

SPOTTING ERRORS

Spotting errors are asked in verbal reasoning, and you need to spot sentences and errors which are grammatically incorrect. This error can be anything. From noun to pronoun to singular or plural to word usage, they can be anything.

Basic Rules for Spotting Errors

Rule 1

In the simple present tense, the number and the person of the subject play a very important role.

If the subject is a singular number third person, affix 's' or 'es' to the verb. If the verb ends in any of the following **ss, o, x, z, sh, ch**, add 'es' instead of 's' with the verb.

Rule 2

When the main verb is in future, use the simple present tense in clauses with if, till, as soon as, when, unless, before, until, even, if, in case and as.

Examples

- (a) We shall wait till she arrives.
- (b) I shall not go there, even if it rains.

Rule 3

The simple present tense must be used instead of the present continuous with verbs of perception (feel, hear, smell, etc.), verbs of cognition (believe, know, think, etc.), verbs of emotion (hope, love, hate, etc.), which cannot be used normally in continuous form.

Incorrect: We are seeing with our eyes.

Correct: We see with our eyes.

Incorrect: Are you hearing a strange noise?

Correct: Can you hear a strange noise?

Incorrect: We are smelling with our nose.

Correct: We smell with our nose.

But these kinds of verbs can be used in the continuous form in the following cases:

1. The jury is hearing our case.
2. We are thinking of going to Goa next year.
3. I am seeing my doctor today.

Rule 4

One must not use adverbs of past time, like yesterday, last year, last month, ago, a short while ago, etc. with the present perfect tense.

Example

Arun has completed his project yesterday. (**Incorrect**)

Arun completed his project yesterday. (**Correct**)

Rule 5

Use of Since/For

Students commit mistakes in using 'Since' or 'For'.

'For' is used for 'period of time', and 'since' is used for 'point of time'. With morning, evening, etc., use 'since' and with 'some time', 'hours', 'months', etc., use 'for'.

Rule 6

If two or more actions took place in a sequence, we use the simple past tense to denote the actions. (Otherwise, the past perfect tense is used to denote the earlier action.) This is usually used with the conjunction 'before'.

Examples

- (a) He switched on the light before he opened the door.
- (b) The train started just before I reached the station.

Rule 7

The use of the simple past tense with 'wish' and 'If only' shows 'the unreal past' and present state of things.

Examples

- (a) I wish I were a millionaire! (I am not a millionaire.)
- (b) If only I knew her! (I don't know her.)

Rule 8

In the following structure, the use of simple past denotes 'unreal past' and present time situation.

Examples

- (a) It is time we went home. (It is time for us to go home.)
- (b) It is time you finished. (It is time for you to finish.)

Rule 9**Use of past continuous with 'when' and 'while'**

'When' is usually used when one action was completed and another while action was going on.

Example

When he arrived, his wife was washing her clothes.

'While' is used when two actions were going on at a time.

Example

While she was cooking, I was washing the clothes.

Rule 10

The past perfect tense is used when we look back on the earlier action from a certain point in the past.

Example

She had completed her work before I reached there.

Rule 11

The past perfect tense is also used for an action which began before the time of speaking in the past and which stopped some time before the time of speaking.

Example

He had served in a bank for twenty years, and then he retired and established his business. His children were now well settled.

Here, we cannot use either 'since' or 'the past perfect continuous'.

Rule 12

The past perfect continuous tense is used when the action began before the time of speaking in the past and continued up to that time.

Example

It was now seven, and he was tired because he had been cleaning the house since dawn.

Rule 13

When two actions take place at some future time, we use the future perfect tense for the action completed first and the simple present tense for the action to be completed afterwards.

Examples

- (a) The student will have left the class before the teacher comes.
- (b) The employees will have started before I reach there.

Rule 14

The future perfect tense is also used for such incidents/actions about which we presume that another person already had the knowledge of that incident or the action is already completed by that time.

Examples

- (a) You will have heard about Bill Gates.
- (b) He will have read the newspaper so far.

Rule 15

The article is not used before places visited for primary purpose: school, college, church, market, bed, etc.

Example

Mary goes to the church daily. (**Incorrect**)

Mary goes to church daily. (**Correct**)

Rule 16

When two nouns refer to different persons, 'the' is used before both the nouns. If they refer to the same person, 'the' is used before the first noun only.

Examples

The secretary and the correspondent are in the office.

