UNIT FOUR

SENTNCE COMPLETION

In this type of question, you are given a sentence with **one** or **two words** omitted. You are also given **four** possible choices. You have to select the best of the **four** possible answers provided.

Basic Strategies

1. Before you look at the choices, read the sentence and think of a word that makes sense. The word you think of may not be the exact word that appears in the answer choices, but it will probably be similar in meaning to the right answer.
2. Look at all the possible answers before you make your final choice. You are looking for the word that **best** fits the meaning of the sentence as a whole. In order to be sure you have not bean hasty in making your decision, substitute all the answer choices for the missing word. That way you can satisfy yourself that you have come up with the answer that best fits.
3. In double-blank sentence, go through the answers, testing the **first** word in each choice (and eliminating those that don't fit). Read through the entire sentence. Then, insert the first word of each answer pair in the sentence's first blank. Ask yourself whether this particular word makes sense in this blank. If the initial word of an answer pair makes no sense in the sentence, you can eliminate that answer pair.
4. Use your knowledge of word parts and context clues to get at the meanings of unfamiliar words. If a word used unknown to you, look at its context in the sentence to see whether the context provides a clue to the meaning of the word. Often authors will use an unfamiliar word and then immediately define it within the same sentence. Similarly, look for familiar word parts -**prefixes**, **suffixes**, and **roots**- in unfamiliar words.

5. Watch out for negative words and words signaling frequency or duration. Only a small change makes these two sentences very different in meaning.

   They were not lovers.

   They were not often lovers.

6. Look for words which indicate that the omitted portion of the sentence continues a thought developed elsewhere in the sentence. Examples are **and, moreover, in addition,** and **furthermore**

   In such cases, a synonym or near-synonym for another words in the sentences should provide the correct answer.

7. Look for words or phrases which indicate a contrast between one idea and another.

   Examples are **but, nevertheless, although, despite, however, eventhough, even though,** and **on the other hand**. In such cases, an antonym or near-antonym for another word in the sentence should provide the correct answer.

8. Look for words or phrases that indicate that one thing causes another –words like **because, since, therefore, thus, consequently, accordingly, hence, for**, etc.

UNIVERSITY ENTRANCE EXAMINATION AND OTHER QUESTIONS WITH DETAILED EXPLANATIONS. (2001 – 2009)

1. My _____ were _____ when I heard his explanation I was convinced that he was telling the truth.

   A. doubts… dispelled
   B. suspicious… confirmed
   C. fears…distracted
   D. misgivings…aroused

   Clues: If the listener believed the speaker, any **doubts** that he might have had, must have been **dispelled** (made to disappear).

   Answer: A

2. The owners of the spa advertised that their _____ were especially _____ for the arthritic.

   A. waters … healthful
   B. mountains…beneficial
   C. water…deleterious
   D. spring … toxic

   Clues: A spa is a mineral spring. Its **waters** are thought to be **healthful** (conductive to health).

   Note: The difference in meaning between **healthful** and **healthy** (having good health).

   Answer: A

3. Warner's emotion power and her magic as an author stem from her choice of details that _____ emotions rather than simply describing them.

A. evoke B. deny C. disdain D. diminish

Clues: The writer gains emotional force by choosing details that **evoke** or **call up** emotions. **Answer: A**

4. Excited and unafraid, the _____ child examined the stranger with bright-eyed curiosity.

A. drowsy B. inquisitive C. timorous D. hesitant

Clues: A curious child is by definition **inquisitive**.

Answer: B

5. Left to endure a penniless old age, the _____ man lives to regret his _____ youth.

A. wasteful….thrifty
B. miserly….friendless
C. improvident…prodigal
D. careful…prudent

Clues: A person who has spent a **prodigal** (wastefully extravagant) youth may live to regret his **improvident** (lacking foresight) ways. **Answer: C**

6. The word **tephra**, from the Greek word meaning ash, has come into use among geologists to describe the assortment of fragments, ranging from blocks of material to dust, that is _ into the air during a volcanic eruption.

A. repressed B. ejected C. amassed D. articulated

Clues: In a volcanic eruption, ash and other matter is **ejected** or forced out of the volcano. **Answer: B**

7. The strike was settled when the outside _____ brought the reluctant representatives of labor and management together to hear their _____ views.

A. auditors…benal
B. opportunists…tentative
C. media…irreconcilable
D. arbitrators…conflicting

Clues: **Arbitrators** (=people chosen to decide disputes) labor to reconcile people with **conflicting** views. **Answer: D**

8. Although the poet Stevie Smith always envied children their happy, simple existence, believing they alone has the ideal life, her own childhood was far from _____.

A. neutral B. solitary C. idyllic D. indifferent

Clues: Despite Stevie Smith's belief in an ideal childhood, her child hood wasn't **idyllic** or charmingly simple.

Answer: C

9. Although its publicity has been _____, the film itself is intelligent, well-acted, handsomely produced, and altogether .

A. extensive…moderate C. perfect…spectacular

B. tasteless…respectable D. sophisticated…amateur

Clues: The sentences has the sense:

"The publicity has been **senseless**, but the film itself is …**respectable**.

