**PART 1** **– AVOIDABLE GRAMMATICAL AND LEXICAL MISTAKES**

1. Children who are teached English early in their life have good chances to become its good users later.
2. Internet is place where you can find lots of useful informations on every topic.
3. A large amount of people think, that studying is pointless these days.
4. Students often start studying very shortly before exams, what isn’t a good idea.
5. A few people have an idea of how being a teacher looks like.
6. The reason I study English is because want to be able to freely communicate being in a foreign country.
7. The majority of students doesn’t like starting classes at 8 a.m. or earlier.

**PART 2 – SENTENCE FRAGMENTS**

Sentence fragments are incomplete sentences or parts of sentences. Remember that a complete sentence must contain at least one main (independent) clause. Study the following examples of sentence fragments and the suggested methods for correcting them:

**A. Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of classes.**

This is a dependent clause. It begins with a subordinator (*because*). It does not express a complete thought because there is no independent clause.

To correct:

(1) Add an independent clause.

Because some students work part-time while taking a full load of courses, they have very little free time.

(2) Delete the subordinator (because).

Some students work part-time while taking a full load of classes.

**B. For example, the increase in the cost of renting an apartment.**

**To live and work for at least a year in a foreign country.**

Neither sentence has a verb.

To correct: Rewrite each sentence so that it has a verb.

For example, the increase in the cost of renting an apartment is one reason why more people are struggling financially.

To live and work for at least a year in a foreign country has always been my objective.

**C. Teachers who give too much homework.**

This is a noun (teachers) + an adjective clause (who give too much homework). The noun is the beginning of an independent clause that was never finished.

To correct: Finish the sentence.

Teachers who give too much homework are unpopular.

**I. Read the following sentences. Recognize the “sentences” that need fixing and complete them to make a complete sentence.**

1. First, a belief that hard sciences are more difficult to study than humanities.

3. The best album I listened to last year.

4. *Titanic* has been the most financially successful film ever made, worldwide.

5. For example, many students have part-time jobs.

6. Although we want to believe that all people are created equal.

7. Finding a suitable dissertation topic can be a challenging task.

8. Many of my friends who did not have the opportunity to go to college.

9. Working during the morning and attending classes during the afternoon.

10. Because I do not feel that grades have any value.

11. A tsunami that occurred in the Indian Ocean in December 2004, killing more than 200,000 people.

12. The total energy of the tsunami waves was about five megatons of TNT.

13. More than twice the total explosive energy used during all of World War II, including two atomic bombs, according to one expert.

14. Evidence that the wave reached a height of 80 feet (24 meters) when coming ashore along the coastline and rose to 100 feet (30 meters) in some areas when travelling inland.

15. Despite a lag of up to several hours between the earthquake and tsunami, nearly all of the victims were taken completely by surprise.

**II. Read the following short essay and improve any incomplete sentences:**

Gender stereotyping extends even into the area of car driving, it seems. Believing that they are far better drivers than women. Men consider women drivers incompetent, inattentive, and even dangerous behind the wheel.

However, statistics prove that women are, in fact, safer drivers than men. For example, insurance rates. Insurance rates for women are 20 percent lower than they are for men. Another proof is that more accidents are caused by male drivers between the ages of 18 and 25 than by any other group. Also, the greater percentage of accidents involving deaths caused by men. Although women are criticized for being too cautious. They are really just being safe drivers.

The reasons for women drivers’ safer driving habits can perhaps be found in the differing attitudes of the sexes toward cars. On the one hand, women drivers who regard cars as a convenience. Like a washing machine. On the other hand, men regard cars as an extension of their egos. Using it as a weapon when they feel particularly aggressive. Or using it as a status symbol.

All in all, women are safer drivers. Because of their attitude. Men can learn to become safe drivers. If they adopt the attitude that a car is merely a convenience.

**PART 3 – SHORT SENTENCES**

There are many voices who say that studying is pointless these days. I disagree with this.

That is not true.

They are wrong.

We must find new sources of energy. Traditional sources of energy are decreasing. Solar energy is a promising new source of energy. Solar energy is energy from the sun.

**PART 4** **– UNCONNECTED PARTS OF SENTENCES**

An unconnected sentence is a sentence in which two or more independent clauses are written one after another with no punctuation. A similar error happens when two independent clauses are incorrectly joined by a comma without a coordinating conjunction.

My family went to Australia then they emigrated to Canada.

My family went to Australia, then they emigrated to Canada.

There are 4 ways to correct these two sentence errors:

1. Add a period: My family went to Australia. Then they emigrated to Canada.

2. Add a semicolon: My family went to Australia; then they emigrated to Canada.

3. Add a coordinator: My family went to Australia, and then they emigrated to Canada.

4. Add a subordinator: My family went to Australia before they emigrated to Canada.

After my family went to Australia, they emigrated to Canada.

**IV. Correct the following sentences using the methods indicated above.**

1. A newly arrived international student faces several challenges, for example, he or she has to cope with a new culture.

2. New York City is very cosmopolitan, people from many cultures and ethnic groups live there.

3. Learning a new language is like learning to swim it takes a lot of practice.

4. Ask for assistance at the reference desk in the library, a librarian is always on duty.

5. Skiing is a dangerous sport you can easily break your leg or your neck.

**V. Correct the following sentences, if necessary:**

1. An encyclopedia is a valuable source of information it contains summaries of every area of knowledge.

2. Because of the rapid expansion of human knowledge, it is difficult to keep encyclopedias current.

3. A printed encyclopedia becomes out of date almost as soon as it is published also it is quite expensive to purchase.

4. Online encyclopedias are available to everyone with access to the Internet.

5. Articles in encyclopedias are written by experts in each subject, who are often university professors.

6. Editor of an encyclopedia does not write articles they only collect and edit articles written by subject experts.

7. To find a book on a certain subject, you used to look in a card catalogue, to find a magazine article on a subject, you used to look in a periodical index.

