**English Reviewer**

**Verbs**

**Subject-Verb Agreement:**

* **Subject Verb Agreement** – Subject-Verb Agreement means that the verb **must agree in number and person with its subject**.
* **Singular and Plural Subject Rules:**
* Singular Subject = Singular Verb
* Plural Subject = Plural Verb
* Intervening Phrase/Clause = Does Not Affect Subject-Verb Agreement
* **Compound Subjects:**
* Singular Compound Subject + “or/nor” = Singular Verb
* Plural Compound Subject +” or/nor” = Plural Verb
* One or Singular Subjects + Plural Subjects w/ “or/nor” = Nearest Subject Verb
* Compound Subject + “And” = Plural Verb
* **Confusing Subjects:**
* Amount or Measurement = Singular Verb
* Singular Collective Noun = Singular Verb
* Plural Collective Noun = Plural Verb
* Subject Preceded by Verb = Verb That Agrees w/ Subject
* **Indefinite Pronouns:**
* Singular Indefinite Pronouns (anyone/someone/anybody/everybody/nobody/somebody) = Singular Verb
* Plural Indefinite Pronoun (both/few/many/others/several) = Plural Verb
* All/Any/More/Most/None/Some = Plural Verb
* **Miscellaneous:**
* Plural-Looking Noun = Singular Verb
* Always Plural Noun = Plural Verb
* Linking Verb = Subject That Agrees
* Title = Singular Verb

**Adverbs:**

* **Adverbs** – Words that modify verbs, adjectives, other adverbs, sentences, providing information about how, where, when, to what extent, or how often something happens.

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| **Type** | **Definition** | **Adverbs** | **Example** |
| **Adverbs of Frequency** | Tell **how often** an action happens. | always, sometimes, often, usually, frequently, rarely, hardly ever, never, generally, etc. | • She **normally** eats three meals a day.  • I **usually** buy all my vegetables at the market. |
| **Adverbs of Manner** | Tell **how** or **in what way** an action happens. | cheerfully, efficiently, painfully, carefully, slowly, badly, easily, well, quickly, etc. | • The children were playing **happily** with their toys.  • The police dealt with the incident very **efficiently**. |
| **Adverbs of Time** | Tell **when** an action happens or its **duration**. | now, yesterday, soon, later, yet, tomorrow, already, tonight, today, then, last month/year, etc. | • She’d **already** gone when we got there.  • I’m going to hang out with my friends **tomorrow**. |
| **Adverbs of Place** | Tell **where** an action happens. | off, above, abroad, far, on, away, back, here, out, outside, behind, in, down, downstairs, etc. | • His children go **everywhere** with him.  • Let’s open the box and see what’s **inside** it. |
| **Adverbs of Degree** | Tell **how much** or **to what extent** something happens. | quite, too, entirely, very, extremely, rather, almost, absolutely, just, barely, deeply, etc. | • I’m not **absolutely** certain I posted it.  • He was **quite** agreeable to accepting the plan. |
| **Adverbs of Evaluation** | Show the **speaker’s opinion** or **judgment** about an action. | apparently, clearly, fairly, frankly, fortunately, honestly, hopefully, carelessly, etc. | • David is **clearly** unhappy to be here.  • **Frankly**, I think the Internet is overrated. |
| **Conjunctive Adverbs** | Connect **ideas or sentences**, showing relationships like contrast, addition, or cause. | accordingly, besides, equally, further, hence, namely, next, now, additionally, etc. | • I don’t want to go; **besides**, I’m too tired.  • **Furthermore**, they had not consulted with her. |

**Word Formation:**

* **Word Formation** – The process of **creating new words** or **changing existing words** in a language. It shows how smaller parts of language (like roots, prefixes, and suffixes) combine to form words with new meanings or functions.

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| **Process** | **Explanation** | **Examples** |
| **Compounding** | Combines **two or more words** to create a new word with a single meaning. | toothbrush, blackboard, mother-in-law |
| **Clipping** | **Shortens** a longer word while keeping the same meaning. | advertisement → ad, laboratory → lab, telephone → phone |
| **Blending** | Joins **parts** of two words to form a new one. | smoke + fog → smog,  breakfast + lunch → brunch |
| **Acronym** | Formed from **initial letters** of words and read as one word. | NASA, UNICEF, SCUBA |
| **Eponym** | A word derived from a **person’s name** or **place**. | sandwich (Earl of Sandwich), diesel (Rudolf Diesel) |
| **Borrowing** | Words taken from **other languages** and used in English. | ballet (French), piano (Italian), tsunami (Japanese) |
| **Derivation** | Adds **prefixes or suffixes** to a base word to change its meaning or class. | happy → unhappy, teach → teacher |
| **Back-Formation** | Creates a new word by **removing an affix** from an existing one. | editor → edit, television → televise |

