

Spotting Errors

To settle the errors in the sentence, you need to be aware of basic grammar skills. We are providing some common types of errors below, which can be observed during solving the problems-

Noun Error

A noun can be used to identify a place, person and things. It can be singular and plural. The verb used for them differ for singular nouns and plural nouns. So, first you have to identify the noun whether it is singular or plural.

Example:-

- The People are gathered in the cricket stadium. (Incorrect)
- The people are gathered in the cricket stadium. (Correct)

Such nouns including cattle, peasantry, police, clergy, vermin are appeared to be singular, but treated as plural nouns.

Example:-

- Employees are participating in Diwali celebrations. (Incorrect)
- Employees are participating in Diwali celebrations. (Correct)

All plural nouns should always be followed by plural verbs like Scissors, Stockings, Trousers, Specs, Shorts, Goods, Employees, etc.

Example:-

- The Company was founded in the year of 2001. (Incorrect)
- The Company was founded in the year of 2001. (Correct)
- Ethics are important in an organization. (Incorrect)
- Ethics is important in an organization. (Correct)

Some collective nouns like Team, Public, Government, Committee, Jury, Audience and a combined set of attributes like Poetry, Machinery, Ethics, Mathematics, Physics, Classics, Innings, Stationery, News, Abuse, Economics, Business are considered as singular nouns.

Pronoun Error

A pronoun is a word, which refers to the noun in the sentence in case of possession. This can be easily understood by the following examples-

Example-

- All employees must complete their key result area. (Correct)
- Each student must bring their books. (Incorrect)
- Each student must bring his parents to the exam meeting. (Correct)

A pronoun should always be compatible with its antecedent noun.

Example-

- One must obey his duties and responsibilities. (Incorrect)
- One must obey one's duties and responsibilities. (Correct)
- Whom is the manager? (Incorrect)
- Who is the project manager? (Correct)
- Who are you dealing with? (Incorrect)
- Whom are you dealing with? (Correct)

In the above example, you can observe the differences. The noun one must be followed by one's pronoun. When there is an absence of a noun and sentence contains 'Who', 'Whom', 'Whomever' and 'whoever'. Then, you must know that 'who' and 'whoever' are nouns, whereas 'Whom' and 'Whomever' are objects.

Adjective Error

An adjective is a word, which represents the specialty, merits, demerits, quality and fault of a person, place or thing.

Example:-

- Nike shoes are superior to any other sports shoes. (Incorrect)
- Nike Shoes are superior to any other sports shoes. (Correct)

Comparative adjectives such as Superior, inferior, prior, must be suffixed with 'to'.

- Ramesh works quicker than anybody else. (Incorrect)
- Ramesh works faster than anybody else. (Correct)

Do not use adjectives in place of adverbs.

Adverbs Error

Adverb is a word that modifies the meaning of an adjective or verb.

Example:-

- Less than 20% of students score high in mathematics. (Incorrect)
- Fewer than 20% of students score high in mathematics. (Correct)
- People want to spend less time travelling. (Incorrect)
- People want to spend less time travelling. (Correct)

Some adverbs have the same meaning and create confusion in people's mind. These words include less and fewer. 'Less' is used to describe quantity whereas 'fewer' is used to represent numbers.

Some adverbs such as little, a little, the little, are used in different places.

Little- means a negative meaning or hardly any.

- There is a little hope of getting the train. (Incorrect)
- There is little hope of getting the train. (Correct)

A little- means a positive meaning or means some.

- Little enthusiasm is good thing. (Incorrect)
- A little enthusiasm is good thing. (Correct)

The Little- means not much but all that is.

- A little honey in the pot might prove useful. (Incorrect)
- The little honey in the pot might prove useful. (Correct)

Miscellaneous Error

The words beginning with 'h' such as honest, heir, hour, etc. are silent and an must be prefixed to them.

Example-

- The train is a hour late. (Incorrect)
- The train is an hour late. (Correct)

Use of 'Since' and 'for' are to be taken care of.

Example-

- I have been waiting for the bus since 3 hours. (Incorrect)
- I have been waiting for the bus for 3 hours. (Correct)

English preparation tips: Spotting Errors

1. Practice previous year papers and mock tests.
2. Read good novels and newspapers like The Hindu and The Times of India.
3. Go through some standard grammar books.
4. Read the sentence carefully and then proceed.
5. Understand the meaning or objective of the sentence, what message is conveyed to the reader
6. Apply your knowledge and grammar in that. So that, meaning remain intact
7. Do not panic in the exam
8. Practice and practice

We hope that the above article provide you all essential tips in short. Follow all of them strictly and look out for more such things in grammar.

