

SENTENCE CORRECTION

The 4 Steps for Sentence Correction

1. Take a *First Glance*
2. Read the Sentence
3. Find a *Starting Point*
4. Eliminate Answers

Identify what SC concept is being tested.

For example, if the concept tested is parallelism, try to figure out what items should be in parallel. If it is modifiers, identify the referent of each clause and their correct placement.

- Treat options A, B, C, D, E equally.

Even if you feel sure that a particular answer choice is right, don't make up your mind till you have really looked at the other options.

- Look for subject verb mismatches.

Subject Verb Agreement is one of the easiest errors to identify in any SC questions, at least 1 option can be eliminated in this way. So look for these first.

Either my neighbour or her children is coming for dinner.	ans: are
Neither they nor I were mistaken.	ans: was

Errors in use of Pronouns:

e.g.

One must not reveal his secrets to all.	ans: one's secrets to all
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- 'one' as a subject should use *one's*.

- Don't get confused by pronoun ambiguity.

Ambiguous pronouns are a problem only if the meaning of the sentence is affected because of the pronoun. Use this concept only if all else fails.

Example 1

The common cold is one of our most indiscriminate diseases;
A

it makes no distinction between you and me, millionaires and
B C D
paupers, or athletes and couch potatoes. No error
E

Step 1: Read the whole sentence

Reading this sentence, I don't notice anything jump out, although D sounds kind of weird. Even if that answer seems tempting we can't pick it until we determine what the error is.

Step 2: Check each answer choice

First let's check B for errors, since it includes both a pronoun and verb. Make sure to confirm that the verb works. Let's go through the possible errors for choice B one at a time.

Is the pronoun in the correct case? Yes. "It" is acting as subject for the verb "makes," which is perfectly acceptable.

Does the pronoun agree with its antecedent? Yes. "It" is standing in for "the common cold," which is a singular non-gendered noun.

Is the verb correctly conjugated? Yes. "It" is a singular pronoun and "makes" is a singular verb.

Is the verb in the correct tense? Yes. It's in the present tense, which is consistent with the rest of the sentence.

Let's move on to choice D, "you and me," which also includes pronouns. This section sounds a little weird, but remember that pronoun order doesn't matter—we only need to check agreement and case, like we did above.

Are the pronouns in the correct case? This question is a bit trickier. It would sound just fine to replace "me" with "I"—"it makes no distinction between you and I"—but "between" is a preposition, so the object case "me" is correct.

Although D sounds odd, it doesn't contain an error. We can eliminate it and move onto C, which includes a noun and preposition. We'll check the preposition first since it's more likely to include an error.

Is the preposition idiomatically correct? Yes. "Distinction between" is a common expression.

Does it incorrectly complete a word pair? No. "Between" is correctly followed by two prepositions connected by "and."

Is the sentence consistent in its use of plural and singular nouns? Yes. There's no issue with agreement.

Since we didn't find any issues with C, we'll move onto checking the last answer, A, "one of our most."

Is the phrase idiomatically correct? Yes. "One of our most indiscriminate diseases" is a clear and acceptable phrase.

Is the superlative/comparative correct? Yes. The common cold is being compared to *all* of the other diseases, so "most" is the correct word choice.

We can conclude that there is no error in A, so we've ruled out all the choices, leaving only E, "no error."

Step 3: Confirm what the error in your answer is

This sentence doesn't have an error, so the correct answer is E.

Example 2

The architect's research shows that even when builders construct houses of stone, they still use the hammer more than

A B C

any tool. No error

D E

Step 1: Read the whole sentence

Step 2: Check each answer choice

We'll start with A,

Is the verb correctly conjugated?

Is the verb in the correct tense

Is the preposition idiomatically correct?

Does it incorrectly complete a word pair?

Is the noun part of a faulty comparison?

Is the sentence consistent in its use of plural and singular nouns?

Is the modifier of the correct type? "Still" is describing when the builders use the hammer, so it's correct as an adverb.

Are the comparative and superlatives [-er and -est] used appropriately?

Is the noun part of a faulty comparison?

That comparison seem fine, but it actually includes an error. A hammer is a tool, so it must be compared with any *other* tool, rather than just "any tool." D is the answer.

Step 3: Confirm what the error in your answer is

Choice D is the answer because it creates an illogical comparison. We've also definitely ruled out the other choices (except no error).

CLASS WORK

Directions for Q1 to Q5: Each sentence has been divided into four parts – (A), (B), (C) and (D). Identify which part has an error.

