

# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Agreement

- Noun-verb agreement
  - The **number** of residents **have** grown. ( Incorrect)
  - The **number** of residents **has** grown. (Correct)
- Pronoun agreement
  - When **one dreams**, you are usually asleep. ( Incorrect)
  - When you dream, you are usually asleep. ( Correct )
  - When **the kids** went to sleep, **he** slept like a dog. ( Incorrect)
  - When **the kids** went to sleep, **they** slept like a dog. ( Correct )

## Pronoun Errors

A pronoun is a word that replaces a noun.

- Singular-

- I, me, he, him, she, her, it, each, another, one, other, mine, yours, his, hers, this, either, neither, each, everything, everyone, nobody, no one, whoever, whatever,

- Plural –

- we, us, they, them, both, these, those

- Singular/Plural –

- some, none, ours, you, who, which, what, that



# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Diction

- Among / Between
  - We divided our winnings **between** the three of us. (Incorrect)
  - We divided our winnings **among** the three of us. (Correct)
- As/Like
  - I work **like** a librarian. (Incorrect)
  - I work **as** a librarian. (Correct)
  - Do **like** I say, not **like** I do. (Incorrect)
  - Do **as** I say, not **as** I do. (Correct)
  - It felt **as** a dream. (Incorrect)
  - It felt **like** a dream. (Correct)
  - People **as** you inspire me. (Incorrect)
  - People **like** you inspire me. (Correct)

# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Mass and count words

- We bought **one** bread. (Incorrect)
- We bought **a lot of** bread. (Correct)
- He wished me **many** happiness. (Incorrect)
- He **wished** me **much** happiness. (Correct)
- He passed **much** buildings. (Incorrect)
- He passed **many** buildings. (Correct)

## Pronouns

- Mom and **myself** had to go to the store. (Incorrect)
- Mom and I had to go to the store. (Correct)
- He gave the present to Dad and **myself**. (Incorrect)
- He gave the present to Dad and **me**. (Correct)

## Quantity Words

- To check how to indicate quantity
- Comparison quantity words are:
  - If **two items**: between, more, better, less
  - If **more than two items**: among, most, best, least
  - **Countable** items: fewer, number, many
  - **Uncountable** items: less, amount, quantity, much



# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Fragments

- We saw the doctor at the party. **And his nurse.** (Incorrect)
- We saw the doctor and his nurse at the party. (Correct)

## Run-on sentences

- John is still a feared **batter most** pitchers don't want to face him. (Incorrect)
- John is still a feared batter, most pitchers don't want to face him. (Correct)

## Constructions

- **The reason** we could not come to the meeting is **because of** a conflict. (Incorrect)
- We could not come to the meeting because of a conflict. (Correct)

# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Fragments

- We saw the doctor at the party. **And his nurse.** (Incorrect)
- We saw the doctor **and his nurse** at the party. (Correct)

## Run-on sentences

- John is still a feared **batter most** pitchers don't want to face him. (Incorrect)
- John is still a feared batter, most pitchers don't want to face him. (Correct)

## Constructions

- The **reason** we could not come to the meeting is **because** of a conflict. (Incorrect)
- We could not come to the meeting **because** of a conflict. (Correct)



# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Idiom

- Need to check six items – pronouns, misplaced modifiers, parallelism, faulty comparison, tense, and subject-verb agreement.
- Haven't found an error, try pulling any idiomatic expressions out of the sentences.
- Idiomatic expression refers to the way in which we generally match words together.



# Idiom

- According to
- Appear to
- As great as
- As good as
- Based on
- Because of
- Choose from
- Conclude that
- Contribute to
- Determined by
- A dispute over
- In danger of
- Different from

# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Forms of comparison

- There were **less** children in my class this year.  
(Incorrect)
- There were **fewer** children in my class this year. (Correct)
- There was **fewer** devastation than I was told.  
(Incorrect)
- There was **less** devastation than I was told. (Correct)
- We had to choose **between** chocolate or vanilla.  
(Incorrect)
- We had to choose **between** chocolate **and** vanilla.  
(Correct)



# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Logical prediction

- Modification problem
  - I put the cake by the door that I backed.
  - I put the cake that I backed by the door.
  - Reading my mind, the cookie she gave me was delicious.
  - Reading my mind, she gave me the delicious cookie.
  - In the Middle Ages, the world was flat.
  - In the Middle Ages, the world was believed to be flat.

# Basic English Grammar Rules

## Parallelism

- Contains a list or has a series of actions set off from one another by commas.
- Divided into two parts,
  - The first half of a sentence is constructed in a particular way.
  - The second half must be constructed in the same way
- I took a bath, sleeping, and waking up refreshed.
- I took a bath, went to sleep, and woke up refreshed.



## Steps

- Read the entire sentence carefully.
- Evaluate the underlined passage for errors and possible corrections before reading the answer choices.
- Read each answer choice carefully.
- Try to determine how to correct what you consider to be wrong with the original sentence.
- Make sure that you evaluate the sentence and the choices thoroughly.
- Read the whole sentence, substituting the choice that you prefer for the underlined passage.