ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Grammar, Word Order, Punctuation Diagnostic Test With Answers 7

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1	A	2	A	3	B	4	A	5	B

Explanations

1. This dosage should be prescribed to **a patient** only if **they are** considered to be in the terminal stage.
✓ A) Correct
Singular **they** is used with a singular noun such as **a patient** when the person's gender is unknown or unimportant. It still takes a plural verb: **they are**, not **they is**. This is standard in modern English, including formal and medical writing, so the sentence is correct. The older **he or she is** is also possible, but it is more awkward.

2. We mean to go where no man has gone before.
✓ A) Correct
Mean to + infinitive means 'intend to': **We mean to go** = we intend to go. **Where no man has gone before** is a relative clause of place, and it correctly uses the present perfect (**has gone**) for an experience up to now. The sentence is grammatically correct.

3. Actual Words: "I saw him a week ago." Reported (Indirect) Speech, a month later:
✓ B) She told me that she had seen him the week before.
The report is made a month later, so the time expression must shift. **Ago** is measured from the moment of speaking, so **a week ago** becomes **the week before** (or **the previous week**). The past simple **saw** also backshifts to the past perfect **had seen**. Not **a week ago**: a month later, it would mean a week before the report, which is the wrong time.

4. We produce quality footwear for the fashionably inclined.
✓ A) Correct
The + adjective (or participle) can refer to a group of people, and it takes a plural meaning: **the rich**, **the elderly**, **the fashionably inclined** (= people who like fashion). The adverb **fashionably** correctly modifies the participle **inclined**. **Quality** is used here as an adjective meaning 'high-quality' (**quality footwear**), which is common in advertising. The sentence is correct.

5. The poor's problems cannot be solved by the rich.
✓ B) Incorrect
Group nouns made from **the** + adjective (**the poor**, **the rich**, **the unemployed**) do not normally take the possessive **'s**. Use an **of**-phrase instead: **The problems of the poor cannot be solved by the rich.** You could also write **Poor people's problems cannot be solved by rich people.** So **The poor's problems** is incorrect.

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