

# SENTENCE CORRECTION

As the name suggests, these questions ask you to correct a sentence. They are asked on a number of tests because they check your ability to spot an error and correct it.

**The format of Sentence Correction questions goes like this:**

- Students are given a sentence, a part of which is highlighted in bold.
- Four or five options are given, from which candidates need to select the option that best goes with the sentence in place of the highlighted text.
- There might be questions when sentences have no error or require no correction; in that case, candidates need to select the option that says 'No error' or 'No improvement required'.

**Rules to Solve Sentence Correction Questions**

## Rule 1

In any sentence, the verb should agree with the subject in person as well as in number. In other words, if the subject is singular, the verb should also be singular, and if the subject is plural, the verb should also be plural.

For example, 'He plays' and 'They play'.

There are two important tricks to correct these types of questions, and these are '**F.S.R**', i.e. first or *farthest subject rule*, and second is '**N.S.R**', i.e. *nearest subject rule*'.

**Example:** '*Not only the principal but also the teachers (is/are) playing*'. In this example, the correct form of the verb is '**are**' as it is based on the **nearest subject rule**.

**Example:** 'The principal, as well as the teachers, (is/are) playing'. In this example, the correct form of the verb here will be 'is' as the question is based on the **first subject rule**.

## Rule 2

The articles *a*, *an* or *the* are not used with words such as kind of, sort of, type of, etc.

### Examples

**Incorrect** – What type of **the books** you like to read?

**Correct** – What type of **books** do you like to read?

**Incorrect** – What sort of **an insect** is that?

**Correct** – What sort of **insect** is that?

## Rule 3

Sentences with the words 'each of', 'one of' or 'none of' are always followed by the plural form of the noun.

### Examples

**Incorrect** – Each of the **student** performed well in the match.

**Correct** – Each of the **students** performed well in the match.

**Incorrect** – None of the **student** scored above 98% in exams.

**Correct** – None of the **students** scored above 98 % in exams.

## Rule 4

The collective noun takes a plural verb when not used as a single unit.

### Examples

The consultant will study how staff [as a singular entity] in rural hospitals gathers and evaluates the performance of doctors with clinical privileges.

But then this:

The staff in rural hospitals [individually] create performance-assessment reports.

### Rule 5

If a sentence expresses many similar ideas, they should be presented in parallel constructions, i.e. in the same grammatical form.

#### Example:

He desired to make a lot of money and that he might earn a good reputation.

In the above example, the sentence presents two same ideas, but the grammatical form is different.

Therefore, the correct sentence should be:

He desired to make a lot of money and earn a good reputation.

### Rule 6

If, in a sentence, two action clauses are to take place in the future, use the simple present tense for the conditional clause and the simple future tense for the other clause.

#### Example:

**Incorrect:** The moment she **will enter** the room, we **will start** singing the birthday song.

**Correct:** The moment she **enters** the room, we **will start** singing the birthday song.

**Which of the phrases/options given below each sentence should replace the phrase/sentence printed in bold type to make the sentence grammatically correct?**

1. The small child does whatever his father **was done**.  
(a) has done                      (b) did                              (c) does                              (d) had done  
(e) No correction required
2. There are not many men who are so famous that they are frequently referred to by their **short names** only.  
(a) initials                      (b) signatures                      (c) pictures                      (d) middle names  
(e) No correction required
3. The man **to who I sold** my house was a cheat.  
(a) to whom I sell              (b) to who I sell                      (c) who was sold to              (d) to whom I sold  
(e) No correction required
4. They **were all shocked at** his failure in the competition.  
(a) were shocked at all                                      (b) had all shocked at  
(c) had all shocked by                                      (d) had been all shocked on  
(e) No correction required
5. I need not offer any explanation regarding this incident - my behaviour **is speaking itself**.  
(a) will speak to itself                                      (b) speaks for itself  
(c) has been speaking                                      (d) speaks about itself  
(e) No correction required
6. The population of Tokyo is **greater than that of any other town** in the world.  
(a) greatest among any other                                      (b) greater than all other  
(c) greater than those of any other                                      (d) greater than any other  
(e) No correction required
7. The performance of our players was rather **worst than I had expected**.  
(a) bad as I had expected                                      (b) worse than I had expected  
(c) worse than expectation                                      (d) worst than was expected  
(e) No correction required
8. Why **did you not threw** the bag away?  
(a) did you not throw                                      (b) had you not threw  
(c) did you not thrown                                      (d) you did not thrown  
(e) No correction required

