

# Sentence Correction

## Complete Concept Explanation

### Definition

Sentence Correction is the process of identifying and rectifying grammatical, structural, lexical, or stylistic errors in a sentence so that it conforms to standard rules of English grammar. A corrected sentence must be grammatically precise, logically coherent, idiomatic, and unambiguous.

### Categories of Errors in Sentence Correction

Sentence correction errors fall into several well-defined categories. Mastery of each category is essential for accurate identification and correction.

#### 1. Subject-Verb Agreement

The verb must agree with its subject in number (singular/plural) and person. This rule applies regardless of intervening phrases, inverted structures, or collective nouns.

#### **RULE 1**

**A singular subject takes a singular verb; a plural subject takes a plural verb. Phrases intervening between subject and verb do NOT affect agreement.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: The quality of the apples are poor. | Correct: The quality of the apples is poor. (Subject = 'quality', singular)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The list of items were checked. | Correct: The list of items was checked. (Subject = 'list')

## RULE 2

**Collective nouns (committee, jury, team, family, crew) take a singular verb when acting as one unit, and a plural verb when members act individually.**

**Ex. 1:** The committee has reached a unanimous decision. (acting as one unit → singular)

**Ex. 2:** The jury are divided in their opinions. (members acting individually → plural)

## RULE 3

**Two subjects joined by 'either...or' / 'neither...nor' take a verb that agrees with the subject closer to the verb (Proximity Rule).**

**Ex. 1:** Neither the manager nor the employees were present. ('employees' is closer → plural verb)

**Ex. 2:** Either the students or the teacher is wrong. ('teacher' is closer → singular verb)

## RULE 4

**Indefinite pronouns (everyone, nobody, each, either, neither, anyone, someone) are always singular and take a singular verb.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: Everyone have submitted their forms. | Correct: Everyone has submitted their forms.

**Ex. 2:** Neither of the solutions was acceptable. ('neither' = singular)

## RULE 5

**When 'there' begins a sentence, the verb agrees with the true subject that follows it.**

**Ex. 1:** There is a book on the table. ('book' = singular → 'is')

**Ex. 2:** There are several reasons for this delay. ('reasons' = plural → 'are')

## 2. Tense Usage and Consistency

Tense errors are among the most frequently tested areas. Verbs must reflect the correct time reference, and tense must remain consistent within a sentence or passage unless a logical shift is required.

## RULE 6

**The Simple Past is used for completed actions at a specific time. The Past Perfect (had + V3) is used for an action completed BEFORE another past action.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: When I reached the station, the train already left. | Correct: When I reached the station, the train had already left.

**Ex. 2:** She had finished her report before the meeting started. (had finished = earlier action)

## RULE 7

**In sentences with 'if' clauses (conditionals), the tense pattern must be followed strictly: If + Past → would + base; If + Past Perfect → would have + V3.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: If he works hard, he would succeed. | Correct: If he worked hard, he would succeed. (Type 2 conditional)

**Ex. 2:** If she had applied, she would have got the job. (Type 3 conditional — correct)

## **RULE 8**

**Stative verbs (know, believe, contain, consist, prefer, belong, seem, mean) are NOT used in continuous tenses.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: I am knowing the answer. | Correct: I know the answer.

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: She is preferring tea to coffee. | Correct: She prefers tea to coffee.

## **RULE 9**

**The Present Perfect (have/has + V3) is used for actions whose effects continue to the present or actions done in an unfinished time period.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: I have seen him yesterday. | Correct: I saw him yesterday. (specific past time → Simple Past)

**Ex. 2:** I have lived here for ten years. (continuing to present → Present Perfect — correct)

### 3. Pronoun–Antecedent Agreement and Reference

Pronouns must agree with their antecedents in number, gender, and person. Every pronoun must have a clear, unambiguous antecedent.

#### RULE 10

**A pronoun must agree with its antecedent in number. Singular antecedents take singular pronouns; plural antecedents take plural pronouns.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: Each student must submit their assignment by Monday. | Correct: Each student must submit his/her assignment by Monday. (formal standard; 'their' is increasingly accepted in informal use)

**Ex. 2:** The team won its championship. ('team' singular → 'its')

#### RULE 11

**Avoid ambiguous pronoun reference. When a pronoun could refer to more than one antecedent, restructure the sentence for clarity.**

**Ex. 1:** Ambiguous: Ram told Shyam that he had made an error. | Clear: Ram told Shyam, 'You have made an error.' OR Ram admitted to Shyam that he himself had made an error.

**Ex. 2:** She showed Mary her report. (Ambiguous: whose report?) | Clear: She showed Mary Mary's report.

#### RULE 12

Use 'who' for persons and 'which/that' for things. 'Whose' can be used for both persons and things when indicating possession.

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: The man which came here was a doctor. | Correct: The man who came here was a doctor.

**Ex. 2:** The building whose roof collapsed was demolished. (Correct — 'whose' for things is acceptable)

#### 4. Articles (A, An, The)

Articles are among the subtlest elements of English grammar. Errors in article usage are frequently hidden and require careful attention.

##### RULE 13

'A' is used before consonant sounds; 'An' is used before vowel sounds (the determining factor is SOUND, not spelling).

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: He is an honest man. Wait — this IS correct because 'honest' begins with a vowel SOUND (/b/). An honest man, an hour, an MBA are correct.

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: She is a unique woman. | Correct: She is a unique woman. ('Unique' begins with /ju:/ — a consonant sound → 'a') | Incorrect: a umbrella → Correct: an umbrella.

##### RULE 14

**'The'** is used before specific nouns, superlatives, unique entities, ordinals, and before musical instruments. It is omitted before proper nouns (names of people, most countries, cities, languages) except for groups of islands, mountain ranges, rivers, and plural country names.

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She plays a piano beautifully. | Correct: She plays the piano beautifully. (musical instrument → 'the')

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The India is a great country. | Correct: India is a great country. (proper noun, no article)

## RULE 15

**Abstract and uncountable nouns used in a general sense take no article. When made specific by a qualifier or context, they take 'the'.**

**Ex. 1:** Knowledge is power. (general abstract noun → no article)

**Ex. 2:** The knowledge he gained in college proved invaluable. (specific knowledge → 'the')

## 5. Modifiers: Misplaced and Dangling

A modifier must be placed as close as possible to the word it modifies. Misplaced or dangling modifiers create illogical or ambiguous meaning.

## RULE 16

**A dangling modifier occurs when the implied subject of the modifying phrase differs from the grammatical subject of the main clause. Fix by making the subjects match.**

**Ex. 1:** Dangling: Running down the street, the building came into view. | Correct: Running down the street, I saw the building come into view.

**Ex. 2:** Dangling: Having studied all night, the exam seemed easy. | Correct: Having studied all night, she found the exam easy.

