

# SPOTTING ERRORS

Words, phrases and sentences are the bases of any language. An error in their use may make an expression meaningless or ambiguous in a context. Spotting an error in a sentence is a step-by-step process. Checking errors randomly is always so confusing that you can never go close to accuracy. To probe a sentence for an error and pin-point it with accuracy, you have to ask these questions while solving a 'spotting error' problem:

- "Is the **verb** in accordance with the **subject**?"
- "Is the **tense** of the verb correct?"
- "Is the **subject** or **doer** close to the **participle**?"
- "Are the **nouns** and **verbs** in their **proper forms** confirming the parallelism?"
- "Are the **articles**, **determiners** and **adjectives** correctly used?"
- "Are the forms of **pronoun** correct and do they agree with the related nouns and other pronouns?"
- "Are the **prepositions** correctly used?"
- "Are the **spelling** and **punctuations** in place?"

Before you should be able to ask these questions meaningfully, you will have to understand these different grammar usages one by one.

## TYPE 1 : ERROR OF SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

The very first thing that we need to check in a 'spotting error question' is the verb. Consider the following sentences:

**Set I** *Taking her basket she goes to the seashore to collect shells. She is happy with what she earns.*

**Set II** *Taking their baskets the women go to the seashore to collect shells.*

*They are happy with what they earn.*

Did you notice how the verbs change with the change in subject in the two sets? If we change the subject 'she' into 'the women' or 'she' into 'they' the verbs lose their 's' and 'es'. **She goes but they go, she is but they are and she earns but they earn.**

Notice what happens when we change these verbs into past:

*Taking her basket she went to the seashore to collect shells.*

*They were happy with what they earned.*

While 'go' changes into 'went', 'are' into 'were' and 'earn' into 'earned', **'taking' and 'to collect' remain unchanged.** We need to change these main or finite verbs (go, are, earn) to make the sentence present, past or future while the non-finites (taking, to collect) remain unchanged. Therefore, we need to check the main verbs in a question.

*E.g., A boy helps the old woman cross the road.*

*He does not know her.*

*He is quite selfless.*

A boy and he are singular; therefore, they take singular verbs with 's' or 'es' at the end.

Or, "Is the verb **plural** with a plural subject?"

*e.g., Some boys play here in the evening.*

*They bring their own bats and balls.*

## Structure Rule

Some **nouns** never change into a **plural form even if used as plural**—apparatus, scenery, jewellery, machinery, offspring, information, stationery, aircraft, dozen, hundred, furniture.

The pronouns **each** and **one** make the subject **singular**. *e.g.,*

(i) **Each** of the Chief Ministers of the states *was* present in the meeting.

(ii) **One** of the boys *is* to be blamed.

**Somebody, nobody** are singular but **every** and **none** can be used both as singular and plural.

The conjunction '**and**' makes the subject **plural** when combining two or more nouns or pronouns. *e.g.,*

(i) **Jack, John and Jill** *are* coming to meet me.

(ii) **He and I** *are* going to welcome them.

If the conjunction—**or, nor**—combines the nouns or pronouns, then the number of the last noun or pronoun is decisive. *e.g.,*

(i) Two bikes or **a car** *is* enough to carry us all.

(ii) The coach or **the players** *are* responsible for the defeat.

(iii) She, they or **I** *am* supposed to look after the people here.

## TYPE 2: ERROR OF TENSE

Checking the tense of the verb in a sentence is another very important thing. You need to know, "Is the tense of the verb correct?" Consider the following sentences:

(i) **Yesterday** I *met* him. (ii) She **said** she *would* meet him.

**Yesterday** and **said** fixes the time of the verb to be past. Therefore, we have used the past forms of 'meet' and 'will'.

However, for the present time, we say:

(i) I **always** *meet* him at the station. (ii) She **says** she *will* meet him.

**Always** and **says** refer to the present and 'meet' and 'will' are the present forms of the verbs.

**'Is, am and are'** are the present forms and their past forms are **was** and **were**.

**Has and have** are the present forms and their past form is **had**.

**Does and do** are the present forms and their past form is **did**.

**Will, shall, can and may** are the present form modals and their past forms are **would, should, could and might** respectively.



## Structure Rule

Some verbs express not actions, or happenings but **sense perceptions** such as see, hear, smell, taste, feel or **possession** such as *own, possess, have, hold* or some **insight or idea** such as *believe, realize, obsess* etc. Such verbs are usually **not used in the continuous tense**. Sometimes when they are used in the continuous tense they lose their usual meaning. *e.g.*, The judge is hearing the case at the moment.

## TYPE 3: ERROR OF CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

### Pattern I

**If + Subject + Verb (in the first form) – Subject + Will + Verb (in the first form)**

If + you + allow - I + will + go.

If + it + rains - he + will + not come.

If + one + promises - one + must + keep it.

If + you + work hard - you + can + succeed.

These sentences express what is **probable to happen** in future under particular conditions. The first parts of the sentences **beginning with 'if'** are the conditions and the second parts are the intentions or the **likely happenings in future**. The first takes the **simple present** form and the second **simple future**.

They can be stated reversing the order:

I **will go** if you **allow**.

He **will not come** if it **rains**.

One **must keep** it if one **promises**.

You **can succeed** if you **work** hard.

### Pattern II

**If + Subject + Verb (in the second form) –**

**Subject + Would + Verb (in the first form)**

If + I + knew - I + would + tell you

If + the office + had money - it + would + give away the salary.

