

# PART - I

## UNIT 1: GENERAL APTITUDE

### VERBAL ABILITY

The verbal ability test of GATE is designed to test a candidate's ability to reason with words in solving problems. Reasoning effectively in a verbal medium depends primarily upon the ability to discern, comprehend relationships among words or groups of words. The verbal ability consists of four question types: Analogies, Antonyms/ Synonyms, Sentence Completion, and Critical Reasoning.

The conceptual framework along with the practice questions which have been provided in every chapter of this book are organized by content category and represent the types of questions included in the Aptitude Test of GATE. The purpose of these questions is to provide some indication of the range of topics covered in the test as well as to provide some additional questions for practice purposes.

### Analogies

Analogy is a cognitive process of transferring information or meaning from a particular subject — the analog or source, to another — the target, or a linguistic expression corresponding to such a process. Analogy questions test the ability of the candidate to recognize the relationship that exists between the words in a word pair and to recognize when two word pairs display parallel relationships. To answer an analogy question, you must formulate the relationship.

Look at the examples given below which are asked in previous year's GATE Aptitude Test.

**Directions:** The question below consists of a pair of related words followed by four pairs of words. Select the pair that best expresses the relation in the original pair.

1. Unemployed : Worker (GATE 2010)  
(a) Fallow : Land  
(b) Unaware : Sleeper

- (c) Wit : Jester  
(d) Renovated : House

2. Gladiator : Arena [GATE 2011]

- (a) Dancer : stage  
(b) Commuter : train  
(c) Teacher : classroom  
(d) Lawyer : courtroom

3. Medicine : Health [GATE 2013]

- (a) Science : Experiment  
(b) Wealth : Peace  
(c) Education : Knowledge  
(d) Money : Happiness

### Solution:

1. (a) Unemployed: Worker. Here one is opposite to other.  
(a) Fallow : Land. Fallow means undeveloped land.  
(b) Unaware : sleeper. Both are same unaware or asleep.  
(c) Wit : Jester. Wit means ability to make jokes and jester is a joker.  
(d) Renovated: House. Renovate means to make better and house can be renovated.
2. (d) The given relationship is worker: workplace. A gladiator is (i) a person, usually a professional combatant trained to entertain the public by engaging in mortal combat with another person or a wild. (ii) A person engaged in a controversy or debate, especially in public.
3. (c) Medicine leads to good health. Similarly, Education leads to knowledge. Science does not lead to experiment. Wealth may not necessarily lead to peace. Also money may not also lead to happiness all the time.

## Approaches for Answering Analogy Questions

- Before looking at the answer choices, try to establish a precise relationship between the words in the given pair.
- Next, look for the answer choice with the pair of words whose relationship is closest to that of the given pair and can be expressed in a similar fashion.
- Occasionally, more than one of the answer choices may seem at first to express a relationship similar to that of the given pair. Try to state the relationship more precisely or identify some aspect of the relationship between the given pair of words that is paralleled in only one choice pair.
- Remember that a single word can have several different meanings. Check to be sure you have not overlooked a possible second meaning for one of the words.
- Never decide on the best answer without reading all the answer choices.
- Practice recognizing and formulating relationships between word pairs. You can do this with the following sample questions.

### Sample Questions

**Directions:** The question below consists of a pair of related words followed by four pairs of words. Select the pair that best expresses the relation in the original pair.

1. COLOR: SPECTRUM  
 (a) Tone: Scale (b) Sound: Waves  
 (c) Verse: Poem (d) Dimension: Space

**Solution:** The relationship between color and spectrum is not merely that of part to whole, in which case (c) might be defended as correct. A spectrum is made up of a progressive, graduated series of colors, as a scale is of a progressive, graduated sequence of tones. Thus, (a) is the correct answer choice. In this instance, the best answer must be selected from a group of fairly close choices.

2. HEADLONG: FORETHOUGHT  
 (a) Barefaced: Shame (b) Mealy-mouthed: Talent  
 (c) Heartbroken: Emotion (d) Level-headed: Resolve

**Solution:** The difficulty of this question probably derives primarily from the complexity of the relationship between headlong and forethought rather than from any inherent difficulty in the words.

Analysis of the relationship between headlong and forethought reveals the following: an action or behaviour that is headlong is one that lacks forethought. Only answer choice (A) displays the same relationship between its two terms.

### Synonyms/Antonyms

Although *synonym/antonym* questions test knowledge of vocabulary more directly than do any of the other verbal

question types, the purpose of the *synonym/antonym* questions is to measure not merely the strength of your vocabulary but also the ability to reason from a given concept to its opposite.

### Examples from the GATE Aptitude Test

**Directions:** Which of the following options is the closest in meaning to the word below?

1. Circuitous [GATE 2010]  
 (a) Cyclic (b) Indirect  
 (c) Confusing (d) Crooked

**Directions:** Choose the word from the options given below that is most nearly opposite in meaning to the given word:

2. Frequency [GATE 2011]  
 (a) Periodicity (b) Rarity  
 (c) Gradualness (d) Persistency
3. The word similar in meaning to 'dreary' is  
 (a) cheerful (b) dreamy  
 (c) hard (d) dismal [GATE 2015]

4. Which of the following options is the closest in the meaning to the word below:

- Inexplicable** [GATE 2011]  
 (a) Incomprehensible (b) Indelible  
 (c) Inextricable (d) Infallible

### Solution:

1. (b) **Circuitous:** Deviating from a straight course Indirect  
 (a) Cyclic: Recurring in cycle  
 (b) Indirect: Not leading by straight line  
 (c) Confusing: Lacking clarity  
 (d) Crooked: For shapes (irregular in shape)

between the words in the given word pair and then must identify the answer choice containing words that are related to one another in most nearly the same way. Some examples of relationships that might be found in analogy questions are relationships of kind, size, spatial contiguity, or degree.

2. Ans (b) rarity is opposite of "the fact or state of being frequent or happening often." Meaning of frequency is "frequentness" here, which is one of synonyms.

3. Ans (d) 4. Ans (a)

### SPOTTING THE ERRORS

**Directions for Q. 1 to 10:** Each of these questions has four parts. Identify the part which is not correct.

1. Even after hearing the leader (A)/ for a long time (B)/ the followers could not make out (C)/ which he was talking about. (D)

2. The principal along with the teachers (A)/ were seen boarding a bus (B)/ to go to a picnic (C)/ on a national holiday (D).
  3. Lost in thought, (A)/ with a vacant look in his eyes, (B)/ he laid (C)/ on the couch. (D)
  4. He would (A)/ never have taken the job if he had been knowing (B)/ what great demands it would make (C)/ on his time. (D)
  5. Smoking is not allowed at petrol pumps because there is (A)/ too many (B)/ easily ignited (C)/ material in the vicinity. (D)
  6. 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)
  7. Studying the science of (A)/ logic is one way to (B)/ cultivate one's reason (C)/ skills. (D)
  8. The water flows at (A)/ about 2.5 m per second for about 12 hours when the tide is rising (B)/ through the channel, paused (C)/ at high tide and then reverses direction. (D)
  9. Many animals and plants live in water (A)/ but not in the same kind of water (B)/ because not all water is the same. (C)/ Sea water, for instance, contains a lot of salt, fresh water contains very little. (D)
  10. The book is well-printed (A)/ and attractively bound (B)/ making altogether (C)/ an attractive volume. (D)
- Directions for Q. 11 to 18:** Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in it. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. Mark the number of that part with error as your answer. If there is no error, mark (D). (Ignore errors of punctuation, if any.)
11. The car flew off the road (A)/ and fell into the valley (B)/ because Amit was driving faster. (C)/ No error (D)
  12. Yuvanika is one (A)/ of the latest (B)/ addition to good drama which appeared in recent times. (C)/ No error (D)
  13. I will always remember (A)/ you standing by me (B)/ and offering me encouragement. (C)/ No error (D)
  14. As soon as the sun rose (A)/ over the mountains (B)/ the valley became unbearable hot. (C)/ No error (D)
  15. The clothes were neatly (A)/ hanged (B)/ on the cloth line. (C)/ No error (D)
  16. You will be rady (A)/ to start while (B)/ he comes. (C)/ No error (D)
  17. Hardly I stepped (A)/ out of my house when I saw some policemen (B)/ coming towards my house. (C)/ No error (D)
  18. Swati has such a fine memory that she can (A)/ recollect

anything what (B)/ happened many years ago. (C)/ No error (D).

### Solutions:

1. (D). Replace which with what.
2. (B). Replace were with was. When two nouns are joined by along with, verb agrees with the first noun.
3. (C). Lay (laid, laid) means to put something in a definite position; to put oneself flat means lie (lay, lain); so lay. Lie (lied, lied) has another meaning which is to speak false.
4. (B). In past conditional after if past perfect follows; so had known.
5. (B). Subject is material and it has been treated here as uncountable and singular (there is). That's why, it should be too much. We cannot make material plural putting s because then we will have to change b as there are and then there will be mistakes in both of them.
6. (C). Since your cannot be changed as it is not underlined we will have to change one's to make the pronouns similar; so your.
7. (C). Before skills an adjective is required; reason is a noun; so reasoning.
8. (C). For a natural action present indefinite is used; so pauses (is rising is o.k. because it denotes a point of time).
9. (D). Because the last sentence contains two individual sentences, use a conjunction (either and or while) before fresh water to combine both sentences.
10. (C). The object of making is missing which gives a misleading meaning; so it should be making it altogether.
11. (C). Replace faster with fast because there is no comparison.
12. (C). Replace addition with additions. After one of the noun is in plural form.
13. (B). Replace you with your. Before gerund.
14. (C). Replace unbearable with unbearably because to qualify an adjective (hot) adverb is needed.
15. (B). Replace hanged with hung. Hang-Hanged-Hanged (to award death punishment), Hand-Hung-Hung (to keep suspending from something).
16. (B). With present indefinite (here he comes) while cannot be used (while in continuous); so either when or by the time.
17. (A). Rewrite the part as Hardly did I step. (Rule of inversion — auxiliary verb will come before the subject.
18. (B). Replace what with that. (After anything, everything etc. only that can be used as relative pronoun).

