
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 differs for a singular noun and a plural noun. So, first, you have to identify the noun whether it is singular or plural.

Example:-

- 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 a plural noun.

Example:-

- Employees are participating in the Diwali celebration. (Incorrect)
- Employees are participating in the Diwali celebration. (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 2001. (Incorrect)
- The Company was founded in the year 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 a singular noun.

Directions: In each question read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error if any will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. Ignore the errors of punctuation if any.

Q1. You must either (1)/ be regular with your studies(2)/ and study for longer period before the examination (3) / No error (4)

(a)You must either

(b) be regular with your studies

(c) and study for longer period before the examination

(d)No error

Q2. The new taxation rates (1)/ announced by the government (2)/ are bound to effect the export

sector (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) The new taxation rates
- (b) announced by the government
- (c) are bound to effect the export sector
- (d) No error

Q3. These days job opportunities are not as better (1)/as they used to be (2)/ in the early 70s (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) These days job opportunities are not as better
- (b) as they used to be
- (c) in the early 70's
- (d) No error

Q4. When viewed with his point of view the (1) / entire episode assumes (2)/ a different colour

altogether(3)/ No error (4)

- (a) When viewed with his point of view the
- (b) entire episode assumes
- (c) a different colour altogether
- (d) No error

Q5. On many occasions (1)/ we did helped the poor (2)/people by way of giving them food to eat and clothes to put on (3)/ No error (4)

(a) On many occasions

(b) we did helped the poor

(c) people by way of giving them food to eat and clothes to put on

(d) No error

Q6. Unless it is accepted to both the parties an(1)/ arbitrator would be of no (2) / use to settle this dispute (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Unless it is accepted to both the parties an

(b) arbitrator would be of no

(c) use to settle this dispute

(d) No error

Q7. Although the manager was keen on getting the work(1)/done through sudhir yesterday (2)he tries to avoid it (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Although the manager was keen on getting the work

(b) Done through sudhir yesterday

(c) he tries to avoid it

(d)No error

Q8. The various consequences off (1)/ the decision taken by the (2)/ finance ministry was not foreseen by the bureaucrats (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The various consequences off

(b) the decision taken by the

(c)finance ministry was not foreseen by the bureaucrats

(d)No error

Q9. I never considered him to be a person who would (1)/ go back on his promise and (2)/ then do not even apologise (3)/ No error (4)

(a) I never considered him to be a person who would

(b) go back on his promise and

(c) then do not even apologise

(d)No error

Q10. Having finished at school (1)/Raghu thought/ of going to Bombay in (2)/ search some job (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Having finished at school

(b) Raghu thought of going to Bombay in

(c) search some job

(d)No error

Q11. When shall we (1)/ arrive (2)/ to our destination ?(3)/ No error (4)

(a) When shall we

(b) arrive

(c) to our destination ?

(d)No error

Q12. Based on the newspaper reports (1)/ we can conclude that (2)/ many accidents caused by

reckless driving (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Based on the newspaper reports

(b) we can conclude that

(c) many accidents caused by reckless driving

(d)No error

Q13. Females (1)/ are not appointed(2)/ in our college (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Females

(b) are not appointed

(c) in our college

(d) No error

Q14. The officer (1)/ is angry on the clerk (2)/ for not attending to the work (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The officer

(b) is angry on the clerk

(c) for not attending to the work

(d) No error

Q15. No sooner (1) / I had spoken (2) than he left (3)/ No error (4)

(a) No sooner

(b) I had spoken

(c) than he left

(d) No error

Q16. Computer education (1)/ in universities and colleges (2) leaves much to be desired (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Computer education

(b) in universities and colleges

(c) leaves much to be desired

(d) No error

Q17. You will be prosecuted (1)/ for bringing seeds (2)/into Australia ((3)/ No error (4)

(a) You will be prosecuted

(b) for bringing seeds

(c) into Australia

(d) No error

Q18. You must either tell me (1)/ the whole story or at least (2)/ the first half of it (3)/No error (4)

(a) You must either tell me

(b) the whole story or at least

(c) the first half of it

(d) No error

Q19. Our new neighbours (1)/ had been living in Arizona (2)/since ten years before moving to their present house (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Our new neighbours

(b) had been living in Arizona

(c) since ten years before moving to their present house

(d)No error

Q20. The patient (1)/ was accompanied (2)/with his friend (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The patient

(b) was accompanied

(c) with his friend

(d)No error

Answer Key

1	c	11	c
2	c	12	c
3	a	13	d
4	a	14	b
5	b	15	b
6	a	16	c

7	c	17	c
8	c	18	a
9	c	19	c
10	c	20	c

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 areas. (Correct)
- Each student must bring their books. (Incorrect)
- Each student must bring his parents at 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)
- Who 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 nouns and sentences contains 'Who', 'Whom', 'Whomever', and 'whoever'. Then, you must know that 'who' and 'whoever' is a noun, whereas 'Whom' and 'Whomever' are objects.