Answer: B

10. Those people who are interested in _____ today are concerned about the effect of toxic wastes on our environment.

A. ecology C. geology

B. sociology D. entomology

Clues: **Ecology** is the study of the environment and its interrelationships with organisms; therefore, the ecologists would be fearful about the effect that toxic material would have on the environment. **Answer: A**

11. In America, you have a _____ speech that is neither American, Oxford English, nor English but a _____ of all three.

A. nasal … mutilation

B. mangled … conglomeration

C. motley… conflagration

D. hybrid … combination

Clues: **Hybrid** means derived from mixed sources. **Answer: D**

12. Voting local, state, and national elections is the _____ of every American citizen.

A. duty B. limit C. emotion D. respect

Clues: Every citizen must fulfill the **obligation** or **duty**, of choosing the leaders of the country. **Answer: A**

13. The doctor have ordered additional tests because the patient has not _____ as rapidly as had been expected.

A. Behaved
B. Qualified
C. recuperated
D. deteriorated

Clues: **Recuperate** means recover health. **Answer: C**

14. Even though his work is often immature, Fanta's latest effort is not _____; it is an intelligent report.

A. sophomoric
B. redundant
C. theoretical
D. atypical

Clues: **Sophomoric** means **immature**. **Answer: A**

15. The jury was convinced that some of the witnesses were guilty of _____ since _____ of conflicting testimony had been heard.

A. subornation… a refutation
B. lying … a minimum
C. falsification…an absence
D. perjury… a plethora

Clues: **Plethora** means an overabundant amount. If conflicting testimony exists in large amounts, there is always a possibility that some of the witness were guilty of **perjury** (lying under oath). **Answer: D**

16. The Science of _____ was largely influenced by Audubon and his magnificent paintings of American birds.

A. ornithology
B. virology
C. entomology
D. endocrinology

Clue: The study of birds is called **ornithology.** **Answer: A**

17. Although I do not wish to _____ your activities, I must insist that you _____ this assignment before you start anything else.

A. enlarge…cancel
B. body : germ
C. circumscribe …complete
D. compromise…accept

Clues: **circumscribe** means limit the scope of.

Answer: C

18. John Ferguson was widely _____ for his contributions to scientific research and was _____ for the noble prize.

A. castigated…proposed
B. acclaimed … nominated
C. renowned…lauded
D. known…condemned

Clues: Only a person **acclaimed** (praised) for his work would be **nominated** (named) for a prize. **Answer: B**

19. Promotion in that company was based all too frequently on favoritism rather on _____.

A. ability B. loyalty C. nepotism D. seniority

Clues: A contrast to promotion by favoritism is promotion on the basis of **ability**. **Answer: A**

20. It is no uncommon occurrence, in the _____ world of theatre, to encounter extreme prosperity one week and financial ___ the next.

A. idealistic…greed
B. uncertain…betterment
C. dramatic…solvency
D. chancy…ruin

Clues: Someone in a financially uncertain or **chancy** profession would be likely to face extremes of prosperity and **ruin**.

Answer: D

21. He displayed his _____ nature when he contributed only 50 cents at a time while everyone else was donating at least five dollars.

A. sordid
B. penurious
C. specious
D. lethargic

Clues: **Penurious** means **stingy**. **Answer: B**

22. The orator delivered a _____ speech that was _____ by the more sophisticated in the audience who were not swayed by the pompous language.

A. fiery…ignored
B. eulogistic…derived
C. bombastic …ridiculed
D. patriotic…cheered

Clues: A pompous speech may be described as **bombastic** such a speech would be **ridiculed** (laughed at) by those not influenced by pomposity. **Answer: C**

23. Such _____ act cannot be condoned; we must find the culprits and punish them.

A. a heinous
B. a sporadic
C. a fortuitous
D. an impromptu

Clues: **Heinous** means reprehensible, wicked.

Answer: A

24. I've no _____ in bringing this matter before this group; I am only interested in seeing that justice prevails.

A. obligation
B. preference
C. animus
D. predilection

Clues: **Animus** (=hostile feeling) is the only choice that fits this sentence.

Answer: C

25. Because your solution to this problem is so _____ I must oppose its adoption by this committee.

A. diabolical
B. practical
C. enigmatic
D. gratuitous

Clues: A **diabolic** (fiendish) solution would be opposed.

Answer: A

26. The trite and _____ situations in many television programs alienate many viewers.

A. strange
B. gruesome
C. novel
D. predictable

Clues: The key to this question is **'and.'** We need a synonym for **trite**. This is provided by **predictable**.

Answer: D

27. She should be _____ for her ruthless attack on the reputation of her hapless opponent.

A. admire B. affronted C. censured D. extolled

Clues: A **ruthless** (merciless) attack on a hapless (unfortunate) victim should be blamed or **censured**.

Answer: C

28. The somber news from the flood stricken area does not justify the _____ attitude which you are displaying.

A. lugubrious
B. optimistic
C. belligerent
D. gloomy

Clues: Bad news never justifies an **optimistic** attitude.

Answer: B

29. We were annoyed by her _____ reply for we had been led to expect definite assurances of her approval.

A. vehement
B. articulate
C. noncommittal
D. caustic

Clues: Anyone expecting definite assurances would be irritated by a **noncommittal** (=non committing oneself to a definition course of action) reply.

Answer: C

30. Propaganda may influence the sophisticated and urbane as well as the more _____ members of the community.

A. gullible
B. blasé
C. worldly
D. knowledgeable

Clues: In this sentence, the use of **as well** indicates that we are looking for a contrast to the words **sophisticated** and **urbane**. This contrast is provided only by **gullible**. Propaganda will fool the **gullible** (=easily deceived).

Answer: A

31. Pacifists argued that our _____ attitude toward our former allies could only result in a more strained relationship.

A. placid
B. uncomfortable
C. truculent
D. harmonious

Clues: A **truculent** (=aggressively hostile) attitude will result in a **strained** (=tense) relationship.

