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SPOTTING THE ERROR: IDENTIFICATION METHOD



To be successful in error spotting, a candidate must have a good understanding of English vocabulary and grammar. You must identify a mistake in the sentences provided in error spotting. Nouns, pronouns, adjectives, adverbs, or any other grammatical flaw in the sentence can be the source of the error.

The first step in resolving problems about recognising faults is to carefully examine the entire sentence. In most circumstances, you'll be able to spot the mistake on the first try. You must carefully check the subject-verb agreement while reading the complete sentence. The following step is to double-check all spellings. Very often a mistake can be detected in wrong spellings. If you still can't see the error or aren't sure what the correct answer is, read each component of the sentence again and carefully check which element contains an error. You should also go over the list of basic rules so that you can have a deeper understanding of the error spotting.

TYPICAL MISTAKES

- **Nouns**

A noun is a word that functions as the name of a place, person, thing, action or quality. It can be singular or plural, however, the verbs used for singular and plural are different.

Army, clergy, people, peasantry, animals, and other singular nouns represent plurality and take a plural verb in a sentence.

Clothes, scissors, trousers, amends, spectacles, and other nouns take the plural verb because of their plural form.

The noun form (singular/plural form) of a noun expressing weight, number, money, length, or measure that follows a number does not change as long as another noun or pronoun follows it, for example—meters,

quarter, dozen, yard, million, etc.

Few sample statements:

1. The APCs were placed at a hundred yards distance. (Plural form)
2. It took them 50 days to climb up the 8848 meter Mount Everest. (Singular form)

- **Pronouns**

In the instance of possession, a pronoun is a term that refers to the noun in the phrase. When using the pronoun 'one,' make sure to keep it throughout the phrase. 'Whose' is normally used for live persons, while 'which' is used for non-living things.

- **Adjectives**

An adjective is a word that describes a person, place, or thing's specialisation, merits, demerits, quality, or flaw. The relative pronoun 'that' is used after adjectives in the superlative degree instead of 'who' or 'which.' 'As' is used both before and after the adjective to show equality.

- **Adverbs**

An adverb is a word that changes the meaning of a verb or an adjective. Some adverbs have the same meaning, which causes people to become confused. Less and fewer are two words that come to mind. 'Fewer' denotes quantity whereas 'Less' denotes a number, and adjectives such as little, a little, and the little are employed in many contexts.

Other Rules

- Words beginning with the letter ‘H’ such as hour, honourable, heiress, and so on, are regarded as silent. As a result, the article accepts the vowel ‘An’ rather than ‘A’. As a result, proper usage is “an hour,” “an heiress,” “an honour,” and so on.
- Do a double-checking of subject-verb agreement. If the subject is singular, so should the verb be. Similarly, if the subject is plural, the verb must also be plural. Furthermore, when written in the present tense, both the noun and the verb take plural forms in opposing ways. In the singular form of a noun, for example, a “S” is added in the singular form of a verb, the “s” is removed.
- Look for issues with conjunction usage, remember that each phrase can only use one conjunction at a time. It is incorrect to use “As” and “So” in the same sentence, for example.
- The distinction between “Many” and “Much” is that “much” is used before uncountable nouns, whereas “many” is used before countable nouns. Uncountable nouns are substances that can no longer be broken down into smaller components. “Litres of water,” for example (the term “water” here cannot be split down further into smaller units). Countable nouns, on the other hand, are substances that can be fragmented into separate chunks. “Two birds,” for instance (the presence of the word “two” makes the verb countable).
- The distinction between “Whose” and “Which”—“whose” relates to live things, whereas “which” refers to inanimate objects. The phrase “whose mobile is lying there?” is incorrect, whereas the phrase “which mobile is lying there?” is correct.
- The phrase “one of” must always be followed by a plural noun. For example, the phrase “it is one of the loveliest weather” is inaccurate, but “it is one of the loveliest weathers” is correct.
- Nouns that refer to a group of people, such as jury, panel, squad, audience, government, and so on, can be used as collective nouns.
- Other collective nouns can be used singularly or plurally, depending on their meaning. The verb is singular when these terms refer to a single unit otherwise, it is plural.
- The words ‘scarcely’ and ‘hardly’ are followed by the word ‘when.’
- The word ‘unless’ is usually negative. It’s a conditional expression. With ‘unless,’ ‘not’ is never used.
- The format of the different words in the sentence that serve the same function should be the same. For example—All undergraduate students should learn word processing, accounting, and java programming instead of All undergraduate students should learn word processing, accounting, how to work with java programmes.