Directions: In each question read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error if any will be in one part of the sentence. The number of that part is the answer. Ignore the errors of punctuation if any.

Q1. Last night I dream (1)/ I was a Sheikh on the 169th floor (2)/ of Burj Khalifa (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Last night I dream

(b) I was a Sheikh on the 169th floor

(c) of Burj Khalifa

(d)No error

Q2. As soon as (1)/ the lion saw the deer (2)/ he began to run after it (3)/ No error (4)

(a) As soon as

(b) the lion saw the deer

(c) he began to run after it

(d)No error

Q3. The police asked us (1)/ about our movements (2)/on a night of the crime (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The police asked us

(b) about our movements

(c) on a night of the crime

(d)No error

Q4. Did he tell you(1)/why he hasn't(2)/ come yesterday? (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Did he tell you

(b) why he hasn't

(c) come yesterday?

(d)No error

Q5. It was a pleasant (1) / four hours drive (2)/ from Pune to Nasik (3)/ No error (4)

(a) It was a pleasant

(b) four hours drive

(c) from Pune to Nasik

(d)No error

Q6. A senior doctor (1)expressed concern(2) about physician recommended the vaccine (3)No error(4)

(a)A senior doctor

(b)expressed concern

(c)about physician recommended the vaccine

(d)No error

Q7. We have to discuss (1) / all the known mechanisms (2) / of physical growth (3)/No error (4)

(a) We have to discuss

(b) all the known mechanisms

(c) of physical growth

(d)No error

Q8. Children enjoy listening to (1) / ghost stories (2) /especially on Halloween night (3) / No error (4)

(a) Children enjoy listening to

(b) ghost stories

(c) especially on Halloween night

(d)No error

Q9. I(1) / have (2) / many works to do (3)/ No error(4)

(a) I

(b) have

(c) many works to do

(d)No error

Q10. There are so many filth (1) / all around (2) / the place (3) / No error (4)

(a) There are so many filth

(b) all around

(c) the place

**Q11. A great many student (1)/ have been declared (2)/
successful(3)/ No error (4)**

(a) A great many students

(b) have been declared

(c) successful

(d)No error

**Q12. We are going to launch (1)/ this three-crores project (2)/
within the next few months (3)/ No error (4)**

(a) We are going to launch

(b) this three-crores project

(c) within the next few months

(d)No error

**Q13. I hope to go to shopping (1)/ this weekend (2) / if the
weather permits (3)/ No error (4)**

(a) I hope to go to shopping

(b) this weekend

(c) if the weather permits

(d)No error

Q14. The lawyer asked (1)/ if it was worth to take (2) / the matter to court (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) The lawyer asked
- (b) if it was worth to take
- (c) the matter to court
- (d) No error

Q15. After a carefully investigation(1)/ we discovered (2)/ that the house was infested with termites(3)/ No error (4)

- (a) After a carefully investigation
- (b) we discovered
- (c) that the house was infested with termites
- (d) No error

Q16. The future of food companies (1) / seems quite secure (2) / owed to ever-growing demand (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) The future of food companies
- (b) seems quite secure
- (c) owed to an ever-growing demand
- (d) No error

Q17. The vaccine (1) / when hit the Indian market (2) / is dogged by controversy (3) / No error (4)

- (a) The vaccine
- (b) when hit the Indian market
- (c) is dogged by controversy
- (d) No error

Q18. His son(1) / is working (2) / very hardly (3) / No error (4)

- (a) His son
- (b) is working
- (c) very hardly
- (d) No error

Q19. Do you know that it was I (1)/ who has done (2) / this piece of beautiful work? (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) Do you know that it was I
- (b) who has done
- (c) this piece of beautiful work?
- (d) No error

**Q20. The company has ordered(1) / some (2) / new equipments(3)
/ No error (4)**

(a) The company has ordered

(b) some

(c) new equipment

(d)No error

Answer Key

1	a	11	a
2	d	12	b
3	c	13	a
4	b	14	b
5	b	15	a
6	c	16	c
7	a	17	c
8	c	18	c

9	c	19	b
10	a	20	c

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 quickly than anybody else. (Correct)

Do not use adjectives in place of adverbs.

