



Correction of Common Errors (Adverbs)

1. I am very much sorry to disappoint you. (Incorrect)

I am very sorry to disappoint you. (Correct)

2. This novel is too amusing. (Incorrect)

This novel is very amusing. (Correct)

3. (a) Everybody feels contentedly. (Incorrect)

Everybody feels contented. (Correct)

(b) The music sounds pleasantly. (Incorrect)

The music sounds pleasant. (Correct)

(c) That milk smells sourly. (Incorrect)

That milk smells sour. (Correct)

(d) This food tastes sweetly. (Incorrect)

This food tastes sweet. (Correct)

(e) She looks sadly. (Incorrect)

She looks sad. (Correct)

(f) He seems happily. (Incorrect)

He seems happy. (Correct)

Note: If the subject is followed by words like feel, seem, look, appear, sound, taste or smell, the word following any of these adverbs can be used in the following cases:-

- He looked at us sadly/happily/angrily.
- She tasted/smelt the food carefully/quickly.
- They sounded the bell loudly/noisily.

4. (a) I don't hardly know this girl. (Incorrect)

I hardly know this girl. (Correct)

(b) He can't scarcely see in this light. (Incorrect)

He can scarcely see in this light. (Correct)

Note: The words 'hardly and scarcely' mean probably. The use of 'not' with them is not allowed as they convey negative sense.

5. He was too glad to see his uncle. (Incorrect)

He was very glad to see his uncle. (Correct)

6. I lived there seven years before. (Incorrect)

I lived there seven years ago. (Correct)

7. The deer ran fastly. (Incorrect)

The deer ran fast. (Correct)

8. I am very obliged to you. (Incorrect)

I am much obliged to you. (Correct)

9. The Principal was much angry with me. (Incorrect)

The Principal was very angry with me. (Correct)

10. He is somewhat tall for his age. (Incorrect)

He is rather tall for his age. (Correct)

11. He is comparatively better today. (Incorrect)

He is comparatively good today. (Correct)

or

He is better today.(Correct)

12. (a) I don't know to dance. (Incorrect)

I don't know how to dance. (Correct)

(b) I don't know to ride a bicycle. (Incorrect)

I don't know how to ride a bicycle. (Correct)

(c) I know to make omelettes. (Incorrect)

I know how to make omelettes. (Correct)

Note: 'Know' is never followed by any infinitive (= to dance, to ride, to make) formation; always say or write—know how to.

13. (a) He has thirty-five. (Incorrect)

He is thirty-five. (Correct)

(b) He is thirty-five years. (Incorrect)

He is thirty-five old.

He is thirty-five years old. (Correct)

Note: One can tell his/her age by just giving the number or by giving the number plus the expression 'years old'. You had better ask—How old are you? instead of asking—what is your age?

14. (a) I hit him hardly. (Incorrect)

I hit him hard. (Correct)

(b) He was hardly hit by his friend's death. (Incorrect)

He was hard hit by his friend's death. (Correct)

Note: 'Hardly' means probably not whereas 'hard' means forcefully.

15. You behaved cowardly. (Incorrect)

You behaved like a coward.(Correct)

or

You behaved in a cowardly manner.(Correct)

16. Exercise is quite useful for health. (Incorrect)

Exercise is very useful for health. (Correct)

17. The train will arrive just now. (Incorrect)

The train will arrive soon. (Correct)

18. Please kindly do it for me. (Incorrect)

Please do it for me.(Correct)

or

Kindly do it for me.(Correct)

19. He told the whole thing in details. (Incorrect)

He told the whole thing in detail. (Correct)

20. She is feeling very well today. (Incorrect)

She is feeling quite well today. (Correct)

21. The flower smells sweetly. (Incorrect)

The flower smells sweet. (Correct)

22. It was bitter cold. (Incorrect)

It was bitterly cold. (Correct)

23. (a) They came always late to school. (Incorrect)

They always came late to school. (Correct)

(b) He will be tomorrow here. (Incorrect)

He will be here tomorrow. (Correct)

(c) Come at four o'clock to my office. (Incorrect)

Come to my office at four o'clock. (Correct)

(d) I went at once there. (Incorrect)

I went there at once. (Correct)

Note: The rule of end-position adverbs is as follows— adverb of manner (how) + adverb of place (where) + adverb of time (when); as she sang perfectly/in the town hall/last night (= manner + place + time)

24. (a) He came always late.

He always came late.

(b) She did it never.

She never did it.

(c) We went often there.

We often went there.

(d) I visit him while in Delhi.