9. **Shapes** of gods and goddesses are worshipped by people.  
 (a) Images (b) Reflections (c) Clay shapes (d) Clay toys  
 (e) No correction required
10. In addition to **enhanced their reputations** through strategic use of philanthropy, companies are sponsoring social initiatives to open new markets.  
 (a) of enhancing their reputation (b) to having enhance their reputation  
 (c) to enhancing their reputation (d) to have their reputation enhancing  
 (e) No correction required
11. He confidentially asked the crowd if they thought he was right, and the crowd shouted **that they did**.  
 (a) that he did (b) that they had (c) that he was (d) that he didn't  
 (e) No correction required
12. Why **should the candidates** be afraid of English Language is not clear.  
 (a) the candidates should be (b) do the candidates be  
 (c) should be the candidates (d) are the candidates  
 (e) No correction required
13. He found the gold coin **as he cleans** the floor.  
 (a) as he had cleaned (b) while he cleans (c) which he is cleaning (d) while cleaning  
 (e) No correction required
14. He admired the speed with which he completed the work and **appreciating the method adopted** by him.  
 (a) appreciate the method being adopted (b) appreciated the method adopted  
 (c) appreciate the method of adoption (d) appreciated the method adopting method  
 (e) No correction required
15. She cooks, washes dishes, does her homework and **then relaxing**.  
 (a) relaxing then (b) then is relaxing (c) relaxing is then (d) then relaxes  
 (e) No correction required
16. He never **has and ever will take** such strong measures.  
 (a) had taken nor will ever take (b) had taken and will ever take  
 (c) has and never will take (d) had and ever will take  
 (e) No correction required
17. Technology **must use to feed** the forces of change.  
 (a) must be used to feed (b) must have been using to feed  
 (c) must use having fed (d) must be using to feed  
 (e) No correction required
18. Anyone interested in the use of computers can learn much if **you have access** to a personal computer.  
 (a) they have access (b) access can be available  
 (c) he or she has access (d) one of them have access  
 (e) No correction required
19. We **can not always convey** ourselves in simple sentences.  
 (a) cannot always convey (b) can not always express  
 (c) cannot always express (d) can not always communicate  
 (e) No correction required
20. What **does agonise me most** is not this criticism, but the trivial reason behind it.  
 (a) most agonising me (b) agonises me most  
 (c) agonising me most (d) I most agonised  
 (e) No correction required

21. Mr. Mukherjee knows ten languages, **isn't it**?
- (a) doesn't Mr. Mukherjee (b) hasn't he  
(c) doesn't he (d) No improvement
22. He does not laugh, **nor he smiles**.
- (a) nor he does smile (b) No improvement  
(c) neither he does smile (d) nor does he smile
23. If I **will get** an opportunity, I shall attend the seminar.
- (a) get (b) No improvement (c) shall get (d) got
24. The others **shook** their heads and made vague noises of approval.
- (a) nodded (b) No improvement (c) turned around (d) hung
25. The world is **being faced with** a crisis
- (a) No improvement (b) facing (c) confronted (d) in front of
26. She **insisted on** she was innocent.
- (a) No improvement (b) insisted on that (c) insisted that (d) insisted with
27. She could not help **but laugh**.
- (a) but laughing (b) No improvement (c) laughter (d) laughing
28. **I took my mother some grapes** when she was in hospital.
- (a) I took some grapes for my mother (b) No improvement  
(c) I took for my mother some grapes (d) I brought my mother some grapes
29. We met yesterday, **haven't we**?
- (a) isn't it? (b) No improvement (c) didn't we? (d) hadn't we?
30. **Any able-bodied man is** eligible for the job.
- (a) Each able-bodied man is (b) Any able-bodied men have been  
(c) Any able-bodied men are (d) No improvement
31. She found a **wooden broken table** in the room.
- (a) wooden and broken table (b) broken wooden table  
(c) broken and wooden table (d) No improvement
32. The truck **rumbled to** a halt and a man got out and ran.
- (a) shrieked at (b) screeched to (c) screamed at (d) No improvement
33. The Professor asked the intruder **who was he and why was he** in his lecture.
- (a) who he was and why he was (b) who he was and why was he  
(c) who he had been and why he had been (d) No improvement
34. My uncle goes to office **on bicycle or by foot**.
- (a) by bicycle or by foot (b) by bicycle or on foot  
(c) on bicycle or on foot (d) No improvement
35. **The more they earn, more they spend**.
- (a) The more they earn, the more they spend. (b) More they earn, the more they spend.  
(c) More they earn, more they spend. (d) No improvement
36. Rani **has completed** her graduation from a reputed university.
- (a) complete (b) No Improvement  
(c) was completed (d) had been completed
37. The terrorist, as well as his accomplices, **was killed** in the encounter.
- (a) was being killed (b) were killed (c) No improvement (d) have been killed
38. The Councillor behaves as if he **is** the Chief Minister.
- (a) has been (b) were (c) No improvement (d) was

