# Lesson Error Identification

# Lesson Outline

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- document are strictly prohibited H. Errors with Comparative and Superlative Forms of Adjectives
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### **Format**

Section VI of TOEIC tests your ability to recognize mistakes in grammar or usage in written sentences. It consists of twenty items. In each item, four expressions — usually one or two words each — are underlined. You have to examine all four items and decide which one must be rewritten (it can't simply be omitted) to form a correct sentence. In other words, you need to find the underlined expression that contains a mistake.

### **Tactics**

Part VI

- 1. Read each item word for word. Don't just look at the underlined portion of the sentences because the error is often incorrect only because of the context of the sentence.
- 2. Don't read too quickly. If you do, your eyes may skip over errors, especially those involving "small words" (prepositions, pronouns, articles). Try to pronounce each word in your mind as you read. This will help you catch errors that "sound wrong."
- 3. If you are unable to find an error after the first reading, look at the verbs in the sentence to see if they are used correctly, since verb errors are the most common errors in Part VI. Check the verb's tense, form, and agreement with the subject.
- 4. If the verb seems to be used correctly, check for other common errors: word choice, word form, preposition use, and so on.

- 5. If you still cannot find an error, eliminate choices that seem to be correct. If more than one choice remains, make a guess. Put a mark on your answer sheet next to items that you are not sure of so that you can come back to these items if you have time at the end of Section VI. (Be sure to erase all these marks before the end of the test.)
- 6. Never spend too much time on any one item.
- 7. Never leave any blank answers. Always guess.
- As soon as you finish Part VI, go on to Part VII. Keep in mind that Part VII (Reading Comprehension) takes more time to complete than either Part V or Part VI.

## Preview Test Part VI

**Directions:** In each sentence in this section, four words or phrases are underlined and marked (A), (B), (C), and (D). You must circle the *one* underlined expression that must be rewritten in order to form a correct sentence.

#### Look at the example

Every workers in this department will receive a

bonus <u>in</u> September. D

B

(C)

(D)

Choice (A), workers, is incorrectly used in this sentence. The correct sentence should read, "Every worker in this department will receive a bonus in September," You should mark letter (A).

As soon as you are ready, you can begin the Sample Test Section.

- Of the three cars that we took for a test drive, the A
   Italian one was the faster.
   C
   D
- Tagalog is Florinda's <u>first</u> language, <u>but</u> she also A B
   <u>speaks</u> Spanish and English <u>fluency</u>. D
- 3. I have hardly never had the opportunity to fly A B C in a helicopter.
- Today, most companies get the opinion of focus
   A B

  groups before marketing its products on a large scale.

  D

- 5. Sales personnel must understand A B

  psychology human in order to be successful.
- I had just <u>hang</u> up the phone after <u>speaking</u> with
   A
   B
   you <u>when</u> it <u>rang</u> again.
   C
   D
- 7. In the Chapter 1 of the manual, the author primarily
  A
  B
  defines some important terms.
  C
  D
- 8. Because of the flood, we will have to drink bottling A B C water instead of tap water.

- I <u>prefer not</u> to take <u>a lot</u> of <u>luggages</u> with me on A B C
   a <u>business</u> trip.
- You should keep your immigration control card
   A
   attached with your passport at all times.
   B C D
- I hope taking a course in information systems at the A B C community college next fall.
- The proposal whom Mr. Seong made was A B C eventually adopted.

# Testing Points and Skill-Building Exercises

As in Part V, the range of testing points in Part VI is quite large. However, a large majority of the item types fit into the categories of errors discussed in this section.

Because many of the testing points are the same as those in Part V, you will sometimes be referred back to Lesson 5 for more information. You should review this information before completing the exercises for these sections.

## A. Verb Errors

(For more information about verbs, see Lesson 5, Section D, pages 135-139.)

Verb errors are the most common type of error in Part VI. Whenever a verb or verb phrase is underlined in a sentence, you should check for verb errors. There are three main types of verb errors:

#### Errors in Subject/Verb Agreement

A singular verb must be used with a singular subject, a plural verb with a plural subject.

#### Sample Item: Verb Agreeement Error

A picture of some mountains were hanging on B

the wall behind his desk.

