

Sentence Correction

MCQ type questions with explanations

Having to have been what is like a chameleon, the spy could take on many different personas.

- Possible Answers:
- Having to had been like a chameleon
- Had been what like a chameleon
- Having to have been what is like a chameleon
- To have been having what is like a chameleon
- Having to be like a chameleon

- Correct answer:
- Having to be like a chameleon
- **Explanation:** The underlined portion of the sentence is extremely wordy and confusing. The best way to improve the sentence is to simplify the phrase while retaining its original intended meaning. The answer choice that best does this is "Having to be like a chameleon."

Replace the underlined portion with the answer choice that results in a sentence that is clear, precise, and meets the requirements of standard written English.

- In such a dismal investment climate, neither of the long/short equity funds have greater than a 50% chance of outperforming their benchmark.
- Possible Answers:
- neither of the long/short equity funds have had a greater than 50% chance of outperforming their benchmark
- neither of the long/short equity funds has greater than a 50% chance of outperforming its benchmark
- neither of the long/short equity funds have had a greater than 50% chance of outperforming their benchmarks
- neither of the long/short equity funds have greater than a 50% chance of outperforming their benchmark
- neither of the long/short equity funds have greater than a 50% chance of outperforming their benchmarks

- Correct answer:
- neither of the long/short equity funds has greater than a 50% chance of outperforming its benchmark
- **Explanation:** Neither is a singular noun; the verb “has” must agree.

Rational creatures can made items that augmented the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcend the limitations of naturally gave substantial forms.

- Possible Answers:
- Rational creatures can make items that augment the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcending the limitations of naturally give substantial forms.
- Rational creatures can make items that augment the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcend the limitations of naturally given substantial forms.
- Rational creatures can makeing items that augmented the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcends the limitations of naturally given substantial forms.
- Rational creatures can makes items that augments the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcends the limitations of naturally given substantial forms.

- Correct answer:
- Rational creatures can make items that augment the natural capacities of themselves and other beings in ways that transcend the limitations of naturally given substantial forms.
- **Explanation:** The correct answer is the only one in which all the verbs agree in number with their objects and in the present tense in line with the structure of the sentence.

The lions, each of which are a fine specimen, was raised entirely in captivity and never intended to be released into the wild.

- Possible Answers:
- each of which are a fine specimen, were raised
- each of which are a fine specimen, was raised
- each of which is a fine specimen, was being raised
- each fine specimens, was raised
- each of which is a fine specimen, were raised

- Correct answer:
- each of which is a fine specimen, were raised
- **Explanation:**
- Although the interrupting phrase uses the singular "each," the subject of the sentence is the plural "lions," making the singular verb form "was" incorrect. The verb must be changed to a plural verb form. Furthermore, within the interrupting phrase itself, the singular "each" calls for a singular verb in the phrase: "is." As the only answer choice which makes this change, "each of which is a fine specimen, were raised" is the correct answer.

Any attempt to summarize modern music is not only challenging but also misled, as there are an incredible range of styles and expression in today's music.

- Possible Answers:
- but also misled; there are an incredible range of styles
- but also misled, there being an incredible range of styles
- but also misled, with there being an incredible range of styles
- but also misled, as there is an incredible range of styles
- but also misled, as there are an incredible range of styles

- Correct answer:
- but also misled, as there is an incredible range of styles
- **Explanation:**The subject is "range of styles," which is singular. Therefore, the verb should refer to a singular subject. The correct answer choice does this and also makes the most efficient use of language.

Him and I are going to make the case in the morning for tougher standards.

- Possible Answers:
- Him and I are going
- He and I are going
- Him and I are gone
- I and him are going
- Him and I going

- Correct answer:
- He and I are going
- **Explanation:**The use of the pronoun "him" in the subject of the sentence is incorrect, as "him" should only be used as the object of the sentence. The proper third person male pronoun for the subject of the sentence is "he," making "He and I are going" the correct answer choice.

Me and the boys are going to travel there once the weather is better.

- Possible Answers:
- Me and the boys go
- The boys and I are going
- The boys and me are going
- The boys and I am going
- Me and the boys are going

- Correct answer:
- The boys and I are going
- **Explanation:**The use of the pronoun "me" is incorrect, as it used as the subject of the sentence, but is only correctly used as an object. The form needs to be change to "I." The only choice which does this and is grammatically correct is "The boys and I are going."

2. The art studio is spacious, pleasantly cluttered, and has good lighting.

- A) and has good lighting
- B) and being well-lit
- C) and is lit well
- D) and well-lit
- E) and the lighting is good

The school board requested that a waiver be obtained and that the residency requirements are reviewed.

- A) that the residency requirements are reviewed
- B) the residency requirements will be reviewed
- C) the residency requirements reviewed
- D) to review the residency requirements
- E) a review of the residency requirements

- **(C)** is correct

Richard is not only a terrific pianist, but also
great at playing hockey.