8. Now, most libraries have thrown away their card catalogues, they have computerized catalogues that are much more efficient to use and update.

9. Many periodical indexes, which list only titles of magazine articles and indicate where to find them, have been replaced by computer indexes, some of them display abstracts and even entire articles instantly.

10. If you cannot find any information on a subject, you can always ask a librarian to help you, they are paid to assist students.

**VI. Locate and fix the unconnected sentences in the following text.**

Teachers at Stone Mountain State College give higher grades than teachers at 12 of the 19 other colleges in the state college system, according to a recent report from the State Institutional Research Committee. This report showed that more than one-third of the undergraduate grades awarded in the spring semester 2005 were A's only 1.1 percent were F's. The percentage of A's awarded to graduate students was even higher, almost two-thirds were A's. While students may be happy to receive high grades, evidence suggests that this trend is having negative consequences. Investigation of the admissions criteria of some graduate and professional schools indicates that the admissions offices of these schools are discounting high grades on the transcripts of SMSC students, this means that an A from SMSC is not equal to an A from other universities. Grade inflation may, therefore, hurt a student from Stone Mountain State College who intends to apply to a graduate or professional school he or she may not be accepted despite a high grade point average.

Commas do not usually introduce *that*-clauses and *wh*-clauses in general:

* *He realised there was no hope.*
* *They didn’t know what to say.*
* *He knew where the money was concealed.*
* *You say that you have been to India.*
* *They were so tired that they could go no further.*

Commas are used to introduce non-defining clauses:

* *Pop-stars who earn fortunes should pay higher taxes.*

(Defining clause – i.e. only those pop-stars who earn fortunes should pay higher taxes.)

* *Pop-stars, who earn fortunes, should pay higher taxes.*

(Non-defining relative clause – i.e. all pop-stars earn fortunes and therefore should pay higher taxes; such optional clauses can also be surrounded by brackets or dashes)

A comma is used also after *which* referring to the previous information:

*Peter was sulking all the time, which ruined the atmosphere of the party.*

Consider the following contrast:

* *She applied to the university (that/which) recommended by her tutor.*
* *She applied to the university, which was recommended by her tutor.*

Semi-colons are used to connect two independent clauses, where a full stop is not desired by the writer:

*Today, most people are willing to discuss needed changes in public education; however, there seems to be a shortage of effective methods to improve schooling.*

Semi-colons are used to show the link between two connected phrases, when a comma would be too weak and a full stop too strong.

*Twenty people were interviewed for the first study; thirty-three for the second.*

Semi-colons are also used to divide up items in a list when they have a complex structure:

*Among the presents received by the president were three oil paintings of himself, all flattering; a pair of green parrots, which were very noisy; a solid gold medal; and three or four suits of clothes.*

**I. If necessary, supply the punctuation in the following sentences.**

1. A subculture is still a culture it is governed by rules as strict as in any society.

2. The music they listened to hunting songs of exotic origin or guitar ballads was tuneful and harmonious.

3. As Mr Jones the owner has demonstrated such a project would benefit everybody.

4. She was willing to help anyone who asked for advice.

5. Some features of our country are especially striking for foreigners who pay attention to even the smallest details of our lives.

6. The traffic in London is terrible which makes buses there very unpunctual.

7. There are times in life when we are faced with two simple alternatives.

8. Everybody knows that such people exist; everybody also knows what they look like.

9. Rigorous academic standards are not always maintained this has not emerged as a major problem in Scotland yet but that is no reason to be complacent.

10. Mexico had a system of civilian control but lacked democratic forms of accountability.

11. It is not surprising that air pollution has become one of the greatest problems nowadays.

12. Brain surgeons in my country who have stressful highly responsible jobs should be paid more.

13. At an early age she decided she wanted to be only one thing in life an actress.

14. Africa is said to be the poorest continent while North America is said to be the most affluent.

15. People argue that because droughts and floods are inevitable when logging trees along a river in accordance with the needs of human civilization focus should be placed on preservation of forests and soil in their original conditions.

16. The number of places is very limited and this makes competition fierce.

17. There would be two examinations the entrance exam very difficult to make sure that the candidates who pass are really appropriate and the second one after five years.

18. Western European politics is more akin to American politics than it used to be.

19. Paper, silk and gunpowder were first manufactured in China where recorded history reaches back 5,000 years.

20. There were a number of factors that aggravated the situation.

**II. Punctuate the following texts:**

The London School of Business is offering three new courses this year economics with psychology introduction to management and e-commerce the first is taught by dr Jennifer Hillary and runs from October to January the second introduction to management class for finance students is offered in the second semester and is assessed by coursework only professor Wang’s course in e-commerce runs in both the autumn and the spring and is intended for more experienced students.

The University of Edinburgh unlike other Scottish universities is composed of colleges there are three of them Sciences and Engineering Humanities and Social Sciences and Medicine and Veterinary Medicine each college covers both undergraduate and graduate programmes of study although students are generally admitted to one college only they may have the opportunity to study subjects of another undergraduate programmes generally last three years or four for honours there is an extensive variety of postgraduate programmes of study including a 9 month diploma a 12 month masters and doctoral research programmes lasting at least 36 months.