

WORKBOOK



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SENTENCE CORRECTION

Parts of Speech, Modifiers, Pronouns, Lists, Comparisons, Verbs, Idioms, and Miscellaneous

Verbs | Drill 1

For each of the following exercises, identify the subject and tense of each of the verbs given.

Example:

Billy, who has been playing baseball for fifteen years, plays poorly for someone so experienced.

For the verb “has been playing” the subject is Billy and the tense is present perfect.

For the verb “plays” the noun is Billy and the tense is present.

The Empire State Building is no longer the tallest building in the U.S.

1. For the verb “is”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

A 1972 agreement between Dean Spreng and the school board reduced the number of forms each professor had been required to submit each semester.

2. For the verb “reduced”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

3. For the verb “had been (required)”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

Many of the buildings that have recently been constructed in Manhattan lack a sense of history.

4. For the verb “have been (constructed)”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

5. For the verb “lack”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

Julia saw that the flock of geese that was flying overhead had arranged itself into the characteristic “V” formation.

6. For the verb “saw”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

7. For the verb “had arranged”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

Steve is currently regretting that extra-large hamburger he had for lunch and wondering why he always orders too much food.

8. For the verb “is (wondering)”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

9. For the verb “had”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

10. For the verb “orders”

the noun is _____

and the tense is _____.

Verbs Drill 1 | Answer Key

1. For the verb “is” the noun is Empire State Building and the tense is present.
2. For the verb “reduced” the noun is agreement and the tense is past.
3. For the verb “had been (required)” the noun is professor and the tense is past perfect (passive).

“Had been required” is passive, meaning that the noun (professor) is not actually doing anything, but rather having things done to it/them. Passive verbs consist of the verb “to be” (“had been” is the past tense of “to be”) and the verb’s past participle (“required”). The “to be” portion of the verb can be treated just like a regular “to be” verb and follows all the same tense rules.

4. For the verb “have been (constructed)” the noun is buildings and the tense is present perfect (passive).
5. For the verb “lack” the noun is buildings and the tense is present.
6. For the verb “saw” the noun is Julia and the tense is past.
7. For the verb “had arranged” the noun is flock and the tense is past perfect.

“Was flying” is technically in the “past continuous” tense, but this tense is not generally tested on the GMAT. It is similar to the present continuous, except that it occurred in the past.

8. For the verb “is (wondering)” the noun is he (Steve) and the tense is present continuous.
9. For the verb “had” the noun is he (Steve) and the tense is past.
10. For the verb “orders” the noun is he (Steve) and the tense is present.

Verbs | Drill 2

For each of the following exercises, indicate whether the sentence is correct or incorrect. If the sentence is incorrect, provide a correct sentence.

Example:

The world's largest manufacturer of garbage cans, Oscar Corp., donate millions of dollars a year to civil rights groups.

Correct / Incorrect

Correction: The world's largest manufacturer of garbage cans, Oscar Corp., donates millions of dollars a year to civil rights groups.

1. In 1984, with the introduction of the Mario Brothers game, Nintendo has jumped onto the world stage with a resounding “boink” and dominates the video game market ever since.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

2. A dramatic breakthrough by NASA researchers is expected within the next few months and we are all hoping that it has inspired humanity to explore the cosmos.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

3. A pride of lions that are outside its native habitat finds familiar game hard to come by.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

4. Several fast-food chains provided the school with delicious burgers and fries until the school board had decided to start buying healthier food.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

5. Each of the boys from the local peewee league that was at the hastily organized football game was given a chance to play.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

6. After stumbling and running clumsily down the hill, the men said that they were pretending to be clumsier than they actually were.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

7. The development of mechanized transportation systems early in the U.S industrial period were regarded as pivotal in America achieving its place in the international economic tableau.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

8. Because of the ongoing debate about farm subsidies, many observers feel that the government of any of the countries with less economic influence is unlikely to be able to become a major global agricultural player.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

9. The family of Saudi Arabian immigrants that had raised me from the time I was six until I was of age to go to college was the best family I could ever imagine and they were always completely honest that I was not theirs by blood but they loved me nonetheless.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

10. The possibility of the destruction of the Great Wall as well as the increasing need for agricultural space has the Chinese government struggling for concrete plans to renew the wall.

The sentence above is: **correct/incorrect**

If the sentence is incorrect, write a possible correction:

Verbs Drill 2 | Answer Key

1. *Incorrect*

Correction: In 1984, with the introduction of the Mario Brothers game, Nintendo *jumped* onto the world stage with a resounding “boink” and *has dominated* the video game market ever since.