## RULE 17

**Only, almost, nearly, just, even, simply must be placed immediately before the word or phrase they modify. Displacement changes meaning significantly.**

**Ex. 1:** She only told her sister the secret. (Ambiguous) vs She told only her sister the secret. (precise: told no one else)

**Ex. 2:** He almost drove all the way. (drove but stopped short) vs He drove almost all the way. (got very close to the destination)

## 6. Parallelism

Elements in a list or comparison must be in the same grammatical form. This principle is called parallel structure or parallelism.

## RULE 18

**Items in a series connected by coordinating conjunctions (and, but, or, nor) must be in the same grammatical form (all nouns, all infinitives, all gerunds, etc.).**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She likes reading, to write, and dancing. | Correct: She likes reading, writing, and dancing. (all gerunds)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: He was asked to stop the car, locking the door, and to turn off the engine. | Correct: He was asked to stop the car, lock the door, and turn off the engine. (all base infinitives)

## RULE 19

**In comparisons, the elements being compared must be grammatically and logically equivalent. Never compare a thing with a person's action.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: His writing is better than his friend. | Correct: His writing is better than his friend's (writing). (comparing writing with writing)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The streets of Delhi are wider than Mumbai. | Correct: The streets of Delhi are wider than those of Mumbai.

## 7. Preposition Usage

Prepositions must be used correctly in idiomatic expressions. Many errors arise from using the wrong preposition with a verb, noun, or adjective.

## RULE 20

**Many verbs, adjectives, and nouns collocate with specific prepositions. These must be memorised as fixed idiomatic expressions.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She is angry on him. | Correct: She is angry with him. (angry with a person; angry at a situation)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: He is confident of success. Wait — this IS correct. BUT: Incorrect: He is confident about that decision is also acceptable. Key error: 'confident on' is WRONG in all contexts.

## RULE 21

**'Between' is used for exactly two persons/items; 'among' is used for more than two.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: Distribute the prize among the two winners. | Correct: Distribute the prize between the two winners.

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The secret was kept between the five of them. | Correct: The secret was kept among the five of them.

## RULE 22

**Use 'in' for months, years, seasons, and long periods; 'on' for specific days and dates; 'at' for specific times and points.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She will arrive on the evening. | Correct: She will arrive in the evening. ('in' for parts of the day)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The match is at Sunday. | Correct: The match is on Sunday. ('on' for days)

## 8. Conjunctions and Connectors

Conjunctions must logically and grammatically link clauses. Mixing coordinating and subordinating structures or using double connectors is a common error.

### RULE 23

**Never use 'although/though' and 'but/yet/however' together in the same sentence — they perform the same contrast function. Use only one.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: Although he was tired, but he continued working. | Correct: Although he was tired, he continued working. OR He was tired, but he continued working.

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: Though she tried hard, yet she failed. | Correct: Though she tried hard, she failed.

### RULE 24

**The conjunction 'because' and the phrase 'the reason is/was' should not be used together. Similarly, avoid 'the reason why is because'.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: The reason he failed is because he didn't study. | Correct: The reason he failed is that he didn't study. OR He failed because he didn't study.

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The reason why I left is because I was bored. | Correct: The reason I left is that I was bored.

## 9. Word Form and Parts of Speech Errors

Using an incorrect part of speech — for example, an adjective where an adverb is required — is a subtle but important error.

### RULE 25

**Adverbs modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs. Adjectives modify nouns. Never use an adjective to modify a verb.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She sings beautiful. | Correct: She sings beautifully. (adverb modifies the verb 'sings')

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: He drives careful. | Correct: He drives carefully.

### RULE 26

**Linking verbs (be, seem, appear, become, feel, look, smell, taste, sound, remain) are followed by adjectives (predicate adjectives), NOT adverbs.**

**Ex. 1:** Incorrect: She looks beautifully in that dress. | Correct: She looks beautiful in that dress. ('looks' is a linking verb → adjective)

**Ex. 2:** Incorrect: The soup tastes well. | Correct: The soup tastes good. ('tastes' as linking verb → adjective)

## Common Errors: Correct vs. Incorrect

✘ Incorrect	✔ Correct
Each of the boys have done their work.	Each of the boys has done his work.
I have met him yesterday.	I met him yesterday.
She is more smarter than her sister.	She is smarter than her sister.
He is suffering from fever since Monday.	He has been suffering from fever since Monday.
Neither of the two players were selected.	Neither of the two players was selected.
The scenery of Kashmir are beautiful.	The scenery of Kashmir is beautiful.
She prefers swimming more than cycling.	She prefers swimming to cycling.
Between you and I, this is wrong.	Between you and me, this is wrong.

### Key Comparison: Common Confusables

Confusable Pair	Rule	Example
Since / For	'Since' + point of time   'For' + duration	She has worked here since 2010. / She has worked here for five years.
Few / A Few	'Few' = almost none (negative)   'A few' = some (positive)	Few students passed. (worrying) / A few students passed. (some did)
Less / Fewer	'Less' for uncountable   'Fewer' for countable	Less water / Fewer bottles
Much / Many	'Much' for uncountable   'Many' for countable	Much work / Many tasks

Lay / Lie	'Lay' = to place (transitive)   'Lie' = to recline (intransitive)	Lay the book on the table. / Lie down and rest.
Who / Whom	'Who' = subject pronoun   'Whom' = object pronoun	Who called? / Whom did you call?
That / Which	'That' for restrictive clauses   'Which' for non-restrictive clauses	The car that I bought is red. / My car, which is red, is new.

## Memory Tricks & Mnemonics

- NEITHERNOROR Rule: 'Neither...nor' — verb agrees with the NEARER subject. Remember: NEAR = AGREE.
- DEAD verbs (Doubt, Estimate, Agree, Detest) — stative verbs that are never used in continuous tenses.
- WHO–WHOM trick: Replace with 'he/she' → use 'who'; replace with 'him/her' → use 'whom'. (He called → Who called; I called him → Whom did I call?)
- LESS vs FEWER: FEWER has MORE letters — and is used for MORE (countable) items. LESS is shorter — used for amounts that can't be counted individually.
- A / AN — Sound Rule: 'A' before CONSONANT SOUNDS, 'An' before VOWEL SOUNDS. 'An MBA', 'An hour', 'A university', 'A one-way street'.
- PARALLELISM test: Read only the listed items. They must sound natural together. 'reading, writing, and to dance' — jars. 'reading, writing, and dancing' — flows.
- BETWEEN vs AMONG: BETWEEN = TWO (both start with T). AMONG = Many.

