

Science in Classics

Exercises on Grammar

Series 01

Notation

- Errors are blue.
- Correct versions are green.
- Comments are black.
- Highlights are red.

Error

- As most people know, the number of nuclear plant is increasing.

Error

- As most people know, the number of nuclear **plant** is increasing.

plant should be plural

Correction

- As most people know, the number of nuclear **plants** is increasing.

Error

- The Daya Bay nuclear plant is now operating. About 70% of it's output is provided to Hong Kong.

Error

- The Daya Bay nuclear plant is now operating. About 70% of **it's** output is provided to Hong Kong.

it's = it is

its = belonging to it

Correction

- The Daya Bay nuclear plant is now operating. About 70% of **its** output is provided to Hong Kong.

Error

- Though the nuclear energy is very useful, many people are concerned about safety.

Error

- Though **the** nuclear energy is very useful, many people are concerned about safety.

A noun for a general (not a specific) object should not be preceded by **the**.

Correction

- Though Δ nuclear energy is very useful, many people are concerned about safety.

Δ = no article

Compare

- Δ Nuclear energy is useful.

general

- The nuclear energy produced by the reactor is used to generate electricity.

specific

Error

- There were many accidents in nuclear plants in former Soviet Union.

Error

- There were many accidents in nuclear plants in Δ former Soviet Union.

missing article **the**

Correction

- There were many accidents in nuclear plants in **the** former Soviet Union.

Generalize

- the Soviet Union
- the United States
- the People's Republic of China
- the United Kingdom

Generalize

- The Chinese University of Hong Kong *
- the University of Hong Kong
- the University of London

* In this case The is part of the proper name, and should be capitalized.

But

- Δ Hong Kong University
- Δ London University

Δ = no article

Rule

Anything specific should be preceded by **the**.

- not any union, but **the Soviet Union**
- not any states, but **the United States**

- not any university, but The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Errors

- Since the beginning of century, scientists discovered particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Error 1

- Since the beginning of century, scientists discovered particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Simple past tense should not be associated with **since**.

Correction 1

- At the beginning of century, scientists discovered particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Error 2

- At the beginning of Δ century, scientists discovered particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

missing article **the**

Specific noun should be preceded by **the**.

Correction 2

- At the beginning of the century, scientists discovered particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Error 3

- At the beginning of the century, scientists discovered Δ particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

missing article **a**

A general countable singular noun should be preceded by **a/an**.

Correction 3

- At the beginning of the century, scientists discovered **a** particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Corrections

- At the beginning of the century, scientists discovered a particle capable of releasing the energy dormant in matter.

Error

- Moreover, fossil fuel, crude oil and coal which is nonrenewable.

Error

- Moreover, fossil fuel, crude oil and coal **which is** nonrenewable.

no main clause

plural subject --- **is**

Correction

- Moreover, fossil fuel, crude oil and coal **are** nonrenewable.

Error

- A new type of energy is urgently needed and nuclear energy may be one of the most suitable type.

Error

- A new type of energy is urgently needed and nuclear energy may be one of the most suitable type.

one of many

type should be plural

Correction

- A new type of energy is urgently needed and nuclear energy may be one of the most suitable **types**.

Error

- Moreover, nuclear energy is not limited by geographical as in the case of solar energy.

Error

- Moreover, nuclear energy is not limited by geographical as in the case of solar energy.

The preposition **by** should be followed by a noun.

Correction

- Moreover, nuclear energy is not limited by **geography** as in the case of solar energy.

Error

- The further development of nuclear energy is blocked because of long term problems have occurred.

Error

- The further development of nuclear energy is blocked because of long term problems have occurred.

See next slide for analysis.

Analysis

Either

- because of (noun)

Or

- because ... (verb)

Correction

version 1

- The further development of nuclear energy is blocked because of long term problems.

Correction

version 2

- The further development of nuclear energy is blocked because long term problems have occurred.

Errors

- Many of the radionuclides which normally present in the fuel may thus evaporate and release.

Error 1

- Many of the radionuclides which normally ? present in the fuel may thus evaporate and release.

missing verb **to be**

present is not a verb

Correction 1

- Many of the radionuclides which **are** normally present in the fuel may thus evaporate and release.

Error 2

- Many of the radionuclides which are normally present in the fuel may thus evaporate and release.

See next slide for analysis.

Analysis

Note active / passive voice

- Galileo released the stone.
- The stone was released by Galileo.
- The radionuclides were released.

Correction 2

- Many of the radionuclides which are normally present in the fuel may thus evaporate and may be released.

(Adding may makes the two parts parallel.)

Corrections

- Many of the radionuclides which are normally present in the fuel may thus evaporate and may be released.