

ERROR SPOTTING

English language is a subject where even people who are proficient in the language end up making mistakes in the grammar section. It is a normal tendency but the error-spotting section is not hard to master. Practising some guidelines is all that is needed to excel in this topic of the English Language syllabus.

What is Error Spotting?

Error spotting is part of Verbal Ability Section in which grammatically incorrect sentences are spotted or corrected. It can be Noun/Pronoun/Singular/Plural/Adjective/Article any thing.

Ethics are important in an Organization - (Incorrect)
Ethics is important in an Organization (Correct)
Who are you dealing with? (Incorrect)
Whom are you dealing with? (Correct)

Error Spotting Examples

Attempt has been made in this section to organize, in a methodical way, the strategic error areas that you can use as a checklist when attempting to eliminate incorrect choices. English grammar can be intricate and confusing. This section will alert you to spot errors and will focus on the grammatical points frequently tested.

Tips for Error Spotting in the English Language Section

Here, we bring you some tips for error spotting in the English Language section of the bank exam syllabus:

1. Certain nouns being a singular form represent plurality and therefore, take a plural verb in a sentence.

Example: police, clergy, people, peasantry, cattle.

- People has left. (Incorrect)
- People have left. (Correct)

2. Certain nouns take the plural verb because of their plural form.

Example: Clothes, Scissors, trousers, amends, spectacles, thanks.

- The spectacles is missing. (Incorrect)
- The spectacles are missing. (Correct)

3. When a noun denoting weight, number, money, length or measure is following a number, the noun form does not change as long as another noun or pronoun follows it.

Example: Million, pair, meter, year, dozen.

- This is a 9-meters scale. (Incorrect)
- This is a 9-meter scale. (Correct)

4. When the pronoun 'one' is used, it should be maintained throughout the whole sentence.

- One must help his siblings. (Incorrect)
- One must help one's siblings. (Correct)

5. For living people 'whose' is generally used and for things that are non-living 'which' is used.

- Which phone is kept on charging? (Incorrect)
- Whose phone is kept on charging? (Correct)

6. 'Fewer' is used for denoting number while 'Less' is used for denoting quantity.

- No less than thirty dogs were. (Incorrect)
- No fewer than thirty dogs were. (Correct)

7. Sentences are always opposite to question tags, for example, if the question tag is positive then the sentence is negative and vice versa.

- It's a bit early, is it? (Incorrect)
- It's a bit early, isn't it? (Correct)

8. Instead of 'who' or 'which', the relative pronoun 'that' is used after adjectives in the superlative degree.

- These are the best which he could get. (Incorrect)
- These are the best that he could get. (Correct)

9. 'As' is used both before and after the adjective to show equality.

- I can write as fast, if not faster than her. (Incorrect)
- I can write as fast as, if not faster than her. (Correct)

10. 'Though' is always followed by 'yet' in a sentence and not by 'but'.

Thus,

- Though he is rich but he is kind. (Incorrect)
- Though he is rich, yet he is kind. (Correct)

11. 'Not' is never used with 'unless' as 'unless' expresses a condition that is always used in the negative sense.

Thus,

- Unless you do not pay the fine, you will not be excused. (Incorrect)
- Unless you pay the fine, you will not be excused. (Correct)

12. 'While' implies a time duration of doing something and 'When' denotes a general sense.

Thus,

- When learning how to box, the technique is of utmost importance. (Incorrect)
- While learning how to box, the technique is of utmost importance. (Correct)

Strategies to be used

1. Read the question carefully for both meaning and structure, noting any errors you recognize immediately.
2. If an error does not become immediately evident, consider each choice independently, and see if it fits the correct pattern.
3. Remember that the error is always underlined.
4. Even if you think (A) or (B) is the correct answer, thoughtfully read and consider the remaining choices so that you are absolutely certain that (A) or (B) is truly the right choice.
5. Always select your answer after eliminating incorrect choices.

Directions: The given sentence has been broken up into four different parts. The error, if any, will be in one or more parts of the sentence. Select the option which contains the part/parts of the sentence which has/have an error (spelling, grammatical or contextual). If there is no error, choose option E.

Q1.

- I. It is very important to note that
- II. India is going through a grave financial crisis
- III. though the economical situation of the country
- IV. is strong, according to the Finance Minister.

- A. Only III
- B. I and II
- C. Only IV
- D. II and IV
- E. No error

Answer: A

Explanation:

Fragment III is incorrect since here we are talking about the economic situation of the country and 'economical' refers to inexpensive or cheap, hence, this is incorrect in the given context.

All the other fragments are correct in all aspects.

The correct sentence would, therefore, be: ***It is very important to note that India is going through a grave financial crisis though the economic situation of the country is strong, according to the Finance Minister.***

So, option A is the correct choice.

Q2.

- I. If we go through the criminal law guides of other countries.
- II. a lot of unnecessary laws can be founded.
- III. and the lawmakers ignored all such provisions.
- III. till date with no possible change in approach expected in near future also.

- A. I and II
- B. I, III and IV
- C. III and IV
- D. II and III
- E. No error

Answer: D

Explanation:

Fragment II is incorrect since according to the context it implies that many unnecessary laws are there in the criminal guides of various countries. *Founded* refers to established or set up and is clearly irrelevant in the given context. It should have been *found* which refers to *finding something*.