## Rules Summary — Quick Revision Reference

#	Rule	Example
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<b>1</b>	<b>Intervening phrases don't affect subject-verb agreement.</b>	<i>The list of items was checked.</i>
<b>2</b>	<b>Collective nouns: singular verb = unit acting together; plural = members acting individually.</b>	<i>The jury are divided.</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>Either...or / Neither...nor: verb agrees with the closer subject (Proximity Rule).</b>	<i>Neither he nor they were present.</i>
<b>4</b>	<b>Indefinite pronouns (everyone, nobody, each) always take a singular verb.</b>	<i>Everyone has submitted the form.</i>
<b>5</b>	<b>In sentences beginning with 'There', the verb agrees with the true subject that follows.</b>	<i>There are three options.</i>
<b>6</b>	<b>Past Perfect (had + V3) for the earlier of two past actions.</b>	<i>She had left before he arrived.</i>
<b>7</b>	<b>Conditionals: If + Past → would + base; If + Past Perfect → would have + V3.</b>	<i>If she had tried, she would have passed.</i>
<b>8</b>	<b>Stative verbs (know, believe, consist, prefer) are never used in continuous tenses.</b>	<i>I know the answer. NOT 'I am knowing'.</i>
<b>9</b>	<b>Present Perfect is not used with specific past time markers (yesterday, last week, ago).</b>	<i>I saw him yesterday. NOT 'I have seen'.</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>Pronouns must agree with antecedents in number and gender.</b>	<i>Each student must submit his/her work.</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>Avoid ambiguous pronoun reference; restructure if a pronoun could refer to multiple antecedents.</b>	<i>Ram told Shyam that he (Shyam) had erred.</i>
<b>12</b>	<b>'Who' for persons; 'which/that' for things; 'whose' for possession of either.</b>	<i>The man who called / The car that broke down.</i>

<b>13</b>	<b>Article choice depends on SOUND: 'a' before consonant sounds, 'an' before vowel sounds.</b>	<i>An honest man, a university.</i>
<b>14</b>	<b>'The' before musical instruments, superlatives, unique entities. No article with most proper nouns.</b>	<i>She plays the violin. / India is vast.</i>
<b>15</b>	<b>Abstract/uncountable nouns in general use take no article; in specific use, take 'the'.</b>	<i>Knowledge is power / The knowledge he gained.</i>
<b>16</b>	<b>Dangling modifiers: the implied subject of the modifier must match the grammatical subject.</b>	<i>Having studied, she found the exam easy.</i>
<b>17</b>	<b>'Only', 'almost', 'just', 'even' must immediately precede the word they modify.</b>	<i>She told only her sister (not just 'only told').</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>Parallel structure: all items in a list must share the same grammatical form.</b>	<i>She likes reading, writing, and dancing.</i>
<b>19</b>	<b>In comparisons, compare like with like — things with things, actions with actions.</b>	<i>His writing is better than his friend's.</i>
<b>20</b>	<b>Prepositions collocate with specific words; 'angry with' (person), 'angry at' (situation).</b>	<i>She is angry with him.</i>
<b>21</b>	<b>'Between' for two; 'among' for three or more.</b>	<i>Between the two / Among the five.</i>
<b>22</b>	<b>'In' for months/seasons/years; 'on' for days/dates; 'at' for specific times.</b>	<i>In the evening / On Monday / At 5 p.m.</i>
<b>23</b>	<b>Never use 'although' and 'but' together; they are both contrast markers — use only one.</b>	<i>Although tired, he continued. OR He was tired but continued.</i>
<b>24</b>	<b>Avoid 'The reason is because'. Use 'The reason is that' or 'because' alone.</b>	<i>He failed because he didn't study.</i>

<b>25</b>	<b>Use adverbs (not adjectives) to modify verbs, adjectives, and other adverbs.</b>	<i>She sings beautifully. NOT 'beautiful'.</i>
<b>26</b>	<b>After linking verbs (look, seem, feel, taste), use predicate adjectives, not adverbs.</b>	<i>The soup tastes good. NOT 'well'.</i>

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## Practice Questions — Part 1: All 60 Questions

Read all questions carefully. Attempt each before consulting the answers in Part 2.

### Category 1 — Spot the Mistake (Q1–Q15)

Each sentence contains one grammatical error. Identify the error, state which rule it violates, and write the corrected version. This demands sharp error detection and rule recall.

- Q1.** The committee have decided to postpone the annual meeting indefinitely.
- Q2.** Either the principal or the teachers was responsible for the decision.
- Q3.** She has been working in this company since three years.
- Q4.** Neither of the two candidates were considered suitable for the post.
- Q5.** Running to catch the bus, the bag fell from my hands.
- Q6.** The data provided by the survey are inconclusive.
- Q7.** He behaved very rude with the guests at the function.
- Q8.** Although she was exhausted, but she completed the marathon.
- Q9.** The reason why he resigned is because the management ignored his concerns.

- Q10.** Each of the following sentences contain an error; find and correct it.
- Q11.** Between you and I, the proposal is fundamentally flawed.
- Q12.** She is more smarter than her older sister in terms of analytical reasoning.
- Q13.** The number of accidents have increased sharply in the past three months.
- Q14.** He has submitted his report yesterday after a long delay.
- Q15.** The scenery around the hill station were breathtaking and unforgettable.

### Category 2 — Fill in the Right Word (Q16–Q30)

Choose the most grammatically precise word or phrase from the options. More than one option may seem plausible at first glance — choose with precision, not intuition.

- Q16.** By the time the rescue team arrived, the victims \_\_\_\_\_ for more than twenty hours.
- (A) waited
  - (B) have been waiting
  - (C) had been waiting
  - (D) were waiting
- Q17.** If I \_\_\_\_\_ the instructions carefully, I would not have made such an elementary mistake.
- (A) read
  - (B) had read
  - (C) have read
  - (D) would read
- Q18.** The committee, along with its advisors, \_\_\_\_\_ reviewing the final draft of the policy.

- (A) are
- (B) is
- (C) were
- (D) have been

**Q19.** She looked \_\_\_\_\_ when she heard the unexpected news about the promotion.

- (A) surprisingly
- (B) surprised
- (C) surprise
- (D) more surprisingly

**Q20.** The quality of his arguments \_\_\_\_\_ to convince even the most sceptical members of the panel.

- (A) fail
- (B) fails
- (C) have failed
- (D) are failing

**Q21.** Not only the students but also the principal \_\_\_\_\_ present at the prize distribution ceremony.

- (A) were
- (B) was
- (C) are
- (D) have been

**Q22.** She prefers reading \_\_\_\_\_ watching television, especially late at night.

- (A) more than
- (B) over

- (C) to
- (D) instead

**Q23.** The report that was submitted \_\_\_\_\_ the manager contained several factual inaccuracies.

- (A) to
- (B) by
- (C) from
- (D) with

**Q24.** \_\_\_\_\_ the two candidates, Maya demonstrated a far superior command of the subject.

- (A) Among
- (B) Between
- (C) Within
- (D) Amongst

**Q25.** He was confident \_\_\_\_\_ the outcome of the negotiation after the preliminary discussions.

- (A) on
- (B) of
- (C) for
- (D) with

**Q26.** The team had \_\_\_\_\_ left the field when the rain began pouring heavily.

- (A) barely
- (B) hardly
- (C) scarcely
- (D) almost

**Q27.** He requested that the decision \_\_\_\_\_ postponed until all members could be consulted.

- (A) is
- (B) was
- (C) be
- (D) has been

**Q28.** \_\_\_\_\_ student in the class has been asked to prepare a ten-minute presentation.

- (A) All
- (B) Every
- (C) Each of the
- (D) Most

**Q29.** The principal was angry \_\_\_\_\_ the students \_\_\_\_\_ vandalising the school property.

- (A) with / for
- (B) at / with
- (C) with / at
- (D) at / for

**Q30.** No sooner had the speaker begun his address \_\_\_\_\_ the audience erupted in applause.

- (A) when
- (B) than
- (C) then
- (D) that

### Category 3 — Choose the Correct Sentence (Q31–Q45)

Only one of the four sentences is grammatically correct. Identify it and be prepared to explain precisely why each of the other three is wrong.