## VERBAL ABILITY

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# 1

## CHAPTER

# COMMON ERRORS

We tend to commit grammatical errors in our everyday conversation and in writing, without being aware of them. The importance of the English language is increasing day-by-day in the academic curriculum as well as in competitive examinations.

Language as a tool for communication. What might have been the standard usage ages ago, could now have been discarded or modified to suit contemporary writing or speaking.

However, certain guidelines and relationships that the parts of speech shared with each other finally result in the 'right' or the 'wrong' usage. A number of factors contribute to what 'can' or 'cannot' be right. Competitive exams require you to pay special attention to minute details, which you might miss while determining whether the given sentence is grammatically correct.

Let us now consider the areas where one can error, without even realizing it. This checklist would help you achieve a level of efficiency in zeroing in on the errors.

## DETERMINERS

Determiners are words used before Nouns to determine which or how many things Nouns refer to, or to show whether a Noun refers to a general or specific object, person or place. They are used before a Noun.

Determiners are of following types:

1. **Articles:** a, an, the
2. **Demonstratives:** this, that, these, those
3. **Possessives:** one's, my, your, our, his, their, her
4. **Interrogatives:** what, which, whose
5. **Distributive:** each, every, either, neither
6. **Quantifiers:** any, some, many, much, few, any secera, all no, more, one, two, first, second, last, either, neither, enough, a lot of, both, a great deal of, little, a little, the the little, few, a few, the few.

### 1. Articles

'A' and 'An' are indefinite articles where as 'The' is a definite article.

### Use of Indefinite article: 'A'

- before a singular countable noun beginning with a consonant.  
e.g. *a chair, a picture, a dog* etc.
- before such vowels which give the sound of a consonant.  
e.g. *a Europeans, a union leader, a one eyed man* etc.

### We use 'An'

- before a singular countable noun beginning with a vowel.  
e.g. *an almirah, an apple, an ink pot* etc.
- before words beginning with a consonant but giving a vowel sound.  
e.g. (a) *an hour* ('h' sound is silent)  
(b) *an honest man* (oo)  
(c) *an X-ray* (ae is the sound)  
(d) *an M.A student* (oe is the sound) etc.

### Use of Definite Articles: 'The'

When we refer to some particular place, a thing or a person.

For example, near my school is *a* petrol station. *The* petrol station looks dirty. (a- any petrol station, the – one near my school)

- when a singular noun is used to denote or represent a whole class.  
e.g. *The lion* is a fierce animal.
- before the names of rivers, range of mountains, seas, oceans, valleys, gulfs, deserts and groups of islands.  
e.g. *the Hang, the Persian Gulf, the Rajasthan camel, the Thar, the Nicobar islands* etc.
- names of countries, provinces and states which include words like Republic, Union, Kingdom, States.  
e.g. *The United Kingdom*
- before the names of public buildings, institutions, associations, museums, hotels, cinemas, theaters, shops, stadiums, airports, bank when they don't begin with Proper Noun.  
e.g. (a) *The Salarjung Museum*  
(b) *The Qutub Minar*

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- before directions.  
*e.g.* Nepal is in *the* north of India.
- before Ordinals and Superlatives as Gold is the most precious metal.
- before common Nouns which are names of things unique of their kinds.  
*e.g.* *The* elephant is *the* largest land animal.
- when we have to change a proper noun into common noun.  
*e.g.* Kashmir is *the* Switzerland of India.

**Note:** Remember when we speak of a person or a thing for the first time we generally use the Indefinite Article 'a' or 'an' but when we speak of the same person or thing the second time, we use the Definite Article 'the'.

### Omission of the Article

- Before common noun used in the widest sense as: Iron is a metal.
- Before proper nouns  
*e.g.* Akbar was a wise king.  
**Note:** We know that when an article is used before proper Noun, it becomes a common Noun.  
*e.g.* He is *the* Shakespeare of India.  
(*i.e.* as great as he was)
- Before abstract nouns use in general sense.  
*e.g.* Honesty is the best policy.  
When an abstract noun is qualified by an adjective, adjective phrase or adjective clause, it can take the'.  
*e.g.* (a) The honesty which he showed was praiseworthy.  
(b) The bravery of the Rajputs is still known.
- Before material nouns  
*e.g.* (a) Gold is a precious metal.  
(b) Bread is very important in this recipe.  
**Note:** We can use 'the' before them to make it particular.  
*e.g.* (a) *The* gold that I bought is not pure.  
(b) *The* bread that I have, is not sweet.  
(c) *The* Japanese is a difficult language.

## 2. Demonstratives

Words like *this, these, that, those* are used before a noun to determine its position (near or far).

- This and these indicate nearness to the speaker.
- That and those indicate distance from the speaker.  
*e.g.* (a) I like this book. (near) (b) I like that book. (far)

## 3. Possessives

Adjectives like *my, his, hers, you, ours, their, ones* are used to indicate possession or belonging of the noun.

- e.g.* (a) My story is interesting.  
(b) Their team has won the match.

## 4. Distributive

Adjectives such as each, every either, neither are used as distributives.

*Each* means one of two things or one of any number exceeding two. *Each* is used when whatever number is there, we do not want to miss any one.

*e.g.* *Each* of them had a gun in his hand.

(means no one was there who did not have a gun)

'Every' is used in speaking of some number exceeding two.

'Either' means - (a) one of two. (b) each of two that is both.

- e.g.* (a) You can leave by either door.  
(by one door or the other)  
(b) Trees grow on either side of the road.  
(both sides)

Neither is the negative of either and means neither the one nor the other.

- e.g.* (a) Neither shop offers discount. (both)  
(b) He took neither side in the dispute.  
(neither this nor that)

## 5. Quantifiers

These are adjectives which indicate the quantity or answer the question 'To what extent?' in a sentence. *e.g.* few, a few, the few, little, a little and the little etc.

**Few:** Few means almost none and has a negative meaning.

- e.g.* (a) He has few books in his library.  
(almost no books)  
(b) Few men can keep a secret.

**A few:** It means some at least. It has a positive meaning, a certain number, however few.

- e.g.* (a) He has a few books left in his library.  
(b) A few men live an idealistic life.

**The few:** It denotes all of whatever there is.

- e.g.* (a) He lost the few friends he had.  
(all the less number of friends)  
(b) The few books left are mine.

**Little:** It means hardly any or not much. It has a negative meaning.

*e.g.* There was little money in the house.

**A little:** It means some at least. It has a positive meaning.

- e.g.* (a) A little knowledge is a dangerous thing.  
(b) There is a little milk left in the pot.

**The little:** It means all of whatever small quantity there is. It can be used both positively and negatively.

*e.g.* He wasted the little money he had.  
(The money he had was not much and all of it was wasted.)

**‘Less’** is used with reference to quantity and ‘fewer’ with reference to number.

*e.g.* (a) I can not buy less than four kg of rice.  
(b) No fewer than two thousand people were present today.

**‘Some’**, **‘Any’** also express quantity. **Some** is used in the affirmative sentences and **any** in negative sentences.

*e.g.* I have some milk but I do not have any sugar.  
*Any* is used in positive sentences when it has an emphatic meaning.

*e.g.* Any fool can do it.  
In interrogative sentences

*e.g.* Have you any cash?

**‘Some’** may be used in interrogative sentences when these are equal to polite requests.

*e.g.* Will you give me some cash?

**Much** stands for quantity and **many** denotes number.

*e.g.* (a) Were there many people watching the movies?  
(b) She doesn’t have much money.

**No, None:** *No* precedes the noun that it qualifies and *none* follows it.

*e.g.* (a) The poor boy had no money.  
(b) I wanted some strings but there was none in the house.

All, Several, and enough are used where one cannot count or measure *e.g.* when we talk about a number of people or things considered as a group.

*e.g.* (a) Several people sang in the competition.  
(b) All that glitters is not gold.  
(c) There is enough food for all.

**Both** is used when we talk about two people or things. **Both** can be used alone or followed by a noun.

*e.g.* Both are invited for the party.

## ADJECTIVES

An adjective is a word used with a noun (or a pronoun) to add something for its meaning. In the following section, we will discuss various types of adjectives and their usage.

The adjective may be used as follows:

**1. Attributive usage:** In attributive usage, the adjective stands next to the noun.

Example: There were dark clouds in the sky.

**2. Predicative usage:** In predicative usage, the adjectives are used as complement after linking verbs.

Example: The clouds in the sky were dark.

## Rules

1. The adjective is correctly used with a verb when some quality of the subject, rather than of the action of the verb, is to be expressed.

**Incorrect:** Flowers were plucked freshly.

**Correct:** Flowers were plucked fresh.

2. **Due to** and **prior to** should be used as predicative adjectives. When prepositional functions are to be performed, use **because of** in place of **due to**, and **before** in place of **prior to**.

**Incorrect:** Wickets fell due to superb bowling.

**Correct:** Wickets fell because of superb bowling

## KINDS OF ADJECTIVE

### 1. Adjective of Quality

It shows the kind of quality of a person or a thing. It is also known as descriptive adjective.

**Example:** He loves her soft skin.

**Verbal and Oral :** Verbal means of or pertaining to words. Oral means the word delivered by mouth. Its opposite is written.

