

ERRORS TO LOOK FOR

Section 6. Linking Words and Parts of Speech

Two other types of common errors to expect are

- words that link sentences – discourse markers and conjunctions.
- incorrect parts of speech – for example, using adverbs instead of adjectives, or adjectives instead of adverbs, or any other mix-up with nouns, verbs and so on.

There is likely to be at least one in every Test – and possibly more, so it is important to know about them.

Step 1 – Reminder

These errors are testing whether you understand the context and what you have just read. In this section, look out for

- discourse markers and conjunctions (underlined)
- whether words are adverbs (in bold) or adjectives

Most of Southeast Asia's famous temples were built by the 13th century. For example, the Indian royal temple, which was the most important for many centuries, **characteristically** stood on a terraced plinth, upon which many shrines could be constructed, **typically** as towers. Although most were made of stone, some were sculpted with stucco. The exteriors of such shrines displayed carved mouldings and figures, **usually** in a repeated pattern. In addition, from around the eighth century, the Javanese began building a series of **magnificently** carved stone monuments, culminating in the large Mahayana Buddhist Borobudur and the Hindu Lara Jongrang (c. 900–930). Elsewhere, in around 800, the Cambodian king **perceptively** built a brick mountain for a temple group. Later, this plan was developed by laying the foundations for Angkor, a scheme **cleverly** based on a grid of reservoirs and canals. Then, successive kings built more temple mountains, the best known of which today is **certainly** Angkor Wat.

Step 2

Now find and highlight **all** the adverbs in the passage below.

Balinese architecture is a vernacular style of architecture using local materials, as well as reflecting local tradition. It is a centuries-old style of design **heavily** influenced by Bali's Hindu traditions, as well as ancient Javanese elements. Indeed, the architecture can be vigorously fantastical, with gilt paint and coloured glass. Materials commonly used in Balinese homes and buildings include thatch roofing, coconut wood, bamboo poles, teak wood, stone, and bricks. Today, many of Bali's domestic homes and luxury villas still use the distinct philosophies of Balinese architecture. They aim to provide perfect dwellings that are environmentally effective. However, they always keep Hindu traditions as a top priority.

TEST 49

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about the original Dracula tale.

Dracula surely needs little introduction after its numerous adaptations on film. Cinematic versions of a legend (from *Nosferatu* to *Blacula*) may be worth considering and revisit the original tale and characters. The novel is told via the diary entries of the young solicitor Jonathan Harker, his fiancée Mina, Lucy Westenra and Dr John Seward. The story move to the Transylvanian home of Count Dracula, a strange and disturbing castle where Harker is drawing into bizarre and horrifying experiences within the castle walls. The action then moves to England as the Count arrives, but not before finishing out the entire crew of the ship and disappearing in the form of a wolf. Lucy became a victim of Dracula and dies despite the swift intervention of the knowledge Professor Van Helsing. Harker's fiancée Mina to has to be protected from Dracula's repulsive advances. The adventure concludes with a thrilling return to the castle in Transylvania.

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TEST 50

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about how scientists think they can predict when a star will explode (a supernova).

Scientists believe they have discovered how to predict a supernova's arrival. Returning to images of a supernova what they knew about and studying it in the weeks when it exploded, they looked for signs that it was about to blow up. Sure enough, they spotted a slight brightening to the fated star 37 days before its end. The scientists calculated from the brightening they had discovered that the star sends material equivalent to about one-hundredth the mass of the sun hurtling into spaces. When the star finally exploded, it ejected material that spread so quickly, it took just three weeks for overtake the previous outburst. Scientists now think that the initial ejection may has been a sign of the coming explosion. They think that such cosmic hiccups are more then 100 times more likely to occur just before a supernova than at any other time during the existence of other detected stars. This could be used to predict an impending supernova and observe its arrival.

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TEST 51

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, a re-telling of one of Gulliver's arrivals on a new island.

On my arrival, I was soon surrounded by a crowd of strange-looking people. Those who stood nearest seemed to be of higher rank. They look at me with wonder; a feeling I also felt, for I had never till then see a race of mortals so singular in their shapes, habits, and countenances. Their heads were all inclined, either to the right, or the left; one of their eye turned inward, and the other directly up to a zenith. Their garments were adorned with the image of suns, moons, and stars; interwoven with many musical instruments. I also observed, here and their, many clothed as servants, each holding a balloon-like object that was fastened to the end of a stick, which they carry in their hands. Each balloon contained a few dried peas, or little pebbles, while I was afterwards informed. With these balloons, they tapped the mouths and ears of those who stands close. It seemed a very odd practice, but was only the first of many I would meet there.

