

ERROR SPOTTING RULES- PDF

1. After let, if a pronoun is used, that noun must be in the Objective Case.

- ✓ **Let he do it**
- ✗ *Let him do it.*

2. When two or more personal plural pronouns come together, the correct order starts with First person (we) followed by second person (you) and third person (they) respectively.

- ✓ **You they and we must go together.**
- ✗ *We, you and they must go together.*

3. When two or more singular personal pronouns are used together, the sequence must be second person(you) followed by third person (he) and first person (I) respectively. (It must be used in positive sentences)

- ✓ **I, you and he must help the needy.**
- ✗ *You, he and I must help the need.*

4. Singular nouns combines by either or, neither nor pronoun must be singular.

- ✓ **Neither Sudha nor Rama did their homework.**
- ✗ *Neither Sudha nor Rama did her homework.*

5. When two singular nouns are combined by and refer to the same person/thing, the pronoun used must be singular.

- ✓ **The director and vice chancellor is not intelligent in their duties.**
- ✗ *The director and vice chancellor is not intelligent in his duties.*

6. When two singular nouns are combined using “and” the pronoun used must be plural.

- ✓ **Rama and Sudha are not honest in her dealings**
- ✗ *Rama and Sudha are not honest in their dealing.*

7. Each of or None of + Plural noun/pronoun is takes singular pronoun/helping verb

- ✓ **Each of the boys have participated in the game.**
- ✓ *Each of the boys has participated in the game.*

8. Either/Neither are used for referring to two persons/things; any, none and no one is used for more than two things/persons

- ✓ **Neither of the three girls was presented in the class.**
- ✓ *Neither of the two girls was presented in the class.*

9. If+ she/I/you+ were takes nominative cases of the pronoun.

- ✓ **If you were him, you would have accepted the proposal.**
- ✓ *If you were he, you would have accepted the proposal.*

10. If a principle verb is used after: about, before, for, from, in, on, use verb+ing form.

- ✓ **You must tell me before taking any decision.**
- ✓ *You must inform the examiner after completing your exam*

11. Say/suggest/ propose/speak/reply/explain/listen/write is always followed by to.

- ✓ **I suggest you take some rest.**
- ✓ *I suggest you to take some rest.*

12. After transitive verbs; discuss, describe, reach, order, tell, demand, attack, resemble, ridicule, no preposition is used.

- ✓ **He ordered for the food.**
- ✓ *He ordered the food.*
- ✓ **He demands to his release.**
- ✓ *He demands his release.*

13. No preposition is used after today, tomorrow, yesterday.

- ✓ **I met him on yesterday.**
- ✓ *I met him yesterday.*

14. Verb used after “about, after, at, before, for, in on” must be in V+ing form.

- ✓ **He will meet his parents before leave for France.**
- ✓ *He will meet his parents before leaving for France.*

15. The preposition used after two words must be made clear if these two words take some preposition or not.

- ✓ **He is aware and prepare for his duties.**
- ✓ *He is aware of and prepare for his duties.*

16. Hardly is followed by then and inversion of the sentences is used. Scarcely is used with when

- ✓ **Hardly had we step out of the home, when it began to rain.**

- ✓ Hardly had we step out of the home, then it began to rain.
- ✓ **Scarcely had we step out of the home, then it began to rain.**
- ✓ Scarcely had we step out of the home, when it began to rain.

17. Correct use of not only but also

- ✓ **He lost not only his shoes but also his books.**
- ✓ *He not only lost his shoes but also his books.*

18. Ago is always used in past indefinite tense.

- ✓ **He had met him two years ago**
- ✓ *He met him two years ago.*

19. Much is used with past participle and adjective and adverbs of comparative degree. Very is used with present participle.

- ✓ **The news is much surprising.(present participle)**
- ✓ *The news is very surprising.*
- ✓ **I was very surprised at his behavior.**
- ✓ *I was much surprised (past participle) at his behavior.*

20. Too means more than required which is used in negative sentences. It cannot be used in positive sense like too glad, too pleasant, too healthy.

- ✓ **The palace is too pleasant to look at.**
- ✓ *The palace is very pleasant to look at.*

21. Too---To and so-----that should not be intertwined

- ✓ **He is too weak that he cannot walk.**
- ✓ *He is too weak to walk*
- ✓ **He is so weak to walk**
- ✓ *He is so weak that he cannot walk.*

22. Elder and eldest must be used for persons (strictly these are used for the members of the same family) Older is used to refer to a person who ahead of age.

- ✓ **My older brother is very protective.**
- ✓ *My elder brother is very protective.*
- ✓ **He is two years elder to me**
- ✓ *He is two years older to me*

23. All the adjectives referring to the same noun must be in the same degree of comparison.

- ✓ **He is the most handsome and wiser student of the class.**
- ✓ *He is the most handsome and wisest student of the class.*

24. Adjectives like “unique, ideal, perfect, complete, universal, entire, extreme, chief, do not admit the comparative degrees because they represent their superlative degree themselves.