The secretary and correspondent is in the office. (same person)

Read each sentence to find out whether there is any grammatical error. The error, if any, will be in one part of the sentence. The number-letter of that part is the answer. (Ignore the errors of punctuation, if any).

1. The Indian radio (a) / which was previously controlled by the British rulers (b) / is free now from the narrow vested interests. (c) / No error. (d)
2. An Indian ship (a) / laden with merchandise (b) / got drowned in the Pacific Ocean. (c) / No error. (d)
3. I could not put up in a hotel (a) / because the boarding and lodging charges (b) / were exorbitant. (c) / No error (d)
4. We discussed about the problem so thoroughly (a) / on the eve of the examination (b) / that I found it very easy to work it out. (c) / No error (d)
5. If I had known (a) / this yesterday (b) / I will have helped him. (c) / No error (d)
6. A lot of travel delay is caused (a) / due to the inefficiency and lack of good management (b) / on behalf of the railways. (c) / No error (d)
7. One of the members (a) / expressed doubt if (b) / the Minister was an atheist. (c) / No error (d)
8. I have got (a) / my M.Sc. degree (b) / in 1988. (c) / No error (d)
9. Having received your letter (a) / this morning, we are writing (b) / to thank you for the same. (c) / No error (d)
10. If you lend him a book (a) / he will lend it to some one else (b) / and never you will get it back. (c) / No error (d)
11. Today, the cost of living (a) / is such higher that many people (b) / find it difficult to keep their hearth burning (c) / No error (d)
12. Tisha was trying for admission in a medical college (a) / even though her parents (b) / wanted her to take up architecture. (c) / No error (d)

13. Yavanika is one of the latest (a) / additions to good drama (b) / which appeared in recent times (c) / No error (d)
14. Children visiting the park (a) / are amused by the monkeys (b) / play in the cages (c) / No error (d)
15. I am better acquainted (a) / with the country (b) / I than you (c) / No error (d)
16. Their offspring (a) / are all (b) / very inquisitive. (c) / No error (d)
17. 'Their distress had (a) / no affect on him (b) / as he was determined to have his pound of flesh. (c) / No error (d)
18. Today should (b) / be saluted for the (b) / beginning of a new era. (c) / No error (d)
19. Such considerations are (a) / secondary with our main aim (b) / of improving efficiency. (c) / No error (d)
20. Ostensibly he was on a business trip (a) / but he spent (b) / most of time on the beach. (c) / No error (d)
21. Another baffling change that I notice in him nowadays is that he avoids to speak to me.
 (a) Another baffling change (b) that I notice in him nowadays
 (c) is that he avoids (d) to speak to me
22. I asked him how could he go out if it started raining.
 (a) I asked him (b) how could he go
 (c) out if (d) it started raining
23. One of the state in which Satyagraha was offered was Rajkot, where he had spent his youth.
 (a) One of the state (b) in which Satyagraha
 (c) was offered was Rajkot, (d) where he had spent his youth
24. Hardly the inspector had arrived there to investigate the crime when the house was set ablaze.
 (a) Hardly the inspector had (b) arrived there to investigate
 (c) the crime when (d) the house was set ablaze
25. Since his arrival at his native town, he is trying to the best of his ability to spread education among the poor masses.
 (a) Since his arrival at his (b) native town, he is trying
 (c) to the best of his ability (d) to spread education among the poor masses
26. Ritu will be surprised as she hears the news.
 (a) Ritu will (b) be surprised (c) as she (d) hears the news
27. I asked two persons the way to the station but none of them knew it.
 (a) I asked two (b) persons the way
 (c) to the station (d) but none of them knew it
28. Despite a good monsoon this year, the production of food grains in the country not go up.
 (a) Despite a good monsoon this year (b) the production of
 (c) food grains in (d) the country not go up
29. Anywhere in the world there is a conflict, women and children suffer the most.
 (a) Anywhere in the world (b) there is a conflict
 (c) women and children (d) suffer the most
30. His friends feel that he will be suspended unless he does not report for duty immediately.
 (a) unless he does not (b) His friends feel that
 (c) report for duty immediately (d) he will be suspended