Inspired by storylines that would come to him in dreams, Lord Bennington would stage one-man plays, his audience enjoying the show.

- Possible Answers:
- Lord Bennington would stage one-man plays that were inspired by storylines from his dreams; his audiences would enjoy the shows.
- Inspired of storylines that would come to him in dreams, Lord Bennington would stage one-man plays, his audiences enjoyed the show.
- Inspired by storylines that would come to him in dreams, Lord Bennington would stage one man plays, his audiences enjoying the show.
- Inspired by storylines that would come to him in dreams, Lord Bennington would stage one-man plays; his audiences enjoying the show.

- Correct answer:
- Lord Bennington would stage one-man plays that were inspired by storylines from his dreams; his audiences would enjoy the shows.
- **Explanation:** The original statement is grammatically incorrect because "audience" and "show" should be plural. Also, "his audience enjoying the show" makes the sentence into a run-on. The correct answer is concise and not awkward.

Every person in the room appreciating the jokes by the performers.

- Possible Answers:
- Every person in the room has appreciating the jokes by the performers.
- Every person in the room appreciating the jokes by the performers.
- Every person in the room appreciating the jokes of the performers.
- Every person in the room appreciated the jokes by the performers.
- Every person in the room appreciating the jokes from the performers.

- Correct answer:
- Every person in the room appreciated the jokes by the performers.
- **Explanation:**
- The sentence as written is actually a fragment, as it does not contain a proper verb. The word "appreciating" in the sentence is a gerund, or a verb form that can function as a noun. The correct answer will use a full verb form, as "Every person in the room appreciated the jokes by the performers" does.

Religious texts often appear quite difficult to understand, being contradictions of themselves.

- Possible Answers:
- being contradictions of them.
- contradicting themselves.
- contradicting them.
- being contradictions of themselves.
- being contradicting them.

- Correct answer:
- contradicting themselves.
- **Explanation:**
- The underlined phrase in the sentence is awkwardly worded, which makes the sentence itself difficult to understand. The "religious texts" contain contradictions, a meaning not conveyed properly by the sentence. "Contradicting themselves" is the clearest, most appropriate choice among the answers.

All people choose their own religious denomination when they have been adults.

- Possible Answers:
- they have been adults.
- when they have been adults.
- when they are adults.
- when adults they have been.
- when being adults.

- Correct answer:
- when they are adults.
- **Explanation:**
- The underlined phrase is very awkwardly worded, and the use of the past perfect form "have been" is confusing. The phrase needs to be cleaned up for better clarity of meaning. "When they are adults" is the best choice among the answers.

Few people understand the sheer work involved in having written of a novel.

- Possible Answers:
- writing having been done for a novel.
- having written of a novel.
- having written novel.
- having writing of a novel.
- writing a novel.

- Correct answer:
- writing a novel.
- **Explanation:**
- The underlined phrase is awkwardly worded, and as such can lead to confusion. In order for the sentence to be improved, the words should be simplified and clarified. Making the final phrase of the sentence simply "writing a novel" is the best answer choice.

The teacher reprimanded all the students after the final. She didn't realize only a few had cheated.

- Possible Answers:
- Having reprimanded all the students after the final, the teacher didn't realize
- The teacher reprimanded all the students after the final. She didn't realize
- The teacher reprimanded all the students after the final, she didn't realize
- The teacher reprimanded all the students after the final, not realized
- Although the teacher reprimanded all the students after the final, she hadn't realized

- Correct answer:
- The teacher reprimanded all the students after the final. She didn't realize
- **Explanation:**
- In this case, the original is the best choice. It separates independent clauses with a comma, and avoid the passive voice.

**The artist depicted the responses of farmers to industrialization:
this was a perspective rarely seen at the time.**

- Possible Answers:
- industrialization, a perspective having been rarely seen, at the time.
- industrialization. This was a perspective rarely seen, at the time.
- industrialization: this being a perspective, at the time, rarely seen.
- industrialization: this was a perspective rarely seen at the time.
- industrialization, at the time, a perspective rarely seen.

- Correct answer:
- industrialization: this was a perspective rarely seen at the time.
- **Explanation:**
- Here the original sentence is the best option: it is simple and uses correct punctuation.

Although only given serious attention in recent decades, the author had a devoted fanbase in the time of his own.

- Possible Answers:
- in the time of his own.
- in the own time.
- in the time that was his own.
- in his own time.
- in the time being his own.

- Correct answer:
- in his own time.
- **Explanation:**
- The underlined portion of the sentence is grammatically correct, but very awkwardly worded. It can be both cleaner and more sensible by being simplified. The best, most simplified, answer choice is "in his own time."