

16. SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

This chapter is analogous to 'Spotting Errors'. In this type of questions, a sentence is given with a word or phrase italicised. The candidate is required to examine this italicised part in accordance with the rules of grammar usage and vocabulary and decide upon its correctness. Some substitutes to the italicised part are given below the sentence. The candidate is required to choose the alternative which when substitutes the italicised part, the sentence becomes grammatically correct. If the italicised part is correct as it is, then the correct option is 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

Here are a few examples.

Example 1 : This project would encourage development and enable every villager to *govern their own destiny*. (Bank P.O. 1994)

- (a) to govern his (b) to governing his (c) have governed his
(d) may govern their (e) No correction required

Solution : Clearly, the usage 'to govern' is correct. But since 'villager' is singular, so 'his' should be used instead of 'their'.

Hence, the answer is (a).

Example 2 : He told his friends that he *drank* tea every morning.

- (a) will drink (b) drinks (c) would drink
(d) drunk (e) No correction required

Solution : Since a habitual action is denoted by Simple Present Tense, so here 'drinks' should be used instead of 'drank'.

Hence, the answer is (b).

Example 3 : My school is *in a stone's throw* from my house.

- (a) at a stone's throw (b) to a stone's throw (c) on a stone's throw
(d) within a stone's throw (e) No correction required

Solution : The correct idiom is 'within a stone's throw'. So, the answer is (d).

For Rules of Grammar & Vocabulary Usage, refer to the Section 'Tips for Correct Usage'.

PRACTICE SET 1

Directions : In each question, a part of sentence is printed in italics. Below each sentence, some phrases are given which can substitute the italicised part of the sentence. Find out the phrase which can correctly substitute that part of the sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, the answer is 'No correction required' or 'No improvement'.

- All the allegations *levelled against* him were found to be baseless.
(a) levelled for (b) level with
(c) level against (d) levelling with
(e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1994)
- Rohit is *as fast as* or perhaps faster than Manish.
(a) equally fast (b) almost as fast
(c) as fast (d) No correction required
- I shall be grateful to you if you *are of help* to me now.
(a) would help (b) help
(c) shall help (d) No improvement
- He cannot succeed in business because he works *by fits and starts*.
(a) with fits and starts
(b) fits and starts
(c) into fits and starts
(d) No improvement
- He *did many mischiefs*. (U.D.C. 1994)
(a) made many a mischiefs
(b) made much mischief
(c) committed many mischiefs
(d) No improvement
- You may appoint *whoever you think* can do the job most efficiently.
(a) anybody you think
(b) someone you think
(c) whomever you think

- (d) whosoever you think
(e) No correction required
- This carpenter is the most skilled of *all the other carpenters* in our workshop.
(a) carpenter
(b) of all other carpenters
(c) of all carpenters (d) No improvement
- He has said so out of affection, do not take it *to heart*. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) in heart (b) it in the heart
(c) by the heart (d) No improvement
- I love *the literature, the music, the art*.
(a) literature, music and art
(b) the literature, music and art
(c) literature, music and the art
(d) the literature, the music and the art
(e) No improvement
- Before I met Rajeev, I *had had* a poor opinion of him.
(a) had (b) have had
(c) did have (d) No improvement
- I *would gladly accompany* your sister if you had asked him. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) would have gladly accompanied
(b) was to have gladly accompanied
(c) will gladly accompany
(d) No improvement
- She was too clever to *see through his tricks*.
(a) see into his tricks (b) see his tricks
(c) see at his tricks (d) No improvement
- The boy *told his teacher* to explain the passage.
(a) called his teacher
(b) said to his teacher
(c) asked his teacher
(d) No improvement
- What *are needed* are not large houses but small cottages. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) were (b) was
(c) is (d) No improvement
- The police *broke away* the meeting as it turned violent.
(a) broke up (b) broke off
(c) broke through (d) No improvement
- I wish my bus *did not arrive* so late; then I could have reached home before breakfast.
(a) has not arrived (b) does not arrive
(c) had not arrived (d) No improvement
- Sumit *would have been looked* smart in traditional clothes. (Bank P.O. 1993)
(a) was looked (b) would be looked
(c) had-looking (d) would have looked
(e) No correction required
- If you *will pray* sincerely, God will listen to your prayers.
(a) you pray (b) you are praying
- (c) you will be praying
(d) No improvement
- Hardly had I finished writing the letter before Anil arrived.
(a) then (b) while (c) when
(d) as (e) No improvement
- The main point of *his speech* was well understood. (Bank P.O. 1992)
(a) that he spoke
(b) in the speech of his
(c) made when he spoke
(d) made by his speech
(e) No correction required
- I met the two girls, *whom I believe, are* twin-sisters.
(a) who I believe, are
(b) who I believe to be
(c) who, to my belief, are
(d) No improvement
- In her views*, they are going to present a report soon.
(a) As (b) On (c) With
(d) For (e) No improvement
- His father won't be able to leave for Varanasi *until they have arrived*.
(a) until they arrive
(b) until they will arrive
(c) until they will have arrived
(d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1994)
- They *cooked* a conspiracy to overthrow the monarch.
(a) created (b) fabricated
(c) hatched (d) No improvement
- He returned with two *burning* mugs of coffee and set them down on her desk.
(a) heating (b) steaming
(c) blazing (d) No improvement
- People *are tiring* very soon in an activity which they don't like. (B.S.R.B. 1992)
(a) tried (b) trying
(c) tired (d) tiring
(e) No improvement
- All his family members* are in Kanpur.
(a) All of his family members
(b) All the family members of his
(c) All the members of his family
(d) No correction required
- On hearing the loud noise, he stopped and *got down from* his bicycle.
(a) got from (b) got down
(c) got off (d) No improvement
- They felt humiliated because they realised that they *had cheated*.
(a) had been cheating
(b) had been cheated
(c) have been cheated
(d) were to be cheated
(e) No correction required

(Bank P.O. 1993)

30. They are working for the *upliftment* of their village.
(a) uplift of (b) uplifting of
(c) uplifting (d) No improvement
31. He never *tells* the truth.
(a) says (b) utters
(c) speaks (d) No improvement
32. Is there any *place* for me to sit?
(a) space (b) room
(c) area (d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1994)
33. The plan *broke open* for want of funds.
(a) broke up (b) broke down
(c) broke out (d) No improvement
34. The plane touched down at Heathrow at six p.m., *on* schedule.
(a) at (b) with
(c) by (d) No improvement
35. The summer has *set out*, and the days are getting warm.
(a) set up (b) set in
(c) set off (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1994)
36. I cannot *put forth* with this nasty fellow.
(a) put up (b) put in
(c) put out (d) No improvement
37. He grabbed the man *from* the overcoat and pulled him away from Ritu.
(a) off (b) by
(c) in (d) No improvement
38. She could not help *but laugh*. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) laughing (b) but laughing
(c) laugh (d) No improvement
39. Brinjals are *dead cheap* these days.
(a) deadly cheap (b) dirt cheap
(c) dust cheap (d) No improvement
40. The child jumped with delight on seeing the *joker* at the circus.
(a) ruffian (b) clown
(c) dud (d) No improvement
41. I am sorry, but I *don't believe* what you say.
(a) I will not believe
(N.D.A. 1993)

- (b) I am not believing
(c) I will not be believing
(d) No improvement
42. The members attending the meeting were men *on* powerful positions, high in the councils of their respective governments.
(a) of (b) with (c) in
(d) No correction required
43. I often see him *dancing* the top.
(a) rotating (b) encircling
(c) dodging (d) spinning
44. Let's buy a new sari with the annual bonus, *can we*? (I.E.S. 1993)
(a) can't we (b) don't we
(c) shall we (d) No improvement
45. His voice was rough and gravelly, as though his throat *has had* suffered an injury.
(a) had (b) had had
(c) would have (d) No improvement
46. What is the time *in* your watch?
(a) on (b) by
(c) from (d) No improvement
47. Since 1986, there is no earthquakes here.
(a) have been (b) are
(c) were being (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1992)
48. They probably *would have caught up* the truck by now.
(a) will catch (b) shall have caught
(c) must have caught
(d) No improvement
49. One of their freighters, the Neptune, *will leave* in two weeks.
(a) would leave (b) will be leaving
(c) would have left
(d) No improvement
50. It is time the six year old *is learning* how to read and write. (C.D.S. 1991)
(a) has learned (b) learnt
(c) was learning (d) No improvement

ANSWERS

1. (e) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (d) 5. (c) 6. (e) 7. (a) 8. (d) 9. (a) 10. (d)
11. (a) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (c) 15. (a) 16. (c) 17. (d) 18. (a) 19. (c) 20. (e)
21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (a) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (c) 27. (c) 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (a)
31. (c) 32. (a) 33. (b) 34. (d) 35. (b) 36. (a) 37. (c) 38. (a) 39. (b) 40. (b)
41. (d) 42. (c) 43. (d) 44. (a) 45. (a) 46. (b) 47. (a) 48. (d) 49. (b) 50. (b)

PRACTICE SET 2

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is italicised. Below each sentence are given some possible substitutions for the italicised part. If one of them is better than the italicised part, indicate your response against the corresponding letter. If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate 'No correction required' or 'No improvement' as your answer.

1. He plays cricket and tennis *also*.
(a) both (b) besides
(c) too (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1992)
2. Shivani was really happy *while* I accepted her invitation for her birthday party.
(a) when (b) after
(c) as (d) No improvement
3. The constable was *a so big man* that he could not run fast enough to catch the thief.
(a) a such big man (b) so big man
(c) so big a man (d) such a big man
(e) No correction required
4. I am used to *hard work*. (I.E.S. 1994)
(a) hard working (b) work hard
(c) work hardly (d) No improvement
5. He *has eaten* his food.
(a) has had (b) has taken
(c) has swallowed (d) No improvement
6. Please *blow up* the candle.
(a) turn off (b) blow out
(c) put off (d) No improvement
7. Practically *every part* of the banana tree is used by man. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) most part (b) any part
(c) each part (d) No improvement
8. Let *he and I* work together.
(a) him and I (c) he and me
(b) him and me (d) No improvement
9. The customer said, "Please give *me the another one*".
(a) me other one (b) me the other one
(c) the another one to me
(d) No improvement
10. *No sooner* I saw the tiger than I ran away. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) No sooner I had seen
(b) No sooner did I see
(c) As soon as I saw (d) No improvement
11. The teacher has instructed all of us to finish the work by tomorrow, *isn't it*?
(a) has she? (b) didn't she?
(c) hasn't she? (d) No correction required
12. If you come across my umbrella anywhere, bring it to me, *can you*?
(a) don't you? (b) will you?
(c) isn't it? (d) No improvement
13. Try to be diplomatic when you refuse any invitation, *so far not* to cause bad feelings. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) as far not (b) so as not
(c) if as far not (d) since then not
(e) No correction required
14. You *will have* to return my book whenever I ask for it.
(a) will have (b) would have to
(c) will be (d) should have to
(e) No improvement
15. The reason *why he could not do the work was because* he had to attend to his mother who was ill.
(a) why he could not do the work was since
(b) for which he could not do the work was because
(c) why he could not do the work was that
(d) No improvement
16. The *need* of the hour was some fast action on the part of the leaders.
(a) needed (b) needing
(c) needs (d) No correction required
(I. Tax, 1993)
17. *The child is father of the man*.
(a) A child, man (b) Child, a man
(c) Child, man (d) No improvement
18. My mother asked me when *would I* have a glass of milk.
(a) I will (b) I would
(c) I shall (d) No improvement
19. The indecisive man *was readily persuaded* to change his mind again.
(a) was persuaded ready
(b) was ready to persuade
(c) was ready persuaded
(d) could readily persuade
(e) No improvement (S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
20. The burglars *broke in* Mr. Roy's house last night.
(a) broke through (b) broke into
(c) broke open (d) No improvement
21. The doctor *examined* my pulse.
(a) observed (b) saw
(c) felt (d) No improvement
22. Shakespeare lived *for* the reigns of Elizabeth I and James I. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) in (b) since

- (c) during (d) No improvement
23. On attempting to stage a drama, a new meaning to the story was discovered.
(a) When attempted
(b) On our attempting
(c) Attempting
(d) No correction required
24. The police are trying to solve the mystery.
(a) was (b) has been
(c) is (d) No improvement
25. He doesn't hesitate to do whatever his brother does. (B.S.R.B. 1996)
(a) will do (b) would do
(c) shall do (d) would done
(e) No correction required
26. We spent an hour discussing about his character.
(a) his character (b) on his character
(c) of his character (d) No improvement
27. The teacher asked the intruder who was he and why was he occupying his chair.
(a) who he was and why he was
(b) who he was and why was he
(c) who he had been and why he had been
(d) No improvement (C.B.I. 1993)
28. 'Hard Days' was his last novel.
(a) latter (b) recent
(c) latest (d) No improvement
29. Bad habits must be nipped at the bud.
(a) nipped off the bud
(b) nipped in the bud
(c) nipped on the bud
(d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1995)
30. It is no good to cry over spilt milk.
(a) It is no good crying
(b) It is of no good to cry
(c) It is of no good crying
(d) No improvement
31. Old habits die hardly. (N.D.A. 1994)
(a) die much hardly (b) die hard
(c) die too hard (d) No improvement
32. The teacher asked, "Why you are late?"
(a) Why you were late
(b) Why late you are
(c) Why are you late
(d) No correction required
33. It is ten years since I have begun living here.
(a) begun (b) had begun
(c) began (d) No improvement
34. The various practices and norms for bank's transactions are laid down by the Reserve Bank of India. (Bank P.O. 1995)
(a) are laid up (b) are led down
(c) are lead up (d) have been lay down
(e) No correction required
35. She is having a lot of money.
(a) is having lot of (b) has lot of
(c) has a lot of (d) No correction required
36. They all loved each other.
(a) among each other
(b) one another
(c) for each other (d) No improvement
37. No one needs to worry about me.
(a) will worry (b) need worry
(c) shall worry (d) No improvement (Railways, 1993)
38. It is most unique piece of art.
(a) a unique (b) the most unique
(c) an unique (d) No improvement
39. When the soldiers realised that they had been fooled, they rush back.
(a) had rush (b) have rush
(c) had rushed (d) rushed
(e) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1992)
40. The officer looked on my complaint.
(a) looked of (b) looked into
(c) looked to (d) No improvement
41. No sooner he had returned home then his mother felt happy. (Section Officers, 1993)
(a) he had returned home than
(b) had he returned home when
(c) did he return home than
(d) No improvement
42. Each boy and each girl was busy in her work.
(a) were busy in their work
(b) was busy in his work
(c) was busy in one's work
(d) No improvement
43. The actress said that it sometimes took her two hours to put her make-up.
(a) put over (b) put up
(c) put on (d) No improvement (Stenographers' Exam, 1994)
44. The matter must be considered in every point of view. (U.D.C. 1995)
(a) with (b) from
(c) at (d) No improvement
45. Place a ladder on the wall.
(a) along (b) with
(c) against (d) No improvement
46. He enjoys to tell stories to children.
(a) how to tell stories (b) telling stories
(c) to narrate stories (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1993)
47. Galileo said that the earth revolved around the sun.
(a) has revolved (b) has been revolving
(c) revolves (d) is revolving
(e) No improvement
48. Manisha purchased the very good of all the saris kept in the shop. (S.B.I.P.O. 1992)
(a) the better (b) the very better

- (c) the most good (d) the best
(e) No correction required
49. He was born to rich parents.
(a) from (b) with
(c) by (d) of
- (e) No improvement
50. On seeing the lion she felt too much afraid. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) very much (b) excessively
(c) much (d) No improvement

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (a) 3. (c) 4. (d) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (b)
11. (c) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (e) 20. (b)
21. (c) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (e) 26. (a) 27. (b) 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (a)
31. (b) 32. (c) 33. (c) 34. (e) 35. (c) 36. (b) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (d) 40. (b)
41. (c) 42. (d) 43. (c) 44. (b) 45. (d) 46. (b) 47. (c) 48. (d) 49. (d) 50. (a)

PRACTICE SET 3

Directions : Look at the italicised part of each sentence. Below each sentence are given some possible substitutions for the italicised part. If one of them is better than the italicised part, indicate your response against the corresponding letter. If none of these substitutions improve the sentence, indicate 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your response.