Answer: C

32. Ato Habtamu has a bad habit of making _____ remarks which cause us to forget the gist of what he is saying.

A. awkward
B. tentative
C. telling
D. digressive

Clues: **Digressive** means wandering away. Such remarks can make a listener forget the topic.

Answer: D

33. The sales tax has been called _____by many; it presents a greater hardship to the _____ members of the state.

A. regressive…poorer
B. fair …. wealthier
C. liberal … marginal
D. retrospective …affluent

Clues: A tax is called **regressive** when it taxes unfairly those least able to pay. The **poorer** members of society pay a larger proportion of their income than the wealthier under a sales tax.

Answer: A

34. The child was not _____ in his response; he showed his _ openly.

A. candid …. anger
B. quick…eagerness
C. inhibited…emotions
D. slow…hesitation

Clues: **inhibited** means holding back.

Answer: C

35. If you come to the conference with such _____ attitude, we can't expect to reach a _____ agreement.

A. an obdurate…harmonious
B. a complicated…conclusive
C. an indolent…satisfactory
D. a subservient….passive

Clues: **Obdurate** means stubborn and unyielding.

Answer: A

36. I have no _____ in this matter. I am forced to follow the guidelines set forth in this manual.

A. grudge
B. prudence
C. latitude
D. wisdom

Clues: **Latitude** means freedom of action.

Answer: C

37. The _____ qualities of this salve will provide you with temporary relief from the pain which you now suffer.

A. obscure
B. soporific
C. obvious
D. analgesic

Clues: **Analgesic** means causing relief from pain.

Answer: D

38. I am seeking an _____ solution to this dispute, one which will be fair and acceptable to both sides.

A. infamous
B. equitable
C. obvious
D. indifferent

Clues: **Equitable** means just and fair. **Answer: B**

39. I object to this contract because it is _____; it stipulates my responsibilities but not yours.

A. universal
B. questionable
C. unilateral
D. indifferent

Clues: **unilateral** means one-sided. **Answer: C**

40. Before embarking on his first trip to Europe, Amana discussed his _____ with his friends and his travel agent; he left little to chance.

A. escapade
B. desires
C. itinerary
D. challenge

Clues: **Itinerary** means a detailed plan of journey. **Answer: C**

41. Because she was a _____ writer, she was able to complete four novels by the end of year.

A. controversial
B. prolific
C. veritable
D. voracious

Clues: **prolific** (=producing many works) best describes this writer. **Answer: B**

42. Your term paper is too wordy: try to make it more _____

A. succinct
B. succulent
C. verbose
D. superficial

Clues: **Succinct** means compact, free of unnecessary verbiage. **Answer: A**

43. Intolerance among _____ groups is deplorable and usually is based on lack of information about the cultural groups involved.

A. alien
B. aesthetic
C. cohesive
D. ethnic

Clues: **Ethnic** means pertaining to a race or nationality possessing common cultural qualities. **Answer: D**

44. We were amazed at the _____ of the culprits; they were not at all embarrassed by their arrest.

A. humility
B. brazenness
C. iniquity
D. impotence

Clues: If the culprits display no sense of shame or embarrassment they are guilty of **brazenness**. **Answer: B**

45. In such _____ weather, you must dress properly in order to avoid catching a cold or the flu.

A. inclement
B. incompatible
C. salubrious
D. balmy

Clues: **inclement** means severe or stormy. **Answer: A**

46. Many in the audience were yawning because the speeches were, to say the least _____

A. maudlin
B. lachrymose
C. soporific
D. salacious

Clues: **Soporific** means causing sleep. **Answer: C**

47. Though financially successful, the theatre season, once again, is more noted for its _____ than for its original productions.

A. revivals
B. musicals
C. failures
D. rehearsals

Clues: **Revivals** (=new productions of old players) contrast with original productions.

Answer: A

48. Paradoxically, while it is relatively easy to prove a fraudulent work of art is a fraud, it often virtually impossible to prove that an authentic one is _____.

A. genuine
B. dubious
C. objective
D. impartial

Clues: It is ironic that it is easier to prove something a take than it is to prove it **genuine** or real.

Answer: A

49. In their new collections of lighthearted, provocative dresses, French Fashion designers are gambling that even _____ professional women are ready for a bit of _____ in style.

A. serious … frivolity
B. elegant …tradition
C. strict … reticence
D. modern … harmony

Clues: There is a chance that **serious** women may not be attracted by an inappropriate **frivolity** or lightheartedness in style.

Answer: A

50. Using novel concepts and techniques previously unknown in commercial advertising, the _____ advertising campaign broke new ground in the filed of marketing.

A. imitative
B. innovative
C. interminable
D. inadequate

Clues: A campaign that breaks new ground is by definition **innovative**.

Answer: B

51. In observing the ceremonies and rituals of worship, we must not make a show of our faith: the challenge of religion is to be _ without becoming _____.

A. reverent…relevant
B. indulgent … obvious
C. pious…sanctimonious
D. heretical…caught

Clues: Someone **sanctimonious** makes a show of religious faith; someone truly **pious** or devout does not. **Answer: C**

52. In judging his guilt, the question remains whether he acted out of purely _____ motives or whether he acted with thoughts of his own _____ in mind.

A. disinterested…advantage
B. selfish…profit
C. malicious…cleverness
D. benevolent…impartiality.

Clues: A **disinterested** (=unselfishly motivated) act would not be motivated by selfish thoughts of one's own **advantage**.