(A)





(c)

(D)

A singular verb, was, should be used to agree with the singular subject. (The subject is picture, not mountains.)

In some sentences, the subject is separated from the verb, and other nouns may come between the subject and the verb. This is true in the sentence on previous page, in which the singular subject *picture* is separated from the verb by a prepositional phrase (of some mountains). If you are not careful, you may assume that the plural verb is correct because the phrase mountains were seems correct. To spot the error, you need to identify the real subject and decide if it is singular or plural.

There are also some specific rules for subject/verb agreement that you should be aware of:

Two singular subjects joined by and take a plural verb.

The manager and her assistant were . . .

• Singular subjects followed by phrases such as together with, along with, accompanied by, in addition to, such as, and as well as are used with singular verbs.

Mr. Lee, along with his family, lives . . .

The president, accompanied by his advisors, was . . .

Irregular plurals (such as people, women, men, children, feet, and teeth) do not end in -s but are used with plural verbs.
 The people have . . .

His teeth are . . .

Some nouns end in -s but are singular and take singular verbs. These words include the names of many fields (such as
physics, mathematics, and economics). The word news is another word of this type.

Economics is . . .

The good news was . . .

• When the word *there* introduces a sentence, the verb may be either singular or plural, depending on the grammatical subject (the noun that follows the verb).

There was a meeting . . .

There were two police officers . . .

• In adjective clauses, either a singular or plural verb can be used, depending on the noun that the clause modifies. The houses which are . . .

I spoke to the man who was . . .

Phrases beginning with a number of are used with a plural verb; phrases beginning with the number of are used with a singular verb.

A number of his friends are . . .

The number of incidents has . . .

 Phrases beginning with the words each, every, and one take singular verbs. So do compound words beginning with every, such as everyone or everything.

Every one of the players was . . .

Each of the towns is . . .

Each one of the towns is . . .

Everything has . . .

One of the books was . . .

Everybody does...

Every player was . . .

Plural names of organizations take singular verbs.

The United Nations is . . .

Amounts of time, money, or distance used as subjects take a singular verb.

A hundred dollars is . . .

Three months has . . .

• Some adjectives are used with the word the to mean "people who are . . ." These take a plural verb.

The wealthy do not . . .

The British are . . .

Focus: Identifying errors involving subject-verb agreement.

	Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the "and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.
1.	The car and the truck was illegally parked in the fire lane.
2.	Each of the three main divisions of the corporation has its own accounting department.
3.	The Japanese has some unique methods of arranging flowers
4.	I think that Italian is a beautiful language
5.	A number of problems have come up in recent weeks
6.	A black and white television set are less expensive than a color television set
7.	Every one of the stores in this town seems to carry the same postcards.
8.	Aerobics are a vigorous form of exercise
9.	Aerobics are a vigorous form of exercise  The children in this school are getting a wonderful education  The news of the earthquake was shocking  A good set of encyclopedias are quite expensive  Even thirty liters of gasoline were not enough to fill the tank  The number of units produced last year were up by fifteen percent  In the nineteenth century, the poor were often thrown in prison if they were unable to pay their debts.
10.	The news of the earthquake was shocking.
11.	A good set of encyclopedias are quite expensive
12.	Even thirty liters of gasoline were not enough to fill the tank.
13.	The number of units produced last year were up by fifteen percent.
14.	In the nineteenth century, the poor were often thrown in prison if they were unable to pay their debts.
15.	The people who attends the ceremony will never forget it.
16.	Everything is going smoothly this week
17.	One of my best friends is coming to visit me
18.	General Motors have its corporate headquarters in Michigan
19.	Elizabeth, along with two of her colleagues, is going to work for a year in Budapest.
20.	There is several decisions that need to be made at this meeting.

#### Incorrect Choice of Tense

This error involves the use of one tense when another tense is appropriate. Sentences with this type of error usually have time words that indicate which tense is correct.

#### Sample Item: Verb-Tense Error

Mr. Cho has gone to a meeting in Singapore A B C three days ago.



(B)

(c)

(D)

The phrase three days ago indicates the need for the simple past tense. Went should be used in place of has gone.

