

Editing Practices (Guided)

Use the Error Type for Questions guide below each practice to help you check that you are identifying the right errors for each line. Train your mind to look out for the errors purposefully, instead of simply following your 'gut' or thinking that 'it sounds right'.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF PRACTICE, THE FORMAT FOR THE GUIDED EXERCISES IS DIFFERENT FROM THE O LEVEL EDITING SECTION.

Editing Exercise 1

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about shark attacks. The first and the last lines are correct. **For each line, there is one grammatical error in each line.**

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Because there are no natural enemies of sharks, they have little reason to fear

anything that they come in contact with on the water. As top of the food chain 1 _____

predators, they are naturally curious about anything that they ran into that they 2 _____

aren't familiar with, and while they obviously have no hands to explore 3 _____

something with, the only way they can get a feel for the new object are to bite. 4 _____

While such a bite may not be intended to kill the target, sharks have incredible 5 _____

powerful jaw which can make the bite deadly. Sharks do not attack a human with 6 _____

the express purpose of getting the easy meal. The digestive system of a shark 7 _____

works extremely slow, and it is difficult for sharks to digest the high ratio of human 8 _____

bone that is contained within a person. They is also not worth the effort to try to 9 _____

strip the flesh from the bones of a human — it is too time consume and difficult to 10 _____

manoeuvre the prey with no way to hold it safe with the mouth.

[10]

Error Types for Questions

- | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| 1. preposition | 2. tense | 3. conjunction |
| 4. subject-verb agreement | 5. word form | 6. number |
| 7. article | 8. word form | 9. pronoun |
| 10. verb form | | |

Editing Exercise 2

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about a report on a traffic incident. The first and the last lines are correct. **For each line, there is one grammatical error in each line.**

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

A double-decker bus ended up on the wrong side of the road after its driver
suffers a dizzy spell and drove against traffic along Yio Chu Kang Road towards **1** _____
Serangoon Central on the morning of 7 July. Many videos of the incident was **2** _____
circulated on social media, which showed the SBS Transit buses stationary in the **3** _____
middle lane and facing traffic. Its windscreen appeared badly damaged, though **4** _____
its front bumper was scratched and broken. The green metal rod appeared to be **5** _____
stuck in one of the cracks on the windscreen. The bus captain had suddenly felt **6** _____
dizzy, causing the bus to veering from its path and end up on the other side of the **7** _____
road. The SCDF responded to the incident and dispatched an ambulance at the **8** _____
scene. Since the incident, the bus captain was taken to the hospital in a **9** _____
consciousness state and is currently undergoing tests. He had been certified fit to **10** _____
drive after his annual medical review last month.

[10]

Adapted from: <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/transport/driver-injured-after-accident-involving-double-decker-bus-along-yio-chu-kang>

Error Types for Questions

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| 1. tense | 2. subject-verb agreement | 3. number |
| 4. conjunction | 5. article | 6. preposition |
| 7. verb form | 8. preposition | 9. conjunction |
| 10. word form | | |

Editing Exercise 3

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about Helen Keller — a deafblind author. The first and the last lines are correct. **For each line, there is one grammatical error in each line.**

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Helen Keller's improbable journey from being a frustrated deafblind child unable to
communicate, to her exalted place in the world stage as the famous global citizen **1** _____
she would become, is one of the greatest story of the 20th century. An illness at **2** _____
19 months of age leaves her deaf and blind. She had a difficult childhood due to **3** _____
her multiple disabilities, and her life turned around when she met Anne Sullivan, **4** _____
her instructor and companion. Helen led a full life dedicate to tireless advocacy **5** _____
and fearless activism that opened wide the doors of possible and hope for people **6** _____
with disabilities. Therefore she was outspoken in her principles, she inspired **7** _____
changes in public attitudes about the capability of people with visual impairments. **8** _____
As she pushed for revolutionary changes in a law, people with disabilities were **9** _____
able to transit into mainstream education and employment. Helen Keller inspires **10** _____
future generations of people with disabilities to live life to the fullest.