Answer: A

53. In the course of learning to deal with the world of ides, the adolescent gradually becomes able to express himself or herself in _____ such as courage and philosophy.

A. abstractions
B. proverbs
C. epigrams
D. hypotheses

Clues: Words like "courage" and "philosophy" are **abstractions** (=words representing ideas rather than concrete objects).

Answer: A

54. According to wildlife specialists, the few remaining pandas are so romantically _____ that their very survival.

A. regarded
B. protected
C. displayed
D. disinclined

Clues: Animals that were "romantically disinclined" might therefore not be inclined to reproduce. **Answer: D**

55. In order that they may be able to discriminated wisely among the many conflicting arguments put before them, legislators must be trained to _____ the truth.

A. discern B. disturb C. condone D. confuse

Clues: To make the correct decisions, the lawmakers must be able to **discern** or recognize the truth. **Answer: A**

56. It was only the first day of summer vacation, but his nerves were already _____ by the constant clamor of the children.

A. frayed B. vacillated C. eliminated D. alleviated

Clues: Nerves would be **frayed** or strained by constant clamor (noise).

Answer: A

57. Immediately after the Revolution, the bold men who had faced and beaten the British Empire were _____ by their ____ of the power of a strong central government and their fear of its becoming a tyranny.

A. bewildered…loss
B. paralyzed…distrust
C. comforted…acquisition
D. threatened…diversion

Clues: The combination of **distrusting** a powerful central government and fearing that is would be beyond their power to control **paralyzed** the founding fathers and left them powerless to act.

Answer: B

58. It is not _____ for a politician to _____ a mother on the beauty of her plain child; it is merely common sense.

A. wisdom…reprimand
B. hypocrisy…compliment
C. sensitivity…evaluate
D. kindness…ridicule

Clues: The statement is paradoxical. In **complimenting** the child of a potential voter, the politician isn't so much being **hypocritical** as being practical (showing political common sense)

Answer: B

59. Strindberg mistrusted the modern woman, believing she needed to _____ man and thereby invalidate his masculinity.

A. dominate B. abstract C. civilize D. comfort

Clues: Strindberg believed that by **dominating** or mastering man, woman would invalidate his masculinity.

Answer: A

60. One's contemporaries know one best; a man who cannot win honor in his own _____ will have a very small chance of winning it from posterity.

A. field B. right C. age D. way

Clues: If one's contemporaries don't give one honor in one's own **age**, one probably will not receive it from **posterity** (= future ages).

Answer: C

61. The health inspector reported back to the department that the _____ of the apartment was unbelievable is was difficult to realize men and women could live in such filth.

A. squalor
B. barrenness
C. propriety
D. availability

Clues: **Squalor** or filth would be criticized by a health inspector.

Answer: A

62. Because the periodic nature of her complaints had begun to consult a doctor about these _____ attacks.

A. trivial
B. tentative
C. superficial
D. recurrent

Clues: **Recurrent** or periodic attacks could well alarm a family.

Answer: D

63. She dropped her libel suit after the newspaper finally published a _____ of its original defamatory statement.

A. repetition
B. retraction
C. glossary
D. summary

Clues: A **retraction** or withdrawal of a libelous statement might satisfy the person with complaint. **Answer: B**

64. To take a _____ attitude often is to _____ any chance of favorable relation.

A. kindly…deny
B. promising…negate
C. patronizing…eliminate
D. sincere…reduce

Clues: A **patronizing** or condescending attitude may often others and **eliminate** good relations. **Answer: C**

65. He had long ago abandoned the moral principles of his youth and now led a debauched, _____life.

A. rudimentary
B. incontinent
C. circumspect
D. celibate

Clues: An **incontinent** or dissolute life would be described as debauched. **Answer: B**

66. Our mood swings about the economy grow more erratic; when things go well, we become _____; when things go poorly, _____ descends.

A. euphoric…gloomy
B. restive…anxiety
C. ascetic…misery
D. prudent…benevolence

Clues: The contrast is between **euphoric** or **ecstatic** moods and **gloomy** ones. **Answer: A**

67. Rather than allowing these dramatic exchanges between her characters to develop fully, Ms.Tesema unfortunately tends to _____ the discussions involving the two women.

A. augment
B. elaborate
C. exacerbate
D. truncate

Clues: Instead of allowing the exchanges to develop fully, the playwright cuts short or **truncates.** **Answer: D**

and cannot be changed. In choosing answers, follow the requirements of standard written English.

If there is an error, select the **one underlined part** that must be changed to make the sentence correct. If there is no error choose **"E"**.

1. Every one of the candidates for the position is submitting an
   (A) (B)
   application and three letters of recommendation attesting their fitness for the job. No error
   (C) (D) (E)

   Clues: **Error** in agreement between pronoun and antecedent.

   → Change **their** to **his** or **her**. **Answer: C**

2. Not one of the members of the football team have left that the
   (A) (B) (C)
   coach was not qualified to lead the group. No error.
   (D) (E)

   Clues: **Error** in agreement between subject and predicate

   → Change **have left** to **has left**. **Answer: C**

3. The committee announced that an award of 500,000 Birr would be
   (A) (B)
   given to whomever first discovered a cure for this disease.
   (C) (D)
   No error.
   (E)

   Clues: **Error** in case. The subject of the verb **discovered** should be in the nominative case.