**The Gift of Magi:**

* The story is about a **young married couple**, **Jim and Della Dillingham Young**, who are **very poor but deeply in love**.
* They live in a **small, shabby apartment** and struggle to make ends meet.
* It is **Christmas Eve**, and Della wants to buy a **special gift for Jim** to show her love.
* Della counts her savings and realizes she only has **$1.87**, which is **not enough** to buy a good present.
* She feels **sad and hopeless**, knowing how much she wants to give Jim something meaningful.
* Della has **beautiful long hair**, which is her **most prized possession**.
* Jim’s greatest treasure is his **gold pocket watch**, a **family heirloom** passed down from his father and grandfather.
* In her deep love and desperation, Della decides to **sell her hair** to a **wig maker named Madame Sofronie**.
* Madame Sofronie buys Della’s hair for **$20**, leaving Della with **short, cropped hair**.
* With the money, Della goes to the shops and buys a **platinum fob chain**—a **perfect gift** for Jim’s gold watch.
* She returns home, **nervous but excited**, hoping Jim will still find her beautiful.
* When Jim arrives home, he is **shocked and speechless** to see Della’s hair gone.
* Della explains she **sold her hair to buy his gift**, showing her **selfless love**.
* Jim then gives Della **his gift**—a set of **beautiful combs** made of **pure tortoiseshell and jeweled rims** for her long hair.
* Della bursts into **tears of joy and sorrow**, knowing she **can’t use the combs** until her hair grows back.
* When Della gives Jim the **watch chain**, Jim gently smiles and reveals he **sold his watch** to buy the combs for her.
* Both realize they **sacrificed their greatest treasures** out of **love for each other**.
* The story ends with the narrator comparing them to the **Magi**, the **wise men** who brought **precious gifts** to baby Jesus.
* O. Henry concludes that **Jim and Della are the wisest gift-givers**, because their gifts came from **true love and self-sacrifice**.

**The Cask of Amontillado:**

* The story is told by **Montresor**, the s**narrator**, who feels **deeply insulted** by a man named **Fortunato** and **vows revenge**.
* Montresor plans to **punish Fortunato** with **impunity**—meaning without getting caught or facing consequences.
* The story takes place during the **carnival season**, when people are **celebrating, drinking, and wearing costumes**.
* Montresor meets **Fortunato**, who is **already drunk** and **dressed as a jester** in a **tight-fitting, colorful costume**.
* Montresor tells Fortunato that he has **obtained a pipe (barrel) of rare Amontillado wine**, but he is **unsure of its authenticity**.
* He **pretends to seek Fortunato’s expert opinion**, playing on Fortunato’s **pride in his knowledge of wine**.
* To make Fortunato more eager, Montresor **mentions another wine expert**, **Luchesi**, knowing this will **provoke Fortunato’s jealousy**.
* Fortunato insists on **tasting the Amontillado himself**, and Montresor **leads him to his family catacombs** (underground vaults).
* The catacombs are **damp, dark, and filled with human bones**, creating an **eerie and sinister atmosphere**.
* As they go deeper, Fortunato **coughs from the nitre (white mold)** on the walls, but Montresor **encourages him to continue**, pretending to care about his health.
* Montresor repeatedly offers **wine (Medoc and De Grave)** to keep Fortunato **intoxicated and off guard**.
* They reach a **small niche at the end of the passage**, where Montresor says the **Amontillado is stored**.
* Fortunato steps inside, and Montresor suddenly **chains him to the wall**.
* Montresor then **builds a wall of bricks**, **sealing Fortunato inside alive**.
* At first, Fortunato thinks it is a **joke**, but soon realizes the **horror of his fate**.
* He **laughs nervously**, then **cries and begs for mercy**, but Montresor **remains silent and cold**.
* When Fortunato **stops responding**, Montresor **places the last brick** and **walls up the entrance completely**.
* Montresor remarks that **no one has disturbed the tomb** for **half a century (50 years)**, revealing he **was never caught**.
* The story ends with Montresor saying **“In pace requiescat”**—Latin for **“May he rest in peace.”**
* The theme highlights **revenge, pride, and the darkness of the human soul**, showing how **Montresor’s calm cruelty** makes the tale **terrifying and ironic**.