1. Last evening I went to the optician and bought spectacles. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) a spectacle (b) two spectacles
(c) a pair of spectacles (d) No improvement
2. The train left before we reached the station.
(a) had left (b) would have left
(c) has had left (d) No improvement
3. The teacher was angry with Hemant as he had not done the homework.
(a) on (b) from
(c) at (d) No correction required
4. Education is a strong instrument for moulding the character of the young.
(a) striking (b) powerful
(c) potent (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1992)
5. My opinion for the film is that it will bag the national award.
(a) on (b) to
(c) about (d) No improvement
6. One of the men gave first aid to Hitesh who is injured in a road accident.
(a) who had injured
(b) who was injured
(c) which was injured
(d) as he was to injure
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1994)
7. In the party she spoke to me very friendly.
(a) in very friendly manner
(b) with very friendly manner
(c) in a very friendly manner
(d) with a very friendly manner
(e) No correction required
8. Mrs. Johnson had staying here since 1954 and has made India her home.
(a) will stay (b) was to stay
(c) is staying (d) has been staying
(e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1992)
9. The problems of translation are still remain. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) are remain (b) will remained
(c) will still remain (d) No improvement
10. Columbus invented America.
(a) searched (b) traced
(c) discovered (d) No improvement
11. They have stopped from constructing new buildings. (Assistant Grade, 1995)
(a) to construct (b) at constructing
(c) constructing (d) No improvement
12. You could be able to work out these problems easily.
(a) can be able to (b) should be able to
(c) must be able to (d) No improvement
13. All over Russia, Indian films are more popular than those in any other country.
(a) in (b) that in
(c) that of (d) those of
(e) No improvement
14. Wise men catch time by the forelock.
(a) hold (b) seize
(c) take (d) No improvement

- (C.B.I. 1993)
15. Seeing the injustice done to them by the Britishers, the sepoys *broke into* open revolt.
(a) broke to (b) broke upto
(c) resorted to (d) No improvement
16. The cloud of misfortunes appears to have *blown out*. (Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
(a) away (b) over
(c) up (d) No improvement
17. He has his meal at two, *when he has it*, he goes off to sleep.
(a) when he has had it
(b) when he will have it
(c) when he will have had it
(d) No improvement
18. Anand has the guts *to rise from* the occasion and come out successful.
(a) to rise against (b) in rising from
(c) to rise to (d) to raise with
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1994)
19. He is *too kind* man to refuse to help in such a case.
(a) a too kind (b) a too kindly
(c) too kind a (d) too kindly a
(e) No correction required
20. A bird in hand is worth *two in bush*.
(a) two in the bush (b) two at a bush
(c) two on bush (d) No improvement
21. Scarcely had he entered the room *than* the phone rang. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) when (b) while
(c) as (d) No improvement
22. Let *he and I* do the work today itself.
(a) he with I (b) he and me
(c) him and me (d) him and myself
(e) No correction required
23. Kindly let us know the time of your arrival *by return of post*.
(a) by the return of post
(b) on return of post
(c) in return post (d) No improvement
24. Five years ago today, I *am sitting* in a small Japanese car, driving across Poland towards Berlin. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) was sitting (b) have been sitting
(c) sat (d) No improvement
25. *On arriving at the station* my uncle was there to greet us.
(a) As we arrived at the station
(b) As soon as we arrived at the station
(c) When we arrived at the station
(d) No improvement
26. The man who is perpetually hesitating which of the two things he will do first, will ultimately do *either*.
(a) none (b) neither
(c) nothing (d) No improvement
27. Mother always *finds faults* with the maid servant. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) find faults (b) is finding faults
(c) finds fault (d) No improvement
28. To make him succeed, the correct thing to do is to punish him *until he does not try*.
(a) until he tries (b) until he does try
(c) until he will not try
(d) until he did not try
(e) No improvement
29. The custom of many centuries ago *origin* is slowly disappearing. (S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
(a) which was originated ago many centuries
(b) originating for many centuries
(c) which originated many centuries ago
(d) with many centuries of origin
(e) No correction required
30. Hundreds of people were killed *by* the earthquake.
(a) from (b) in
(c) of (d) No improvement
31. He is not used *to walk* long distance.
(a) to walking
(b) to have walked
(c) to be walking
(d) to have been walking
(e) No improvement
32. If you had told your problem yesterday, we *might had* helped you. (B.S.R.B. 1990)
(a) would have (b) might have been
(c) would have been
(d) No correction required
33. He has no *knowledge and interest in* music.
(a) knowledge and interest of music
(b) knowledge for and interest of music
(c) knowledge of and interest in music
(d) No correction required
34. He stayed back so that it *can look* as if he was unaware of the entire incident.
(a) may look (b) would look
(c) will look (d) No improvement (S.C.R.A. 1993)
35. *Day before yesterday* I saw her in the market.
(a) Day before the yesterday
(b) The day before yesterday
(c) The day before the yesterday
(d) No improvement
36. When he heard the rhetorical speech of the leader, *he was carried along* by his enthusiasm. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) was carried away
(b) was carried down
(c) was carried aloft
(d) No improvement

37. The beautiful is not always the same *like the good*.
(a) as good (b) like good
(c) as the good (d) as like the good
(e) No improvement
38. The members of his family are coming in this train. (Railways, 1994)
(a) with (b) by
(c) on (d) No improvement
39. We are supposed *to take out* our shoes when we enter a place of worship.
(a) to put off (b) to put away
(c) to take off (d) No improvement
40. If he *had* time he will call you.
(a) would have (b) would have had
(c) has (d) No improvement (I.E.S. 1994)
41. The houses in our street are more beautiful *than on the main road*.
(a) than that on the main road
(b) than those on the main road
(c) than there on the main road
(d) No correction required
42. The intruder stood quietly *for few moments*. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) for few time (b) for a few moments
(c) for the few moments
(d) No correction required
43. He *gave* the I.A.S. examination in all seriousness.
(a) appeared (b) took
(c) undertook (d) No improvement
44. A lot depends on your early *brought up* in the family. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) bringing up (b) bringing on
(c) upbringing (d) No improvement
45. The dentist *pulled up* one of my teeth yesterday.
(a) pulled (b) pulled out
(c) pulled off (d) No improvement
46. The 'Three Musketeers' *have been written* by Dumas. (N.D.A. 1993)
(a) are written (b) are being written
(c) has been written (d) No improvement
47. The weather was not good; it was *a bit* pleasant.
(a) rather (b) to some extent
(c) fairly (d) a little
(e) No correction required
48. Many believed that girls who *received* western education would make slaves of their husbands. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) could receive (b) had received
(c) have received (d) No improvement
49. My mother *is ill since* two months.
(a) has been ill since
(b) has been ailing since
(c) has been ailing for
(d) No correction required
50. I have not written any letter to him since my father *had died*. (C.D.S. 1990)
(a) died (b) was dead
(c) has died (d) No improvement

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (a) | 3. (d) | 4. (b) | 5. (c) | 6. (b) | 7. (c) | 8. (d) | 9. (c) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (c) | 12. (b) | 13. (d) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) | 16. (b) | 17. (a) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (c) | 23. (d) | 24. (a) | 25. (c) | 26. (b) | 27. (c) | 28. (a) | 29. (c) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (a) | 32. (a) | 33. (c) | 34. (b) | 35. (b) | 36. (a) | 37. (c) | 38. (b) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (b) | 43. (b) | 44. (c) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) | 50. (a) |

PRACTICE SET 4

Directions : In the following questions, a part of the sentences is italicised. Alternatives to the italicised part, which may improve the sentence, are given. Choose the appropriate alternative. In case, no improvement is needed, choose 'No Improvement' or 'No correction required' as your answer.

1. He is very active and will finish the work *within no time*. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) at no time (b) without taking time
(c) in no time (d) No improvement
2. Sensing that the contest would be very tough, she decided *to stand down*.
(a) lie (b) play (c) sit (d) No improvement
3. *Would you find me absent*, please don't forget to leave a message behind.
(a) As (b) Should (c) Unless (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1995)

4. No sooner did the Chief Guest climb up to the dias *then* the bomb exploded.
(a) than (b) before
(c) when (d) No improvement
5. The Manager *was unhappy* at Gaurav because he did not complete the work in time. (Central Excise, 1993)
(a) is unhappy at (b) is to be unhappy at
(c) was unhappy with
(d) No correction required
6. He has done nothing *from* yesterday.
(a) after (b) since
(c) through (d) No improvement
7. In the modern world it is difficult *to live through* one's ideals. (I.E.S. 1993)
(a) to live up to (b) to live by
(c) to live for (d) No improvement
8. It is *long since* I last saw you.
(a) long time (b) long before
(c) long ago (d) No improvement
9. It is unreasonable *to distort* the statement of a man simply because he does not agree with your opinions.
(a) discourage (b) denounce
(c) bend (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
10. Kalidas is the greatest of *all other* dramatists.
(a) most other (b) the other
(c) any other (d) all the
(e) No correction required
11. The secret information was held *away* from me.
(a) off (b) back
(c) out (d) No improvement
12. She *gave* most of her time to music.
(a) devoted (b) spent
(c) lent (d) No improvement
(U.D.C. 1995)
13. James sat there in stunned silence, *to try* to absorb what Reeta was saying.
(a) so as to try (b) trying
(c) as if trying (d) No improvement
14. When I was fourteen, I *sat* the entrance examination for senior secondary school.
(a) sat for (b) sat in
(c) sat at (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
15. When I lived in Allahabad, I *was going* to the cinema once a week.
(a) went (b) had been going
(c) had gone (d) used to be going
(e) No correction required
16. He has been working *off and on* for several years to compile a dictionary.
(a) on or off (b) on and off
(c) regularly (d) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
17. A great deal of human invention *since the last 300 years* has been directed to taming the power hidden in nature, and to channelling it into steady sources of energy that can drive machines.
(a) since the past 300 years
(b) in the last 300 years
(c) during the past 300 years
(d) No improvement
18. Rajni unnecessarily *picked up* a quarrel with Kashish and left the party hurriedly. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) picking up (b) picked on
(c) picked (d) has picked up
(e) No correction required
19. He spent much time and energy over it, and lost a sum *in the bargain*.
(a) off the bargain (b) for the bargain
(c) into the bargain (d) with the bargain
(e) No correction required
20. He complained that he had too much work *to cope up with*. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) to cope with (b) for coping up with
(c) to cope (d) No improvement
21. We *have heard* her lecture yesterday.
(a) were hearing (b) would have heard
(c) heard (d) had been hearing
(e) No correction required
22. I noticed that *the opposite man* was staring at me.
(a) the opposed man (b) the man opposite
(c) the men opposite (d) No improvement
23. She did not like the movie, *nor I did*.
(a) nor did I (b) nor I like it
(c) nor I liked it (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1994)
24. It will take two hours to walk *across* the forest.
(a) over (b) between
(c) away (d) through
(e) No correction required
25. It shall depend on *they finishing* on time.
(a) they finish (b) them finishing
(c) their finishing (d) their's finishing
(e) No correction required
26. The unemployment rate has dropped sharply this month, *though it may only be temporary*. (R.B.I. 1990)
(a) but it may be only temporary
(b) but the drop may only be temporary
(c) even though the drop may only be temporary
(d) but such a drop may only be a temporary one
(e) No correction required
27. The contractor did not keep his promise that the work *will* be finished before the end of the week.

- (a) could (b) shall
(c) would (d) No improvement
28. In accordance to your instructions, we have remitted the amount in the bank.
(a) by (b) with
(c) for (d) No improvement
(Section Officers, 1993)
29. It is high time that we *did* something about it. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) had done (b) would do
(c) have done (d) No improvement
30. The huge Negro *would have been* a comic figure if he had not been terrific, for he was dressed in a very loud grey check suit with a flowing salmon coloured tie.
(a) must have been (b) may have been
(c) should have been (d) No improvement
31. Not a word *they spoke* to the unfortunate wife about it. (I.E.S. 1994)
(a) they had spoken (b) did they speak
(c) they will speak (d) No improvement
32. There is sufficient fund to meet the requirement of *the entire schools* in our zone.
(a) schools (b) all the schools
(c) all of the schools
(d) No correction required
33. I am definitely late; the train *will have left* the station by the time I reach there.
(a) will be leaving (b) will leave
(c) would have left (d) No improvement
34. Shilpa was going to the temple *then Parul came* on meet her.
(a) after Parul was coming to
(b) when Parul was coming to
(c) when Parul came to
(d) before Parul was coming to
(e) No correction required
35. There is nothing *quite miserable* than handicap at such a tender age.
(a) as miserable (b) more miserable
(c) so miserable (d) very miserable
(e) No correction required
36. Young men and women should get *habituated* to reading and writing about current affairs. (C.D.S. 1993)
(a) prepared (b) trained
(c) used (d) No improvement
37. The bill will be paid *at sight or on demand*.
(a) at a sight or on a demand
(b) on sight or at demand
(c) at sight or demand
(d) No correction required
38. It is difficult for a simple person to see through her *artificial* schemes.
(a) artistic (b) artful
- (c) aesthetic (d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1995)
39. Photographs from the satellites launched by NASA *at* the early 1970s have proved invaluable to the mapping of remote areas.
(a) towards (b) from
(c) since (d) No improvement
40. You ought not to *have gone* there, but you did. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) be going (b) have been
(c) go (d) No improvement
41. Never has the inadequacy of police been in *clearer* focus than in the communal violence that flared up recently.
(a) higher (b) stronger
(c) better (d) sharper
(Translators' Exam, 1994)
42. The main business of the Parliament is to deal with matters *pertained to* the Legislature.
(a) pertaining with (b) pertained with
(c) pertaining to (d) No improvement
43. *Being worked* for the whole day, you should have taken some rest and started the work tomorrow. (Bank P.O. 1995)
(a) After having work
(b) Having worked for
(c) Working for
(d) After being worked for
(e) No correction required
44. I wish *I have* all those luxuries my friend has.
(a) I will have (b) I am having
(c) I had (d) I had been having
(e) No correction required
45. Ravi has got many friends because he has got *much money*. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) enough money (b) a lot of money
(c) bags of money (d) No improvement
46. You must try *making him to understand*.
(a) make him understand
(b) to making him understand
(c) to make him understand
(d) No improvement
47. He has cooked that meal so often he can do it with his *eyes closed*. (N.D.A. 1993)
(a) mind blank (b) eyes covered
(c) hands full (d) No improvement
48. The enthusiastic voters were *queuing up* outside the polling station since morning.
(a) queued up (b) had queued up
(c) had been queuing up
(d) No improvement
49. Many a man *have died of cancer*.
(a) have died from cancer

- (b) has died of cancer
(c) have been dying of cancer
(d) No improvement (Railways, 1993)

50. If you are living near a market place you should be ready to bear the disturbances caused by traffic.
(a) to bear with (b) to bear away
(c) to bear upon (d) No improvement

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (b) 10. (d)
11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (a) 16. (b) 17. (c) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (d) 25. (c) 26. (e) 27. (c) 28. (b) 29. (d) 30. (d)
31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (c) 34. (c) 35. (b) 36. (c) 37. (d) 38. (b) 39. (c) 40. (d)
41. (d) 42. (c) 43. (b) 44. (c) 45. (b) 46. (c) 47. (d) 48. (b) 49. (b) 50. (a)

PRACTICE SET 5

Directions : In each of the following questions, choose the alternative which can best improve the given sentence by substituting the italicised portion. If the sentence is correct as it is, choose 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your answer.