**Incorrect:** His written statement differs from his verbal one.

**Correct:** His written statement differs from his oral one.

**Common and Mutual:** Common means shared by all concerned. If a fact is common knowledge, it means the knowledge of the fact is shared by all. Everyone knows about it. Mutual means in relation to each other. If you and I are mutual admirers, it means I admire you and you admire me.

**Incorrect:** We started smoking on the advice of a mutual friend.

**Correct:** We started smoking on the advice of a common friend.

### 2. Adjective of Quantity

It is an adjective which shows how much of a thing is meant.

#### Some, Any

Both of them express quantity or degree. **Some** is used in affirmative sentences. **Any** is used in negative or interrogative sentences. However, if the question is in fact a request or a command, **some** is used.

**Incorrect:** I shall not buy some rice.

**Correct:** I shall not buy any rice.

### Little, a little, the little

Little has a negative meaning. It means not much or hardly any.

**Example:** He has little knowledge of politics.

The above sentence means that he hardly knows politics. It is implied that there is no sense in turning to him when it comes to politics. A little has a positive meaning. It means some, though not much.

**Example:** He has a little knowledge of politics.

The above sentence means though he is not thorough with politics, he does have some knowledge of the subject. You could look up to him for simple issues. The little means not much, but all there is.

**Example:** The little knowledge of politics that he has (possesses) has been gained through newspapers.

### 3. Adjective of Number

It is also known as numeral adjective, it shows how many person or things are meant, or in what order a person or thing stands.

**Example:** The face of a clock has sixty divisions.

Numeral adjective can be further classified as:

**1. Definite Numeral Adjective:** It denotes an exact number. It may be a cardinal denoting how many; as, one, two, three, etc. It may be an ordinal denoting the order; as, first, second, third etc.

**Example:** It is a twenty-kilometer walk.

**2. Indefinite numeral adjective:** It does not denote an exact number.

**Example:** There are many petitions lying on the table.

**3. Distributive numeral adjective:** It refers to each one of a number. Distributive numeral adjectives are the same as distributive pronouns.

**Example:** Each time he missed the bus.

### Rules

When a number together with a unit of measurement is to be used as an adjective, it is a compound word and the unit of measurement is taken in the singular.

**Incorrect:** It is a twenty-kilometers walk. **Correct:** It is a twenty-kilometer walk.

**Demonstrative Adjective:** Demonstrative adjective points out which person or thing is meant.

**Example:** This table is made of wood.

**Interrogative Adjective:** When an interrogative pronoun is

used with a noun to ask a question, it is called an interrogative adjective.

**Example:** What options are available after graduation?

**Emphasizing Adjective:** Emphasizing adjective is used to lay a particular emphasis on a noun.

**Example:** This is evident from your own words.

**Exclamatory Adjective:** Exclamatory adjective is used with a noun in exclamatory sentences.

**Example:** What a show!

### COMPARISON OF ADJECTIVES

Adjectives change in form to show comparison. There are three degrees of comparison.

**1. Positive degree:** The positive degree of an adjective is the adjective in its simple form. It merely tells us of a quality of a thing but does not make any comparison.

**Example:** This is a small town.

**2. Comparative degree:** The comparative degree of an adjective denotes a higher degree of the quality than the positive, and is used when two things are compared.

**Example:** This town is smaller than Ludhiana.

**3. Superlative Degree:** The superlative degree of an adjective denotes the highest degree of the quality, and is used when more than two things are compared.

**Example:** This is the smallest town in India.

### Rules

1. Most of the adjectives form the comparative by adding **-er** and the superlative by adding **-est** to the positive.

**Example:** Fast (positive), Faster (comparative), Fastest (superlative)

2. When the positive ends in **-e**, only **-r** and **-st** are added.

**Example:** Fine (positive), Finer (comparative), Finest (superlative)

3. When the positive ends in **-y**, preceded by a consonant, the **-y** is changed into **-i** before adding **-er** and **-est**.

**Example:** Dirty (positive), Dirtier (comparative), Dirtiest (superlative).

4. When the positive is a word of one syllable and ends in a single consonant, preceded by a short vowel, this consonant is doubled before adding **-er** and **-est**.

**Example:** Big (positive), Bigger (comparative), Biggest (superlative)

5. Adjectives of more than two syllables, and many of those with two, use the adverbs more and most respectively.

**Example:** Difficult, More difficult, Most difficult.

**More Examples**

**Example 1:** Rohit Sharma scored less runs in this series than in the previous one.

**Ans.** Rohit Sharma scored fewer runs in this series than in the previous one.

**Less** is the comparative degree of little. We know that little is an adjective of quantity. An adjective of quantity is used with nouns which are names of measurable (not countable) things.

Can runs be measured? No, they are counted. So, an adjective of number should be used. Few in this category corresponds to little. And since it is in the comparative degree, the appropriate word is fewer.

**Example 2:** This building is taller than any building in this city.

**Ans.** This building is taller than any other building in this city.

In this given sentence, between which two is the comparison? This building and any building. If we think carefully, we find that any building includes this building also. This means that this building is being compared to this building.

How to set things right? We have to remove this building from the latter term of comparison in the given sentence. The relationship is mathematical as follows:

Any building - this building = any other building

**Example 3:** Sita is more intelligent than all of her sisters.

**Ans.** Sita is more intelligent than any of her sisters. Usually, an individual is compared to another individual — not to a group, but to a representative of the group or one member of the group at a time. Sita is an individual. Her intelligence cannot be compared to the entire group — all of her sisters. The latter form of comparison should also be individuals.

**Example 4:** The living dog is better than the dead lion.

**Ans.** A living dog is better than a dead lion.

Which dog? The living dog. As soon as the noun becomes qualified (here by the participle living), we except the definite article the to pop in. But note that here we are not singling out a particular living dog, it could be any living dog.

**Example 5:** Cynics believe that a few persons are good in this world.

**Ans.** Cynics believe that few persons are good in this world.

This one is also a vocabulary test. Who is a cynic? One who thinks that people tend to act only in their own interests. He always has a low opinion of people's reasons for doing things. For him, hardly anyone is good. Now, the correct substitute for hardly anyone is few. A few, on the other hand, would mean some and if you believe some persons to be good, you have a somewhat positive approach. Then you are not a cynic.

**Example 6:** Of all militant groups, Hamara Watan is the most extreme.

**Ans.** The sentence is correct.

It is true that in usual cases, extreme does not admit of any comparison (like round, perfect, unique etc.) But that is because it means greatest possible or furthest possible. Since it is already in the superlative, we are left with no room for comparison.

The given sentence is, however, different. When we talk of extremist groups, we see that their extremity varies in degrees—from moderately extreme to extremely extreme. Extreme in their case means going beyond the usual limits. But, once having gone beyond the usual limits, the extent to which they go varies in degrees. Hence, comparison (the use of superlative) is justified in this case.

**Example 7:** The intelligence tests have questions based on figures as well as oral ones.

**Ans.** The intelligence tests have questions based on figures as well as verbal ones.

The intelligence tests have two types of questions — one based on figures, the other on words. Those questions based on words are known as verbal (not oral, which means of mouth) ones. Those based on figures are not based on words and are therefore called non-verbal.

**Example 8:** Footballer in him could not resist itself as soon as a ball came into sight.

**Ans.** The footballer in him could not resist itself as soon as a ball came into sight.

Here, footballer stands for the qualities of the footballer. The rule says that the definite article is used before a common noun to give it the meaning of an abstract noun.

**Example 9:** Lok Sabha passed the bill today.

**Ans.** The Lok Sabha passed the bill today.

Lok Sabha is the Indian version of the House of Commons. Note the use of the in the last sentence. Now, House of Commons could have been a common noun. But a capital H and a capital C ensure that it is the lower house of the Parliament and no other house of commons. So, the is used. Similarly, the United States of America (USA, now more popular as US).

**Example 10:** Nehru made a famous speech on the historical occasion of independence.

**Ans.** Nehru made a famous speech on the historic occasion of independence.

Historical means connected with history as a study. For example, you conduct historical research. It also means based on or representing events in the past. You might have read a historical play or a historical novel. But anything that is likely to have an influence on history is historic, not historical. Now, Independence was one such occasion.

## CORRECT USE OF SOME ADJECTIVES

### **All, Whole**

‘All’ shows number and ‘whole’ shows quantity; as,

1. All the boys went out.
2. The whole milk went bad.

### **Any, Some.**

Both express quantity and number, ‘Any’ is used in Interrogative and Negative sentences, while ‘some’ is used in the Affirmative and Interrogative sentences; as,

1. I haven’t got any food (quantity)
2. I haven’t got any book. (number)
3. Have you got some (any) money ? (quantity)
4. Haven’t you got some (any) pen ? (number)

But ‘any’ is used for selection; as, you may take any book you like.

### **Each, Every.**

‘Each’ expresses everyone of a definite number, while ‘every’ is used for an indefinite number; as,

1. Each boy-scout of the troop had a flag.
2. Every student must have his own books.

**Note:** ‘Each’ is used in speaking of two persons or things also; as, Each of the two coolies carried a bundle.

### **Farther, Further.**

‘Farther’ expresses distance and ‘further’ means something additional; as,

1. Nearer the church farther from God.
2. Please tell me something further.

### **Few, A few, the few.**

‘Few’ shows number and means ‘hardly any’; as,

1. Few people know me here.  
‘A few’ means ‘at least some’, (in number); as,
2. A few boys won scholarships.  
‘The few’ means ‘not many’ but all of those mentioned; as,
3. The few persons who were present helped him.

