

Common Errors



~ English Grammar · Competitive Exams ~

✓ Error-spotting tests whether you can catch a **grammatical mistake** in a sentence. Each item shows the **INCORRECT** form, the **CORRECT** form, and the **REASON**. Master the **pattern**, not just the sentence.

① Articles →

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
He is honest man.	He is an honest man.	'an' before a vowel sound.
I bought a umbrella.	I bought an umbrella.	vowel sound needs 'an'.
He is a M.L.A.	He is an M.L.A.	'M' sounds like 'em'.
Sun rises in east.	The sun rises in the east.	'the' with unique things.
Honesty is best policy.	Honesty is the best policy.	superlative sense takes 'the'.
He plays violin.	He plays the violin.	'the' with musical instruments.
She goes to the school to study.	She goes to school to study.	no article for its main purpose.

② Nouns

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
He gave many informations.	He gave much information.	'information' is uncountable.
I have three furnitures.	I have three pieces of furniture.	'furniture' is uncountable.
The scenery are lovely.	The scenery is lovely.	uncountable → singular verb.
She has long hairs.	She has long hair.	'hair' is uncountable here.
Give me a good news.	Give me good news.	'news' is uncountable.
He has many luggages.	He has much luggage.	'luggage' is uncountable.
Poetries are nice.	Poetry is nice.	'poetry' is uncountable.

✓ Remember → use **a** before a consonant sound (a university), **an** before a vowel sound (an hour). Uncountable nouns (news, luggage, poetry, information) never take -s or

③ Subject-Verb Agreement

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
One of my friends are coming.	One of my friends is coming.	subject is 'one'.
Each of the boys have a pen.	Each of the boys has a pen.	'each' is singular.
The news are good.	The news is good.	'news' is singular.
Maths are easy.	Maths is easy.	'maths' takes a singular verb.
Neither of them are right.	Neither of them is right.	'neither' is singular.
Bread and butter are tasty.	Bread and butter is tasty.	one unit → singular verb.
Ten miles are a long way.	Ten miles is a long way.	distance seen as one whole.

④ Pronouns

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
Between you and I.	Between you and me.	object of a preposition.
Myself Rahul.	I am Rahul.	wrong use of 'myself'.
Each student did their work.	Each student did his or her work.	'each' is singular.
Him and I went out.	He and I went out.	subject needs 'he'.
Let you and I go.	Let you and me go.	object of 'let'.
One should keep his word.	One should keep one's word.	'one' → 'one's'.
It is me.	It is I. (formal)	nominative after 'be'.

Worked Example

Each of the players have improved. → strip the phrase 'of the players'; the real subject is **Each**, which is singular → **Each of the players has improved.**

✓ Singular sneaks → *each, every, either, neither, one of all* take a singular verb, however many nouns follow. After a preposition use the **object pronoun** (you and me).

⑤ Prepositions →

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
Discuss about the plan.	Discuss the plan.	'discuss' takes no 'about'.
He is married with her.	He is married to her.	'married to'.
I am good in maths.	I am good at maths.	'good at' a skill.
She resembles to her mother.	She resembles her mother.	'resemble' takes no 'to'.
He is angry on me.	He is angry with me.	'angry with' a person.
A team comprising of five.	A team comprising five.	'comprise' takes no 'of'.
He is superior than me.	He is superior to me.	'superior to', never 'than'.

⑥ Adjectives, Tense & Redundancy

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
This is more better.	This is better.	no double comparative.
He is the most cleverest.	He is the cleverest.	no double superlative.
I am knowing the answer.	I know the answer.	stative verb, no -ing.
I have seen him yesterday.	I saw him yesterday.	past time → simple past.
Please return back the book.	Please return the book.	'return' already means 'back'.
He is more elder than me.	He is elder than me.	'elder' is already comparative.
I did not knew it.	I did not know it.	'did' + base verb.
Kindly revert back soon.	Kindly revert soon.	'revert' already means 'reply back'.
It is sufficient enough.	It is sufficient.	'sufficient' already means 'enough'.

Worked Example

She is more cleverer than him. → 'cleverer' is already comparative, so 'more' is redundant
→ **She is cleverer than he is.**



Watch redundancy → return back, repeat again, both twins – drop the extra word.
Never use a double comparative or superlative.