39. **In spite of age, he is my senior.**  
 (a) He is my senior, in keeping with his age . (b) He is my senior in regard of his age.  
 (c) No improvement (d) In respect of age, he is my senior.
40. He never **thought** so sad as when he had made a blunder.  
 (a) looked (b) cried (c) caused (d) No improvement
41. The man **taken** to the hospital by an ambulance.  
 (a) was taken (b) took (c) is taking (d) No improvement
42. I am **looking forward to see** you soon.  
 (a) looking forward towards seeing (b) looking forward for seeing  
 (c) looking forward to seeing (d) No improvement
43. English in India has acquired **distinct** identity as a regional variety and is known as Indian English.  
 (a) an distinct (b) a distinct (c) a special (d) No improvement
44. It is said that Oscar Wilde **was** most sincere artistically when he depicts insincere characters.  
 (a) were (b) have been (c) is (d) No improvement
45. A person who wants to go out to work should be given the **possibility** to do so.  
 (a) chance (b) opportunity (c) preference (d) No improvement
46. Taj Mahal is **a worth seeing monument** in Agra.  
 (a) a monument to see its worth (b) a monument worth seeing  
 (c) one of worth seeing monuments (d) No improvement
47. I had **a few** eggs in the fridge, so we need to go to the market to buy them.  
 (a) a little (b) few (c) little (d) No improvment
48. My brother is indifferent **about** whatever I say.  
 (a) in (b) of (c) to (d) No improvement
49. By rescuing the child from fire, the local resident **added another feather to his cap.**  
 (a) made a significant achievement (b) was gifted with precious thing  
 (c) was crowned and rewarded (d) No improvement
50. The government plans to **take up** the construction project soon.  
 (a) Take on (b) Take off (c) Take in (d) No improvement
51. Puneet **raked his brains** and tried to find an answer to a tricky question given in the paper but couldn't find one.  
 (a) rake his brain (b) racked his brains (c) racked brains (d) raked brain
52. While the war of the generals **rage on**, somewhere in small town India, wonderful things are happening, quietly and minus fanfare.  
 (a) rage (b) raging (c) No improvement (d) raged on
53. Doctors suggest that patients **suffering on account of high blood pressure take regular exercise stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.**  
 (a) who suffer from high blood pressure should be taking regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.  
 (b) suffering from high blood pressure have to be taking regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eating plenty of vegetables.  
 (c) suffering high blood pressure should take regular exercise, stay from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.  
 (d) suffering from high blood pressure should take regular exercise, stay away from nicotine and eat plenty of vegetables.

54. The irate resident dragged the builder **to the court for failing to transfer the title of the property in their names.**
- to the court for failing to transfer the title of the property to their names.
  - to court for failing to transfer the title of the property to their names.
  - to court in failing to transfer the title of the property in their names.
  - to court for failing to transfer the title to the property in their names.
55. One of the reasons rich students opt for a foreign degree is **because they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.**
- because they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
  - that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in good, local institution.
  - for the reason that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
  - so that they may have lost out in the race for a seat in a good, local institution.
56. Many people mistake familiar for a vulgar style and suppose that to write without affectation **is to write at random speed.**
- is to write at random
  - is to write randomly
  - is to write fast
  - is to do speed writing
57. Since the advent of cable television, **at the beginning of this decade, the entertainment industry took a giant stride forward in our country.**
- this decade saw the entertainment industry taking
  - this decade, the entertainment industry has taken
  - this decade, the entertainment industry had taken
  - this decade, the entertainment industry took
58. Many of these environmentalists proclaim **to save nothing less than** the planet itself.
- to save nothing lesser than
  - that they are saving nothing lesser than
  - to save nothing less than
  - that they save nothing less than
59. **Expect for you and I, everyone brought** a present to the party.
- With the exception of you and I, everyone brought
  - Except for you and I, everyone had brought
  - Except for you and me, everyone brought
  - Except for you and me, everyone had brought
60. **Although I calculate that he will be here** any minute, I cannot wait much longer for him.
- Although I reckon that he will be here
  - Although I think that he will be here
  - Because I am confident that he will be here
  - Because I calculate that he will be here
61. Many **students waits anxiously** at the college gate to know their results.
- student waited anxiously
  - students waiting anxiously
  - students waited anxiously
  - students waited anxious
  - No correction required
62. Through a fortuitous circumstance, Rakhi met her childhood friend on the bus in which **she was travelling.**
- she was travelled
  - she did travel
  - she has travelling
  - she were travelling
  - No correction required
63. The opposition party has alleged that the prices of essential commodities are soaring like never **before on the last** three decades.
- before on the next
  - before in the last
  - before at the last
  - previously in the next
  - No correction required

