

Verbal Ability

Sentence Correction-Parallelism

Exercise 1: Identify the errors in the following sentences and rewrite the correct sentences

1. Raveena likes reading books, singing songs and to watch television.
2. The population of India is greater than the U.S.A.
3. Recreational users inflict many wounds by pounding nails into trees, lantern burns, and damaging their roots with vehicles and heavy equipment.
4. Declaring sustainability as a goal is one thing; putting it into operation has been an elusive goal.
5. You are not only responsible for organizing the conference, but we also want you to introduce the keynote speaker.
6. The chief of army demanded from his assistants an orderly investigation, a well-written report, and that they work hard.
7. Slowly and with care, the museum director removed the antique vase from the shelf and placing it on the display pedestal.
8. Abraham Lincoln was a good president and was self-educated, hard-working, and always told the truth.
9. Despite Britain's affluence, many people are without jobs, on welfare, and have a lot of debts.
10. In the facility construction stage, trees are often wounded by trenching, blacktopping, changing the grade, and heavy machinery is brought too close.

Section 2: Directions for questions 1 to 10: In the following questions, a part of the sentence is underlined. From the options, choose the alternative which best replaces the underlined part and corrects the sentence

1. To rely on anecdotal evidence of social phenomena is ignoring decades of increasing sophistication in the use of statistics in sociology.
A] To rely on anecdotal evidence of social phenomena is ignoring
B] To rely on anecdotal evidence of social phenomena is to ignore
C] To rely or anecdotes for demonstration of social phenomena is ignoring
D] Relying on anecdotal evidence of social phenomena is to ignore
2. Starting a company requires more paper work and legal provision than to set up either a proprietorship or a partnership.
A] than what it requires to set up either a proprietorship or a partnership.
B] than to either set up a proprietorship or a partnership.
C] than setting up either a proprietorship or a partnership.
D] than setting up proprietorships and partnerships.

3. Unlike the Pulitzer, which is given for a specific work, an author receives the Nobel Prize for a lifetime's achievement in literature.
- A] an author receives the Nobel Prize for a lifetime's achievement in literature.
 - B] an author's lifetime achievement in literature receives the Nobel Prize.
 - C] the Nobel Prize is awarded to an author's lifetime's achievements in literature.
 - D] the Nobel Prize is awarded to an author who has had a lifetime of achievements in literature.
4. Dr. Batra's research among Portuguese children in Goa indicates that more the children use both Hindi and English, their intellectual advantage is greater in skills underlying reading ability and nonverbal logic.
- A] their intellectual advantage is greater in skills underlying reading ability and nonverbal logic
 - B] their intellectual advantage is more in skills underlying reading ability and nonverbal logic
 - C] greater is their intellectual advantage in skills underlying reading ability and nonverbal logic
 - D] in skills underlying reading ability and nonverbal logic, the greater intellectual advantage is theirs
5. Since conscious patients often died of shock on the operating table, the invention of anesthesia was essential to the development of surgery as the invention of the propeller was to the powered flight.
- A] the invention of anesthesia was essential to the development of surgery as the invention of the propeller was to the powered flight.
 - B] inventing anesthesia was as essential for the development of surgery as the invention of the propeller was for powered flight.
 - C] the invention of anesthesia was as essential to the development of surgery as the invention of the propeller was to the powered flight.
 - D] the invention of anesthesia was as essential in the development of surgery much as the invention of the propeller was for powered flight.
6. Lacking in information about energy use, people tend to overestimate the energy used by equipments such as lights, that are visible and underestimate that used by unobtrusive equipments, such as heaters.
- A] equipments such as lights, that are visible and underestimate that
 - B] equipments, such as lights, visible and underestimate when
 - C] equipments, such as lights, that is visible and underestimate it when,
 - D] visible equipments, such as lights and underestimate it when
7. To rebuild fishing grounds damaged by water contamination, environmentalists can create a man-made reef by towing old barges to an offshore site and sinking to the sandy bottom
- A] and sinking them
 - B] and sinking it
 - C] where it sinks
 - D] having sunk them
8. With its cynical, slangy vernacular voice, its sympathetic understanding of adolescence and its fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world, the novel struck a nerve in cold war America and quickly attained cult status, especially among the young.
- A] With its cynical, slangy vernacular voice, its sympathetic understanding of adolescence and its fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world

- B] With its cynical, slangy vernacular voice, sympathetic understanding of adolescence and its fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world
- C] With its cynical, slangy vernacular voice, its sympathetic understanding of adolescence and the fact that it had a fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world
- D] By its cynical, slangy vernacular voice, its sympathetic understanding of adolescence and its fierce if alienated sense of morality and distrust of the adult world

9. Simon Bolivar is remembered in that he led the independence revolutions in several South American counties, like Venezuela and Bolivia, and for instilling the ideals of democracy across the continent.

- A] in that he led the independence revolutions in several South American counties, like Venezuela and Bolivia, and for instilling
- B] to have led the independence revolutions in several South American counties, such as Venezuela and Bolivia, and that he instilled
- C] to have led the independence revolutions in several South American counties, including Venezuela and Bolivia, and having instilled
- D] for leading the independence revolutions in several South American counties, like Venezuela and Bolivia, and to have instilled
- E] for leading the independence revolutions in several South American counties, such as Venezuela and Bolivia, and for instilling

10. When Daniel realized that her father had made Mary beans and rice for dinner, she _____, claimed to feel nauseous, and excused herself from the table. The bag of stale popcorn in her room would tide her over until breakfast.

