

Error Correction: Omission

INTRODUCTION

Omission is a process in which certain words, in a given paragraph, are omitted. Such omissions make the sentence/s grammatically incorrect. In questions on omission, a student is supposed to examine each line and find the missing word/link between two words (if any). These questions test a student's understanding and ability to use the language correctly.

GRAMMAR CONCEPTS REQUIRED

Before answering such questions, a student should be thorough with certain rules and concepts in grammar. Some of the important ones are indicated below:

1. A verb should agree with its subject in terms of number and person.
2. Tense consistency has to be maintained.
3. A pronoun must be consistent with its antecedent.
4. Conjunctions should be used correctly.
5. The rules for using articles have to be followed.
6. Prepositions should be used in a suitable manner.
7. Voice (active or passive) consistency must be maintained.
8. Determiners should be used appropriately.
9. The flow of sentences in terms of narration (direct/indirect speech) should be followed.

STEPS TO BE FOLLOWED

To answer questions based on omission, a student may follow the steps given below:

1. Read the entire paragraph in one go. Find the context or the main idea of the given paragraph or sentences.
2. Analyse the part of sentence given in one line. Study it in the context of what follows and/or what precedes it.

3. Identify the missing word/link between two words. Consider subject-verb agreement or pronoun-antecedent consistency or use of article, preposition, voice, tenses etc.
4. Write the missing word along with the words that come before and after it in the given blank, as per the requirement of the question.
5. Repeat the steps from point 2 through 4 till all the missing words have been noted down.

Note: It is not mandatory to find the omitted words in a sequential order. You may choose to find the easiest one first and then move on to the more difficult ones. This may, in fact, make the difficult ones easier to predict.

Solved Example

Q. In the passage given below, one word has been omitted in each line against which a blank is given. Write the missing word along with the word that comes before and the word that comes after it in your sheet against the correct blank number as given in the example. Ensure that the word that forms your answer is underlined.

Eg	There no records		There <u>are</u> no
a)	of exact number of children	a)	_____
b)	that live the streets.	b)	_____
c)	Most of births are not recorded	c)	_____
d)	and the families not	d)	_____
e)	counted the Census.	e)	_____
f)	But, NGOs started making	f)	_____
	meaningful interventions.		

HOW TO SOLVE:

First, read the entire paragraph in one go to find the context or the main idea of the given paragraph. Note that primarily the present tense is used. The sentences are written in active voice.

Eg) In the first sentence, we can easily notice that the first part of the sentence has no verb. As the sentence is in present tense and we are talking about 'records', which is a plural noun, the plural form of the verb has to be introduced.

Thus, 'are' is added between the words 'There' and 'no'.

a) Since, the line talks about the exact or particular number of children, the definite article 'the' has to be added. The noun 'number' is modified with an adjective 'exact'. Hence, 'the' will precede the adjective.

b) Children cannot 'live the street'. Thus, a preposition is missing from this line. The correct preposition is 'on', which has to be added between the words 'live' and 'the'.

c) As a rule, the quantifier 'most of' must be followed by the definite article 'the'. So, we need to add 'the' before the word 'births'.

d) The conjunction 'and' is used to join two parts of the sentence. So, keeping in mind tense-consistency, 'are' should be added in order to make the second part of the sentence grammatically correct.

e) In the second part of this sentence, 'families' is the subject and 'census' is the object. However, a link is missing between the object and the rest of the sentence. Since, a preposition is used to link nouns with other words in a sentence, the preposition 'in' will be added here.

f) As the whole paragraph is in the present tense, this sentence also has to be modified to maintain tense consistency.

Moreover, according to the subject-verb agreement rules, a plural subject will take a plural form of the verb.

Thus, we cannot add 'has' as the subject 'NGOs' is plural. The correct answer is 'have', which is to be added before 'started'.

Solution:

Eg	There no records		There <u>are</u> no
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a)	of exact number of children	a)	of <u>the</u> exact
b)	that live the streets.	b)	live <u>on</u> the
c)	Most of births are not recorded	c)	of <u>the</u> births
d)	and the families not	d)	families <u>are</u> not
e)	counted the Census.	e)	counted <u>in</u> the
f)	But, NGOs started making	f)	NGOs <u>have</u> started
	meaningful interventions.		