Adverbs Error

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

Example:-

- Less than 20% of students score high in mathematics. (Incorrect)

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

Some adverbs have the same meaning and create confusion in people's minds. These words include fewer 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 a good thing. (Incorrect)
- A little enthusiasm is a 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)

Q1. Judge in him (1)/ prevailed upon the father (2)/ and he sentenced his son to death (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Judge in him

(b) prevailed upon the father

(c) and he sentenced his son to death

(d) No error

Q2. Nine-tenths(1)/ of the pillar (2)/ have rotted away(3)/No error (4)

(a) Nine-tenths

(b) of the pillar

(c) have rotted away

(d) No error

Q3. One major reason (1)/ for the popularity of television is (2)/ that most people like to stay at home (3)/No error (4)

(a) One major reason

(b) for the popularity of television is

(c) that most people like to stay at home

(d) No error

Q4. Our efforts are (1)/ aimed to bring about (2) / a reconciliation (3)/No error (4)

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- (a) Our efforts are
 - (b) aimed to bring about
 - (c) a reconciliation
 - (d) No error

Q5. Three conditions (1)/critical for growing (2)/ plants are soil temperature chemical balance or amount of moisture (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) Three conditions
- (b) critical for growing
- (c) plants are soil temperature chemical balance or amount of moisture
- (d) No error

Q6. If I had lots of money (1)/ I d give some to anybody (2)/who asked for it (3)/No error (4)

- (a) If I had lots of money
- (b) I d give some to anybody
- (c) who asked for it
- (d) No error

Q7. The old man felled (1)/some of the trees in the garden (2)/with hardly no effort at all(3)/ No error (4)

- (a) The old man felled
- (b) some of the trees in the garden
- (c) with hardly no effort at all
- (d) No error

Q8. Until the world lasts (1)/the earth will go (2)/ round the sun(3)/ No error(4)

- (a) Until the world lasts
- (b) the earth will go
- (c) round the sun
- (d) No error

Q9. I go to the temple (1)/as often as(2)/I find time(3)/ No error(4)

- (a) I go to the temple
- (b) as often as
- (c) I find time
- (d) No error

Q10. A few tiles on Skylab(1) were the only equipments (2)/ that failed to perform well in outer space(3)/ No error (4)

- (a) A few tiles on Skylab
- (b) were the only equipments
- (c) that failed to perform well in outer space
- (d) No error

Q11. I don't (1)/ want to (2)/ loose it(3)/ No error (4)

- (a) I don't
- (b) want to
- (c) loose it
- (d)No error

Q12. Do not (1)/get panicked (2)/ in emergencies (3)/ No error (4)

- (a) Do not
- (b) get panicked
- (c) in emergencies
- (d)No error

Q13. Sometimes (1)/ I get angry (2)/ on her (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Sometimes

(b) I get angry

(c) on her

(d) No error

Q14. I use (1)/ to go out (2)/ to work earlier (3)/ No error (4)

(a) I use

(b) to go out

(c) to work earlier

(d) No error

Q15. The teacher (1)/ has took (2) / the responsibility (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The teacher

(b) has took

(c) the responsibility

(d) No error

Q16. He walks (1)/ as if the earth (2)/ belongs to him (3)/ No error (4)

(a) He walks

(b) as if the earth

(c) belongs to him

(d) No error

Q17. The clerk was (1)/ not intimidated by (2)/ his boss bullying (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The clerk was

(b) not intimidated by

(c) his boss s bullying

(d) No error

Q18. This misogynist hates (1)/ all mother-in-laws (2)/ lady-doctors and house maids (3)/ No error (4)

(a) This misogynist hates

(b) all mother-in-laws

(c) lady-doctors and house maids

(d) No error

Q19. How to solve the problems (1)/ is the main concern of the organizers (2)/ at the moment (3)/ No error (4)

(a) How to solve the problems

(b) is the main concern of the organizers

(c) at the moment

(d)No error

Q20. We requested the watchman(1)/ to clean up the basement(2)/ so that the children might have enough space to play (3)/ No error (4)

