

Error Correction

The Sentence correction Section includes different types of Questions. These Questions are designed to test your ability to identify written English that is grammatically correct. They also test your ability to understand the essential message conveyed in that sentence. Therefore, understanding the essential and discarding the unimportant or non-essential in the key point to be focused while attending to these type of questions.

When we analyze placement papers, we find that there are different patterns employed to test these question on Sentence Correction"

Choosing the Grammatically Correct Sentences

In this type of question, four sentences are given and we are asked to choose the grammatically correct sentence. There is no underlined part so you have to observe the entire sentence for its accuracy and grammar.

Choosing the best alternative.

This is a different type of question where a part of the sentence is high-lighted or underlined. You have to choose the best alternative from amount the four given sentences.

Identifying the Incorrect sentence or Sentences.

In this type of questions four sentences are given, usually connected to one another. You have to identify the Incorrect sentences. At times out, of the four given sentences, three may be incorrect and at times One or Two May be incorrect so you have to study the sentence with concentration.

Inappropriate Usage.

Here, the different usages are tested. It may be a particular use of word. It may be particular usage of phrases. You have to choose the option in which the usage is inappropriate or incorrect.

To score well in the above sections, you need to know Standard English grammar. You must be able to recognize the various parts of speech and identify the way they are used incorrectly in test Question.

Mainly, your attention should be focused on tenses of verbs, word order, word form, and agreement of the verb with the subject, difference between principal verb and Auxiliary verb, that usage of Infinitives and grounds and proper usage of preposition. You must also have a solid understanding of the different Idiomatic phrases and the link between one clause and the other. i.e. principal clause and sub-ordinate clause. Strategies to solve questions on choosing grammatically correct sentences

The first thing to do is to go through all the four sentences quickly. The common mistake, committed by the examinees, is that the movement they find one error immediately they choose that as error. There may be multiple errors in a sentence. Therefore while choosing the correct sentence; you have to be careful, the correct answer must correct all the errors. Intelligent reading will help you to make a judicious selection.

While reading the options you may find one or two sentences with glaring grammatical mistakes. Obviously, what you should do is to short list your options. Then closely concentrate on the one or two short listed options out of the four given.

Do not look for spelling errors or errors in the use of capital letters and punctuation marks. In this type of questions, you can take it for granted that errors, pertaining to spelling, use of capital letters and punctuation marks, are never included.

Look out for the grammatical errors. We have different types of grammatical errors. You have to concentrate chiefly on the following kinds of errors.

- 1) Errors of subject verb agreement or concord of the verb with the subject.
- 2) Errors based on the wrong usage of certain words or group of words.
- 3) Errors in the use of pronoun
- 4) Errors in the use of Tenses
- 5) Errors in the use of Certain Nouns, Adjectives, Adverbs.
- 6) Errors in the use of Infinitives and gerunds.

Exercise Questions

1. a. I am not one of those who believe everything they hear.

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- b. I am not one of those who believes everything I hear.
- c. I am not one of those who believes everything he hears.
- d. I am not one of those who believes in everything one hears.
2. a. Cannot one do what one likes with one's own?
- b. Cannot one do that one likes to do with his own?
- c. Cannot one do that one likes with his own?
- d. Cannot one do what he likes with his own?
3. a. There's Mr. Som, whom they say is the best singer in the country.
- b. There's Mr. Som, who they say is the best singer in the country.
- c. There is Mr. Som, whom they say is the best singer in the country.
- d. There is Mr. Som who, they say is the best singer in the country.
4. a. Each of the students has done well.
- b. Each of the student has done well.
- c. Each of the students have done well.
- d. Each of the student have done well.
5. a. Today we love, what tomorrow we hate; today we seek, what tomorrow we shun, today we desire, what tomorrow we fear.
- b. Today, we love what tomorrow we hate, today, we seek what tomorrow we shun, today, we desire what tomorrow we fear.
- c. Today we love what tomorrow we hate, today we seek what tomorrow we shun, today we desire what tomorrow we fear.
- d. Today we love what tomorrow we hate; today we seek what tomorrow we shun; today we desire what tomorrow we fear.

Directions for Questions 6 to 8. In each question, the word given is used in four different ways, numbered I to 4. Choose the option in which the usage of the word is incorrect or inappropriate

6. FALLOUT

- a. Nagasaki suffered from the fallout of nuclear radiation.
- b. People believed that the political fallout of the scandal would be insignificant.
- c. Who can predict the environmental fallout of the WTO agreements?
- d. The headmaster could not understand the fallout of several of his good students at the Public examination.

7. PASSING

- a. She did not have passing marks in mathematics.
- b. The mad woman was cursing everybody passing her on the road.
- c. At the birthday party all the children enjoyed a game of passing the parcel.
- d. A passing taxi was stopped to rush the accident victim to the hospital.

