



Bank PO - Bank Clerk - GATE 2017 - Insurance - SSC CGL - BSNL TTA - RBI

Testbook Blog - Testbook Mobile App - Daily Current Affairs GK Quiz Mobile App - by Testbook.com

26 Tips for Spotting Errors in English for Bank PO (Part I)



Even those of us who are well-versed with English end up making the silliest of errors in grammar. It is a very natural tendency but error-spotting is not an art that one can't master. It is just a matter of swearing by some guidelines and practice! Here are 26 tips for error spotting in English:

1. Certain nouns possess a singular form but still represent plurality and thus, take a plural verb when used in a sentence.

E.g. Cattle, peasantry, people, clergy, police.

Thus,

- The Police has come (Incorrect)
- The Police have come (Correct)

2. Certain nouns always take the plural verb because their form is always plural.

E.g. Scissors, trousers, spectacles, thanks, premises.

Thus,

- The scissors is kept on the table. (Incorrect)
- The scissors are kept on the table. (Correct)

3. When a number is followed by a noun denoting measure, length, money, number or weight, the form of the nouns does not change so long as they are followed by another noun or pronoun.

E.g. Million, pair, metre, year, dozen, foot, head.

Thus,

- This is a nine-metres cloth. (Incorrect)
- This is a nine-metre cloth. (Correct)

4. When a number is followed by a noun denoting measure, length, money, number or weight, but these are not followed by another noun or pronoun, then they take the plural form.

E.g. Million, pair, metre, year, dozen, foot, head.

Thus,

- This sari is nine yard long. (Incorrect)
- This sari is nine yards long. (Correct)

5. Certain nouns, especially of the collective category, are used as singular when they specify a unit.

E.g. Public, team, committee, government, audience, orchestra, company, jury.

Thus,

- The public were unanimous in their opinion. (Incorrect)
- The public was unanimous in its opinion. (Correct)

6. Certain nouns, especially of the collective category, are used in plural when they specify a difference of opinion or class.

E.g. Public, team, committee, government, audience, orchestra, company, jury.

Thus,

- The jury was divided in its opinion. (Incorrect)
- The jury were divided in their opinion. (Correct)

7. If the pronoun 'one' is used, it must be maintained throughout the sentence.

Thus,

- One must respect his elders. (Incorrect)
- One must respect one's elders. (Correct)

8. The word 'whose' is used for living people and 'which' is used for non-living things or ideas.

Thus,

- Which box is kept on the table? (Incorrect)
- Whose box is kept on the table? (Correct)

9. 'Less' is used to denote quantity while 'fewer' is used to denote number.

Thus,

- No less than twenty people were (Incorrect)
- No fewer than twenty people were (Correct)

10. 'One of' is always followed by noun in the plural form.

Thus,

- She is one of the least important person in the office. (Incorrect)
- She is one of the least important people in the office. (Correct)

11. Only 'than' should be used after 'no other'

Thus,

- I like no other movie but Titanic. (Incorrect)
- I like no other movie than Titanic. (Correct)

12. After the word 'Know', 'how', 'what' or 'when' should be used before using the infinitive.

Thus,

- I know to speak English. (Incorrect)
- I know how to speak English. (Correct)

13. If the verb indicates a purpose, an infinitive must be used and if the verb indicates a cause, a gerund must be used.

Thus,

- He went to the mall for watching a movie. (Incorrect)
- He went to the mall to watch a movie. (Correct)
- He was suspended to show indiscipline. (Incorrect)

- He was suspended for showing indiscipline. (Correct)

14. 'As' is not used with verbs like 'appointed', 'elected', 'considered', 'called' but it is used with the word 'regard'.

Thus,

- He was elected as Secretary of the organisation. (Incorrect)
- He was elected Secretary of the organisation. (Correct)
- I regard Sahil my best friend. (Incorrect)
- I regard Sahil as my best friend. (Correct)

15. Adverbs should not be confused for adjectives. An adjective describes the characteristic of the subject while an adverb describes the action of the verb.

Thus,

- The horse looked beautifully. (Incorrect)
- The horse looked beautiful. (Correct)

16. Question tags are always the opposite of the sentence which means that if the sentence is positive, the question tag is negative and vice versa.

Thus,

- You were dancing, were you? (Incorrect)
- You were dancing, weren't you? (Correct)

17. An infinitive verb should never be split.

Thus,

- I request you to kindly tell me. (Incorrect)
- I request you kindly to tell me. (Correct)

18. A pronoun after 'like', 'unlike' and 'let' takes an objective case.

Thus,

- You will never find a woman like she. (Incorrect)
- You will never find a woman like her. (Correct)
- Let I do it. (Incorrect)
- Let me do it. (Correct)

19. The relative pronoun 'that' is used instead of 'who' or 'which' after adjectives in the superlative degree.

Thus,

- This is the best which she could do. (Incorrect)
- This is the best that she could do. (Correct)

20. To show equality 'as' is used both before and after the adjective.

Thus,

- I can run as fast, if not faster than you. (Incorrect)
- I can run as fast as, if not faster than you. (Correct)

21. Even though 'More than one' indicates a plural sense, it agrees with a singular noun and takes a singular verb.

Thus,

- More than one students completed their project. (Incorrect)
- More than one student completed his project. (Correct)

22. 'Scarcely' and 'hardly' are followed by 'when' and not by 'than'.