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TEST 52

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, a narrative describing the moment the main character knows she will voluntarily climb into the villain's van.

I was exiting the railway station in Southfields the next afternoon, Thursday. I noticed one of Allen's delivery vans drawing up outside the goods area. There is a siding where truck with containers are shunted. I stood back under the shelter of the awning over the station entrance. The van had back up next to the siding. I saw Allen getting out of a van. It is a medium-sized van, white, with *Allen's Logistics* scrawled on the side. Charles clambered out of the passenger side. They opened the back door of the van and then stride over to a dirty brown and yellow container three trucks down the line. It pulled some steps over and were going to enter the container. That is when I suddenly knew where I was going to do. How can I explain it? It was as being a leaf that has landed in a fast-moving, swirling stream, a bird catch in a current of air or a ball just whacked by someone's stick. Entering that van to hide and track their movements was inevitable – and stupid.

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TEST 53

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about museums, their importance and why entry should be free.

Should we expect museums to make a profit? The answer seems to be no.

The problem is that such places contain the art, artefacts and cultural items that are a vital part for a community's heritage. However, the majority of citizens are unlikely ever to pay to visit the museum, making it almost impossible for such museums to continue their vital works without government support. That is why most countries in the developed world gives such support and also allow free admission, for its own residents at least, in order to encourage as many as possible to go to the museums and seeing their own heritage for themselves. After all, if the contents of the museum were national treasures, they belong to each and every citizen. The next problem, however citizens can be encouraged to cross the threshold of the museum, is how to give them a positive experience when they visit. Their visit needs to be such an interesting experience that they return – to see more!

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TEST 54

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about why people buy expensive art works.

Is it not amazing that canvas, covered with pigment, can be sold for millions?

Art works can acquire price tags with more than \$100 million. Indeed, art prices are so high these days what you need to be extremely rich to acquire the world's most expensive paintings. The value of your purchase did not even necessarily reflect its aesthetic worth. According to auction folklore, brown paintings do not sell well while female nudes easily outsells pictures of men. Another strange fact is that there was not even any guarantee that your money is tied up safely: what one generation values could not last into future generations. Perhaps, in the final analysis, the wealthy buy art because they can. That seems to be the truth of it. It was Andy Warhol, one of the most famous artist of the last 50 years, who said that such buyers will be better advised to hang their money straight onto the wall. The first thing visitors would notice was their money rather than a painting!

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TEST 55

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about how researchers set about recreating an ancient language.

Researchers have created software that can rebuild long forgotten languages. Our modern languages have evolve from such a language. This was done by identifying the patterns of change and then 'reversing' them, basically creating words backwards in time. To test the system, the team takes 637 languages currently spoken in Asia and the Pacific region and then recreated the early language from which it descended. This was a slow and labour-intensive process until software is devised so that computers could be used. With thousands of languages, with thousands of words each, it will have taken hundreds of years to cross-reference all the different changes that happens across such an expanse of time. With the computer's help, although, and a large database, researchers have recreated the language spoken at 7,000 years ago by the people of that time. It is from that early language that all the Asian languages spoken today derived.

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TEST 56

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about a new understanding of how flowers attract bees.

It has been known for a long time that flowering plants reward their pollinators. They provide pollinators with nectar and pollen in return for their assist in the flowers' sexual reproduction. The flowers attract bees especially in their bright colours, patterns and enticing fragrances. However, a new study had revealed that bees are also enticed by electrical charges. In a study, "fake" electric flowers in a laboratory flying area were used to prove that electric fields are important floral cues. Electric flowers with a positively charge offered the bees a sucrose reward, if those without offered a bitter quinine solution. Bumblebees were allowed 50 visits to the area and the last ten visits showed that the bees had learnt to tell the difference of the flowers. When the electric field was turned off, it was discovered that the bees go back to selecting the flowers they visited at random. That was because they could no longer tell the difference between the flowers.

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