

Direction (1-15): Improve the bracketed part of the sentence.

Q1. At harvest the corn was cut high on the stalk with short sickles and (put up in sheafs), after which it was carried to the threshing-floor and trodden out by the hoofs of oxen.

- (a) put up in a sheaves
- (b) put up in sheaf
- (c) put up in sheaves
- (d) No Improvement

S1. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'Sheaves' are bundles of grain stalks, stacked lengthwise and tied together. 'Sheaf' is singular while plural form is 'sheaves'. 'put up in a sheaves' can't be used as sheaves is a plural noun hence 'a' can't be used before it. 'put up in sheaf' is not correct as 'sheaf' is a singular form of countable noun hence article 'a' should be used before it. Hence option C improves the sentence.

Q2. How long should a murderer be (kept in prison?)

- (a) kept in a prison
- (b) kept in the prison
- (c) keep in prison
- (d) No Improvement

S2. Ans.(d)

Sol. No Improvement

No article is used before prison, market, hospital, bed etc. if they are used for their primary purpose.

Q3. It looked as if filing for bankruptcy would be the only option for the business that was drowning (in a debt).

- (a) in the debt
- (b) into a debt
- (c) in debt
- (d) No Improvement

S3. Ans.(c)

Sol. 'In debt' is an idiomatic expression and no article is placed between 'in' and 'debt'.

Hence option C is a correct choice.

Q4. Many of the (older woman doctors) interviewed were still working, but had ended up in what were essentially dead end jobs.

- (a) older woman doctor
- (b) older women doctors
- (c) older women doctor
- (d) No Improvement

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S4. Ans.(b)

Sol. 'Woman doctor' is a compound noun and its plural form is 'Women doctors'. Moreover, 'Many of the + Plural Countable Noun' will be followed here.

Hence option B is the correct choice.

Q5. Smith is better than (any other boys) in the class.

- (a) any other boy
- (b) all other boy
- (c) any boys
- (d) No Improvement

S5. Ans.(a)

Sol. 'Comparative + than + any other + Singular noun' is the correct sentence formation.

Hence option A is the correct choice.

Q6. Wisdom does not automatically (accrue in) an individual because he or she lived through certain seminal events.

- (a) accrue of
- (b) accrue to
- (c) accrue from
- (d) No Improvement

S6. Ans.(b)

Sol. Accrue: to increase in number or amount over a period of time. 'Accrue to somebody' is the correct usage.

Q7. Despite the fact the soldiers have not been home in eight months, they are still (soporific) about seeing their families soon.

- (a) far-right
- (b) perilous
- (c) sanguine
- (d) No Improvement

S7. Ans.(c)

Sol. Soporific: tending to induce drowsiness or sleep.

Far-right: relating to the extreme right wing of a political party or group.

Perilous: dangerous.

Sanguine: optimistic, hopeful, or confident about the future.

Hence option C fits in the context.

Q8. The upheaval in the risk-reward structure of investment banking implies major alterations in how and at what cost the industry (render) its services.

- (a) reindeer
- (b) reindeers
- (c) renders
- (d) No Improvement

S8. Ans.(c)

Sol. Render: provide or give (a service, help, etc.)

Reindeer: type of deer with large horns that lives in the northern parts of Europe, Asia, and North America.

Following the subject-verb agreement rule, singular verb 'renders' goes well with singular subject 'industry'.

Q9. As the moon (goes to seed), so does the height of the tide change.

- (a) waxes and wanes
- (b) knocks into shape
- (c) scrapes the surface
- (d) No Improvement

S9. Ans.(a)

Sol. Go to seed (idiom): to deteriorate from lack of attention.

Wax and wane (idiom): to grow stronger and then weaker again/ to alternately increase and decrease.

Knock into shape (idiom): to use vigorous action to bring someone or something into a proper specified state or better condition.

Scrape the surface (idiom): to examine only the superficial aspects of something.

Q10. The report is viewed as a (bellwether) for economic trends.

- (a) bellweather
- (b) belwether
- (c) bellwither
- (d) No Improvement

S10. Ans.(d)

Sol. No Improvement.

Bellwether: someone or something that shows how a situation will develop or change:

Q11. In the exhibition, abstract paintings were (battered) with shocking photographs.

- (a) lynched
- (b) juxtaposed
- (c) spiked
- (d) No Improvement

S11. Ans.(b)

Sol. Batter: damage.

Juxtapose: to put things or people next to each other, especially in order to compare them.

Spike: increase.

Hence option B fits in the context.

Q12. I don't know when I am going to (get on) writing the thank you cards for my well-wishers.

- (a) get around to
- (b) go over
- (c) come down with
- (d) No Improvement

S12. Ans.(a)

Sol. Get on (phrasal verb): step onto a vehicle

Get around to (phrasal verb): finally find time to do

Go over (phrasal verb): review

Come down with (phrasal verb): fall sick

Hence option A is correct.


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Q13. Our plans for the trip fell (down) because we had no money.