If + I + were the President - I + would + honour the learned.

If + women + had power - they + would + rule better.

These sentences express some **hypothetical probability** or supposition or just an assumption. They mean 'I don't know so I can't tell you'; 'the office doesn't have money so it cannot pay salary'; 'I am not the President otherwise I would honour the learned'; 'women don't have power otherwise they would rule better'. These sentences can also state the second part first.

### Pattern III

**If + Subject + Verb (had + the third form) –**

**Subject + Would have + 3rd form of Verb**

If + it + had rained - the farmers + would have + grown crops.

If + we + had reached on time + would have + caught the train.

If + the doctor + had come on time - the patient + would not have + died

## Structure Rule

'Have' and 'hold' are used in the continuous form as in 'He **is having** bath' or 'She **is holding** a flower'. But **have** here means **take** and **hold** means **wield, take or keep in hand**. We, however, **CANNOT** say 'They **are having or holding** some property in this town'. We should, instead, say, 'They have or hold some property in this town'. The verb '**have**' is **used in three different ways**:

1. I am **having my lunch** at the moment. It means 'I am **taking**'.
2. He **has** some industry in this town. It means 'He **possesses** or **own**'.
3. We **have done** our work. It means 'work is completed' and 'have' denotes the **perfect tense**.

## TYPE 4: ERROR OF PARTICIPLES

What function do the –ing verbs do in the following sentences?

- (i) **Smoking** is injurious to health.
- (ii) **Swimming** is a good exercise.
- (iii) He has given up **smoking**.
- (iv) She has started **swimming**.
- (v) They are taking lessons in **swimming**.

They function as the subject or object in the sentence. If you ask the question 'what is injurious or a good exercise' or 'what has he given up or started or is taking lesson in' you will get the –ing words as answer. You should ask 'what' questions before the verb to know the subject and after the verb to know the object in the sentence.

Now look at the following sentences. How are the –ing words different from those used above?

- (i) **Smoking** he entered the hall.
- (ii) **Swimming** they crossed the flooded river.

In the sentences above the words **smoking** and **swimming** don't answer the question 'what entered or who crossed' but tell how he entered or how they crossed.

## TYPE 5: ERROR OF NOUNS

In a sentence when a few nouns or verbs occur in a group or list, they are supposed to be in the same form—either all infinitive (to go), all participle (going) or all noun (gait).

- (i) Measures have been taken **to generate** energy, **to conserve** it and **for its equitable distribution**.

The above sentence can be corrected in the following possible ways:

Measures have been taken **to generate** energy, **to conserve** it and **to distribute** it equitably.

Measures have been taken for **generating** energy, **conserving** it and **distributing** it equitably.

Measures have been taken for the **generation** of energy, its **conservation** and equitable **distribution**.

- (ii) **Infant** is the first stage of life, **boyhood** the second and **adolescent** the third.

The stages are **infancy**, **boyhood** and **adolescence**; infant and adolescent are persons in these stages.



Therefore, the sentence should read:

**Infancy** is the first stage, **boyhood** the second and **adolescence** is the third.

(iii) The **breadth** was five centimetre, the **length** ten and it was three centimetre **high**.

The **breadth** and **length** are alright but instead of 'it was three centimetre high' it should be 'the **height** was three centimetre'.

## Structure Rule

There is big list of such words. A few of the nouns and adjectives are given here:

Mother, motherhood, maternity; poor, poverty; patriot, patriotism; hero, heroism, bankrupt, bankruptcy, vacant, vacancy, diligent, diligence, garrulous, garrulity.

## TYPE 6: ERROR OF ARTICLES

There is **a man** waiting for you outside the gate. **The man** is holding some files.

In the first time reference, we say 'a man' that is 'any man' and when we refer to the same man again we use 'the' before man. 'The' makes it a definite or particular man.

Sometimes **this, that, these or those** can be used in place of 'the' and so can help in making sure whether the use of 'the' is required or not.

'Give me the pen' can be also said as 'Give me this/that pen'.

'The candidates interested can apply soon' can also be said as 'Those candidates who are interested can apply soon'.

Many a time replacing 'the' with one of the four words can prove to be a litmus test for the correctness of **the** in the sentence. But **No** article is used with **man, nature or God**.

Man proposes, God disposes. What man has done to nature! BUT, 'The gods of pantheons were worshipped by the Greeks'.

The countable singular noun takes 'a' or 'an'.

*e.g.*, **A sovereign state** needs **a government** of its own. **An apple a day** keeps the doctor away.

The only difference between **a** and **an** is that a noun or adjective beginning with a vowel sound—the sound of **a, ai, aa, e, ei, ee, ia, o, ou** etc.—takes '**an**' in order to keep the two vowel sounds (a and the first sound of the word) from getting mingled.

For example, if we say a orange, a office, a umbrella, a honest man, a MP, it may create a phonetic problem in speaking and listening. Therefore, we should say an orange, an office, an umbrella, an honest man, an MP, an NRI, an heir, an hour.

However, a university, a one eyed man, a one rupee note are correct although the start with a vowel but produce a consonant sound—yu, wa, etc.

## TYPE 7: ERROR OF DETERMINERS

### I Some, any = indefinite number or quantity

Some is used with **positive sentences** and **any** with **negative sentences** and **questions**.