31. He was honourably (a) / acquitted from (b) / the charge. (c) / No error (d)
32. I am pleased to sanction (a) / one special increment (b) / to all the employees (c) / with this month. (d) / No error (e)
33. To transport goods (a) / by sea is cheaper (b) / than land. (c) / No error (d)
34. It is easy to see that (a) / a lawyer's demeanour in court (b) / may be prejudicial against the interests of his client. (c) / No error (d)
35. Considering about these facts (a) / the principal has offered (b) / him a seat (c) / No error (d)
36. When you have (a) / read these books, (b) / please return them to me. (c) / No error (d)
37. We never buy any jam in the shops, (a) / because my wife makes all our jam from the fruit in our garden, (b) / and it tastes much better than the jam from the shops, we think. (c) / No error (d)
38. You will be tired of writing (a) / at the time you (b) / finish your research. (c) / No error (d)
39. He (a) / came across (b) / with a beggar (c) / No error (d)
40. Emphasis on quality of life ensures (a) / for the health and happiness (b) / of every individual. (c) / No error (d)
41. On entering the room (a) / she was found hanging (b) / from the ceiling. (c) / No error (d)
42. You should not (a) / violate against the rules (b) / laid down by the institution. (c) / No error (d)
43. His grandmother (a) / has taught him (b) / to pray God daily. (c) / No error (d)
44. He reminded (a) / me my (b) / childhood days. (c) / No error (d)
45. At the gate (a) / was hung a wooden board (b) / on which was written: (c) / 'Beware the danger'. (d) / No error (e)
46. He is (a) / angry and (b) / indifferent to me. (c) / No error (d)
47. I was going to school (a) / when in the way (b) / I met an old man. (c) / No error (d)
48. They went (a) / on one side (b) / of the road (c) / No error (d)
49. The police investigated (a) / into the case (b) / but could find no useful clues. (c) / No error (d)
50. As soon as the curtain rose (a) / the spectators got up (b) / on their seats (c) / to have a better view of their beloved leader. (d) / No error (e)
51. Many a student (a) / are frustrated (b) / because of unemployment. (c) / No error. (d)
52. The child (a) / picked up a burned paper (b) / from the street. (c) / No error (d)
53. One of the drawbacks (a) / of modern education are (b) / that it does not encourage original thinking. (c) / No error (d)
54. Rohan was leading (a) / a happy and leisurely (b) / life after his retirement (c) / from service. (d) / No error (e)
55. When the dentist came in (a) / my tooth was stopped aching (b) / out of fear that I might lose my tooth. (c) / No error (d)
56. The chief idea of (a) / every common type of traveller (b) / is to see as many (c) / objects of interest as he possibly could. (d) / No error (e)
57. The foremost criterion of selection we adopted (a) / were the number of years of training (b) / a dancer had received (c) / under a particular guru. (d) / No error (e)
58. He won't return the money (a) / that he borrowed, (b) / will he? (c) / No error (d)
59. The future is (a) / yet to come (b) / but you have a (c) / right to shape it (d) / No error (e)

60. If I knew (a) / that my friend had planned to visit the town today, (b) / I would have made his stay comfortable. (c) / No error (d)
61. Unless you stop to make noise at once, (a) / I will have no option but to (b) / bring the matter to the attention of the police. (c) / No error (d)
62. The Minister along with his (a) / party colleagues have (b) / been invited to the party. (c) / No error (d)
63. Meerabai was sent away from her home (a) / because she spend most of the time (b) / in the company of holy men (c) / No error (d)
64. The job is much worse than I expected. (a) / If I would have realised (b) / how awful it was going to be (c) / I would not have accepted it. (d) / No error (c)
65. The Cabinet Ministers and the Prime Minister (a) / was the airport (b) / to receive the foreign dignitary. (c) / No error (d)
66. The number of people (a) / applying were so large (b) / that the college had to (c) / stop issuing application forms (d) / No error (e)
67. The house with all its (a) / furniture and exotic plants (b) / were sold for \$ 50,000. (c) / No error (d)
68. It is unfortunate that (a) / many youngsters get (b) / addicted to gamble (c) / No error (d)
69. Sharad was entrusted with (a) / the task of coordinating yesterday's programme, (b) / but due to certain difficulties (c) / he does not do it. (d) / No error (e)
70. Vipul was unhappy (a) / because he would (b) / not attend the marriage (c) / of his friend yesterday. (d) / No error (e)
71. When I telephoned him (a) / the line was so bad (b) / that I cannot hear (c) / what he said. (d) / No error (e)
72. The new facts he (a) / has discovered and the new (b) / arguments he has advanced (c) / has not changed my opinion. (d) / No error (e)
73. He is going everyday (a) / for a morning walk (b) / with his friends and neighbours. (c) / No error (d)
74. How long (a) / were you (b) / learning English for? (c) / No error (d)
75. I have not (a) / played cricket (b) / since I have left college. (c) / No error (d)
76. A great many student (a) / have been declared (b) / successful (c) / No error (d)
77. We are going to launch (a) / this three crores project (b) / within the next few months (c) / No error (d)
78. I hope to go to shopping (a) / this weekend (b) / if the weather permits (c) / No error (d)
79. Without no proof of your guilt (a) / the only course open to me (b) / is to dismiss the case. (c) / No error (d)
80. World is producing enough (a) / for every citizen but still there is hunger and malnutrition (b) / and it is continuing year after year. (c) / No error. (d)
81. Nature has denied us (a) / the power of closing our ears (b) / which she gave in respect of our eyes. (c) / No error. (d)
82. Because of the severe snowstorm and the road blocks, (a) / the Air Force dropped food and (b) / medical supplies close to the city. (c) / No error. (d)
83. Having lived (a)/ in Kerala for ten years, (b) / my friend is used to speak Malayalam with his friends. (c) / No Error (d)
84. The law should specifically (a) / provide a clause (b) / to protect animals from poachers (c) / No error. (d)
85. My sister asked me (a) / that how long (b) / would stay there. (c)/ No Error / (d)
86. It was difficult to get out (a) / because the street was full of people (b) / from one end to another (c) / No error (d)