- (a) off
- (b) out
- (c) through
- (d) No Improvement

S13. Ans.(c)

Sol. Fall through (phrasal verb): come to nothing; fail and hence denotes the failure of the trip.

Q14. Illness, injury, food poisoning, grief- any of these things can (prostate) people or lying down in a helpless position.

- (a) prostrate
- (b) prospect
- (c) prosecute
- (d) No Improvement

S14. Ans.(a)

Sol. Prostate: A gland which is a part of a man's reproductive system.

Prostrate: to make helpless or defenseless.

Prospect: to inspect (a region).

Hence option A is the correct choice.

Q15. When it comes to lawsuits, everyone seems to want (piece of an action).

- (a) piece of action
- (b) a piece of the action
- (c) a piece of the information
- (d) No Improvement

S15. Ans.(b)

Sol. 'A piece of the action' is an idiom which means a part of the profits or advantages that come from an activity.

Hence option B fits in the context.

Direction (16-30): In these questions some of the sentences have errors and some have none. Find out which part of a sentence has an error and indicate it corresponding to the appropriate letter. If there is no error, indicate corresponding to the last option.

Q16. If you do have a chimney, he says, (A)/just remember to put the fire out (B)/ before you go to the bed. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S16. Ans.(c)

Sol. Replace 'go to the bed' with 'go to bed'.

'Go to bed' is the correct idiomatic expression which means 'to go to where one's bed is, get into it, and go to sleep'.

Q17. I do love the apartment, but that's (A)/ besides the mark because I don't have enough (B)/money for a security deposit right now.(C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S17. Ans.(b)

Sol. Replace 'besides the mark' with 'beside the mark'.

Beside the mark (idiom): Tangential or insignificant to the main issue being discussed.

Moreover, besides means "in addition to" and doesn't fit in the given context.

Q18. I would rather (A)/ play cricket than (B)/ to clean my room. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S18. Ans.(c)

Sol. Remove 'to' before 'clean'. Would rather/Had rather take 'bare infinitive i.e. V1'.

Q19. Apart from that, 56 terracotta objects that were (A)/returned by Toledo Museum in Ohio to Indian consulate (B)/ were declared to be antiquities by the team.(C)/No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S19. Ans.(b)

Sol. Add definite article 'the' before singular countable noun 'Indian consulate'.

Q20. He gave chapters and verse for (A)/his reasons for disputing that (B)/ Shakespeare had written the play.(C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S20. Ans.(a)

Sol. Replace 'chapters and verse' with 'chapter and verse'.

Chapter and verse (idiom): very specifically detailed, in reference to sources of information.

Q21. The peasantry was being drawn (A)/ into the money economy, thereby (B)/ raising consumer demand.(C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S21. Ans.(a)

Sol. Replace 'was' with 'were'. 'Peasantry' is a collective noun and hence takes plural verb with it.

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Q22. Tom's sister came round (A)/ on Saturday with her (B)/ numerous offsprings. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S22. Ans.(c)

Sol. Replace 'offsprings' with 'offspring'.

Offspring: a person's child or children.

Plural form is also 'offspring'.

Q23. This idea flies in the (A)/ nose of everything we know (B)/about matter and energy. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S23. Ans.(b)

Sol. Replace 'nose of' with 'face of'.

Fly in the face of (idiom): be openly at variance with what is usual or expected.

Q24. Catastrophic erosion of ecosystems is being driven by (A)/ unsustainable use of land and water, climate change, pollution and release of (B)/ alien plants and animals in new habitats. (C)/ No error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S24. Ans.(d)

Sol. No Error

Q25. Human beings communicate to (A)/ each other by means (B)/ of language. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S25. Ans.(a)

Sol. Replace 'Communicate to' with 'Communicate with'.

As 'communicate with somebody' is the correct prepositional usage of 'communicate' in the given context.

Q26. The boy's parents were surprised that (A)/ he would excel with athletics since (B)/neither of them played sports in school. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S26. Ans.(b)

Sol. Replace 'excel with' by 'excel in'.

'Excel in something' is the correct prepositional usage.

Q27. The Centre's latest attempt to curb unregulated deposit (A)/ schemes through an ordinance reflects a timely (B)/recognition of the need for greater legal protection. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S27. Ans.(d)

Sol. No Error

Q28. The court ruled he could not (A)/be held personally liable to (B)/ his wife's debts. (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S28. Ans.(b)

Sol. Replace 'liable to' with 'liable for'.

Correct prepositional usage: 'Liable for payment' while 'liable to error'

Q29. With a view to help the Third World countries, (A)/the I.M.F. and the World Bank keep sending (B)/their experts to different regions of the world (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S29. Ans.(a)

Sol. Replace 'help' with 'helping' as 'with a view to' takes gerund (V1 + ing) with it.

Q30. Some people get used to (A)/ changes very easily (B)/ than others do (C)/ No Error (D)

- (a) A
- (b) B
- (c) C
- (d) D

S30. Ans.(b)

Sol. Replace 'very' with 'more'. There is a sense of comparison in the sentence which implies the usage of 'more easily than' instead of 'very easily than'.


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