**Q31.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) The jury have gave their verdict after three days of deliberation.
- (B) The jury has gave their verdict after three days of deliberation.
- (C) The jury has given its verdict after three days of deliberation.
- (D) The jury gave their verdict after three days of deliberation.

**Q32.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Neither of the reports were accurate enough to be submitted.
- (B) Neither of the reports was accurate enough to be submitted.
- (C) Neither reports was accurate enough to be submitted.
- (D) Neither reports were accurate enough to be submitted.

**Q33.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) If he would have prepared better, he would have cleared the interview.
- (B) If he had prepared better, he would clear the interview.
- (C) If he had prepared better, he would have cleared the interview.
- (D) If he would prepare better, he would have cleared the interview.

**Q34.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) She is knowing the answer to every question in the paper.
- (B) She has known the answer to every question in the paper.
- (C) She knows the answer to every question in the paper.

(D) She was knowing the answer to every question in the paper.

**Q35.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Walking through the market, the sound of drums was heard by us.
- (B) Walking through the market, we heard the sound of drums.
- (C) Walking through the market, the drums was heard by us.
- (D) While we were walking through the market, the sound of drums was heard.

**Q36.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) He told me that he will finish the assignment before the deadline.
- (B) He told me that he would finish the assignment before the deadline.
- (C) He told me that he shall finish the assignment before the deadline.
- (D) He had told me that he will finish the assignment before the deadline.

**Q37.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) The number of students appearing for the exam have increased.
- (B) The number of students appearing for the exam has increased.
- (C) A number of students appearing for the exam has increased.
- (D) The numbers of students appearing for the exam has increased.

**Q38.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) She works more efficiently than any employee in the department.
- (B) She works more efficiently than any other employee in the department.
- (C) She works more efficient than any other employee in the department.
- (D) She works most efficiently than any other employee in the department.

**Q39.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) The police has recovered the stolen vehicle from near the warehouse.
- (B) The police have recovered the stolen vehicle from near the warehouse.
- (C) The police had recovered the stolen vehicle from near the warehouse yesterday.
- (D) The police are recover the stolen vehicle from near the warehouse.

**Q40.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) He suggested that she will consult a specialist immediately.
- (B) He suggested that she consult a specialist immediately.
- (C) He suggested that she should consults a specialist immediately.
- (D) He suggested that she has consulted a specialist immediately.

**Q41.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) The CEO, together with his board members, are reviewing the acquisition proposal.
- (B) The CEO, together with his board members, is reviewing the acquisition proposal.
- (C) The CEO, together with his board members, were reviewing the acquisition proposal.
- (D) The CEO, together with his board members, have reviewed the acquisition proposal.

**Q42.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) He not only plays cricket but also football he enjoys.
- (B) He not only plays cricket but also enjoys football.
- (C) He not only plays cricket but enjoys also football.
- (D) He plays not only cricket but also enjoys football.

**Q43.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Her performance in the final round was more superior to all other contestants.

- (B) Her performance in the final round was superior than all other contestants.
- (C) Her performance in the final round was superior to that of all other contestants.
- (D) Her performance in the final round was most superior among all other contestants.

**Q44.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) The information provided by the witnesses were contradictory and confusing.
- (B) The information provided by the witnesses was contradictory and confusing.
- (C) The informations provided by the witnesses was contradictory and confusing.
- (D) The information provided by the witnesses have been contradictory and confusing.

**Q45.** Identify the grammatically correct sentence:

- (A) Scarcely had the function begun when it started raining.
- (B) Scarcely had the function begun than it started raining.
- (C) Scarcely the function had begun when it started raining.
- (D) Scarcely did the function begin when it started raining.

### Category 4 — Analyse, Rewrite & Explain (Q46–Q60)

These questions demand deep grammatical analysis — identifying multiple errors, rewriting sentences, resolving ambiguities, and reasoning through competing rules. Full written explanations are required.

**Q46.** Rewrite the following sentence correcting ALL errors and explain each correction: 'The team, along with their manager, are planning to launch a new project, but the CEO has already gave his approval yesterday.'

- Q47.** Identify and explain the error in pronoun reference: 'When Priya met Riya at the station, she told her that she had lost her bag.' Rewrite it in at least TWO unambiguous ways.
- Q48.** The following sentence has a dangling modifier. Identify it, explain why it is a dangling modifier, and rewrite the sentence correctly: 'To become a successful leader, hard work and persistence are required.'
- Q49.** Analyse the parallelism error in the following sentence, explain the rule, and rewrite correctly: 'Her ambitions included to lead a major corporation, writing bestselling novels, and making a difference through philanthropy.'
- Q50.** Correct the tense sequence in this sentence and explain the logical time relationship between the clauses: 'By the time the reinforcements arrived, the soldiers fight for three hours without any supplies.'
- Q51.** The following sentence contains a comparison error. Identify it, state the rule it violates, and rewrite correctly: 'The infrastructure of this city is far better developed than the neighbouring districts.'
- Q52.** Correct and explain: 'Although the preliminary results looked promisingly, the researchers decided that they needed more data before publishing their findings.'
- Q53.** Identify all errors (there are THREE) in the following sentence and correct each one with a reason: 'Each of the students have to submit their project report to the teacher who is incharge of the module before next Friday.'
- Q54.** The following paragraph has five errors. Identify each, state the rule violated, and rewrite the paragraph correctly: 'The committee, including all its members, are scheduled to meet on Monday. They has been discussing this issue since several months. The data collected from the survey were ambiguous, so a number of changes was recommended. The report that the chairman submitted were reviewed thoroughly.'

**Q55.** Rewrite the following sentence in three different ways, each time changing the modifying clause without altering the core meaning, and explain what structural change you made: 'Running late for the interview, the cab driver was blamed by her.'

**Q56.** The following sentence has an article error and a preposition error. Identify both, explain each, and rewrite correctly: 'He is an university professor who specialises in history of ancient civilisations.'

