

**ACADEMIC ENGLISH LANGUAGE PLACEMENT TEST**

**COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE**

**SAMPLE PLACEMENT TEST**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST GRADE OR FROM  
SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED: \_\_\_\_\_

LAST SCHOOL  
ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

STUDENT SCORE:

Part I:	Grammar	/50
Part II:	Reading Comprehension	/20
Part III:	Composition	/30

RECOMMENDED PLACEMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

## PART I - GRAMMAR

### Section A: Gerunds and Infinitives

**Directions:** Fill in the blanks with either the gerund or infinitive form of the verbs.

Example: Margaret challenged me (race) to race her across the pool.

1. The students practiced (pronounce) \_\_\_\_\_ the sounds in the sentences.
2. Susie! How many times do I have to remind you (hang up) \_\_\_\_\_ your clothes?
3. I urged Margaret (return) \_\_\_\_\_ and (finish) \_\_\_\_\_ her education.
4. Do something! Don't just sit there (twiddle) \_\_\_\_\_ your thumbs.
5. (Look) \_\_\_\_\_ at the car after the accident made him realize that he was lucky (be) \_\_\_\_\_ alive.
6. I don't anticipate (have) \_\_\_\_\_ any difficulties (adjust) \_\_\_\_\_ to a new culture when I travel overseas.
7. No, that's not what I meant (say) \_\_\_\_\_ !

### Section C: Verb Tenses

**Directions:** Fill in the spaces with the correct verb tense.

1. Recently researchers (discover) \_\_\_\_\_ new reasons why the ancient people of Mexico (abandon) \_\_\_\_\_ some of their largest cities.
2. Currently scientists (develop) \_\_\_\_\_ more accurate and better ways to predict earthquakes.
3. The man (rescue) \_\_\_\_\_ from the fire by his dog.
4. While the operating room (prepare) \_\_\_\_\_ for the operation, the doctors (wash) \_\_\_\_\_ their hands.

5. The musician (have) \_\_\_\_\_ an excellent piano teacher when he was young.
6. What \_\_\_\_\_ (he do) since the last time we saw him?
7. The first violent incident (occur) \_\_\_\_\_ during the political campaign that took place five years ago.
8. If I had more energy, I (play) \_\_\_\_\_ tennis more often.

**A: Hi, my name is Jose.**

**B: Hi, my name is Ali.**

- (1) Jose: (You, study) \_\_\_\_\_ at this university?
- (2) Ali: Yes. I (be) \_\_\_\_\_ here since last September before that I (study) \_\_\_\_\_ English at another school.
- (3) Jose: What (you, take) \_\_\_\_\_?
- (4) Ali: I (study) \_\_\_\_\_ English. I (need) \_\_\_\_\_ to improve my English before I (take) \_\_\_\_\_ regular academic courses next semester.
- (5) Jose: You speak English well! (You, study) \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of English before you (come) \_\_\_\_\_ to Canada?
- (6) Ali: Yes. I (study) \_\_\_\_\_ English for ten years in my own country.

### **Section D: Sentence Errors**

**Error Analysis: Rewrite the following sentences.**

1. Studies show that about 7 percentage of men and 1 percent of women have antisocial problems.(1mistake)

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2. The coach was angry because he felt that the members of the team had not been doing enough effort to win the game. (1 mistake)

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3. A lot of comic books that are being published look more interested than they did in the past. (1 mistake)

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4. Mining and tourism are been looked at as possibilities, but fishing has been the center of the economy in Newfoundland. (1 mistake)

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5. The police got the boy admit that he was the person who had been seen in the area of the fire. ( 1 mistake)

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## **PART II: READING COMPREHENSION -**

### ***MONKEY BUSINESS***

A small crowd had gathered near the entrance to the park. His curiosity aroused, Jeff crossed the street to see what was happening. He found that the center of attraction was an old man with a performing monkey. He soon discovered that the monkey's tricks were not spectacular so, after throwing a few coins into the hat which the man had placed on the sidewalk, Jeff began to move away, along with other members of the crowd.

At this point the man suddenly let out a loud cry. Everyone turned to see what had happened. The man was bending over his monkey, which now was lying stretched out on the sidewalk. He picked up the lifeless body, and holding it close to him, began to cry. A young man stepped forward from the crowd, took out his wallet and dropped several dollar bills into the hat. Jeff and several other people followed the young man's example, and soon the hat was filled with coins and dollar bills. Meanwhile the man continued to hold the dead monkey in his arms and seemed to be oblivious to what was going on around him.

A few months later, Jeff came across the old man again in another part of the city. The man has a monkey, bought no doubt with the money which the crowd had given him, but the new monkey did not seem to be any better at its tricks than the previous one. Jeff was pleased to see that the old man was still able to earn a living, though this time, having partly paid for the monkey out of his own pocket, he did not feel obliged to throw any money into the hat.

But the performance was not over yet! Once again the old man let out a loud cry. And once again the monkey was suddenly lying motionless on the sidewalk. The man picked up the "dead" monkey and, clutching it in his arms, began to cry. The same young man stepped forward and threw some money into the hat. Again the crows responded-but not Jeff. Smiling to himself, he went on his way, amazed at the man's ingenuity.

**Answer the following questions in complete sentences in your own words. Sentences copied from the reading passage will not receive marks.**

1. In the first paragraph, why did Jeff decide to move on?

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2. How did the man with the dead monkey react to the crowd's generosity in the second paragraph?

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3. What struck Jeff about the tricks of the new monkey in paragraph 3?

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4. Why didn't Jeff throw money into the man's hat when he encountered him for the second time? Find your answer in paragraph 3.

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5. "Amazed at the man's ingenuity" means that Jeff felt what about the man? (Explain)

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### **PART III: COMPOSITION**

**Choose one of the following topics to write a brief essay of about 200-300 words. Your essay will be judged on the depth of its content, its organization, and its overall grammar usage. (10 marks each) Please write your composition on the back of this page.**

- A. Write an essay that describes the most significant event in your life thus far.
- B. Compare/contrast two people that have had an influence on your educational dreams and goals.