ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Grammar, Word Order, Punctuation Diagnostic Test With Answers 1

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1	B	2	B	3	A	4	B	5	B

Explanations

1. There is a cat in our garden, it is a black cat.
✔ **B) Incorrect**
This sentence is incorrect because it is a **comma splice**: two complete sentences are joined only by a comma. You can fix it in four ways: use a full stop (**There is a cat in our garden. It is a black cat.**), use a semicolon (**There is a cat in our garden; it is a black cat.**), or add a conjunction, with or without a comma (**There is a cat in our garden, and it is a black cat.** / **There is a cat in our garden and it is a black cat.**).

2. "There is a cat in our garden," my friend said, "It is a black cat."
✔ **B) Incorrect**
This is a comma splice in direct speech. **There is a cat in our garden** and **It is a black cat** are two complete sentences, so the reporting clause **my friend said** must end with a full stop, not a comma. The capital **I** in **It** also shows that a new sentence begins. Correct versions: **"There is a cat in our garden," my friend said. "It is a black cat."** or **"There is a cat in our garden; it is a black cat," my friend said.** A comma after **said** is only right when the quotation continues the same sentence, e.g. **"There is a cat," my friend said, "in our garden."**

3. Hey, look! There is a cat in our garden, and it is a black cat.
✔ **A) Correct**
This sentence is correct. The two independent clauses are properly joined by a comma plus the coordinating conjunction **and**, so there is no comma splice. **Hey, look!** is a correctly punctuated interjection and exclamation.

4. I am drawing a picture of a house. Its beginning to look like our own house, which has it's front door on a raised platform.
✔ **B) Incorrect**
This sentence is incorrect because **its** and **it's** are swapped. **It's** is the short form of **it is** or **it has**, and **its** is the possessive form (like **his** or **her**), with no apostrophe. The correct version is: **I am drawing a picture of a house. It's (= It is) beginning to look like our own house, which has its front door on a raised platform.**

5. ORHAN: "Is that a painting or a photograph?"

OKTAY: "It's a hologram, that is neither a painting nor a photograph."
✔ **B) Incorrect**
Oktay's sentence is incorrect. The clause after the comma adds extra information about **a hologram**, so it is a **non-defining relative clause**. Non-defining relative clauses must use **which** (for things), never **that**. Correct version: **"It's a hologram, which is neither a painting nor a photograph."** If **that** is read as a demonstrative pronoun instead, the sentence becomes a comma splice. In that case it would need a full stop or a semicolon: **It's a hologram; that is neither a painting nor a photograph.**

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