**Q57.** Explain why the following sentence is incorrect and rewrite it using the correct conjunction pattern: 'The reason for her absence is because she had a prior medical appointment.'

**Q58.** Identify the mood error in this sentence, name the grammatical mood that should be used, and rewrite it correctly: 'The manager insisted that the employee attends the training session without fail.'

**Q59.** Two competing rules seem to apply to the following sentence. Identify the conflict, resolve it with reasoning, and write the final correct version: 'A number of proposals has been submitted to the board for final approval.'

**Q60.** The following sentence contains errors related to word form, subject-verb agreement, and tense. Identify all three errors and rewrite the sentence correctly with explanations: 'She work very diligent and has been completing all her assignments since the beginning of last month.'

## Practice Questions — Part 2: All 60 Detailed Answers

### Category 1 — Spot the Mistake: Answers (Q1–Q15)

#### Ans Q1:

- ✓ Corrected: The committee has decided to postpone the annual meeting indefinitely.
- ✗ Explanation: 'Committee' is a collective noun. When it acts as a single unified body making one decision, it takes a singular verb. 'Have decided' (plural) is incorrect. The correct verb is 'has decided'.

#### Ans Q2:

- ✓ Corrected: Either the principal or the teachers were responsible for the decision.
- ✗ Explanation: With 'Either...or' / 'Neither...nor', the verb agrees with the subject closer to it (Proximity Rule). 'Teachers' (plural) is closer to the verb, so 'were' is correct. 'Was' is incorrect.

#### Ans Q3:

- ✓ Corrected: She has been working in this company for three years.
- ✗ Explanation: 'Since' is used with a point of time (since 2020, since Monday). 'For' is used with a duration (for three years, for a decade). 'Three years' is a duration → 'for' is correct.

#### Ans Q4:

- ✓ Corrected: Neither of the two candidates was considered suitable for the post.
- ✗ Explanation: 'Neither' is an indefinite pronoun and always takes a singular verb. 'Were' is incorrect. The correct verb is 'was'.

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**Ans Q5:**

- Corrected: Running to catch the bus, I dropped the bag from my hands. OR As I was running to catch the bus, the bag fell from my hands.
- Explanation: Dangling modifier: the subject of the main clause must perform the action of the modifier. A bag cannot 'run'. The subject of 'running' must be a person — 'I' or restructured with a full clause.

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**Ans Q6:**

- Corrected: The data provided by the survey are inconclusive. (This sentence is actually CORRECT)
- Explanation: Wait — this requires nuance. 'Data' is the plural of 'datum'. In formal and academic usage, 'data are' is correct. However, in informal usage 'data is' is accepted. For strict grammar purposes, 'data are' is correct here, so the original sentence is NOT an error. A re-examination: the error version would be 'The data is inconclusive' in a formal context.

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**Ans Q7:**

- Corrected: He behaved very rudely with the guests at the function.
- Explanation: 'Rude' is an adjective. The verb 'behaved' is an action verb (not a linking verb), so it must be modified by an adverb. 'Rudely' (adverb) is correct; 'rude' (adjective) is incorrect.

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**Ans Q8:**

- Corrected: Although she was exhausted, she completed the marathon. OR She was exhausted, but she completed the marathon.
- Explanation: 'Although' and 'but' are both contrast connectors. Using them together in one sentence creates a double connector error. Only one should be used. Remove either 'although' or 'but'.

**Ans Q9:**

Corrected: The reason he resigned is that the management ignored his concerns. OR He resigned because the management ignored his concerns.

Explanation: 'The reason is because' is redundant. 'Because' means 'for the reason that', so 'the reason is because' effectively means 'the reason is for the reason that'. Replace 'because' with 'that', or restructure using 'because' alone.

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**Ans Q10:**

Corrected: Each of the following sentences contains an error; find and correct it.

Explanation: 'Each' is an indefinite pronoun and always requires a singular verb. 'Contain' (plural form) is incorrect; 'contains' is correct.

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**Ans Q11:**

Corrected: Between you and me, the proposal is fundamentally flawed.

Explanation: 'Between' is a preposition. Prepositions must be followed by objective case pronouns. 'I' is a subjective pronoun; 'me' is the objective form. Correct: 'between you and me'.

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**Ans Q12:**

Corrected: She is smarter than her older sister in terms of analytical reasoning.

Explanation: 'More smarter' is a double comparative — using both the inflected form ('smarter') and the word 'more'. This is incorrect. Use either 'smarter' OR 'more smart' (though 'smarter' is preferred).

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**Ans Q13:**

Corrected: The number of accidents has increased sharply in the past three months.

Explanation: 'The number of' takes a singular verb because 'number' is the subject (singular). Compare: 'A number of accidents have occurred' — here 'a number of' means 'many' and takes a plural verb. 'The number' → singular; 'A number' → plural.

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**Ans Q14:**

Corrected: He submitted his report yesterday after a long delay.

Explanation: 'Yesterday' is a specific past time marker. The Present Perfect (has submitted) cannot be used with specific past time expressions. Simple Past ('submitted') is correct.

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**Ans Q15:**

Corrected: The scenery around the hill station was breathtaking and unforgettable.

Explanation: 'Scenery' is an uncountable noun and is always singular. It takes a singular verb. 'Were' is incorrect; 'was' is correct.

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**Category 2 — Fill in the Right Word: Answers (Q16–Q30)**

**Ans Q16:**

Answer: C) had been waiting

Explanation: Two time references: 'arrived' (simple past) and the waiting (which began earlier and continued until arrival). Past Perfect Continuous (had been waiting) expresses an action that was in progress for a duration before another past event. Option A (waited) misses the duration. Option B (have been waiting) is Present Perfect — wrong tense frame. Option D (were waiting) doesn't convey the completed duration up to arrival.

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**Ans Q17:**

Answer: B) had read

Explanation: Type 3 conditional: If + Past Perfect → would have + V3. The result clause 'would not have made' is in the correct Type 3 form, so the if-clause requires Past Perfect: 'had read'. Option A (read) creates a Type 2/mixed confusion. Option C (have read) is Present Perfect — incorrect. Option D (would read) violates the rule that 'would' does not appear in the if-clause.

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**Ans Q18:**

Answer: B) is

Explanation: The subject is 'committee' (singular). The phrase 'along with its advisors' is a parenthetical addition — it does not alter the singular nature of the subject. Rule: Phrases introduced by 'along with', 'together with', 'as well as', 'in addition to' do not change the number of the verb. Options A, C, D are all plural forms — incorrect.

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**Ans Q19:**

Answer: B) surprised

Explanation: 'Looked' here is a linking verb (she looked = she appeared/seemed). Linking verbs are followed by predicate adjectives, not adverbs. 'Surprised' (adjective) describes the state of the subject. Option A (surprisingly) is an adverb — incorrect after a linking verb. Option C (surprise) is a noun/verb — incorrect. Option D (more surprisingly) is comparative adverb — doubly wrong.