“Jumped” should not be in the present perfect because it started and ended in the past (1984). Therefore, it should be in the past tense.

The domination began in the past, but continues into the present. Thus, the present perfect is appropriate.

2. *Incorrect*

Correction: A dramatic breakthrough by NASA researchers is expected within the next few months and we are all hoping that it *will inspire* humanity to explore the cosmos.

The “breakthrough” (it) is supposed to inspire humanity, but the breakthrough is not expected for another “few months.” Therefore, the inspiration must happen in the future.

3. *Incorrect*

Correction: A pride of lions that *is* outside its native habitat finds familiar game hard to come by.

“A pride” is a collective noun, therefore the verb must be singular.

4. *Incorrect*

Correction: Several fast-food chains *had provided* the school with delicious burgers and fries until the school board *decided* to start buying healthier food.

The “providing” happened before something else the past (the decision), and should therefore be in the past perfect.

The “deciding” occurred in the past, after another event in the past (i.e., the provision) and should therefore be in the past tense.

5. *Correct*

The subject of this sentence is “each” (of the boys), which is a singular pronoun. Consequently, all the verbs that take “each” as their subject must also be singular. Given this fact, “was” is correct in both cases as it refers to “each.”

The verbs should also all be in the past tense, since they all occur in the same time frame and do not depend on a specific order of occurrence in the past.

6. *Incorrect*

Correction: After stumbling and running clumsily down the hill, the men said that they *had been pretending* to be clumsier than they actually were.

The sentence contains two distinct actions that take place in the past: 1) what the men said, and 2) how they ran down the hill. Since stumbling and running (or pretending to) occurred before the men said that they were pretending, the earlier action must come in the past perfect.

The second “were” in the sentence does not need to be in the past perfect because it describes a general state of the men in the past, not a specific action that necessarily ended before the next event (when they said something).

7. *Incorrect*

Correction: The development of mechanized transportation systems early in the U.S. industrial period *was* regarded as pivotal in America achieving its place in the international economic tableau.

“The development” is a singular noun, and should thus be paired with a singular verb.

8. *Correct*

“The government” is the subject of the verb “is.” Since both are singular, they agree in number.

9. *Incorrect*

Correction: The family of Saudi Arabian immigrants that *raised* me from the time I was six until I was of age to go to college was the best family I could ever imagine and my Saudi parents were always completely honest that I was not theirs by blood but they loved me nonetheless.

The sentence does not need the past perfect since there is only one time frame being discussed.

10. *Correct*

“The possibility” is the subject of the verb “has.” Since both are singular, the subject and verb agree.



SENTENCE CORRECTION II

Grammar Rule Application and Sentence Correction Approach

Verbs | Practice

1. With a staff of sport psychologists, position specific fitness and training programs, and state of the art computer monitoring systems, FC Bayern Munich is but one of a large number of sports clubs that is attempting to utilize its dominant domestic position as a way for it to develop a competitive sporting advantage and increase sporting revenues on a more global scale.
- (A) is attempting to utilize its dominant domestic position as a way for it to develop a competitive sporting advantage and increase
- (B) is attempting through its dominant domestic position to develop a competitive sporting advantage and increase
- (C) are attempting utilizing their dominant domestic position as a way of developing a competitive sporting advantage and increase
- (D) are attempting to utilize their dominant domestic position to develop a competitive sporting advantage and increase
- (E) are attempting to utilize its dominant domestic position as a way of developing a competitive sporting advantage and increasing
2. Before acquiring a better way to separate cotton fibers from the seeds, they had to be tediously extricated by the farmer one at a time by hand.
- (A) acquiring a better way to separate cotton fibers from the seeds, they had to be tediously extricated by the farmer
- (B) acquiring a better way for the separation of cotton fibers and seeds, the farmer had to tediously extricate them
- (C) the farmer acquired a better way for the separation of cotton fibers and seeds, extricating them tediously
- (D) the farmer acquired a better way to separate cotton fibers from the seeds, they had to be tediously extricated
- (E) the farmer acquired a better way for the separation of cotton fibers from seeds, he had to extricate them tediously