- Modifiers are used to change the subject and must be placed next to it. The sentence's meaning is altered as a result of their actions.
- The proper words should be used in the proper context. For example—Using the sentence—It will affect you instead of It will affect you.
- Avoid making the same point over and over again. For example—Please repeat the sentence again is incorrect. The correct way is—Please repeat the sentence.
- The question tag is positive, while the statement is negative, and vice-versa. For example, It a little late, is it? (Incorrect). It is a little late, isn't it? (Correct).
- 'Unless' conveys a condition that is always employed in the negative sense, 'not' is never used with it. For example—You will not be released unless you do not pay the bail bond (Incorrect). You will not be released unless you do pay the bail bond (Correct).

INCORRECT SENTENCE	CORRECT SENTENCE
1. I would like the host for the propose the toast.	1. I would like the host to propose the toast.
2. Rishi wants to hear the tone for one more time. Could you please repeat it for her again?	2. Rishi wants to hear the tone for one more time. Could you please repeat it for her?
3. You will not get the ice cream until you do not complete your work.	3. You will not get the ice cream until you complete your work.
4. Rita would love to plays her guitar.	4. Rita would love to play her guitar.
5. It was cruel of you to berating her in front of her parents.	5. It was cruel of you to berate her in front of her parents.
6. Although I am very busy, but I'll take out time for your work.	6. Although I am very busy, I'll take out time for your work.
7. She was having dance practice before she was called by her father.	7. She had dance practice before she was called by her father.
8. No sooner that I had finished my work when my mother called me into the kitchen.	8. No sooner had I finished my work than my mother called me into the kitchen.
9. He worked hardly to gain this position.	9. He worked hard to gain this position.
10. She was there in a market but she never told me about your fracture.	10. She was there in a market but she did not tell me about your fracture.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Direction—Some elements of the sentence in the following questions may be incorrect. Choose the correct option, after determining whether part of the phrase has an error. Select ‘No error’, if a sentence is devoid of errors.

1. The charm (A)/ prince is(B)/ wearing a(C) / black suit. (D)/ No error (E).
2. The act of arson by Peter(A)/ was reported (B)/ to the near (C)/ fire station. (D)/ No error (E).
3. Seven quarts of honey were (A)/required to get the chocolaty consiseny (B)/and it was really difficult to (C)/acquire that consistency at the moment. (D)/ No error (E).
4. Turkey’s government (A)/ signed a deal with Space Origin (B)/ to launch three internet satellites into (C)/ the moon’s orbit, after a previous attempt end in disaster. (D)/ No error (E).
5. This goes beyond a simple client-attorney (A)/ relationship but I think our friend, logician (B)/ and guide need to pour out (C)/ everything that’s disturbing her. (D) / No error (E).
6. Tribal anguish over monetary issues (A)/ leading to the scapegoating of nontriballong-time residents (B)/reflects the continued failure (C)/to forge more comprehensive policies in Assam (E).
7. In spite their best efforts (A)/ they failed to retain (B)/ the agreement due to (C)/ undesirable political interference. (D)/ No error (E).
8. Due to his prolonged illness (A)/ he could not focus (B)/ on his studies even though (C)/ he was very much desired to do so. (D)/ No error (E).
9. The Supreme Court says Australian (A)/ judges has been too lenient in (B)/ punishment for 30 years in giving (C)/ offenders the lowest possible sentence (D)/No error (E).
10. The administration is (A)/ likely to issue a statement (B) /with regards to the investigation (C)/ of the press errors (D)/No error (E).
11. The company, Honda city, (A)/ has been producing twelve billion (B)/ units since it was (C)/ established in 1998 (D)/ No error (E).
12. Under no circumstances (A)/you would be allowed to remain (B)/ out of home after eleven o’clock, (C)/ said Rukmini to her daughter. (D)/ No error (E).
13. He held something (A) / at his side which (B) / was totally hiding (C) / by the folds of his pant. (D) / No error (E).
14. The mother forbade her daughter (A) / to walk in the sun (B) / and play with (C) / her friends in the park. (D) / No error (E).
15. New purchasing power will increasingly (A)/ come from Europe and America where (B)/ the demographics are still favourable (C)/ for high-income growth. (D)/ No error (E).
16. The old woman was (A)/ knocked down by a truck (B)/ upon crossing the street. (C)/ No error (D).
17. The angry wife (A)/ walked towards her (B)/ husband and shouted (C)/ loud at him. (D)/ No error (E).
18. I shall convey your message (A)/ to the president (B)/ when I shall reach his office (C)/, located in Kashmir. (D)/ No error (E).