87. He gave such a long speech (a) / but everybody (b) / felt bored. (c) / No error (d)
88. The salesman tried (a) / to mislead me (b) / with a talk of amazing savings on heating bills. (c) / No error (d)
89. He regarded his marriage (a) / as a mean to an end (b) / he just wanted his wife's wealth. (c) / No error (d)
90. In Singapore (a) / my brother-in-law with his wife (b) / were present at the function. (c) / No error (d)
91. Teachers of various schools (a) / met to discuss about (b) / how to improve the standard of English. (c) / No error (d)
92. His tradition-bound attitude (a) / was a constant source of dissatisfaction (b) / among the younger members of the family. (c) / No error (d)
93. Adults suffering chicken pox (a) / can develop (b) / all kinds of complications. (c) / No error (d)
94. The well-known pianist (a) / had to practice for several hours a day (b) / even after he rose to fame. (c) / No error (d)
95. I must complement you (a) / on your good manners (b) / and your impeccable behaviour. (c) / No error (d)
96. I went to the temple (a) / with my parents (b) / my aunts and my cousins (c) / No error (d)
97. Of the billions of stars in the galaxy, (a) / how much are (b) / suitable for life. (c) / No error (d)
98. Mahavira was an advocate of non-violence and vegetarianism (a) / who revived and recognized the Jain doctrine (b) / and established rules for their monastic order. (c) / No error (d)
99. Microwaves are the principle carriers of television, (a) / phone and data transmissions (b) / between stations on earth and also between the satellites. (c) / No error (d)
100. An unit is an abstract idea, (a) / defined either by reference to a randomly chosen (b) / material standard or to a natural phenomenon. (c) / No error (d)

ANSWERS

1. (c)	2. (c)	3. (a)	4. (a)	5. (c)	6. (c)	7. (d)	8. (a)	9. (d)	10. (c)
11. (b)	12. (d)	13. (b)	14. (c)	15. (c)	16. (d)	17. (b)	18. (d)	19. (b)	20. (c)
21. (d)	22. (b)	23. (a)	24. (a)	25. (b)	26. (c)	27. (d)	28. (d)	29. (a)	30. (a)
31. (b)	32. (d)	33. (c)	34. (d)	35. (a)	36. (a)	37. (a)	38. (b)	39. (c)	40. (b)
41. (d)	42. (b)	43. (c)	44. (b)	45. (d)	46. (b)	47. (b)	48. (b)	49. (b)	50. (c)
51. (b)	52. (b)	53. (b)	54. (a)	55. (b)	56. (d)	57. (b)	58. (c)	59. (a)	60. (d)
61. (a)	62. (b)	63. (b)	64. (b)	65. (b)	66. (b)	67. (c)	68. (c)	69. (d)	70. (b)
71. (c)	72. (d)	73. (a)	74. (c)	75. (c)	76. (a)	77. (b)	78. (a)	79. (a)	80. (d)
81. (c)	82. (d)	83. (c)	84. (d)	85. (c)	86. (c)	87. (b)	88. (d)	89. (b)	90. (c)
91. (b)	92. (c)	93. (a)	94. (b)	95. (d)	96. (a)	97. (b)	98. (c)	99. (a)	100. (a)