(a) We requested the watchman

(b) to clean up the basement

(c) so that the children might have enough space to play

(d)No error

Answer Key

1	a	11	c
2	c	12	b
3	c	13	c
4	b	14	a
5	c	15	b

6	d	16	c
7	c	17	d
8	d	18	b
9	a	19	a
10	b	20	a

Miscellaneous Error

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

Example-

- The train is an 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 for 3 hours. (Incorrect)
- I have been waiting for the bus for 3 hours. (Correct)

Q1. I may not be able (1)/ to attend (2) / to the function (3)/ No error (4)

(a) I may not be able

(b) to attend

(c) to the function

(d) No error

Q2. He is (1)/ residing here (2)/ since 1983 / No error (4)

(a) He is

(b) residing here

(c) since 1983

(d) No error

Q3. At his return (1)/ we asked him(2)/ many questions (3)/ No error (4)

(a) At his return

(b) we asked him

(c) many questions

(d) No error

Q4. The chief guest (1) / entered into(2)/ the room (3)/ No error (4)

(a) The chief guest

(b) entered into

(c) the room

(d) No error

Q5. She is (1)/ very angry (2)/ on him (3)/ No error (4)

(a) She is

(b) very angry

(c) on him

(d) No error

Q6. When Anand reached the village(1)/ he found that (2) / reports about him preceded him (3) / No error (4)

(a) When Anand reached the village

(b) he found that

(c) reports about him preceded him

(d) No error

Q7. Our success or our failure (1) / largely depend (2) / upon our actions (3) / No error (4)

(a) Our success or our failure

(b) largely depend

(c) upon our actions

(d) No error

**Q8. The poor man (1) / poisoned him(2)/ and his own children(3) /
No error (4)**

(a) The poor man

(b) poisoned him

(c) and his own children

(d) No error

**Q9. It was in 2006 (1) / that we first flew (2) / to the United
States(3)/ No error (4)**

(a) It was in 2006

(b) that we first flew

(c) to the United States

(d) No error

**Q10. The children s dog (1) / slept quietly (2) / in their uncle s
house (3) / No error (4)**

(a) The children s dog

(b) slept quietly

(c) in their uncle s house

(d)No error

Q11. She is one of the (1)/ best mothers (2) / that has ever lived (3)/ No error (4)

(a) She is one of the

(b) best mothers

(c) that has ever lived

(d)No error

Q12. John I and Hari (1)/ have finished (2)/ our studies (3)/ No error (4)

(a) John I and Hari

(b) have finished

(c) our studies

(d)No error

Q13. Neither the mouse (1)/ nor the lion (2)/ were caught (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Neither the mouse

(b) nor the lion

(c) were caught

(d) No error

Q14. After you will returns (1)/ from New Delhi (2)/ I will meet you(3)/ No error (4)

(a) After you will returns

(b) from New Delhi

(c) I will meet you

(d) No error

Q15. When I was young (1)/ I used to collect stamps (2)/ as a hobby (3)/ No error (4)

(a) When I was young

(b) I used to collect stamps

(c) as a hobby

(d) No error

Q16. Pacific Ocean is (1) / the deepest ocean (2)/ in the world (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Pacific Ocean is

(b) the deepest ocean

(c) in the world

(d) No error

**Q17. You will come (1) / to my sister s wedding tomorrow (2)/
isn't it? (3)/No error (4)**

(a) You will come

(b) to my sister s wedding tomorrow

(c) isn't it?

(d) No error

Q18. I am (1) / yours (2)/ affectionate son(3)/ No error (4)

(a) I am

(b) your s

(c) affectionate son

(d) No error

Q19. Beside Hindi (1) / she knew (2)/ Bengali well (3)/ No error (4)

(a) Beside Hindi

(b) she knew

(c) Bengali well

(d)No error

Q20. He walks (1) / as if the earth (2)/ belonged to him (3) / No error (4)

(a) He walks

(b) as if the earth

(c) belonged to him

(d)No error

Answer Key

1	c	11	c
2	a	12	a
3	a	13	c
4	b	14	a
5	c	15	d
6	c	16	a
7	b	17	c
8	b	18	b

9	b	19	a
10	d	20	d

Reference Link

<https://www.jagranjosh.com/articles/ssc-english-preparation-tips-spotting-errors->