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**Ans Q20:**

Answer: B) fails

Explanation: The subject is 'quality' (singular noun), not 'arguments'. The prepositional phrase 'of his arguments' is an intervening modifier and does not affect verb agreement. 'Quality' → singular → 'fails'. Options A, C, D are all plural or continuous forms — incorrect.

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**Ans Q21:**

Answer: B) was

Explanation: 'Not only...but also' follows the Proximity Rule: the verb agrees with the subject closer to it. 'The principal' (singular) is closer to the verb. Therefore 'was' (singular) is correct. Option A (were) is plural — incorrect. Options C and D are plural or wrong tense.

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**Ans Q22:**

Answer: C) to

Explanation: The verb 'prefer' collocates with 'to' in standard grammar: 'prefer X to Y'. This is a fixed idiomatic structure. Option A (more than) is used in informal comparison but not the standard structure with 'prefer'. Option B (over) is informal and not strictly correct. Option D (instead) is not grammatically correct in this structure.

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**Ans Q23:**

Answer: B) by

Explanation: The sentence requires a preposition indicating the agent who submitted the report. 'By' indicates agency — 'submitted by the manager'. Option A (to) would mean the report was submitted TO the manager (recipient). Option C (from) and D (with) make no logical sense in this context.

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**Ans Q24:**

Answer: B) Between

Explanation: 'Between' is used when exactly TWO entities are compared or contrasted. There are two candidates — Maya and one other. 'Between' is correct. Option A (Among) is used for three or more. Option

C (Within) doesn't fit this comparative context. Option D (Amongst) is an archaic/British variant of 'among' — still plural context, still wrong.

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**Ans Q25:**

Answer: B) of

Explanation: The adjective 'confident' collocates with the preposition 'of' when followed by a noun/gerund: 'confident of success / confident of the outcome'. Option A (on) is incorrect — 'confident on' is not idiomatic. Option C (for) and D (with) are also incorrect collocations for 'confident'.

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**Ans Q26:**

Answer: D) almost

Explanation: This is a nuanced question. 'Barely', 'hardly', and 'scarcely' all mean 'only just' and are near-synonyms here. However, 'almost' means 'very nearly but not quite' and most precisely conveys 'had nearly left but hadn't quite'. The key difference: 'barely left' = left with difficulty (they DID leave); 'almost left' = did not quite leave. Context: 'had almost left when rain began' = they were about to leave but hadn't yet. Option D is most precise.

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**Ans Q27:**

Answer: C) be

Explanation: After verbs of suggestion, recommendation, demand, insistence, or request (suggest, recommend, demand, request, insist, propose), the subjunctive mood is used. The subjunctive form is the base form of the verb (be, go, leave) — without 'to', without 's', without auxiliary. 'That the decision be postponed' is correct subjunctive. Options A (is) and B (was) are indicative mood. Option D (has been) is wrong tense and mood.

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**Ans Q28:**

✓ Answer: B) Every

□ Explanation: 'Every' is used attributively before a singular countable noun: 'Every student'. 'Each of the' requires a plural noun + singular verb: 'Each of the students has...' but the blank is followed by 'student' (singular), so 'Each of the student' would be wrong. 'All' requires a plural noun. 'Most' also requires a plural noun. 'Every student' is the only correct construction here.

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**Ans Q29:**

✓ Answer: A) with / for

□ Explanation: 'Angry with' is used when the object of anger is a person. 'Angry for' is used to indicate the reason or cause. 'The principal was angry with the students for vandalising' — angry WITH (person) + FOR (reason). Option B 'at / with' doesn't fit: 'angry at students' is informal but 'for with' is not idiomatic for cause. Option D 'at / for' — 'angry at students' is marginally acceptable informally, but standard formal English uses 'with'.

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**Ans Q30:**

✓ Answer: B) than

□ Explanation: 'No sooner...than' is a fixed correlative conjunction pair. The structure is always: 'No sooner had [subject] [V3]... than [subject] [simple past]'. 'When' (Option A) is incorrect for this inverted structure. 'Then' (Option C) and 'that' (Option D) are never used with 'no sooner'. Similarly, 'Scarcely/Hardly...when/before' are alternatives but 'no sooner' specifically uses 'than'.

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**Category 3 — Choose the Correct Sentence: Answers (Q31–Q45)**

**Ans Q31:**

✓ Correct Option: (C)

Explanation: Option C is correct: 'The jury has given its verdict...' — 'jury' acting as a unit → singular verb 'has'; past participle of 'give' is 'given'. Option A: 'have gave' — double error: wrong number AND wrong past participle. Option B: 'has gave' — 'gave' is simple past, not past participle; correct form is 'given'. Option D: 'gave their' — 'jury' acting as a unit should take 'its' not 'their'; also, 'gave' as simple past is not incorrect in isolation, but 'their' is the error.

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### Ans Q32:

✓ Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'Neither of the reports was accurate...' — 'neither' is indefinite pronoun → singular → 'was'. Option A: 'were' — incorrect, 'neither' takes singular verb. Option C: 'Neither reports was' — 'neither' must be followed by 'of + plural noun' or a singular noun; 'neither reports' without 'of' is incorrect. Option D: 'neither reports were' — both errors combined.

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### Ans Q33:

✓ Correct Option: (C)

Explanation: Option C is correct: Type 3 conditional — 'If he had prepared (Past Perfect) → he would have cleared (would have + V3)'. Option A: 'If he would have prepared' — 'would' must NOT appear in the if-clause of a conditional. Option B: 'he would clear' — Type 3 requires 'would have + V3' in the result clause, not just 'would + base'. Option D: 'If he would prepare' — same error as A, plus the result clause is wrong.

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### Ans Q34:

✓ Correct Option: (C)

Explanation: Option C is correct: 'She knows the answer...' — 'know' is a stative verb and cannot be used in continuous tenses. Option A and D use continuous forms ('is knowing', 'was knowing') — both incorrect with stative verbs. Option B ('has known') implies she once knew but may no longer — present perfect here

changes the meaning and is not the standard construction for this context; 'knows' (simple present) is most precise.

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**Ans Q35:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'Walking through the market, we heard the sound of drums.' — The subject of the main clause ('we') is also the subject of the participial phrase ('walking'). The modifier is now correctly attached. Option A: 'the sound of drums was heard by us' — the sound cannot walk through the market; dangling modifier. Option C: same dangling modifier issue plus subject-verb error ('drums was'). Option D: Though grammatically passable, it restructures the sentence into a full clause, but the original error is in the word 'heard' (passive); the most natural and clean correction is Option B.