- Because of his mastery in this field, his suggestions are *wide accepted*.
(a) are widely accepted
(b) are wide acceptance
(c) have widely accepted
(d) have been wide accepted
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1993)
- I hope, you vividly remember the premiere of the film when I, my wife and you were present in the hall.
(a) you, I and my wife
(b) my wife, I and you
(c) my wife, you and I
(d) No improvement
- The fact finding committee has so far not made any *advancement*.
(a) progress (b) improvement
(c) stride (d) No improvement
(Translator's Exam, 1994)
- Having had in the Foreign Service for a long time, Mr. Verma has met many prominent personalities.
(a) Having (b) He has been
(c) Having been (d) Had he been
(e) No correction required
- Who does not know that this was *broadcasted* ten days ago? (N.D.A. 1993)
(a) had broadcast (b) was broadcast
(c) was broadcasting (d) No improvement
- Since 1986, there is no earthquakes here.
(a) were being (b) have been
(c) are (d) No improvement
- You are warned *against committing* the same mistake again. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) for committing (b) against to commit
(c) to commit (d) No improvement
- The teacher gave the students some *advice*. (N.D.A. 1991)
(a) advise (b) advises
(c) advices (d) No improvement
- I shall *ring him* tomorrow in the afternoon.
(a) ring to him (b) ring up to him
(c) ring him up (d) No improvement
- Older people *often stay* at home and watch TV because it is cold and dark in winter.
(a) seldom (b) frequently
(c) sometimes (d) No improvement
- You must find *someone* to accompany you to Bombay. (Stenographers' Exam, 1992)
(a) no one (b) everyone
(c) anyone (d) No improvement
- No sooner *he reached* home than all the villagers gathered at his home to listen to his story.
(a) would he reach (b) did he reach
(c) had he reached (d) No improvement
- I wish I *was* with him. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) have been (b) were
(c) am (d) No improvement
- Upto* the time the last vote was recorded it was difficult to decide whether victory lay with the ruling party or the opposition.
(a) To (b) Until

- (c) Till (d) No improvement
15. He is the kindest and *generous of all my friends*. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) more generous among all my friends
(b) more generous of all my friends
(c) the most generous of all my friends
(d) No improvement
- I do not think I should tell you over and over again that *my family are* early risers.
(a) my family members are early risers
(b) my family is an early riser
(c) my family are an early riser
(d) No correction required
- None of the guests *were introduced* to the bride. (I.E.S. 1993)
(a) introduced (b) was introduced
(c) have been introduced
(d) No improvement
- Your brother has a great passion to *study*.
(a) for study (b) for studying
(c) to studying (d) No improvement
- One should exercise *their* right to vote.
(a) his (b) our
(c) one's (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1996)
- Putting in hard work to help others is what he likes *from* his heart.
(a) in (b) by
(c) at (d) No improvement
- He stopped to *work* an hour ago.
(a) to working (b) to have worked
(c) working (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1994)
- Little* that I knew of the English language, was not sufficient to make me a teacher of English.
(a) Very little (b) The little
(c) A little (d) No improvement
- Your results depend not only on how much you have studied *but how long* you have read. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) but also how long
(b) but also on how long
(c) but also on how much long
(d) No improvement
- As a gesture of goodwill India agreed to *write off* a huge amount of loan taken by some of her neighbours.
(a) do away with (b) put off
(c) give up (d) No improvement
- She *cut a sad figure* in her first performance on the stage. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) made a sorry figure
(b) cut a sorry face
(c) cut a sorry figure
(d) No improvement
- Mr. Kulkarni is planning to settle in Kanpur as soon as he *will retire* in June next year.
(a) retires (b) is retired
(c) would retire (d) No improvement
- When the professor fell off the stool, the students could not *avoid to laugh*.
(a) avoid laughing (b) refrain to laugh
(c) avoid laughter (d) stop laughter
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1992)
- What *does agonise me most* is not this criticism, but the trivial reason behind it.
(a) I most agonised
(b) most agonising me
(c) agonises me most
(d) agonising me most
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1994)
- Ravi's father did not want him to *have spent* all his money at the fair.
(a) to be spending (b) to spend
(c) to have been spending
(d) No improvement
- All his answers* were correct. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) His every answers
(b) His all answers
(c) All of his answers (d) No improvement
- The young hikers went *as far as* they finally got lost in the valley.
(a) so far that (b) too far that
(c) so far as that (d) very far therefore
(e) No correction required
- He gave me *an old scissor*.
(a) old scissor (b) an old scissors
(c) a pair of old scissors
(d) No improvement (Railways, 1993)
- I shall finish up the work by the end of *this present month*.
(a) this month (b) this very month
(c) this same month
(d) this current month
(e) No correction required
- He has been absent *for the past few months*.
(a) since the last (b) for last
(c) since the past
(d) No correction required
- His trousers are *three sizes large*.
(a) three sizes too (b) three size
(c) three sizes over (d) No improvement
(Asstt. Grade, 1994)
- He offered me tea but I *denied* it.
(a) refuted (b) neglected
(c) declined (d) No improvement
- There is a shortage of well qualified teachers of most subjects, *specially of* English and Economics. (U.D.C. 1994)

- (a) especially of (b) especially in
(c) in special of (d) No improvement
38. Desertification, *condition of the desert spreading into previously arable land*, is threatening the planet.
(a) spread of desert conditions into previously arable land
(b) condition where the desert spreads into previously arable land
(c) spread of conditions of desert where land was previously arable
(d) the situation when desert conditions spread into previously arable land
(e) No correction required
39. *The more they earn, more they spend.*
(a) More they earn, more they spend
(b) More they earn, the more they spend
(c) The more they earn, the more they spend
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
40. Those who study at *sixes and sevens* seldom succeed.
(a) by fits and starts
(b) by leaps and bounds
(c) from pillar to post
(d) No improvement
41. It is *easier walking than run.*
(a) easier walking to running
(b) easier to walk than to run
(c) easier walking than running
(d) No improvement
(S.C.R.A. 1994)
42. Whenever my students come across new words, I ask them *to look for them* in the dictionary.
(a) to look at them (b) to look it up
(c) to look them up (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
43. They appointed him *as a manager* as he is efficient.
(a) as manager (b) manager
(c) a manager (d) No improvement
44. He dislikes the word *dislike, isn't he?*
(a) does he (b) doesn't he
(c) didn't he (d) hasn't he
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1994)
45. The prisoners walked *slowly* for they knew that as soon as they *cross* the gate the jailor would ask them to jog.
(a) crossed (b) would cross
(c) had crossed (d) shall cross
(e) No improvement
46. I asked him *that why he is* so lazy.
(a) why is he (b) why he was
(c) that why is he (d) No improvement
(U.D.C. 1993)
47. The brochure, which is being enclosed with the application form, will give you *information* that you need.
(a) informations (b) the information
(c) an information (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1991)
48. The film show *began* when we arrived in the hall.
(a) had began (b) had begun
(c) would begin (d) No improvement
49. We heard *of them having discovered* another stream.
(a) them discovering (b) their discovering
(c) their having discovered
(d) No improvement
50. You must *accustom yourself with* new ideas.
(a) accustomed with (b) accustom to
(c) accustom yourself to
(d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1996)

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (a) 4. (c) 5. (b) 6. (b) 7. (d) 8. (d) 9. (c) 10. (d)
11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (c) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (b) 23. (b) 24. (d) 25. (c) 26. (a) 27. (a) 28. (c) 29. (b) 30. (d)
31. (a) 32. (c) 33. (a) 34. (d) 35. (a) 36. (c) 37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (c) 40. (a)
41. (b) 42. (c) 43. (b) 44. (b) 45. (a) 46. (b) 47. (b) 48. (b) 49. (c) 50. (c)

PRACTICE SET 6

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is italicised. Below are given alternatives to the italicised part which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. If no improvement is needed, mark your answer as 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

1. Can you tell me *why did you not speak* the truth?
(a) why did you not speak (b) that why did you not speak
(c) why you did not speak (d) why did you not spoke
(e) No improvement
(B.S.R.B. 1996)
2. The function of education is to create such human beings *which* are integrated and therefore intelligent.
(a) who (b) that
(c) as (d) No improvement
3. The boy *which* came to see me this morning had come from Agra.
(a) that (b) whom
(c) who (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1992)
4. The partners swore *from fighting* again.
(a) not fighting again
(b) by not to fight again
(c) that they wouldn't fight again
(d) No improvement
5. Not till he got home *he did realise* that he had lost his keys in the theatre.
(a) did he realise (b) he did not realise
(c) he realised (d) No improvement
(Railways, 1994)
6. He has a house *for letting*.
(a) for letting out (b) to let
(c) to rent out (d) No improvement
7. Please remind me *of posting* these letters of my relatives.
(a) for posting (b) to post
(c) by posting (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
8. A boy has been *sunk* in this river.
(a) drowned (b) immersed
(c) submerged (d) No improvement
9. His manners indicate that he has no other intention *than* to steal his money.
(a) rather (b) except
(c) but (d) No improvement
10. Had we been on time, we *would not have* missed the train.
(a) will not have (b) might have
(c) would have been (d) had not
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1992)
11. *No king* in that period was so intensely involved in the welfare of his people as king Ashoka.
(a) Neither king (b) No other king
(c) None of the kings (d) No improvement
12. When we saw him last, he *ran* to catch a bus.
(a) was running (b) has run
(c) had run (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
13. He enjoys nothing more than *drawing* swords with others.
(a) crossing (b) playing
(c) clashing (d) No improvement
14. No hill station is as beautiful as Darjeeling with its scenic beauty.
(a) Neither (b) No other
(c) Not other (d) No improvement
15. If you get confused while performing the act, just *don't stop to try*.
(a) keep your try on
(b) continue your tries
(c) not give up trying (d) keep on trying
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
16. He *insisted on* he was innocent.
(a) insisted that (b) insisted on that
(c) insists that (d) No improvement
17. It was indeed a shock for her, but she has *later recovered from it*.
(a) afterwards (b) since
(c) then (d) No improvement
(I.E.S. 1994)
18. The doctor said that there was no *cause of anxiety*.
(a) cause to (b) cause for
(c) cause with (d) No improvement
19. I must study my books today *as I have to* give an examination tomorrow.
(a) for I have to give
(b) since I have to give
(c) as I have to take
(d) No improvement
(U.D.C. 1993)
20. If you *call to him* and explain your problem he will help you.
(a) call at him (b) call upon him
(c) call in him (d) No improvement
21. Anybody would *like assist you* for improvement in the work.
(a) you like to assist
(b) like assist to you
(c) like to assist you
(d) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1992)
22. Two hours have elapsed since he *had* fallen asleep.
(a) fell (b) has fallen
(c) was fallen (d) No improvement

23. Due to these reasons we are all in favour of universal compulsory education.
(a) By these reasons
(b) For these reasons
(c) Out of these reasons
(d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1995)
24. When it was dark they decided to put at an inn.
(a) put up at (b) put in at
(c) put off with (d) put out in
(e) No improvement
25. He has very good command on English.
(a) of (b) over
(c) in (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1991)
26. Many a young man have served his country nobly.
(a) young men have served their
(b) young men have served his
(c) young man has served his
(d) No correction required
27. I am looking forward to see you soon.
(a) looking forward towards seeing
(b) looking forward for seeing
(c) looking forward to seeing
(d) No improvement (Asstt. Grade, 1995)
28. She would not go to his house unless I go with her.
(a) would go (b) went
(c) shall go (d) No improvement
29. His colleagues could not tell me why did he not come to office yesterday.
(a) why not had he come
(b) why he did not come
(c) why had he not come
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1992)
30. Bad movies affect people living in today's society more than they did in previous years.
(a) they had been done
(b) they had been doing
(c) they had done
(d) they were doing
(e) No correction required
31. I waited for half an hour for my friend, but he didn't turn in. (S.C.R.A. 1993)
(a) turn about (b) turn around
(c) turn up (d) No improvement
32. I will now deal with him in a manner different from the one I have adopted so far.
(a) I adopted (b) I was adopting
(c) I have been adopting
(d) No improvement
33. I shall not go until I am invited.
(a) if not I am invited
(b) till I am invited
(c) unless I am invited
(d) No improvement
- (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
34. He may have aged when I last saw him.
(a) from when I last saw him
(b) since I last saw him
(c) before I last saw him
(d) No correction required
35. Our departure from this place now depends on their coming here.
(a) they come (b) them coming
(c) they coming (d) their's coming
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1993)
36. Don't forget to telephone me after you reach Delhi.
(a) shall reach (b) you have reached
(c) would reach (d) will have reached
(e) No correction required
37. He should not had done it.
(a) should had not (b) should not have
(c) should have (d) had not
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1994)
38. Ramakrishna availed himself of all the leave to his credit.
(a) availed of (b) availed to
(c) availed (d) No improvement
39. The assistant was asked that why he was generally late. (B.S.R.B. 1996)
(a) why was he (b) why that he was
(c) why he was (d) that why he had been
(e) No correction required
40. After the heavy rains last week, the water in the lake raised another two feet.
(a) would raise another two feet.
(b) risen another two feet
(c) rose another two feet
(d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1994)
41. A true soldier is always prepared to lie down his life for the sake of the nation.
(a) prepared to lay (b) preparing to lie
(c) preparing to be laid
(d) prepared to be laying
(e) No correction required
42. It was quite clear that the runner could be able to improve upon his own record.
(a) will be able (b) should be able
(c) would be able (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1995)
43. They were all charmed by the sweet and soothing music.
(a) sweet and soothingly
(b) sweetly but soothing
(c) sweetened and soothing
(d) sweetly and soothing
(e) No correction required

Sentence Improvement

44. With a thundering roar the huge rocket soared up from the launching pad.
(a) took off (b) went upwards
(c) flew up (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1993)
45. My elder sister and her daughter helps me in my domestic work. (B.S.R.B. 1990)
(a) helps me for (b) help me in
(c) help me about (d) helped me about
(e) No correction required
46. The good fortune of being your student in my younger days has helped me greatly in my life.
(a) of my being your student
(b) of myself being your student
(c) of my having been your student
(d) No correction required
47. I complimented him for his success in the examination. (S.C.R.A. 1994)
(a) about (b) on
(c) at (d) No improvement
48. Books for the used-book sales should be in good condition and should have no writing in them or be underlined.
(a) without having any writing or no underlining in them
(b) and contain no writing or underlining
(c) without containing writing or be underlined
(d) and should not have writings written or not be underlined
(e) No correction required (R.B.I. 1990)
49. We must fight shy from wicked company.
(a) fight shy with (b) fight shy off
(c) fight shy of (d) shy from
(e) No improvement
50. The orphans have been clamouring for nutritious food from the past two weeks.
(a) for past (b) since the past
(c) for the past (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1995)

