

Use of “AND” as Connector

Let's begin with a problem, continuing with what we learnt in the last session:

26. The electronics company has unveiled what it claims to be the world's smallest network digital camcorder, the length of which is that of a handheld computer, and it weighs less than 11 ounces.

- A. to be the world's smallest network digital camcorder, the length of which is that of a handheld computer, and it weighs
- B. to be the smallest network digital camcorder in the world, which is as long as a handheld computer, weighing
- C. is the smallest network digital camcorder in the world, which is as long as a handheld computer, and it weighs
- D. is the world's smallest network digital camcorder, which is as long as a handheld computer and weighs
- E. is the world's smallest network digital camcorder, the length of which is that of a handheld computer, weighing

Let's just look at the options above and see which one of them uses AND.

We find that A, C, and D uses AND while B and E doesn't use AND.

B and E uses and -ing modifier.

COMMA -ING modifiers: bare-bones summary

These modifiers describe, in some reasonably direct way, the PREVIOUS ACTION (previous CLAUSE).

The modifier doesn't work in (b) and (e), because weight is not a description (or an inevitable consequence) of length.

Separate dimensions --> Use "AND"

So we see here that we should use AND as weighing has nothing to do with the length of the camcorder. And -ing modifier is inappropriate here.

So we can discard B and E.

In the following construction --

... the "which" can potentially modify EITHER noun1 OR noun2
(depending on context)

Let's analyze the parallelism here now.

--> ACTUALLY MAKES SENSE
TWO INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT THE
SMALL SIZE OF THIS DEVICE: IT ...

- (1) is as long as xxxxxx
- AND
- (2) weighs xxxxxx amount

--> The electronics company weighs less than 11 oz. (!!)

Hence, D is the correct answer.

--> Figure out the structure from what follows the signal word(s).

Let's look at another problem:

The army cutworm moth is a critical source of fat for as many as a third of Yellowstone National Park's grizzly bears; they overturn rocks to find them, as many as 40,000 per bear in a single day.

- (A) bears; they overturn rocks to find them, as many as
- (B) bears; overturning rocks to find the insects, up to
- (C) bears, overturning rocks to find them, as many as
- (D) bears, and they overturn rocks to find them, up to
- (E) bears, which overturn rocks to find the insects, as many as

Let's see the use of AND here (only one choice).

2 facts:

- 1) This thing is a critical source of fat
- 2) The bears go hunting for ridiculous numbers of them

These are NOT independent observations; (1) is the reason/rationale for (2). Therefore, "AND" is not an appropriate connector.

We can eliminate the choice D here.

Now let's see the use of COMMA +ing modifier.

DIGRESSION: Assignment of the -ING action in comma + -ing modifiers.

The SUBJECT of the previous clause should be the source / agent / do-er of the action described in the -ING.

Matt's sister slapped him, angering the children's father.

--> Dad was mad at matt's sister for hitting him.

Matt was slapped by his sister, angering the children's father.

--> Dad was mad at matt (presumably for being hit by a girl).

So, in choice C the use of COMMA +ing modifier refers to the moth, which is not correct as per the context of the sentence. So, we can eliminate choice C.

Let's look at the choices A, B and E here. A uses them which can be supposed to refer to moth but it cannot as moth is singular. Therefore, we can eliminate the choice A.

If we take a look at the choice B, a semi colon is used here which makes the clause following the semicolon a fragment, which is inappropriate.

So, we are left with only choice E, which is the answer.

Let's take a look at another problem:

5. The Achaemenid empire of Persia reached the Indus Valley in the fifth century B.C., bringing the Aramaic script with it, from which was derived both northern and southern Indian alphabets.
- A. the Aramaic script with it, from which was derived both northern and
 - B. the Aramaic script with it, and from which deriving both the northern and the
 - C. with it the Aramaic script, from which derive both the northern and the
 - D. with it the Aramaic script, from which derives both northern and
 - E. with it the Aramaic script, and deriving from it both the northern and

Let's analyze the use of AND first.

the "and" implies independence.

These things are not independent -- the second part (the northern and southern Indian alphabets come from here) is a DESCRIPTION / ADD'L INFORMATION about the Aramaic script.

So, "and" doesn't make sense.

We can eliminate B and E.

Another thing to note here is the use of which.

[If you have "from which", "to which", "according to whom", etc., you actually need a legitimate CLAUSE (with a sub₁ + verb)]

For e.g.,

On the counter is a large box, in which found most of my store coupons.

This sentence is incorrect, as it doesn't have a legitimate subject and verb.

On the counter is a large box, in which are found most of my store coupons.

This sentence is correct. Please note that subject coming after verb is perfectly alright.

For e.g.: *There is one car in the driveway.*

On the counter is a large box, in which you can find most of my store coupons.

This sentence is correct too.

The choice B uses from which incorrectly.

Based on above learning let's look at the choices A, C, and D.

The subject of from which is northern and southern alphabets which is plural. So we can eliminate the choices A and D for Subject Verb Agreement Error.

Hence the correct answer is C.

There is another split in the above problem.

- A. the Aramaic script with it,
- B. the Aramaic script with it,
- C. with it the Aramaic script,
- D. with it the Aramaic script,
- E. with it the Aramaic script,

THE #1 PRINCIPLE OF ALL MODIFIERS:

Put the modifier AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE to the stuff that it's talking about.

(A) (B) farther away

(C) (D) (E) ... closer

(C) (D) (E) are better.