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**Ans Q36:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: In reported speech, when the reporting verb is past ('told'), the tense shifts back — 'will' → 'would'. 'He told me that he would finish...' — correct sequence of tenses. Option A: 'will finish' — tense has not shifted; incorrect reported speech. Option C: 'shall finish' — 'shall' is used with first person (I/we) in formal sense; third person 'he' with 'shall' is archaic and wrong here. Option D: 'had told...will' — mixing past perfect reporting with non-shifted tense; inconsistent.

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**Ans Q37:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'The number of students... has increased.' — 'The number of' is followed by a singular verb because 'number' is the noun subject. Option A: 'have increased' — incorrect, 'the number' is singular. Option C: 'A number of students... has increased' — 'a number of' = many (plural sense) → 'have

increased'; 'has' is wrong here. Option D: 'The numbers' — changes meaning; 'numbers' is plural and would require 'have increased'.

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**Ans Q38:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'She works more efficiently than any other employee...' — When comparing a member to the rest of a group she belongs to, 'other' is required. Without 'other', the comparison implies she is not in the group. Also, 'efficiently' is an adverb correctly modifying 'works'. Option A: 'any employee' without 'other' — includes herself in comparison, creating a logical error. Option C: 'more efficient' — adjective modifying the action verb 'works' — incorrect; adverb needed. Option D: 'most efficiently than' — superlative is not used with 'than'; comparative ('more') is correct.

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**Ans Q39:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'The police have recovered...' — 'police' is always treated as a plural noun (no singular 'policeman' collective); it takes a plural verb. Option A: 'has recovered' — singular verb; incorrect for 'police'. Option C: 'had recovered...yesterday' — Past Perfect with 'yesterday' (specific time marker) is incorrect; Simple Past is needed with 'yesterday'. However, B is the best grammatically correct choice among the options. Option D: 'are recover' — incorrect verb form altogether.

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**Ans Q40:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'He suggested that she consult a specialist...' — After 'suggest', the subjunctive mood requires the bare infinitive (base form): 'consult' without 's', without 'should', without 'to'. Option A: 'will consult' — indicative future; wrong mood. Option C: 'should consults' — 'should' + verb in

subjunctive does not add 's'; 'consults' is wrong. Option D: 'has consulted' — past tense/perfect aspect; wrong; the suggestion refers to a future action.

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**Ans Q41:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'The CEO, together with his board members, is reviewing...' — 'Together with' is a parenthetical connector and does not change the subject. 'CEO' (singular) → singular verb 'is'. Options A (are) and C (were) are plural — incorrect. Option D (have reviewed) is plural and wrong aspect — the action is ongoing ('reviewing') not completed ('reviewed').

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**Ans Q42:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'He not only plays cricket but also enjoys football.' — 'Not only...but also' must maintain parallel structure. 'Plays' (verb) // 'enjoys' (verb). Both correlatives link verb phrases of the same form. Option A: 'he not only plays cricket but also football he enjoys' — the second clause is inverted and unparallel. Option C: 'but enjoys also football' — 'also' is misplaced; it must immediately follow 'but'. Option D: 'plays not only cricket but also enjoys' — the correlatives bracket 'cricket' (noun) and 'enjoys football' (verb phrase) — not parallel.

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**Ans Q43:**

Correct Option: (C)

Explanation: Option C is correct: 'Her performance...was superior to that of all other contestants.' — 'Superior' is an absolute comparative (like 'senior', 'junior', 'inferior', 'major', 'minor') and is NEVER used with 'more' or 'than'. It always collocates with 'to'. Also, 'that of' is required to make the comparison logical (performance vs performance). Option A: 'more superior' — double comparative; incorrect. Option B:

'superior than' — wrong preposition; must be 'superior to'. Option D: 'most superior' — superlative form; wrong; 'superior' itself is already comparative.

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**Ans Q44:**

Correct Option: (B)

Explanation: Option B is correct: 'The information...was contradictory and confusing.' — 'Information' is an uncountable noun and always takes a singular verb. Option A: 'were' — plural verb; incorrect for uncountable noun. Option C: 'informations' — 'information' has no plural form; incorrect. Option D: 'have been contradictory' — plural auxiliary 'have'; incorrect for uncountable noun.

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**Ans Q45:**

Correct Option: (A)

Explanation: Option A is correct: 'Scarcely had the function begun when it started raining.' — 'Scarcely...when' and 'Hardly...when' and 'No sooner...than' are the fixed correlative pairs. 'Scarcely/Hardly' → 'when'. Option B: 'scarcely...than' — 'than' is incorrect; 'than' is paired with 'no sooner'. Option C: 'Scarcely the function had begun' — when 'scarcely' begins a sentence, subject-auxiliary inversion is required ('had the function begun'). Option D: 'Scarcely did the function begin when' — 'did' with simple past is used for emphasis; but with 'scarcely' in negative inversion, 'had...begun' (Past Perfect) is the correct structure.

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**Category 4 — Analyse, Rewrite & Explain: Answers (Q46–Q60)**

**Ans Q46:**

Errors in the original sentence: (1) 'along with their manager' — 'along with' is a parenthetical connector and does not change the number of the subject 'team' (singular). The verb must be 'is planning', not 'are planning'. (2) 'has already gave' — 'has' is a present perfect auxiliary; it must be followed by a past participle.

'Given' is the past participle of 'give', not 'gave'. (3) 'yesterday' — the simple past ('gave') must be used with 'yesterday', not the present perfect ('has given'). Corrected: 'The team, along with its manager, is planning to launch a new project, but the CEO already gave his approval yesterday.'

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**Ans Q47:**

❑ The pronoun 'she' in 'she told her' is ambiguous — it could refer to either Priya or Riya. The subsequent 'she had lost her bag' is equally ambiguous. There are three unclear references in this sentence. Rewrite 1: 'When Priya met Riya at the station, Priya told Riya that Riya had lost her bag.' Rewrite 2: 'When Priya met Riya at the station, Priya said to her, "You have lost your bag."' Rewrite 3: 'When Priya met Riya, Priya confessed that she herself had lost her own bag.' Each rewrite resolves ambiguity by replacing pronouns with nouns or using direct speech.

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**Ans Q48:**

❑ The modifier 'To become a successful leader' is a dangling modifier. A dangling modifier occurs when the implied subject of the modifying phrase (the person who becomes a successful leader) is not the grammatical subject of the main clause. The grammatical subject of the main clause is 'hard work and persistence' — abstract qualities cannot 'become a leader'. Correct versions: (1) 'To become a successful leader, one must have hard work and persistence.' (2) 'To become a successful leader, you need hard work and persistence.' (3) 'Becoming a successful leader requires hard work and persistence.' — This last option restructures the sentence entirely to eliminate the dangling issue.

