

9 Correction of Common Errors (Conjunctions)

1. As soon as we reach home then we have our evening tea. (Incorrect)

As soon as we reach home, we have our evening tea. (Correct)

2. No sooner did he reach the station, the train started. (Incorrect)

No sooner did he reach the station than the train started. (Correct)

Note: 'As soon as' is never followed by 'then'. 'No sooner' is followed by 'than'.

3. Hardly I had left my house when it began to rain. (Incorrect)

Hardly had I left my house when it began to rain. (Correct)

4. Scarcely I had left my house when it began to rain. (Incorrect)

Scarcely had I left my house before it began to rain. (Correct)

Note: 'Hardly' is followed by 'when' and 'scarcely' by 'before'.

5. The principal as well the teachers was present there. (Incorrect)

The principal as well as the teachers was present there. (Correct)

Note: 'As well as' is the correct expression.

6. He is so intelligent as his brother is. (Incorrect)

He is as intelligent as his brother is. (Correct)

7. Gold is not as useful as iron. (Incorrect)

Gold is not so useful as iron. (Correct)

Note: We use as—as in the affirmative sentence and so—as in the negative sentence.

8. She loves you more than me. (Incorrect)

She loves you more than I. (Correct)

She loves you more than she does me.

Note: We should use these hidden words after 'than' and see which form of pronoun suits the best; as,

You like him better than I (do).

You can do it better than I (can).

He is two years older than I (am).

You like him better than (you like).

But—His wife was several years younger than him—it is an incorrect sentence.

9. Unless you don't work hard, you will fail. (Incorrect)

Unless you work hard, you will fail. (Correct)

If you don't work hard, you will fail.

Note: 'Unless' means 'if not'. So, it is never followed by 'no' or 'not'.

10. (a) He went to Patna because he might see Mr. Mitra. (Incorrect)

He went to Patna in order that he might see Mr. Mitra. (Correct)

(b) He takes medicine because he may get better. (Incorrect)

He takes medicine so that he may get well. (Correct)

Note: 'Because' is used for telling the reason but for conveying the purpose, 'in order that' or 'so that' is used.

11. (a) He called me as a fool. (Incorrect)

He called me a fool. (Correct)

(b) I regard him my brother. (Incorrect)

I regard him as my brother. (Correct)

I consider him my brother.

(c) He was appointed as a clerk. (Incorrect)

He was appointed clerk. (Correct)

Note: Regard, describe, represent, portray, depict, mention, define, treat—take 'as' after them. But name, dub, call, appoint, elect, make, choose, think, consider—they don't take 'as' or 'be' after them.

12. (a) Because he is rude, therefore he is punished. (Incorrect)

Because he is rude he is punished. (Correct)

(b) Because you are poor, therefore I shall help you. (Incorrect)

Because you are poor, I shall help you. (Correct)

Note: 'Because' and 'therefore' are not used in the same sentence.

13. (a) Supposing if she fails, what will she do? (Incorrect)

Suppose she fails, what will she do? (Correct)

(b) Supposing if she comes late, where will she go? (Incorrect)

Supposing she comes late, where will she go? (Correct)

Note: 'Supposing' and 'if' are not used in the same sentence.

14. (a) Until you work hard, you will improve. (Incorrect)

So long as you work hard, you will improve. (Correct)

(b) Wait here as long as five o'clock. (Incorrect)

Wait here until five o'clock. (Correct)

(c) Until it rains, I won't go. (Incorrect)

As long as it rains, I won't go. (Correct)

Note: 'Until' denotes point of time whereas 'as long as/so long as' denotes period of time.

15. (a) He is good if not better than his brother. (Incorrect)

He is as good as, if not better than, his brother. (Correct)

(b) He is more polite, but not so intelligent as Tom. (Incorrect)

He is more polite than, but not so intelligent as Tom. (Correct)

or

He is more polite than Tom, but not so intelligent. (Correct)

Note: If two adjectives—one is in the positive degree and the other in the comparative degree—come in the same sentence, two conjunctions—for positive, as—as/so—as and for comparative, comparative degree of adjective + than, are used. A single conjunction is not used for both the adjectives.