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (c) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) | 7. (b) | 8. (a) | 9. (c) | 10. (e) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (b) | 15. (d) | 16. (a) | 17. (b) | 18. (b) | 19. (c) | 20. (b) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (a) | 23. (b) | 24. (a) | 25. (a) | 26. (c) | 27. (c) | 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (c) |
| 31. (q) | 32. (c) | 33. (c) | 34. (b) | 35. (b) | 36. (e) | 37. (b) | 38. (d) | 39. (c) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (a) | 42. (c) | 43. (e) | 44. (b) | 45. (b) | 46. (c) | 47. (b) | 48. (b) | 49. (c) | 50. (c) |

PRACTICE SET 7

Directions : In the following questions, a sentence has been given wherein a word/group of words has been italicised. Some alternatives are suggested for the italicised word/group of words which improves the sentence. In case no improvement is needed in the sentence, your answer is 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

1. Will you lend me few rupees in this hour of need? (Section Officers, 1993)
(a) borrow me a few rupees
(b) lend me any rupees
(c) lend me a few rupees
(d) No improvement
2. I made him good-bye.
(a) wished (b) complimented
(c) bade (d) No improvement
3. We must make for our foreign policy on the basis of guarding national interest alone. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) must make to (b) have made for
(c) must make (d) must be making to
(e) No correction required
4. She wondered if the children were as lonely as she was.
(a) that if (b) whether
(c) that (d) No improvement
5. The man who will score the maximum points, will carry the trophy. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) who scores the maximum points
(b) who the maximum points scores
(c) who would score the maximum points
(d) No improvement
6. The farmers are working in the field from sunrise and will continue to do so until sunset.
(a) have worked (b) have been working
(c) were working (d) No improvement

7. His father wrote to him, "It is high time you start preparing for the forthcoming examination". (N.D.A. 1994)
(a) would start (b) started
(c) had started (d) No improvement
8. Many of the boys in our class were of kind who would be a nuisance everywhere.
(a) were of the kind who would be a nuisance
(b) were of the kind who would be nuisance
(c) were of a kind who would be nuisance
(d) were to be nuisance
9. The standard of living of the working class is higher than was the case thirty years ago. (Translator's Exam, 1994)
(a) than it was before thirty years
(b) than that of thirty years ago
(c) than what it was thirty years ago
(d) No improvement
10. The child has been in the sick bed for the last one week. (N.D.A. 1992)
(a) for the past (b) for past
(c) since the past (d) No improvement
11. One of my colleagues is an expert in homoeopathy.
(a) is expert
(b) has expertised
(c) has been expertised
(d) No improvement
12. They are social insects, living in communities, regulated by definite laws, each member of society bearing a well-defined and separate part in the work of a colony. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) living among a community
(b) who are living in communities
(c) who lives with a community
(d) No improvement
13. The roads are wet; it must had rained last night.
(a) might had (b) must have been
(c) must have (d) would have
(e) No correction required
14. He has been growing weaker and his life now hangs like a thread. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) hangs with threads
(b) hangs by a thread
(c) hung on a thread
(d) No improvement
15. I advise you to call at the doctor for consultation.
(a) call in (b) call to
(c) call upon (d) No improvement
16. To get one's name in the Rowland Ward's book of hunting records was the hot ambition of every serious hunter.
(a) burning (b) extreme
- (c) high (d) No improvement
(Assistant Grade, 1996)
17. She does not know to sing and dance.
(a) how to sing and how to dance
(b) how to sing and dance
(c) to sing and also dance
(d) No improvement
18. She did not ask any question to him.
(a) any question from him
(b) him any question
(c) to him any question
(d) No improvement (U.D.C. 1995)
19. I would like that you finish the project on time.
(a) you to finish the project on time
(b) you finishing the project on time
(c) that you should finish the project on time
(d) No improvement
20. On some evenings I leave office as late as seven o'clock. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) In some evenings
(b) Some evenings
(c) On some of the evenings
(d) No improvement
21. The robber entered into the old man's room very quietly.
(a) entered inside (b) entered
(c) entered in (d) No improvement
22. Hold hands of your child while crossing the road. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) your child's hands
(b) your child's hand
(c) hand of your child
(d) No improvement
23. It is all and one to me whether he lives in Bombay or Calcutta.
(a) all one (b) all but one
(c) all or one
(d) No correction required
24. I am tired as I am working since 8 o'clock in the morning.
(a) I was working
(b) I have been working
(c) I had been working
(d) No improvement
25. Had we been alone, we would have contended ourselves with any plain food that give us strength.
(a) should give (b) would give
(c) gives (d) would have given
(e) No improvement
26. There is a dearth of woman doctor in our state. We shall have to recruit some from the other states. (I.E.S. 1994)
(a) women doctor (b) woman doctors
(c) women doctors (d) No improvement

27. He was likely to win the elections by the sweeping majority.
(a) by a sweeping majority
(b) with sweeping a majority
(c) with the sweeping majority
(d) No improvement
28. There is plenty of time to catch the train.
(a) reach (b) get
(c) hold (d) No improvement
29. The policeman stopped him for jumping the red light but let him out.
(a) let him off (b) let him through
(c) let him by (d) No improvement
30. You will be late if you do not leave now.
(a) will not leave (b) did not leave
(c) left (d) did not happen to leave
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1994)
31. They invited I and my friend to tea.
(a) my friend and I (b) my friend and me
(c) to me and my friend
(d) No improvement
32. Every time I go in a lift to my sixth floor apartment, I remember the calm and serenity of my ancestral home in the village. (C.D.S. 1993)
(a) move in a lift (b) take a lift
(c) ascend in a lift (d) No improvement
33. The shopkeeper said graciously, "I'll quote no price; the article is yours for asking."
(a) for the asking (b) if you ask
(c) for only asking (d) No improvement
34. Rohit assured Sunita that he would look at her work while she was on leave.
(a) would overlook (b) would look after
(c) would look down upon (d) will look
(e) No improvement (B.S.R.B. 1996)
35. He told us the story in a nutshell.
(a) in nutshell (b) in the nutshell
(c) putting it in a nut
(d) No improvement
36. It was hard to believe that he was dead for two years. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) is dead (b) has been dead
(c) had been dead (d) No improvement
37. He prefers to walk than to ride.
(a) walking than riding
(b) to walk over riding
(c) walking to riding
(d) No improvement
38. The accused now flatly denies have admitted his guilt in this first statement.
(a) has admitted (b) having admitted
(c) had admitted
(d) have been admitting
- (e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1994)
39. The whole town was being decorated for the tourist week.
(a) is to be decorated
(b) will be decorated
(c) was to be decorated
(d) No correction required
40. The little child was knocked out by a car.
(a) up (b) away
(c) down (d) No improvement
41. He asked me if I can help him to lift the box. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) may (b) would
(c) will (d) No improvement
42. She tried to eat another leaf of lettuce but she could no longer fight the stench.
(a) face (b) keep
(c) stand (d) No improvement
43. Have you not reached in time, we would have lost our lives. (Bank P.O. 1995)
(a) Had you not reach
(b) If you have not reached
(c) Had you not reached
(d) If you would not have reached
(e) No correction required
44. I wish that I read this book before the seminar.
(a) had read (b) can read
(c) was reading (d) No improvement
45. The rules of chess require that one made only one move at a time. (I.E.S. 1993)
(a) makes (b) will make
(c) make (d) No improvement
46. Let us partake a meal before we start.
(a) partake of (b) partake off
(c) partake in (d) No improvement
47. Do take an umbrella with you lest you do not get wet.
(a) lest you might not get wet
(b) lest you should not get wet
(c) lest you should get wet
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1993)
48. They will be coming to attend the farewell party, isn't it?
(a) aren't they? (b) wouldn't they?
(c) won't they? (d) No improvement
49. Taxpayers are to be conscious of their privileges. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) need (b) have to
(c) ought to (d) No improvement
50. You can't go that way, I'm afraid, as the road is in repairs. (Railways, 1993)
(a) under repairs (b) under repair
(c) on repairs (d) No improvement

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (c) 3. (c) 4. (b) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (a)
 11. (d) 12. (d) 13. (c) 14. (b) 15. (c) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (b) 19. (a) 20. (d)
 21. (b) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (b) 25. (c) 26. (c) 27. (a) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (e)
 31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (a) 34. (b) 35. (d) 36. (c) 37. (c) 38. (b) 39. (d) 40. (c)
 41. (b) 42. (c) 43. (c) 44. (a) 45. (b) 46. (a) 47. (c) 48. (c) 49. (b) 50. (b)

PRACTICE SET 8

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is italicised. Below are given alternatives to the italicised part which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. If no improvement is needed, mark your answer as 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

- I would have waited for you at the station if I *knew* that you would come.
 (a) had known (b) have known (c) was knowing (d) No improvement
 (C.D.S. 1995)
- I will not go *till* he arrives.
 (a) till he has arrived (b) until he arrives (c) unless he has arrived (d) No improvement
- You *ought not* behave like that.
 (a) ought to not behave (b) ought not to behave (c) ought not to have behaved (d) No improvement
- He is not *in the good books* of his master.
 (a) in the good book (b) into the good books (c) in the better books (d) in the best book
 (e) No correction required
 (S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
- I have *done good* at the examination.
 (a) attempted well at (b) gone well over (c) fared well in (d) No correction required
- I need not offer any explanation regarding this incident; my behaviour is *speaking itself*.
 (a) speaks about itself (b) speaks for itself (c) has been speaking (d) will speak to itself
 (Bank P.O. 1994)
- As soon *did* the Manager come, the clerks started typing.
 (a) was (b) had (c) as (d) No improvement
- There is an endless *running* of traffic on the Delhi- Ghaziabad road.
 (a) heaviness (b) river (c) stream (d) No improvement
 (Stenographers' Exam, 1994)
- The Chinese *are said* to have invented ice-cream almost three thousand years ago.
 (a) are said that they (b) are saying to have (c) have been said to have (d) had said to have
 (e) No correction required
- This work is worse *by all that you did*.
 (a) all of you did (b) to what you did before (c) than what you did before (d) No improvement
- He may have aged *when I last saw him*.
 (a) since I saw him (b) since I last saw him (c) before I last saw him (d) No correction required
- I would like *to avail* a fifteen days' holiday this summer.
 (a) to avail myself (b) to avail of (c) to avail myself of (d) No improvement
 (C.D.S. 1994)
- Work hard *lest you will fail* in the examinations.
 (a) lest you would fail (b) lest you should fail (c) lest you shall fail (d) No improvement
- The *weather* of Shimla does not suit me.
 (a) climate (b) atmosphere (c) environment (d) No improvement
- I think *in my opinion* that all those who claim to be honest are not really so.
 (a) In my opinion, I believe (b) It seems to me

- It is my believing
 (d) My believing is
 (e) No correction required
 (Bank P.O. 1992)
- It was *a week* since he came home to his mother.
 (a) is a week (b) shall be a week (c) has been a week (d) had been a week
 (e) No improvement
- This project would encourage development and enable every villager to *govern their own destiny*.
 (a) to govern his (b) to governing his (c) may govern their (d) have governed their
 (e) No correction required
 (Bank P.O. 1994)
- The workers *protested* the Management's decision of not giving bonus that year.
 (a) protested to (b) protested against (c) protested at (d) protested for
 (e) No improvement
- All along the journey* she remained silent.
 (a) All along in the journey (b) All during the journey (c) All through the journey (d) Throughout all journey
 (e) No correction required
- He is ill *from* typhoid.
 (a) with (b) of (c) off (d) No improvement
- The officer *whom I went* reported that my case was pending.
 (a) whom I went to (b) who I went (c) that I went to (d) No improvement
- He killed the enemy *by his sword*.
 (a) by sword (b) by a sword (c) through his sword (d) with his sword
 (e) No improvement
- He *enthusiastically* stated that his suggestions should be accepted without delay.
 (a) eagerly (b) emphatically (c) promptly (d) No improvement
- She had no difficulty *to settle down* to her new life in the city.
 (a) in settling down (b) for settling down (c) to settling down (d) No improvement
- Do inform me of your well being after you *reach* Bombay.
 (a) will reach (b) will have reached (c) shall reach (d) No improvement
 (C.D.S. 1995)
- If I were a millionaire, I *would have helped* the poor.
 (a) can help (b) could have helped (c) would help (d) No improvement
- Right there she decided that she *too would become* part of that world.
 (a) also will become (b) too will become (c) too might become (d) too could become
 (e) No correction required
- They continued to work in the field *despite of the heavy rains*.
 (a) inspite the heavy rains (b) although heavily rains (c) even though it rained heavily (d) even though there is heavy rain
 (e) No improvement
 (Bank P.O. 1993)
- The walls of this house *need to be painted* again as soon as possible.
 (a) need to have been painted (b) should be painted (c) ought to have been painted (d) No improvement
- They watched the sea lions *being fed* with fish.
 (a) had been fed (b) are being fed (c) have been fed (d) No improvement
- Nelson Mandela struggled hard to get equality *from* the whites in South Africa.
 (a) for (b) with (c) at (d) No improvement
 (C.B.I. 1994)
- He will try to succeed in business *by fair means or foul*.
 (a) by fair means or by foul (b) by fair or foul means (c) by any means (d) No improvement
- Despite his old age, his movements were as spirited as *a young man*.
 (a) a young man's (b) if a young man (c) those of a young man (d) of a young man
 (e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
- For me, journey by air is *preferable than* that by train.
 (a) much more preferable than (b) preferable to (c) more preferable to (d) No correction required
- The floor of the hall was *covered by* a carpet.
 (a) covered with (b) covered upon (c) covered in (d) No improvement
- Michael, seated in the visitors' gallery, glanced at his watch for the third time *in* the past five minutes.
 (a) within (b) during (c) since (d) No improvement
- Taxes are high in this country, *aren't they?*
 (a) aren't taxes? (b) don't they? (c) do they? (d) isn't it?
 (e) No correction required

38. Every human advance carries with it not only automatic benefits but also a new responsibility, and we must remain constantly *aware* for the dangers that lie in the possible misuse of our enormous skills. (I.E.S. 1993)
(a) aware about (b) aware of
(c) aware to (d) No improvement
39. You have no idea what would happen if word of this *leaked out*.
(a) a word of this leaks out
(b) word of this leaks out
(c) a word of this will leak out
(d) No improvement
40. After the successful performance of the great actor was over, there was *thunder-struck* applause for a few minutes. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) fearful (b) cheerful
(c) decisive (d) thunderous
(e) No correction required
41. *What struck me most* was their kindness.
(a) What struck one more
(b) What stroke one more
(c) What stroke one most
(d) No improvement
42. My brother as well as my sister *are staying* with me. (N.D.A. 1994)
(a) have stayed (b) were staying
(c) is staying (d) No improvement
43. She insisted for *accompanying* her husband on the tour.
(a) on accompanying (b) in accompanying
(c) to accompany (d) No improvement
44. He is *so handsome* man that people turn round to look at him.
(a) very handsome (b) such a handsome
- (c) too handsome (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1992)
45. This time she is coming in holidays for an *extending* stay here.
(a) extensive (b) extension
(c) extended (d) No improvement
46. Any order which *curbs* a police officer from doing his duty is itself unlawful and should not be obeyed.
(a) restricts (b) prevents
(c) stops (d) obstructs
(Translators' Exam, 1994)
47. When Vinod came home from the party, he found his wife *had slept*.
(a) sleeping (b) was sleeping
(c) has been sleeping
(d) No correction required
48. With the Hubble Space Telescope, astronomers expect to learn the age and size of the universe and to *probe* its origin, evolution, and ultimate fate.
(a) probe after (b) probe for
(c) probe in (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1991)
49. I shall try to finish reading this novel by the end of *this present month*.
(a) this current month
(b) this month
(c) this very month (d) No improvement
50. He found it difficult to *adapt* to the changed circumstances.
(a) adapt himself to (b) adapt with
(c) adapt according to
(d) No improvement
(Assistant Grade, 1994)

