

Fifteen Common Errors Quiz 1 Answers

Each item properly corrected counts for 1 mark, except for the paragraph under section 4, which counts for 3 marks.

1. Sentence Fragment (AOW 550)

Error (missing subject and verb): The cat that ate the canary.

Corrected: We found the cat that ate the canary.

Error (missing verb): The cat that ate the canary.

Corrected: The cat that ate the canary ran away.

Error (missing subject): Gives her patients their daily medications.

Corrected: The nurse gives her patients their daily medications.

Error (missing conjugated verb): His mother, hoping he will finish his homework.

Corrected: His mother is hoping he will finish his homework.

or

Corrected: His mother hopes he will finish his homework.

Error (dependent clause): Although many people disagree with that opinion.

Corrected: Many people disagree with that opinion.

or

Corrected: Although many people disagree with that opinion, most people agree with it.

2. Comma Splice and Fused Sentence (AOW 551)

Error: Baked potatoes contain only about 25 calories per ounce, potato chips contain about 150 calories per ounce.

Corrected: Baked potatoes contain only about 25 calories per ounce, whereas potato chips contain about 150 calories per ounce.

or

Corrected: While baked potatoes contain only about 25 calories per ounce, potato chips contain about 150 calories per ounce.

or

Corrected: Baked potatoes contain only about 25 calories per ounce; potato chips contain about 150 calories per ounce.

or

Corrected: Baked potatoes contain about 25 calories per ounce. Potato chips contain about 150 calories per ounce.

Error: Helen came into the room, she saw José on the couch.

Corrected: Helen came into the room, and she saw José on the couch.

or

Corrected: Helen came into the room, where she saw José on the couch.

or

Corrected: Helen came into the room; she saw José on the couch.

or

Corrected: Helen came into the room. She saw José on the couch.

Error: The writer took a long time to answer it seemed clear that the question had troubled her.

Corrected: The writer took a long time to answer; it seemed clear that the question had troubled her.

or

Corrected: The writer took a long time to answer. It seemed clear that the question had troubled her.

3. Subject-Verb Agreement Problem (AOW 552)

Error: The entire class, including forty students and five instructors, are enjoying the on-line discussion group.

Corrected: The entire class, including forty students and five instructors, is enjoying the on-line discussion group.

Error: The eager crowd of women, men, and children are slowly pressing into the small theatre.

Corrected: The eager crowd of women, men and children is slowly pressing into the small theatre.

Error: Anne Frank's diary of her hopes, joys, and fears inspire readers to this day.

Corrected: Anne Frank's diary of her hopes, joys, and fears inspires readers to this day.

Error: The information contained therein, including all claims, allegations, and proclamations, were rendered null and void.

Corrected: The information contained therein, including all claims, allegations, and proclamations, was rendered null and void.

4. Pronoun Problem- Agreement, Reference, or Unwarranted Shift Within Paragraph (AOW 553)

Error (incorrect pronoun): Each child took out their toothbrush and lined up at the sink.

Corrected: Each child took out his or her toothbrush and lined up at the sink.
or

Corrected: The children took out their toothbrushes and lined up at the sink.

Error (unclear pronoun reference): The garbage truck backed into the tree, but it wasn't damaged.

Corrected: The garbage truck backed into the tree, but the tree wasn't damaged.

Error (unclear pronoun reference): The boy and his father knew that he was in serious trouble.

Corrected: The boy and his father knew that the boy was in serious trouble.

Error: She spoke t the man that is in charge of contributions.

Corrected: She spoke to the man who is in charge of contributions.

Error: Singers need to master several fundamentals. One of the most important of those is that you should listen to the other players and singers. Sometimes it takes many years to develop this skill. For others, it comes to you naturally. One of the ways to develop this skill is to watch the other player or players and develop a

sense of non-verbal communication. I recommend that everyone read Grace Sutherland's book *Exercises in Music Listening* and put some of her drills to use.

Corrected: Singers need to master several fundamentals. One of the most important of those is listening to the other players and singers. Sometimes it takes many years to develop this skill. For others, it comes naturally. One of the ways to develop this skill is to watch the other player or players and develop a sense of non-verbal communication. Apprenticing singers should read Grace Sutherland's book *Exercises in Music Listening* and put some of her drills to use.

5. Dangling Participle (AOW 554)

Error: Pacing back and forth, the delay was unbearable for John.

Corrected: Pacing back and forth, John found/was finding the delay unbearable.
Or

Corrected: The delay was unbearable for John, who was pacing back and forth.

Error: Rushing to finish the essay, Bob's printer broke.

Corrected: While Bob was rushing to finish the essay, his printer broke.

6. Misplaced Modifier (AOW 555)

Error: She bought a coat for her sister from The Bay.

Corrected: She bought a coat from The Bay for her sister.

Error: I only walked as far as I had to.

Corrected: I walked only as far as I had to.