8. BOLT

- a. The shopkeeper showed us a bolt of fine silk.

- b. As he could not move , he made a bolt for the gate.
- c. Could you please bolt the door?
- d. The thief was arrested before he could bolt from the scene of the crime.

Answer Key

1.a; 2.a; 3.b; 4.a; 5.d; 6.d; 7.a; 8.b

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Directions: In each of the following questions, find out which part of the sentence has an error. If there is no mistake, the answer is 'No error'.

1. It is written in Gita (a)/ that God incarnates (b)/ Himself (c)/ in times of trouble. (d)/ No error (e)
2. It is being rainy day, (a)/ we decided not to go out (b)/ but to stay at home (c)/ and watch a movie. (d)/ No error (e)
3. The blinds (a)/ deserve (b)/ our sympathy. (c)/ No error (d)
4. Concurrent with his programme, (a)/ educational institutions may be urged (b)/ to inculcate patriotism (c)/ in each and every one of its pupils. (d) No error (e)
5. She had shifted her residence (a)/ to this city to be (b)/ close with the child (c)/ she had wanted to adopt. (d)/ No error (e)
6. The author's vision, (a)/ suffused by an innocence and warmth, (b)/ may not correspond (c)/ to the country as it is today. (d)/ No error (e)
7. And though one did not (a)/ quite believe his claim, (b)/ one saw no harm (c)/ in granting him permission. (d)/ No error (e)
8. If you hate me, (a)/ then you should (b)/ leave my house. (c)/ No error (d)
9. When he went out (a)/ he left the radio on (b)/ so that his parents shall think (c)/ that he was still in the house. (d)/ No error (e)
10. More leisure, as well as an abundance of goods, (a)/ are attainable (b)/ through automation. (c)/ No error (d)
11. I and you (a)/ know each other (b)/ for the last six years. (c)/ No error (d)
12. Some people get (a)/ used to changes (b)/ very easily than (c)/ others do. (d)/ No error (e)
13. When the college was established (a)/ he was (b)/ yet practising law. (c)/ No error (d)
14. Mine may not be a (a)/ story of success (b)/ but failures keep a person live (c)/ No error (d)
15. Mahabharata contains veritable wealth (a)/ of material for deep study and research (b)/ but all mankind in today's strife-torn world. (c)/ No error (d)

Directions: In each of the following questions, find out which part of the sentence has an error. The error may be idiomatic or grammatical. If there is no mistake, the answer is 'No error'.

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16. He drank once again (a)/ as he was (b)/ feeling thirsty. (c)/ No error (d)
17. Bacteria is probably (a)/ the most common form (b)/ of life on earth. (c)/ No error (d)
18. While going (a)/ through the report (b)/ yesterday I find (c)/ several factual mistakes. (d)/ No error (e)
19. On reaching the railway station (a)/ he was disappointed to learn (b)/ that the train left. (c)/ No error (d)
20. It is high time (a)/ that we send (b)/ the answer (c)/ No error (d)
21. The presumption that the average investor did not understand (a)/ or take interest in the affairs of the company (b)/ is not correct. (c)/ No error (d)
22. The two last (a)/ chapters of the book (b)/ are very interesting. (c)/ No error (d)
23. Passengers should be prohibited (a)/ to smoke in (b)/ the trains and buses. (c)/ No error (d)
24. The world (a)/ comprises (b)/ good and bad people. (c)/ No error (d)
25. The demand of the worker's union (a)/ that the dismissed (b)/ employee to be reinstated, (c)/ has been accepted by the management. (d)/ No error (e)

Direction: In the following questions, a sentence has been given wherein a word/ group of words has been italicised. Some alternatives are suggested for the italicised words/ group of words which improves the sentences. In case no improvement is needed in the sentence, your answer is 'No improvement' or 'No correction required.'

26. I *made* him good-bye.
 - a) Wished
 - b) Complimented
 - c) Bade
 - d) No improvement
27. We heard of *them having discovered another stream*
 - a) Them discovering
 - b) Their discovering
 - c) Their having discovered
 - d) No improvement
28. Those who study at *sixes and sevens* seldom succeed.
 - a) By fits and starts
 - b) By leaps and bounds
 - c) From pillar to post
 - d) No improvement
29. Kalidas is the greatest of *all other* dramatists.
 - a) Most other
 - b) The other

- c) any other
- d) All the
- e) No correction required

30. A bird in hand is worth *two in bush*.

- a) two in the bush
- b) two at a bush
- c) two on bush
- d) no improvement

31. My mother *is ill since* two months.

- a) has been ill since
- b) has been ailing since
- c) has been ailing for
- d) no correction required

