AP Style Practice Exercise #7 (Writing and Reporting News, Chapter 20)

A. Cross out the errors in mechanics and style in the sentences below and write your correction above them. Indicate page references in the AP Stylebook or WRN, as appropriate. The number in parentheses indicates the number of errors in the sentence. (Compound nouns count as 1 item.) DEADLINE: IN CLASS ON WEDNESDAY.

1. John Powers, a spokesman for the Pasco sheriff’s department, said the boys left a 50 pound box of milky ways on a bench. (3)

2. The robber was described as a man in his middle 20’s about five ft., 10 in. and 140 lbs. (3)

3. The fire in the apartment at the 2,700 block of Northeast 30th St. caused an estimated 9000 dollars worth of damage. (3)

4. The boy suffered second and third degree burns over 1/3 of his body. (3 – Check AP entries for fractions, hyphens.)

5. The weapon was a 22-caliber handgun. (1)

6. Firemen arrived on the scene about six thirty in the morning. (2)

7. The temperature of a fire in an apartment can reach 1,700° near the ceiling. (1)

8. The defendant was sentenced to five years’ in prison. (2)

9. The mummified body was found on January 30th. (1)

10. The plaintiff seeks judgement in excess of ten thousand dollars. (2)
B. For the selection below, identify the sentence-skills mistakes at the underlined spots. From the list below, choose the letter that describes the error and write it in the space provided beneath the paragraph. (Some mistakes may appear more than once.) For any error you don’t understand, refer to Working With Words, the grammar section of the AP Stylebook or any Grammar Review handouts for assistance.

One of the most destructive diseases in the world today are also the most common: the flu. Each year, this virus effects about 35 million americans, resulting in 115,000 hospital visits and 30,000 deaths. In some years’, flu outbreaks can be even more severe. In 1918, for example, a strain of the flu spread around the world. Over 20 million people died. Including 600,000 in the United States.

One reason the virus is so destructive is that it spreads easily. A handshake or a hug with an infected person can quickly spread the flu. In addition, the disease can pass to others through the air when a flu victim coughs or sneezes. Once exposed to the virus, symptoms such as fever, headache, body aches chills, cough, sore throat, stuffy nose, and exhaustion appear in less than 24 hours.

Currently there is no cure for the flu, but there is good news. For most people, the flu goes away in about a week, vaccines are now available that can prevent the flu and reduce its severity. Doctors recommend the “flu shot” to everyone. Especially people over 65.