*e.g.*, There is **some good news** for you. Uncountable positive

**Some books** are lying on the table. Countable positive

There is not **any water** left in the bottle. Uncountable negative

Are there **any letters** in the letter-box? Countable question

### II Much, many = big quantity (uncountable) or big number (countable)

(i) There is not **much water** left in the pond.

(ii) There are not **many followers** of Gandhiji these days.

(iii) Too **much milk** will be required to make these sweets.

(iv) **Many parliamentarians** were absent on the first day of the session.

(v) How **much money** do you want?

(vi) You can take as **many currency notes** as you want.

### III A little = small quantity—uncountable

**A few = small number—countable**

(i) Only **a little rice** is left. We will have to manage with it.—small amount

(ii) Only **a few people** came in the party.—small number

**Little** = (without 'a') hardly any or not any—uncountable

**Few** = (without 'a') hardly any or not any—countable

(i) There is **little sense** in crying over the spilt milk.—no sense

(ii) **Few know** what happens after death.—nobody

### IV More = comparative of much and many

**Less** = comparative of little;

Both **more** and **less** are used with 'than'. *e.g.*,

(i) I don't have **more** money today. It is incorrect. It should be **much money or enough** money.

(ii) I want **more** money than what I have.

(iii) I want **more** money than you have.

(iv) There is **less** sense in talking with such a rude person. It should be **little** sense or **no** sense.

(v) An idle talk is much **less important than** work.

### V Several = Several is small number (countable) but more definite than some

**Enough** = Sufficient number and quantity

(i) Don't worry. There are **several** policemen to guard the place.

(ii) Don't give me more. I have eaten **enough**.

## TYPE 8: ERROR OF ADJECTIVES

**Earlier—later:** on an **earlier date** or a **later date**; used for **time**.

**Former—latter:** out of two **names or things** mentioned, the **first** is **former** and the **second** is **later**.

**Farther—further:**

(i) What will be his **further** strategy? 'Further' means **next** in sequence here.

(ii) He mended his ways without any **further** delays. Further here means **additional**.

(iii) I come from a **farther place** than you do.

(iv) The USA is **further** from here than the UK.

**Older—elder:** There are two brothers **elder** to me; the second one is two years **older than** me. **Elder** indicates **seniority in relation, older seniority in age**. *e.g.*,

(i) How can I use insulting words for him? He is an **elder** to me. Persons not in relation cannot be compared by using 'elder'. Only their ages can be compared:

(ii) The Prime Minister of the country is much **older than** the President.



## TYPE 9: ERROR OF PRONOUNS

### The forms of pronoun

**Subjective forms:** I, we, you, he, she, they, it.

**Objective forms:** me, us, you, him, her, them, it.

**Possessive forms:** my/of mine, your/of yours, his/of his, her/of hers, their/of theirs, its/of it.

- (i) His accomplishments are greater than my accomplishments.
- (ii) His accomplishments are greater **than mine**. Accomplishments are compared.
- (iii) He is greater **than me**. He and I are compared.

### The usage of it, its, it's, there, their

**It** is used for a *thing, idea, animal, baby, child, kid*, etc. Sometimes I, we, you, he, she, they are also used for them. **It** and **there are** used as *dummy subject or object*. e.g.,

- (i) **It** is true. I knew **it**. Damn **it**. **It's** late. What time is **it** by your watch? **It's** useless to try once again.

In the above sentences '**it**' does not mean anything but just fill the gap of a subject or an object.

- (ii) **There** was a king. Where **there** is a will, **there** is a way. How many friends of ours were **there** in the party? What time is **there** by your watch?

'**There**' does the same function as '**it**' does. It fills the gap.

- (iii) The dog wags **its** tail on seeing its master.  
Its tail means dog's tail or *the tail of the dog*.
- (iv) Let's hurry. **It's** getting late.

**It's** is the short or *contracted form of it is*. It is getting late.

### The Order of the Personal Pronoun

'*You first*' is a good manner in all cultures, and so it is in English. Say 'you, he and I' for the good things these three do; and say 'I, you and he' for all the bad things they do. Credit should be given to others first and blame should be taken on oneself first. Therefore, the correct order of the Personal Pronoun is:

For all good things:

**You, he and I** have achieved remarkable *success*.

**You, he and I; You and I or He and I**

For all bad things:

**I, you and he** are responsible for the failure of the project.

**I, you and he; I and you or I and he**

### Emphatic and Reflexive Pronouns

I did this work **myself**. *Who did? I myself*. **I myself** did this work. In both cases '**myself**' emphasizes only 'I' and nobody else did it. Therefore, **myself** is emphatic pronoun.

An emphatic pronoun can either be used soon after the subject or at the end of the sentence.

I saw **myself** in the mirror. '**Myself**' answers 'I saw what or whom'. Therefore, '**myself**' is used as the object of the verb 'saw'. It comes soon after the verb. Here '**myself**' is reflexive pronoun. It reflects the action on the doer on himself.

## TYPE 10: ERROR OF PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions fix the position of a noun or verb in relation to another noun.

### Place (point)

**to, at, from**—to a point, at a point, from a point e.g.,

- (i) She **went to** *the hotel*.
- (ii) I **met her at** *the door*.
- (iii) She **came from** *Canada*.