### **Fewer, Less.**

‘Fewer’ shows number and ‘less’ shows quantity; as,

1. I have fewer friends than he, (number)
2. I ate less than he. (quantity)

### **Later, Latter, Latest, Last.**

‘Later’, and ‘latest’ refer to time and are opposite of ‘earlier’ and ‘first’ respectively; as,

1. Mohan arrived later than Sohan.
2. What is the latest news ?

‘Later’ and ‘latest’ refer to order and are opposite of ‘former’ and ‘first’ respectively; as,

1. He has no son by his latter wife.
2. The last boy should answer the question.

### **Little, a little, the little.**

‘Little’ means ‘hardly any’ but unlike ‘few’ it shows quantity; as,

1. You have little knowledge of geometry.  
‘A little’ shows quantity and means ‘at least some’; as,
2. Put a little milk into the tea-cup.  
‘The little’ shows quantity. It means ‘not much’, but all that is mentioned; as,
3. I shall do the little I can.

### **Much, Many.**

‘Much’ express quantity, while ‘Many’ expresses number; as,

1. He took much milk. He invited many friends.

**Note :** ‘Many a’ expresses plural but takes a singular verb after it; as,

2. Many a student has failed in the examination.

### **No, None.**

‘No’ is used when the noun it qualifies is expressed but ‘Noun’ is used when the noun it qualifies is only understood; as,

1. No pains, no gains.
2. Non can help the dying man.

### **Older, Elder, oldest, eldest.**

‘Older’ and ‘oldest’ are used with persons and things to express comparison of age; as,

1. He is older than many boys of his class.
2. Mohan is the oldest boy of the class.
3. Which is the older of the two trees ?
4. The oldest mango tree in the garden has fallen.

‘Elder’ and ‘eldest’ chiefly refer to the members of the same family; as,

1. Mohan is the eldest of the two brothers.
2. His eldest son is an engineer.

## AN ADVERB

An Adverb is a word which modifies the meaning of any Part of Speech except a noun or a pronoun; as,

1. The Came late. (modifies a verb).
2. The room is very large. (modifies an adjective)
3. He ran very fast. (modifies another adverb)

4. He is much above you. (*modifies* a preposition)
5. We are happy only when we are free. (*modifies* a conjunction)

Sometimes an adverb modifies a phrase or a whole sentence; as,

1. You can just in time for breakfast.
2. Luckily you have succeeded.

**Note:** It is wrong to say that an Adverb is a word which modifies the meaning of a verb.

### Position of the Adverb

An adverb should be placed as near the word it modifies as possible; as,

1. He came here.
2. She will go immediately.
3. He purposely kept back.

When an adverb modifies an Intransitive Verb, it is generally placed after it; as,

1. He spoke gently.
2. They behaved nicely.
3. You did well.

When an adverb modifies a Transitive Verb, it is placed after the object; as,

1. He treated us kindly.
2. Father loves me heartily.

Adverb is generally placed between the Auxiliary Verb and the Principal Verb; as,

1. I have not deceived him.
2. They are not coming

If the verb consists of two or more Auxiliary Verbs, the modifying verb is placed after the first Auxiliary Verb; as,

3. She has not been playing.

Adverbs of time such as always, ever, never, often frequently, seldom, sometimes are placed before the verb they modify; as,

1. We often meet in the club.
2. They always speak the truth.
3. He never disobeys his father.
4. We seldom hold feasts.

When an adverb modifies an adjective or adverb it is placed immediately before the latter; as,

1. The news is quite true.
2. We are very happy.
3. Do not run so quickly.

An adverb should not be placed between an infinitive and its sign; as,

1. I request you kindly to excuse my absence.

(not to kindly excuse my absence).

Adverb 'enough' is placed after the adjective it modifies; as,

1. We are strong enough to defend our country.

Adverbs of definite time are placed either at the beginning or at the end of the sentence; as,

1. He called on me yesterday.
2. Yesterday he called on me.

When adverbs of place and time occur together, that of place comes first.

1. He has come here just now.

### Kinds of Adverbs

There are three kinds of Adverbs:

1. Simple Adverbs.
2. Interrogative Adverbs.
3. Relative Adverbs.

#### 1. Simple Adverbs

Simple Adverbs modify the meaning of the word to which they are attached. They are subdivided into the following classes:

##### (a) *Adverbs of Time; as,*

1. The patient is better now.
2. You got up early.
3. He will come soon

Chief of them are: Ago, before, early, instantly, immediately, presently, lately, already, today, tomorrow, daily, etc.

##### (b) *Adverbs of Place; as,*

1. I shall stay there.
2. They looked hither.
3. Let us go inside.

Chief of them are : Here, in, within, without, out, above, below, far, near, etc.

##### (c) *Adverbs of Manner; as,*

1. Speak gently.
2. Do it intelligently.
3. Work hard.

Chief of them are :Badly, well, sincerely, surely, laughingly, politely, fast, thus, so, etc.

##### (d) *Adverbs of Quantity or Extent; as,*

1. Almost all the guests have come.
2. He talks little but does much.
3. There was hardly any milk in the pot.

Chief of them are—Further, fully, wholly, partly, nearly, merely, etc.

**(e) Adverbs of Number; as,**

1. I shall see you again.
2. He never came to my house.
3. I have been there twice.

Chief of them are : Once, twice, thrice, always, ever, never, often, seldom, sometimes, firstly, secondly, etc.

**(f) Adverbs of Cause or Reason; as,**

1. He is rich therefore he spends freely.

**(g) Adverbs of Affirmation or Negation; as,**

1. Yes, he will come.
2. No, he cannot do it.

## 2. Interrogative Adverbs

Adverbs that are used for asking questions are called Interrogative Adverbs; as,

1. Why are you here ?
2. What makes you laugh ?

Interrogative Adverbs may also be divided into the following classes:

**(a) Adverbs of Time; as,**

1. When will you return ?
2. How long has he taken to complete it ?

**(b) Adverbs of Place; as,**

1. Where does he live ?
2. Whither are you going ?
3. Whence has he come from ?

**(c) Adverbs of Manner; as,**

1. How have you done it ?

**(d) Adverbs of Quantity or Extent; as,**

1. How much rice have you sold ?
2. How far have they succeeded ?

**(e) Adverbs of Number; as,**

1. How many students are absent.

**(f) Adverbs of Cause or Reason; as,**

1. Why are you laughing ?
2. Wherefore was he sent there ?

## 3. Relative Adverbs

They are the same in form as the Interrogative Adverbs but their function is different. They join sentences; as,

1. I know when he will return.
2. She says what is in her mind.
3. We cannot say how he succeeded.
4. We cannot say how many students will succeed.

**Note :** In such cases the clause after them is not a question sentence. It will be wrong to say.

1. I know when will he return.  
'The' is used as a Relative Adverb; as,
2. The earlier you rise, the better it will be.
3. The higher you go, the cooler it is.

**Note :** They are used only with Adjectives or Adverbs of the Comparative Degree.

## Formulation of Adverbs

1. Mostly Adverbs are formed by adding 'ly' to the Positive Degree of Adjectives; as,  
Nearly, shortly, slowly, quickly, immediately
2. If an Adjective ends in 'y' and has a consonant before it 'ly' is added after changing 'y' into 'i'; as,  
Happily, heavily, hastily, merrily, luckily.
3. Adjectives ending in the 'le' drop off 'le' and take 'ly' instead; as,  
ably, gently, preferably, notably.
4. Adverbs are formed by adding a certain prefix (a, in, be, to) to an adjective or a noun; as,  
From adjectives. Aloud, around, afresh, anew, behind, below, etc.  
From Nouns. Abed, afoot, ahead, to-day, etc.
5. Adverbs are also formed by combining a noun and an adjective; as,  
Backwards, homewards.
6. Adverbs are formed by combining a preposition and another adverbs; as,  
Hereafter, thereafter, thereby.
7. Adverbs are formed by adding 'ly' to the Participle; as,  
Lovingly, knowingly, surprisingly, etc.
8. Adverbs of Number are formed as under :—  
One—once, two—twice, three—thrice, four—fourfold, hundred—hundredfold.

## AGREEMENT OF THE VERB WITH SUBJECT

A verb must agree with its Subject in Number and Person. A singular subject takes a singular verb, and a plural subject requires a plural verb.

**Rule 1.** The Finite Verb of a sentence must agree with its subject in number and person; as,

1. He is going to school.  
(Singular subject, so a singular verb.)

2. They are going to school.  
(Plural subject, so a plural verb.)

3. Boys are playing.  
(Plural subject, as a plural verb.)

**Rule 2.** If two or more singular subjects are joined by ‘and’ they take a plural verb; as,

1. He and his wife are busy.
2. Mohan and I work in the same office.

**Note:** If two singular subjects are joined by ‘and’ refer to one and the same person or thing or contain the same idea, they take a singular verb; as,

1. The poet and novelist is very famous.  
(the same person is both)
2. Slow and steady wins the race.
3. Bread and butter is a wholesome food.

In such cases the article is used only once. If the article is used twice, the verb should be plural; as,

1. The poet and the novelist were talking with each other.

**Rule 3.** When two singular subjects joined by ‘and’ have ‘each’ or ‘every’ before the, singular verb is used; as,

1. Each boy and girl has got a book.
2. Either Mohan or his sister is to blame.

**Rule 4.** When two singular subjects are joined by ‘or’, ‘either.....or’, ‘nor’, ‘neither.....nor’, a singular verb is used; as,

1. Mohan or his sister has come.
2. Either Mohan or his sister is to blame.

**Rule 5.** A Collective Noun takes a singular verb, but if it is used as a Noun of Multitude, it takes a plural verb; as,

#### Collective Noun

1. The committee has elected its president.

#### Noun of Multitude

1. The committee differ on this point.

**Rule 6.** When two or more subjects of different number or person are joined by ‘and’ they take a plural verb; as,

1. He and his friend have come.
2. You and I are friends.

**Rule 7.** Each, either, every, neither, many a, none, must be followed by a singular verb; as,

1. Each student of the class is president.
2. Either of the two students has won a prize.
3. Every one of them was invited.
4. Neither of the two friends has come.
5. Many a student is taking the test.

