

The Sentence-Combining Trap

Rising Grade 8 revising/editing mini-lesson

Parent note

Give this as a 5-minute check. The goal is to choose the answer that keeps the original meaning, not just the shortest answer.

Question

Read the sentences. Which revision combines them most clearly without changing the meaning? The robotics team redesigned the wheel mounts. The new mounts reduced friction. The robot turned more smoothly during the final trial.

- (A) The robotics team redesigned the wheel mounts, the new mounts reduced friction, and the robot turned more smoothly during the final trial.
- (B) The robot turned more smoothly during the final trial after the robotics team redesigned the wheel mounts to reduce friction.
- (C) Reducing friction, the wheel mounts redesigned the robotics team, and the robot turned more smoothly during the final trial.
- (D) The robot turned more smoothly during the final trial, which redesigned the wheel mounts and reduced friction.

Answer and explanation

Correct answer: B

Choice B keeps the cause-and-result relationship clear: the redesign reduced friction, so the robot turned more smoothly. Choice A is a comma splice. Choice C makes the wheel mounts seem to redesign the team. Choice D makes the final trial seem to redesign the mounts.

Next step

If this was hard, try the free SHSAT grammar sample. If you need a full ELA + Math baseline, use the \$1.99 diagnostic.

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