

SENTENCE CORRECTION

Concept**Subject - Verb Agreement**

- The verb must agree with the subject of the sentence in person and number.
- Collective nouns take the singular noun if the collection refers to a collection as one unit and take the plural verb if taken as individuals.
- when using neither-nor, either-or, the subjects closer to the OR and NOR determine whether a singular / plural verb is to be used.
- When the subject of the sentence is accompanied with an appositive, the subject of the verb decides the form of verb the sentence takes regardless of the number of the noun in the intervening phrase.
- each of, every one of, either of, neither of, the number of, sums of money, periods of time and quantities always take singular form of verbs.
- "A number of" always takes plural form of verb.

MODIFIERS

Modifiers are words or a group of words that give more information about some other words in a sentence. There are two types of modifiers - adjectives (these qualify nouns) and adverbs (these modify verbs). Modifiers have to be placed as close to the word they are modifying as possible.

PARALLELISM

Parallelism is all about maintaining the same grammatical structure. A sentence can lack grammatical structure in nouns, adjectives and adverbs.

PRONOUN - ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in person, number and gender. With compound subjects connected by 'or/nor', the pronoun agrees with the antecedent closer to it.

VERB - TIME SEQUENCE

The sense of sentence and the context should tell you which tense you should use. In English, it is essential to make sure that the verb tense and the time sequence it denotes are in the proper form.

COMPARISONS

You can compare only grammatically similar or logically similar items.

PREPOSITIONS

A preposition is a word (or a group of words in a particular order) which links nouns, pronouns and phrases to other words in a sentence. A single preposition can have multiple uses. The correct usages of prepositions are best used only by repeated practice and reading a lot of original English stuff.

DETERMINERS

Some of the determiners used in English are few, a few, little, a little, much, many, each, every, some, etc. All of these determiners have their own context(s) in which to use them.

Drill

Do the following have S-V errors? State Y if yes and N if not:

1. Ram and I is running.
2. The Indian cricket team have won today.
3. The parents, along with Sheela, are coming to school today.
4. Either the boys or the girl was managing the show.
5. Neither the boys nor the girl get the credit for doing this job.

6. Everyone have to be present tomorrow for class.
7. The number of times I have visited you in the hospital is something I have lost count of.
8. Ten million dollars is a difficult turnover target to achieve for our company.
9. Salman is the scientist who write that report.
10. The pride of lions are hunting.

Inspect the S-V agreement factor in each of the following. If it is

error-free, give it a check mark ✓. Else, give it a cross mark × and state the rule which it defies and correct the statement:

1. She and her sister is coming to meet the school captain. []
2. They, along with their captain, is prepared to face the other team in the finals. []
3. Either the boy or the girls have noted down the details of the match. []
4. The mayor, as well as his brothers, are going to prison. []
5. The committee has been set up to look into these issues. []
6. The Bench have ruled the accused guilty. []
7. The President is willing to abide by the people's verdict. []
8. Neither her parents nor she herself were in favour of the verdict. []
9. The jury were analyzing all the evidences in turn. []
10. The children, along with their teacher, was supposed to meet the nurse the next day. []

Read the following sentences carefully. If the sentence has any misplaced modifier, mark it with a 'X' and correct it. If it is error-free, give it a check mark:

1. The girl returned the dress to the store which was torn.
2. She answered all the questions quickly.
3. Please take time to look over the brochure that is enclosed with your family.
4. Students who miss classes frequently fail the course.
5. The writer read from his new book wearing glasses.
6. Many of the trustees congratulated him for his speech at the end of the meeting and promised their support.
7. The guests who ate the sweet quickly began to feel giddy.
8. The guest speaker had dedicated his new book to his dog who was an archaeologist.
9. I found my missing cricket bat cleaning my room.
10. The man walked towards the car carrying a briefcase.

Rewrite the sentences after rectifying parallelism errors, if any. If they are correct, provide them a check mark.