   → Change **whomever** to **whoever**. **Answer: C**

4. Neither the soldiers in the company nor lieutenant in change of the
   (A) (B) (C)
   group have any idea when any relief will arrive. No error
   (D) (E)

Clues: In **neither...nor** construction, the verb aggress with the noun or pronoun which immediately precedes the noun or pronoun which immediately precedes.

→ Since **lieutenant** is singular, the verb must be singular.

→ Change **have** to **has**. **Answer: D**

5. After all our guests left our apartment, we began the tedious task of

(A) (B) (C)

cleaning the living room and the dining area. No error

(D) (E)

Clues: **Error** in sequence of tenses change **left** to **had left**

Answer: B

6. Despite all our efforts, the fire blazed out of control and the

(A) (B)

entire two-story building was demolished. No error

(C) (D) (E)

Clues: There is no **error** in this sentences. **Answer: E**

7. When I brung my term paper to the teacher. I was told that my

(A) (B)

handwriting was illegible and that I should take it home and type

(C) (D)

it. No error

(E)

Clues: **Error** in conjugation.

→ Change **brung** to **brought**. **Answer: A**

8. During the late Gothic period, virtually all the elaborately figured

(A) (B)

wall hanging were those that are intricately woven by communities

(C) (D)

of Belgian weavers. No error

(E)

Clues: **Error** in sequence of tenses.

→ Change **are intricately** to **were intricately**.

Answer: D

9. I believe the author is inferring that war, although horrible, can be
(A) (B) (C)
a mixed blessing. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: **Error** in diction.
→ Change **inferring** to **implying**. **Answer: A**

10. With the coming of winter, we are looking forward to ice-skating,
(A) (B) (C)
tobogganing, and to learn how to operate a snowmobile. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is lack of parallel structure.
→ Change **to learn how** to **learning**. **Answer: D**

11. Working against time, the rescue party tried to drill a hole parallel
(A) (B) (C)
to the dry well into which the old woman had fallen. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

12. A good home computer can be a valuable educational toll for you;
(A)
either the Apple II or the Radio shack model III are what you
(B) (C)
are looking for. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: In **either...or** construction, the verb agrees with the noun or pronoun which immediately precedes it.
→ Change **are** to **is**. **Answer: C**

13. Mrs. Senait, our neighbor, is one of the woman (among many women) who
(A)
has been invited to the Governors conference on the problems of

(B) (C)
the elderly. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: **Error** is the lack of agreement between subject and verb.
→ Change **has been invited** to **have been invited**.
Note that the antecedent of **who** is woman. **Who**, therefore, is plural and requires a plural verb. **Answer: B**

14. Irregardless of the fact that I was also partly to blame, I cannot
(A) (B) (C)
forgive what he did. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: **Error** is in diction. There is no such word as **irregardless.**
→ Change to **regardless**. **Answer: A**

15. If Moti had been more alert, he could have avoided the collision
(A) (B) (C)
which wrecked his car. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

16. I would react to that suggestion similarly if I was in charge of
(A) (B) (C)
supervising this activity. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in mood. A condition contrary to fact statement requires a verb in the subjunctive mood.
→ Change **was** to **were**. **Answer: C**

17. If one wishes to succeed in school work, you must attend all
(A) (B) (C)
classes, do all your class work, and hand in all assignments on time. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: In this sentence there is an unnecessary shift in the person of the pronouns.
→ Change **'one wishes'** to **'you wish'** **Answer: B**

18. Kasahun was living in his apartment house for two years before he
(A) (B) (C)
met his next-door neighbor. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in tense.

→ Change **was living** to **had been living.** **Answer: A**

19. When the kitchen was remodeled last summer, neither the butcher
(A) (B) (C)
block counter nor the wood floor were refinished. No error.
(D)

Clues: The **error** is in agreement in a **neither...nor** construction the verb agrees with the noun or pronoun which precedes it.

→ Change **were finished** to **was finished.** **Answer: D**

20. The headmaster suspended Girma for a week because he had cut
(A) (B)
several consecutive classes and had insulted her science teacher.
(C) (D)
No error.
(E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

21. Do you realize the affect this news will have on Tayech when she
(A) (B) (C)
reads about it. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in diction.

→ Change **affect** to **effect.**

22. In his famous soliloquy, Hamlet thinks of death as a means of
(A)
being rid from all worldly cares. No error.
(B) (C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in **idiom.** → Change **'from'** to **'of'.**

Answer: B

Answer: C

23. I donot mind Solomon's telling that story to my friends; I resent
(A) (B)
him relating it to people who dislike me. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in case. The pronoun preceding a gerund **(relating)** should be in possessive case.
→ Change **'him'** to **'his'**. **Answer: C**

24. Mary is jealous of people like you and I and shows her resentment
(A) (B) (C)
in many different and subtle ways. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in case. **Like** is a preposition and should be followed by a pronoun in the objective case.
→ Change **'I'** to **'me'**. **Answer: B**

25. I hope you will vote for whoever is the best candidate for the
(A) (B) (C) (D)
position. No error.
(E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

26. This purse is the most loveliest of all the gift I received for my
(A) (B) (C)
birthday. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in comparison.
→ Change **'most loveliest'** to either **'most lovely** or **loveliest**. **Answer: A**

27. The reason why I was late is because the subway train broke down
(A) (B) (C)
in the tunnel and we had to wait for more than an hour. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: Grammarians dislike the expression **'the reason is because'** → Change **'because'** to **'that'**. **Answer: B**

28. I felt real (A) sorry for her, and, therefore, (B) I let (C) her go with only a (D) warning. No error. (E)

Clues: The **error** is the misuse of adjective for adverb.
→ Change '**real** to **really**' **Answer: A**