19. I wonder (A) / what she has done (B) / with the music CD (C) I lend him. (D) / No error (E).

20. It had been a baffling (A) / discovery on

their (B) / anniversary that (C) he has been unsure of her at the time of their wedding. (D) / No error (E).

SOLUTIONS

1. **(A)** The error lies in the first part of the sentence. 'Charm' is a noun. 'Charming' is the adjective for 'charm'. So, instead of 'charm', 'charming' should come as the **word, here, qualifies 'prince'**.
2. **(C)** The answer is c. Here, the superlative degree of the adjective 'near' i.e., nearest should be used.
3. **(A)** Part A of the sentence contains the error as seven quarts of honey is used as a collective noun and hence 'was' should be used instead of 'were'. Therefore, answer option A is correct here.
4. **(D)** The correct option is D. 'Previous attempt' implies that it happened in the past. Hence, 'ended' should come instead of end.
5. **(C)** The correct option is C. 'Need' should be replaced with 'needs'
6. **(E)** No error in the sentence.
7. **(A)** When we use the phrase in spite, 'of' should also be used. Therefore, there is an error in part a.
8. **(D)** To qualify the subject "she," replace "want" with "desirous."
9. **(B)** The (B) part of the phrase contains a grammatical mistake. Because the subject of the phrase is "judges," which is plural, the word "has" must be substituted with "had" to make the sentence grammatically correct. As a result, the answer would be option (B).
10. **(E)** There is no mistake here. Therefore, answer option E is correct.
11. **(B)** The (B) part of the phrase contains a grammatical mistake. The usage of "present perfect continuous" tense is improper here since "present perfect tense" is employed to show completion or to discuss the result. To make the line grammatically correct, "has been producing" must be changed

with "has produced."

12. **(B)** The (B) part of the phrase has a grammatical problem. Inversion is used whenever a statement begins with a negative adverb such as hardly, scarcely, barely, seldom, rarely, not only, under no circumstances, and in no manner. To make the statement grammatically correct, "you would be allowed" must be substituted with "would you be allowed."
13. **(C)** Use "hidden" instead of "hiding," as to Be + third form of a verb is used in passive voice.
14. **(E)** No error is there in the sentence.
15. **(E)** No error is there in the sentence.
16. **(C)** The (C) part of the question contains a grammatical error. "Upon" is used to depict a situation wherein we want to refer to something that is being followed by another so as to form a series. "While" is used to show that something happened at the same point of time. The old woman was knocked down by a truck "while" crossing the street.
17. **(D)** Part (D) of the sentence contains a grammatical error. In part D, the word loud has the wrong usage. It should be used as an adverb to describe the way of her shouting. Solution - The angry wife walked towards her husband and shouted loudly at him.
18. **(C)** Part (C) of the sentence contains a grammatical error. The use of shall in both places can be termed as redundant and therefore incorrect. Solution - I shall convey your message to the president when I (no shall) reach his office, located in Kashmir.
19. **(D)** Lent is the past tense of lend, which means to give someone money or goods with the expectation that it be given back. Herein the CD was given in the past and

hence lent should be used instead of lend.
Solution - I wonder what she has done with the music CD that I lent her.

- 20. (D)** Has been is used to depict the fact that an action began at some time in the past and is still in progress. On the other hand, had been is used to depict that something

began in the past, lasted for some time, then ended. Herein the act of being unsure had already ended and therefore “had been” is to be used.

Solution—It had been a baffling discovery on their anniversary that he had been unsure of her at the time of their wedding.