### Place (line)

**on, off, across, over, along**—on the line, off the line, across the line, over the line, along the line e.g.,

- (i) It was a foul as the ball **fell on** *the line*.
- (ii) **The fielder fell off** *the line* holding the ball and so it was a six.
- (iii) The ball **rolled across** *the line*. It was four.
- (iv) It was a clear six as **the ball went over** *the line*.
- (v) **The fielder ran along** *the line* towards the ball to save it from crossing the line.

### Place (surface)

**on, off, across, over, through**—on the surface, off the surface, across the surface, over the surface, through the surface

- (i) The passengers were **waiting on** *the platform*.
- (ii) A crowd pushed and **one of them fell off** *the platform* on the track.
- (iii) A vendor was **prowling across** *the platform* selling his newspaper.
- (iv) A crow **flew over** *the platform* snatching a piece of bread from a child.
- (v) Some trolleys were **piercing their way through** *the platform*.

### Place (area)

**in, into, out of, through**—was in the playground, came into the playground, came out of the playground, went through the playground e.g.,

- (i) The first team was **already in** *the playground*.
- (ii) After five minutes the second team **came into** *the playground*.
- (iii) After ten minutes one of the players **was sent out of** *the playground*.
- (iv) The game was stopped and the referee **went through** *the playground to check* what was wrong.

### Position

**over, above**—A beautiful **carpet** was there all **over** *the floor*, a blue shining floor **under** *the carpet*, a ball thrown **over** *the table*, a shuttle shot **over** *the net*, a plane/helicopter hovering **over** *the town*, the sun shined vertically **over/above** *head* in mid-summer, millions of poor have not roof **over/above** *their head*, an exquisite fan hanging **over/above** *the table*

**under, below**—a small child standing **below** *the table*, lived **under/below** *the same roof*, no man **under/below** *the sky* knows, ground hollow **below** *the surface*, **below** *average*, **below** *the danger mark*, **below** *poverty line*

**under, underneath, beneath**—a carpet **underneath** *the table*, a cat sitting **under/beneath** *the table*,

**underneath** *the carpet* polished and shimmering tiles seen here and there



**in front of, behind, by, beside**—one chair **in front of** the table, another **behind** it, a small stool **in front of** a dressing table, wall **behind** the dressing table, the bed, the windows and doors hidden **behind** the curtains, two mongoose hiding **behind** the bushes, train came **behind** time means came late, before time is early

**by, beside**—a side table **by/beside** the bed, sit **beside** me, a tower standing **by** the river, passed **by** me

**round, around**—a shop **round** the corner (nearby), a car moved **around** the building/roundabout, turned

**round and round**, the earth moving **round** the sun, the periphery **around** the shrine

**in front of (just next in the row/line), opposite (facing), next (adjacent)**—sitting **in front of** me, sitting **opposite** facing each other, a building **opposite** the school across the road, a building **next** to it or **in front of** it, the girl **next** door

**between, among**—stuffing **between** two slices of bread, no grudge **between** you and me, **between** 6 P.M. and 9 P.M., a woman sitting **between** two men, river flows **between** its banks, an orange in the bowl **among** many apples, a man sitting **among** many women

### Means and Instrument

**by, in, from, with**—**by** hand, **by** air, **by** writing, cooked **from** oil/butter, **with** knife/screw-driver/hammer

- (i) The money was delivered **by hand**.
- (ii) The handicraft shop sells things made **by hand**.
- (iii) Travelling **by air** is faster than travelling **by train or by car**.

- (iv) We informed them **by writing** a message.
- (v) Food is **cooked** here **from** pure butter.
- (vi) He drove a nail in the wall **with a hammer**.

### Time

**at, on, in**—**at** 4 o'clock, **on** Mon day, **in** March

**for** (summed up time), **since** (beginning time)—**for** two hours, **since** morning

**before, after**—woke **before** the day break, slept **after** the night fall  
**from-to, between-and**—**from** 6 p.m. **to** 9 p.m., **between** 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.

**during, within, till**—**during** the entire day, **within** three days, **till** the day after tomorrow, **till** yesterday

- (i) This happened **at 5 in** the morning **on** a Monday **in** January **in** 2012.
- (ii) It has been raining **since** last week and it has already rained **for** seven days.
- (iii) She worshipped **before** eating and she worshipped **after** eating.
- (iv) The show runs **from** 6 p.m. **to** 9 p.m.
- (v) You can see the doctor **between** 6 p.m. and 9 p.m.
- (vi) We went to Nainital **during** the holidays.
- (vii) You will have to complete the test **within** the time provided.
- (viii) I was quite unaware of this fact **till** yesterday.



# EXERCISE

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 1-15):** Each below item has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter i.e., (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d).

1. Of all those involved with the accident  
(a) (b)  
none was seriously injured No error  
(c) (d)
2. Radar equipments that is to be used  
(a) (b)  
for ships must be installed carefully. No error  
(c) (d)
3. New types of electrical circuits has been developed  
(a) (b)  
by our engineers. No error  
(c) (d)
4. Recently I visited Kashmir and found the sceneries  
(a) (b)  
to be marvellous. No error  
(c) (d)
5. It is of primary importance in swimming to learn  
(a) (b)  
to breathe properly. No error  
(c) (d)
6. When the party was over, he looked around for the girl  
(a) (b)  
who had come with him. No error  
(c) (d)
7. After we were driving for miles on the winding road  
(a) (b)  
I was suddenly sick. No error  
(c) (d)
8. The forecast was for fair and warm weather  
(a) (b)  
and the day dawned dark and chill. No error  
(c) (d)