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (b) 3. (c) 4. (e) 5. (c) 6. (b) 7. (c) 8. (c) 9. (e) 10. (c)
11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (a) 15. (a) 16. (c) 17. (a) 18. (b) 19. (c) 20. (a)
21. (a) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (a) 25. (d) 26. (c) 27. (e) 28. (c) 29. (d) 30. (d)
31. (b) 32. (d) 33. (c) 34. (b) 35. (a) 36. (c) 37. (e) 38. (b) 39. (d) 40. (d)
41. (d) 42. (c) 43. (a) 44. (b) 45. (c) 46. (b) 47. (a) 48. (b) 49. (c) 50. (a)

PRACTICE SET 9

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is italicised. Below are given alternatives to the italicised part which may improve the sentence. Choose the correct alternative. If no improvement is needed, the answer is 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

1. He was bitten by a snake, *walking in the garden*.
(a) as he walked in the garden
(b) while he walked in the garden
(c) while he was walking in the garden
(d) No improvement
2. No one could explain how a calm and balanced person like him could *penetrate* such a mindless act on his friends.
(a) perpetuate (b) perpetrate
(c) precipitate (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
3. He kept us all in *suspension* regarding his future plans.
(a) surprise (b) suspense
(c) suspicion (d) No improvement
4. I gave him *the little* money that I could spare then. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) very little (b) some little
(c) a little (d) No improvement
5. Mahatma Gandhi was by far *a great man* of India.
(a) a very great man (b) too great a man
(c) the greatest man (d) No improvement
6. No sooner had the umpire given the batsman out *than the crowd* rushed into the field. (S.C.R.A. 1994)
(a) but the people (b) when the crowds
(c) and the crowd (d) No improvement
7. Eve-teasing is not only a moral offence *but a crime* punishable under law.
(a) as well as (b) as also
(c) but also (d) No correction required
8. Within a few years most of the fertile land *had underwent* forcible indigo cultivation. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) has underwent (b) had undergone
(c) was undergone (d) No improvement
9. Reema didn't pay the subscription, and Nisha *didn't either*.
(a) did not (b) didn't neither
(c) did either (d) No improvement
10. If you have paid only twenty rupees for this *purse*, it has *really cheap*.
(a) has really cheapest
(b) is really cheap
(c) has been really cheapest
(d) is real cheap
(e) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1996)
11. If the pain *is returning*, you would better take another pill. (Asstt. Grade, 1995)
(a) has returned (b) should return
(c) returned (d) No improvement
12. *From where did he obtain the money* is a mystery.
(a) Where from did he obtain the money
(b) Where did he obtain the money from
(c) Where he obtained the money from
(d) No improvement
13. Do you *remember to meet her* at my house last year? (U.D.C. 1993)
(a) remember of meeting her
(b) remember about meeting her
(c) remember having met her
(d) No improvement
14. *If you have been careful*, you could have avoided the accident.
(a) Have you had been
(b) If you are
(c) Had you have been
(d) Had you been
(e) No correction required
15. The monograph which was published 3 years ago, *would suggest* that by 2001 there will be 73 million T.V. sets in India.
(a) has been suggesting
(b) had suggested
(c) would have suggested
(d) will suggest (Bank P.O. 1994)
16. Vishal, who *studies* medicine at present, hopes to go abroad after graduation.
(a) has been studying (b) is studying
(c) will study (d) No improvement
17. The greatest thing in style is to have a *use* of metaphor. (Assistant Grade, 1996)
(a) command (b) knowledge
(c) need (d) No improvement
18. I *differ by you* in this matter.
(a) differ with you on this matter
(b) differ from you about this matter
(c) differ off you over this matter
(d) No correction required
19. Newton wanted to *know why did the apple fall* to the ground. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) know that why did the apple fall
(b) know why the apple fell
(c) know that why the apple fell
(d) No improvement
20. You are *a most unusual* person.
(a) most (b) a mostly (c) mostly
(d) the mostly (e) No correction required

21. A good house has been *alloted* to him.
(a) aloted (b) allotted
(c) allotted (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1988)
22. Robert listened to the phone *ring* again and again.
(a) ringing (b) that rang
(c) as it rang (d) No improvement
23. Ashutosh *had occupying* this house for over 25 years and has no intention of vacating it now.
(a) is occupying (b) will occupy
(c) was to occupy
(d) has been occupying
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1993)
24. One can live and work in a town without being aware of the daily march of the sun across the sky without *never* seeing the moon and stars.
(a) seldom (b) hardly
(c) ever (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
25. Unless the population growth *stabilised* environmentalists predict a worldwide starvation by 2000 A.D.
(a) will stabilise (b) stabilises
(c) must stabilise (d) No improvement
26. From next term we will *go all out* for sports.
(a) all go out (b) all be out
(c) be all out (d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1994)
27. Can this apparatus be adopted *in* this job?
(a) to (b) for
(c) by (d) No improvement
28. If you had attended the meeting, you *would have benefited* a great deal.
(a) would benefit (b) could benefit
(c) benefited (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
29. My neighbours are extremely noisy but *even more* are they quarrelsome.
(a) they are even more quarrelsome
(b) even more they are quarrelsome
(c) they are quarrelsome even more
(d) No improvement
30. *Not only did he criticise* the party's policies but also the leader's personal matters.
(a) He criticised not only
(b) He not only criticised
(c) Neither did he criticise
(d) He did not criticise
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
31. The article should not *exceed more than* hundred words.
(a) exceed beyond (b) exceed
(c) exceed than (d) No improvement
32. Though courageous, he could not *hold up* against the heavy odds.
(a) hold fast (b) hold out
(c) hold in (d) No improvement
(Translators' Exam, 1994)
33. The meeting was postponed *owing to* lack of quorum.
(a) due to (b) because of
(c) for (d) No improvement
34. Hoping not to be disturbed, I sat down in my easy chair to read the book *I won as a prize*.
(a) I have won as prize
(b) I had won as a prize
(c) I had to win as a prize
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
35. He copied the details *word by word*.
(a) word to word (b) word for word
(c) word on word (d) No improvement
36. In India today many of our intellectuals still talk in terms of the French revolution and the Rights of Man, not appreciating that *much has happened* since then.
(a) much might happen
(b) much had happened
(c) much has been happening
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
37. The Principal was angry on seeing a *wooden broken chair* lying in the corridor.
(a) broken wooden chair
(b) wooden and broken chair
(c) broken and wooden chair
(d) No improvement
38. He has been receiving no other message than an urgent telegram *asking him to rush his village* immediately.
(a) asking him rushing at his village
(b) asked him to rush his village
(c) asking him to have rush his village
(d) asking him to rush to his village
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1994)
39. He has been living in Delhi *since* the last two years.
(a) from (b) ever since
(c) for (d) since about
(e) No correction required
40. How one earned money is more important than how much *he earned*.
(a) he earns (b) he has earned
(c) one earns (d) one earned
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1992)
41. About a thousand sportsmen from all the colleges have arrived, the *highest* contingent being from Delhi.

- (a) biggest (b) largest
(c) greatest (d) No improvement
42. The man *to who I sold* my house was a cheat.
(a) to whom I sell (b) to who I sell
(c) who was sold to (d) to whom I sold
(e) No correction required
(Rural Banks, 1994)
43. He hasn't yet applied for the job *we told him*.
(a) we told him of (b) we told him about
(c) of which we told him
(d) No improvement
44. He has *fallen out* with the girl he wanted to marry.
(a) fallen off (b) fallen in love
(c) fallen for (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1991)
45. The greater the demand, *higher* the price.
(a) the higher (b) high
(c) the high (d) No improvement
46. I *have been working* on this job for the last ten days.
(a) am working (b) would be working
(c) have been worked
(d) No improvement
(B.S.R.B. 1990)
47. We had to stop for petrol because we had hardly *much* left.
(a) more (b) some
(c) any (d) No improvement
48. The Managing Director said that the firm had ordered the goods and *will* have to pay for them.
(a) may (b) would
(c) shall (d) No improvement
(Assistant Grade, 1994)
49. He never recollected his grand father *to say* that his job was odd.
(a) say (b) to have said
(c) saying (d) while saying
(e) No correction required
50. Modern industrialized communities have lost touch with the soil and do not experience that joy which nature gives and the rich glow of health *that which comes from contact with* mother earth.
(a) which comes from contact with
(b) which comes out from contact with
(c) which flows how from contact with
(d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1995)

ANSWERS

1. (c) 2. (b) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (c) 8. (b) 9. (d) 10. (b)
11. (c) 12. (c) 13. (c) 14. (d) 15. (b) 16. (b) 17. (b) 18. (a) 19. (b) 20. (e)
21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (d) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (a) 27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (a)
31. (b) 32. (b) 33. (c) 34. (b) 35. (b) 36. (d) 37. (a) 38. (d) 39. (c) 40. (c)
41. (a) 42. (d) 43. (b) 44. (b) 45. (a) 46. (d) 47. (c) 48. (d) 49. (c) 50. (a)

PRACTICE SET 10

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of sentence is printed in italics. Below each sentence some alternatives are given which can substitute the italicised part. Find out the choice which can correctly substitute that part of the sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, give 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your answer.

1. I *earnestly believe* that you will visit our relatives during your forthcoming trip to Bombay.
(a) certainly believing that
(b) could not believe
(c) had hardly believe
(d) sincerely would believe
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1994)
2. The accused was ordered to be *hung to death*.
(a) hung till death (b) hanged to death
(c) hanged till death
(d) No correction required
3. It is sheer folly to believe that you can improve the situation by *doing away* people.
(a) doing it to (b) doing away with
(c) doing with (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
4. Would you mind *help* me with these questions?
(a) to help (b) of helping
(c) helping (d) No improvement
5. In fact, if it hadn't been for his *invaluable advice* on so many occasions I wouldn't have achieved anything in life.
(a) remarkable advice

- (b) valuable advices
(c) priceless suggestions
(d) No improvement (Asstt. Grade, 1996)
6. He hesitated to accept the post as he did not think that the salary was enough for him to sustain his family.
(a) accepting (b) to accepting
(c) in accepting (d) while accepting
(e) No correction required
7. By temperament the English are reserved, so they prefer to live in solitary houses. (N.D.A. 1993)
(a) English (b) English people
(c) some English (d) No improvement
8. A basic step for career planning, and also for preparation for interviews is to give serious thought to assess yourself by taking stock of your needs, interests as well as your strengths and weaknesses.
(a) to have your assessment
(b) to assessing yourself
(c) to having assessed yourself
(d) No improvement
9. My father agreed with my going alone for the examination. (S.C.R.A. 1994)
(a) I go alone (b) to my going alone
(c) that I go alone (d) No improvement
10. As they met again at 9 p.m. he said, "Good night, very pleased to see you again".
(a) Good day (b) Good evening
(c) Good bye (d) No improvement
11. The question is, how was the motive of the robber in this particular case?
(a) what was (b) where was
(c) when was (d) who was
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1994)
12. I had never realised that if an innocent act like this could land a man into trouble.
(a) that an innocent act
(b) what an innocent act
(c) that even an innocent act
(d) No improvement
13. A bird in hand is worth two in bush.
(a) two on bush (b) two in the bush
(c) two at a bush (d) No improvement
14. Mala was hurried to reach the meeting when she slipped and fell down.
(a) is hurried (b) was being hurried
(c) was hurrying
(d) No correction required (I. Tax, 1993)
15. He is so handsome man that people turn round to look at him.
(a) very handsome (b) such a handsome
(c) too handsome (d) No improvement
16. Most donors would seriously protest any effort to extrapolate from such limited data.
(a) protest at (b) protest to
(c) protest against (d) No improvement
17. He should move on to the next point, and not harp one string only. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) harp only one string
(b) harp on string only
(c) harp upon one string only
(d) No improvement
18. The dog eats its food in a plate.
(a) off (b) from
(c) with (d) No improvement
19. The artist continues to work in the medium he understands best, breathing his inborn individuality and vitality into newer forms.
(a) within (b) for (c) into
(d) with (e) No improvement
20. The parents became extremely troubled when their son did not return by midnight. (U.D.C. 1995)
(a) anxious (b) depressed
(c) sad (d) No improvement
21. I can't understand why he avoids to speak to me.
(a) to tell me (b) speaking to me
(c) saying to me (d) No improvement
22. Honestly and efficiently organised socialism is expected to make our economic structure work accordingly with the laws of business morality.
(a) according with (b) accordingly to
(c) in accordance with
(d) No improvement
23. He plans to hurriedly complete this work.
(a) to complete hurriedly this work
(b) to complete this work hurriedly
(c) to complete this work in a hurry
(d) No correction required
24. What were you doing ever since I last saw you? (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) did you do (b) are you doing
(c) have you been doing
(d) No improvement
25. Seeing them all at one place, we realised that something drastic have to be done.
(a) was to be done (b) had to be done
(c) will have to be done
(d) No improvement
26. I was waiting until everybody will have left the meeting place.
(a) until everybody had left
(b) until everybody left
(c) until everybody would leave
(d) No improvement

