

<sup>17</sup>We must occasionally take a test on our response to criticism. <sup>18</sup>This test becomes especially difficult when the criticism comes in a crude or an unkind way. <sup>19</sup>Yet the test is valid even in such circumstances. <sup>20</sup>Resenting the person who brings criticism or refusing to consider any value in it marks a definite failure. <sup>21</sup>We certainly cannot accept every bit of criticism at face value. <sup>22</sup>Neither should we label criticism worthless until we have given careful thought to it. <sup>23</sup>We pass this test, whether the criticism comes as a friendly remark or as a stern rebuke, as we learn to benefit from criticism.

<sup>24</sup>Still another test we face frequently is how well we respect authority. <sup>25</sup>This focuses on our attitudes and responses toward those in authority at home, at school, in the church, in the workplace, and in civil government. <sup>26</sup>Disrespectful nicknames for those in authority and careless disregard for their direction constitute failure. <sup>27</sup>The apostle Paul, a man of authority himself, passed this test with high honors when he apologized for unknowingly speaking against the high priest. <sup>28</sup>The level of our respect for any authority both reflects and affects the level of our respect for God's authority. <sup>29</sup>This test, therefore, counts heavily in the total score of our character.

1. Rewrite sentence 1 as an imperative sentence, number 2 as an interrogative sentence, and number 5 as an exclamatory sentence.
- \*2. Begin sentences 3 and 4 with single-word adverbs.
3. Rewrite sentences 6 and 11 as interrogative sentences.
4. Change sentence 7 to inverted word order.
- \*5. Combine numbers 8 and 9 into a compound-complex sentence.
6. Begin sentence 10 with a participial phrase modifying the subject.
7. Change sentence 13 to the periodic style.
8. Change sentence 14 to the balanced style.
- \*9. Begin sentence 16 with a transitional expression.
- \*10. Begin sentence 17 with a single-word adverb.
- \*11. Combine sentences 21 and 22 into a compound-complex sentence.
12. Begin sentence 23 with an adverb clause.
- \*13. Begin sentence 27 with an appositive to the subject.

**Review Exercises**

Label each underlined verb *TA* (transitive, active voice), *TP* (transitive, passive voice), *IC* (intransitive complete), or *IL* (intransitive linking). [69]

1. The beginning of anxiety is the end of faith.
2. Faith and fear can never exist together.
3. Faith in God makes the uplook good, the outlook bright, and the future glorious.
4. By faith a bridge is built from this world to the next.
5. Faith's hand never knocks in vain at mercy's door.

**Lesson 78 Answers**

**Applying the Lesson**

(Allow reasonable variation.)

1. (1) "Prepare for a test tomorrow."  
(2) Have these words ever brought you a touch of anxiety or a note of challenge?  
(5) How strange is the thought of school life without tests!
2. (3) Perhaps you know  
(4) Probably you know
3. (6) Did you know that the school of life includes tests too?  
(11) How are we faring on these tests?
4. (7) Far more important than school tests are these real-life tests.
5. (8–9) them, but our
6. (10) Watching our lives from His all-wise perspective, our heavenly Father is recording our performance.
7. (13) Because we are not hermits, we face this test every day.
8. (14) The more imperfectly others relate to us, the harder we must try to relate properly to them.
9. (16) But we make
10. (17) Occasionally we must
11. (21–22) at face value, but neither
12. (23) Whether the criticism comes as a friendly remark or as a stern rebuke, we pass this test as we learn to benefit from criticism.
13. (27) A man of authority himself, the apostle Paul passed

**Review Exercises**

1. IL
2. IC
3. TA
4. TP
5. IC