

Correction of Common Errors

11 Correction of Common Errors

Following are some of the important *rules* so as to tackle questions based on sentence correction.

11.1 Lack of Subject-Verb Agreement

As the name implies, the verb used in the sentence should be in accordance with the subject. Both should be either plural or singular as per the context or sense of the sentence.

Examples:

- a. The *boy was* reading. (*Singular*)
The *girls were* playing. (*Plural*)

11.2 Pronoun Errors

Pronoun errors occur when pronouns do not agree in number with the nouns to which they refer. If the noun is singular, the pronoun also must be singular. If the noun is plural, the pronoun must be plural as well.

Examples:

- a. Everybody must bring *their own* lunch. (*Incorrect*)
Everybody must bring *his or her own* lunch. (*Correct*)

11.3 Mistakes in Apostrophe's Usage

Apostrophes are used to show possession. However, do not use an apostrophe after a possessive pronoun such as mine, our, ours, his, hers, its, theirs.

Examples:

- a. My mothers cabin is next to his' cabin. (*Incorrect*)
My mother's cabin is next to his cabin. (*Correct*)

11.4 Redundancy

Redundancy is when we use two or more words together that mean the same. We also say something is redundant when a modifier's meaning is contained in the word it modifies. In this case, the redundancy has to be removed.

Examples:

- a. I *returned back* from Karachi. (*Incorrect*)
I returned from Karachi. (*Correct*)

- b. Would you please *repeat again*? (Incorrect)
Would you please *repeat*? (Correct)

11.5 Misplaced Modifiers

Use an adjective directly before the word you want to modify or describe. This can help you avoid confusion or giving something a quality, it doesn't have.

Examples:

- a. Sitting in the garden, a scorpion stung her. (Incorrect)
Sitting in the garden, she was stung by a scorpion. (Correct)
- b. He only eats fruit. (Incorrect)
He eats only fruit. (Correct)

11.6 Lacking Parallel Structure

Parallelism in a sentence relates to the structure of the sentence. In other words, the different phrases/words performing the same function should have the same structure. It's important to use consistent patterns in the structure of your lists and sentences.

Examples:

- a. Hania likes to dance, sing and cooking. (Incorrect)
Hania likes to dance, sing, and cook. (Correct)
Hania likes dancing, singing, and cooking. (Correct)

11.7 Comma Splice

Using a comma to join two independent clauses (sentences) together is a common mistake. If you want to join two independent clauses, you can use a semicolon.

Examples:

- a. I ordered pizza, I also ordered garlic knots. (Incorrect)
I ordered pizza; I also ordered garlic knots. (Correct)

11.8 Faulty Comparisons

A faulty comparison is the one that is not logical. Items that are compared must in fact be similar.

Examples:

- a. The weather in Canada is colder than Mexico. (Incorrect)
The weather in Canada is colder than the weather in Mexico. (Correct)



Grammar Exercise — 4

1. Read the following sentences and identify and correct the errors.

- a. Many peoples attended the funeral of the great man.
- b. The shepherd took the cattles to the field.
- c. Sitara could not understands what the teacher was saying.
- d. Do you know the importance for clean water?
- e. Laugh is the best medicines.
- f. The flock of sheeps blocked the road.
- g. The children was playing in the giant's garden.
- h. The children decided to surprises Miss Holmes on teacher's day.
- i. I saw Raheem when I'm on the flight.
- j. Man have depended on nature for a long time.

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