64. The salaries and the perks of the employees in this institution are **not in according** with the rest of the industry.
- (a) are not in accordance (b) is not in accordance  
(c) are not according (d) is not on accordance  
(e) No correction required
65. The soldiers deployed in the town **were instructed to exercising** restraint and handle the situation peacefully.
- (a) was instructed to exercising (b) were instructed for exercise  
(c) were instructed to exercise (d) was instructing to exercising  
(e) No correction required
66. That was the record that **make me sit up and take notice** of Neil Hannon.
- (a) made me sit up and take notice (b) had made me sit up and take notice  
(c) has made me sit up and take notice (d) sit up and take notice  
(e) No correction required
67. These mistakes **catch up with** him when he ran for the President.
- (b) caught up with President. (a) caught up in  
(c) caught up on (d) caught up at  
(e) No correction required
68. The rationale for the use of various **measures were known** to people since long.
- (a) measure was being known (b) measure had known  
(c) measures had been known (d) measure to be known  
(e) No correction required
69. The Governor has a good collection of **paintings adoring the walls** of the Raj Bhavan.
- (a) painting adoring the wall (b) painting adoring the walls  
(c) painting sticking the walls (d) painting adorning the walls  
(e) No correction required
70. The principals and teachers **at the selected English medium** schools were contacted.
- (a) of the selected English medium (b) at the select English medium  
(c) upon the selected English medium (d) of the section English medium  
(e) No correction required
71. According to author Dishant Gautam, a novel is **difficult** to write when compared to a play is like **going for** an election where one has to appeal to a thousand people at a time whereas in a book, one appeals to one only person.
- (a) simpler, running in (c) easier, running for  
(b) faster, voting through (d) fool proof, voting on  
(e) No correction required
72. We have in America a **collection** speech that is neither American, Oxford English, nor colloquial English, but a **mixture** of all three.
- (a) motley, an enhancement (b) hybrid, a combination  
(c) nasal, a blend (d) mangled, a medley.  
(e) No correction required

73. Alice Walker's 'The Temple of My Familiar', far from being a tight, **focused** narrative, is instead a **cheaper** novel that roams freely and imaginatively over a half million.  
 (a) traditional, a chronological (b) provocative, an insensitive  
 (c) forceful, a concise (d) focused, an expensive  
 (e) No correction required
74. Jayashree was habitually so docile and **erratic** that her friends could not understand her sudden **hostile** her employers.  
 (a) accommodating, outburst against (b) erratic, envy of  
 (c) truculent, virulence toward (d) hasty, annoyance toward  
 (e) No correction required
75. A very stout, ridged, hairy stem, the **petioled** leaves **compounded** of three broadly ovate, lobed and saw-edged divisions, downy on the underside, and the great **umbels**, which sometimes measure a foot across, all **bear out** the general impression of a Hercules of the fields.  
 (a) bracken, comprised, flower, bear out (b) stemmed, composited, cluster, borne off  
 (c) axix, consist, species, bore (d) rooted, embraced, flora, bear  
 (e) No correction required

#### ANSWERS

- |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |         |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c)  | 2. (a)  | 3. (d)  | 4. (e)  | 5. (b)  | 6. (e)  | 7. (b)  | 8. (a)  | 9. (a)  | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (a) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) | 16. (a) | 17. (a) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (d) | 23. (a) | 24. (a) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (b) | 28. (a) | 29. (c) | 30. (d) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (a) | 34. (b) | 35. (a) | 36. (b) | 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (d) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (c) | 43. (b) | 44. (c) | 45. (b) | 46. (b) | 47. (b) | 48. (c) | 49. (a) | 50. (d) |
| 51. (b) | 52. (c) | 53. (d) | 54. (d) | 55. (b) | 56. (b) | 57. (b) | 58. (d) | 59. (c) | 60. (a) |
| 61. (c) | 62. (e) | 63. (b) | 64. (a) | 65. (c) | 66. (a) | 67. (b) | 68. (c) | 69. (e) | 70. (a) |
| 71. (c) | 72. (b) | 73. (d) | 74. (a) | 75. (e) |         |         |         |         |         |