

Alaska Power Association Communicators' Roundtable

November 8, 2018

Anchorage, Alaska

Grammar-Rama

Brenda Dunn, NWPPA
Kierre Childers, Matanuska Electric Association

ENGLISH IS HARD TO UNDERSTAND



**IT CAN BE UNDERSTOOD
THROUGH TOUGH THOROUGH
THOUGHT, THOUGH.**

Question 1

**Neither of them (has, have)
been dependent on parents
for the past five years.**

Question 2

**The number of mistakes in
this report (are, is)
unacceptable.**

Question 3

**When do you use two spaces
after a period?**

Question 4

**No one knows how this
legislation will (affect, effect)
the industry.**

Question 5

Identify the error below:

Mason PUD No. 3 is a public utility district in Washington State.

Question 6

Identify the error below:

**“I was honored to be a Lacy Peoples Award recipient”,
said Dave D’Avanzo.**

Question 7

Select the sentence free of errors in AP style:

- a) Coop members were surprised to see a six percent rate decrease.**
- b) Coop members were surprised to see a 6% rate decrease.**
- c) Co-op members were surprised to see a 6 percent rate decrease.**
- d) Co-op members were surprised to see a six-percent rate decrease.**

Question 8

True or false:

You use “a” before words that start with consonants and “an” before words that start with vowels.

Question 9

Which is correct per AP style:

- a) Cyber security**
- b) Cyber-security**
- c) Cybersecurity**
- d) All of the above**

Question 10

Which is incorrect per AP style:

- a) web**
- b) website**
- c) internet**
- d) intranet**
- e) None of the above**

Question 11

Which is correct per AP style:

- a) Dos and don'ts**
- b) Do's and don't's**
- c) Do's and don'ts**
- d) Dos and donts**

Question 12

**I (insure, ensure, assure) you
that Megan McKoy-Noe is a
social media dynamo.**

Question 13

Which is correct per AP style:

- a) We welcome a newly-created 15-member board.**
- b) We welcome a newly created 15-member board.**
- c) We welcome a newly-created 15 member Board.**
- d) We welcome a newly created 15 member Board.**

Question 14

Which is correct:

- a) The utility has a complement of nine linepersons and two tree trimmers.**
- b) The hardhat compliments his PPE.**
- c) The GM complemented the communicators.**
- d) She was flattered by the complements on her project.**

Question 15

**Alaska Power Administration
provides (premier/premiere)
member services.**

Question 16

**Utilities are serving
(increasingly-diverse/increasingly diverse)
customers.**

Bonus Question

**How many words can you
name where I is not before E
except after C?**

Examples: weird, science

THE LOOK YOU GET WHEN YOU DIDN'T



RECEIVE THE HIGHEST SCORE

Question 1

**Neither of them (has, have)
been dependent on parents
for the past five years.**

Question 2

**The number of mistakes in
this report (are, is)
unacceptable.**

Question 3

**When do you use two spaces
after a period?**

Never!

Question 4

**No one knows how this
legislation will (affect, effect)
the industry.**

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Question 12

I (insure, ensure, **assure**) you
that Megan McKoy-Noe is a
social media dynamo.

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**Alaska Power Administration
provides (premier/premiere)
member services.**

Question 16

**Utilities are serving
(increasingly-diverse/increasingly diverse)
customers.**

Answers

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) has | 9) C |
| 2) is | 10)E |
| 3) Never! | 11)A |
| 4) affect | 12)assure |
| 5) Washington state | 13)B |
| 6) The comma | 14)A |
| 7) D | 15)premier |
| 8) False | 16)increasingly diverse |

Bonus Words

1. Absenteeism
2. Albeit
3. Atheist
4. Aweigh
5. Beige
6. Being
7. Caffeine
8. Ceiling
9. Codeine
10. Counterfeit
11. Deified
12. Deigned
13. Eidetic
14. Eight
15. Either
16. Feign
17. Feisty

18. Foreign
19. Forfeit
20. Forfeiture
21. Freight
22. Geisha
23. Heifer
24. Height
25. Heirloom
26. Heist
27. Herein
28. Kaleidoscope
29. Leisure
30. Neighbors
31. Neither
32. Poltergeist
33. Protein
34. Reimburse

35. Reining
36. Rottweiler
37. Seismic
38. Seize
39. Sheiks
40. Sleigh
41. Sovereign
42. Surveillance
43. Their
44. Veil
45. Vein
46. Weighted
47. Weimaraner
48. Weird
49. Zeitgeist

1. Celibacies
2. Concierge
3. Conscience
4. Deficiencies
5. Delicacies
6. Dicier
7. Glaciers
8. Iciest
9. Financier
10. Science
11. Species

Tips

- **When in doubt, look it up!**
- **Second (or third) set of eyes**
- **Have an internal style guide**
- **Know where your style guide lives**
- **Revisit and update said style guide**
 - **Be consistent!**

Editing resources

- **AP Style Guide**

The book, apstylebook.com, social media

- **Grammar Girl**

Quickanddirtytips.com, books, podcasts, social media

- **ACES**

American Copy Editors Society, quizzes

- **ASBPE (free!)**

American Society of Business Publication Editors, webinars

- **NWPPA**

- **Friends and colleagues!**



Melissa Knauer Gimby

Yesterday at 12:18 PM ·



Brenda Dunn is it “en route” or “enroute”?
Thanks!

3 Comments



Like



Comment



Share



Londa Smith Streeter It's on my way! 😁

Like · Reply · 1d



Brenda Dunn Two words. 🤓

Like · Reply · 1d



Melissa Knauer Gimby I knew you would know, thank you!

Haha · Reply · 23h



1



Brenda Dunn replied · 1 Reply



Write a comment...



A pun,

play on words,

and a limerick

walk into a bar.

No joke.