

PARA JUMBLES

Para jumbles are paragraphs that are arranged in any sequence and require a proper rearrangement to generate a coherent meaning out of them.

# APPROACHES FOR PARAJUMBLES

1. Noun-Pronoun Relationship Approach  
In noun/pronoun relationships, we know that the noun will come first and will be referred to later using suitable pronouns.



Study the following **example:**

A .People can get infected by handling reptiles and then touching their mouths or an open cut.

B. At first they look the perfect pets: exotic, quiet and tidy.

C. A study estimates that in 1995, there were as many as 6,700 reptile-caused salmonella infections.

D. But lizards and other pets can harbour a salmonella bacterium that makes people sick.

(a) BCAD (b) BCDA (c) ACDB (d) BDCA

## **EXPLANATION:**

Read sentences C and D carefully.

Sentence D contains the noun phrase “a salmonella bacterium” and Sentence C contains the noun phrase “salmonella infections”. What is the relationship between the two? Since the phrase “a salmonella bacterium” introduces the bacterium, it should logically precede the phrase “salmonella infections”.

Therefore, the sentence that contains the phrase “a salmonella bacterium” should come before the sentence that contains the phrase “salmonella infections”. So, Sentence D should precede Sentence C! Once you have a link between two sentences, look at the answer choices to see if you are on the right track. If you are, then you have the right answer [(Option (d) BDCA)] and it is time to move on to the next exercise.

# POLL QUESTION

**Q1.**

(1) The traveller said, "Can you tell me the way to the nearest inn?"

P. "Do you want one in which you can spend the night?"

Q. "Yes", said the peasant.

R. "Go right down the road and turn to the left."

S. "Yes", replied the traveller.

(6) "thank a lot".

a. PSRQ

b. QPSR

c. SPQR

d. QSRP



# ANSWER

**Q1.**

(1) The traveller said, "Can you tell me the way to the nearest inn?"

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b. **QPSR**

c. SPQR

d. QSRP



## **Acronym Approach:**

Full Form vs. Short Form When we introduce someone or something, we use the complete name or title. When we refer to the same someone or something later in the paragraph, we use just the surname or the first name if we are on familiar terms with the person being discussed. If we are discussing an object, we remove the modifiers and just use the noun or a pronoun to refer to it. In Parajumbles we encounter full and short names or sometimes acronyms of some term or institution.

## Example:

World Trade Organisation – WTO, Dr. Manmohan Singh – Dr. Singh, Karl Marx – Marx, President George W. Bush – President Bush or The President. The rule is that if both full form as well as short form is present in different sentences, then the sentence containing full form will come before the sentence containing short form.

## Example 2

- A. If you are used to having your stimulation come in from outside, your mind never develops its own habits of thinking and reflecting.
- B. Marx thought that religion was the opiate, because it soothed people's pain and suffering and prevented them from rising in rebellion.
- C. If Karl Marx was alive today, he would say that television is the opiate of the people.
- D. Television and similar entertainments are even more of an opiate because of their addictive tendencies.

BACD (b) ADBC (c) BCDA (d) CBDA

Solution Sentence B has Marx (short form) and sentence C has Karl Marx (full form). So C will come before **B**. Now look at the options. In option **(a)**, (b) and (c), B is placed before C—hence, rejected. Option (d) is the right answer.



# POLL QUESTION

- a. The CPU carries out the instructions given by the computer program.
- b. The Central Processing Unit (CPU) is an important part of a computer.
- c. CPUs are considered the heart and brains of a computer.

- 1. Abc
- 2. bca
- 3. Bac
- 4. cab

# ANSWER

- a. The CPU carries out the instructions given by the computer program.
- b. The Central Processing Unit (CPU) is an important part of a computer.
- c. CPUs are considered the heart and brains of a computer.

In the above example, sentence 'a' and 'c' contain the abbreviations 'CPU' and sentence 'b' contains the full-form of CPU. Therefore, sentence 'b' comes before sentence 'a' and 'c'. Right order: **b, a, c**.

## **Time Sequence Approach (TSA)** – either Dates or Time Sequence Indicating Words

In a given parajumbles, there may be a time indication given, either by giving years – or by using time indicating words. This provides a way for us to identify the correct sequence of the sentences by arranging the sentences using their proper time sequence. Some words through which a time sequence may be indicated are – Before, after, later, when, etc.



