SENTENCE CORRECTION



DRILL 1: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Answer: Yes.

Subject - Ram and I

Nature of the subject - Plural

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given – is (Singular)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "are".

2. Answer: Yes.

Subject - The Indian cricket team

Nature of the subject – Singular (collective noun)

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – have (Plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "has."

3. Answer: No.

Subject – The parents

Nature of the subject – Plural

Principle used – Non- intervention

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given – are (Plural)

4. Answer: No.

Subject – The girl

Nature of the subject – Singular

Principle used – Proximity

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given- is (Singular)

5. *Answer*: Yes.

Subject – The girl

Nature of the subject – Singular

Principle used – Proximity

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – get (Plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "gets"

6. Answer: Yes.

Subject – Everyone

Nature of the subject – Singular

Principle – Items that take singular verbs

Subsequent nature of the required verb - Singular

Verb given –have (Plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "has"

7. Answer: No.

Subject – The number

Nature of the subject – Singular

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – is (Singular)

8. *Answer*: No.

Subject – Ten million dollars

Nature of the subject – Singular (because the sum of the money is taken as a whole)

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given- is (Singular)

9. Answer: Yes.

Subject pronoun— who

Nature of the subject pronoun – Singular

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – write (Plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "writes".

10. Answer: Yes.

Subject – The pride of lions

Nature of the subject – Singular (collective noun)

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – are

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct verb to be used is "is".

Exercise 2

1. Answer: The sentence is incorrect.

Subject – She and her sister

Nature of the subject – plural

Subsequent nature of the required verb – plural

Verb given – is (singular)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "She and her sister are coming to meet the school captain."

2. Answer: The sentence is incorrect.

Subject – They

Nature of the subject – Plural

Principle used – Non intervention principle

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given – is (singular)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "They, along with their captain, are prepared to face the other team in the finals."

3. Answer: The sentence is correct.

Subject – The girls

Nature of the subject – Plural

Principle used – Proximity principle

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given -have (Plural)

4. *Answer:* The sentence is incorrect.

Subject – The Mayor

Nature of the subject - Singular

Principle used – Non intervention principle

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – are (Plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "The Mayor, as well as his brothers, is going to prison."

5. *Answer:* The sentence is correct.

Subject – The committee

Nature of the subject – Singular (Collective noun)

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular Verb given – Has (Singular)

6. *Answer:* The sentence is incorrect.

Subject – The Bench

Nature of the subject – Singular (Collective noun)

Subsequent nature of the required verb - Singular

Verb given – Have (plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "The Bench has ruled the accused guilty"

7. *Answer:* The sentence is correct.

Subject – The president

Nature of the subject – Singular

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Singular

Verb given – is (Singular)

8. *Answer:* The sentence is incorrect

Subject – She

Nature of the subject - Singular

Principle used- proximity principle

Subsequent nature of the required verb –Singular

Verb given – Were (plural)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "Neither her parents nor she herself was in favor of the verdict"

9. Answer: The sentence is correct.

Subject – The Jury

Nature of the subject – Plural(Jury is a collective noun and in this context, the members are acting as individuals, thereby making the noun plural)

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given – were (plural)

10. Answer: The sentence is incorrect.

Subject – The children

Nature of the subject - Plural

Principle used – Non Intervention principle

Subsequent nature of the required verb – Plural

Verb given – was (Singular)

There is a mismatch between the nature of the subject and the nature of the verb. The correct sentence is "The children, along with their teacher, were supposed to meet the nurse the next day"

DRILL 2: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Modifier - Which was torn

What it modifies- The store

What it should modify- The dress

The correct sentence- The girl returned the dress, which was torn, to the store.

2. No error.

Modifier - Quickly

What it modifies- The way the questions were answered

3. Modifier – with your family

What it modifies- The Brochure

What it should modify- With whom the brochure must be viewed

The correct sentence- Please take time with your family, to look over the brochure that is enclosed.

4. Modifier - Frequently

What it modifies- "Frequently" is a squinting modifier and can mean "students who miss class frequently" or "frequently fail the course"

What it should modify- how often do students miss classes

The correct sentence- Students who frequently miss classes fail the course.

5. Modifier – Wearing glasses

What it modifies- The new book

What it should modify- The writer

The correct sentence- Wearing glasses, the writer read from his new book.

6. Modifier – At the end of the meeting

What it modifies- when his speech took place

What it should modify- when he was congratulated

The correct sentence- At the end of the meeting, many of the trustees congratulated him for his speech and promised their support.