**Rule 8.** When two subjects are joined by ‘with’ ‘along with’ ‘as well as’, ‘besides’, ‘not’ and ‘together with’ or ‘in addition to’, the verb agrees with the first subjects; as,

1. Mohan with his brothers is coming here.
2. They along with their adviser have reached.
3. You as well as your friend, are welcome.
4. He besides his relatives is of this opinion.
5. You, not Mohan are at fault.
6. My friend together with his cousins has a great wealth.

**Rule 9.** If two subjects are joined by not only.....but also,’ the verb agrees with the second subject; as,

1. Not only his brothers but his father also has written to us.
2. Not only his friends but his brother also is praising the brave boy.

**Rule 10.** When the subject of a verb is a relative pronoun, its verb agrees with its antecedent; as,

1. It is he who has done the mischief.
2. It is I who have stood first.
3. It is Mohan who is to blame.

**Rule 11.** When a plural noun is a Proper Name for a single object or collective unit and is used as subject, it takes a singular verb; as,

1. The news is an interesting book.
2. The United States is a powerful country.

**Rule 12.** Some nouns though plural in form are singular in number and take a singular verb when they are used as a subject; as,

1. The news is false.
2. The first innings is over.
3. Mathematics is a subject of studies.
4. A series of lectures was given.

**Rule 13.** When a plural noun denoting some particular amount or quantity is used as a subject, it takes a singular verb; as,

1. Ten years was a long period.
2. Two hundred is a very low price for the horse.

**Rule 14.** When a singular noun used as a subject is qualified by two adjectives and refers to two different persons or things, it takes a plural verb; as,

1. The first and the second boy of the class have got prizes.
2. The first and the last chapter of the book are difficult.

## ERRORS IN THE USE OF NOUNS

### Nouns

Nouns are the names of things, people, animals, places, qualities, actions, and ideas. They are usually single words, but not always. The words below are all nouns:

## 14 ■■■ GATE : General Aptitude

- cake, shoes, literacy, school bus
- post-traumatic stress disorder

A noun phrase is a string of words, consisting of a noun plus any modifiers, that functions as a noun in a sentence. A noun phrase can act as a subject or an object. In the sentence below, “ten of her friends from college” is a noun phrase that acts as the object of the verb invited.

**Example:** Rachel invited ten of her friends from college to her wedding.

Let us practice some examples:

**Incorrect** : I must help him. After all, we are brothers of the same profession.

**Correct** : I must help him. After all, we are brethren of the same profession.

**Explanation:** Brothers refers to the brothers in a family. Brethren refers to a community or members of a guild or a society.

**Incorrect** : He does everything for conscience’s sake.

**Correct** : He does everything for conscience sake.

**Incorrect** : Has the agendum for tomorrow’s meeting been drawn up ?

**Correct** : Has the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting been drawn up ?

**Explanation:** Agendum is not used in English. Agenda (Programme of a meeting) is treated as singular.

**Incorrect** : Custom on exports and imports is collected at the airport.

**Correct** : Customs on exports and imports are collected at the airport.

**Incorrect** : The old lady who was crushed to death by a speeding truck was walking in the centre of the road.

**Correct** : The old lady who was crushed to death by a speeding truck was walking in the middle of the road.

**Incorrect** : My uncle’s friend’s son is a doctor.

**Correct** : The son of my uncle’s friend is a doctor.

**Note:** The use of the double possessive (s) should be avoided.

**Incorrect** : Good night ! How do you do ?

**Correct** : Good evening! How do you do ?

**Note:** Good night is a parting salutation. When we meet someone (in the evening time), the salutation should be Good evening.

**Incorrect** : One of these men’s sons was killed in the recent police firing.

**Correct** : One of the sons of these men was killed in the recent police firing.

**Incorrect** : The juries consist of ten members.

**Correct** : The jury consists of ten members.

**Incorrect** : The jury was divided in its opinion.

**Correct** : The jury were divided in their opinion.

**Explanation:** Jury is a collective noun. Whenever there is a sense of unanimous action, we use singular verb with Jury; but when it is used in the sense of separation, we use plural verb with it.

### Mark the following examples:

The jury were unanimous on the issue (Incorrect)

The jury was unanimous on the issue. (Correct)

**Incorrect** : My father is in the teaching line.

**Correct** : My father is in the teaching profession.

**Note:** Teaching line is a slang word.

**Incorrect** : Women’s clothes are generally more expensive than men.

**Correct** : Women’s clothes are generally more expensive than men’s.

**Incorrect** : All his family members are lovers of dance and music.

**Correct** : All members of his family are lovers of dance and music.

**Note** : Family members is a slang expression. The actual use is members of the family.

**Incorrect** : His hat was blown off by a strong air.

**Correct** : His hat was blown off by a strong wind.

**Incorrect** : I may spend these summer vacations with one of my friends in Mumbai.

**Correct** : I may spend this summer vacation with one of my friends in Mumbai.

**Note** : Summer vacations is a wrong use. This term is always used in the singular form.

**Incorrect** : If the cattles enter the field, please drive them out.

**Correct** : If the cattle enter the field, please drive them out.

**Incorrect** : My cousin sister is a lecturer in Dayal Singh College.

**Correct** : My cousin is a lecturer in Dayal Singh College.

**Note:** Cousin brother/cousin sister is a slang usage.

**Incorrect** : Joseph was granted freeship by the Principal.

**Correct** : Joseph was granted free studentship by the Principal.

**Note** : Freeship is a slang expression. The actual use is free studentship.

**Incorrect** : The magistrate has passed order for his release.

**Correct** : The magistrate has passed orders for his release.

**Incorrect** : There is no place for you on this bench.

**Correct** : There is no room for you on this bench.

**Note:** Room in the above sentence refers to space.

**Incorrect** : Mr. Bhatia, our English teacher, takes great pains in his work.

**Correct** : Mr. Bhatia, our teacher of English, takes great pains in his work.

**Explanation:** English teacher is a slang use. The English teacher means a teacher belonging to England. The correct use is the teacher of English which means a teacher who teaches the language English.

**Incorrect** : The police has arrested the thief.

**Correct** : The police have arrested the thief.

**Incorrect** : The wages of sin are death.

**Correct** : The wages of sin is death.

**Incorrect** : The weather of Delhi does not suit me.

**Correct** : The climate of Delhi does not suit me.

**Incorrect** : Credit this sum in my name.

**Correct** : Credit this sum to my account.

**Note:** In my name is a slang expression. The correct use is to my account.

**Incorrect** : We should always be true to our words.

**Correct** : We should always be true to our word.

**Note:** Word in the above sentence means promise. Words means words in a language. We must be true to our word means we must honour our promise.

**Incorrect** : I have learnt these poetries by memory.

**Correct** : I have learnt these poems by memory.

**Note:** There is no such word as poetries. There is no plural of the word poetry. In place of poetries, we should use poems.

**Incorrect** : Such phenomena has never been seen before.

**Correct** : Such phenomena have never been seen before.

**Note:** Phenomena is always used in the plural sense. Hence, we use plural verb with it.

**Incorrect** : Some of the guests were sitting on the ground of the room.

**Correct** : Some of the guests were sitting on the floor of the room.

**Incorrect** : Twenty males and thirty females were selected by the commission.

**Correct** : Twenty men and thirty women were selected by the Commission.

**Incorrect** : What is your date of birth ?

**Correct** : What is the date of your birth ?

**Note:** Your date of birth is a slang expression. It hardly makes any sense. Birth is concerned with man and not with the date. So, the correct use will be the date of your birth.

**Incorrect** : I met him in the hospital and enquired about his state of health.

**Correct** : I met him in the hospital and enquired about the state of his health.

**Incorrect** : The scientists have not been able to tell the reason of an earthquake.

**Correct** : The scientists have not been able to tell the cause of an earthquake.

**Explanation :** There is a positive difference in the meanings of reasons and cause. Cause produces result. Reason explains or justifies the cause.

**Incorrect** : He does not know even alphabets of English.

**Correct** : He does not know even alphabet of English.

**Note:** Alphabet means the number of letters of a language.

**Incorrect** : No summon has yet been issued from the Court.

**Correct** : No summons has yet been issued from the court.  
Note : Summon is a wrong usage.

**Incorrect** : One of my friend will be honoured with the Vishishta Seva Medal on the Republic Day.

**Correct** : One of my friends will be honoured with the Vishishta Seva Medal on the Republic Day.

**Incorrect** : The students who live in the boarding cannot hope to get rich food.

**Correct** : The students who live in the boarding house cannot hope to get rich food.

**Note :** Boarding is a slang word. The correct use is the boarding house.

**Incorrect** : No one uses blotting these days.

**Correct** : No one uses blotting paper these days.

**Note:** Blotting is a slang word. The correct use is blotting paper.

**Incorrect** : I finished the three fourth of the work in a record period of four days.

**Correct** : I finished there-fourths of the work in a record period of four days.

## PRONOUN-ANTECEDENT AGREEMENT

A Pronoun renames (takes the place of) a noun that comes before it. An Antecedent is that which comes before the pronoun. "Pronoun Agreement" means that when you replace a noun with

a pronoun, the pronoun has to have a form that matches the noun. A pronoun must agree with its antecedent and must refer to only one antecedent.

**Example:**

1. She is a lady who saved a thousand lives.

The pronoun 'who' agrees with the antecedent, i.e., the noun 'lady'.