⑦ Conjunctions & Order

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
No sooner he came than it rained.	No sooner did he come than it rained.	inversion after 'no sooner'.
Although he is poor but he is honest.	Although he is poor, he is honest.	no 'but' with 'although'.
He not only sings but also he dances.	He not only sings but also dances.	keep the pair parallel.
Hardly I had slept when the bell rang.	Hardly had I slept when the bell rang.	inversion after 'hardly'.
Unless you don't try, you fail.	Unless you try, you fail.	'unless' is already negative.
Lest he should not fail.	Lest he should fail.	'lest' already means 'so that not'.
No sooner he came when it rained.	No sooner did he come than it rained.	'no sooner ... than'.
Both he as well as she came.	Both he and she came.	'both ... and', not 'as well as'.

⑧ Verbs & Usage

Incorrect	Correct	Reason
He is one of the best player.	He is one of the best players.	'one of the' + plural noun.
I look forward to meet you.	I look forward to meeting you.	'to' + -ing here.
She can be able to come.	She will be able to come.	not 'can' with 'be able'.
Cope up with the loss.	Cope with the loss.	'cope with', no 'up'.
He prevented me to go.	He prevented me from going.	'prevent from'.
I am used to get up early.	I am used to getting up early.	'used to' + -ing.
He insisted to come.	He insisted on coming.	'insist on' + -ing.
She denied to help me.	She denied helping me.	'deny' + -ing.

✓ Remember → after no sooner / hardly / scarcely at the start, invert the verb (had I ...). Keep correlatives paired: either-or, neither-nor, not only-but also, both-and.

Worked Example

Scarcely I had entered when the lights went off. → 'scarcely' at the front forces inversion → *Scarcely had I entered when the lights went off.*

Quick Tips

- ✓ Check the **subject first**, then match the verb in number.
- ✓ Uncountable nouns (**information, furniture, advice**) take a singular verb, no plural -s.
- ✓ After a preposition use the object pronoun: **between you and me**.
- ✓ Never use double comparatives / superlatives.
- ✓ Watch redundancy: **return back, repeat again, both twins**.
- ✓ Choose **a / an** by the **sound**, not the spelling: **a university, an hour**.
- ✓ **One of the** takes a **plural noun** but a **singular verb**: **one of the boys is here**.
- ✓ Avoid double negatives: **did not do anything** (not 'nothing').

Exercise A – Correct the Sentence

1. He is a honest officer.
2. One of the students are absent.
3. Please discuss about it.
4. She has many furnitures.
5. Between you and I, it is fine.
6. This book is more cheaper.
7. I am knowing him well.
8. The news are shocking.
9. He is good in cricket.
10. Kindly return back my pen.
11. Each of the girls have won.
12. She resembles to her aunt.
13. He is angry on me.
14. Both he as well as she came.
15. This amount is sufficient enough.
16. He plays violin beautifully.

Answer Key – A

1→ an honest officer 2→ is absent 3→ discuss it 4→ much furniture 5→ between you and me 6→ cheaper 7→ I know him 8→ news is shocking 9→ good at cricket

10→ return my pen 11→ has won 12→ resembles her aunt 13→ angry with me 14→
both he and she 15→ sufficient 16→ plays the violin

Exercise B – Spot the Error

1. I have seen him yesterday. → I saw him yesterday.
2. The sun rise in the east → The sun rises in the east.
3. He is the most tallest → the tallest.
4. Give me an advice → some advice.
5. He is senior than me → senior to me.
6. She sings very good → very well.
7. Everyone have left → has left.
8. I prefer tea than coffee → tea to coffee.
9. He did not do nothing → did not do anything.
10. Cattles are grazing → Cattle are grazing.
11. Return it back → Return it.
12. My all books are new → All my books are new.

Answer Key – B

1→ I saw him yesterday 2→ rises 3→ the tallest 4→ some advice (uncountable)
5→ senior to 6→ well 7→ has 8→ prefer tea to 9→ anything (no double negative)
10→ Cattle (no -s) 11→ Return it 12→ All my books

Exercise C – Spot & Correct

1. No sooner he reached than the train left.
2. Although she tried but she failed.
3. He is one of the tallest boy.
4. I look forward to see you soon.
5. Unless you don't hurry, you will miss it.
6. She can be able to solve it.
7. He prevented me to enter.
8. Hardly I had left when it rained.
9. I am used to wake up early.
10. We should cope up with change.
11. Not only he came but also helped.
12. Each boy and girl were happy.

Answer Key – C

1→ No sooner did he reach 2→ Although she tried, she failed 3→ tallest boys 4→ to seeing 5→ Unless you hurry 6→ will be able 7→ from entering 8→ Hardly had I left 9→ to waking up 10→ cope with 11→ He not only came 12→ was happy

☆ Spot the slip – fix it fast! ☆