27. Are you more cleverer than us?
(a) cleverer to us (b) more cleverer to us
(c) cleverer than us (d) No improvement
(Section Officers, 1993)
28. The forest is infested of snakes.
(a) with (b) by
(c) in (d) No improvement
29. In spite of all those hurdles, the scheduled day came off in a few months.
(a) came up (b) came on
(c) came off (d) came over
(e) No correction required
30. When she takes her exam she will have a holiday. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) has taken her exam
(b) took her exam
(c) had taken her exam
(d) No improvement
31. Millions of people in our country are deprived of two square meals since independence.
(a) are being deprived
(b) have been deprived
(c) has been deprived
(d) No improvement
32. In quick time he got attached to a renowned leader and politician.
(a) In enough time (b) In brief time
(c) In no time (d) On time only
(e) No correction required
33. Your statement that you were thorough ignorant of the consequences cannot be trusted. (Bank P.O. 1995)
(a) thoroughly in ignorance
(b) thoroughly ignorance
(c) thorough of ignorance
(d) thoroughly ignorant
(e) No correction required
34. Not only did he invite his relatives but also all his friends and colleagues.
(a) He did not invite only
(b) He invited not only
(c) Not only he invited
(d) He not only invited
35. There is rumour that a great leader has been assassinated.
(a) is the rumour (b) is rumours
(c) is a rumour (d) No improvement
36. Asking me why was I absent, I was punished by the Headmaster. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) why was I absent, was I punished by the Headmaster
(b) why I was absent, was I punished by the Headmaster
(c) why I was absent, the Headmaster punished me
(d) No improvement
37. An educated man's way of life can be contrasted to that of an illiterate person.
(a) contrasted with (b) contrasted at
(c) contrasted against
(d) No improvement
38. Madan will not be at home until eight o'clock. (N.D.A. 1994)
(a) in home (b) to home
(c) home (d) No improvement
39. That is something of which I'd rather not talk about.
(a) I'd rather not talk about it
(b) I'd rather not talk about
(c) that I'd rather not talk about it
(d) No correction required
40. People are generally found absorbing in the activity which they like most.
(a) absorb (b) absorbed
(c) observe (d) observing
(e) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1990)
41. Had you been told me about your problem, I would have helped you.
(a) Had you told
(b) Had you have told
(c) If you have told
(d) If you would have told
(e) No correction required
42. I am quite hopeful of securing very high marks in the examination.
(a) to secure (b) to having secured
(c) of having secured (d) No improvement
(Railways, 1993)
43. In the past, services of backward communities and weaker sections of society were used without payment of some kind.
(a) payment or kind
(b) payment of a kind
(c) payment of any kind
(d) No improvement
44. Nothing but books and magazines pleases her. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) were pleasing (b) please
(c) are pleasing (d) No improvement
45. You had better got your reservation well in advance or you won't be able to go.
(a) had better get (b) had better to get
(c) had to better get (d) No improvement
46. Why did you not spoken to me earlier?
(a) did you not spoke
(b) you did not speak
(c) did you not speak
(d) were you not spoken
(e) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1996)
47. The contractor did not keep his promise that the work will be finished before the end of the week.
(a) shall (b) would

- (c) could (d) No improvement
 48. The discovery of the radio and the television *have not been* without some effects.
 (a) had not been (b) has not been
 (c) could not be (d) No improvement
 49. There is *no absolute worry* even if your son refuses to marry her.
 (a) no absolutely worry (b) absolutely no worry
 (c) absolutely not worrying (d) No improvement
 50. He found it difficult *to cope along with his work*.
 (a) to cope also with his work (b) to cope with his work
 (c) to cope up with his work (d) to cope around his work (C.B.I. 1995)

ANSWERS

1. (e) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (d) 6. (c) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (b)
 11. (a) 12. (c) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (b) 16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (b) 19. (d) 20. (a)
 21. (b) 22. (c) 23. (b) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (a) 27. (c) 28. (a) 29. (c) 30. (a)
 31. (b) 32. (c) 33. (d) 34. (b) 35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (a) 38. (c) 39. (b) 40. (b)
 41. (a) 42. (d) 43. (c) 44. (b) 45. (a) 46. (c) 47. (b) 48. (d) 49. (b) 50. (b)

PRACTICE SET 11

Directions : Look at the italicised part of the sentence. Below each sentence are given some possible substitutions for the italicised part. If one of them is better than the italicised part, indicate your response against the corresponding letter. If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your response.

1. Each village adopted by the club was *provided by electric supply*. (C.D.S. 1995)
 (a) provided (b) provided with
 (c) provided for (d) No improvement
 2. Kailash insisted *him to do this work*.
 (a) insisted on him to do this work
 (b) insisted him on doing this work
 (c) insisted on his doing this work
 (d) No correction required
 3. Sports *is good to health*.
 (a) is good for health
 (b) are good to health
 (c) are good for health
 (d) No improvement
 4. Even more than my father was she intolerant of demonstrativeness and the wearing of one's heart *on his sleeve*.
 (a) on the sleeve (b) on one's sleeve
 (c) on her sleeve (d) No improvement (I.E.S. 1993)
 5. All work and no play *make* Jack a dull boy.
 (a) made (b) would make
 (c) makes (d) maketh
 (e) No correction required
 6. He is in the habit of purchasing the *very good* of all the things available.
 (a) the most good (b) the better
 (c) the very better (d) the best
 (e) No improvement
 7. I suggest that he *study* medicine.
 (a) will study (b) studies
 (c) studied (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1994)
 8. I was *attacked by* malaria.
 (a) attacked with (b) afflicted by
 (c) afflicted with (d) No improvement
 9. Just watch out that your shirt's hanging out; *tuck it at once*.
 (a) tuck it in (b) tuck it through
 (c) tuck it into (d) No improvement
 10. The baby was left *in charge of* a neighbour. (Translators' Exam, 1994)
 (a) to care of (b) to care for
 (c) in the charge of (d) No improvement
 11. Holmes took up a second letter which *lay unnoticed* upon the table whilst he had been absorbed with the first.
 (a) was lying unnoticed
 (b) had been lying unnoticed
 (c) had laid unnoticed
 (d) No improvement
 12. She asked me if I knew a person who could teach her French. I said *I wasn't*.
 (a) do not know (b) didn't
 (c) hadn't (d) No improvement

13. He found the gold coin as he *cleans* the floor. (Bank P.O. 1993)
 (a) while he cleans
 (b) as he had cleaning
 (c) as he was cleaning
 (d) while cleaning
 (e) No correction required
 14. His salary is not adequate for him to *make the both ends meet*.
 (a) make both ends meet
 (b) make both the ends meet
 (c) make both his ends meet
 (d) No correction required
 15. An accident took place *early today morning*. (C.B.I. 1994)
 (a) this morning (b) morning today
 (c) at the morning (d) No improvement
 16. The engagement ceremony *took place* in this very hotel last Sunday.
 (a) was took place (b) did take place
 (c) was taken place (d) No improvement
 17. After a few minutes the unconscious boxer began to *come out*. (N.D.A. 1993)
 (a) up (b) round
 (c) on (d) No improvement
 18. Had he turned down my offer, he *could not be* where he is today.
 (a) may not be (b) should not be
 (c) would not be (d) No improvement
 19. He has frightened many a people *by his gun*.
 (a) by gun (b) by a gun
 (c) with his gun (d) No improvement
 20. The farmer's way of life can be *contrasted to* that of the factory worker. (C.D.S. 1991)
 (a) contrasted for (b) contrasted against
 (c) contrasted with (d) No improvement
 21. *But just how far* he will manage to run with those shoes remains to be seen.
 (a) But just how farther
 (b) But just how much far
 (c) But just how further
 (d) No improvement
 22. The winter was *such severe*, that even water in the taps was frozen.
 (a) severe such (b) so severe
 (c) severe so much (d) No improvement (S.C.R.A. 1994)
 23. I am unable to go on the excursion with my friends because I *broke* my leg.
 (a) have broken (b) break
 (c) had broken (d) No improvement
 24. More than one person *was killed* in the accident. (I.E.S. 1994)
 (a) have been killed (b) were killed
 (c) are killed (d) No improvement
 25. My employer *threatened me to dismiss* if I was late again.
 (a) threatened of dismissing me
 (b) threatened to dismiss me
 (c) threatened dismiss me
 (d) No improvement
 26. To succeed in a difficult task, *persistence is needed*. (Bank P.O. 1994)
 (a) persistence was needed
 (b) persistence is what one needs
 (c) one needs to be persistent
 (d) persistence should have needed
 (e) No correction required
 27. The novelist stresses his opinion that *were it not for* the machinations of politicians, India would never have needed to be partitioned.
 (a) was it not for (b) it were not for
 (c) would it not for (d) No improvement
 28. He didn't believe in God *but he went to church regularly*. (C.D.S. 1992)
 (a) however (b) nevertheless
 (c) yet (d) No improvement
 29. I congratulated him on his *creditable* performance in the I.F.S. examination.
 (a) credible (b) creditworthy
 (c) credulous (d) No improvement
 30. Is your brother *yet at the university*?
 (a) brother still at
 (b) brother continue at
 (c) brother till at
 (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1990)
 31. The farewell *took place* last Sunday.
 (a) was took place (b) was taken place
 (c) did take place
 (d) No correction required
 32. He is working hard *with a view to attain* good marks in the examination.
 (a) with a view of attaining
 (b) with a view to attaining
 (c) with a view for attaining
 (d) No improvement
 33. *I, your brother and you* will be partners in the business. (N.D.A. 1991)
 (a) I, you and your brother
 (b) You, your brother and I
 (c) You, I and your brother
 (d) No improvement
 34. The government is investing *more and more* money in developmental activities.
 (a) more and most (b) much and more
 (c) much more (d) No improvement
 35. We demonstrated to them how we *were prepared* the artistic patterns.
 (a) are prepared (b) have prepared
 (c) are preparing (d) had prepared
 (e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1994)

PRACTICE SET 12

Directions : In each question below, a part of sentence is printed in italics. Below each sentence, some phrases are given which can substitute the italicised part of the sentence. Find out the phrase which can correctly substitute that part of the sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, the answer is 'No correction required' or 'No improvement'.

36. I prefer football for cricket.
(a) to (b) than
(c) from (d) No improvement
37. Mr. Dewan has driven almost thrice so far as Mr. Gupta has.
(a) as far (b) as far as
(c) as much as (d) No improvement
38. Whenever the two sisters go out for shopping, they take their pet dog with them.
(a) go out shopping
(b) go out to shopping
(c) go out on shopping
(d) No improvement
39. While we would like that all Indian children to go to school, we need to ponder why they do not. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) all Indian children
(b) that all the Indian children
(c) if all the children of India
(d) No improvement
40. Scarcely had he left when his friend came.
(a) He had scarcely left
(b) He had left scarcely
(c) He scarcely had left
(d) No improvement
41. A highly improved variety of seeds is available to the farmer these days.
(a) has been (b) are
(c) will be (d) No improvement
42. It is essential to thoroughly clean the machine after each use. (S.P.I.P.O. 1991)
(a) to thorough clean
(b) to clean thorough
(c) to thorough clean
(d) to thoroughly cleaning
(e) No correction required
43. He felt like a character in a story book which had gazed out for a moment in his brief, imagined life at the real world.
(a) that gazed out (b) who did gaze out
(c) who had gazed out
(d) No improvement
44. I have got some tea, but I do not have a sugar. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) some (b) any
(c) more (d) got
(e) No correction required
45. Tell your leader that I grant him permission of stay in my kingdom.
(a) for stay (b) about staying
(c) to stay (d) No improvement
46. I was delighted to see him fully recover.
(a) he full recovered
(b) him fully recovered
(c) his full recovery
(d) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1996)
47. I told him what to do and how he does it.
(a) should he do it (b) to do it
(c) should it be done (d) he did it
(e) No correction required
48. By definition, make a map is to select certain features as relevant and ignore others. (R.B.I. 1990)
(a) To make a map by definition
(b) Map-making is defined as
(c) In making a map, the definition
(d) The map making process involves, by defining
(e) No correction required
49. The experience was as important to the artists as it was to the thousands who comprise the audience.
(a) who did comprise
(b) who comprised
(c) who would comprise
(d) who comprised of
(e) No correction required
50. Each of our students pay their tuition fee at the beginning of the month.
(a) student pay their
(b) student pays their
(c) students pays his
(d) No improvement
(Assistant Grade, 1994)

ANSWERS

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (b) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (a) 10. (c)
11. (c) 12. (b) 13. (d) 14. (a) 15. (a) 16. (d) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (c)
21. (d) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (b) 25. (b) 26. (c) 27. (d) 28. (c) 29. (d) 30. (a)
31. (d) 32. (b) 33. (b) 34. (d) 35. (d) 36. (a) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (a) 40. (d)
41. (d) 42. (e) 43. (c) 44. (b) 45. (c) 46. (b) 47. (b) 48. (c) 49. (b) 50. (c)

1. Do not take another step, else your life will face great peril. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) might be thrown into
(b) will be in
(c) would be placed in great
(d) No improvement
2. The political situation is no better and not even as good as it was last year.
(a) not better (b) not better than
(c) no better to (d) no better than
(e) No correction required
3. Mary met with an accident. She didn't just twist her leg, she has broken it.
(a) had broken it (b) breaks it
(c) broke it too (d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1995)
4. The man prides on his wealth.
(a) is proud on (b) prides of
(c) prides himself on
(d) No improvement
5. The valley lied quite and peaceful in the sun.
(a) lied quietly and peacefully
(b) lay quite and peaceful
(c) lay quietly and peacefully
(d) No correction required
6. If I was you, I would not have joined the party. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) As you (b) If I am you
(c) Were I you (d) If I be you
(e) No correction required
7. You, they and we must go together.
(a) They, you and we
(b) You, we and they
(c) We, you and they
(d) No improvement
8. If you are absent for a week, you have to catch with the work when you return.
(a) catch up with (b) catch on with
(c) catch in with (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1994)
9. The Government has taken a number of steps with a view to improving the conditions of the backward classes.
(a) for improving (b) at improving
(c) to improve (d) No improvement
10. He was urgently in need to get his eye operation. (C.B.I. 1994)
(a) of an eye operation
(b) for operation on eye
(c) for eye to be operated
(d) No improvement
11. He fled from the country lest he should be arrested for his misdeeds.
(a) fled off (b) fled
(c) fled out of (d) No improvement
12. Having finished the book, it was put away by him. (Assistant Grade, 1995)
(a) he put it away
(b) it was being put away by him
(c) it was putting away by him
(d) No improvement
13. A well behaved boy is always obedient towards his parents.
(a) for his parents (b) of his parents
(c) to his parents (d) No improvement
14. When the thief heard the police siren, he showed a pair of clean heels.
(a) a clean pair of heels
(b) clean a pair of heels
(c) a pair of heels clean
(d) No improvement
15. When it was feared that the serfs might go too far and gain their freedom from serfdom, the Protestant leaders joined the princes at crushing them.
(a) into crushing (b) in crushing
(c) without crushing (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
16. Who do you think I was talking over the phone when you came to see me.
(a) Whom do you think I was talking
(b) Whom do you think I was talking with
(c) Who do you think I was talking to
(d) No correction required
17. I told him clearly that he hadn't ought to do that to me. (Bank P.O. 1993)
(a) ought not have done
(b) ought not done
(c) ought not has done
(d) hasn't ought to do
(e) No correction required
18. He is the best and popular actor of Bollywood.
(a) the more popular
(b) the most popular
(c) popular most (d) No improvement

