Sentence Correction Process:

* Quick glance
* Read for meaning
* Look for splits and eliminate

**Grammar and Meaning**

A different version of word might offer different meaning as compared to the original version of word.

Confusing word listing:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| aggravate (worsen) | aggravating (irritating) |
| known as (indicates an alias or nickname) | known to be (indicates a characteristic) |
| loss of (no longer in possession of) | loss in (decline in value) |
| mandate (command) | have a mandate (have authority from voters) |
| native of (person from) | native to (species that originated in) |
| range of (variety of) | ranging (varying) |
| rate of (speed or frequency of) | rates for (prices for) |
| rise (general increase) | raise (a bet or a salary increase in American English) |
| try to do (seek to accomplish) | try doing (experiment with) |

Sample example:

ONLY the council votes on Thursdays.

The council votes ONLY on Thursdays.

Avoid redundancy:

Previously -> Formerly -> In past

Now -> Currently -> Presently -> At present

Yearly -> annual -> each year

**Sentence Structure**

**Middlemen :**

Words which are inserted between subject and verb to obscure the subject. examples are:

* **Prepositional phrases** - These actually modifies or describes parts of sentence, generally the prep phrases modifies the to which they are attached. Also, A noun in prep cannot be subject.

e.g. Gaurav, **along with his dog**, crosses the river.

* **Dependent clauses**.

e.g. While Ram was eating, Alexander was joking.

* **Other Modifiers** viz. adjectives, noun/adverbial phrases

Mid Chapter Takeaways

* Take care of present perfect and simple past, present perfect represents the action which has just concluded.
* Connecting to independent clauses with comma leads to comma splice
* Match the present continuous form of sentence with the present tense.
* Noun + 'to be' + VERBed - something is going to happen with the NOUN
* Parallelism is not random and superficial and it should be parallel only if the two or more ideas are parallel.Check the idea denoted by right hand parallel structure and match it with the LHS (context matters)
* The student **cheats** on exams by copying other students' asnwers and **stealing** food from the school cafeteria 🡨 Incorrect
* Most of the time the 'and' separates two independent idea

======================== Helping verbs =====================

The below sentence introduces the ambiguous meaning that's why this sentence is incorrect.

I know more about shakespeare than my brother

This is clear - I ran faster than my brother.

In parallel structure, helping verbs can precede the subject and it can also come after the subject. So, both below are correct:

* I know more about shakespeare than my brother does.
* I know more about shakespeare than does my brother.

"than knows my brother" <-- this is awkward

You can't place a verb between noun and noun-modifier.

When noun is followed by modifier you should place helping verbs before the noun+modifiers.

Although they are less obvious, termites does significantly more damage to homes than branches from trees.

...than do branches from trees --> correct

...than branches from trees do --> WRONG

\* if you have just a noun - WITHOUT modifiers - in the second half of your parallel structure, then you can place the helping verb ("do", in this case) EITHER before OR after that noun.

\* if you have a noun followed by modifier(s) in the second half of your parallel structure, then you MUST place the helping verb BEFORE the noun.

Two independent clauses are joined by any of the following conjunctions in – FANBOYS

Semicolon always has independent clause on either side.

**Modifiers**

Noun modifiers:

* Relative pronouns - Which That [can modify complate clauses] Who Whose Whom Where When
* Prepositional phrases
* Participle phrases - present ( -ing [without comma] ) and past ( -ed )
* Apposition - A noun modified by another noun.

Adverbial Modifiers:

* Adverbs
* Prepositional phrases
* Present participle with **commas**.
* Past participle with **commas**.

Notes:

-Possessive Nouns are not nouns.

-A noun immediately followed by 'that' modifies that noun.

-'that' following a verb signifies the following structure : sentence + verb + that + subject + predicate

- Pronoun 'whose' can modify people as well as things

- 'where' must modify a place, area

- Difference between present participle and past participle is that past. participle can be a verb all by itself but it cannot function as a noun.

- adverbial modifiers can be placed more freely without creating meaning issues

- make sure that the which refers to the closest preceding main noun and not the whole clause.

Quantities:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| countable | uncountable |
| many | much |
| few | little |
| fewer | less |
| fewest | least |
| number | amount |
| numerous | great |

- More, most, enough, and all work with both countable (plural) and uncountable (singular) nouns:

- **between** is to be used between 2 things, for more than 2 use ‘**among’**

- If you wish to make a comparison using the word numbers, use **greater than**

- **"greater than"** is used for uncountable nouns (numbers as well). **"more than"** is typically used for countable nouns

- If x and y are quantities, you'll see "x is greater than y".

- **'Increase'** and **'Decrease'** words depicts the change in quantity over a period of time while greater/lesser are used for

comparison of two like things.

- **'which'** coming after the non-essential modifier modifies the noun of that modifier and not the element of modifier.

-When relative clauses are parallel, they should start with the same relative pronoun. - 'which...' but 'having...' <-incorrect

**Parallelism**

Sentences should be structurally and LOGICALLY similar.

**Markers:**

* And/Or
* Either...Or
* Neither...Nor
* From...To
* X Rather than Y,
* Both X and Y
* Not only X but also Y
* Not X But Y
* Between X and Y
* Distinguish X from Y
* Think of X as Y
* Consider X Y
* Estimate X to be Y
* View X as Y
* In contrast to X, Y
* Mistake X for Y
* Whether X or Y
* as .. to X as .. to Y

**Notes:**

-When a closed marker is used, anything after the first portion of the marker applies only to the X element.

-You can also pair present and past participles

-Gerunds can be parallel to other gerunds or to action nouns, but they cannot be parallel to plain nouns,

-A comparison can also use a pronoun to stand in for the noun first mentioned; in the example above, the pronoun that refers to build.

- If there is 's' at the end of noun that 's' denotes that the noun is countable.