Focus: Ident	tifying errors involving incorrect choice of verb tense.
	Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.
1.	In recent years, recreational vehicles became increasingly popular.
2.	I am afraid that this product <u>has had</u> too much negative publicity in the last few months to ever become very popular
3.	When we were in London, I was taking a picture of my friend in front of the House of Parliament.
4.	Mr. Peng has been staying at the Continental Hotel all this week
5.	I will not call you back until I will have a definite answer for you
6.	When Philip tried to read the technical manual, he is not able to understand all of it.
7.	They had dinner at the Nutmeg House restaurant last night.
8.	They had dinner at the Nutmeg House restaurant last night  I have been visiting Dubai several times in the last few years
9.	The passengers <u>have just boarded</u> the plane when the pilot announced that they would have to return to the terminal
10.	The firm will not borrow more funds until it will pay off some of its current debts.
11.	So far, we had not had any offers for the used office furniture.
12.	A few years ago, I have worked at a publishing company.
13.	Probably by the time you get this postcard, I will already return from my vacation.
14.	I was walking down the street yesterday when I ran into an old friend of mine
15.	I am liking the proposal submitted by Evergreen, Incorporated very much.
ritori	g O'
Errors in V	erb Form
	error involves the incorrect choice of simple form, -ing form, past participle, or past tense form as part of a or when used alone.

Sample Item: Verb-Form Error

I had just hang up the phone after A

B

speaking with you when it rang again.

B
C
D

0

(D)

Focus: Identifying errors involving verb forms.

**Directions:** Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the sentence "X" and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.

 1.	Items of that type have not been producing here for years
 2.	When I saw Melody, she was jog along the path by the river
 3.	I recommend that he reads the company policy manual more carefully
 4.	This mark can only be seeing in ultraviolet light.
 5.	The training film was directed by Mark Graham.
 6.	Security measures are being strengthen because of an increase in industrial espionage.
7.	She must have decided not to attend the seminar.
 8.	After five years, this pair of boots is almost wore out.
 9.	As we flown out of San Francisco, we could see the Golden Gate Bridge.
 10.	Since Steve had drunk the last cup of coffee, he made another pot.
 11.	According to the recent census, the population of this town has grow by over 25% in the last ten years.
 12.	They have <u>chosen</u> Kenji to be the new coordinator.
13.	She sung the song with great emotion.
 14.	We have been driven this car for over six hours now.
45	Our stone had to be shought O

# B. Word-Choice Errors

(For more information about word choice, see Lesson 5, Section A, pages 117-128)

Word-choice errors involve the use of incorrect words given the context of the sentence. The words that are used incorrectly are in some way related to the correct words. In general, these are words that non-native speakers of English (and, in some cases, native speakers!) sometimes confuse.

There are two categories of word-choice problems: those involving function words and those involving content words.

#### Incorrect Choice of Function Words

Function words, as explained in the previous lesson, are words that are primarily used to express grammatical relationships. Words such as *too, very, such,* and *so* are examples of function words. For a list of function words that are commonly tested on TOEIC, see pages 120-123.

	Sample I	tem: Errors in Choice of Fund	tion Words
	I have han	dly <u>never</u> had the <u>opportunity to fl</u> A B C opter.	The word ever should be used in place on never.
		B C D	
1	Exerc	ise 6.4	
F	ocus: Ident	ifying errors in word-choice proble	ems involving function words.  Arrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mar
		and rewrite the underlined expres	
_	1.		tor, and <u>another</u> is a medical student neir living room that it was hard to walk around
	3.		movies this evening.
_	4.		ork full time, but a few have part-time jobs
_	5.	Afterwards we go to Copenhage	n, we will have to return to New York
_	6.	There is only a little coffee left in	the can.
_	7.	It was such cold today that I did	n't even want to go out
_	8.	They play that song on the radio	too often that I am getting tired of it
_	9.	As his father, Georgio studied ch	emical engineering at the university.
_	10.	Meals are not longer served on t	his flight
-	11.	The two accounts of the situation	n are not very much <u>alike</u> .
۲	12.	My friend Roger sat down beside	es me

There is hardly any air left in this tire. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_ 15. He was so young to vote in the last election. \_\_\_\_\_

The River Rhine forms the border among Germany and France.