Thus,

- Hardly had the teacher left the room than the pupils started enjoying. (Incorrect)
- Hardly had the teacher left the room when the pupils started enjoying. (Correct)

23. 'Though' is followed by 'yet' and not by 'but'.

Thus,

- Though he is poor but he is honest. (Incorrect)
- Though he is poor, yet he is honest. (Correct)

24. 'Lest' must be followed by 'should' or by nothing at all and 'Such' must be followed by 'as'.

Thus,

- Work hard lest you will fail. (Incorrect)
- Work hard lest you should fail. (Correct)
- Work hard lest you fail. (Correct)
- He is such a writer that everybody should read his books. (Incorrect)

- He is such a writer as everybody should read his books. (Correct)

25. 'Unless' expresses a condition and is always used in the negative sense. Thus 'not' is never used with 'unless'.

Thus,

- Unless you do not work hard, you will not excel in the examination. (Incorrect)
- Unless you work hard, you will not excel in the examination. (Correct)

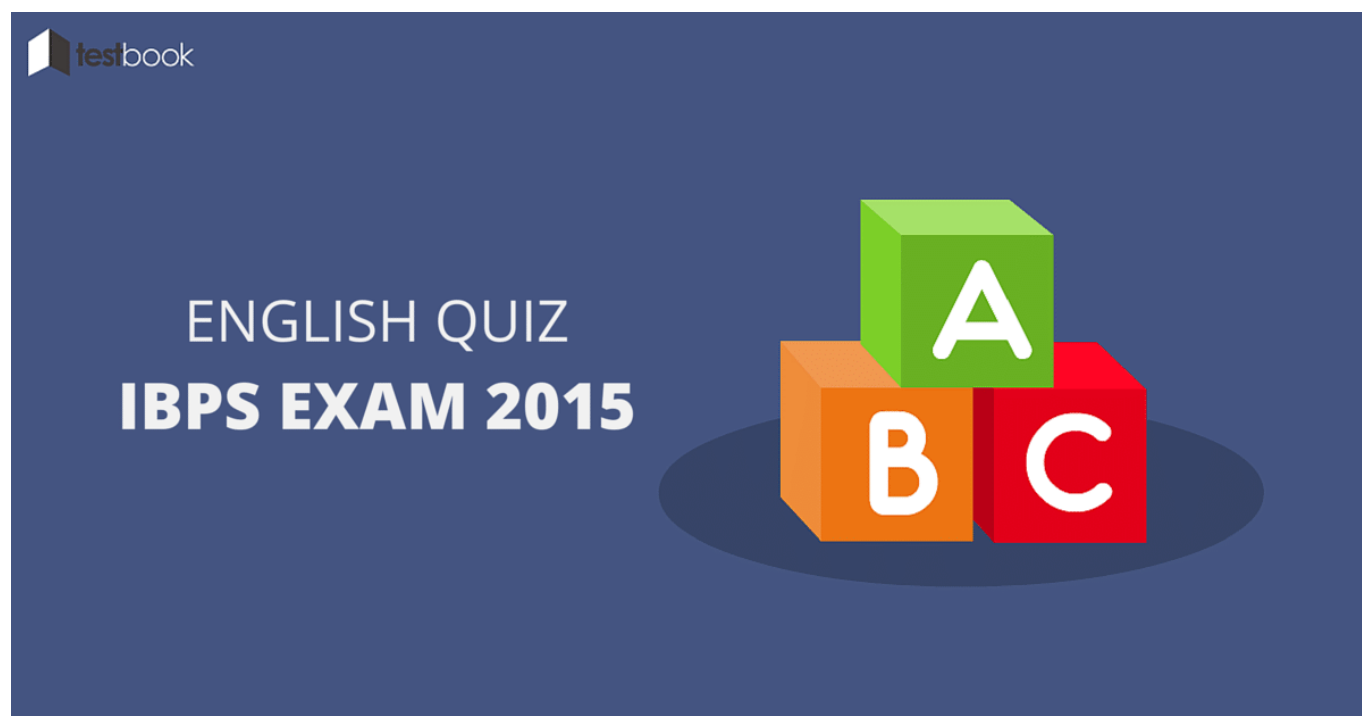
26. 'When' denotes a general sense and 'while' implies a time duration of doing something.

Thus,

- When learning how to sing, technique is of utmost importance. (Incorrect)
- While learning how to sing, technique is of utmost importance. (Correct)

After reading these amazing Error spotting techniques, do practice some exercises on the same to get a good grip on the topic. Keep looking this space as we would be coming up with more related articles to make your preparation journey easy. Don't forget to look at [Part 2 of this article – More tips for error spotting!](#)

Try the Daily English Quizzes for more practice in spotting errors in English for Bank PO and other exams.



English IBPS Quiz



Bank PO - Bank Clerk - GATE 2017 - Insurance - SSC CGL - BSNL TTA - RBI

Testbook Blog - Testbook Mobile App - Daily Current Affairs GK Quiz Mobile App - by Testbook.com