Recognize

Rules

Process of Elimination

Compare Remaining Choices

Reread and Choose

Recognize

Rules

Process of Elimination

Compare Remaining Choices

Reread and Choose

3. Because inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, many companies have tried instituting awareness training to reduce the number of on-the-job mishaps.
- (A) Because inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, many companies have tried instituting awareness training to reduce the number of on-the-job mishaps.
- (B) Because inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, many companies tried instituting awareness training to reduce the number of on-the-job mishaps.
- (C) Because inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, many companies have tried to institute awareness training to reduce the number of on-the-job mishaps.
- (D) Inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, and many companies have tried instituting awareness training to reduce the number of on-the-job mishaps.
- (E) Inattentiveness is the greatest cause of industrial accidents, so many companies have tried instituting awareness training so that the number of on-the-job mishaps could be reduced.
4. A consulting company told the telecommunications firm that the firm will be able to increase its profits if their pre-packaged services would only be sold as optional services, individually, rather than as one product with no flexibility for the consumer.
- (A) if their pre-packaged services would only be sold as optional services, individually
- (B) if their pre-packaged services are sold only as services optional and individual
- (C) if their pre-packaged services were sold only as individually optional services
- (D) only if pre-packaged services are sold as individual, optional services
- (E) only if its pre-packaged services would be sold as individually optional services

Recognize

Rules

Process of Elimination

Compare Remaining Choices

Reread and Choose

Recognize

Rules

Process of Elimination

Compare Remaining Choices

Reread and Choose

5. The Monroe Doctrine, the first major foreign policy declaration of the United States and more recently relevant as justification for action during the Cold War as well, stand as one of the most important documents written by James Monroe, the fifth president of the United States.

- (A) and more recently relevant as justification during the Cold War as well, stand
- (B) and also relevant justification for action more recently during the Cold War is standing
- (C) and as justification for action more recently relevant during the Cold War, stands
- (D) a recently relevant justification for action during the Cold War and has stood
- (E) as well as more recently a relevant justification for action during the Cold War, stands

Recognize

Rules

Process of Elimination

Compare Remaining Choices

Reread and Choose

Sentence Correction Practice | Answers

Answer Errors Tested. Online Question ID

Modifiers

1. **B** Modifiers, Idioms (9164)
2. **D** Modifiers, Verbs (5079)
3. **A** Modifiers, Pronouns (5081)
4. **E** Modifiers, Comparisons (9165)
5. **C** Modifiers, Lists. (9166)

Pronouns

1. **D** Pronouns, Idioms. (9173)
2. **E** Pronouns, Lists (9174)
3. **A** Pronouns, Lists (9175)
4. **B** Pronouns, Lists (9176)
5. **B** Pronouns, Verbs (9177)

Lists

1. **A** Lists, Idioms (9155)
2. **B** Lists, Verbs (9156)
3. **B** Lists, Modifiers (9157)
4. **C** Lists, Idioms. (9158)
5. **C** Lists, Modifiers. (9159)

Comparisons

1. **D** Comparisons, Idioms. (5080)
2. **E** Comparisons, Verbs. (9144)
3. **C** Comparisons, Modifiers. (9145)
4. **A** Comparisons, Idioms (9146)
5. **B** Comparisons, Pronouns. (9147)

Verbs

1. **D** Verbs, Lists. (9181)
2. **E** Verbs, Idioms (9180)
3. **C** Verbs, Idioms (9185)
4. **D** Verbs, Modifiers (9179)
5. **E** Verbs, Lists (9178)

Idioms

1. **E** Idioms, Lists (5077)
2. **D** Idioms, Pronouns (5078)
3. **B** Idioms, Verbs (5082)
4. **B** Idioms, Verbs (5084)
5. **A** Idioms, Comparisons (5086)

Answer Errors Tested. Online Question ID

Comprehensive Practice

1. **C** Comparisons, Idioms (9148)
2. **A** Modifier, Pronouns (9167)
3. **A** Modifiers, Lists. (9168)
4. **E** Lists, Idioms. (9160)
5. **D** Modifiers, Comparisons (9169)
6. **D** Verbs, Modifiers. (9182)
7. **A** Comparisons, Verbs. (9149)
8. **A** Comparisons, Idioms (9150)
9. **B** Idioms, Modifiers (9154)
10. **B** Modifiers, Idioms. (9170)
11. **B** Comparisons, Modifiers. (9151)
12. **C** Lists, Verbs (9161)
13. **A** Comparisons, Idioms (9152)
14. **B** Lists, Verbs. (9162)
15. **C** Verbs, Lists. (9183)
16. **D** Modifiers, Idioms (9171)
17. **E** Lists, Modifiers (9163)
18. **C** Modifiers, Verbs. (9186)
19. **A** Comparisons, Verbs (9153)
20. **D** Modifiers, Idioms (9172)

Sentence Correction | Notes & Questions

QUESTION NUMBER AND SOURCE	QUESTION, PROBLEM, OR TAKEAWAY