#### Incorrect Choice of Content Words

Other word-choice problems involve content words. Some of these words are similar in form — they "look alike" in some way (accept and except, for example). In other cases, the words are similar in meaning but not in form (grow up and raise, for example). Some are similar in both meaning and form (lay and lie, for example).

#### Sample Item: Errors in Choice of Content Words

Margaret made a good job when she was working

on the Jenkins project.

did should be used instead.









The following is a partial list of content words that may be confused in Part VI. (Note: Intransitive verbs are verbs that strictly prohit do not take direct objects; Transitive verbs are ones that do take direct objects.)

accept (verb): agree to; believe

except (preposition): all but; excluding

age (noun): length of existence; lifetime (at the age of thirty)

old (adjective): having existed for a specific length of time (thirty years old)

anonymous (adjective): unknown; nameless unanimous (adjective): agreed on by everyone

assurance (noun): something that gives confidence insurance (noun): a policy that protects against loss

borrow (verb): receive money from someone as a loan

lend (verb): give money to someone as a loan

cloth (noun): a material (such as silk or cotton)

clothes (noun): clothing

common (adjective): occurring often; usual

popular (adjective): well-liked

costume (noun): special clothes custom (noun): habit, tradition

customs (noun): procedure for inspecting goods and baggage coming into a country

feel (felt, felt) (verb): experience an emotion or a sensation

fall (fell, fallen) (verb): drop, go down

find (found, found) (verb): locate

found (founded, founded) (verb): establish

grow (intransitive verb): get bigger; mature

(transitive verb): nurture; take care of (said of plants) grow up (intransitive verb): get older; mature (said of children) raise (transitive verb): 1. nurture (said of plants, animals, and children) 2. to cause to go up

(noun): an increase in salary

rise (rose, risen) (intransitive verb): to go up

hard (adjective): 1. difficult 2. not soft

(adverb): not easy

hardly (adverb): almost not at all

late (adjective, adverb): not early; not on time

lately (adverb): recently

lay (laid, laid) (transitive verb): put down lie (lay, lain) (intransitive verb): rest, recline

loose (adjective): not tight

lose (lost, lost) (verb): not be able to find

major (adjective): important

majority (noun, adjective): more than fifty percent

near (preposition): close to nearly (adverb): almost

owe (verb): have a debt own (verb): possess

strictly prohibited remember (verb): think of someone or something in the past (not used with an indirect object) remind (verb): make someone remember (used with a person or thing as an indirect object)

rob (verb): take illegally (used with people and places) steal (verb): take illegally (used with money and objects)

safe (adjective): not in danger save (verb): rescue, salvage

say (verb): to express in words (not used with an indirect object)

"He said that . . . "

tell (verb): to express in words (used with an indirect object)

"He told me that . . . "

The verbs make and do are also commonly confused. The word make means "to build, to construct, to create". The verb do means "to act or perform". These words are also used in many set expressions.

#### **Expressions with Make**

make an error, mistake make a choice make a profit make a prediction

make an offer make a discovery make a deal make a suggestion make a meal (lunch, dinner) make a decision make an investment

### **Expressions with Do**

do work do one's duty do business (with) do wrong do one's best do an experiment do an errand, a job

do an assignment

do research do a favor do damage

Exercise -

6.5

Focus: Identifying errors in word-choice problems involving content words.

**Directions:** Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the sentence "X" and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.

	1.	Can you borrow me twenty dollars until next week?
	2.	Will you make me a favor?
	3.	Accidents are more popular at home than anywhere else
	4.	Before the nineteenth century, most textiles were done at home.
	5.	Market Street is a <u>majority</u> thoroughfare in this town  The measure was <u>anonymously</u> approved  I started working here when I was twenty years <u>age</u>
	6.	The measure was anonymously approved.
	7.	I started working here when I was twenty years age.
	8.	I am going to lay down until my headache goes away.
	9.	The pharmaceutical company raised its prices.
	10.	Do not come <u>lately</u> for the appointment
	11.	Our firm's costs for raw material went up by near fifteen percent.
	12.	Mr. Fong was born in Hong Kong, but he was grown up in Vancouver.
	13.	Because of jet lag, I fell a little sleepy all day.
<del>~~``</del>	14.	I still own about \$1,200 on my automobile loan.
7/ //	15.	He is afraid that he did the wrong decision.
	16.	A man in a ski mask stole the bank.
	17.	The costumes inspector asked me to open my briefcase.
	18.	The company did a considerable profit in the last quarter.
	19.	The police officer told me to slow down.
	20.	I cannot except Yukio's explanation

# C. Word-Form Errors

(For more information about word forms, see Lesson 5, Section B, pages 128-132.) In this type of problem, one of the underlined words is an incorrect form of the base word, given the context of the sentence.

