Grammar Skills

English Usage Practice (KEY)

*Note that the grammatical errors in these sentences could be corrected in many ways. The corrections in the answer key are not the only ways to correct the errors.
1. Going into grade one, Manat and Hannah wanted too have the same teacher; nonetheless, Manat was put into Ms. Beasley’s class and Hannah was put into Mr. Jay’s class.

Correct/Incorrect: I
Grammar error: confusion between words w/ similar sounds (homophone or near homophone)
Correction: Going into grade one, Manat and Hannah wanted to have the same teacher; nonetheless, Manat was put into Ms. Beasley’s class and Hannah was put into Mr. Jay’s class.

2. I went to Wal-Mart last Thursday to get some skim milk; however, Wal-Mart only had whole milk, so I had to go to Safeway instead.

Correct/Incorrect: C
Grammar error: n/a
Correction: n/a

3. If an Okanagan College student wants English or Writing help, they can book an appointment in one of the Learning Centre binders.

Correct/Incorrect: I
Grammar error: incorrect use of a pronoun
Correction: If an Okanagan College student wants English or Writing help, he or she can book an appointment in one of the Learning Centre binders.

4. Whenever I am asked of how I do my hair so nicely, I get self-conscious and answer, “I don’t know.”

Correct/Incorrect: I
Grammar error: incorrect use of a preposition
Correction: Whenever I am asked how I do my hair so nicely, I get self-conscious and answer, “I don’t know.”
5. When I was a kid, my uncle was deadly injured in a logging accident, so his son came to live with my family.
   Correct/Incorrect: I
   Grammar error: adverb/adjective confusion
   Correction: When I was a kid, my uncle was **fatally** injured in a logging accident, so his son came to live with my family.

6. Whenever my nieces come to stay at my house for the weekend, I encourage them to bring their bathing suits so we can go to the YMCA.
   Correct/Incorrect: I
   Grammar error: confusion between words w/ similar sounds (homophones & near-homophones)
   Correction: Whenever my nieces come to stay at my house for the weekend, I encourage them to bring **their** bathing suits so we can go to the YMCA.

7. It makes me feel funny when I have to make a presentation and everyone stares at me.
   Correct/Incorrect: I
   Grammar error: faulty diction
   Correction: It makes me feel **uncomfortable** when I have to make a presentation and everyone stares at me.

8. If our professor tests us in Section Three of the book, I am going to fail the exam.
   Correct/Incorrect: I
   Grammar error: incorrect use of a preposition
   Correction: If our professor tests us **on** Section Three of the book, I am going to fail the exam.

9. I want to know if you are coming to my party or going to the hockey game.
   Correct/Incorrect: C
   Grammar error: n/a
Correction: *n/a*

10. I easy finished the math test with almost an hour to spare.

Correct/Incorrect: *I*

Grammar error: *adverb/adjective confusion*

Correction: *I easily finished the math test with almost an hour to spare.*