Spotting Errors Questions and Answers

Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error in it. The error, if any will be in one part of the sentence. The letter of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is 'D'. (Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any).

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. We discussed about the problem so thoroughly
- B. on the eve of the examination
- C. that I found it very easy to work it out.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: We discussed the problem so thoroughly

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. An Indian ship
- B. laden with merchandise
- C. got drowned in the Pacific Ocean.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: sank in the Pacific Ocean

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. I could not put up in a hotel
- B. because the boarding and lodging charges
- C. were exorbitant
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: 'I could not put up at a hotel'

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. The Indian radio
- B. which was previously controlled by the British rulers
- C. is free now from the narrow vested interests.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: is now free from the narrow vested interests.

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. If I had known
- B. this yesterday
- C. I will have helped him.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: I would have helped him

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. A lot of travel delay is caused
- B. due to the inefficiency and lack of good management
- C. on behalf of the railways.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: on the part of the railways

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. One of the members
- B. expressed doubt if
- C. The Minister was an atheist.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: expressed doubt that

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. I have got
- B. my M.Sc. degree
- C. in 1988.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: I got

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Having received your letter
- B. this morning, we are writing
- C. to thank you for the same.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option D

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. If you lend him a book
- B. he will lend it to someone else
- C. and never you will get it back.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: and you will never get it back

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Do the roses in your garden smell
- B. more sweetly
- C. than those in ours?
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: sweeter

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Block of Residential flats
- B. are coming up
- C. near our house.
- D. No error

Answer: Option A

Explanation: Blocks of Residential flats

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. You can get
- B. all the information that you want
- C. in this book.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: all the information you want

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. The students were

- B. awaiting for
- C. the arrival of the chief guest.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: awaiting

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Sixty miles
- B. are
- C. a good distance.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: is

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. They have been
- B. very close friends
- C. until they quarrelled.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: 'They had been'

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. When the dentist came in
- B. my tooth was stopped aching

- C. out of fear that I might lose my tooth.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: my tooth stopped aching

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Two-thirds of the book
- B. were
- C. rubbish.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: was

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. It is the duty of every citizen to do his utmost
- B. to defend the hardy-won
- C. freedom of the country.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: to defend the hard-won

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. No sooner did I open the door
- B. when the rain, heavy and stormy, rushed in

- C. making us shiver from head to foot
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: than the rain, heavy and stormy, rushed in

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. If a man diligently seeks to come into the contact
- B. with the best that has been thought and said in this world
- C. he will become simple and unselfish.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: If a man diligently seeks to come into contact

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. You must
- B. remember me
- C. to post this letter.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: remind me

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. I shall certainly
- B. write you
- C. when I shall reach Paris
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: when I reach Paris

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. On the busy Ring Road
- B. we witnessed a collusion
- C. between a truck and an auto.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: we witnessed a collision

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Mr.Wayne
- B. is not attending his office
- C. for the last one month.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: has not been attending his office

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. He couldn't but help
- B. shedding tears at the plight of the villagers
- C. rendered homeless by a devastating cyclone.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option A

Explanation: He couldn't help

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. He will certainly help you
- B. if you will ask him
- C. in a pleasant manner.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: if you ask him

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. The brand proposition now therefore had to be that Keokarpin Antiseptic Cream is more effective
- B. because it penetrates deepdown (beinglight and non-sticky)and works from within
- C. (because of its ayurvedic ingredients) to keep skin blemish, free and helps cope with cuts nicks, burns and nappy rash
- D. No error

Answer: Option A

Explanation: The brand proposition now therefore is

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Will you please buy
- B. some jaggery for me
- C. if you go to the market?
- D. No error.

Answer: Option D

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Most of the members at the meeting felt
- B. that the group appointed for investigating the case
- C. were not competent to do the job efficiently.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: was not competent to do the job efficiently

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. In these days of inflation
- B. a ten peseta's note will not buy you
- C. even an ordinary meal.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: a ten peseta note will not buy you

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. He persisted
- B. to do it
- C. in spite of my advice
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: in doing it

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. The long-awaited moment at last came,
- B. and we set out for the station
- C. as merry a band of children as I have ever seen before or since.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: as merry a band of children as I have ever seen since or before

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. Our conception of
- B. what should a science of mental life be
- C. has changed considerably since James' time.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option B

Explanation: what a science of mental life should be

(solve as per the direction given above)

- A. He is not coming tomorrow
- B. as he is having a pain in the chest
- C. and has to see a doctor.
- D. No error.

Answer: Option C

Explanation: 'and he has to see a doctor'