The need for pronoun antecedent agreement can create gender problems. Consider the following example:

2. A student must see his counselor before the end of the semester.

Here the antecedent 'student' agrees with the pronoun 'his'. But there can be a female student as well. In such a situation in order to avoid the problem, one can pluralize i.e., write:

3. Students must see their counselor before the end of the semester.

One can also rewrite the sentence as:

4. A student must see his or her counselor before the end of the semester.

(But this is jarring, so we avoid this structure)

The indefinite pronouns like: 'anyone', 'anybody', 'everyone', 'everybody', 'someone', 'somebody', 'no one' and 'nobody' are always singular. This is sometimes confusing. We often feel that 'everyone' and 'everybody' (especially) are referring to more than one person.

**Example:**

1. Everyone is invited.

At times when we compound a pronoun with something else, we don't want to change its form and thus end up creating something that "doesn't sound good."

Consider the following example:

2. The girl who stood first in class was the grandchild of the old beggar.
3. The girl was the grandchild of the old beggar who stood first in class.

Here, the pronoun 'who' has to be correctly placed next to the relevant noun. Otherwise, the meaning of the sentence changes. This is an important aspect of pronoun-antecedent agreement.

One of the most frequently asked questions about grammar pertains to choosing the right pronoun from the following:

*who, whose, whom, whoever, whomever.*

The number singular or plural of the pronoun (and its accompanying verbs) is determined by what the pronoun refers to; it can refer to a single person or a group of people.

**Examples:**

1. The person who hit my car should pay to fix the damages.
2. The people who have been standing in the line the longest should get in first.

Consider the following example:

3. Sheetal and Shilpa are good friends. She stays in Worli

Now in the sentence given above we do not know whether the pronoun 'she' refers to Sheetal or Shilpa. In such a situation, one must use the specific proper noun instead of a pronoun to put forth the correct idea or one can also say 'former' or 'latter'.

Singular antecedent such as man, woman, person, everybody, everyone, anyone, each, either, neither, sort and kind usually take a singular pronoun.

4. Each of the houses was slightly different.

Similar elements must be compared to each other. An error occurs when the comparison does not match.

Consider the following example

1. The students of class ten are better than all the other classes in the school.

In the above sentence, the students are compared to all the other classes in the school. This is incorrect. The students cannot be compared to the classes. The 'students' of class ten must be compared to the 'students' of other classes in the school. Therefore, we write, "The students of class ten are better than those in all the other classes in the school."

**Who / Whom**

'Who' is used to show which person one is referring to.

1. The man who came yesterday want to rent the house.

'Who' is used to give more information about the subject, usually a person.

2. My brother who is a scientist is coming to stay with us.

'Who' is simply used in questions to ask about the name or function of a person/persons.

3. Who are you going out with?
4. Who brought you the letter?

'Whom' is used more commonly in formal writing. Infact, the use of whom as the pronoun after prepositions is very formal.

5. To whom should I address my speech?

'Whom' is usually used when the object is a person.

6. Thomas whom nobody trusted in her village, died yesterday. (Nobody trusted whom? The answer is 'Thomas'. So we use 'whom' here and not 'who').

At times, we even come across a situation where it is not possible for us to use a particular pronoun for a given antecedent.

The most common pronouns are the personal pronouns. They are divided into subject pronouns, like she, which are used as the subjects of verbs, and object pronouns, like her, which are used as objects of verbs and of prepositions. The subject and object pronouns are listed below.

**Subject pronouns      Object pronouns**

I	me
you	you
he/she/it	him/her/it
we	us
they	them

**Examples**

- Incorrect** : Rahul is one of the greatest philosophers that has ever lived.
- Correct** : Rahul is one of the greatest philosophers that have ever lived.
- Incorrect** : The prize was given to the girl whom they said stood first.
- Correct** : The prize was given to the girl who they said stood first.
- Incorrect** : My mother does not like me going to pictures everyday.
- Correct** : My mother does not like my going to pictures everyday.
- Incorrect** : She was more beautiful than either of her three sisters.
- Correct** : She was more beautiful than any one of her three sisters.
- Incorrect** : The more you read, the more you will like this book.
- Correct** : The more you read this book, the more you will like it.
- Incorrect** : Between you and I, he is a rogue.
- Correct** : Between you and me, he is a rogue.
- Incorrect** : Zia can sing better than me.
- Correct** : Zia can sing better than I.
- Incorrect** : This is the only one of his comments that deserve our attention.
- Correct** : This is the only one of his comments that deserves our attention.
- Incorrect** : Neither of the three candidates are fit for the post.
- Correct** : None of the three candidates is fit for the post.
- Incorrect** : Both did not go.
- Correct** : Neither went.
- Note** : Both cannot be used in the negative sense.
- Incorrect** : You and he should not waste his money.
- Correct** : You and he should not waste your money.
- Incorrect** : My watch is better than that of yours.
- Correct** : My watch is better than yours.
- Incorrect** : I who is your father should be respected.
- Correct** : I who am your father should be respected.
- Incorrect** : The man standing beside the Minister is a friend of me.

- Correct** : The man standing beside the Minister is a friend of mine.
- Incorrect** : Too much of love is one of those things which spoils the child.
- Correct** : Too much of love is one of those things that spoil the child.
- Incorrect** : They invited my friend and I to tea.
- Correct** : They invited my friend and me to tea.
- Incorrect** : The jury was divided on the issue.
- Correct** : The jury were divided on the issue.
- Incorrect** : I who is standing here wrote that letter.
- Correct** : I who am standing here wrote that letter.
- Incorrect** : I hate him talking too much.
- Correct** : I hate his talking too much.
- Incorrect** : It was being a cloudy day, we stayed indoors.
- Correct** : It being a cloudy day, we stayed indoors.
- Incorrect** : We went to Batkal lake and enjoyed myself.
- Correct** : We went to Batkal lake and enjoyed ourselves.
- Incorrect** : The repent who do not look before they leap.
- Correct** : They repent that do not look before they leap.
- Incorrect** : None of we accepted his invitation.
- Correct** : None of us accepted his invitation.
- Incorrect** : He bought a beautiful pen and gave the pen to his sister.
- Correct** : He bought a beautiful pen and gave it to his sister.
- Incorrect** : That is the first time that I have seen you.
- Correct** : This is the first time that I have seen you.
- Incorrect** : I, him and you must help that poor man
- Correct** : You, he and I must help that poor man.
- Incorrect** : Divide this apple between he and myself.
- Correct** : Divide this apple between him and me.
- Incorrect** : He stole a dog and sold the dog for Rs. 50/-
- Correct** : He stole a dog and sold it for Rs. 50/-
- Incorrect** : Pawan being a poor man, cannot buy costly clothes.
- Correct** : Being a poor man, Pawan cannot buy costly clothes.
- Incorrect** : Who are you referring to ?
- Correct** : Whom are you referring to ?
- Incorrect** : Whom did you say was digging the ground ?
- Correct** : Who did you say was digging the ground ?
- Incorrect** : I shall take your leave now.
- Correct** : I shall take leave of you now.
- Incorrect** : Is this book your's or mine ?
- Correct** : Is this book yours or mine ?
- Incorrect** : I do not like you talking to Radha.
- Correct** : I do not like your talking to Radha
- Incorrect** : Mohini's looks are more charming than Sudha's.

- Correct** : Mohini's looks are more charming than that of Sudha.  
**Incorrect** : This is the man whose all sons are mad.  
**Correct** : This is the man all sons of whom are mad.  
**Incorrect** : One ought to do his duty.  
**Correct** : One ought to do one's duty.  
**Incorrect** : Every of the boys has taken his share.  
**Correct** : Each of the boys has taken his share.  
**Incorrect** : Your need is greater than that of mine.  
**Correct** : Your need is greater than mine.  
**Incorrect** : The committee were unanimous on the issue.  
**Correct** : The committee was unanimous on the issue.

### ERRORS IN THE USE OF ADJECTIVES

- Incorrect** : India is more beautiful than any country of the world.  
**Correct** : India is more beautiful than any other country of the world.  
**Incorrect** : Mr. Rai is the most industrious and noblest member of the college staff.  
**Correct** : Mr. Rai is the noblest and most industrious member of the college staff.  
**Explanation** : When two adjectives in the Comparative or superlative degree come together, the one formed by adding more or most should be given the second position in the sentence.  
**Incorrect** : The whole India mourned the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi.  
**Correct** : The whole of India mourned the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi  
**Incorrect** : Television has proved much harmful than useful.  
**Correct** : Television has proved more harmful than useful.  
**Incorrect** : No less than five students were drowned.  
**Correct** : No fewer than five students were drowned.  
**Incorrect** : Mr. Amarnath is the most ablest man of the town.  
**Correct** : Mr. Amarnath is the ablest man of the town.  
**Incorrect** : There are not much books in the library.  
**Correct** : There are not many books in the library.  
**Incorrect** : Health is more preferable than wealth.  
**Correct** : Health is preferable to wealth.  
**Incorrect** : The Taj Mahal is a worth-seeing monument  
**Correct** : The Taj Mahal is a monument worth-seeing.  
**Incorrect** : Less books are needed for the library.  
**Correct** : Fewer books are needed for the library.  
**Incorrect** : She wrote a best book.  
**Correct** : She wrote a very good book.