- After an outbreak of the so-called Mad Cow's disease, (A) / the United Kingdom was forced (B) / to quarantine its beef exports (C) / and killing thousands of cows (D).
(a) (A) (b) (B)
(c) (C) (d) (D)

- Police departments all over the world (A) / employs computers and other electronic equipment (B) / to capture the criminals (C) / they pursue (D).
(a) (A) (b) (B)
(c) (C) (d) (D)
- The novels of John Irving (A) / depict common everyday life (B) / in New Hampshire (C) / where he grown up (D).
(a) (A) (b) (B)
(c) (C) (d) (D)
- The Chinese, (A) / who are credited with (B) / the inventing of gunpowder, (C) / also created the kite and the printing press (D).
(a) (A) (b) (B)
(c) (C) (d) (D)
- In 1978, the atoll Eniwetok was declared uninhabitable (A) / for at least 350 years (B) / because of the high levels of radiation (C) / resulting U.S. nuclear testing (D).
(a) (A) (b) (B)
(c) (C) (d) (D)

Directions for Q6 to Q10: In each sentence below, a part has been given in bold. Choose the best answer option to replace the underlined part. If no correction or replacement is necessary, choose option (e).

- Making friends is more rewarding than **to make enemies**.
(a) to have enemies
(b) enmity
(c) get enemies
(d) making enemies
(e) No correction required
- There's **not so much** work to do this week.
(a) many
(b) plenty
(c) less
(d) any
(e) No correction required
- Had I realised** how close I was to the edge of the road, I would not have raised the speed of the car.
(a) Had I been realized
(b) If I would have realized
(c) When I realized
(d) Had I had realized
(e) No correction required

9. They continued to work in the field **despite of the heavy rains**.
(a) even though there is heavy rain
(b) although heavily rains
(c) in spite the heavy rains
(d) even though it rained heavily
(e) No correction required
10. Their earnings are such that they find it difficult **to make both ends to meet**.
(a) to makings both ends meet
(b) to make both ends for meeting
(c) to make both ends meet
(d) for making both ends to meet
(e) No correction required

Directions for Q11 to Q15: In each sentence below, a part has been underlined. Beneath the sentence you will find five ways of phrasing the underlined part. The first of these repeats the original; the other four are different. If you think the original is best, choose the first answer; otherwise choose one of the others.

11. A conjunction is used to connect words and sentences together.
(a) words and sentences together.
(b) words or sentences together.
(c) words and sentences.
(d) words or sentences.
(e) words to sentences.
12. Citing the recent rise in violence against foreigners, the Embassy urged expats to remain vigilant, avoid the Blackburn district, and refraining from travelling late at night.
(a) refraining from travelling late at night
(b) travelling during the day instead of the night
(c) as an imperative, refrain from travel at night
(d) as an imperative, refrain from travel at night
(e) refrain from travelling at night
13. The protestors campaigned against whale hunting, didn't they?
(a) didn't they
(b) weren't they
(c) were they
(d) isn't it
(e) wasn't it

14. The sports writer questioned the skill of basketball players compared to tennis players.
(a) skill of basketball players compared to tennis players
(b) skills of basketball players compared to tennis players
(c) skill of basketball players to tennis players
(d) skill of basketball players compared to that of tennis players
(e) skill of basketball players compared to those of tennis players
15. It is a special feature of cell aggregation in the developing nervous system that in most regions of the brain the cells not only adhere to one another and also adopt some preferential orientation.
(a) to one another and also adopt
(b) one to the other, and also they adopt
(c) one to the other, but also adopting
(d) to one another but also adopt
(e) to each other, also adopting

Directions for Q16 to Q20: The sentences below have four words/phrases which are underlined. Identify the incorrect usage. If there is no error, mark 'E'.

16. The union (A) insisted on an increase in (B) their (C) members' starting pay, and threatened to call a strike if the company (D) refused to meet their demand.
(a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) Error
17. Television viewers claim (A) that the number of scenes (B) depicting alcohol consumption (C) have increased dramatically (D) over the last decade.
(a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) Error
18. Employees with (A) less personal problems (B) are (C) likely to be (D) more productive.
(a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) Error
19. The three richest men in America (A) have assets worth more (B) than the (C) combined assets of the sixty poorest countries (D) of the world.
(a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) Error

20. Fifty percent of the people alive today (A) have never made a phone call, (B) but thirty percent (C) still have no electricity connections in (D) their homes.
- (a) A (b) B
(c) C (d) D
(e) Error

Directions for Q21 to Q25: A part of each sentence is underlined. Choose the right option to replace the underlined part. If no change is required, choose the option "The sentence is correct as given".

21. Unless I'm grossly mistaken, the store is usually closed on Sundays.
- (a) Until I'm grossly mistaken
(b) Until I'm greatly mistaken
(c) Unless I'm grossly mistook
(d) Unless I'm grossly mistaked
(e) The sentence is correct as given.
22. The first robot that can sense and show emotions is developed as the ultimate interactive toy.
- (a) was developed
(b) is now developed
(c) is being developed
(d) were being developed
(e) The sentence is correct as given.
23. A government employee has to work for some hours a day and can avail himself of only a fixed number of holidays.
- (a) a given number
(b) a specified number
(c) an unscheduled number
(d) some number
(e) The sentence is correct as given.
24. Haridas Kumar Pal's battered Fiat car was alongside the garage.
- (a) along side
(b) alongside of
(c) alongside with
(d) along side to
(e) The sentence is correct as given.
25. The lion turned in Haridas Kumar Pal and knocked him senseless.
- (a) turned down
(b) turned off
(c) turned about
(d) turned on
(e) The sentence is correct as given.