7. Pronoun Case (AOW 555)

Error: Jan and me began jogging together, and soon became good friends.

Corrected: Jan and I began jogging together, and soon became good friends.

Error: The coach gave Jan and I some good tips.

Corrected: The coach gave Jan and me some good tips.

Error: The coach asked Jan to teach these tips to Paul and I.

Corrected: The coach asked Jan to teach these tips to Paul and me.

Error: The coach asked Jan to teach these tips to Paul and myself.

Corrected: The coach asked Jan to teach these tips to Paul and me.

Error: Her and Jan began jogging together, and soon became good friends.

Corrected: She and Jan began jogging together, and soon became good friends.

Error: Please bring some candy home for Jack, Gloria, and I.

Corrected: Please bring some candy home for Jack, Gloria, and me.

Error: Jan and myself presented the award.

Corrected: Jan and I presented the award.

Error: Last year's MVP presented this year's award to Jan and myself.

Corrected: Last year's MVP presented this year's award to Jan and me.

Error: I was determined to find out whom had really written that old book.

Corrected: I was determined to find out who had really written that old book.

Error: Who are you inviting to the dinner?

Corrected: Whom are you inviting to the dinner?

8. Missing Comma (AOW 557)

Error (A): Although old and rusty the car is still mechanically sound.

Corrected: Although old and rusty, the car is still mechanically sound.

Error (B): Dave's hobby cross-country skiing keeps him in good physical condition.

Corrected: Dave's hobby, cross-country skiing, keeps him in good physical condition.

Error (C): Mary enjoys most types of music although jazz is her favourite.

Corrected: Mary enjoys most types of music, although jazz is her favourite.

Error (D): One should drink plenty of water especially when exercising.

Corrected: One should drink plenty of water, especially when exercising.

Error (E): Sixteen people applied for the job but only one was selected.

Corrected: Sixteen people applied for the job, but only one was selected.

Error (F): Passengers on the jet liner bound for Alaska, became increasingly nervous as the ice storm intensified.

Corrected: Passengers on the jet liner bound for Alaska became increasingly nervous as the ice storm intensified.

9. Misused Colon or Semicolon (AOW 558))

Error (colon): Some useful medicinal herbs that are native to Alberta include: dandelion, red clover, yarrow, and oats.

Correction: Some useful medicinal herbs are native to Alberta: dandelion, red clover, yarrow, and oats.

or

Correction: Some useful medicinal herbs that are native to Alberta include the following: dandelion, red clover, yarrow, and oats.

Error (semi-colon): Many medicinal herbs are native to Alberta; including dandelion and red clover.

Correction: Many medicinal herbs are native to Alberta: these include dandelion and red clover.

10. Tense Problems (AOW 559)

Error: On their way into town, they seen a moose in the ditch.

Corrected: On their way into town, they saw a moose in the ditch.

Error: Hans come to Canada from Germany last year.

Corrected: Hans came to Canada from Germany last year.

Error: After mowing the lawn, he laid in the hammock.

Corrected: After mowing the lawn, he lay in the hammock.

11. Mixed Construction (AOW 560)

Error: By exercising regularly makes one fit.

Corrected: Exercising regularly makes one fit.

or

Corrected: By exercising regularly, one can become fit.

Error: The reason that I left was because I was bored

Correction: I left because I was bored.

12. Parallel Structure Required (AOW 576)

Error: She enjoys swimming, cooking, and to play tennis.

Corrected: She enjoys swimming, cooking, and playing tennis.

Error: His first winter in Alberta was long, cold, and had lots of wind.

Corrected: His first winter in Alberta was long, cold, and windy.

13. Apostrophe Problem (AOW 562)

Error (singular possessive): Gladys feels that her schools dress code is too strict.

Corrected: Gladys feels that her school's dress code is too strict.

Error (plural possessive): During the hailstorm, all the houses roofs were damaged.

Corrected: During the hailstorm, all the houses' roofs were damaged.

Error (contraction): The committee didnt accept the costly proposal.

Corrected: The committee didn't accept the costly proposal.

Error: It's time for the company to face up to it's responsibilities.

Corrected: It's time for the company to face up to its responsibilities.

14. Overuse of Passive Voice (AOW 563)

Error: The vase was knocked onto the floor by the dog.

Corrected: The dog knocked the vase onto the floor.

Error: A meeting is being called by the president.

Corrected: The president is calling a meeting.

Error: Once a decision has been made by the board, all members will be notified.

Corrected: Once the board has made a decision, it will notify all members.

15. Confusion over Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Qualifiers (AOW 564)

Error (restrictive): The Canadian province, Saskatchewan, lies on the prairies, in the middle of the country.

Corrected: The Canadian province Saskatchewan lies on the prairies in the middle of the country.

Error (non-restrictive) The capital of Canada Ottawa has cold, damp winters.

Corrected: The capital of Canada, Ottawa, has cold, damp winters.

My mark out of 55: _____