
For example, try the following sentence error and sentence improvement questions.

1. If Rob was wealthy, then he would be able to afford a luxurious car and a gigantic home.
2. The young girls reported that they wanted to be cheerleader in high school.
3. Holding a treat, the dog was persuaded to come back into the yard by the owner.
4. Many people were protesting American involvement in South Asia in 1968, as they believed that the Vietnam War was unjust.

While this is not a grammar class, it is imperative that we learn the grammar concepts that are a) tested on the SATs and b) that students have trouble with on the SAT writing section. After discussing the grammar concepts, we will apply these strategies to SAT writing practice problems. Code continues from 10.11 Word Choice

These will use prepositions such as in, on, by, upon, for, with, etc.

1. advocate _____
2. agree _____
3. arrive _____
4. comment _____
5. demonstrated _____
6. effects _____
7. insist _____
8. interested _____
9. known _____
10. look _____
11. look favorably _____
12. to plot _____
13. preoccupied _____
14. to provide _____
15. regard _____
16. suggested _____

17. to work _____

The following is a list of other common errors to discuss as a class. After each topic, correct the sentence:

1. Adverbs vs. Adjectives: _____

- She walked slow to class.

2. Comparatives vs. Superlatives: _____

- When choosing between the red dress and the green dress, Laura thought that the red one was the prettiest.
- Of all the animals in the zoo, Madeline liked the zebra better.

3. Sentence Fragments: _____

- While going hunting for a bear in the woods.

4. Redundancy: _____

- Due to the pervasiveness of cell phones is the reason that many people do not buy separate digital cameras anymore.

5. Run-ons: _____

- Every day, the maid completes a list of chores written by the homeowner that are extremely tedious but she does not mind doing them because she is well compensated.

6. Less versus Fewer: _____

- Adam has less friends than Andrew does.
- Adam has fewer money than Andrew does.

7. Passive Voice: _____

- The large water coolers were filled up by the team manager.
- The bed was made by the soldier every morning.
- The large collection of stuffed animals were asked to be seen by the preschoolers.
The last sentence also contains another error. Find it and fix it!

Hints for the SAT Writing Section

- **Being**- The word “being” is extremely informal. Therefore, on the sentence improvement questions, if some of the answer choices include the word “being” and others do not, the correct answer will most often not contain the word “being”.

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- **Formality of language-** Just because a sentence “sounds right” doesn’t mean that it is! The directions state that the errors in the SAT writing questions will be that of *standard written English*. Sometimes the way that we talk is not grammatically correct. Therefore, the SAT writers will often try to trick you into an answer you may have heard in English speech before, but it may be incorrect because it violates standard written English. This is why we started this chapter with proper grammar rules.

0.1 Strategy for Sentence Error Multiple Choice Questions

1. Know the directions. The directions for the sentence error questions are as follows:

The following sentences test your ability to recognize grammar and usage errors. Each sentence contains either a single error or no error at all. No sentence contains more than one error. The error, if there is one, is underlined and lettered. If the sentence contains an error, select the one underlined part that must be changed to make the sentence correct. If the sentence is correct, select choice E. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English.

2. Know which types of errors are frequently tested in sentence errors. This includes: Subject-verb agreement, Pronoun reference, Parallelism, Adverbs vs. Adjectives, Tenses, Singular-Plural Noun Inconsistency, Comparatives vs. Superlatives, Sentence Fragments, Shift in Point of View, You and Me Errors, Idioms, Redundancy, Word Choice, and Hypothetical Statements.
3. Your goal on the sentence errors is to determine whether or not there is an error in the sentence. If so, then you must mark the error. Read through the sentence. If you clearly hear an error, then mark it. On sentence errors, you are done.
4. If you can't hear an error, check for the errors listed in this writing section. If you see one of those points that are incorrect, then mark it.
5. If you don't think that there is an error, mark answer choice "E". Many students get nervous when they can't find an error because they are unsure of whether there is an error or if the entire sentence is correct. Remember, answer choice, E, no error, is the correct answer in approximately 20% of the questions. To feel better about choosing E, we recommend going through each of the blanks and labeling the grammar point covered. For example, if the word you are underlined, then the grammar point tested is probably pronouns. Then, remind yourself of this grammar rule and ask yourself if it is properly executed. If so, then move on to the next one. If you finish answer choice D and there is still no errors, then E is most likely your answer choice.
6. If you can't decide if there is an error or not, skip the question for now and come back to it after you have finished all the other questions in the section.

1. On my most recent day off, I came across a beach wandering along a trail. No Error

A B C D E

The correct answer is D.

Sample Correction: On my previous day off, I was wandering along a trail and came across a beach.

- Sample Correction:** _____

- Sample Correction: _____

- Sample Correction: _____

- Sample Correction: _____

If I was to invent a time machine, then I would go back in time to the period around the Revolutionary War and learn firsthand what it was like to fight for freedom.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

6. As strange though it sounds, I will miss waking up at five o'clock in the morning to cook pancakes and waffles for my kids.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

7. By this time next year, we will have acquired ten new accounts and have opened two new offices abroad.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

8. Within the course of an hour, the boy had spoke three languages– French, Spanish, and Russian– in attempt to obtain directions to his hostel.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

9. Dangling from the trees, we were frightened by the monkeys that tried to steal our sunglasses.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

10. The mother demanded that her son walk quick to the store, purchase the milk, and return home with his purchase.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

11. Each of the students demonstrate their anger at the schools policy regarding uniforms by refusing to wear anything but shirts and jeans last year.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

12. When asked the question what they wanted to be when they get older, five students in the class expressed desire to become a superhero.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

13. The student wanted both to remain in Boston or move to the West Coast after graduation.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

14. Lucy was walking towards the bus stop when she decided to take a cab instead.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

15. The cameraman told the celebrity that he should position himself closer to the camera.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

16. J.K. Rowlings books have inspired millions with stories of good triumphing over evil and the power of friendship, whereas the new author has not.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

17. Over thirty million people were effected by the snowstorm, and to this day, many people are frightened when the news says that there is a possibility of snow.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

18. After waiting an hour for her friend, the woman finally arrived in the theater.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

19. When one is going to perform a piano recital, it is important that you practice every day.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

20. Many people looked foward to Stephen's participation in the class discussions, as he expressed humor, acuity, and was hilarious.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

21. Ray Charles, a blind pianist and singer who sold millions of records, were the most popular artist of his time.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

22. By virtue of their population and global manufacturing capabilities, the Chinese government is quickly becoming a political force to be reckoned with.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

23. While Mahatma Ghandi frequently resisted authority, he never advocated for the use of violence against his oppressors.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

24. Many people are concerned about the environmental affects of rampant capitalism, citing environmental atrocities that are a byproduct of manufacturing and other processes used to make cheap goods.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____

25. Although Georgia claims that she was at home all night, one of the witnesses at the crime scene had identified Georgia as the person he saw running from the scene.

Type of error: _____

Sample Correction: _____