32. To make him succeed, the correct thing to do is to punish him *until he does not try*.

- a) until he tries
- b) until he does try
- c) until he will not try
- d) until he did not try
- e) no improvement

33. The houses in our street are more beautiful *than on the main road*.

- a) than that on the main road
- b) than those on the main road
- c) than there on the main road
- d) no correction required

34. If you are living near a market place you should be ready *to bear* the disturbances caused by traffic.

- a) to bear with
- b) to bear away
- c) to bear upon
- d) no improvement

35. He offered me tea but I *denied* it.

- a) refuted
- b) neglected
- c) declined
- d) no improvement

36. There is *no absolute worry* even if your son refuses to marry her.

- a) no absolutely worry
- b) absolutely no worry
- c) absolutely not worrying

37. I congratulated him on his *creditable* performance in the I.F.S examination

- a) credible
- b) creditworthy
- c) credulous
- d) no improvement

38. *But just how far* he will manage to run with those shoes remains to be seen.

- a) But just how farther
- b) But just how much far
- c) But just how further
- d) no improvement

39. The experience was as important to the artists as it was to the thousands *who comprise* the audience.

- a) who did comprise
- b) who comprised
- c) who would comprise
- d) who comprised of
- e) no correction required

40. *Scarcely had he left* when his friend came.

- a) He had scarcely left
- b) He had left scarcely
- c) He scarcely had left
- d) No improvement

41. Whenever the two sisters *go out for shopping*, they take their pet dog with them.

- a) go out shopping
- b) go out to shopping
- c) go out on shopping
- d) no improvement

42. He was urgently in need to *get his eye operation*.

- a) of an eye operation
- b) for operation on eye
- c) for eye to be operated
- d) no improvement

43. He *fled from* the country lest he should be arrested for his misdeeds.

- a) fled off
- b) fled
- c) fled out of
- d) no improvement

44. This time she is coming in holidays for an *extending* stay here.

- a) extensive
- b) extension
- c) extended
- d) no improvement

45. If I was you, I would not have joined the party.

- a) As you
- b) If I am
- c) Were I you
- d) If I be you
- e) No correction required

Directions: In each sentence below, four words/ group of words which are labelled (a), (b), (c) and (d) have been printed in bold type, one of which may be either inappropriate in the context of the sentence or wrongly spelt. If all the four are appropriate and also correctly spelt, mark 'All correct' as the answer.

46. The new **lecturer** (a)/ has **devised** (b)/ a **novel** method (c)/ of solving this problem. (d)/ All correct (e)

47. He who is indeed of the **brotherhood** (a)/ does not **voyage** (b)/ in quest of the **picturisque**, (c)/ but of certain jolly **humours**. (d)/ All correct (e)

48. **Subtel** (a)/ **nuances** (b)/ and hues of the Indian **languages** (c)/ as spoken in all these places settle down in his **psyche**. (d)/ All correct (e)

49. Our country is critically **affected** (a)/ by **widespread** (b)/ **deforestation** (c)/ and **steady** (d)/ destruction of natural watersheds. All correct (e)

50. The old man **cut** (a)/ the huge Ashoka tree **with** (b)/ **hardly** (c)/ **no effort** (d)/ at all. All correct (e)

Answer & Explanations.

1. (a) : Add 'the' before 'Gita'.
2. (a): Add 'a' before 'rainy day'.
3. (a): Replace 'blinds' by 'blind'
4. (d): Replace 'its' by 'their'
5. (c): Replace 'with' by 'to'
6. (b): Replace 'by' by 'with'
7. (e) No error
8. (b): Remove 'then'
9. (e) No error
10. (b): Replace 'are' by 'is'
11. (b): Replace 'known' by 'have known'

12. (c): Replace 'very' by 'more'

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13. (c): Replace 'yet' by 'still'
14. (c): Replace 'live' by 'alive'
15. (a): Add 'a' before 'veritable'.
16. (d): No error
17. (a): Replace 'is' by 'are'
18. (c): Replace 'find' by 'found'
19. (c) : Add 'had' before 'left'.
20. (b): Replace 'send' by 'sent'
21. (d): No error
22. (a): The correct form is 'The last two....'
23. (b): The correct form is '.....prohibited from smoking..'
24. (d): No error
25. (c): Remove 'to'
26. (c)
27. (c)
28. (a)
29. (d)
30. (a)
31. (c)
32. (a)
33. (b)
34. (a)
35. (c)
36. (b)
37. (d)
38. (d)
39. (b)
40. (d)
41. (a)
42. (a)
43. (b)
44. (c)
45. (c)
46. (e). All correct
47. (c). The correct spelling is 'picturesque.'
48. (a). The correct spelling is 'Subtle.'
49. (e). All correct
50. (d). Replace 'no' by 'any'.