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**Ans Q49:**

❑ Parallelism error: The three items in the list are not in the same grammatical form: 'to lead' (infinitive) / 'writing' (gerund) / 'making a difference' (gerund phrase). Rule: All items in a list connected by correlative or coordinating conjunctions must share the same grammatical form. Corrected (all gerunds): 'Her ambitions included leading a major corporation, writing bestselling novels, and making a difference through

philanthropy.' Corrected (all infinitives): 'Her ambitions were to lead a major corporation, to write bestselling novels, and to make a difference through philanthropy.'

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**Ans Q50:**

▣ Time analysis: 'arrived' is a simple past event. The fighting began BEFORE the arrival and continued up to it — this requires Past Perfect Continuous ('had been fighting') to show an action that was in progress over a duration before a specified past moment. 'fight' (simple present) in the original is doubly wrong: wrong tense and wrong form. Corrected: 'By the time the reinforcements arrived, the soldiers had been fighting for three hours without any supplies.' Rule: 'By the time + Simple Past → Past Perfect / Past Perfect Continuous' in the preceding clause.

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**Ans Q51:**

▣ Comparison error: The sentence compares 'the infrastructure of this city' (an abstract noun) with 'the neighbouring districts' (places). This is an illogical comparison — infrastructure vs districts. Rule: Compare like with like. Also, 'better developed' is redundant — 'better' and 'more developed' both signal comparison; choose one form. Corrected: 'The infrastructure of this city is far more developed than that of the neighbouring districts.' ('that of' substitutes for 'the infrastructure of' to ensure parallel comparison.)

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**Ans Q52:**

▣ Error: 'looked promisingly' — 'looked' here is a linking verb meaning 'appeared/seemed'. Linking verbs must be followed by predicate adjectives, not adverbs. 'Promisingly' is an adverb — incorrect. The correct adjective is 'promising'. Corrected: 'Although the preliminary results looked promising, the researchers decided that they needed more data before publishing their findings.' Additional note: 'Although' correctly introduces a contrast clause — no 'but' is needed.

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**Ans Q53:**

■ Three errors: (1) 'have to submit' — The subject is 'Each' (singular indefinite pronoun). Correct form: 'Each of the students has to submit'. (2) 'their project report' — Since 'each' is singular, the pronoun should formally be 'his/her project report'. (3) 'who is incharge' — 'in charge' is two words; 'incharge' is misspelling and grammatically the relative clause should be 'who is in charge'. Corrected: 'Each of the students has to submit his/her project report to the teacher who is in charge of the module before next Friday.'

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**Ans Q54:**

■ Five errors in the paragraph: (1) 'are scheduled' → 'is scheduled'. 'Committee' is singular (unit acting together) → singular verb. (2) 'They has been discussing' → 'They have been discussing'. 'They' is plural → 'have', not 'has'. (3) 'since several months' → 'for several months'. 'Several months' is a duration → 'for', not 'since'. (4) 'a number of changes was recommended' → 'were recommended'. 'A number of' = many → plural verb. (5) 'the chairman submitted were reviewed' → 'the chairman submitted was reviewed'. 'Report' is singular → 'was'. Corrected paragraph: 'The committee, including all its members, is scheduled to meet on Monday. They have been discussing this issue for several months. The data collected from the survey were ambiguous, so a number of changes were recommended. The report that the chairman submitted was reviewed thoroughly.'

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**Ans Q55:**

■ Original dangling modifier error: 'Running late for the interview, the cab driver was blamed by her.' The cab driver is not running late; she is. Three rewrites: (1) Active, modifier attached: 'Running late for the interview, she blamed the cab driver.' (structural change: made the true subject 'she' the grammatical subject). (2) Causal clause: 'Because she was running late for the interview, she blamed the cab driver.' (change: replaced participial phrase with subordinate clause). (3) Absolute phrase: 'Being late for the interview, she placed the blame on the cab driver.' (change: retained participial structure with 'being' and restructured main clause to active voice, shifting blame emphasis).

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**Ans Q56:**

❑ Two errors: (1) Article error: 'an university' — 'university' begins with the sound /ju:/ (a consonant 'y' sound), not a vowel sound. Therefore 'a' is correct, not 'an'. Correct: 'a university professor'. (2) Preposition error: 'in history of ancient civilisations' — The article 'the' is missing before 'history' when it is specific (the history of a specific subject). Also, the preposition should be 'in the history of'. Corrected: 'He is a university professor who specialises in the history of ancient civilisations.'

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### Ans Q57:

❑ Error: 'The reason for her absence is because she had a prior medical appointment.' This is a redundancy error. 'The reason is' already sets up an explanation. 'Because' means 'for the reason that' — combining them gives 'the reason is for the reason that', which is circular. Rule: After 'The reason (why/for)...is', use 'that', not 'because'. Corrected: 'The reason for her absence is that she had a prior medical appointment.' Alternative: 'She was absent because she had a prior medical appointment.'

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### Ans Q58:

❑ Error: 'insisted that the employee attends the training session' — 'attends' is in the indicative mood (third person singular, present tense). After verbs of demand, suggestion, insistence, and recommendation (insist, suggest, demand, recommend, propose, request), the subjunctive mood is required. The subjunctive uses the base form of the verb (no inflection, no 's') regardless of the subject. The grammatical mood to be used is: Mandative Subjunctive. Corrected: 'The manager insisted that the employee attend the training session without fail.' Note: 'attend' — no 's', no 'to', no auxiliary 'should' (though 'should attend' is acceptable in British English).

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### Ans Q59:

❑ Competing rules: Rule 1 — 'A number of' = 'many' and takes a plural verb (have been submitted). Rule 2 — 'The number of' takes a singular verb (has been submitted). The sentence uses 'A number of proposals'. This triggers Rule 1 — plural verb. The correct form is: 'A number of proposals have been submitted to the board for final approval.' The confusion arises because 'number' appears to be the singular subject. However,

idiomatically, 'a number of' functions as a quantifier meaning 'several/many', and the true logical subject is the plural noun 'proposals'. Resolution: 'A number of' → plural; 'The number of' → singular.

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**Ans Q60:**

■ Three errors: (1) Word form error: 'She work' — the subject 'she' requires a third-person singular verb. Correct: 'works'. (2) Word form error: 'very diligent' — 'diligent' is an adjective. Here it modifies the verb 'works' — an action verb requiring an adverb. Correct: 'very diligently'. (3) Tense error: 'has been completing all her assignments since the beginning of last month' — 'completing' in this context suggests habitual or repeated completion. The Present Perfect Simple ('has completed') is more precise for repeated, completed tasks in an unfinished time period. However, if the action is continuous and still in progress, 'has been completing' (Present Perfect Continuous) is acceptable. The more significant tense error is: 'since the beginning of last month' is fine. The real error is the combination with the simple present 'works' in a sentence that otherwise uses present perfect — making the sentence temporally inconsistent. Corrected: 'She works very diligently and has been completing all her assignments since the beginning of last month.' OR more naturally: 'She works very diligently and has completed all her assignments since the beginning of last month.'

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