7. Modifier- quickly

What it modifies- "Quickly" acts as a squinting modifier here and can mean " ate the sweet quickly" or "quickly began to feel giddy"

What it should modify- how they began to feel giddy

The correct sentence- the guests who ate the sweet began to feel giddy quickly.

8. Modifier- who was an archaeologist

What it modifies- the dog

What it should modify-The guest speaker

The correct sentence – The guest speaker, who was an archaeologist, dedicated his new book to his dog.

9. Modifier – cleaning my room

What it modifies- The bat

What it should modify- I

The correct sentence- While cleaning my room, I found my missing cricket bat.

10. Modifier - carrying a briefcase

What it modifies- the car

What it should modify-The man

The correct sentence- The man, carrying a briefcase, walked towards the car.

DRILL 3: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

 Items present - in real estate, in stock market and solar energy Required nature of the items present – noun

Odd one out – in stock market

The correct sentence - He invested his money in real estate, stock market and solar energy.

 Items present – to swim, to skip and chatting Required nature of the items present – gerund

Odd one out - to swim, to skip

The correct sentence - His favorite hobbies are swimming, skipping, and chatting.

3. No error.

Items present - reading a book, listening to music, talking to a friend Required nature of the items present – gerund

4. No error.

Items present – either donated...or purchased

Required nature of the items present – conjunction pairs

5. No error.

Items present – safer, stronger and more secure
Required nature of the items present – comparative degree

 Items present – how to bowl, how to bat and fielding Required nature of the items present – phrase
 Odd one out – fielding (gerund)

The correct sentence - The coach taught him how to bowl, how to bat and how to field.

7. No error.

Items present – wash my clothes, water the plants and clean my bedroom. Required nature of the items present – verb

8. Items present – trek, play and cleaning Required nature of the items present – infinitive

Odd one out - cleaning

The correct sentence - Every summer, I like to trek, play a game of tennis and clean my water tank.

 Items present – counting, watching and to think Required nature of the items present – gerund

Odd one out – to think (infinitive)

The correct sentence - Counting stars, watching the moon and thinking of my school days always make me feel happy.

Items present – maintaining, arranging , to route
 Required nature of the items present –gerund

Odd one out – to route (infinitive)

The correct sentence - I am responsible for maintaining the time log, arranging meetings and also routing telephone calls.

DRILL 4: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Antecedent noun—The actor (Singular noun)

Required pronoun – his/her (singular)

Pronoun used – their (plural)

The correct sentence – During early rehearsals, an actor may forget his/her lines.

2. No error.

Antecedent noun—a person(singular)

Required pronoun – his/her (singular)

3. Antecedent noun – anyone (singular)

Required pronoun – he(singular)

Pronoun used – they (plural)

The correct sentence — If anyone of your brothers needs a ride to the bus stop, he can call me.

4. Required pronoun- I (subject)

Pronoun used – me (object)

The correct sentence — Steve, Bill and I went to the park.

5. Antecedent noun-Attendants (plural)

Pronoun used – his (singular)

Required pronoun - Their

The correct sentence — Neither the pilot nor the attendants gave their opinion about the mishap.

6. Pronoun used - me (object)

Required pronoun – I (subject)

The correct sentence – John and I drank the bottle of juice.

7. Antecedent noun – One (a gender-neutral pronoun)

Pronoun used – You

Required pronoun - One

The correct sentence — If one wants to win, one must perform well.

8. Antecedent noun – my Bible

Pronoun used - her

Required pronoun- hers (possessive pronoun, meaning 'her Bible')

The correct sentence — She underlines passages in my Bible, because she can't find hers.

9. No error.

Antecedent noun- my car

Required pronoun- yours (possessive pronoun, meaning 'your car')

10. Pronoun used – I (subject)

Required pronoun – me (object)

The correct sentence – The money will be divided between you and me.

DRILL 5: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

1. Given verb – went (simple past)

Verb to be used – will go (simple future)

The correct sentence - Tomorrow, I will go for a match.

2. Given verb- Driving (present continuous)

Verb to be used – drive (simple present)

The correct sentence – I drive the car.

3. No error.

Given verb- went (Simple past)

4. Given verb- had been talking(past perfect continuous)

Verb to be used – has been talking (present perfect continuous), because the reference point is 'now'.

The correct sentence - Ron has been talking to his friend for more than two hours now.

