

Sample Paper 17**Score for Sentence Fluency** _____**This Won't Hurt a Bit**

When was the last time you had a to have an injection? Yes, a shot—like in the arm, backside, leg, or mouth. Do you remember it? Chances are you do. For some people, it's downright traumatic. What's more, just before you flinched, cried, or passed out, you probably heard someone utter the famous line, "Relax! This won't hurt a bit." Then, of course, the old needle poked you. Ouch!

Now there may be an alternative to a poke in the arm—or at least one is being tested and developed. Chemists and doctors in Oxford, England have discovered a way to make injections virtually pain-free. The secret is a space-age tube that injects drugs under the skin at supersonic speeds, using helium, of all things. (And no, floating weightless like a balloon is not one of the side effects, though some people might like that so much they wouldn't even care about pain anymore.)

With this type of injection, the drug particles are extremely tiny, so when they penetrate, the patient feels almost nothing. That's worth repeating: *almost nothing*. Better still, doctors who have tried the new supersonic tube claim they can measure dosages with much greater accuracy than was possible using the old syringe method. This makes injections not only painless, but much safer in the bargain.

Of course, no one has said for sure whether the dose of helium raises the pitch of the patient's voice. In the future, we may hear tiny, mouse-like voices joyously squeaking, "Thanks! That didn't hurt a bit!"