



ENGLISH USAGE ERRORS



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This is basically to test the knowledge of English grammar or written English. You are expected to know the basic grammar such as subject-verb agreement , pronoun-antecedent agreement, correct verb, tenses, to recognize dangling participle, use of correct phrasal verb etc. to solve such questions.

The whole sentence is divided into four or five parts. You have to find out whether there is any error in it. The error if any will be in one part of the sentence. You have to trace the error and mention the alphabet of that part as you answer. If there is no error in the sentence, then mention 'e' as your answer.



Example:

The government felt badly /about the disclosure of arms gate
(a) (b)

Scam/ which put her/ in an embarrassing situation. / No error
(c) (d) (e)

The error is in part (a) .The verb 'felt' should be followed by predicative adjective 'bad' in place of adverb 'badly'.



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graph TD; A[ENGLISH USAGE ERRORS] --- B[GRAMMATICAL ERRORS]; A --- C[COMMON ERRORS]
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**GRAMMATICAL
ERRORS**

**COMMON
ERRORS**



1. GRAMMATICAL ERRORS



Error in case

Example: Let we try to forget our differences and work untidily for prosperity.

In this sentence, there is an error of case. Case problems usually involve personal pronouns which is in nominative case (I, we, he, she, they, who) are used as a subject or predicate nominative or complement to the verb 'to be'. In the objective case (me, us, him, her, them, whom), they are used as direct object, indirect object and object to the preposition.

In the sentence, 'let' is a preposition, so the personal pronoun 'we' used as an object to 'let' should be put in objective case 'us' to correct the error.



Error in subject verb agreement

subject and verb are essential parts of a sentence and a sentence is said to be in agreement when the verb agrees, with the subject in person and number. When the verb does not agree with the subject in number and. person it is called the error of subject verb agreement.



Example:

Prime Minister, along with his cabinet colleagues, are facing severe criticism for shielding the corrupt.

This sentence contains the error of subject, verb agreement. Now trace the subject for the verb 'are'. In the sentence, Prime Minister, along with his cabinet colleagues has been wrongly made the subject for the verb '**are**' because phrases like '**along with**', '**as well as**' and '**in addition to**', that are placed in Between the subject and verb, but do not affect the verb. The subject for the verb '**are**' is '**Prime Minister**' (singular). Then the verb must be in singular '**is**'.



Error in the tense or form of a verb

It is necessary that a sentence must be in proper sequence of tense to express the meaning of the sentence correctly.

Example: After the sun set a cool breeze sprang up and brought relief from the heat.

According to the sentence, the breeze did not spring up until the Sun had set. Now it is clear from the meaning that the action of Setting had taken place before the breeze sprang up. It makes a case of past perfect which refers to two actions, the earlier one is denoted by past perfect and later one is by past simple . The sentence should be: **After the sun had set, a cool breeze sprang up and brought relief from the heat.**



Error in subjunctive mood

The subjunctive mood is used to indicate a condition contrary to fact or an unreal present.

Example: If I will be the defense minister, I would have checked the corruption in defense deals.

“If I will be the defense minister”, it is a statement which is not real but contrary to the fact because I cannot be a defense minister. So it is a case of past subjunctive mood. In such cases ‘were’ is used as a verb after the clause beginning with ‘If’.



Error in comparison

Example:

I have to choose either biology or math, I do not know which is the best.

As we know, when we compare two things, we should use comparative degree of comparisons instead of superlative degree. Therefore '**best**' should be replaced with '**better**'



Error in the use of adjective for adverb or vice-versa

Example: Laxman did good when brought to play first down.

In the sentence (a), good (adjective) is modifying 'did'(verb). An adjective can't modify verb but an adverb can do. This can be understood by sentence as "How did Laxman do? He did well". '**Well**' is an adverb it should be used instead of '**good**'. Without bringing any change in the meaning of the sentence.



Error of parallel construction

Logical, similar and equal ideas need similar structural form. This is called parallel construction of sentence.

Example: The government should try to eradicate poverty provide safe drinking water and raise the standard of living of its people.

In this sentence logical and similar ideas have been expressed in similar structural form as 'to eradicate poverty ... to provide safe drinking water and to raise the standard of its people' to express clear and exact meaning.



Error in diction or idiom

Example: The affect of the quake could be seen where in Kutch region of Gujarat.

You will find the subject '**The affect**' is not the proper subject. Because "affect" is a verb word meaning "to influence" and is wrongly used for 'effect' (noun) meaning "**The result or outcome**" so the sentence should be "the effect of quake could be seen every where in the Kutch region of Gujarat".



2.TYPES OF COMMON ERRORS



Common Errors in the use of Articles

Examples:

1) He is **better** soldier than statesman.

Correct answer: He is **a better** soldier than a statesman.

2) **The magistrate and collector** wer present.

Correct answer: **The magistrate and the collector** were present.



Common Errors in the use of Nouns

Examples:

1) **Four hundreds** people were killed in the communal riots in the city.

Correct answer: **Four hundred** people were killed in the communal riots in the city.

2) **'Gulliver's Travels' were** written by Swift.

Correct answer : **'Gulliver's Travels' was** written by Swift.



Common Errors in the use of Pronouns

Examples:

1) Suffice to say that **all books** have been lost.

Correct answer: Suffice it to say that **all the books** have been lost.

2) Answer **any one** of the two questions.

Correct answer: Answer **either** of the two questions.



Common Errors in the use of Adjectives

Examples:

1) **Whole the India** mourned the death of the great leader.

Correct answer: **The whole of India** mourned the death of the great leader.

2) The population of Kolkata is greater **than** any town in India.

Correct answer: The population of Kolkata is greater **than that of** any other town in India.



Common Errors in the use of Verbs

Examples:

1) Every chair and every table in the room **were** in order.

Correct answer: Every chair and every table in the room **was** in order.

2) She insisted on her **brother going** with her.

Correct answer: She insisted on her **brother's going** with her.



Common Errors in the use of Adverbs

Examples:

1) Hari walks **quicker** than Moti.

Correct answer: Hari walks **more quickly** than Moti.

2) He is **somewhat** tall for his age.

Correct answer: He is **rather** tall for his age.



Common Errors in the use of Prepositions

Examples:

1) The boy fell **in** the well.

Correct answer: The boy fell **into** the well.

2) I have no house **to live**.

Correct answer: I have no house **to live in**.



Common Errors in the use of Conjunction

Examples:

1) **Both you as well as your friend** are right.

Correct answer: **Both you and your friend** are right.

2) Two years **passed since** I bought this house.

Correct answer: Two years **have passed since** I bought this house.



Common Errors in the use of Tenses

Examples:

1) Some days **passed** since I saw him.

Correct answer: Some says **have passed** since I saw him.

2) I **am working** since midnight.

Correct answer: I **have been working** since midnight.



Common Errors in the use of Modals

Examples:

1) My boy, you **must** not have spoken this,

Correct answer: My boy, you **should** not have spoken this.

2) I **cannot** accept your challenge; you are too strong.

Correct answer: I **dare not** accept your challenge; you are too strong.



THANKS...