- Incorrect** : Indira Gandhi was the first politician of her time.  
**Correct** : Indira Gandhi was the foremost politician of her time.  
**Incorrect** : Napoleon was greater than any politician of his time.  
**Correct** : Napoleon was greater than any other politician of his time  
**Incorrect** : As a sleeping partner he had invested a little amount of money.  
**Correct** : As a sleeping partner, he has invested a small amount of money.  
**Incorrect** : He had only the few rupees left.  
**Correct** : He had only a few rupees left.  
**Incorrect** : Amritsar is further from Delhi than Ambala.  
**Correct** : Amritsar is farther from Delhi than Ambala  
**Incorrect** : This is the most perfect system.  
**Correct** : This is the perfect system.  
**Incorrect** : The climate of Shimla is as good as Kashmir.  
**Correct** : The climate of Shimla is as good as that of Kashmir.  
**Incorrect** : He is only a peon and gets a less salary.  
**Correct** : He is only a peon and gets a small salary.  
**Incorrect** : Lal got cent per cent marks in English.  
**Correct** : Lal got hundred per cent marks in English.  
**Note** : Cent per cent is a slang expression. The correct use is hundred per cent.  
**Incorrect** : No other man of the town is more wiser than Mr. Sethi.  
**Correct** : No other man of the town is as wise as Mr. Sethi.  
**Note** : When we start a sentence with no other man it is a case of positive degree. So, we are supposed to use as .....as in such cases.  
**Incorrect** : He gave a few coins he had in his pocket to the beggar.  
**Correct** : He gave the few coins he had in his pocket to the beggar.  
**Incorrect** : The teacher will give the students a verbal test.  
**Correct** : The teacher will give the students an oral test.  
**Incorrect** : He got only passing marks in English.  
**Correct** : He got only pass marks in English.  
**Note** : Passing-marks is a slang usage.  
**Incorrect** : These days people prefer coffee than tea.  
**Correct** : These days people prefer coffee to tea.  
**Incorrect** : Gold is the most precious of all other metals.

- Correct** : Gold is the most precious of all metals.
- Incorrect** : Radha is the older of the two sisters.
- Correct** : Radha is the elder of the two sisters.
- Incorrect** : Of Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi, the latest has the largest number of motor vehicles.
- Correct** : Of Mumbai, Kolkata and Delhi, the last has the largest number of motor vehicles.
- Incorrect** : This watch is superior than that.
- Correct** : This watch is superior to that.
- Incorrect** : Mohan is wiser than honest.
- Correct** : Mohan is more wise than honest.
- Incorrect** : I do not like this kinds of jokes.
- Correct** : I do not like these kinds of jokes.
- Incorrect** : Death is more preferable than dishonour.
- Correct** : Death is preferable to dishonour.
- Incorrect** : My father has been sick for a very long time.
- Correct** : My father has been ill for a very long time.
- Incorrect** : Please open your book at twenty page.
- Correct** : Please open your book at page twenty.
- Incorrect** : Both the brothers have not passed.
- Correct** : Neither brother has passed.
- Incorrect** : Both did not speak.
- Correct** : Neither spoke.
- Note** : Both cannot be used in the negative sense.
- Incorrect** : This article was published in the last issue of the Hindustan Times.
- Correct** : This article was published in the latest issue of the Hindustan Times.
- Incorrect** : Many a demonstrators were arrested for shouting objectionable slogans.
- Correct** : Many a demonstrator was arrested for shouting objectionable slogans.
- Incorrect** : The porter told me that he would not accept fewer than ten rupees.
- Correct** : The porter told me that he would not accept less than ten rupees.
- Incorrect** : Khushwant Singh's command over English is the most excellent.
- Correct** : Khushwant Singh's command over English is excellent.
- Incorrect** : Even his next relations did not come to his help in his predicament.
- Correct** : Even his nearest relations did not come to his help in his predicament.
- Incorrect** : Little knowledge of shoe-making proved very useful to me.

- Correct** : The little knowledge of shoe-making proved very useful to me.
- Incorrect** : There is no fewer than two litres of milk in the jug.
- Correct** : There is no less than two litres of milk in the jug.

## ERRORS IN THE USE OF VERBS

The Verb and Tense must reflect the sequence of events. These verb tenses need not be identical but they should logically reflect the shifts in time and meaning.

### Examples:

1. My brother, had graduated before I started college.
2. My brother will have graduated by the end of next month.  
I opened the door, entered the room and sat down.  
(when all the actions in the past closely follow each other there is no need to unnecessarily shift tenses).

## Other aspects of Verb-Tense use

As long as the main clause is in neither the past nor the past perfect tense, the verb of the subordinate clause can be in any tense that conveys the meaning accurately.

### Examples

1. Ram still thinks that she was there at the party.
2. Ram will think that she was there.

When the verb in the main clause is in the past or past perfect tense, the verb in the subordinate clause must be in the past or the past perfect.

### Example:

1. When evening came, they went to the caves and had their dinner.  
The exception to this rule is when the subordinate clause expresses what is commonly known as a general truth.

### Examples

1. Columbus somehow knew that the world is round.  
Slave owners wisely understood that literacy among oppressed people is a dangerous thing.  
Sometimes an adverb or a distinct difference in the time frame makes it necessary to shift tenses.

### For example:

1. In the Mauryan era, people were prosperous. But they are not now.  
Generally you use the same tense unless there are certain exceptions as stated.

## Parallel Construction

Similar element in a sentence must be parallel to each other. Within the sentences one may find compound elements of speech, a sentence may have multiple subjects, verbs or phrases and for the sentence to flow smoothly, those elements need to be “alike both in use and in form” or parallel.

Consider following examples:

1. I enjoy hiking, biking and to watch movies.

In the above sentence the order has to be parallel to hiking, and biking, so ‘watch’ must be changed to watching. Hence, the sentence must be rewritten as:

2. I enjoy hiking, biking and watching movies.

### Learning Outcome

Adhere to the sequence of sentence framing – if you begin with infinitives continue with the same; if you begin with ‘ing’ words, continue with the same.

Let us practice:

**Incorrect** : Had you been to Kolkata, I has also gone there.

**Correct** : Had you been to Kolkata, I would have also gone.

**Incorrect** : These news were broadcasted from All India Radio yesterday.

**Correct** : This news was broadcast from All India Radio yesterday.

**Incorrect** : The pick-pocket was arrested and his pockets searched.

**Correct** : The pick pocket was arrested and his pockets were searched.

**Explanation** : The sentence is a combination of two sentences, or we say the sentence shows two actions in the past tense, i.e.

(a) The pick pocket was arrested.

(b) His pockets searched.

In part (b) of the sentence, we find that the helping word is missing. Since the subject is plural and the tense is past, we have to use were to complete the sentence.

**Incorrect** : Ten were killed and one taken prisoner.

**Correct** : Ten were killed and one was taken prisoner.

**Incorrect** : Hinduism is in existence from time immemorial.

**Correct** : Hinduism has been in existence from time immemorial.

**Incorrect** : I have never and will never abuse your brother.

**Correct** : I have never abused and will never abuse your brother.

**Incorrect** : I asked him why he walked forward in the open field like that.

**Correct** : I asked him why he had walked forward in the open field like that.

**Note** : When the reporting verb is in the past tense, the past tense in the reported speech is changed into past perfect tense.

**Incorrect** : All that is typically human was due to language.

**Correct** : All that is typically human is due to language.

**Note** : The sentence is a case of universal truth.

**Incorrect** : The patient died before the doctor arrived.

**Correct** : The patient had died before the doctor arrived.

**Incorrect** : I have passed the M.A. examination in 1981.

**Correct** : I passed the M.A. examination in 1981.

**Incorrect** : Every chair and every table in the room were in order.

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

**Incorrect** : Sushma as well as her mother were honoured by the President.

**Correct** : Sushma as well as her mother was honoured by the President.

**Incorrect** : The Tale of Two Cities are an interesting novel.

**Correct** : The Tale of Two Cities is an interesting novel.

**Note** : The Tale of Two Cities is the title of a book. Hence, the verb used must be singular.

**Incorrect** : You mistake in thinking that I am against you.

**Correct** : You are mistaken in thinking that I am against you.

**Incorrect** : Hard work and honesty are needed for success in life

**Correct** : Hard work and honesty is needed for success in life.

**Incorrect** : Many a battle were fought on the soil of India

**Correct** : Many a battle was fought on the soil of India.

**Incorrect** : He married his daughter.

**Correct** : He got his daughter married.

**Incorrect** : Mohan is one of those boys who has expressed his willingness for joining the educational tour.

**Correct** : Mohan is one of those boys who have expressed their willingness for joining the educational tour.

**Incorrect** : The criminal will be hung in the Ambala Central Jail.

**Correct** : The criminal will be hanged in the Ambala Central Jail.

**Incorrect** : If I will reach late, I shall be punished.

**Correct** : If I reach late, I shall be punished.

**Incorrect** : If wishes were horses, beggars may ride.

**Correct** : If wishes were horses, beggars would ride.

**Incorrect** : The poet and philosopher are dead.

**Correct** : The poet and the philosopher are dead.

or

The poet and philosopher is dead.

**Note** : Mark the following difference :

(a) The poet and the philosopher—two persons.

(b) The poet and philosopher—one person.

Hence, the verb will be used accordingly.

## ERRORS IN THE USE OF ADVERBS

**Incorrect** : Actions sometimes speak loudly than the words.

**Correct** : Actions sometimes speak louder than the words.

**Incorrect** : I want to know as to why he hit the dog.

**Correct** : I want to know why he hit the dog.

**Note** : As to is an unnecessary attachment to why. It should not be used with why.

**Incorrect** : Call me anything else than a fool.

**Correct** : Call me anything else but a fool.

**Incorrect** : He behaved cowardly before the principal

**Correct** : He behaved in a cowardly manner before the principal.

**Incorrect** : Please kindly help me in my work.

**Correct** : Kindly help me in my work.

or

Please help me in my work.