[10]

Adapted from <http://www.afb.org/section.aspx?SectionID=1&TopicID=129>

Error Types for Questions

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. preposition | 2. number | 3. tense |
| 4. conjunction | 5. verb form | 6. word form |
| 7. conjunction | 8. number | 9. article |
| 10. tense | | |

Editing Exercise 4

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about the effects of global warming on polar bears. The first and the last lines are correct. **For each line, there is one grammatical error in each line.**

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

Polar bears are the world's largest land predators, and the most majestic

creature of the Far North. But dramatic changes, caused by global warming, is 1

taking place in the Arctic, threatening the survival of these spectacular species. 2

Global warming is melting the polar ice caps, robs the bears of the ice floes 3

they need to hunt preys. As the annual sea ice melts, polar bears are forced 4

ashore to spend their summers fasting. Although the Arctic ice cap continues to 5

melt sooner and form lately, polar bears will become too thin to reproduce and 6

they will become extinct by the end of this century. The polar bear's homes – the 7

Arctic – was experiencing the effects of global warming more than any other 8

place. Temperatures in the Arctic is rising at almost twice the rate of that of 9

the rest of the world, and it is threatening to place the entire Arctic ecosystem at 10

jeopardy.

[10]

Adapted from http://www.naturecanada.ca/climate_change_polar.asp

Error Types for Questions

- | | | |
|---------------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. subject-verb agreement | 2. pronoun | 3. verb form |
| 4. number | 5. conjunction | 6. word form |
| 7. number | 8. tense | 9. subject-verb agreement |
| 10. preposition | | |

Editing Exercise 5

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about Special Olympics. The first and the last lines are correct. **For each line, there is one grammatical error in each line.**

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

From a backyard summer camp for people with intellectual disabilities to a global
movement, the Special Olympics has been change lives and attitudes for more 1 _____
than four decades. It all began in the early 1960s, where Eunice Kennedy Shriver 2 _____
saw how unjustly and unfairly people with intellectual disabilities are treated. She 3 _____
also saw that many child with special needs did not even have a place to play. 4 _____
She decided to take action. Soon, her vision began to take shape, as we held a 5 _____
summer camp for youth people with intellectual disabilities in her own backyard. 6 _____
The goal was to learn what this youngsters could do in sports — and not dwell on 7 _____
what they could not do. This vision eventual grew into the global Special Olympics 8 _____
movement. The 1st International Special Olympics Summer Games were held in 9 _____
Chicago, USA on July 1968. About a thousand intellectually disabled youths from 10 _____
USA and Canada competed in track and field and swimming.

[10]

Error Types for Questions

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| 1. verb form | 2. conjunction | 3. tense |
| 4. number | 5. pronoun | 6. word form |
| 7. pronoun | 8. word form | 9. subject-verb agreement |
| 10. preposition | | |

Editing Practices (Unguided)

Now that you have become more familiar with the different error types and how to identify them, try out these unguided practices to see if the errors become easier for you to find and correct. Aim for an average score of 8 and above for each practice.

Editing Exercise 6

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about horse riding for the disabled. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

The Riding for the Disabled Association in Singapore provides therapeutic horse	
riding for people with disabilities. Not only is horse riding a form of physical	1 _____
therapy for the disabled, the activity also promote emotional growth and cognitive	2 _____
development in a way that is unique, fun and exhilaration. Often, therapeutic	3 _____
horse riding has the power to change the person's perspective on life.	4 _____
Furthermore, interaction with the animal is a powerful experience, but the strong	5 _____
bond that is sometimes built over the rider and the horse has a profound, uplifting	6 _____
effect on people who were depressed, in agony or suffering. Through therapeutic	7 _____
horse riding, riders with disabilities gain self-confident and experience	8 _____
accomplishment. They also benefit for improved blood circulation, respiration,	9 _____
balance and coordination. For people with physical or intellectual disabilities,	10 _____
riding a horse gives them a chance to enjoy a new sense of independence.	