- ✓ **He is the most perfect boy.**
- ✓ *He is the perfect boy.*
- ✓ **It is the most complete assignment.**
- ✓ *It is the complete assignment.*

25. The adjectives inferior, superior, senior, junior, prior etc. take the preposition to, not than.

- ✓ **He always felt inferior than her younger sister.**
- ✓ *He always felt inferior to her younger sister.*

26. When the subjects joined by nor/or are of different numbers, the verb must be plural and the plural verb must be placed next to the verb.

- ✓ **Neither teachers nor principal was present in the assembly.**
- ✓ *Neither principal nor the teachers were present in the assembly.*

27. The words like “together with, along with, as well as, in addition to” do not make the subject plural.

- ✓ **Alisha along with Anil are going for a picnic.**
- ✓ *Alisha along with Anil is going for a picnic.*

28. Rule for dependent clause-----if we are mentioned a plural subject in the independent clause which is necessary for the sentence, the verb must agree with that subject.

- ✓ **She is one of the best teachers who has ever taught me.**
- ✓ *She is one of the best teachers who have ever taught me.*

29. When the helping verbs like am, is, was, were used with the personal pronouns, the other pronoun must be nominative case.

- ✓ **I am him.**
- ✓ *I am he.*
- ✓ **He was me**
- ✓ *He was I.*

30. Know followed by how, where, when, why takes to+V1

- ✓ **I know to drive.**
- ✓ *I know how to drive.*

31. After bid, let, behold, watch, see, feel, we use bare infinitive (without to)

- ✓ **I watched him to grow.**
- ✓ *I watched him grow.*
- ✓ **I let him to cry.**
- ✓ *I let him cry.*

32. To+V1 is not used after can could may might should will would must dare not need not.

- ✓ **He dare not to speak to me.**
- ✓ *He dare not speak to me*
- ✓ **He could not to write.**

- ✓ *He could not write a letter.*

33. Than is always followed by bare infinitive.

- ✓ **He had better leave than to stay.**
- ✓ *He had better leave than stay.*

34. When but is used as a preposition and followed by a verb “to” is not used.

- ✓ **He did nothing but to weep.**
- ✓ *He did nothing but weep.*

35. Some Nouns always remain singular. The verb and pronoun associated with these nouns are also always singular.

Hair, information, aircraft, furniture, money, advice, sheep, fish, bread.

36. Some nouns are always in the plural form.

Scissors, trousers, spectacles, gloves, socks,

37. If the main topic, jist or crux of the sentence is singular, the verb and pronoun will also be singular.

Knowledge of maths, science, social studies and economics are 10th class students.

Pronunciation of Worcestershire, Choir, Penguin are very confusing.

38. Normally we treat all collective nouns singularly.

- ✓ *The group of students has come first.*
- ✓ *My team has won the match.*
- ✓ *A bunch of keys was found in the trash.*

39. When the subject of the collective noun comes before the collective noun its usage will be plural.

- ✓ *A band of robbers has attacked the city.*
- ✓ *Robbers of a band have attacked the city.*

40. All material nouns are treated singularly.

- ✓ *Gold is expensive.*
- ✓ *Water is healthy.*
- ✓ *Oxygen is important.*

41. When the material noun is countable, its usage becomes plural too.

- ✓ *Diamonds are a woman's best friend.*
- ✓ *Please pick up all bricks and stones from the floor.*
- ✓ *My house is made of bricks and stones*
- ✓ *My house is made of brick and stone*

42. Similar Sounding Words

- ✓ *Practice and Practise*
- ✓ *Advice and Advise*

There are a few pairs of words like the above in English vocabulary that have difference of 'c' and 's'. We must remember that there is a grammatical difference between these words.

- ✓ *Advice is a noun. E.g. Thank you for your valuable advice.*
- ✓ *Advise is a verb. E.g. Thank you for advising me*
- ✓ *Practice is a noun. Eg How is your football practice going?*
- ✓ *Practise is a verb. E.g. Are you practising football everyday?*

43. Both 'a' and 'an' are used to identify anything that is generalised in a statement. 'A book' means any book and 'an umbrella' means any umbrella, rather than a specific book or umbrella.

- ✓ *'A' is always used before nouns starting with a consonant sound.*
- ✓ *'An' is always used before nouns starting with a vowel sound.*

44. Usage of 'the'

(a) Anything specific stated in a sentence should be preceded by 'the'

Eg. Amitabh, the actor of the movie, is the favorite of the director who says he is nothing but the best.

E.g. the best, the most hardworking, the most beautiful etc

(b) Any natural resources will always have 'the'.

Eg. the sun, the moon, the Ganga, the Himalayas etc.

(c) Superlative degree of adjectives will always have 'the'.

E.g. the best, the most hardworking, the most beautiful etc

The' is never used before proper nouns but can be used before common nouns.

1. Proper Nouns

I love the India.

(Incorrect)

My name is the Anshika.

(Incorrect)

2. Common Nouns

The girl is waiting for us.

(Correct)

(Correct)

The class needs to be adjourned.

(Correct)

Ram is the Sachin Tendulkar of my team.

Radha is the Hitler of her class.

(Correct)

Note: The sentences in red are incorrect.

The following table explains the chapters we already added in the course and the chapters to be covered in near future.

Only when a proper noun is treated as a common noun, especially in case of metaphors/ allusions, we can use 'the' before these nouns.