

I. Complete this article, putting each verb in brackets into the appropriate form:

### Myths of Weight Loss Are Plentiful, Researcher Says

If schools reinstated physical education classes, a lot of fat children (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) weight. And they (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (never | get) fat in the first place if their mothers (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (just | breast feed) them when they were babies. But be warned: obese people (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (definitely | steer clear) of crash diets. And they (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (lose) more than 50 pounds in five years simply by walking a mile a day.

Those are among the myths and unproven assumptions about obesity and weight loss that have been repeated so often and with such conviction that even scientists like David B. Allison, who (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (direct) the Nutrition Obesity Research Center at the University of Alabama at Birmingham, (7) \_\_\_\_\_ (fall for) some of them.

Now, he (8) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to set the record straight. In an article published online today in *The New England Journal of Medicine*, he and his colleagues (9) \_\_\_\_\_ (lay out) seven myths and six unsubstantiated presumptions about obesity. They also list nine facts that, unfortunately, promise little in the way of quick fixes for the weight-obsessed. Example: "Trying to go on a diet or recommending that someone (10) \_\_\_\_\_ (go) on a diet generally (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (not | work) well in the long term."

Obesity experts applauded this plain-spoken effort to dispel widespread confusion about obesity. The field, they say, (11) \_\_\_\_\_ (become) something of a quagmire. "In my view," said Dr. Jeffrey M. Friedman, a Rockefeller University obesity researcher, "there is more misinformation pretending to be fact in this field than in any other I (12) \_\_\_\_\_ (think) of." Others agreed, saying it was about time someone (13) \_\_\_\_\_ (try) to set the record straight. "I feel like cheering," said Madelyn Fernstrom, founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Weight Management Center. When it (14) \_\_\_\_\_ (come) to obesity beliefs, she said, "we (15) \_\_\_\_\_ (spin) out of control."

Dr. Allison (16) \_\_\_\_\_ (seek) to establish what is known to be unequivocally true about obesity and weight loss. His first thought was that, of course, weighing oneself daily (17) \_\_\_\_\_ (help) control weight. He checked for the conclusive studies he knew (18) \_\_\_\_\_ (exist). They did not.

"My goodness, after 50-plus years of studying obesity in earnest and all the public wringing of hands, why don't we know this answer?" Dr. Allison asked. "What's striking is how easy it (19) \_\_\_\_\_ (be) to check. Take a couple of thousand people and randomly assign them to weigh themselves every day or not." Yet it has not been done.

Dr. Allison said, it is necessary that scientists change their ways. "We need to do rigorous studies," he said. "We need to stop doing association studies after an association has clearly been demonstrated." "I never said we (20) \_\_\_\_\_ (wait) for perfect knowledge," Dr. Allison said. But, as John Lennon said, "Just give me some truth."

**II.** Compare the following sentences and explain the differences in *form, use and meaning of the verb phrases printed in bold*. Use appropriate terms in your explanations.

- I heard that Susie **had her bike stolen**
  - I heard that Susie **had stolen her bike**.
  
- He **made** a long speech when I asked a question.
  - He **was making** a long speech when I asked a question.
  
- I haven't seen him **since I've been ill**.
  - I haven't seen him **since I was ill**.
  
- He **is texting** with his girlfriend.
  - He **is always texting** with his girlfriend.
  
- If John **hadn't given** us a lift, we would have missed our train.
  - If John **wasn't giving** us a lift, we would miss our train.

6. a **On top of the hill stands** a magnificent castle.  
b The sculpture **is currently standing** on Town Square.

**III. Spot the error. Some of the following sentences are ungrammatical. Underline the error and write the correct version underneath. Tick off all correct sentences.**

1. It's high time you go to the dentist. You should really make an appointment soon.
2. It's a pity I've been out when Betty called. I really wanted to talk to her.
3. No sooner had John finished his proposal when Mary said yes.
4. The best man at my wedding who used to live in Germany has just moved to China.
5. Carol promised that she can never tell anyone.
6. We will send you the CDs you ordered as soon as we will receive your payment.
7. Lisa acts as if she is my boss.
8. Many thanks to my family, without them none of this would have been possible.
9. If she had been less arrogant, we would spend more time together on that trip.
10. My daughter lives in England for five years by the end of next month.
11. Mrs. Dalloway was looking out the window while the car backfired.
12. They had a big white wedding, what she had wanted all her life.
13. What are you thinking about Leonard Cohen's new album?
14. I'm starting to worry about Paul. He shall have arrived by now!

**IV. Sentence transformations. Rewrite the following sentences without changing their meaning. Use the beginnings provided.**

1. The minute I finished cleaning the windows it started to rain.

Hardly \_\_\_\_\_

2. Sorry I haven't fixed the tap. I meant to do it, but I simply haven't found the time.

Sorry I haven't fixed the tap. I would \_\_\_\_\_

3. We didn't realize how serious the situation was.

Little \_\_\_\_\_

4. Her mother said, "Please don't walk home on your own after the party."

"I'd rather \_\_\_\_\_", her mother said.

5. He didn't even phone me on my birthday. This made me really angry.

What \_\_\_\_\_

6. You can only apply for this job if you have experience in teaching young learners.

Unless \_\_\_\_\_

7. I couldn't buy the books I wanted because I didn't have my credit card with me.

Had \_\_\_\_\_

8. If we delay too long, we are unlikely to clinch a deal.

The longer \_\_\_\_\_

9. It is most likely that the door was blown open by a gust of wind.

The wind \_\_\_\_\_

10. I regret telling her about her boyfriend's previous flings.

If only I \_\_\_\_\_