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| A] clutched her stomach | B] was clutching her stomach |
| C] did clutch her stomach | D] clutching her stomach |

Explanatory Answers

Exercise 1

1. Raveena likes reading books, singing songs and watching television is the correct structure as the sentence requires a parallel construction to join all Gerund.
2. The correct comparison should be between the population of two countries so the correct sentence that brings out that comparison is The population of India is greater than that of population of the U.S.A.
3. *Reason:* The sentence starts and ends with the 'verb+ing' phrases, but this rule is not followed in 'lantern burns'.
Correct Answer: Recreation users inflict many wounds by pounding nails into trees, **burning them with lanterns**, and damaging their roots with vehicles and heavy equipment.
4. *Reason:* Incorrect part. Some words are always found in pairs. These expressions are called inclusives / correlative conjunctions. These expressions always appear in pairs – you use them to link equivalent sentence elements. In this sentence, 'one thing' must be followed by 'another'.
Correct answer: Declaring sustainability as a goal is one thing; putting **it into action is another**.
Here are a few words that are always found in pairs while using parallel construction: Not only – But also; Neither – Nor; Either – Or; Just as – So too; Between – and; Both – and; Not until – that; No sooner – than; One thing – another; From – to; Such – as; lesser/greater/ fewer – than.
Note: 'Another' and 'Other' are nonspecific terms. If the subject is understood, one can omit the noun and keep the determiner and other so that 'other' functions as a pronoun.
5. *Reason:* Inconsistency of voice between first and second part of the sentence. Also note the use of inclusive 'not only – but also'.
Correct Answer: You are responsible not only for organizing the conference, **but also for introducing** the key note speaker. Or You are not only responsible for organizing the conference, but also accountable for introducing the key note speaker.
6. *Reason:* First part of the sentence uses a series of adjectives 'orderly & well-written' and then shifts to a verb phrase 'that they work hard'. The first two must be followed by another adjective.
Correct answer: The chief of army demanded an orderly investigation, a well-written report, and **hard work** from his assistants.
7. *Reason:* 'Slowly' is an adverb and must be followed by another adverb 'carefully'. In the second part of the sentence, proper tense is not used in 'placing' as it does not correspond with 'removed'.
Correct Answer: Slowly and **carefully**, the museum director removed the antique vase from the shelf and **placed** it on the display pedestal.
8. *Reason:* The sentence describes the qualities of Abraham Lincoln, but in the end uses a verb phrase instead of an adjective.
Correct Answer: Abraham Lincoln was a good president – self-educated, hardworking, and **honest**.
9. *Reason:* The first part of the sentence uses prepositional phrase 'without jobs and on welfare', so this rule must be followed to end the sentence.
Correct Answer: Despite Britain's affluence, many people are without jobs, on welfare, and **in debt**.
10. *Reason:* The 'verb+ing' controls the first 3 parts of the sentence in 'trenching, blacktopping, and changing'. This rule has to be continued to end the sentence.

Correct answer: In the facility construction stage, trees are often wounded by trenching, blacktopping, changing the grade, and **bringing heavy machinery too close**.

Exercise 2

1. [B] Clear case of improper parallel construction. 'To rely' (infinitive) goes with 'to ignore' (infinitive), which is missing in other options.
2. [C] 'Than' must compare grammatically similar terms: Equal comparisons. Drinking water is different from drinking wine, not drinking water is different from wine. Since 'Starting' is not underlined, we'll have to make the underlined portion agree with it. We have to look for an 'ing form' that is parallel to 'starting'. So that leaves us with options [C] and [D]. 'Company' is singular, so we have to compare it to singular nouns: A proprietorship or a partnership. So the best answer is option [C].
3. [D] Option [A] is incorrect because this is a case of a non-parallel comparison – it seems as if an author is compared to Pulitzer rather than the Nobel Prize being compared to Pulitzer. The same applies to [B]. Option [C] is convoluted with 'author's lifetime's achievement' – you should avoid too many apostrophes. Option [D] is correct because it is the only one that explains that the author receives the Nobel Prize for his lifetime achievements.
4. [C] Following the rule of parallel construction. There is lack of parallel construction in options [A], [B], and [D]. Option [C] correctly uses "the more" with "the greater". Also, the rule states: 'If the 1st part starts with a comparative, then the 2nd part also must start with a comparative.'
5. [C] Only option [C] draws the correct parallel using 'invention of'. Moreover, it correctly uses 'as essential... as'.
6. [D] In option [D], "visible equipment, such as lights" draws parallel with "unobtrusive equipment, such as water heaters" used later in the sentence. Other options lack parallel construction.
7. [A] 'Towing' has to be made parallel with 'sinking'. This is also a pronoun reference problem. We need a pronoun in the answer that acts as the object of 'sinking'. The actual sentence seems to say that it is the environmentalists who sink to the bottom. The pronoun must refer to 'barges', which is plural, so we need 'them' not 'it', so [B] and [C] can be eliminated. 'Having sunk' in option [D] illogically suggests that the environmentalists sunk the barges before towing them into position.
8. [A] We see a parallel construction when all the three clauses begin with its.....
9. [E]
10. [A] The blank requires a simple past tense verb. Clutched her stomach, which matches claimed and excused, keeps the structure parallel.