



Verb Tense Agreement

About These Problems

These categories are fairly easy to solve in relation to other writing and grammar problems because when you sound the sentence out in your head, it is clear something is wrong. Most of these questions are set in the past or present, but the conjugation or usage of the verb is in another tense. For example "Yesterday I eat bagels." sets the context in the past but uses the present version of "eat" instead of "ate."

Question. America's first president George Washington, the first man to be leader of the USA, doing it for 8 years.

- A. the first man to be leader of the USA, doing it
- B. the first man to be leader of the USA, did it
- C. the first man to be leader of the USA, has been doing it
- D. the first man to be leader of the USA, is doing it
- E. the first man to be leader of the USA, has doing and done it

Answer. B: the clause is the same in all the options. We just have to choose "doing it" in the past tense. The only suitable option is option B.

Question. The workers all doubted the boss, who inherited the million
A B
dollar corporation, when he told them stories of his childhood when he
C
was having been poor. No Error

- D E

Answer. D: The story that is being recounted is in the past so the millionaire needs to discuss his childhood when he "was poor." The easiest way to fix this sentence is sounding it out and noticing the error is in part D.