Fragment III is also incorrect since if we go through the succeeding fragment the lawmakers have ignored the unnecessary provisions in the past and they are doing it now also since it has been made clear that no possible change is going to take place in this approach. The

correct tense would have been present perfect continuous tense since the action has started in the past and is still going on. It should have been 'have been ignoring'.

The other fragments are all correct in all aspects.

The correct sentence would have been: ***If we go through the criminal law guides of other countries a lot of unnecessary laws can be found and the lawmakers have been ignoring all such provisions till date with no possible change in approach expected in near future also.***

Hence, option D is the correct choice.

Q3.

- I. It is true that he is born of very rich parents
- II. But he has not been able to do much in life
- III. due to his addiction towards gambling
- IV. in which he has a lot of money

- A. II and IV
- B. III and IV
- C. I, II and III
- D. I, III and IV
- E. No error

Answer: E

Explanation:

All the given fragments are in order in all aspects and no correction is required in any of them.

This makes option E the correct choice among the given options.

Q4.

- I. His friends are usually not as helpful and cooperative
- II. as that of mine but I was surprised
- III. to see that all his friends stood along him
- IV. during difficult times

- A. II and IV
- B. III and IV
- C. I and III
- D. II and III
- E. No error

Answer: D

Explanation:

Fragment II is incorrect since we are using 'mine' to imply that my friends and 'that of' is redundant in this context and should not be used. It should be 'mine' only.

Fragment III is again incorrect since *stood along* is not the correct usage in the given context where it is implied that his friends were with him during the difficult times. *Stood by* implies that his friends helped him during the difficult times and it should have been used in the given context.

All the other fragments are correct in all aspects.

The correct sentence would have been: ***His friends are usually not as helpful and cooperative as mine but I was surprised to see that all his friends stood by him during difficult times.***

This makes option D the right choice among the given options.

Q5.

- I. Most of the educational organizations are for-profit organizations
- II. but the government is not ready to address the same
- III. and it is still formulating policies considering
- IV. they as not-for-profit organizations

- A. Only IV
- B. II and IV
- C. III and IV
- D. I, II and IV
- E. No error

Answer: B

Explanation:

Fragment II is not correct since according to the given context, the government is not ready to accept the fact that education has become a commercial affair now and it is of no use to carry on with the not-for-profit tag for this sector anymore. *Address* is not fit in the given context but it should be *admit or accept*.

Fragment IV is also not correct since *they* has been used in the nominative case whereas in this context objective case should have been used. *Them* should have been used.

The correct sentence would have been: ***Most of the educational organizations are for-profit organizations but the government is not ready to accept the same and it is still formulating policies considering them as not-for-profit organizations.***

Hence, option B is the correct choice among the given options.

Directions: Read the sentence to find out if there is any error in it. The error is any, will be in one part is the sentence. The number of that part will be the answer. If there is no error, then the answer is (5). Ignore error of punctuations if any.

1. Their was a place near (1)/ the resort that was known (2)/to be a place haunted by (3)/ a multitude of ghosts. (4)/ No error (5)
- A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 5

The correct answer is **option A.**

Explanation:

The error is in the determiner of the first part of the sentence. 'Their' needs to be replaced with 'there' as 'there' is used to indicate the location of a place whereas 'their' is a possessive pronoun used to indicate the possession of something by more than 1 person.

Correct sentence: *"There was a place near the resort that was known to be a place haunted by a multitude of ghosts."*

2. Katherine did not want (1)/ something to do with Richard (2)/ after the Ponzi (3)/ scheme he pulled (4)/ No error (5)
- A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 5

The correct answer is **option B.**

Explanation:

- The error is in the determiner of the second part of the sentence and so 'something' needs to be replaced with 'anything'.
- In negative sentence 'any' is used to quantify something.
- 'Some' on the other hand is used for imperative sentences.
 - Ex- You should do **something** about the problem," he said.

Correct sentence: "Katherine did not want anything to do with Richard after the Ponzi scheme he pulled "

3. The results for the examination (1)/ weren't announced for much (2)/ time after the (3)/ predetermined hour passed. (4)/ No error (5)
- A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 5

The correct answer is **option B**.

Explanation:

- The error is in the determiner of the second part of the sentence.
- 'Much' needs to be replaced with 'some' to quantify 'time' as the quantity is undetermined.
- And for undetermined quantities 'some' is used instead of 'much'.

Correct sentence: "The results for the examination weren't announced for some time after the predetermined hour passed."

4. A only reason Mario decided (1)/ to partake in mass was to (2)/stop his mother (3)/ from complaining constantly (4)/ No error (5)
- A. 1
B. 2
C. 3
D. 4
E. 5

The correct answer is **option A**.

Explanation:

- The error is in the determiner in the first part of the sentence.
- There is one particular reason that Mario went to church – to stop his mother from complaining.

- This is not a universal reason to go to church and thus cannot be used with the determiner 'a' – it needs to be replaced with 'the'.

Correct sentence: *"The only reason Mario decided to partake in mass was to stop his mother from complaining constantly"*

5. Much people decide to fast on (1)/ certain days of the year, (2)/ but there are very few (3)/ who can go through with it. (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1
- B. 2
- C. 3
- D. 4
- E. 5

The correct answer is option A.

Explanation:

- There is an error in the determiner of the first part of the sentence.
- The determiner 'much' has to be replaced with '**many**'.
- '**Many**' is used with **countable nouns** – as is the case here – whereas 'much' is used for quantities that are uncountable.

Correct sentence: *"Many people decide to fast on certain days of the year, but there are very few who can go through with it."*