I frequently visit him while in Delhi.

Note: The adverbs—always, never, often, generally, sometimes, quite, hardly, nearly, frequently, almost, just, usually and scarcely—come between the subjects and the principal verbs.

25. (a) He always is early. (Incorrect)

He is always early. (Correct)

(b) She never has been early. (Incorrect)

She has never been early. (Correct)

(c) They often will go there. (Incorrect)

They will often go there. (Correct)

Note: The adverbs—always, never, often, generally, sometimes, often, usually, already, almost, just, nearly, quite, hardly, scarcely—are used after verb 'to be' (is, am, are...) and the auxiliaries.

26. (a) The water of this river is too pure. (Incorrect)

The water of this river is very pure. (Correct)

(b) He is very blind to read small print. (Incorrect)

He is too blind to read small print. (Correct)

(c) This house is too much small for me. (Incorrect)

This house is very small for me. (Correct)

or

This house is much too small for me. (Correct)

Note: The adverb 'too' means 'more than enough' and should not be used instead of 'very or much'.

27. (a) I am quite sorry to hear it. (Incorrect)

I am very sorry to hear it. (Correct)

(b) This climate is quite injurious to health. (Incorrect)

This climate is very injurious to health. (Correct)

(c) He is almost quite well. (Incorrect)

He is quite well. (Correct)

Note: Quite means 'perfectly or completely' whereas very means 'much'. No qualifying word (like 'almost') is used before the word 'quite'.

28. He is very friendly enough to help me. (Incorrect)

He is friendly enough to help me. (Correct)

Note: 'Enough' means 'in the proper limit or amount'. So, the use of 'very' or 'much' before it is incorrect.

29. I request you to kindly grant me leave for three days. (Incorrect)

I request you kindly to grant me leave for three days. (Correct)

30. She was named as Lata. (Incorrect)

She was named Lata. (Correct)

31. Students entered the hall by and by. (Incorrect)

Students entered the hall one by one. (Correct)

32. Mahatma Gandhi has often been called as his country's saviour. (Incorrect)

Mahatma Gandhi has often been called his country's saviour. (Correct)

33. (a) He eagerly wishes to do it. (Incorrect)

He wishes eagerly to do it. (Correct)

(b) She sang last night beautifully. (Incorrect)

She sang beautifully last night. (Correct)

Note: An adverb is placed after the word it qualifies.

34. (a) Nobody saw us there fortunately. (Incorrect)

Fortunately, nobody saw us there. (Correct)

(b) He was fortunately not present there. (Incorrect)

Fortunately, he was not present there. (Correct)

Note: If an adverb qualifies the whole sentence, it is placed in the beginning of the sentence.

35. (a) He quickly ran. (Incorrect)

He ran quickly. (Correct)

(b) They immediately disappeared. (Incorrect)

They disappeared immediately. (Correct)

Note: If an adverb qualifies an intransitive verb, in that case the adverb comes after the intransitive verb.

36. (a) I only worked out two sums. (Incorrect)

I worked out only two sums. (Correct)

(b) He only succeeded in the exam. (Incorrect)

Only he succeeded in the exam. (Correct)

Note: The adverb 'only' should be placed just before the word it qualifies.

37. (a) No boy other but Hari has done it. (Incorrect)

No boy other than Hari has done it. (Correct)

(b) It is nothing else than pride. (Incorrect)

It is nothing else but pride. (Correct)

Note: 'No other' is followed by 'than' whereas 'else' is followed by 'but' not by 'than'.

38. We returned more quicker than we expected. (Incorrect)

We returned more quickly than we expected. (Correct)

Note: Never use on adjective in place of an adverb.

39. (a) I seldom or ever refuse a request. (Correct)

I seldom or never refuse a request. (Incorrect)

(b) I seldom or ever find a mistake in this book. (Incorrect)

I seldom or never find a mistake in this book. (Correct)

Note: 'Seldom or never' or 'seldom, ever,' is the correct expression. But 'seldom or ever' is an incorrect expression.

40. (a) I have not got no paper for my exercise. (Incorrect)

I have not got any paper for my exercise. (Correct)

(b) I forbade you not to enter the room. (Incorrect)

I forbade you to enter this room. (Correct)

(c) That will not stop him; nothing never did. (Incorrect)

That will not stop him; nothing ever did. (Correct)

(d) Unless you don't labour hard, you can't succeed. (Incorrect)

Unless you labour hard, you can't succeed. (Correct)

Note: The use of double negative makes a sentence an affirmative one. So, avoid the use of double negative in the sentence.