19. It is *easy for children* than for adults to learn a new language. (Bank P.O. 1990)
(a) as easy as children
(b) easy for children as
(c) very easy to children as
(d) easier for children than
(e) No correction required
20. The strangers were heading *into* a serious disaster.
(a) for (b) towards
(c) along (d) No improvement
21. The company goes to great length to ensure that employees *can be comfortable* in their work environment.
(a) will be comfortable
(b) should be comfortable
(c) are comfortable (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1994)
22. They could not complete the work; *neither could we*.
(a) neither we did (b) neither did we
(c) nor could we (d) nor did we
(e) No improvement
23. The quality of food served in this hotel is so poor that no respectable person *would want to eat* over here. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) will want to eat
(b) will want to have eaten
(c) will have wanted to eat
(d) will be wanting to eat
(e) No correction required
24. We should take up the first item, let us *begin this song*. (U.D.C. 1994)
(a) this song begin us
(b) us begin with this song
(c) us beginning this song
(d) No improvement
25. I do not give any cognizance on what he says.
(a) to (b) about
(c) for (d) No improvement
26. *All, but her*, had made an attempt.
(a) All, but she (b) All, but herself
(c) All, but she herself
(d) No improvement (I.E.S. 1994)
27. He did not *obey to his orders*.
(a) obey his orders (b) obey him
(c) obey to him (d) No improvement
28. The notorious dacoit, with all his gangsters, *have been robbing* banks for the last few months. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) is robbing (b) has been robbing
(c) are robbing (d) No improvement
29. He shouted that he *might attract attention*.
(a) for attracting attention
(b) to attract attention
(c) that he may attract attention
(d) No improvement
30. Our team is likely to lose unless all members learn to cooperate *with one other*. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) with one and all (b) with one another
(c) one other with (d) No improvement
31. As he started to descend, someone lunged at him from above and *knocked his balance off*.
(a) knocked off his balance
(b) knocked him off balance
(c) knocked him off from his balance
(d) No correction required
32. *Any able bodied man* is eligible for the job.
(a) Any able-bodied men are
(b) Each able-bodied man is
(c) Any able-bodied men have been
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1996)
33. If a person *studied* this period of history, he would have wondered how such things had happened in India.
(a) a person had studied
(b) a person would study
(c) a person could have studied
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1995)
34. You will fail in the examination *if you will not work hard*.
(a) if you do not (b) if you did not
(c) if you shall not (d) No improvement
35. They succeeded *without hardly making* any effort. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) hardly without making
(b) with hardly making
(c) without making hardly
(d) No improvement
36. He died *of a wound and not from malaria*.
(a) from a wound and not from malaria
(b) of a wound and not of malaria
(c) from a wound and not of malaria
(d) No improvement
37. Governments in developing countries are under increasing pressure *for the recruiting and training* teachers to meet the demands of their rapidly expanding systems of education. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) so as to recruit and train
(b) to recruit and train
(c) in the recruiting and training of
(d) No improvement
38. Citizens should be prohibited *to smoke* in public places.
(a) for smoking (b) against smoking
(c) from smoking (d) No improvement
39. The workers are *hell bent at getting* what is due to them. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) hell bent for getting

- (b) hell bent on getting
(c) hell bent upon getting
(d) No improvement
40. You should not *discuss about* a matter with friends who are likely to find it offensive.
(a) discuss (b) discuss on
(c) discuss upon (d) No improvement
41. Miss Pillai teaches very well, *isn't it?*
(a) didn't she? (b) doesn't she?
(c) wasn't it? (d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1991)
42. Indians invented the decimal system and the digit, algebra and geometry but the names of their inventors are buried in oblivion.
(a) to (b) into
(c) within (d) No improvement
43. *Leaving aside little room* for misinterpretation, the senior politician offered clarification about his role in the party elections. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) Leaving less room for
(b) Leaving little room for
(c) Having left less room for
(d) Leaving for little room to
(e) No correction required
44. It is high time he *starts to look* into his own flaws before speaking ill of others.
(a) started to look (b) starts looking
(c) started looking (d) No improvement (Railways, 1993)
45. Students must give *ears* to what the teacher says.
(a) ear (b) the ears
(c) an ear (d) No improvement
46. *Neither of the three boys* came.
(a) No one (b) None
(c) Nil (d) No improvement
47. The fast train *came a halt to before* crossing the bridge. (B.S.R.B. 1996)
(a) came before to a halt
(b) came to a halt before
(c) came to halts before a
(d) came before a halt to
(e) No correction required
48. Mr. Hyon and the other dissident leaders *have taken shelter* at the church last month after the authorities ordered their arrest. (C.D.S. 1991)
(a) had taken shelter (b) took shelter
(c) are taking shelter
(d) No improvement
49. Our dwindling supplies were *replaced* when the new shipment arrived.
(a) restocked (b) replenished
(c) refilled (d) No improvement
50. When a man has to give evidence he must *have a clean breast* of the whole matter. (Assistant Grade, 1994)
(a) make a clean breast
(b) obtain a clean breast
(c) possess a clean breast
(d) No improvement

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (c) | 2. (d) | 3. (a) | 4. (c) | 5. (b) | 6. (c) | 7. (c) | 8. (a) | 9. (d) | 10. (a) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (a) | 13. (c) | 14. (a) | 15. (b) | 16. (c) | 17. (a) | 18. (b) | 19. (d) | 20. (a) |
| 21. (c) | 22. (e) | 23. (d) | 24. (b) | 25. (a) | 26. (a) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (b) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (b) | 33. (a) | 34. (a) | 35. (a) | 36. (c) | 37. (b) | 38. (c) | 39. (c) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (d) | 43. (b) | 44. (c) | 45. (a) | 46. (b) | 47. (b) | 48. (b) | 49. (b) | 50. (a) |

PRACTICE SET 13

Directions : In each question, a part of sentence is printed in italics. Below each sentence some alternatives are given which can substitute the italicised part of the sentence. If the sentence is correct as it is, the answer is 'No improvement' or 'No correction required'.

- When the train finally *came into* the station the lonely traveller seemed relieved. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) pulled into (b) will pull into
(c) pulled to (d) have pulled into
(e) No correction required
- When the clock strikes twelve, *I shall be waiting* here for four hours.
(a) I shall have been waiting
(b) I would have been waiting
(c) I shall have waited
(d) I would have waited

- (e) No improvement
3. Just in a hour's time, he could complete the work to my satisfaction.
(a) in a hour (b) in an hour's time
(c) in the time of an hour
(d) in the duration of an hour
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
4. If you ask nicely, your sister will probably allow you have a piece of cake.
(a) allow that you have
(b) let you have
(c) let you to have (d) No improvement
5. He was so rude that they were compelled for asking him to leave.
(a) ask him to leave (b) to ask him to leave
(c) him to ask to leave (d) No improvement
(U.D.C. 1993)
6. Either the Chief Minister or his colleagues have submitted his resignation.
(a) has submitted his resignation
(b) has submitted their resignation
(c) have submitted their resignation
(d) No improvement
7. The poor villagers have waited in the bitter cold for more than four hours now.
(a) has been waiting (b) had waited
(c) have been waiting (d) No improvement
(I.E.S. 1994)
8. His idea of reducing the quality of the article to cope up with the increasing market prices was not listened to.
(a) welcomed (b) taken for granted
(c) agreed to (d) No improvement
9. A boy has been sunk in the river.
(a) capsized (b) immersed
(c) drowned (d) No improvement
10. May I know who did accompany you to the bus station?
(a) whom did accompany you
(b) whom you accompanying
(c) whom did you accompany
(d) who accompanied you
(e) No correction required
(B.S.R.B. 1996)
11. As John dived off the spring board, he was horrified to see that the water was drained from the pool the night before.
(a) was drained away
(b) was drained
(c) had been drained off
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1994)
12. This is the same beggar that came yesterday.
(a) who (b) which
(c) whom (d) No improvement
13. The train will leave at 8.30 p.m., we have been ready by 7.30 p.m. so that we can reach the station in time.
(a) should have (b) must be
(c) were (d) are
(e) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1994)
14. Can you tell me what time is it?
(a) what is time (b) what is the time
(c) what time it is (d) No improvement
15. Because of the patient's ill health, losing weight was advised him by the doctor.
(a) lose weight was what the doctor advised
(b) to lose weight was advised to him by the doctor
(c) he was advised by the doctor to lose weight
(d) No correction required
(Bank P.O. 1992)
16. Can I exchange my book for yours?
(a) my book (b) our book
(c) my book with yours
(d) No correction required
17. They are waiting for her since morning.
(a) were waiting (b) have been waiting
(c) wait (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1992)
18. They left the town with bag and baggage.
(a) with bags and baggages
(b) bags and baggages
(c) bag and baggage (d) No improvement
19. He sent a word to me that he would be coming late.
(a) sent words (b) has sent a word
(c) sent word (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1993)
20. He has always been very kind enough to help me.
(a) kind enough (b) too kind enough
(c) enough kind (d) No improvement
21. Had you helped me, I shall not be miserable.
(a) would not be (b) should not be
(c) would not have been
(d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1993)
22. My mother has been walking in the park everyday since we moved into this area.
(a) walks (b) had been walking
(c) walked (d) No improvement
23. Tigers are both found in Asia and in Africa.
(a) found both in Asia and Africa
(b) found both in Asia and in Africa
(c) found in both Asia and Africa
(d) No improvement
24. When Shankar came home after a hard day in the office he found his wife had slept.
(N.D.A. 1993)

- (a) was sleeping (b) sleeping
(c) has been sleeping (d) No improvement
25. None but the brave deserves the fair.
(a) Only the brave
(b) None else but the brave
(c) Simply those who are brave
(d) No improvement
26. Certainly man must look up the future and find ways of providing for his needs.
(a) look for (b) look to
(c) look in (d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
27. It is so tough a competition that you just cannot get through it unless you do not work hard.
(a) you will work hard
(b) you work hard
(c) you do work hard (d) No improvement
28. It is a common belief that familiarity dispenses with the necessity of politeness.
(a) dispenses of (b) dispenses without
(c) dispenses from (d) No improvement
(I.E.S. 1993)
29. Frank was bound hand and foot and tightly blind-folded, but unharmed.
(a) bound by (b) bound in
(c) bound to (d) No improvement
30. As he was much hated by his contemporaries, posterity praises his statesmanship.
(a) He was as much (b) So much he was
(c) Much as he was (d) No improvement
(C.B.I. 1995)
31. Would you like other piece of cake?
(a) another (b) more
(c) extra (d) No improvement
32. My mother asked me when would I have a glass of milk.
(a) I shall (b) I would
(c) I will (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1992)
33. Many accidents can be avoided if we be careful.
(a) might be careful (b) are careful
(c) were careful (d) No improvement
(R.R.B. 1994)
34. The people in villages are deprived of essential commodities for the past two weeks.
(a) has been deprived
(b) have been deprived
(c) are being deprived
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1991)
35. If he had money, he will buy a house.
(a) he is buying a house
(b) he were buying a house
(c) he did buy a house
(d) No improvement
36. When he met her for the first time, he felt as if he had been knowing her all his life.
(a) knew (b) was knowing
(c) had known (d) No improvement
37. If I would have seen the book earlier, I would have recommended it to my students.
(a) could see (b) had seen
(c) saw (d) No correction required
38. Even if I had stood on a chair, I would not have been able to reach the light bulb.
(a) did not reach
(b) could not reach
(c) would not be reaching
(d) No improvement
(C.D.S. 1995)
39. He did not even listen to me, leaving aside staying here.
(a) leave aside (b) leave beside
(c) leave besides (d) after leaving aside
(e) No correction required
40. The money is to be used for the benefit of the poor.
(a) for benefit of poor people
(b) for the benefit of the poor
(c) for the benefit of the poor people
(d) No improvement
41. If we finish our work in time, we'll go for a movie.
(a) If we finished (b) If we will finish
(c) If we would finish
(d) No improvement
42. Do you know who she is going to marry?
(a) who she is married?
(b) who is she going to marry?
(c) whom she is going to marry?
(d) No improvement
(N.D.A. 1994)
43. She became conscientious when she realised that the opposite man was staring at her.
(a) the man opposite (b) the opposed man
(c) man opposite (d) No improvement
44. She told me that there was more room to accomodate all the guests.
(a) open space (b) sufficient room
(c) enough rooms (d) No improvement
45. After the communal frenzy, slogans now occupy the air, exhorting the people to promote peace, harmony and amity.
(a) thicken (b) fill
(c) infest (d) mark
(Translators' Exam, 1994)
46. The intellectual interest which is the mainspring of George Eliot's inspiration alters the angle from which she approaches each aspect of her subject matter.
(a) either aspect (b) every aspect

- (c) any aspect (d) No improvement
47. On basis this information the Deputy Collector took strong action. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) On basis of (b) On the basis
(c) On the basis of (d) No improvement
48. Mahatma Gandhi is called as the Father of the Nation. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) Father of the Nation
(b) called Father of the Nation
(c) called the Father of the Nation
- (d) No improvement
49. Don't be disturbed, get with your work.
(a) get up with (b) get over with
(c) get on with (d) No improvement
50. We might have been visited the sick man if we knew that he was in the hospital.
(a) would have been (b) will have
(c) would have (d) may have been
(e) No correction required

ANSWERS

1. (a) 2. (c) 3. (b) 4. (b) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (c) 8. (a) 9. (c) 10. (d)
11. (c) 12. (d) 13. (b) 14. (c) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (b) 18. (c) 19. (d) 20. (a)
21. (c) 22. (d) 23. (b) 24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (d) 29. (d) 30. (c)
31. (a) 32. (b) 33. (b) 34. (b) 35. (c) 36. (c) 37. (b) 38. (d) 39. (a) 40. (c)
41. (d) 42. (b) 43. (a) 44. (b) 45. (b) 46. (b) 47. (c) 48. (c) 49. (c) 50. (c)

PRACTICE SET 14

Directions : In each of the following questions, a part of the sentence is italicised. Alternatives to the portions italicised, which may improve the sentence, are given. Choose the appropriate alternative. In case no improvement is needed, choose 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your answer.

1. I took the cycle *which he bought yesterday*. (Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
(a) that he bought yesterday
(b) that he had bought yesterday
(c) that which he had bought yesterday
(d) No improvement
2. Prices of pulses can go *as high to* Rs. 25 a kg.
(a) so high to (b) so high as
(c) as high as (d) No improvement
3. He came to the cave uphill and looked *up the valley*.
(a) into the valley (b) down the valley
(c) across the valley (d) No improvement
4. Sunita told me that she would mind *to stand and eating* the lunch.
(a) to stand and eat
(b) standing and eating
(c) standing and eat
(d) No correction required (I. Tax, 1993)
5. The good fortune *of being your student* in my younger days has helped me greatly in my life.
(a) of my having been your student
(b) of myself being your student
(c) of my being your student
(d) No correction required
6. Tell your leader that I grant him permission *of stay* in my kingdom.
(a) about stay (b) to stay
(c) with staying (d) for stay
(e) No correction required (B.S.R.B. 1992)
7. The old man felled some trees with *hardly no effort* at all. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) hard effort
(b) a hardly any effort
(c) hardly any effort (d) No improvement
8. He could not *cope up with* the heavy rush. (N.D.A. 1994)
(a) cope up to (b) cope by
(c) cope with (d) No improvement
9. We must *take it granted* that Shaloo will not come for today's function.
(a) have it granted (b) took it as granted
(c) take it for granted
(d) No correction required
10. We *might not be* able to change the situation quickly but we should continue our efforts in that direction.
(a) could not be (b) did not
(c) had not been (d) would not be
(e) No correction required (Bank P.O. 1994)

