

Fifteen Common Errors Quiz 1

Each of the following numbered items contains errors of the type named by the numbered heading. See if you can fix the error. Then refer to 15 Common Errors Quiz 1 Answers for suggested solutions and references to the pertinent pages of *Acting on Words*. Each item counts for one mark, except for the paragraph under question 4, which counts for 3 marks.

1. Sentence Fragment

The cat that ate the canary.

Gives her patients their daily medications.

His mother, hoping he will finish his homework.

Although many people disagree with that opinion.

2. Comma Splice and Fused Sentence

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

Helen came into the room, she saw Jose on the couch.

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

3. Subject-Verb Agreement Problem

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

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

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

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

4. Pronoun Problem—Agreement, Reference, or Unwarranted Shift Within paragraph

Each child took out their toothbrush and lined up at the sink.

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

The boy and his father knew that he was in serious trouble.

She spoke to the man that is in charge of contributions.

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 recommed that everyone read Grace Sutherland's book *Exercises in Music Listening* and put some of her drills to use.

[This paragraph contains three erros and counts for 3 marks.]

5. Dangling Participle

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

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

6. Misplaced Modifier

She bought a coat for her sister from The Bay.

I only walked as far as I had to.

7. Pronoun Case Problems

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

The coach gave Jan and I some good tips.

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

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

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

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

Jan and myself presented the award.

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

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

Who are you inviting to the dinner?

8. Missing Comma

Although old and rusty the car is still mechanically sound.

One of Dave's hobbies cross-country skiing keeps him in good physical condition.

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

One should drink plenty of water especially when exercising.

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

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

9. Misused Colon or Semicolon

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

Many medicinal herbs are native to Alberta; including dandelion and red clover.

10. Tense Problems

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

Hans come to Canada from Germany last year.

After mowing the lawn, he laid in the hammock.

11. Mixed Construction

By exercising regularly makes one fit.

The reason that I left was because I was bored

12. Parallel Structure Required

She enjoys swimming, cooking, and to play tennis.

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

13. Apostrophe Problem

Gladys feels that her schools dress code is too strict.

During the hailstorm, all the houses roofs were damaged.

The committee didnt accept the costly proposal.

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

14. Overuse of Passive Voice

The vase was knocked onto the floor by the dog.

A meeting is being called by the president.

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

15. Confusion over Restrictive and Non-Restrictive Qualifiers

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

The capital of Canada Ottawa has cold, damp winters.