

## Para Jumbles

### *Warm-up exercise*

Rearrange the following sentences so that they form a logical and coherent sequence:

- (A) The production of most of the CFCs and HCFCs is now banned.
- (B) However, a recent study has found new CFCs and HCFCs being released into the atmosphere.
- (C) A few exceptions exist where there is no alternative for example, the fire suppression systems in submarines.
- (D) Chloroflourocarbons (CFCs) and hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) are the major ozone-depleting gases.

Answer choices:

- (a) ABCD (b) BCDA (c) DACB (d) DBCA

Ans.: (c)

### *Solving PJ Questions*

1. Sequential Pair
2. Opening and closing sentences
3. Logical structure
4. Simplifying sentences to connect ideas
5. Holistic approach and working with choices

## SOLVING PJ Questions

### 1. Sequential Pair

The first step in solving a PJ question is to identify **any two sentences** that form a sequential pair. If the two sentences do not come one after the other in the paragraph, we can at least know that one has to come before or follow the other.

- 1 (a) Names, Abbreviations, nouns and pronouns:
- A. Kunjika Singh was allotted **a position** at the *National Physical Laboratory (NPL)*.
  - B. **The position** at the *NPL* carried a lot of prestige.
  - C. It was indeed an achievement for Kunjika to have obtained **the position**.

1(b) Keywords:

Words such as *moreover*, *but*, *because*, *in spite of*, *furthermore*, *yet*, *nevertheless*, *although*, *instead*, *in addition to*, serve to connect ideas in a paragraph and hence are good clues to pairing sentences in a question.

Other keywords to note as clues to connecting sentences in PJ questions are:

*also, furthermore, in addition, similarly, likewise, moreover*  
*first of all, finally, firstly, secondly, former, latter, earlier, later, in the beginning, at the end*  
*hence, so, thus, therefore, subsequently, consequently, in other words, to sum up, as a result*  
*Besides, barring, with the exception of, generally, mostly, commonly, rarely*  
*still, nevertheless, yet, in spite of that, nonetheless, however*

1 (c) *Time sequence and chronology:*

The **tense structure** of sentences can give a clue about the sequence.

The sentences go either from stating something in the past to talking about the future or in the reverse sequence.

A mixed sequence is rare in PJ questions.

### Example question

S1: Another advice came from my first boss Iyer.

- (A) I was a fresh executive in the company.
- (B) Iyer had taken me for lunch during which we would have a one-on-one chat.
- (C) This advice too has helped me a lot.
- (D) During that conversation he told me that I should take make work seriously but not myself.

Answer choices:

- (a) DCAB (b) DBAC (c) ABCD (d) ABDC

Ans.: (d)

In the following five sentences, four form a logical and coherent sequence. Identify the sentence which *does not form part* of the paragraph.

- (A) In the early 20th century rail mounted cars or trams were part of major cities across the world.
- (B) But rail systems, disguised as ‘metro’, are still the spine of city transport.
- (C) Railway lines were initially laid for long distance transport.
- (D) Horse-drawn streetcars gave way to the electric trolley technology invented in 1888.
- (E) Later in the century, most of these rail systems were replaced by buses.

Answer choices:

- (a) A (b) B (c) C (d) D Ans. (d)

## Solving PJ Questions-2 Opening and Closing Sentences

- Opening sentence would be **introducing** the subject discussed in the rest of the sentences or it could be **general sentence** as opposed to sentences mentioning specific points or examples.
- Closing sentences would be of the nature of **concluding** or closing the subject or could be **introducing the points** to be discussed in following paragraphs.

identify the opening and closing sentences:

- (A) The chief problem is that a dwindling working population will have to support a growing proportion of the old.
- (B) But that is much easier said than done in a situation where the population is aging and shrinking very fast.
- (C) Yet immigration is still far from an easy way out.
- (D) When Shinzo Abe returned to office, the biggest challenge facing him was pulling Japan out of a long deflationary period.

(D) is an opening sentence while (C) is the concluding sentence

## Solving PJ Questions-3 Logical Structure

Some common logical structures followed:

- A well known example followed by explanation or discussion.
- A phenomenon followed by examples.
- A statement or claim followed by supporting evidence or arguments.
- Statements followed by conclusion.

## Solving PJ Questions-4 simplifying sentences

- (A) Experts such as Larry Burns, head of research at GM, reckon that only such a full hearted leap will allow the world to cope with the mass motorization that will one day come to China or India.

(cope with mass motorisation)

- (B) But once hydrogen is being produced from biomass or extracted from underground coal or made from water, using nuclear or renewable electricity, the way will be open for a huge reduction in carbon emissions from the whole system.

(Production of hydrogen will make things easier)

- (C) In theory, once all the bugs have been sorted out, fuel cells should deliver better total fuel economy than any existing engines.

(Fuel cells will become more efficient)

(D) That is twice as good as the internal combustion engine, but only five percentage points better than a diesel hybrid.

(Only 5% better than diesel hybrid)

(E) Allowing for the resources needed to extract hydrogen from hydrocarbon, oil coal or gas, the fuel cell has an efficiency of 30%.

(Fuel cell has an efficiency of 30%)

(a) CEDBA (b) CEBDA (c) AEDBC (d) ACEBD

[Ans. (a)]

### **Solving PJ Questions- 5 Holistic Approach/Options**

Holistic approach involves reading all the sentences and then making sense of the paragraph as a whole. This approach may work well for example, with paragraphs that narrate a sequence of ideas or events. When we read a sequence of events even in a jumbled arrangement, our mind automatically makes the most logical sequence.

This method may be tried with the following jumbled sentences:

(A) But many such properties are either present in machines that nobody is willing to call alive, or absent from organisms that everybody is willing to call alive.

(B) And a visitor from another planet, judging from the enormous numbers of automobiles on the Earth and the way in which cities and landscapes have been designed for the special benefit of motorcars, might well believe that automobiles are not only alive but are the dominant life form on the planet.

(C) An automobile, for example, can be said to eat, metabolize, excrete, breathe, move, and be responsive to external stimuli.

(D) For many years a physiological definition of life was popular and life was defined as any system capable of performing a number of such functions as eating, metabolizing, excreting, breathing, moving, growing, reproducing, and being responsive to external stimuli.

Ans.: DACB

### **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

1.

(A) The Flipkart spokesperson added that they were expanding capacity to provide smoother shopping experience the next time.

(B) Apologising to fans who couldn't purchase Xiaomi smart phone on the first day, Manu Jain, India Head said they had underestimated the demand.

(C) Jain added that Xiaomi would ensure that customers who missed out on the first day's sale are automatically registered for the next sale.

(D) Flipkart had seen an overwhelming demand for the smart phone, resulting in the website's crash and was sold out on the first day of its sale.

Ans.: BCAD

2.

(A) The user then receives a return call that delivers recorded messages with sponsored information.

(B) Aiming to reduce data charges for these users, FB is testing a new feature in India.

(C) Sandberg says India, with a total of 100 million users, is Facebook's second-largest market and of 'critical importance'.

(D) The feature lets a mobile phone user click a button to call a brand advertiser and then disconnect the call.

Ans.: CBDA