

# Writing and Language Drill 3

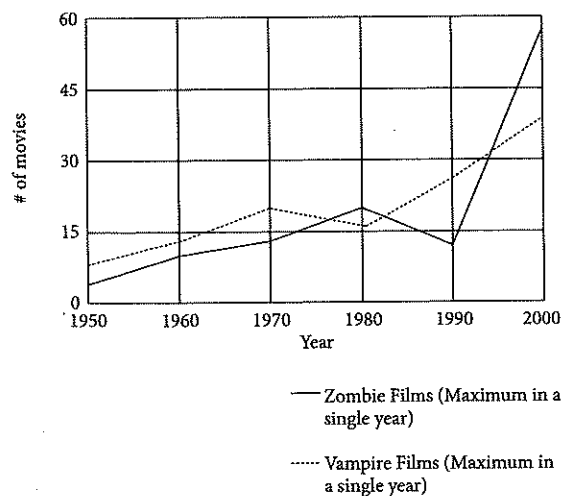
Answers can be found on page 142.

Time: 10–11 minutes

## Zombies in the Movies

**1** With the rise of movie streaming, the number of movies that are never shown in theaters increases every year. Horror, Western, and Sci-Fi movies are made every year, but the number of movies produced in each genre fluctuates annually. For example, as the number of Westerns has stayed at or below about 25 per year since the 1960s, the number of Zombie and Vampire films has **2** risen, with Zombie films increasing nearly six-fold.

Zombie vs. Vampire Films Over Time



**1** Which of the following choices would best introduce the main point of the essay?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) While many movie genres are staples in Hollywood, the popularity of these genres has changed over time.
- C) Everyone knows that the highest form of Hollywood film is the drama.
- D) There's a lot that you may not know about how films are made in Hollywood.

**2** Which of the following gives information consistent with the graph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) risen, with Vampire films increasing nearly six-fold.
- C) declined, with Zombie film production decreasing by a sixth.
- D) declined, with Vampire film production decreasing by a sixth.

While the saying goes that there's "no accounting for the public's taste," **3** lots of people like lots of different things. Why should the number of Westerns have remained relatively low while the number of Zombie films has skyrocketed? Maybe we should ask the question another way: what do people today get from Zombie films that they don't from Westerns?

3

Which of the following choices would offer the most effective transition between the previous paragraph and the current one?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) these trends nonetheless invite us to try.
- C) a lot of people don't even care about Zombie movies.
- D) science has not yet shown that zombies exist.

Westerns dominated the 1920s. Zombie films have dominated the 1990s and 2000s. **4** Beginning with these facts alone, we can start to see why these films might have been popular in different eras. The 1920s, for instance, was an American moment of crusade. **5** These were crusades altogether distinct from those conducted by the Catholic Church starting in 1095. Only a tough sheriff, the kind one might get in an old-west town, could find the perfect balance between **6** legit action and foul play. Thus, if the world could not be contained by law and order, at least here was an imaginary space that could be in the West.

- 4** The writer is considering deleting the underlined sentence. Should the sentence be kept or deleted?
- A) Kept, because it provides a logical transition between ideas in the paragraph.
  - B) Kept, because it explains why Westerns are now less popular than Zombie films are.
  - C) Deleted, because it is not directly related to the paragraph's focus on Zombie films.
  - D) Deleted, because it undermines the passage's claim about the declining popularity of Westerns.

- 5** Which choice best supports the idea in the previous sentence?
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) The United States is still interested in crusades today, so it's hard to see why they don't make as many Westerns anymore.
  - C) Led by Woodrow Wilson's plan for a U.S.-led League of Nations, the world, reeling from World War I, wanted justice among the outlaws.
  - D) The stock market wouldn't crash for another nine years, at which point people would really freak out.

- 6** Which choice best maintains the style and tone of the passage?
- A) NO CHANGE
  - B) integrity and harshness.
  - C) being lit and cruelty.
  - D) justice and brutality.

[1] The 1990s and 2000s, dominated as they are by Zombie films, show that contemporary conflicts are not so far away. [2] Instead, we are interested in and suspicious of the people around us.

[3] Although we now have the world at the click of a button, Zombie films show that we are not all that interested in that world. [4] Whether coworkers or fellow students, the people around us, especially when viewed as a mass, can seem almost “dead.”

[5] And the reasons for this are fairly obvious: our private or online personalities have become so robust that **7** we end up spending a lot of time designing avatars that match our personalities. **8**

**7**

Which choice would most effectively conclude the sentence and the paragraph?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) sometimes it’s hard to have face-to-face conversations with people.
- C) many people now struggle with addictions to their Internet devices.
- D) the “real world” outside cannot help but seem dull by comparison.

**8**

To make this paragraph most logical, sentence 2 should be placed

- A) where it is now.
- B) before sentence 1.
- C) before sentence 4.
- D) before sentence 5.

9 It may seem that genre conventions never change. Because they never change, it probably seems like a Western today follows the same set of rules as a Western from 100 years ago. What the rise in Zombie films shows, however, is that the genres themselves change, and they provide different things to different eras. 10 This is not to say that one genre is better than the other—that it's better, for instance, to watch a tough cowboy fight off a gang of cattle rustlers—but it is to say that these genres hold a lot more than their 11 bloodthirsty entertainment value.

9

Which choice most effectively combines the underlined sentences?

- A) It may seem that genre conventions never change; because they never change, it probably seems like a Western today follows the same rules as a Western from 100 years ago.
- B) It may seem that genre conventions never change; because of it, it could be argued that a Western today follows the same set of rules as a Western from 100 years ago.
- C) It may seem that genre conventions never change: a Western today follows the same set of rules as a Western from 100 years ago.
- D) Because Westerns today follow the same set of rules as they did 100 years ago, it seems to most outside observers that genre conventions never change.

10

At this point, the author is considering adding the following true statement:

For what it's worth, my personal favorite is Jacques Tourneur's *I Married a Zombie*, which is based loosely on *Jane Eyre*.

Should the writer make this addition here?

- A) Yes, because the essay as a whole is filled with these kinds of examples and personal preferences.
- B) Yes, because the author's quirky choice shows that he has an off-beat perspective.
- C) No, because the author's strange choice disqualifies the author from discussing popular taste.
- D) No, because the essay as a whole is not primarily focused on the author's personal preferences.

11

Which choice most effectively suggests that Westerns offer more than what they seem superficially to represent?

- A) NO CHANGE
- B) mere
- C) wholesome
- D) engaging