

Sentence Correction (SC)

General procedure



Subject-verb agreement

- Sentence starting with connection word → No main clause
- Subject and verb: Sense
- Agree in number: Prepositional phrases, Subordinate phrases, Other modifiers

Parallelism

- Markers: and, or, both, but, either/or, not/but, not only, but also, rather than, from/to
- Elements: noun, objectives, verbs
- Linking verbs: „to be“ – same structure, parallel in meaning

Pronouns (he, she, it, they, their, ...)

1. Find the antecedent noun
2. Pronoun and antecedent must make sense together and agree in number
 - Subject pronouns: I, you, he, it, they, who
 - Object pronouns: me, you, him, it, us, whom
 - Possessive pronouns: my/mine, our/ours, their/theirs, whose

Modifiers (adjectives or adverbs)

- Noun modifiers: should TOUCH the noun
- Verb modifiers: do not need to touch; if not check for sense
- Which vs. -ing: „which“ refers to a noun immediately preceding!

Verb tense, mood, voice

- Simple tense (simple present, -past, -future)
Express eternal states or frequent events
- Progressive tense (present progressive, past -, future -)
Express action happening
- Perfect tense (present perfect, past -)
Express action started in the past but continue into the present (has done)
Express action occurred at a different time (had done)
- Subjunctive
 - Hypothetical sub.: if ..., as if ..., as though... + simple past of every word
 - Command sub.: bossy verbs + bare form of the verb
- IF sentences
 - General rule with no uncertainty: IF present, THEN past
 - General rule with some uncertainty: IF present, THEN can or may
 - Particular case with no uncertainty: IF present, THEN future
 - Unlikely Case: IF subjunctive, THEN conditional
 - Case that never happened: IF past perfect, THEN conditional perfect

Comparison

- ‚like’ must be followed by nouns, pronouns or noun phrases
- ‚as’ can be followed by prepositions or conjunctions
- check: structurally parallel?
- Helping words only if necessary to prevent ambiguity

Idioms

1. Spot: compare answers
2. Extract: simpler sentence
3. Replace and confirm

Odds & Ends

- Connecting words: main clause + [,] + [and, but, or, for, nor, yet, so] + main cl.
Main clause + [,] + [because, although, that, before, when, if
unless, though, while] + subordinate clause
- Connecting punctuation: , ; : -
- Quantity: the number of ... is (singular)
A number of ... are (plural)
Countable modifiers: many, few, number of, numerous
Uncountable modifiers: much, little, less, least, amount of, great(er)