29. Since (A) Ronaldo has made more spectacular (B) plays than any other (C) player on the field, he should be given (D) the most valuable player award. No error. (E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

30. Now that (A) you are using this skin lotion, your complexion has become clearer (B) and you look (C) more levier (D). No error. (E)

Clues: The **error** is in comparison of adjectives.
→ Change '**lovelier** to **lovely**. **Answer: D**

31. Our team of debates have proved (A) itself the best (B) in the division; having (C) won all its (D) matches this year. No error. (E)

Clues: A collective noun can be regarded as either singular or plural. However, the use of the words **itself** and **its** in this sentence indicates that the author regards **team** as singular.
→ Change '**have proved** to **has proved**'. **Answer: A**

32. If Roba would have felt (A) any pity for his opponent (B), he would have (C)

ended the about sooner than he did. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in mood. The subjunctive mood is needed in a condition contrary to fact statement.

→ Change **'would have left** to **had left'.** **Answer: A**

33. Shimelis practiced intensively and as a result he is now better than
(A) (B)
any member of his team. No error.
(C) (D) (E) **Answer: E**

34. In this modern age, many people find talking on the phone to their
(A) (B)
friends more satisfying than to write. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in parallel structure.

→ Change **'to write** to **writing'.** **Answer: D**

35. As the spectators ran for shelter from the sudden thunderstorm
(A) (B)
which was drenching the stadium. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is a sentence fragment.

→ Remove **'As'** **Answer: A**

36. The other members of the committee are not at fault; it is I who is
(A) (B) (C)
responsible for the failure of our enterprise. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in agreement between pronoun and verb. **Who** in this sentence is a first person singular pronoun because its antecedent is **I**. The verb should also be first person singular.

→ Change **'is** to **am'.** **Answer: C**

37. One of the many factors which are influencing my decision is the
(A) (B) (C)
element of cost. No error
(D) (E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

38. I shop at the supermarket because it is cheaper and having a greater
(A) (B)
variety of foods than the local grocery store. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: There **error** is the lack of parallel structure.
→ Change '**having** to **has**'. **Answer: B**

39. By the time the fire engines arrived at the scene, the janitor
(A) (B)
extinguished the blaze and the tenants were returning to their
(C) (D)
homes. No error.
(E)

Clues: The **error** is in sequence of tenses.
→ Change '**extinguished** to **had extinguished**.
Answer: C

40. Among Tesfaye, Gemechu, and I, there can be no secrets. No error.
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

Clues: There **error** is in case
→ Change '**I** to **me**' because the pronoun is the object of the preposition **among**. **Answer: B**

41. Mr. Tsegaye's decision to retire came as a shock to all who
(A) (B) (C) (D)
respected his ability. No error.
(E)

Clues: No **error** in this sentence. **Answer: E**

42. We had ought to finish our trip before dark because it gets very
(A) (B) (C)
cold after the sun goes down. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in diction.
→ Change **had ought** to **ought.**
Answer: A

43. The fishing fleet left the harbor when the fishermen heard that a
(A) (B)
school of bluefish were near the wreck. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in lack of agreement. **School** is singular and should be followed by **was (singular)** **Answer: C**

44. The workers who I see in the subway every after noon seem tired
(A) (B) (C)
and dejected. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in case. The pronoun should be **whom** because it is the object of the verb **see.** **Answer: A**

45. Turning the pages rapidly does not guarantee rapid comprehension.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error.
(E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

46. Bailing vigorously, we managed to remain afloat until we were
(A) (B) (C) (D)
rescued by the coast guard. No error.
(E)

Clues: No error exists in this sentence. **Answer: E**

47. Does that remark infer that you are displeased with the way I am
(A) (B) (C)
managing the business? No error
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in diction. → Change **infer** to **imply**.
Answer: B

48. It is not you who are at fault; rather, it is I who is to blame.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error.
(E)

Clues: The **error** is in lack of agreement. The antecedent of **who** is **I**, therefore, should be followed by **am.** **Answer: D**

49. Please notify all those whom you think should have this
(A) (B) (C) (D)
information. No error.
(E)

Clues: The **error** is in case. The subject of **should have** is **who**, not **whom**.

Answer: C

50. The ideal that Arthur and his knights were in quest of were a better
(A) (B) (C)
world order. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in agreement. The subject of the verb is **ideal** (singular). → Change **were** to **was**.

Answer: C

51. I am sure that he has been here and did what was expected of him.
(A) (B) (C) (D)
No error.
(E)

Clues: The **error** is in **tense**. → Change **'did** to **has done'**.

Answer: C

52. The ship had almost completely sank by the time the rescuers
(A) (B) (C)
arrived on the scene. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in tense. The past perfect tense of **sink** is **had sink**.

Answer: B

53. Since you do not participate in any of the class activities. I must
(A) (B)
conclude that you are disinterested. No error.
(C) (D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in **diction**. Use **uninterested** instead of **disinterested**.