9. To write, to speak or to act seems very easy.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error  
(d)
10. I have not had tea since two days. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
11. Beside his mother he has two aunts  
(a) (b)  
who stay with him. No error  
(c) (d)
12. This photograph appears to be the best of the two.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error  
(d)
13. Either the operator or the foreman are  
(a) (b)  
to blame for the accident. No error  
(c) (d)
14. The article offers good advice to  
(a) (b)  
whomever must accept it. No error  
(c) (d)
15. She dislikes you being most organized  
(a) (b)  
than she is. No error  
(c) (d)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 16-35):** In this section, you are required to spot errors in sentences. Each sentence is divided into three parts. Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error in any of the parts. No sentence has more than one error. Some of the sentences do not have any error. When you find an error in a sentence, the letter indicated under that part of the sentence is the answer and therefore the same may be marked on the separate Answer Sheet. If there is no error in any part, your response should be indicated as (d).

16. She inquired whether anyone seen her baby. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
17. When I went outdoor I found frost everywhere.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error  
(d)



18. These are his conclusion remarks. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
19. They sit at the window and watch the traffic  
(a) (b) (c) No error  
(d)
20. The young man had no manners. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
21. No news is good news. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
22. There is no seats in this compartment No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
23. Shakespeare is greater than any other poet. No error  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
24. The Australian team lost the match  
(a) (b) yesterday No error  
(c) (d)
25. He told us that he had not read the book  
(a) (b) (c) No error  
(d)
26. He asked her that whether she knew  
(a) (b) what had happened last week No error  
(c) (d)
27. Until you do not go to the station to receive him  
(a) (b) I can hardly feel at ease. No error  
(c) (d)
28. Please convey my best wishes back to your parents.  
(a) (b) (c) No error  
(d)
29. The call of the seas have always found an echo in me.  
(a) (b) (c) No error  
(d)
30. Hardly I had left home for Bombay.  
(a) when my son who is settled in Calcutta arrived  
(b) without any prior information. No error  
(c) (d)
31. The way he's behaving, he'll soon spill the beans.  
(a) (b) I'm afraid. No error  
(c) (d)
32. People blamed him for being a coward person.  
(a) (b) (c) No error  
(d)
33. We swam up to the drowning man, caught hold of his clothes  
(a) before he could go down again  
(b) and pulled him out, safe to the shore. No error  
(c) (d)

34. Meena was so tired that she could not hardly  
(a) (b) talk to the guests for a few minutes. No error  
(c) (d)
35. If I was knowing why he was absent,  
(a) (b) I would have informed you. No error  
(c) (d)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 36 - 57) :** In each of these questions, each sentence has four underlined words or phrases marked a, b, c and d. Choose one word or phrase that must be changed for the sentence to be correct.

36. The ways of (a) travelling has changed (b) dramatically since (c) the late nineteenth century (d).
37. Usually (a) the climate in mountainous areas becomes much (b) windy (c) at higher (d) altitudes.
38. Many psychologists today suggest (a) that we interpret dreams by compare (b) the dreams with (c) the reality of each person's (d) life.
39. When (a) I came home, the (b) children still didn't finish (c) dinner. (d)
40. He would (a) never have taken the job if he had been knowing (b) what great demands (c) it would make (d) on his time.
41. Schools in India can be supported (a) either by government budgets (b) and (c) by private foundations. (d)
42. Both (a) personality and external looking (b) vary (c) greatly even among (d) brothers and sisters.
43. Atrophy can affect (a) a cell, organ, (b) tissues (c) or (d) limb.
44. While (a) a strong defend (b) is important to any country it cannot be more important than the livelihood (c) of its (d) citizens.
45. It (a) can take hundreds (b) of different experiments to achieve (c) a (d) ultimate solution.
46. It is (a) impossible of (b) an (c) alcoholic to (d) drink moderately.
47. The baby was left (a) in charge (b) of an (c) elderly lady. (d)
48. Smoking (a) is not allowed at petrol pumps because there is (b) too many (c) easily ignited (d) material in the vicinity.
49. Recreation is any activity (a) engaged (b) for self-satisfaction through (c) relaxation, fun, or (d) like opportunity for self-expression.
50. Hard work and self-discipline often result (a) in a rise (b) not only in one's (c) salary but also in your self-esteem (d).
51. After the absentee (a) ballots had been counted, the total of the authorised votes cast (b) in the election were (c) one third less (d) than what had been predicted.
52. He is one (a) of the shrewdest men (b) that is (c) in the (d) administration.
53. No sooner had he (a) come from Mumbai when (b) he was asked (c) to proceed to (d) Delhi.
54. Drug abuse have (a) become one of (b) our most (c) serious social problems. (d)



55. Every candidate under (a) considering (b) for a military job must undergo (c) a thorough medical (d) examination.
56. Caricature, a type (a) of exaggeration (b) is common (c) used in (d) political cartoons.
57. Because coughing (a) spread (b) germs and Ram is coughing (c) Ram is spreading (d) germs.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 58-60) :** In each of these questions, one sentence is split and written in four portions. Each sentence is complete, but contains an error. Choose the portion of the sentence with the error.

58. You (a)/will be ready (b)/to start while (c)/he comes. No error. (d)
59. I heard (a)/ Sita's (b)/knocking at (c)/the door. No error. (d)
60. The boys (a)/is thought to be one (b)/of the most gifted children (c)/ in the class. No error. (d)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 61-65) :** To answer these questions, choose a word or phrase which is underlined and is not appropriate in standard English.