1. He invested his money in real estate, in stock market and solar energy.
2. His favourite hobbies are to swim, to skip and chatting.
3. Instead of smoking to de-stress, you can try reading a book, listening to music or talking to a friend.
4. All the books in this library have been either donated by a college professor or purchased from the nearby book store.
5. The computer network is safer, stronger and more secure.
6. The coach taught him how to bowl, how to bat and fielding.
7. I have to wash my clothes, water the plants and clean my bedroom.
8. Every summer, I like to trek, play a game of tennis and cleaning my water tank.

9. Counting stars, watching the moon and to think of my school days always make me feel happy.
10. I am responsible for maintaining the time log, arranging meetings and also to route telephone calls.

Examine the following sentences for pronoun agreement errors. In the case of an error, mark it with a 'X' mark and correct it. If it is error-free, give it a check mark.

- During early rehearsals, an actor may forget their lines.
- A person needs to see his/her dentist twice every year.
- If anyone of your brothers needs a ride to the bus stop, they can call me.
- Steve, Bill and me went to the park.
- Neither the pilot nor the attendants gave his opinion about the mishap.
- John and me drank a bottle of mango juice.
- If one wants to win, you must perform well.
- She underlines passages in my Bible, because she can't find her.
- This is my car and that is yours.
- The money will be divided between you and I.

Rectify the errors in the following sentences. In the event of no error, place a tick mark against the correct sentence.

- Tomorrow, I went for a match.
- I driving the car.
- She went to meet her friend last week.
- Ron had been talking to his friend for more than two hours now.
- No sooner had I entered the class, than the students rose to wish me "Good morning".
- Tom will meet me at the grocery store tomorrow.
- George is all set to become the next captain of the team.
- Tina doesn't like Peter taking over as President of the club.
- After he had finished his performance, he would go to the party.
- He wouldn't allow this to happened.

Check whether the following comparisons are logically correct.

If yes, give a check mark, if not, mark a cross and correct it:

- The Taj Mahal has a higher ceiling than my college. []
- The colour of his shirt is lighter than me. []
- The speed of his car is not as high as mine. []
- She likes tea more than coffee. []
- Raja has more fan-following than Rahman. []
- He is taller than his father. []
- Jack's typing speed is faster than Jim. []
- Jim is reading faster than Jack []
- The keypad with which I typed out the letter is not as smooth like his friend's. []
- He rode his bike faster than his friend's bike. []

Fill in the blanks with suitable prepositions:

- I will arrive sometime _____ 8 and 9 AM.
- They should be ready to go _____ 15 minutes.
- Did you watch the game _____ TV last night.
- She came _____ time for the interview.
- I guess we are late. The play would have started _____ 5 o' clock.
- India became free _____ the British rule _____ 1947.
- The inspector claimed that he had investigated a similar case two years _____.

- We have been walking _____ quite a long time _____ search _____ a mechanic shop.
- I haven't got a call from him _____ last Wednesday.
- The materials will arrive _____ next month.

Fill up the blanks with appropriate determiners:

- _____ of the staff members who had come to my home are meeting the principal.
a. Few b. A few c. Some d. Every
- _____ did I realize that my decision would have such an adverse an impact on everyone here.
a. A little b. Little c. Much d. Everyday
- Had I been given _____ time to think, I would have resolved the issue.
a. Much b. Lot c. A lot d. Some
- When Sam was playing hide and seek, he peeped into the keyhole _____.
a. Little b. A little c. A lot many times d. Some time
- There was _____ coffee left in the cup after the guests had left.
a. A few b. Few c. Much d. A little
- There were _____ coffee cups on my table.
a. Few b. Little c. A little d. Some
- The teacher had to cancel the assignment because _____ students found it difficult.
a. Much b. Each c. Every d. Many
- "If there is _____ pity left inside you for me, listen to these words", he pleaded.
a. Much b. Lot c. Any d. Every
- There were _____ drops of ink in the bottle which I thought I could use.
a. Few b. Any c. Little d. A few
- He has told you all that is there to tell. I haven't _____ to add.
a. Many b. Much c. Any d. A few

Concept Review Questions

Directions for questions 1 to 25: Identify the error(s) in the following sentences, if any.

