



**23GET276 - VQAR-II**

**UNIT V - LINGUISTICS SKILLS III**

**Error Spotting**

**RULES TO SOLVE SPOTTING ERROR QUESTIONS**

Most of the errors in spotting errors questions have common grammatical mistakes. To solve spotting errors questions effectively, you need to be aware of the basic grammar rules. We have provided below some common types of errors which are present while you solve spotting errors questions.

**Errors based on Nouns**

A noun is a word used to identify any of a class of people, places or things. Some of the nouns, be it singular or plural, follow certain rules to complete a sentence. These are mentioned below:

1. Some nouns which are singular in form but are used as plural nouns are followed by plural verb. These include- Cattle, Peasantry, People, Vermin, Police, Clergy etc.

**Example:**

a) The cattle is grazing near the farm. (Incorrect)

b) The cattle are grazing near the farm. (Correct)

2. Some nouns which are used as plural nouns are always followed by plural verb. These include- Scissors, Stockings, Trousers, Specs, Shorts, Goods, Employees etc .



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**Example:**

a) Where is my stockings? (Incorrect)

b) Where are my stockings? (Correct)

3. Some collective nouns are used as both singular and plural depending on the meaning. When these nouns refer to a unit, singular verb is used, otherwise plural will be used. These include- Team, Public, Government, Committee, Jury, Audience.

**Example:**

a) The company was founded in the year of 1992 (Correct)

b) The company were founded in the year of 1992 (Incorrect)

4. There are some nouns which are always followed by singular verb. These include- Poetry, Machinery, Ethics, Mathematics, Physics, Classics, Innings, Stationery, News, Abuse, Economics, Business.

**Example:**

a) Ethics are important. (Incorrect)

b) Ethics is important. (Correct)

**Errors based on Pronouns**

A pronoun is a word that takes place of the noun (for example- He, She, They, Someone, Who). Some of the pronouns follow certain rules to complete a sentence which are mentioned below:

1. A pronoun should always agree with its antecedent in person, number and gender. An antecedent is the noun that a pronoun is replacing or referring to.



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**Example:**

- a) All students must do their homework. (Correct)
  - b) Each student must bring their books (Incorrect)
  - c) Each student must bring his books. (Correct)
2. The pronoun 'one' should always be followed by one's.

**Example:**

- a) One must finish his task in time. (Incorrect)
  - b) One must finish one's task in time. (Correct)
3. There is always a confusion regarding the usage of pronouns- who and whom. Who and whoever are subjective pronouns whereas whom and whomever are objective. To put it simply, 'who' denotes the subject of the verb and 'whom' works as an object in the sentence.

**Example:**

- a) Whom is the project leader? (Incorrect)
  - b) Who is the project leader? (Correct)
- a) Who are you talking to? (Incorrect)
  - b) Whom are you talking to? (Correct)



### **Errors based on Adjectives**

An adjective is a word naming an attribute of a noun such as sweet, bad etc. Some of the adjectives follow certain rules to complete a sentence which are mentioned below:

1. Comparative adjectives are used to compare differences between the two. Some of these adjectives such as Superior, Inferior, Prior etc are always followed by 'to'.

#### **Example:**

a) He is superior than me in position. (Incorrect)

b) He is superior to me in position. (Correct)

2. Do not use adjectives in place of adverbs.

#### **Example:**

a) She drove quicker than everybody else. (Incorrect)

b) She drove quickly than everybody else. (Correct)

### **Errors based on Adverbs**

Adverbs refer to words that modify the meaning of an adjective or verb. Some of the adverbs follow certain rules to complete a sentence which are mentioned below:

1. Some of the adverbs having the same meanings create confusion in the minds of people; these are mainly- less and fewer. 'Less' is used to describe quantity whereas 'fewer' is used to denote numbers.



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**Example:**

- a) Less than thirty children each year develop the disease. (Incorrect)
- b) Fewer than thirty children each year develop the disease. (Correct)

- a) People want to spend fewer time in traffic. (Incorrect)
- b) People want to spend less time in traffic. (Correct)

2. Some of the adverbs such as little, a little, the little, are used in different places.

‘Little’ has a negative meaning which means hardly any.

**Example:**

- a) There is a little hope of his recovery. (Incorrect)
- b) There is little hope of his recovery. (Correct)

‘A little’ has positive attributes and means some (though not much).

**Example:**

- a) Little knowledge is a dangerous thing. (Incorrect)
- b) A little knowledge is a dangerous thing. (Correct)

‘The little’ means ‘not much’, but all that is.

Example:

- a) A little honey in the pot might prove useful. (Incorrect)
- b) The little honey in the pot might prove useful. (Correct)