Editing Exercise 7

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about crime scene reconstruction. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

The process of working out the sequence of events before, during, and after a
crime is know as crime scene reconstruction. It is perhaps one of the aspects of **1** _____
forensic science that fascinate the public most, featuring in many police dramas. **2** _____
Reconstruction requires not just a scientific approach and also logic, experience **3** _____
and open-mindedness on the part of the investigating team who must be prepared **4** _____
to reject any presumption that does not fits with the actual evidence presented. **5** _____
Reconstruction starts when the investigator takes a first walk over the crime **6** _____
scene. Even at this stage, it may be possible to constructing a rough hypothesis **7** _____
of what may have happened and how. A hypothesis is a set of ideas or a general **8** _____
picture of what may have taken place. It did not become a theory until it fits all the **9** _____
available supporting information. While the investigator is forming the first **10** _____
impression, others are recording the scene and gathering evidence.

Editing Exercise 8

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about how the naming of hurricanes came about. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

In the early days of meteorology in the United States, storms were named with a
latitude/longitude designation representing the location where the storm originates. **1** _____

This names were difficult to remember, difficult to communicate and subjected to **2** _____

errors. On the Second World War, military meteorologists working in the Pacific **3** _____

began to use women's names for storms. That naming method made communication **4** _____

so easy that in 1953 it was adopted from the National Hurricane Center for use on **5** _____

storms originating in the Atlantic Ocean. Once this practice started, hurricane names **6** _____

quickly became part of common language but public awareness of hurricanes **7** _____

increased dramatic. In 1978, meteorologists watching storms in the Eastern **8** _____

North Pacific begun using men's names for half of the storms. For each year, a list **9** _____

of 21 names, each starting with a different letter of the alphabets was developed **10** _____

and arranged in alphabetical order.

Editing Exercise 9

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, from an extract of a speech by Hillary Clinton on Women's Rights at the U.N. Conference in 1995. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

The great challenge of this conference is to give voice to women everywhere

whose experiences go unnoticed, whose words go unheard. Women comprise 1

more than half the world's population. Women are 70 percent of the world's poor, 2

and two-thirds of those are not taught to read and writing. Women are the 3

primary caretakers for most of the world's children and elderly. And much of the 4

work they do is not valued. At the very moment, as we sit here, women around 5

the world is raising children, planting crops, working on assembly lines, running 6

companies, and running countries. Women also are dying from disease that 7

should have been prevented or treated; they are being denied the right to go to 8

school by their own fathers and brothers; they are being forced to prostitution; 9

and they are being barred from the ballot box. Those of us who have the 10

opportunity to be here have the responsibility to speak for those who could not.

[10]

Food For Thought!

The passage above comes from a speech given by Hilary Clinton in 1995. At that time, she was the First Lady of the United States, and was in a position of political and social influence. She describes the circumstances of the women of that time in her speech. They raise some meaningful questions for us to consider:

Do you feel that women in 2022 still experience these circumstances?

Have the perceptions and attitudes towards women changed since 1995?

As a young man, do you think things should remain the way they are now, or does more effort need to be made to ensure equal opportunities/treatment for both genders?

Editing Exercise 10

Carefully read the text below, consisting of 12 lines, about a heroic Gurkha who fought off 30 Taliban insurgents. The first and the last lines are correct. For eight of the lines, there is one grammatical error in each line. There are two more lines with no errors.

If there is NO error in a line, put a tick (✓) in the space provided.

If the line is incorrect, circle the incorrect word and write the correct word in the space provided.

The correct word you provide must not change the original meaning of the sentence.

A Gurkha soldier who single-handedly fought off an attack on his base by up to 30

Taliban insurgents have been awarded the Conspicuous Gallantry Cross. Acting	1	.....
Sergeant Dipprasad Pun, 31, exhausted all his ammunitions and at one point had to	2	.....
use the tripod of his machine gun to beat off a militant climbing the walls of the	3	.....
compound. A soldier fired more than 400 rounds, launched 17 grenades and	4	.....
detonated a mine to thwart the Taliban assaulting on his checkpoint near Babaji in	5	.....
southern Afghanistan. Acting Sergeant Pun was on sentry duty on the evening on	6	.....
September 17 last year when he heard a clinking noise outside the small base. At	7	.....
first, he thought it might be a donkey, and when he went to investigate, he found two	8	.....
insurgents digging a trench to lay an improvised explosive device at the checkpoint's	9	.....
front gate. He then realised that he was completely surround and that the Taliban	10	.....
were about to launch a well-planned attempt to overrun the compound.		