61. I prefer The Hindu (a)/but my eldest (b) / son reads (c) Times of India (d).
62. He was wearing shabby (a)/ faded trouser (b)/which he explained, were called jeans (c)/ and cost (d)/ a fortune.
63. He has become (a)/ so weak that even (b)/ a two furlongs (c)/ walk makes him breathless (d).
64. The symptoms (a)/ of diabetes in the (b)/early stages are too (c)/slight that people do not notice them (d).
65. Studying (a)/ the science (b)/ of logic is one way to (c)/ cultivate one's reason (d)/ skills.

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 66-95):** In these questions, some of the sentences have errors and some are correct as they are. Find out which part of a sentence has an error. If a sentence is free from error, write (d) as the answer.

66. The manager called the clerk and said whether (a) / he was in the habit of (b) / sleeping at home as well. (c) / No error (d)
67. The crew were on board (a) / and they soon busied themselves (b) / in preparing to meet the storm. (c) / No error (d)
68. Amar introduced me (a) / to his friend (b) / who is a scientist and an engineer. (c) / No error (d)
69. There is still (a) / little tea (b) left in the cup. (c) / No error (d)
70. I will spend (a) / my remaining life (b) in the village. (c) / No error (d)
71. The vaccine (a) / when hit the Indian market (b) / is dogged by controversy (c) / No error (d)
72. Do you know that it was I (a) / who has done (b) / this piece of beautiful work (c) / No error (d)
73. If you had told me (a)/ I would have helped you (b) / solve the problem (c) / No error (d)
74. The Arabian Nights(a) / are indeed (b)/ an interesting book (c)/ No error (d)
75. He (a)/ loved her (b)/ despite of himself(c)/ No error (d)
76. Of all the models (a)/ Sessica is (b)/ the more good-looking on (c)/ No error (d)
77. When I went there (a)/ Charles is playing (b)/ a game of chess (c)/ No error (d).

78. Mohans' eyes (a)/ reflect a hope (b)/ for a better future in Microsoft.(c)/ No error (d).
79. He went to Mumbai (a)/ with a view (b)/ to secure a job. (c)/ No error (d).
80. The Headmaster with all his senior teachers (a)/ have come (b)/ to attend the meeting. (c)/ No error (d).
81. The teacher said that (a)/ the building adjacent with his house (b)/ needed repairs. (c)/ No error (d).
82. Grapes (a)/ cannot gathered (b)/ from thistles. (c)/ No error (d).
83. Air pollution, together with littering, (a)/ are causing many problems (b)/ in our cities. (c)/ No error (d).
84. The accused refused (a)/ to answer to the policeman (b)/ on duty. (c)/ No error (d).
85. What is (a)/ the use of me (b)/ attending the session? (c)/ No error (d).
86. We met our prospective employer (a)/ for a briefing session (b)/ in the Taj Hotel. (c)/ No error (d).
87. Because of the severe snow storm and the road blocks, (a)/ the air force dropped food and (b)/ medical supplies close to the city. (c)/ No error (d).
88. If I would have realised (a)/ what a bad shape our library is in (b)/ I would have done something, to arrest the deterioration. (c)/ No error (d).
89. He has been (a)/ enhanced in position (b)/ as result of his diligence and integrity. (c)/ No error (d).
90. It is I (a)/ who is responsible (b)/ for the delay. (c)/ No error (d).
91. There is only one cure (a)/ to the evils which newly (b)/ acquired freedom produces and that cure in freedom. (c)/ No error (d).
92. He flew (a)/ over extensively (b)/ the Pacific last winter (c)/ No error (d).
93. His parents does not (a)/ approve of (b)/ his business (c)/ No error (d).
94. The college library is (a)/ not only equipped with (b)/ very good books but also with the latest journals (c)/ No error (d).
95. Men are wanted (a)/ for the army (b)/ and the navy, and the air force, (c)/ No error (d).

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 96-105) :** Each question in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter, i.e., (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d). [CDS]

96. I tried to meet the person whom you said  
(a) (b)  
was looking for me. No error  
(c) (d)
97. We looked after the thief. but he was nowhere  
(a) (b)  
to be found. No error  
(c) (d)



98. I hoped that the train will arrive on time,  
(a) (b)  
but it did not No error  
(c) (d)
99. The decorations in your house. are similar  
(a) (b)  
to his house. No error.  
(c) (d)
100. Despite of the increase in air fares.  
(a)  
most people still prefer to travel by plane No error  
(b) (c) (d)
101. I shall write to you when I shall reach Chennai.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error.  
(d)
102. Neither of these two documents support your claim  
(a) (b)  
on the property. No error.  
(c) (d)
103. His grandfather had told him to smoke was a bad habit.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error.  
(d)
104. My book which I gave it to you yesterday  
(a) (b)  
is very interesting No error  
(c) (d)
105. I am entirely agreeing with you, but I regret  
(a) (b)  
I can't help you. No error.  
(c) (d)

**DIRECTIONS (Qs. 106-120):** Each question in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the Answer Sheet against the corresponding letter, i.e., (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d). [CDS]

