Spot It, Fix It

Writing reinforcement · SURPASS 5 · Units 1–2 · Train your eyes to see the mistakes

You don't need a grammar lesson to fix most writing mistakes. You need to **see** them. In every part, some sentences are already correct – don't change everything!

Part 1 – Where does the sentence end?

A comma cannot join two complete sentences. If both halves have their own subject and verb, use a full stop or a linker (*and, but, so, because*). After a full stop, start with a capital letter.

A. Choose *Correct* or *Wrong* (two sentences joined by a comma).

1	I started playing the guitar when I was twelve, now I play in a band with my cousins.	
2	When I feel stressed, I put on my headphones and go for a walk.	
3	My brother works as a nurse, he says the night shifts are exhausting.	
4	Although the job was monotonous, the pay was good.	
5	This album reminds me of my first year at school, I listened to it every morning on the bus.	
6	That's why I want to study music production, it combines technology and creativity.	

B. Choose the right option in each box to fix the paragraph.

Music has been part of my family since I was a child [ ] grandfather played the charango at every party [ ] he is too old to play, but he still sings with us on Sundays [ ] I hear that sound [ ] think of him immediately [ ] my opinion, [ ] is the best way to keep a family together.

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Part 2 – Small words, big difference

Some verbs and nouns always travel with the same preposition, and some take **no** preposition at all. Ten sentences have one wrong, missing or extra word. Two are correct.

For each sentence, choose what it needs: **it's correct** · **needs OF / IN / ON / TO / FOR** (change or add that word) · **remove a word** (there is an extra word).

1	That song always reminds me my grandmother.	
2	I can't remember of the name of the band.	
3	Sad films evoke strong emotions on me.	
4	Social media has had a huge impact in the music industry.	
5	When I'm nervous, I listen music in my room.	
6	My boss made me to stay at the office until 9 p.m.	
7	This photo reminds me of our trip to Copacabana.	
8	She applied to the job last week, but she hasn't heard back.	
9	Who is responsible of the new schedule?	
10	I'm really interested on sound engineering.	
11	Good music helps me concentrate when I study.	
12	Whether I accept the offer depends of the salary.	

Remember: *remind someone **of** · remember **something** · evoke something **in** someone · an impact **on** · listen **to** · make someone **do***

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Part 3 – Something is missing

Each sentence has exactly one problem. Choose the option that fixes it.

> **Missing myself / herself / ourselves** – the action goes back to the same person.
> **Broken pair** – words joined by *and / or* have the same form: *to relax and feel*.
> **Missing subject** – every verb needs its own subject: *I think **it** is important*.

1 I use music to distract and forget about my problems.

2 On weekends I like reading, going out and to play football.

3 When I hear this song, I feel makes me happy.

4 My sister taught to play the piano when she was ten.

5 Working from home allows me to save time and spending more time with my family.

6 We really enjoyed at the concert last night.

7 I think is important to have a stable job.

8 Music helps me to relax, to concentrate and feeling better.

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Part 4 – Be the teacher

This paragraph was written by a B2 student. It has **10 mistakes**: 3 with full stops or capital letters, 2 where the tense changes for no reason, 3 with prepositions, 1 missing *myself*, and 1 broken pair.

A. Read it twice. Then click on the 10 mistakes. Careful: wrong clicks lose points.

My first job

Last summer I got my first job at a small music shop in the city centre. At first I was nervous, I didn't know anything about selling instruments. My boss was very patient and he explains everything to me twice. Every morning I cleaned the guitars and I listen to the customers' questions. One day a man asked me about a ukulele for his daughter, I had no idea which one to recommend, so I had to teach to read the labels very quickly. I still remember of that day perfectly. Now, when I think of that summer, it evokes a feeling of pride on me. The job had a big impact in my confidence. It also helped me to talk to strangers and being more organised. In short, Working there was the best decision I made that year.

Tip for the tense mistakes: the story happened *last summer*, so every action in the story stays in the past. Only the last part (*Now, when I think…*) can be in the present.

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B. Now correct the 10 mistakes from the paragraph.

1	~~nervous, I didn't~~	
2	~~he explains~~	
3	~~I listen~~	
4	~~daughter, I had~~	
5	~~teach to read~~	
6	~~remember of that day~~	
7	~~pride on me~~	
8	~~impact in~~	
9	~~and being~~	
10	~~In short, Working~~	

Part 5 – Your turn

Write 100–120 words: **A song or a job experience that changed the way you see something.** Say what happened (past), how it made you feel, and why it still matters today (present). Before you finish, read it three times: 1) sentence ends and capitals, 2) verbs and tenses, 3) small words (*of, in, on, to, myself*).

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