worrying me that I couldn't find it.

Mark: Let's see if it's still under guarantee.

Natalie: **It's** probably one week over the time limit! My dad always said a thing is made with a shelf-life to last just until **its** guarantee time expires.

Mark: Here, I've found it – **its** time has expired!



## Capitals

The use of capitals differs from one language to another. Note the following rules that apply to English:

- **The first letter of names of people, places, languages, and countries are capitalised:**

Boris, Cape Town, Zulu, the West Rand, Italian, Manhattan Island, Rose Cottage, 9<sup>th</sup> Ave, The Tabby Cat shop, the islands of Japan, Mike's Kitchen, Zimbabwe, the Sorbonne University, The Little Shop on the Hill, Xhosa, Palestine, The University of the Witwatersrand, Wits, Collegiate Girls' High School, the Transkei coast, You magazine, etc.

- **The first letter of titles are capitalised:**

Prof. Gxowa, Mr Jacobs, Ms Ahmed, Dr L.C. Duncan, Judge Makhubele, Nurse McGregor, etc.

## Hyphens

Hyphens are used

- to join words together to make one compound word:  
bother-in-law, well-dressed, cross-examine, Morubane-Mhlahlo, fork-lift truck, co-operator, heart-hearted villain, ten-year-olds, two-day pass, a twelve-year-old girl, etc.
- to form numbers:

twenty-two, one hundred and fifty-one, three thousand, eight million, four hundred and thirty-one, forty-four, Seventy-three rand and thirty-two cents, etc.

The rule, here, is to hyphenate numbers below a hundred, but not above.

- to form fractions:  
nine-tenths, four-fifths, etc.
- to carry on an incomplete word at the end of a line. This must be done between syllables. Never leave only one letter at the end of a line. Monosyllables cannot be divided.

Read the letter written to a local newspaper in Port Elizabeth by a school principal. Miss ffolllott was most particular about the spelling of her surname.

### **“It’s” a source of great irritation**

I feel **it’s** time that the *Herald* editorial staff enlightened **its** reporters about the correct use of **“its”** and **“it’s”**! **It’s** setting a very poor example to **its** readers, especially **its** young readers.

**It’s** becoming a regular habit of some reporters to use **“it’s”** (contraction of “it is”) instead of the possessive adjective **“its”**.

It is (**its**) a source of great irritation to me and, no doubt, many others!

*Daphne ffolllott*  
*Centrahill*  
*Port Elizabeth*

The following entry is taken from  
*Fowler’s Modern English Usage*.

**ff.** In old manuscripts the capital F was sometimes written *ff*. This is the origin of the curious spelling of some English surnames: ffolllott, fforde, ffoulkes, ffrench, and others. The distinction of possessing such a name is naturally prized: readers of *Cranford* will remember Mrs Forrester’s cousin Mr ffoulkes who always looked down on capital letters and said they belonged to lately invented families; and it was feared he would die a bachelor until he met a Mrs ffarrington and married her, ‘and it was all owing to her two little ffs’.

- 1 Explain why “it’s” in the heading to the letter is in inverted commas.  
*It is used to make the contraction stand out or it could be argued that it is a quotation.*
- 2 If you were writing the letter by hand how would you indicate the name of the newspaper?  
*The name could be underlined or it could be written in either single or double inverted commas.*
- 3 Explain the use of the comma after “readers” (line 4).  
*Indicates words in apposition.*
- 4 Explain the use of the two commas in the last two lines of the letter.  
*They separate the expression (no doubt) from the rest of the sentence.*

- 5 Fowler has used a colon twice in the entry. In both cases they are used to introduce something. Use the punctuation chart to explain each.  
The first is to introduce a list (of names in this case), while the second introduces an explanation (of why the possession of such a name is prized).
- 6 Fowler has made use of the Oxford comma. After which word does it occur?  
It occurs after “ffrench”.
- 7 Why has Fowler used a semicolon after “families”?  
It marks a longer pause than that of a comma.
- 8 Fowler has used single inverted commas to indicate the quotation at the end of the entry. Could he have used double?  
He could have used double. One may use either double or single so long as one is consistent.

## Spot the illiteracies:

### Corrections

1

**DRIVE SLOWLY**  
Be considerate of our learners'  
lives

2

**TODAY'S SPECIALS**

Avos @ R6.99 each

Beans R5.59 a kilo

Apples R12.99 a bag

Tomatoes R8.99 a kilo

In Afrikaans the @ symbol is called "aapstert" (monkey's tail).

1 Would you use an apostrophe when writing plurals such as: DVDs, TVs, PCs, CVs, etc?  
No, they are correct as they are.

2 Which of the following are correctly written?  
In each case, the first is correct.

Vetoes or veto's; videos or video's; Grade 12s or Grade 12's; MPs or MP's; bananas or banana's.

See the SACEE website: <http://sacee.org.za/> for the answers.

1 **Form possessives:** the women's statement; another's interests; Bob's shoes; the Babies' bibs; three weeks' notice; somebody else's ideas; the soccer team's victory; the three learners' pens; your team; the two doctors' patients; Siphos good results; everyone's ideas.

2 **Correct the following sentences:**

- My mother-in-law, Mrs Squire- Howe, is arriving to stay with us today.
- It'll be her birthday on the 16th.

- She's recovering from an operation, but since she is an ex-nurse she is careful to co-operate with the doctor and should heal soon.
- I've just re-covered my lounge suite in a lovely blue-grey floral. I hope my mom-in-law will approve of it.
- While she is here I hope to relax on the stoep, so I can attain that long-legged, sun-tanned look that you see in the fashion magazines.

**Punctuation marks provide clarity of meaning.**

Enjoy the Olympiad and revel in your learning and mastery of the English language.

Warm regards  
Diana Ayliff-McDermott