- One of the students (A)/ must give (B)/ their oral report (C)/ tomorrow.(D)
- An actor knows (A)/ how to memorize (B)/ his lines (C)/ and getting into character. (D)
- The moment the manager came (A)/ to know the fraudulent action (B)/ of his assistant, (C)/ he ordered immediately dismissed him. (D)
- Jhansi gives (A)/ less to charity than (B) / any other (C) / church member.(D)
- When choosing a car (A)/ you often have to (B)/ choose among (C)/ practicality and performance. (D)
- She handed out (A)/ brownies (B)/ to children (C)/ wrapped in Tupperware. (D)
- I held (A)/ the ticket tightly (B)/ in my hand (C)/ that my friend gave me.(D)
- If anyone (A) / don't like (B) / the music I'm playing, (C) / he or she can go somewhere else. (D)
- Clara's daily exercises (A)/ include running, (B)/ swimming, (C)/ and lift weights. (D)

10. Neither Sachin Tendulkar nor V.V.S. Laxman, (A)/ both of whom are batting (B)/ at the crease at the moment, (C)/ are capable of rescuing India's innings. (D)
11. My mom (A)/ and me (B)/ went to the funeral (C)/ last Thursday. (D)
12. Vimal's two sisters (A)/ are both (B)/ very intelligent and hardworking, still, (C)/ I don't know why I like the former the most. (D)
13. The possibility of massive earthquakes (A)/ are regarded (B)/ by most area residents (C)/ with a mixture of skepticism and caution. (D)
14. It is widely believed (A)/ that he is an expert (B)/ about handling (C)/ situations like this. (D)
15. Could I have (A)/ much more sugar (B)/ with my coffee please? (C)
16. It remains (A)/ to be seen (B)/ if she was ready (C) / for the competition.(D)
17. Among the many reasons for his defeat in the election (A)/ were his arrogant assumption that (B)/ his constituents were incapable (C)/ of understanding economic conditions. (D)
18. John was met (A)/ at the door (B)/ by a strange man, (C)/ which he being afraid, opened slowly. (D)
19. Either his friends (A)/ or he (B)/ has to submit (C)/ their project proposal by next week. (D)
20. The grand jury (A)/ is divided (B)/ in their opinion (C)/ of the defendant's conviction. (D)
21. It has been made clear (A)/ that all my son-in-laws (B)/ will stay at (C)/ my father-in-law's house. (D)
22. It is important (A) / that one takes (B)/ their responsibilities (C)/ seriously. (D)
23. I was (A)/ so overcome with thirst (B)/ that either of the drinks (C)/ were fine with me. (D)
24. Please send me (A)/ a SMS, (B)/ when you (C)/ are free. (D)
25. He has become (A)/ so weak that even (B)/ a two kilometers walk (C)/ makes him breathless. (D)

Directions for questions 26 to 30: Choose the best alternatives for the underlined parts:

26. Automation has undermined the traditional position of labour as much by robbing workers of the special skills that were once their most important strength than by elimination of jobs.

- a. than by elimination of jobs
b. rather than by the elimination of jobs
c. than by eliminating jobs
d. as by eliminating jobs
27. We should never see what has been done; rather we should always see what is remaining to be done.
a. We should never see what has been done
b. We should never look at the things that are done
c. We should look at the things that are done
d. The things that are done should not be overlooked
28. A new hair-growing drug is being sold for three times the price, per milligram, as the drug maker's charges for another product with the same active ingredient.
a. As b. Than c. That d. Of what
29. The information presented in the most recent reports indicate that turbulent times lie ahead for those who have invested only in NASDAQ stocks.
a. indicates that turbulent times lie ahead for those who have invested only in NASDAQ stocks.
b. indicate that turbulent times should lie ahead for those who have invested only in NASDAQ stocks.
c. indicate that turbulent times lie ahead for those who have invested only in NASDAQ stocks.
d. indicate that turbulent times are laying ahead for those who have invested only in NASDAQ stocks.
30. Unlike that of earlier works on slavery, Blassingame's innovative study relies not on the records of White slave owners but on the records of the slaves themselves, especially the 70 or so autobiographies and memoirs that have been preserved.
a. that of earlier words on slavery, Blassingame's
b. that of earlier works on slavery, Blassingame in his
c. earlier works on slavery, Blassingame in his
d. earlier works on slavery, Blassingame's