**Note** : Kindly and Please cannot be used together. We should use either kindly or please. However, there is a difference in the use of the two.

(a) When we talk to our seniors or superiors, we use kindly.

(b) When we talk to our equals or juniors, we use please.

**Incorrect** : She ran very fastly.

**Correct** : She ran very fast.

**Note** : Fastly is a slang usage.

**Incorrect** : I care a straw for you.

**Correct** : I do not care a straw for you.

**Incorrect** : I am only free in the morning.

**Correct** : I am free only in the morning.

**Incorrect** : Mohan is a very wise man, certainly.

**Correct** : Mohan is certainly a very wise man.

**Incorrect** : We entirely draw our intellectual and cultural heritage from the Mediterraneans.

**Correct** : We draw our intellectual and cultural heritage entirely from the Mediterraneans.

**Incorrect** : I never remember having met him before.

**Correct** : I do not remember having met him before.

**Incorrect** : Of course, you will succeed in your mission.

**Correct** : You will certainly succeed in your mission.

**Incorrect** : Mr. Reddy is working very hardly on this project.

**Correct** : Mr. Reddy is working very hard on this project.

**Note** : Mark the following difference :

(a) Working hard—Working dedicatedly.

(b) Hardly working—Not working at all.

**Incorrect** : Alexander Pope was a much learned man.

**Correct** : Alexander Pope was a very (or highly) learned man.

## ERRORS IN THE USE OF PREPOSITIONS

**Incorrect** : When he parted with his sister, there were tears in his eyes.

**Correct** : When he parted from his sister, there were tears in his eyes.

**Note** : Part from means separate from.

**Incorrect** : The teacher ordered me to write with ink.

**Correct** : The teacher ordered me to write in ink.

**Incorrect** : The Hindu religion has been in existence since time immemorial.

**Correct** : The Hindu religion has been in existence from time immemorial.

**Explanation** : Since is used to express a point of time, whereas for is used to express a length of time. But a time that is immemorial can express neither a point of time nor a length of time. In all such cases, we should use from as preposition.

**Incorrect** : The lion sprang on the cow.

**Correct** : The lion sprang upon the cow.

**Incorrect** : Police are not allowed to enter into the University Campus.

**Correct** : Police are not allowed to enter the University Campus.

**Incorrect** : Translate this passage from Urdu to Sanskrit.

**Correct** : Translate this passage from Urdu into Sanskrit.

**Note** : Whenever there is a change from one medium to another, we use into. In this sentence, the change is from Urdu (one medium) into Sanskrit (another medium).

**Incorrect** : The house should be disposed off in the manner indicated below.

- Correct** : The house should be disposed of in the manner indicated below.
- Incorrect** : I found him leaning on the chair.
- Correct** : I found him leaning over the chair.
- Incorrect** : Last year, my friend lived in Sonepat for six months.
- Correct** : Last year, my friend lived at Sonepat for six months.
- Note** : live in —a big city  
Live at—a small town or village.
- Incorrect** : It had a small kitchen garden on the back.
- Correct** : It had a small kitchen garden at the back.
- Incorrect** : His house is very different and very superior to your house.
- Correct** : His house is very different from and very superior to your house.
- Incorrect** : Sheela resembles with her mother.
- Correct** : Sheela resembles her mother.
- Note** : No preposition is used with resemble.
- Incorrect** : None except the brave deserve the fair.
- Correct** : None but the brave deserve the fair.
- Note** : As preposition, but means except.
- Incorrect** : It has been raining cats and dogs from Monday last.
- Correct** : It has been raining cats and dogs since Monday last.
- Incorrect** : These days, I am busy in writing a book of grammar.
- Correct** : These days, I am busy in writing a book on grammar.
- Incorrect** : He married with a poor girl.
- Correct** : He married a poor girl.
- Incorrect** : Can a miser part from his wealth ?
- Correct** : Can a miser part with his wealth ?
- Incorrect** : I told him on his face that he could not pass.
- Correct** : I told him at his face that he could not pass.
- Incorrect** : The students had a tussle on the words.
- Correct** : The students had a tussle over the words.
- Incorrect** : She is a memory of the past running in the present.
- Correct** : She is a memory of the past running into the present.
- Incorrect** : The frustrated lover jumped in the river.
- Correct** : The frustrated lover jumped into the river.
- Incorrect** : A person who is filled by wonder, opens his eyes very wide.
- Correct** : A person who is filled with wonder, opens his eyes very wide.

## ERRORS IN THE USE OF CONJUNCTIONS

- Incorrect** : As you are my younger brother so I shall take care of you.
- Correct** : I shall take care of you because you are my younger brother.
- Incorrect** : He had hardly seen me, so he came to me running.
- Correct** : He had hardly seen me when he came running to me.
- Note** : Hardly in such sentences is followed by when.
- Incorrect** : I will die some day since all men are mortal.
- Correct** : I will die some day as all men are mortal.
- Incorrect** : No sooner did we reach the stadium, it started raining cats and dogs.
- Correct** : No sooner did we reach the stadium than it started raining cats and dogs.
- Incorrect** : Manobi was not in a good mood, therefore, I did not talk to her.
- Correct** : Manobi was not in a good mood, so I did not talk to her.
- Incorrect** : Everybody likes him because he is intelligent.
- Correct** : Everybody likes him because he is intelligent.
- Incorrect** : I was reading the newspaper, at that time Sachin came to me.
- Correct** : I was reading the newspaper when Sachin came to me.
- Incorrect** : Both Mili as well as Meena are beautiful.
- Correct** : Both Mili and Meena are beautiful.
- or
- Mili as well as Meena is beautiful.
- Incorrect** : Two weeks have passed since I have seen him.
- Correct** : Two weeks have passed since I saw him.
- Incorrect** : I took the medicine that I might get well.
- Correct** : I took the medicine so that I might get well.
- Incorrect** : Supposing if he misses the train, will he come back ?
- Correct** : Supposing he misses the train, will he come back?
- or
- If he misses the train, will he come back ?
- Note** : Supposing and if carry the same meaning.  
Hence, they cannot be used together in the same sentence.
- Incorrect** : Both Madhu and Sudha did not attend school yesterday.
- Correct** : Neither Madhu nor Sudha attended school yesterday.
- Incorrect** : She is equally honest as her sister.
- Correct** : She is as honest as her sister.

**Note** : Equally honest as is slang. The correct use is as honest as.

**Incorrect** : He is neither happy with his relative nor he is happy with his friends.

**Correct** : He is happy neither with his relatives nor with his friends.

**Incorrect** : All is not right that is expedient.

**Correct** : All that is expedient is not right.

**Incorrect** : He took another path from the one I showed him.

**Correct** : He took a different path from the one I showed him.

**Incorrect** : Moving on the grass I saw a snake.

**Correct** : While moving on the grass, I saw a snake.

## SENTENCE CORRECTION

The very name of this question – i.e. Sentence Correction – makes it quite clear what it consists of. In the simplest form, you have to correct the error in a given sentence. The most common form of Sentence Correction question is the ‘Highlighted Phrase’ type, which follows the basic pattern mentioned above.

Another type is where no question sentence is given, only the options, one of which is the correct sentence. A rather different type of Sentence Correction is ‘Mark the Error’, in which you have to only mark the part of the sentence which has an error, not correct it.

In the Highlighted Phrases’ type of Sentence Correction question, a part or whole of a given sentence is highlighted. It may or may have an error in it. The error can be of any kind – a grammatical error, a spelling mistake, incorrect syntax, an idiomatic error, etc. You have to identify the error (if present) and chose one of the four options which seems to be the most suitable correction. If there is no error, then choose the original sentence (which will be among the options).

### Example:

- I was taken aback to see a policeman marching my grocer down the street this afternoon.

1. I was taken aback to see a policeman marching my grocer.
2. I was taken back to see a policeman marching my grocer.
3. I was taken aback to see a policeman marched my
4. I was taken a back to see a policeman marching my grocer.

### Solution

‘Taken aback’ refers to when you’re startled by something. When you’re reminded of something from your past, you’re taken back to that time, which is not the case here. So [2] and [4] are out.

One should not shift form one tense to another if the time frame for each action or state I the same, so [3] is out. Hence, [1].

The other format of this type of question is only slightly different: instead of giving a sentence and repeated part or whole of it in the options, only the option are given, but they are clearly different versions of the same sentence. You have to choose which sentence is the most correct way of expressing that idea.

### Example:

1. I drank all the water from the cistern when nobody was looking.
2. I drunk all the water from the cistern when nobody was looking.
3. I’ve drunk all the water from the cistern when nobody was looking.
4. I’ve drunk all the water from the cistern. When nobody was looking.

### Solution

Many common verbs in English change form when their past tense is preceded by an auxiliary (“helping”) verb: ‘I have drunk’ or ‘I drank’. So, [2], [3] are out. [4] has two sentence fragments. Hence, [1].

### Examples:

1. In an era of feminist and politically correct values, not to mention the closely held belief that all men and women are not created equal – and that some re more beautiful than others – disturbs, confuses, even angers.
2. In an era of feminist and politically correct values, not to mention closely held belief that all men and women are created equal, the fact that all men and women are not created equal, and that some are more beautiful than others – disturbs, confused, even angers.
3. In an era of feminist and politically correct values, not to mention the closely held belief that all men and women are created equal, the fact that all men and women are not – and that some are more beautiful than others – disturbs, confused, even angers.
4. In an era, of feminist and politically correct values, not to mention the closely held belief that all men and women are created equal, the fact that all men and women are not and that some are more beautiful than others – disturbs confuses, even angers.

### Solution

The words “created equal” are unnecessarily repeated in [1] and [2]. “Confused” is in the wrong tense in [2] and [3]. Hence, [4].