5. No error.

The first part denotes the past action and the second part of the sentence denotes the action that took place after the first one.

Given verb- Had entered (past perfect- used to denote the action that took place first), rose(past- used to denote the action that took place second)

6. No error.

Given verb- will meet (future)

7. No error.

Given verb- to be (future)

8. No error.

Given verb- Taking over (present continuous)

9. Both events - the performance and the party - happened in the past, but the performance happened first, and the party second.

Given verb – had finished, would go

Verb to be used – had finished (happened first), went (happened later)

The correct sentence - After he had finished his performance, he went go to the party.

10. Given verb- to happened

Verb to be used – to happen
The correct sentence - He wouldn't allow this to happen.

DRILL 6: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

- Items compared The ceiling of the Taj Mahal and the college
 Items to be compared The ceiling of the Taj Mahal and the ceiling of the college
 The correct sentence The Taj Mahal has a higher ceiling than my college does.
- Items compared The color of his shirt and me
 Items to be compared The color of his shirt and the color of my shirt
 The correct sentence The color of his shirt is lighter than mine
- Items compared The speed of his car and my speed
 Items to be compared The speed of his car and the speed of my car
 The correct sentence The speed of his car is not as high as the speed of mine
- No error.
 Items compared her liking towards tea and coffee
- 5. Items compared Raja's fan following and Rahman
 Items to be compared Raja's fan following and Rahman's fan following. The correct sentence Raja has more fan-following than Rahman does.
- 6. No error Items compared His height and his father's height
- 7. Items compared Jack's typing speed and Jim
 Items to be compared Jack's typing speed and Jim's typing speed
 The correct sentence Jack's typing speed is faster than Jim's
- 8. Items compared how Jim reads and Jack
 Items to be compared how Jim reads and how Jack reads
 The correct sentence Jim is reading faster than Jack is.
- 9. No error.
 Items compared The keypad in which I typed and his friend's keypad
- 10. Items compared how he drove his bike and his friend's bike Items to be compared – how he drove his bike and how his friend drove his bike The correct sentence - He rode his bike faster than his friend did/rode his (bike).

DRILL 6: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

- Preposition to be used between
 Between- in the period separating two points in time.
- Preposition to be used in
 In- expresses a period of time in during which an event happens
- 3. Preposition to be used on On- indicates a medium of expression eg- on stage, on TV
- 4. Preposition to be used on On time- exact time
- Preposition to be used at
 At- expresses the time when an event takes place
- Preposition to be used from, in
 From- indicates separation or an act of removal, release, or differentiation
 In- expresses a period of time in during which an event happens
- 7. Preposition to be used ago
 Ago- before the present; earlier (used with a measurement of time)
- 8. Preposition to be used –for, in, of For- expresses a duration of time, in this context, a long time In- used to indicate purpose . e.g.- said in reply, left in search Of- used to indicate cause, motive, or reason. E.g.- died of flu
- 9. Preposition to be used since Since- from a particular time in the past until a later time (or now)
- 10. Preposition to be used byBy- not later than; at or just a little before

DRILL 6: SOLUTIONS

Exercise 1

- 1. A few/some
- 2. Little
- 3. Some
- 4. A lot many times (no other option describes 'peeped')
- 5. A little
- 6. Some
- 7. Many
- 8. Any
- 9. A few
- 10. Much (I haven't-I don't have)

CONCEPT REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Pronoun- Antecedent Agreement error

Antecedent- one of the students (singular)

Pronoun used-their (plural)

Required pronoun – his/her (singular)

Correct sentence- One of the students must give his/her oral report tomorrow.

2. Parallelism error

Tense used- memorize his lines (simple present tense), getting into character (present continuous tense)

Required tense- memorize his lines (simple present tense), get into character (simple present tense)

Correct sentence- An actor knows how to memorize his lines and get into character.

3. Verb- Time Sequence error

Tense used- dismissed (simple past tense)

Required tense-to dismiss (infinitive, present tense)

Correct sentence- The moment the manager came to know the fraudulent action of his assistant, he ordered immediately to dismiss him.

4. Comparison error

Items compared- amount Jhansi gives to charity and any other church member Required items- amount Jhansi gives to charity and amount any other church member gives Correct sentence- Jhansi gives less to charity than any other church member gives.

5. Preposition error

Preposition used-among

Required preposition- between (*among* is used when there are **more than** 2 items are present and *between* is used when **2 items** are present. In this case 2 items are present i.e. *practicality* and *performance*)

Correct answer- When choosing a car you often have to choose between practicality and performance.