## Example 3

A. Then two astronomers—the German, Johannes Kepler, and the Italian, Galileo Galilei—started publicly to support the Copernican theory, despite the fact that the orbits it predicted did not quite match the ones observed.

B. His idea was that the sun was stationary at the centre and that the earth and the planets move in circular orbits around the sun.

C. A simple model was proposed in 1514 by a Polish priest, Nicholas Copernicus.

D. Nearly a century passed before this idea was taken seriously.

(a) CADB (b) BCAD (c) CBDA (d) CDBA

**Solution** In the above **example** you will observe that the flow of logic is in the form of a time sequence which flows from the oldest time period to a more contemporary time period. Therefore, Sentence C will be the first sentence. Sentence B expands upon the “simple model” proposed, hence, it will be the sentence following **C**. The next sentence in the order of chronology is C—nearly a century passed, while the last sentence will be A which completes the sequence from older time to contemporary time thus giving us the answer as **CBDA**.

# POLL QUESTION

- a. Hemant eats his dinner at 8pm sharp.
- b. Post-homework, he is allowed to watch TV for half an hour.
- c. After that, he does his homework.

- 1. Acb
- 2. Cab
- 3. bac



# ANSWER

- a. Hemant eats his dinner at 8pm sharp.
- b. Post-homework, he is allowed to watch TV for half an hour.
- c. After that, he does his homework.

In the above example, the words 'after' and 'post' denote time sequence. Hence, options 'c' and 'b' come after option 'a'. Right order: **a, c, b**.

## **Structure Approach**

In order to unjumble a group of sentences quickly, it is essential for us to understand how language sticks together to form a cohesive unit. English provides certain sequencing words – firstly, secondly, then, however, consequently, on the other hand, etc. – which writers use to join sentences or ideas together and to provide a smooth flow from one idea to the next. It is essential to learn how to spot these words and learn how to use them correctly. Parajumble sentences often contain several signal words, combining them in complex ways.

**Cause and Effect Signals:** Look for words or phrases explicitly indicating that one thing causes another or logically determines another. Some examples of such words are: Accordingly - in order to - because so...that consequently - therefore - given – thus – hence - when...then - if...then

**Support Signal Words:** Look for the words or phrases supporting a given sentence. Sentences containing these words will generally not be the opening sentence. These sentences will follow immediately the sentence supported. Some **examples** of such words are:

Furthermore – additionally - also – and - indeed - besides - as well – too – likewise - moreover

**Contrast Signals:** Look for function words or phrases (conjunctions, sentence adverbs, etc.) that indicate a contrast between one idea and another, setting up a reversal of a thought.

Nevertheless - nonetheless - on the contrary – notwithstanding - and - even though - instead of - despite - in spite of - while in contrast - although - however



# Example 4

- A. When conclusions are carefully excluded, however, and observed facts are given instead, there is never any trouble about the length of the papers.
- B. The reason for this is that those early paragraphs contain judgments that there is little left to be said.
- C. A judgment (“He is a boy”, “She is an awful bore”) is a conclusion, summing up a large number of previously observed facts.
- D. In fact, they tend to become too long, since inexperienced writers, when told to give facts, often give more than are necessary, because they lack discrimination between the important and the trivial.
- E. It is a common observation among teachers that students almost always have difficulty in writing themes of the required length because their ideas give out after a paragraph or two.

(a) ECDAB (b) CEBAD (c) EACBD (d) EBCAD

Solution Sentence E states the situation in general and gives us information about why students have problems “in writing themes of the required length”. Sentence B goes on to tell us “the reason for this”, so the two sentences must be related. Similarly, Sentence C is related to Sentence B because both sentences contain the word “judgment”, with Sentence C explaining what the word means. Once a link of this nature is established, go to the answer choices to see if you are on the right track. Do any of the answer choices offer our line of reasoning? Answer (d) does.

In the above jumble, the word “however” in Sentence A suggests a contrast to something mentioned previously. In situations of this kind, it is always a good idea to separate the argument clearly. Sentences A and D, therefore, should come together.

# POLL QUESTION

In the following question, the 1st and last part of the sentence/passage are numbered 1 and 6. Rest of the passage/sentence is split into four parts and named P, Q, R and S. These four parts are not given in the proper order. Read the sentence and find out which of the four combinations is correct.