Sentence Improvement

11. The right to work implies the obligation on the part of the government to give a job *to all the unemployed*.
(a) any of the unemployed
(b) every unemployed
(c) each of the unemployed
(d) No improvement
12. Rakesh's wife *sung* a very sweet song in the party.
(a) singed the (b) singed
(c) sang a (d) No improvement
13. We *did not see* this movie yet.
(a) had seen (b) have not seen
(c) have seen (d) No improvement
(Stenographers' Exam, 1995)
14. He has formed a low opinion about him, so he *thinks little of him*. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) thinks a little of him
(b) thinks the little of him
(c) little thinks about him
(d) No improvement
15. You can mix it *with some sugar* and eat it.
(a) any sugar (b) in some sugar
(c) into some sugar
(d) No correction required
16. Oliver was assigned the task of serving a *summons* on Mr. Higgins to appear in a court of law.
(a) a summons (b) the summons
(c) the summons (d) No improvement
17. I knew he could not be trusted; *he let off the cat from the bag*. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) let the cat from the bag
(b) let the cat out of the bag
(c) let the cat jump out of the bag
(d) No improvement
18. They went *across* the forest into the deep valleys.
(a) into (b) between (c) over
(d) through (e) No improvement
19. The boys of our class have reported considerable *progress for the implementation* of their policies.
(a) in the implementation of
(b) by implementing
(c) by introducing implements
(d) towards implementing
(e) No correction required
20. The record for the biggest tiger hunt has not been *met* since 1911 when Lord Hardinge, then Viceroy of India, shot a tiger that measured eleven feet six and three-fourth inches.
(a) bettered (b) improved
(c) broken (d) No improvement
(Assistant Grade, 1996)
21. The teacher explained him politely that he *hadn't ought to do* that.
(a) hasn't ought to do
(b) ought not have done
(c) ought not done
(d) No correction required
22. It was so hot during the school parade that several of the weaker pupils passed by. (N.D.A. 1992)
(a) out (b) through
(c) over (d) No improvement
23. Having spent her childhood in Bombay, she has developed her ability to converse in Marathi *rather good*.
(a) rather well (b) rather better
(c) fairly well (d) good rather
(e) No correction required
24. As there was no time, the remaining items *were deferred into* the next meeting.
(a) were deferred to (b) were deferred till
(c) are deferred upto (d) No improvement
25. His *powerful desire* brought about his downfall. (I.E.S. 1994)
(a) His fatal desire
(b) His intense desire
(c) His desire for power
(d) No improvement
26. I *was living* in Dehradun for ten years when I was a child.
(a) had lived (b) had been living
(c) lived (d) No improvement
27. My friend and *me* study together during holidays.
(a) I (b) myself
(c) I myself (d) No improvement
28. He opened the letter without *cding* to read the address on the envelope.
(a) thinking (b) bothering
(c) worrying (d) No improvement
(U.D.C. 1995)
29. Even though viable alternatives exist, their use is yet to catch on *into a major way*.
(a) in a major way (b) under a major way
(c) upto a major way (d) No improvement
30. We were still standing in the queue when the *film was beginning*. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) film begins (b) film had begun
(c) film began
(d) beginning of the film was over
(e) No correction required
31. He *shook hand with me* after receiving the prize.
(a) shook my hand (b) shook my hands
(c) shook hands with me
(d) No improvement

32. Poor Tom *laid* in the shade of a tree before he could walk further. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) lied (b) lain (c) lay (d) No improvement
33. They asked me *that how* I got time to write all these books.
(a) how did I get (b) that how did I get (c) how I got (d) that how I was getting (e) No correction required
34. He spent much time and energy over it, and lost a large sum *in the bargain*.
(a) into the bargain (b) with the bargain (c) off the bargain (d) for the bargain (e) No correction required (S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
35. He was sure that given enough time, contentious issues *would be sort themselves out*.
(a) would sort themselves by (b) would be sorted out (c) would sort themselves out (d) will sort themselves out (e) No correction required
36. As soon as our plan is approved, I shall favour *its* adoption. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) our (b) it's (c) its (d) No improvement
37. The blue jacket is the *least expensive* of the two apparels.
(a) the less expensive (b) less expensive (c) the lesser expensive (d) No improvement
38. The Principal lamented that though a detailed report was submitted to the management a month ago *no action is being taken* so far. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) no action had taken (b) no action has been taken (c) no action was being taken (d) any action had been taken (e) No correction required
39. This is the very first criminal case in which the suspect's name has figured and no one is *quietly ready to hazard* a guess.
(a) is quite ready to hazard (b) is quite readily to hazard (c) was quite ready to hazard (d) No correction required
40. The practical importance of the role of the industrialist in the establishment of the new order is greater than the *economist and the politician*.
(a) of the economist and the politicians (b) that of the economist's and the politician's (c) that of the economist and the politician (d) No improvement (Railways, 1993)
41. Nanda *was hurried* to the station when she dashed against the car.
(a) was being hurried (b) is hurried (c) was hurrying (d) was to hurry (e) No correction required
42. I can always *count on him* in times of difficulty. (B.S.R.E. 1996)
(a) count at him (b) count on he (c) count him on (d) count with him (e) No correction required
43. Galileo escaped *burning* for heresy because he apologized and withdrew his previous statements. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) being burnt (b) from being burnt (c) from having been burnt (d) No improvement
44. Whatever be our other problems, we have no *shortcoming* of cheap labour in India.
(a) deficit (b) scarcity (c) default (d) No improvement
45. He *makes friends* with all kinds of people.
(a) makes friendship (b) makes friend (c) made friendship (d) No improvement
46. The *car's doors* are loose. (C.B.I. 1995)
(a) car-doors are loose (b) doors of car are loose (c) doors of the car are loose (d) No improvement
47. The country is in *as much disorder* that it will take years to set it right.
(a) much disorder (b) so disorder (c) so much disorder (d) No improvement
48. When he arrived to attend the wedding of his brother, he *had been dressed* in a dark suit. (N.D.A. 1996)
(a) dressed (b) was dressed (c) had dressed (d) No improvement
49. The detectives followed on several clues but failed to find the murderer.
(a) up (b) through (c) by (d) No improvement
50. He gave *witness* at the sensational trial.
(a) evidence (b) proof (c) advice (d) No improvement (Stenographers' Exam, 1994)

ANSWERS

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|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) | 6. (b) | 7. (c) | 8. (c) | 9. (c) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (d) | 12. (c) | 13. (b) | 14. (a) | 15. (d) | 16. (d) | 17. (b) | 18. (d) | 19. (a) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (b) | 22. (a) | 23. (c) | 24. (b) | 25. (c) | 26. (a) | 27. (b) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (b) |
| 31. (c) | 32. (c) | 33. (c) | 34. (e) | 35. (c) | 36. (e) | 37. (a) | 38. (b) | 39. (a) | 40. (c) |
| 41. (c) | 42. (e) | 43. (c) | 44. (b) | 45. (d) | 46. (c) | 47. (c) | 48. (b) | 49. (a) | 50. (a) |

PRACTICE SET 15

Directions : Look at the italicised part of the sentence. Below each sentence are given some possible substitutions for the italicised part. If one of them is better than the italicised part, indicate your response against the corresponding letter. If none of the substitutions improve the sentence, indicate 'No improvement' or 'No correction required' as your response.

1. The situation remained the same, rather *got worse*, all his efforts notwithstanding. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) for all his efforts notwithstanding (b) with all his efforts notwithstanding (c) inspite of all his efforts notwithstanding (d) No improvement
2. A thing of beauty *is joy* for ever.
(a) is joyous (b) is the joy (c) is a joy (d) No improvement
3. By aligning with him, he was heading *into* a serious disaster.
(a) along (b) towards (c) for (d) No improvement
4. *There is no more room* for you in this compartment. (Section Officers, 1993)
(a) There is no more accommodation (b) There is no more space (c) There is no more seat (d) No improvement
5. We should be bound by a code of conduct, *isn't it*?
(a) shouldn't we? (b) shouldn't we be? (c) aren't we? (d) No improvement
6. The best of us are not without *faults or failings*.
(a) fault and failings (b) faults and failures (c) faults and failings (d) No improvement
7. He drives as if the road *belongs* to him.
(a) has belonged (b) belonged (c) is belonging (d) No improvement
8. Twenty kilometres *are not a great distance* in these days of fast moving vehicles. (I.E.S. 1994)
(a) is no distance (b) is not a great distance (c) aren't a great distance (d) No improvement
9. As per my instructions he *sent a word* to me informing me of the sick man's condition.
(a) sent word (b) had sent a word (c) sent words (d) No improvement
10. As far as good schooling is concerned, *none except few* privileged people can afford it for their children.
(a) none but few (b) none more than a few (c) none except a few (d) No correction required
11. It is time to *immediately put the work in hand*. (U.D.C. 1994)
(a) to put the work immediately in hand (b) to put the work in hand immediately (c) immediately to put the work in hand (d) No improvement
12. *I have already read this book twice*.
(a) I already twice have read this book. (b) I twice have already read this book. (c) I have twice already read this book. (d) No improvement
13. Although India is still *by far* a poor country, it can become rich if its natural and human resources are fully utilised.
(a) by and by (b) by and large (c) few and far between (d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1995)
14. I don't understand *that how you think* of going to Kashmir in winter.
(a) that how do you think (b) how you think (c) that how you thought (d) how do you think (e) No improvement
15. He was selected for the job because he has very good command on English.
(a) over (b) of (c) in (d) No improvement

16. He said firmly that he would *rather starve to stealing* to get what he needed.
(a) starve to rather stealing
(b) starve to rather steal
(c) rather starve than steal
(d) rather starving to stealing
(e) No correction required
(S.B.I.P.O. 1991)
17. By the end of this century, scientists surely *have discovered* a cure for cancer.
(a) are discovering
(b) will have discovered
(c) must discover
(d) will have been discovered
(e) No improvement
18. He is extraordinarily *clever at mimicking* his friends. (C.D.S. 1992)
(a) clever to mimick
(b) clever for mimicking
(c) clever in mimicking
(d) No improvement
19. The *less* chances you take, the greater your piece of mind will be but, then again, the high profits that you hope for may never eventuate.
(a) little (b) lesser
(c) fewer (d) No improvement
20. The popularity of the novels of Prem Chand, though they are full of sad and painful incidents, lies in the fact that they *end with happiness*.
(a) end happily
(b) are all ending with happiness
(c) have a happy ending
(d) No improvement
21. *As soon as* I stepped inside the hall, I could hear the sound of boys and girls singing aloud.
(a) No sooner had (b) Hardly
(c) Sooner than (d) No improvement
22. When the clock struck six I *was waiting* here for an hour. (Asstt. Grade, 1995)
(a) had waited (b) had been waiting
(c) shall have waited (d) No improvement
23. The gangsters *have taken shelter* at the old house last month after the police ordered their arrest.
(a) took shelter (b) are taking shelter
(c) had taken shelter (d) No improvement
24. *If the room had been brighter*, I would have been able to read for a while before bed time. (C.D.S. 1993)
(a) If the room was brighter
(b) If rooms are brighter
(c) Had the room been brighter
(d) No improvement
25. There is that special quality which makes him *who he is*.
(a) where he is (b) what he is
(c) why he is (d) whom he is
(e) No improvement
26. Most of the employees from Rajan's factory were not *inclination* to using the new technology. (Bank P.O. 1994)
(a) inclined to be (b) incline to
(c) inclined to (d) inclining to
(e) No correction required
27. Only a potter can shape *clay in a pot*.
(a) clay into a pot (b) clay as a pot
(c) the clay as a pot (d) No improvement
28. He did not respond to her inquiring, *I did not neither*.
(a) I did neither (b) nor did I
(c) I did either (d) No improvement
29. Evidently *very much people* are involved in the new scheme implementation.
(a) very many people
(b) very more people
(c) very such people
(d) No improvement
30. When the soldier returned home after the war was over, his wife received him *with open hands*. (C.B.I. 1993)
(a) with open arms
(b) with unfolded hands
(c) with an open heart
(d) No improvement
31. You ought to *stating the problem first* before proceeding to suggest the solution.
(a) state the problem at first
(b) state the problem first
(c) first stating the problem
(d) No improvement
32. Sri Pashupatinath is a *worth seeing* temple in Kathmandu.
(a) a temple worth seeing
(b) a temple to see its worth
(c) one of the worth seeing temples
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1996)
33. Even the people in authority agree that corruption has become *today's order*.
(a) the order of the day
(b) the order of today
(c) the day's order
(d) No improvement (N.D.A. 1996)
34. Being a handicapped youth, he *was put hard to complete* his military course.
(a) was hard put to
(b) was put to it hard
(c) was hardly put to
(d) No improvement (C.D.S. 1994)
35. When I get home, my children *would be* playing.
(a) would have been (b) will be
(c) have been
(d) No correction required

36. He didn't believe in God *but* he went to church regularly.
(a) yet (b) nevertheless
(c) however (d) No improvement
37. According to the Planning Commission estimates, by the year 2000, India *will have become* self-sufficient in petroleum products. (N.D.A. 1995)
(a) would have become
(b) shall have become
(c) should have become
(d) No improvement
38. *If he studied more*, Kamal would have been able to secure a good first division.
(a) If he would have studied more
(b) If he were studying more
(c) If he had studied more
(d) No improvement
39. He was extremely unhappy because of the *inordinate delay*. (Bank P.O. 1995)
(a) the inordinate delaying
(b) the inordinate delay
(c) the inordinately delaying
(d) inordinate delaying
(e) No correction required
40. She is not used to *work* for so long.
(a) to working (b) to have worked
(c) to be working (d) No improvement
41. She says she's already paid me back, but I can't remember, so I'll have to *take her word*. (C.D.S. 1995)
(a) to take her word true
(b) to take her at her word
(c) to take her word for it
(d) No improvement
42. As the poet ages, he naturally writes with sorrow of the process of decay *in the life and time*.
(a) in a life and a time
(b) in life and time
(c) in life and the time
(d) No improvement
43. After the discovery of the small pox vaccine, there is no cases of the disease in India.
(a) are (b) were being
(c) have been (d) No improvement
44. The mother has not seen the child for several months and now eagerly *looks forward* to seeing him. (C.D.S. 1994)
(a) looks for
(b) looks onto
(c) looks ahead to
(d) No improvement
45. Your father will *buy for you a new bag*.
(a) buy new bag for you
(b) buy you new bag
(c) buy you a new bag
(d) No correction required
46. *Although partially destroyed*, the experts able to infer from what remained that the treasure was buried in the cave.
(a) Although partially destroyed, the experts had inferred
(b) Partially destroyed though it had, the experts able to infer
(c) Destroyed partially, the experts were able to infer
(d) Although it had been partially destroyed, the experts were able to infer
(e) No correction required (R.B.I. 1990)
47. The expert *was very interesting* in this candidate.
(a) was having interest
(b) was very interested
(c) is having interest
(d) No improvement
48. I had a strange intrusion that *he will steal the watch*.
(a) he may steal the watch
(b) he would steal the watch
(c) he will be stealing the watch
(d) No correction required
49. To learn a language well, one must have patience and *readiness to work hard*.
(a) readiness to working
(b) be ready to working
(c) ready to working
(d) No improvement
50. You can't imagine *that she is rude and arrogant*.
(a) that she is rudely and arrogant
(b) how rude and arrogant she is
(c) what rudeness and arrogance she has
(d) No correction required

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (b) | 2. (c) | 3. (c) | 4. (b) | 5. (a) | 6. (c) | 7. (b) | 8. (b) | 9. (a) | 10. (c) |
| 11. (b) | 12. (d) | 13. (b) | 14. (b) | 15. (b) | 16. (c) | 17. (b) | 18. (c) | 19. (c) | 20. (c) |
| 21. (d) | 22. (b) | 23. (d) | 24. (c) | 25. (b) | 26. (c) | 27. (a) | 28. (b) | 29. (a) | 30. (a) |
| 31. (b) | 32. (a) | 33. (d) | 34. (a) | 35. (b) | 36. (a) | 37. (d) | 38. (c) | 39. (b) | 40. (a) |
| 41. (b) | 42. (b) | 43. (c) | 44. (d) | 45. (c) | 46. (d) | 47. (b) | 48. (b) | 49. (d) | 50. (b) |