106. The reason for his failure is because he did not work hard.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error.  
(d)
107. Food as well as water is necessary for life. No error.  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
108. India is larger than any democracies in the world No error.  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
109. The Judge heard the arguments of the lawyers and found  
(a) (b)  
that the boy was innocent. No error.  
(c) (d)
110. Such books which you read are not worth reading.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error.  
(d)
111. Tagore was one of the greatest poet  
(a) (b)  
that ever lived. No error.  
(c) (d)
112. You may please apply for an advance of salary  
(a) (b)  
to cover costs of transport. No error.  
(c) (d)
113. The taxi that will take the family to Haridwar  
(a)  
had to be ready at six the next morning. No error.  
(b) (c) (d)
114. Employees are expected to adhere the rules  
(a) (b)  
laid down by the management. No error.  
(c) (d)
115. The owner of the horse greedily ask  
(a) (b)  
too high a price. No error.  
(c) (d)
116. I convinced him to see the play. No error.  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
117. Some man are born great. No error.  
(a) (b) (c) (d)
118. My detailed statement is respectively  
(a) (b)  
submitted. No error.  
(c) (d)
119. He is representing my constituency  
(a) (b)  
for the last five years. No error.  
(c) (d)
120. If he hears of your conduct he is to be unhappy.  
(a) (b) (c)  
No error.  
(d)



# HINTS & SOLUTIONS

1. (b) Replace 'with' with 'in'.
2. (a) Replace 'equipments' with 'equipment'.
3. (b) Replace 'has' with 'have'.
4. (b) Replace 'sceneries' with 'scenery'.
5. (c) Remove 'properly' as it is redundant.
6. (b) Replace "he looked around for the girl" with "he looked out for the girl".
7. (c) Replace "I was suddenly sick" with "I suddenly felt sick".
8. (c) Replace 'and the day dawned dark and chill' with 'and the day turned dark and chill'.
9. (c) Replace 'very easy' with 'to be very easy'.
10. (b) Replace 'since' with 'for'.
11. (a) Replace 'beside' with 'besides'.
12. (c) Replace 'best' with 'better'.
13. (b) Replace 'are' with 'is'.
14. (c) Replace 'whomever' with 'whoever'.
15. (b) Replace 'most' with 'more'.
16. (c) She inquired whether anyone had seen her baby.
17. (b) When I went outdoors, I found frost everywhere.
18. (c) These are his concluding remarks.
19. (b) They sit by the window and watch the traffic.
20. (c) The young man had no manners.
21. (b) No news is good news.
22. (b) There is no room in this compartment.
23. (d) Shakespeare is greater than any other poet.
24. (b) The Australian team lost the match yesterday.
25. (c) He had not read the book.
26. (a) In the sentence, that is unnecessarily used.
27. (a) Until you go to the station to receive him I can hardly feel at ease.
28. (c) Please convey my best wishes to your parents.
29. (b) The call of the seas has always found an echo in me. 'has' is used to complement with the singular subject 'all'.
30. (a) Hardly had I left home for Bombay when my son who is settled in Calcutta arrived without any prior information.
31. (d) No error
32. (c) People blamed him for being a coward. Coward means a person who lacks courage in facing danger, difficulty, opposition etc. We only write coward and not add person/man/woman to it.
33. (b) We swam up to the drowning man, caught hold of his clothes before he went down again and pulled him out, safely to the shore.
34. (b) Meena was so tired that she could hardly talk to the guests for a few minutes. 'not hardly' is wrong and instead only hardly should be used.
35. (a) If I had known why he was absent, I would have informed you.
36. (b) It should be 'have changed', the noun is plural (ways), has is used for singular nouns.
37. (b) There is a comparison being made, so comparative degree 'higher' has been used. Therefore instead of 'much' the comparative degree 'more' would be correct.
38. (b) The sentence is in the current present tense so the verb following by will in the continues form that is 'by + verb + ing'. So 'comparing' and not compare.
39. (c) The sentence refers to a time in past, so the action has been completed in the past tense, which implies the tense of the verb would be past perfect so 'hadn't finish' and not 'didn't finish'.
40. (b) Present perfect continuous tense is employed when the work continue till present. The given sentence on the other hand suggests that the work should have happened at some time in past, so the tense used should be Past Perfect 'had known' not 'had been knowing'.
41. (c) The use of 'either' will be followed by 'or' not and.
42. (b) The usage 'external looking' is incorrect, 'looking' is a verb and means 'to look at' while here it should be a noun so external 'looks'.
43. (c) The list has the article 'a' and all other nouns are singular, so 'tissues' too should be singular.
44. (a) 'Strong' is an adjective so the word following it should logically be a noun, 'defend' is a verb, the right answer will be 'defence'.
45. (d) 'Ultimate' is proceeded with the article 'the' not 'a'.
46. (b) Impossible 'for' is the correct usage.
47. (b) 'In charge of' will mean that the baby was the boss of the elderly lady. The sentence should mean that the elderly lady is in charge, the right use will be 'in the charge of' which means under charge or protection of.
48. (b) Too many means plural noun, so it will be 'there are' not there is.
49. (a) The sentence is a simple definition, there is no need to use 'any', it can simply be 'an activity'.
50. (a) Result is the common verb for two singular subjects – hard work and discipline, so it should be plural therefore 'results' is the right form.
51. (c) The noun for this auxillary verb is 'total' which is a singular noun so the right verb is 'was' not 'were'.