Answer: D

54. He can't hardly do anything with his right hand ever since he had
(A) (B) (C) (D)
his stroke. No error.
(E)

Clues: The **error** is in double negative (can't hardly)
→ Change **'can't hardly** to **can hardly'** **Answer: A**

55. You should take your umbrella when you go out because it is liable
(A) (B) (C)
to rain this afternoon. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in diction. Use **likely** instead of **liable.**

Answer: C

56. I cannot force myself to like that kind of person because his
(A) (B) (C)
smugness repels me. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in diction. Delet the article **'a'**

Answer: C

57. I was irritated by the special relationship between you and him;
(A) (B) (C)
I thought you were playing favorites. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: There is no error in this sentence. **Answer: E**

58. All that time, it was her whom I held responsible for the calamity
(A) (B) (C)
which had occurred to our family. No error.
(D) (E)

Clues: The **error** is in case. The predicate complement of a copulative verb **(was)** is in the nominative case.
→ Change **her** to **she** **Answer: A**

59. If he had kept his eyes open, he would not have fallen into that t
(A) (B) (C) (D)
trap. No error.
(E)

Clues: No error with this sentence. **Answer: E**

In each of the following sentences. Some part or all of the sentence is underlined. Below each sentence you'll find five or four ways of phrasing the underlined part. The answer that produces the most effective sentence will be selected. (The one that is clear and exact, without awkwardness or ambiguity).

60. If I had went to the store for my mother, I would have bought pizza rolls for my lunch.

A. If I had went to the store
B. if I had gone to the store
C. if I would have went to the store
D. I would got o the store

Clues: The past participle of **go** is **gone**. **Answer: B**

61. The telephone has brought people together more than any invention.

A. more than any invention
B. more than any invention has
C. more than has any other invention
D. more than has any invention
E. more than any other invention

Clues: The faulty comparison is corrected in choice **'E'**.

Answer: E

62. I never said and never will that you are not the best candidate for this high office.

A. I never said and never will
B. I never have said and never will
C. I never said and never shall
D. I never have said and never shall I say
E. I never said and never will say.

Clues: The improper omission of the verb is corrected in choice E.

Answer: E

63. Shakespearean scholars are reaching no quick consensus about the newly-discovered poem attributed to the bared, but some of them discrediting it.

A. Some of them discrediting it
B. some of them are discrediting it
C. some of them having discredited it
D. it is discredited by some of them
E. it is being discredited

Clues: The improper omission of the verb is corrected in chore (B) **Answer: B**

64. Although it was obvious that Chala felt badly about the effect of his impulsive words, we decided that further punishment was in order.

A. felt badly about the affect
B. felt badly about the effect
C. felt badly about the effect
D. seemed sorry about the affect
E. felt bad about the effect

Clues: Copulative verbs like **feel** should be followed by an adjective. **Affect** should not be used used as a noun. Both errors are corrected in choice (D). **Answer: D**

65. Starting that he couldn't eat hardly anything.

A. he couldn't eat hardly anything
B. hardly anything could be eaten
C. he could eat hardly anything
D. he couldn't' eat hardly nothing
E. he couldn't eat scarcely anything

Clues: The double negative found in choices **A, D,** and **E** is corrected in choice **(C).** Choice **B** changes the meaning of the sentence. **Answer: C**

66. Walking on this slippery surface, one must use care to avoid accidents.

A. One must use care to avoid accidents
B. care must be used to avoid accidents
C. accidents can be avoided by using care
D. you must avoid accidents by using care
E. he couldn't eat scarcely anything

Clues: Choices **(B)** and **C** create a dangling participle. Choice **(D)** changes the meaning of the sentence. The comma makes choice **E** incorrect. **Answer: A**

67. Beethoven wrote nine symphonies; and they are still being played by orchestras all over the world.

A. symphonies; and they are still
B. symphonies which are still
C. symphonies, And they are still
D. symphonies, and they are still
E. symphonies: which are still

Clues: Choice **(B)** corrects the errors in punctuating found in the other choice. **Answer: B**

68. We expected the plane to be late, due to the announcement that heavy fogs had delayed its takeoff.

A. we expected the plane to be late, due to
B. we expected the plane will be late, because of
C. we expected the plane would be late due to
D. we anticipated that the plane would be late, due to
E. we expected the plane to be late because of

Clues: Choices **(A, C,** and **D)** suffer from the misuse of **due to**. Choice **(B)** contains an error in tense. **Answer: E**

69. First you mix the batter and then the cake is baked.

A. First you mix the batter and then the cake is baked.
B. First you mix the batter and then you bake the cake.
C. The first step is to mix the batter and then you bake the cake.
D. First the batter is mixed and then you bake the cake.
E. Mix the batter first before the cake you baked.

Clues: Choices **A, C, D** and **E** contain an unnecessary shift from the active voice to the passive voice. **Answer: B**

70. We couldn't of finished without you're helping

A. we couldn't of finished without your help
B. we couldn't' have finished without your help
C. we cold not of finished without your helping
D. we couldn't have finished without you're help
E. we cannot finish without your helping.

Clues: Choices **A, C, D** and **E** contain either or both of the errors in diction found in this question: **'couldn't of'** instead of **'couldn't have** and **you're** instead of **your**.

Answer: B

71. Wildly unscientific medical remedies, such as bleeding people with leeches, were practiced for centuries, and they showed no sign of doing the patients any good.

A. centuries, and they showed
B. centuries that showed
C. centuries they showed
D. centuries, however, they showed
E. centuries though they showed

Clues: The introduction of the conjunction **'though'** clarifies the relationship between the clauses. **Answer: E**

72. In the Middle Ages, a lord's intricate wall hangings were more than mere tapestries they were a measure of his consequence and wealth.

A. mere tapestries they were a measure
B. merely tapestries they were a measure
C. mere tapestries and were a measure
D. mere tapestries; they were a measure
E. mere tapestries, while they were a measure

Clues: The use of the **semicolon** both corrects the run-on sentences and effectively contrasts the two clauses.

