<p style="text-align:center;color:red;font-weight:bold">Sentence structure and parts of speech</p>

<p style="color:red;font-weight:bold">Subject-verb matching</p>

A singular subject must have a singular verb; a plural subject must have a plural verb.
So, you have to
- figure out what the subject is
- decide if the subject is singular or plural
- identify which verb goes with the subject
- and check if the verb matches the subject

➢ Some nouns with plural forms are considered as singular like:
Mathematics, statistics, economics, logistics, athletics, politics (they are considered as a field)

example:

Logistics is about delivering the right product to right person at the right time.

➢ Some figures and measurement units are also considered as singular when the amount referred to is a unit

examples:

- Fifty dollars **is** too much for such a product. - Two hours **is** long time to wait

✗ However, if these words **describe single items rather than a whole**, they are considered as plural,

✗ but some collective nouns are singular because they are considered as a whole/ as a unit

example: army, family, audience, team, public

"number" can be considered as singular or plural. If it is preceded by "a", it is considered as plural

but if it's preceded by "the" it is considered as singular.

- There **are a number** of measures that can be used to examine this problem. - **The number** of tourists **has** risen

- Try to **identify the part of speech** tested and the part of speech needed in the blank that helps you find the answer quickly.

- You **don't always need to read or understand the whole sentence t**o find the answer.

- **Read the different alternatives** to decide whether to read the whole sentences or not:

  - **If** they are **conjunctions** you **have to understand all the sentence a**nd the relation between the two clauses : **cause/effect, contrast…**

  - but **if** they are **prepositions,** in most of the cases you **don't need to read the whole sentence**, which makes you **save time**

- prefixes and suffixes can help you identify the meaning of the words.

- One of the main pitfalls is to **think the question is about tenses while it is about countable/uncountable and subject-verb matching** or **causative verbs.**

  Take these examples:

● National autos ------ this factory

A- owns   B- are owning   C- have owned   D- have been owing

The right answer is A and it is the only one in the singular matching the singular subject « national autos » despite the « s » of « autos » ; « national autos » is a company, so it's singular

● The police --------------- very conscientious about parking violations.
A- is   B- are   C- was   D has been

The right answer is B because the police is plural, all the other answer choices are singular

- Another main distractor is **long, complex sentences,** and sometimes with **complex vocabulary and long names**. Again, you **don't need to understand every single word** in the sentence. So, different reading strategies can be used:

  ✗ Most importantly check if you can find the answer without reading all the sentence; for instance the question is about dependent prepositions.

    Example:

SPC Sportswear's focus --------------- personalized service has ensured overall customer satisfaction.

a- for
b- at
c- on
d- to

In this case you don't need to understand all the sentence because « focus » must be followed by the preposition « on » so, the right answer is c.

✗ don't pay attention to long complex names or replace them by a simple name or just X

✗ Simplify the sentence: delete parenthetical information (information between two parentheses or between two commas or two dashes)

Example:

I'll be soon completing a bachelor's degree with a major in modern langages – English and Chinese – and a minor in Business, Economics and Law.

This sentence may seem hard to understand but it can be simpler if we delete « English and Chinese » between two dashes and « Economics and law » between two commas (the second comma is deleted because it's the end of the sentence and replaced by a full stop.
So the simple sentence is :

I'll be soon completing a bachelor's degree with a major in modern langages and a minor in Business.

However, this parenthetical information can help you understand a word which is essential to answer the question: parenthetical information (coming between two dashes, or two commas or two parentheses explains the word or phrase that comes just before it

« English and Chinese » explained « modern languages «

and « Economics and Law » explained « Business »