6. Modifier error

Modifier used- wrapped in Tupperware

What it modifies-children

What is should modify- brownies

Correct sentence- She handed out brownies wrapped in Tupperware to children.

7. Modifier error

Modifier used- that my friend gave me

What it modifies- my hand

What it should modify- the ticket

Correct sentence- In my hand, I tightly held the ticket that my friend gave me.

8. Subject -Verb Agreement error

Subject- anyone (singular)

Verb used- don't (plural)

Required verb – doesn't (singular)

Correct sentence- If anyone doesn't like the music that I am playing, he or she can go somewhere else.

9. Parallelism error

Verb forms of items in the list- running (gerund), swimming (gerund), lift weights (simple present)

Required verb forms- running (gerund), swimming (gerund), weight lifting (gerund) Correct sentence- Clara's daily exercises include running, swimming, and weight lifting.

10. Subject- Verb Agreement error

Subject to be considered, according to the proximity principle- V.V.S. Laxman (singular) Verb used- are (plural)

Required verb- is (singular)

Correct sentence- Neither Sachin Tendulkar nor V.V.S. Laxman, both of whom are batting at the crease at the moment, is capable of rescuing India's innings.

11. Pronoun –Antecedent Agreement error

Pronoun used- me (object pronoun)

Required pronoun – I (subject pronoun)

Correct sentence- My mom and I went to the funeral last Thursday.

12. Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement error

Pronoun used- former

The antecedent is missing.

13. Subject- Verb Agreement error

Subject- The possibility of massive earthquakes (singular)

Verb used- are (plural)

Required verb- is (singular)

Correct sentence- The possibility of massive earthquakes is regarded by most area residents with a mixture of scepticism and caution.

14. Preposition error

Preposition used- about

Required preposition- in

Correct sentence- It is widely believed that he is an expert in handling situations like this.

15. Determiner error

Determiner used- much

Required determiner-some

Corrected sentence-Could I have some more sugar with my coffee please?

16. Verb- Time Sequence error

Verb used- was

Required verb- is ('it remains to be seen' implies a future tense and hence past tense cannot be used in the conditional clause)

Correct sentence- It remains to be seen if she is ready for the competition.

17. Subject – Verb Agreement error

Subject- his arrogant assumption (singular)

Verb – were (plural)

Required verb- is (singular)

Correct sentence- Among the many reasons for his defeat, was his arrogant assumption that his constituents were incapable of understanding economic conditions.

18. Modifier error

Modifiers used-being afraid, opened slowly

What they should modify- 'being afraid' is used to modify John and 'opened slowly' is used to modify 'the door'

[Note- The trainer is not to provide the students with a corrected sentence]

19. Pronoun – Antecedent Agreement error

Subject, according to the proximity principle- he

Pronoun used-their (plural)

Required pronoun- his (singular)

Correct sentence- either his friends or he has to submit his project proposal by next week.

20. Subject- Verb Agreement error

Subject- the jury (in this context, a plural subject, because the members are functioning independently)

Verb used- is (singular)

Required verb- are (plural)

Correct sentence- The jury are divided in their opinion of the defendant's conviction.

21. Plural form of son-in-law- sons- in law

Correct sentence- It has been made clear that all my sons- in law will stay at my father-in-law's house.

22. Pronoun- Antecedent Agreement error

Antecedent- one (singular)

Pronoun used-their (plural)

Required pronoun-one's (singular)

Correct sentence- It is important that one takes one's responsibilities seriously.

23. Subject- Verb Agreement error

Subject- either (singular)

Verb used – were (plural)

Required verb- was (singular)

Correct sentence- I was so overcome with thirst that either of the drinks was fine with me.

24. Determiner error

Article used- a

Required article- an (the pronunciation of SMS starts with a vowel sound i.e 'es')

Correct sentence- Please send me an SMS when you are free.

25. Correct usage – a two-kilometer walk

Correct sentence- He has become so weak that even a two-kilometer- walk makes him breathless

26. *Answer:* D

Correct usage of the correlative conjunction 'as much by..as by'

27. *Answer:* A

No error

28. *Answer:* C

Only this option answers the question '3 times what price?'

29. *Answer:* A

Subject verb agreement error

'The information' is singular and hence the verb associated to it should also be singular (indicates).

30. *Answer:* D

Parallelism error

The two items compared are not in the same grammatical form thereby causing parallelism error.

