

RW question 14

According to Naomi Nakayama of the University of Edinburgh, the reason seeds from a dying dandelion appear to float in the air while _____ is that their porous plumes enhance drag, allowing the seeds to stay airborne long enough for the wind to disperse them throughout the surrounding area.

Which choice completes the text so that it conforms to the conventions of Standard English?

- A) falling,
- B) falling:
- C) falling;
- D) falling

Key	D
Domain	Standard English Conventions
Skill	Boundaries

Key Explanation: Choice D is the best answer. No punctuation is needed.

Distractor Explanations: Choices A, B, and C are incorrect because each inserts unnecessary punctuation (a comma, colon, and semicolon, respectively) between the sentence’s subject (“the reason . . . falling”) and the verb “is.”