**1. Nalanda became India's famous centre of education.**

P. Ten thousand Buddhist monks used to live there.

Q. It is situated near the town of Bihar Sharif.

R. The ruins of Nalanda can still be seen.

S. It was visited by the Chinese Pilgrim Hiuen Tsang.

**6. He stayed there for several years.**

Options:

QPSR B. RPSQ C. RQPS D. SPQR



# ANSWER

In the above passage the first and last sentences are given. The last sentence has a 'he' referring to a certain person who was introduced in one of the preceding sentences. The only sentence with a person being introduced is option 'S'. Therefore, 'S' is the second last sentence.

The only option with option 'S' as second last sentence is option 'C'. You can arrange the given sentences in the order given in option 'C' and read it to ensure it sound logically and grammatically correct. Also arrange them in order of other options too and see if any other sentence makes more sense than option 'C'. The option that makes the paragraph make most sense grammatically and logically, is the right option.

*The correct answer is option 'C'.*

# Linking the Sentences

Let us look at the following statements:

## Example 5

- I. As a retention strategy, the company has issued many schemes including ESOPs.
- II. Given the track record and success of our employees, other companies often look to us as hunting ground for talent.
- III. The growth of the Indian economy has led to an increased requirement for talented managerial personnel and we believe that the talented manpower is our key strength.
- IV. Further in order to mitigate the risk we place considerable emphasis on development of leadership skills and on building employee motivation. I have deliberately not given the options here.

Read all the statements one by one, and try to find out the opening statement and any possible linkage between/among the statements.

Solution Can I be the opening statement – Very Unlikely. It does not introduce any idea or theme. Ideally the 1st statement would be an initiator of ideas or theme of the passage.

Can II be the opening statement – May be. Can III be the opening statement – May be.

Can IV be the opening statement – Very Unlikely.

It talks about an idea which is being “furthered” in this statement.

You can also see that statement IV talks about “Mitigating the risk”.

What is the risk? So now we would try to find out the “risk” in other statements.

This “risk” is present in statement II in the words – “other companies often look to us as hunting ground for talent”.

So, statement II will come before statement IV.

As discussed earlier, statement IV furthers an idea, and that idea is present in statement I.

Hence, I-IV should come together.



# SOLUTION

Let us see all that we have established so far: Link – I-IV and II will come before IV and I cannot be the starting statement. Now let us look at the options:

I, II, III, IV – Ruled out and I-IV link is not present.

II, I, IV, III – This is the only option left out. Hence, answer.

III, I, IV, II – Ruled out as II comes after IV.

IV, I, III, II – Ruled out as I-IV link is not present. Hence, option (b) is the answer.

LET US REVISE

## **1st step**

Identify in each sentences

**Pronouns**

**Qualifiers /connectors/ Transition words key-subjects**

Use of Pronoun in a sentence is always after use of its corresponding Noun in preceding sentence. Nounà Pronoun

**Example -**

'Mahatama Gandhi' (5th sentence)à 'He' (1st sentence) Qualifiers tell us something about the following sentence & connectors; indicate the linkage between two sentences.

Ex 'later' (sentence 2), 'therefore'

key-subjects - are the main topic raised in a sentence



## **2nd step**

### **Find linkages**

mandatory pairs (MP)

Noun pronoun link (NP)

Clues from connectors.

### **Abbreviation hints**

Cause -effect relationship

MP → mandatory pairs → observe phrase 'legal practice' (sentence 3 & 7) → indicate that these two sentence will come immediately in sequence.

To find mandatory pairs we should always focus on initial & last part of sentences.

2 & 3 already explained

Abbreviation is used only after full form of its use. Cause -effect relationship → effect is followed by cause.

Ex phrase 'as a result' (sentence 4) indicate that there is a preceding sentence (cause) which lead to sentence 4th.

### **3rd step**

#### **Put into Order – IPS**

Introductory (first statement.)

Problem statement (-ve sense)

Solution or suggestion.

#### **Put Similar info together. Chronology order (PPF tense)**

Chronology order (PPF tense)- follow past -present -future order.

## **Specific words & usage**

Specific words-

(To find initial & last statement)

**Beginning** – firstly, first and foremost, initially, at the outset

**Ending** –hence, in conclusion, thus, lastly, therefore

Connectors

**Supporting** – and , likewise, similarly, in the same vein

**Contradicting**- however, despite this, on the contrary, on the other hand, nevertheless, instead, alternatively,

## **Cause effect connectors**

because of, since, therefore, hence, as a result, consequently, due to,

Additional information- furthermore, moreover, in addition to Time  
then, after, before, previously