

# BANK EXAMS

## ENGLISH

### SPOT THE ERRORS IN THE FOLLOWING SENTENCES

Concord is one important element in English grammar which demands the 'Agreement of the Subject and the Verb' in a sentence. When the subject is singular in form and in meaning, the verb must also be singular. If the Subject is plural in form and in meaning, the verb must also be plural. This is a basic grammar rule, but this rule has some exceptions. A few of them are dealt with here.

1. Truth and honesty (1)/ are (2)/ his best (3)/ policy (4)/. No error (5)
2. Her cousins (1)/ as well as (2)/ Manju has (3) / come here to attend a marriage (4)/. No error (5)
3. Neither Raju (1)/ nor Rani (2)/ are ready (3)/ to help the poor (4)/. No error (5)
4. Many a (1)/ leaders in India (2)/ works (3)/ for the real welfare of the people (4) /. No error (5)
5. Ship after (1)/ ship are (2)/ burnt (3)/ by their Naval force (4)/. No error (5)

**Directions (6 – 15):** Which of the following Phrases (A), (B), (C), (D) given below each sentence should replace the phrase printed in Bold to make the sentence grammatically correct, and if the sentence is correct as it is, choose the option(E), 'No Correction Required'.

6. We shall eat **SOME NOW AND SAVE SOME** for tomorrow
  - 1) Some and save
  - 2) Now some and some save
  - 3) Some now or save some
  - 4) Now some and save some
  - 5) No correction required
7. Sita waited **TO BATED BREATH** as the names of the top rankers were announced
  - 1) With beated breath
  - 2) As beated breath
  - 3) Along bated breath
  - 4) With bated breath
  - 5) No correction required
8. **OCCUPYING BY** many meetings, our union leader did not reach home till midnight.
  - 1) Occupied of
  - 2) By occupying
  - 3) While occupying
  - 4) Occupied with
  - 5) No correction required
9. My father is a **MEN OF FEW WORDS**, is very intelligent and is respected by one and all.
  - 1) Men of few word
  - 2) Man of few words
  - 3) Man of few wordings
  - 4) Man with few words
  - 5) No correction required
10. Tarun **TRIED HARDLY** and that led to his success.
  - 1) Tried hard
  - 2) Trying hard
  - 3) Tried a bit hardly
  - 4) Tried just hardly
  - 5) No correction required

11. S I Sai Kumar failed in his attempts to disperse the mob before the miscreants SETS THE FIRE ON THE BUS.
- 1) Set fire to the bus  
2) Set the fire on to the bus  
3) Set the bus on fire  
4) Setting the bus on the fire  
5) No correction required
12. Since it was her engagement Yesterday, Sita DRESSED TO KILL.
- 1) Dresses to kill  
2) Had dressed to kill  
3) Dressing to kill  
4) Dressed to killings  
5) No correction required
13. Several of our projects HAVE DELAYED BECAUSE the equipment we had ordered was delivered late
- 1) Had delayed  
2) Have been delayed  
3) Has been delayed  
4) Are delayed since  
5) No correction required
14. Taruni was so scare on seeing the tiger that she SHOOKED LIKE A LEAF.
- 1) Shaked like a leaf  
2) Shook like a leaf  
3) Was shoking like a leaf  
4) Shook like a leaves  
5) No correction required
15. Geeta can convince anyone with her talks as she has the GIFT OF THE GAB
- 1) Gifts the gab  
2) Gifting the gab  
3) Gift off the gab  
4) Gifted the gab  
5) No correction required
16. Meena had MAKE UP HER MIND about going on the world tour with her mother.
- 1) Made up her mind  
2) Making her mind  
3) Makes up her mind  
4) Made her minds  
5) No correction required
17. Preethi WAS VERY PLEASED with the gift she had received from her father on her Birthday.
- 1) Was very pleasing  
2) Was pleased  
3) Were pleasing  
4) Was being pleased  
5) No correction required
18. Every man and every woman HAVE TO DIE one day.
- 1) Are to die  
2) Had to die  
3) Was to due  
4) Has to die  
5) No correction required
19. They each WANTS to be rich and happy.
- 1) Want  
2) Wanting  
3) Was wanting  
4) Were wanting  
5) No correction required

20. Sixty years ARE really a long time in my life.  
1) Have                                      2) Had                                      3) Is                                      4) Were  
5) No correction required
21. The French LOVES good food and music  
1) Loving                                      2) Has loved                                      3) Love                                      4) Have loved  
5) No correction required
22. The dead HAS no friends.  
1) Have                                      2) Is                                      3) Are                                      4) Having  
5) No correction required
23. THANKFUL TO A combined effort we were able to achieve the target.  
1) Thanking to a                                      2) Thanked to a                                      3) Thanks to a                                      4) Thanked to the  
5) No correction required
24. Though she was new to the field of painting, Rani GIVE IT A GO  
1) GIVING                                      2) Giving                                      3) Gave it a going                                      4) Gave it a go  
5) NO CORRECTION REQUIRED
25. As Anjali was familiar with the road to Neethu's house, she LEAD THE WAY.  
1) Leading the way                                      2) Led the way  
3) Lead away                                      4) Leads the way  
5) No correction required

**KEY**

1-2; 2-3; 3-3; 4-2; 5-2; 6-5; 7-4; 8-4; 9-2; 10-1; 11-3; 12-5; 13-2; 14-2; 15-5; 16-1; 17-5; 18-4; 19-1; 20-3; 21-3; 22-1; 23-3; 24-4; 25-2.

**EXPLANATIONS**

1. When two subjects are used to express a single idea, the verb must always be singular.
2. When two subjects are brought together using AS WELL AS, the verb must agree with the first subject.
3. When subjects are joined using Either ... or, Neither... nor, the verb must agree with the nearest subject.
4. When a sentence begins with the usage, 'Many a', the subject and the verb must be singular.
5. When a singular subject is repeated side by side like in the sentence, the verb must always be singular.
18. When the Adjective 'Every' is used with each subject, the verb must be singular.
19. When 'Each' comes after a plural subject, the verb agrees with the plural subject.
20. A noun singular or plural denoting a measure of TIME or DISTANCE, takes a singular verb.
21. When the Definite Article The is used with a nationality word, it stands for the people of that nation. So the French here means the people of France and it takes the verb LOVE.
22. Here the dead means the dead people and therefore it takes HAVE.

Writer: M. Somasekhar Prasad