Answer: D

73. Having rang the bell, the class came to order.

A. Having rang the bell, the class came to order
B. ringing the bell, the class came to order
C. the bell having rang, the class came to order
D. with the bell having rang, the class came to order
E. the bell having rung, the class came to order

Clues: Choices (**A** and **C**) have a dangling participle; choices **B** and **D** contain an error in conjugation.
(**rang** instead of **rung**) **Answer: E**

74. Senator Wagner was one of the leaders of the Democratic Party who was sympathetic to the cause of labor.

A. Who was sympathetic to the cause of labor
B. Who were sympathetic to the cause of labor
C. Which was in sympathy with labor
D. who was in sympathy with labor
E. and they were in sympathy with labor.

→ **(study)** **Answer: B**

75. With the exception of Tigist and I, everyone in the class finished the assignment before the bell rang.

A. Tigist and I, every one in the class finished
B. Tigist and me, every one in the class finished
C. Tigist and me, every one in the class had finished
D. Tigist and I, every one in the class had finished
E. Tigist and me, every one in the class finished

Clues: This corrects the two errors in this sentence the error in case (**me** for **I**) and the error in tense (**had finished** for **finished**) **Answer: C**

76. Many middle class individuals find that they can't obtain good medical attention, despite they need it badly.

A. despite they need it badly
B. despite their bad need of it
C. in spite of they need it badly
D. however much they need it.

Clues: **Despite** should be used as a preposition (**it is followed by phrase**) **Answer: B**

77. When one eats in this restaurant, you often find that the prices are high and that the food is poorly prepared.

A. When one eats in this restaurant, you often find
B. When you eat in this restaurant, one often find
C. As you eat in this restaurant, you often find
D. If you eat in this restaurant, you often find
E. When one ate in this restaurant, he often, found

Clues: Unnecessary shift of pronoun. Do not shift from **you** to **one**.

Answer: C

Review Exercise

1. Expect for Alem and I, everyone in the room finished the test
   (A) (B) (C)
   within the prescribed time. No error.
   (D) (E)

2. Frankly, the only ones who voted against your admission into the
   (A) (B) (C)
   club were Fasil and he. No error.
   (D) (E)

3. Ruth doesn't like to eat these kind of fried foods; she prefers salads and raw vegetables
   A. these kind of tried foods;
   B. them kinds of tried foods;
   C. these kinds of tried foods;
   D. those kind of tried foods;
   E. these kinds of tried foods;

4. If I was he, I would declined to attend the reception
   A. If I was he
   B. If I was him
   C. Were I him
   D. If I would be he
   E. If I were he

5. Because Samuel is on the football team for the three seasons, he
   (A) (B) (C)
   will be elected captain this year. No error.
   (D) (E)

6. I knew that the room had been recently renovated; the smell from
   (A) (B) (C)
   the fresh paint still pervaded the atmosphere. No error.
   (D) (E)

7. Taye published his first book and he was sixty years old then.
   A. and he was sixty years old then
   B. when he was sixty years old
   C. at age sixty years old
   D. upon reaching sixty years
   E. at the time when he was sixty

8. Our team of debaters have proved itself best in the division, having won all its matches this year. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

9. I had differently deciding between Ebisa and Bontu, but I finally voted for the latter. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

10. By working with a tutor for six weeks, his grades were raised to the point where his teachers were willing to promote him.
A. his grades were raised
B. his grades improved
C. he raised his grades
D. his raising of the grades
E. his grades had risen

11. To be rich and successful is good; but to be healthy and happy is best.
A. good; but to be healthy and happy is best
B. good, to be healthy and happy is better
C. good; to be healthy and happy is better
D. good; to be healthy and happy is best
E. good: to be healthy and happy is better.

12. The Manager of the team tested several players who he taught could play in the infield.
A. who he thought
B. whom he thought
C. which he thought
D. he tought who
E. of whom he thought

13. Kaleb maintained that he was enamored by the natural wonders of Yosemite National Park.
A. enamored by
B. enamored of
C. enamored with
D. inspired at
E. enthused with

14. After all our guests left, we had the unpleasant job of cleaning the apartment. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

15. Ato Musema was annoyed by his wife taking a job without consulting him. No error.
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

16. The reason for the delay in handling in this manuscript is due to the fact that my wife was very ill.
A. due to the fact that my wife was very ill
B. because my wife was very ill
C. that my wife was very ill
D. because of my wife's illness
E. due to illness of my wife

17. Being that Roba is that kind of an athlete, he should be encouraged to try out for a part in the school play.
A. being that Roba is that kind of athlete
B. being that he is that kind of athlete
C. since he is that kind of an athlete
D. because he is that kind of an athlete
E. since Roba is that kind of athlete

18. 'You must realize that we are altogether in this venture; if one of us drop out, all of us will fall. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

19. Martha is as quick as if not quicker than Abebe or Alemu in solving crossword puzzles. No error
(A) (B) (C) (D) (E)

20. The packages have been wrapped and are all ready to be mailed as soon as the courier arrives.
A. have been wrapped and are all ready to be mailed
B. are wrapped and are already to be mailed
C. have been wrapped and are already for mailing
D. are being wrapped and will be already for mailing
E. are being and will already to mail

Answer Key

1.	B	6.	C	11.	C	16.	C
2.	E	7.	C	12.	A	17.	E
3.	E	8.	A	13.	B	18.	B
4.	E	9.	E	14.	B	19.	E
5.	B	10.	C	15.	B	20.	A