	Sample Items: Word-Form Errors
	The picture was drawn so bad that I could not tell  A B  The adverb form badly is needed in place of the adjective bad.  The adverb form badly is needed in place of the adjective bad.
	A © © D
	Tagalog is Florinda's first language, but she also A B The noun form fluency is used incorrectly here; the adverb form fluently is needed.
	A B C •
	When Junichi was at the university, he studied A B C The correct noun form is engineering, the name of the field, rather than engineer a person who practices in the field.
	(A) (B) (C)
	You have a wonderful collecting of classical A B C D  The correct form is the noun collection.
	Music.  (A) (B) (D)
Th	ne two most common types of word-form problems are the use of adverbs in place of adjectives or adjectives in place

The two most common types of word-form problems are the use of adverbs in place of adjectives or adjectives in place of adverbs, as in the first sample item. Many other errors are possible: a noun in place of an adverb, as in the second sample; an adjective in place of a noun; a noun in place of a verb; and so on.

One noun form may be used incorrectly in place of another noun form. For example, a "person who . . . " noun may be used in place of a noun that names a field, as in the third sample.

A gerund (a verbal noun ending in -ing) may be used in place of an ordinary noun, as in the fourth sample.

# Exercise 6.6

Focus: Identifying errors in word-form problems involving adjectives and adverbs.

**Directions:** Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the sentence "X" and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.

-	1.	We voted on that issue at a <u>recently</u> meeting
-	2.	The people in my office dress more informally now than they did a few years ago
	3.	Inflation last year was not particular severe.
	4.	Henry's dog is friendly and loyally.

5.	The fabric doesn't feel as smoothly as real silk.
6.	Airlines have to pay annually fees to lease gates at the airport.
7.	Much of this province was once covered by densely forest, but today it is mainly farmland.
8.	The hotel was seriously damaged in the tropical storm.
9.	There was a suddenly increase in new orders last month
10.	Tomatoes grow good in the soil in my garden
Exerc	rise 6.7
Focus: Ide	ntifying errors involving a variety of word forms.
Directions: sentence ")	Decide if the underlined word or phrase is used correctly. If so, mark it "C" for "Correct." If not, mark the K" and rewrite the underlined expression, correcting the mistake.
1.	Mr. Richards is going to take off a few months because of problems with his healthy.
2.	Ms. Yoo's job is to analysis commercial loan applications
3,	Mr. Hichards is going to take off a few months because of problems with his healthy.  Ms. Yoo's job is to analysis commercial loan applications.  I enjoy music and dramatic.  The leader of the trade delegation gave an interesting speak after dinner.  Mr. Dubois is one entrepreneur who is not afraid to take a risk.  Air bags and seat belts provide a greater degree of safely than seat belts used alone.
4.	The leader of the trade delegation gave an interesting speak after dinner.
5.	Mr. Dubois is one entrepreneur who is not afraid to take a risk.
6.	Air bags and seat belts provide a greater degree of safely than seat belts used alone
7.	Every morning the hotel staff deliveries a newspaper to my door.
8.	You and I have completely different opinions of this policy.
9.	Pay for the items may be in the form of check, money order, or credit card
10	Years ago, my first boss gave me some wonderful advise.
11	Our clients have a lot of confident in our services.
12	I cannot wait to get home and take a warmth bath.
13	. Christina likes to take long walkings after dinner.
14	. Tourist is becoming increasingly important to the economy of this region
15	. Mr. Kang imports Swiss watches and France wines
16	. Three fill bottles for the water cooler were delivered today
17	. This event may proof to be very significant
18	. His flight is due to land at the Lagos Airport in an hour.
19	Aspirin provides relieve for headaches
20	Samuel is a natural leadership