Breaking Grammar Rules Quick Check: *Solid* or *Rule-Breaker (RB)*?

RB! Try: I walked all the way to Santa Cruz.

RB! For whom am I holding this glass of wine?

RB! I cut down only the trees that were marked with yellow ribbons.

Articles:

1. **RB!** Why did cat cross the road?
2. **Solid!** Why did Cat cross the road?
3. **Solid!** Why did the cat cross the road?
4. **Solid!** The cats crossed the road.
5. **Solid!** None of the cats crossed the road.

Modifiers:

1. **RB!** Having finished my dinner, the waitress offered to bring out the dessert tray.
   
   Try: Once I finished my dinner, the waitress offered to bring out the dessert tray.

2. **RB!** Without knowing his name, it was hard to introduce him.
   
   Try: It was hard to introduce him without knowing his name.

3. **RB!** A cop just knocked on my door and said my dogs were chasing people on bikes.
   
   Try: A cop just knocked on my door and said my dogs were chasing people that were on bikes.

4. **RB!** The park ranger spotted a beaver peering through his binoculars.
   
   Try: Peering through his binoculars, the park ranger spotted a beaver.

Prepositions:

1. **Solid!** Jim has worked at NPS for 20 years.
2. **Solid!** She arrived at base around 4 p.m.
3. **Solid!** Apartments in Monterey are expensive.
4. **Solid!** The blue areas on the map indicate water.
5. **RB!** I met the nicest people at Monterey, California.
6. **Solid!** I met the nicest people at the Trident Room in Monterey.

Tricky Pronoun Exercises:

1. **Which is correct?** The dog chased its ball.
2. **Which is a better use of which?**
   
   I cut down all the trees, which gave the family lots of firewood for the winter.

3. **Which is a better use of that?**
I phoned everyone I knew that was in the fire area.

4. Which is a better use of *who* rather than *whom*?
   Who lives there?

Subject / Verb Agreement:
Solid or RB?

1. I walks to the store. **RB! (walk)**
2. Everyone walks to the store. **Solid!**
3. James and his friend walks to the store. **RB! (walk)**
4. China walk to the store. **RB! (walks)**
5. The United States walks to the store. **Solid!**
6. Five minutes are a lot of time. **RB! (is)**
7. Five minutes is a lot of time. **Solid!**
8. The crowd roars as the musicians come on stage. **Solid!**
9. The crowd roar as the musicians come on stage. **RB! (roars)**

QUICK SENTENCE DIAGNOSTIC
Are the following proper sentences?
If not, please fix them so that the puppies are all happy, and the road is all clear! (By the way, if you’d like more practice on types of words, identify them below.)*Sentences borrowed from Warriner’s.*

1. *When you drive a car, you must carry liability insurance, which pays for any damage or injury that you may inflict on others. NO – add an introductory comma between car and you

2. *Insurance in some places is cheaper than it is in others. NO – remove comma (IC DC)

3. *How much insurance costs depends on how congested traffic is in the area. YES

4. *If you live in a rural community, you probably pay much less than you would if you lived in a city. NO – remove second comma (DC, IC DC)

5. *An unmarried male who is under twenty-five pays the highest premium because statistics show that he is the worst risk. NO – remove comma (IC DC)

6. *Drivers who have a record of accidents must also pay a high premium since they have cost their insurance companies a great deal of money. NO – remove semi-colon or remove since

7. If you are properly insured, it is a very good idea to drive to and around Lake Tahoe. NO – add introductory comma between insured and it

8. I particularly recommend the East shore of Lake **Tahoe**, **but** if you are going during Winter then you might prefer Kirkwood and the West shore. NO – add a FANBOY comma in between **Tahoe** and **but**