16. (a) If you don't labour then you can't pass. (Incorrect)

If you don't labour, you can't pass. (Correct)

(b) As he entered the room then he met me. (Incorrect)

As he entered the room he met me. (Correct)

(c) When he saw the tiger then he was afraid. (Incorrect)

When he saw the tiger, he was afraid. (Correct)

(d) As you are intelligent, so you will pass the exam. (Incorrect)

As you are intelligent, you will pass the exam. (Correct)

Note: As, when, if—they take neither 'so' nor 'then' with them. When the conjunction is as, since, seeing that, etc. the subordinate clause usually comes first. There is less emphasis on the cause and more emphasis on the result (stated in the main clause).

17. Although he worked hard but he failed. (Incorrect)

Although he worked hard yet he failed. (Correct)

Note: 'Although' is followed by 'yet' and not by 'but'.

18. Work hard lest you may not fail. (Incorrect)

Work hard lest you should fail. (Correct)

Note: 'Lest' is followed by 'should'. We don't use 'not' after it.

19. (a) Mohan said that I am learning French. (Incorrect)

Mohan said, "I am learning French". (Correct)

or

Mohan said that he was learning French. (Correct)

(b) He asked me that where my brother was. (Incorrect)

He asked me where his brother was. (Correct)

(c) He enquired that who had stolen the book. (Incorrect)

He enquired who had stolen the book. (Correct)

(d) He asked me that when the bank closed. (Incorrect)

He asked me when the bank closed. (Correct)

Note: When an interrogative sentence is put into indirect speech, 'that' is not used. Thus it is wrong to say—He asked me that what the time was. He enquired that why I was late. We should say—He asked me what the time was. He enquired why I was late.

20. He had no other recommendation but his robust health. (Incorrect)

He had no other recommendation than his robust health. (Correct)

21. I asked him to lend me his umbrella and he refused to do so. (Incorrect)

I asked him to lend me his umbrella but he refused to do so. (Correct)

22. Now everyone knows that how he suffered for the sake of the poor. (Incorrect)

Now everyone knows how he suffered for the sake of the poor. (Correct)

23. He seldom or ever takes wine. (Incorrect)

He seldom or never takes wine. (Correct)

24. Both the husband as well as the wife were sent to the prison. (Incorrect)

Both the husband and the wife were sent to the prison. (Correct)

25. (a) I have neither written to her or spoken to her. (Incorrect)

I have neither written to her nor spoken to her. (Correct)

(b) He has either a pen nor a pencil. (Incorrect)

He has either a pen or a pencil. (Correct)

(c) He speaks neither English or French. (Incorrect)

He speaks neither English nor French. (Correct)

Note: 'Neither' is followed by 'nor' and 'either' is followed by 'or'.

26. (a) Either he will obey me or take the consequences. (Incorrect)

Either he will obey me or he will take the consequences. (Correct)

(b) He neither know English nor French. (Incorrect)

He know neither English nor French. (Correct)

(c) He not only cheated me but also my friend. (Incorrect)

He cheated not only me but also my friend. (Correct)

(d) Either the step taken was right or wrong. (Incorrect)

The step taken was either right or wrong. (Correct)

(e) He was both strong in power and will. (Incorrect)

He was strong in both power and will. (Correct)

Note: Either—or, neither—nor, both—and, not only—but also—they always remain united.

27. (a) She didn't break it nor lose it. (Incorrect)

She did not break it or lose it. (Correct)

(b) I have never spoken to her nor written to her. (Incorrect)

I have never spoken to her or written to her. (Correct)

Note: 'Not' and 'Never' is followed by 'or'.

28. (a) Come here between ten or twelve. (Incorrect)

Come her between ten and twelve. (Correct)

(b) Both Rama as well as Hari were there. (Incorrect)

Both Rama and Hari were there. (Correct)

Note: 'Between' and 'both' are followed by 'and'.

29. There is no one else than you. (Incorrect)

There is no one else but you. (Correct)

Note: 'Else' is followed by 'but', not by 'than'.