52. (c) 'Shrewdest men' is the subject for this auxiliary verb, hence it should be the plural 'are' not is
53. (b) Because the sentence begins with No sooner had he come, the right use will be 'that' not 'when'. When is used, when the exact event or time is mentioned directly in the sentence, e.g., He had just come from Mumbai when he was asked to proceed to Delhi.
54. (a) 'Drug abuse' is a singular subject so the verb should be the singular 'has' not have.
55. (b) Under 'Consideration'. Considering is a verb and cannot be used with the preposition 'under'. Only noun can follow under.
56. (c) The word used before the verb 'used' will be an adverb not a noun, thus the correct use will be 'commonly' and not 'common'.
57. (b) The right verb usage will be 'spreads' because the subject is singular noun.
58. (c) 'While' is used for a process or series of events, but 'he comes' is a single event for which when should be used as a referring adverb.
59. (d) 'Knocking' is a gerund and it can be preceded by a possessive form. So there is no error.
60. (b) It should be boy because the following auxiliary verb is singular 'is'.
61. (d) Name of a newspaper is preceded by article 'the, it should be 'The Times of India'.
62. (b) Trouser is always used in the plural form 'trousers'.
63. (c) Since the article 'a' has been used, two furlongs must be used as a single unit so the right use will be two furlong.
64. (c) Too when used is followed by to, i.e., too slight to be noticed. The right word here will be 'so'.
65. (c) When 'one' is used as a pronoun, it must be used consistently. Ex-One must manage one's money carefully.
66. (a) replace 'said' by 'asked'
67. (a) Replace 'meet' by 'face'
68. (c) The correct form is 'who is both a scientist and an engineer' or 'who is a scientist as well as an engineer'
69. (b) a little
70. (b) Replace 'my remaining life' by 'the rest of my life'
71. (c) "Was dogged by controversy" should be used.
72. (b) "who have done" should be used
73. (a) 'Told' should be replaced as 'asked'
74. (b) "The Arabian Nights" name of book and is singular hence "is indeed" should be used in place of "are indeed"
75. (c) "dispite himself" should be used because dispite of himself is improper word.
76. (c) more than one degree can not be used for single subjects.
77. (b) "Charles was playing" because events shows past time.
78. (b) Here Mohan's eyes reflect means that it was Mohan's habit which is not the case. Hence, it should be as Mohan's eyes reflected .....
79. (c) With a view to (doing) something because you are planning to do something in the future. Ex: We bought the house with a view to retiring there.
80. (b) 'has come' is the correct option because the verb will agree with the first subject.
81. (b) adjacent always takes the preposition 'to'.
82. (b) Grapes cannot be the subject of the sentence; hence it should be 'Grapes cannot be gathered.....'
83. (b) 'are' is replaced by 'is'
84. (b) Remove 'to' before the policeman
85. (b) 'me' is replaced by 'myself'
86. (c) 'in' is replaced by 'at'
87. (d) No error
88. (a) Part 'a' of the statement is wrong. It will be as 'If I had realized'. The Past perfect tense suits here and it denotes the sentence to be in Active voice.
89. (b) Part 'b' of the statement is wrong. The word 'enhanced' given here is wrong. The correct word that will suit the statement is 'topper'. Correct application of word enriches the meaning of the sentence.
90. (b) Part 'b' of the sentence is wrong. The correct form of sentence is 'It is I am who should be responsible for the delay'.
91. (b) Part 'b' of the sentence is wrong. The preposition 'of' is missing in that part. 'Of' is applicable after the word 'evils'.
92. (b) Part 'b' of the sentence is wrong. It will be arranged as 'over extensively'. In the part 'B' 'extensively over' is denoting wrong application of words which is acting as a breach to the meaning of the sentence.
93. (a) His parents don't approve of his business. In English, don't is used when speaking in the first and second person plural and singular and the third person plural ("I," "you," "we," and "they"). Doesn't, on the other hand, is used when speaking in the third person singular only ("he," "she," and "it").
94. (d) No error.
95. (c) Men are wanted for the army, the navy and the air force. When joining two or more grammatically similar expressions, and is used followed in the end and commas are used to distinguish the other expressions.
96. (a) Replace 'whom' with 'who'.
97. (a) Replace 'after' with 'for'.
98. (b) Replace 'will' with 'would'.
99. (c) Replace 'to his house' with 'to the decorations in his house'.
100. (a) Delete 'of'.
101. (c) Delete 'shall'.
102. (b) Replace 'support' with 'supports'.



103. (b) Replace 'had told him to smoke' with 'had told him that smoking'.
104. (a) Replace 'which' with 'that'.
105. (a) Replace 'I am entirely agreeing with you' with 'I entirely agree with you'.
106. (b) The reason for his failure is that he did not work hard.
107. (b) Food and water are necessary for life.
108. (b) India is larger than any other democracy in the world.
109. (d) No error
110. (a) The books which you read are not worth reading.
111. (b) Tagore was one of the greatest poets that ever lived.
112. (b) You may please apply for an advance amount from your salary to cover the costs of transport.
113. (b) The taxi that will take the family to Haridwar had to be readied at six the next morning.
114. (b) Employees are expected to adhere to the rules laid down by the management.
115. (b) The owner of the horse greedily asked too high a price.
116. (d) No error
117. (a) Some men are born great.
118. (b) My detailed statement is respectfully submitted.
119. (a) He has been representing my constituency for the past five years.
120. (c) If he hears of your conduct, he will be unhappy.

SARKARIPOST.IN