Exercise 7: Mind Your Manners

The following groups of words are not complete sentences because they don’t have subjects—words that work together with verbs. In the blanks provided, supply a subject to complete each sentence. (It helps to skim the whole story first.)

EXAMPLE: ________ have terrible manners.

SOLUTION: Many people have terrible manners.

1. On the freeway, ________ make you tense by tailgating and blasting their horns.

2. In department stores, ________ follow you around suspecting you of shoplifting.

3. ________ crowd behind you in line for the ATM trying to see your bank balance.

4. On the bus, ________ won't give up their seats for elderly people or students laden down with books.

5. In a concert hall, ________ wear intense cologne spiked with gardenias, vanilla, and cloves.

6. And sometimes in a theater, ________ loudly analyze the plot all through the movie.

7. In restaurants, ________ throw tantrums over fifteen minute waits for their check.

8. At baseball games, ________ jump up in front of me right in the middle of a double play.

9. Of all these rude people, ________ bug me the most.

10. ________ should take a course on etiquette.
Exercise 8: Get a Job

In this exercise, follow the two steps for identifying verbs and their subjects underline the verbs once and the subjects twice.

Example: Most people work in conventional occupations like accounting, teaching, or retail sales.
Solution:

Step 1: (5 years ago) Most people worked in conventional occupations like accounting, teaching, or retail sales.
To change the time, we have to change work to worked, so work is the verb.

Step 2: To find the subject, ask yourself Who or what works? The answer is people, so people is the subject.

1. Some people have more interesting careers.
2. They become Guillotine Operators, White Kid Buffers, or Liquid Runners.
3. A Guillotine Operator cuts pencils, not necks.
4. A White-Kid Buffer operates a leather buffer machine, not white his.
5. A Liquid Runner in a candy factory regulates the flow of syrup.
6. Some people become Gizzard-Skin Removers in a poultry plant.
7. A close friend working as a Bosom Presser irons blouses in a laundry
8. Her husband, a Top Screw, is the boss of a bunch of cowpunchers.
9. Working in one of these occupations teaches young people about life in the real world.
10. But after reading about these jobs, most people want to get a college degree.