

SSC CHSL English

Error Spotting Practice Pack

QUESTION OF THE DAY

Find the part of the sentence that has an error. If there is none, choose (5).

Each of the students (1)/ have submitted (2)/ their assignment (3)/ before the deadline. (4)/ No error (5)

Think it through, then check the answer at the bottom of this page.

A WORD FOR YOU TODAY

Every question you practise today is one less surprise on exam day. Grammar is not about talent; it is about patterns, and patterns become easy with repetition. Show up, solve a little every day, learn from each mistake, and trust the process. You are closer than you think. Keep going!

What is inside

- 1 12 golden rules for spotting errors, with examples
- 2 Smart strategies for the exam
- 3 Practice Set A: sentence fragments (5 questions)
- 4 Practice Set B: numbered parts (5 questions)
- 5 Answer key and explanations

Answer to the Question of the Day: (2). 'Each of' is followed by a singular verb, so it should be *has submitted*, not *have submitted*.

12 Golden Rules of Error Spotting

Error spotting tests a small set of grammar points again and again. Use these as a checklist when you eliminate wrong options.

1. Some singular-form nouns are plural in meaning and take a plural verb.

Examples: police, clergy, people, peasantry, cattle

✗ People has left.

✓ People have left.

2. Some nouns are plural in form and take a plural verb.

Examples: clothes, scissors, trousers, amends, spectacles, thanks

✗ The spectacles is missing.

✓ The spectacles are missing.

3. A unit of weight, number, money, length or measure after a number stays singular when another noun follows it.

Examples: million, pair, metre, year, dozen

✗ This is a 9-meters scale.

✓ This is a 9-meter scale.

4. Once the pronoun 'one' is used, keep it throughout the sentence.

✗ One must help his siblings.

✓ One must help one's siblings.

5. Use 'whose' for people and 'which' for non-living things.

✗ Which phone is kept on charging?

✓ Whose phone is kept on charging?

6. 'Fewer' is for numbers (countable); 'less' is for quantity (uncountable).

✗ No less than thirty dogs were.

✓ No fewer than thirty dogs were.

7. A question tag is the opposite of the statement: positive statement, negative tag, and vice versa.

✗ It's a bit early, is it?

✓ It's a bit early, isn't it?

8. After a superlative adjective, use the relative pronoun 'that', not 'who' or 'which'.

✗ These are the best which he could get.

✓ These are the best that he could get.

9. Use 'as' both before and after the adjective to show equality.

✗ I can write as fast, if not faster than her.

✓ I can write as fast as, if not faster than her.

10. 'Though' pairs with 'yet', not 'but'.

✗ Though he is rich but he is kind.

✓ Though he is rich, yet he is kind.

11. Never use 'not' with 'unless'; 'unless' already carries a negative sense.

✗ Unless you do not pay the fine, you will not be excused.

✓ Unless you pay the fine, you will not be excused.

12. 'While' shows a span of time during which something happens; 'when' is more general.

✗ When learning how to box, the technique is of utmost importance.

✓ While learning how to box, the technique is of utmost importance.

Strategies for the Exam

1. Read the sentence carefully for both meaning and structure, and note any error you spot at once.
2. If no error stands out, test each part separately against the patterns above.
3. Remember that the error, if any, lies in only one part (or in the parts the question asks about).
4. Even if you feel sure about (A) or (B), read the remaining options before you commit.
5. Choose your final answer only after eliminating the incorrect choices.

Practice Set A: Sentence Fragments

Directions: Each sentence is split into four parts. The error, if any, lies in one or more of the parts. Choose the option that names the faulty part(s). If there is no error, choose E.

Q1.

- I. It is true that he is born of very rich parents
- II. But he has not been able to do much in life
- III. due to his addiction towards gambling
- IV. in which he has a lot of money

- A. II and IV
- B. III and IV
- C. I, II and III
- D. I, III and IV
- E. No error

Q2.

- I. Most of the educational organizations are for-profit organizations
- II. but the government is not ready to address the same
- III. and it is still formulating policies considering
- IV. they as not-for-profit organizations

- A. Only IV
- B. II and IV
- C. III and IV
- D. I, II and IV
- E. No error

Q3.

- I. It is very important to note that
- II. India is going through a grave financial crisis
- III. though the economical situation of the country
- IV. is strong, according to the Finance Minister.

- A. Only III
- B. I and II
- C. Only IV
- D. II and IV
- E. No error

Q4.

- I. His friends are usually not as helpful and cooperative
- II. as that of mine but I was surprised
- III. to see that all his friends stood along him
- IV. during difficult times

- A. II and IV
- B. III and IV
- C. I and III
- D. II and III
- E. No error

Q5.

- I. If we go through the criminal law guides of other countries.
- II. a lot of unnecessary laws can be founded.
- III. and the lawmakers ignored all such provisions.
- IV. till date with no possible change in approach expected in near future also.

- A. I and II
- B. I, III and IV
- C. III and IV
- D. II and III
- E. No error

Practice Set B: Numbered Parts

Directions: Read each sentence to find out whether it has an error. The error, if any, will be in one part only, and the number of that part is the answer. If there is no error, the answer is 5. Ignore errors of punctuation.

Q1. A only reason Mario decided (1)/ to partake in mass was to (2)/ stop his mother (3)/ from complaining constantly (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Q2. Their was a place near (1)/ the resort that was known (2)/ to be a place haunted by (3)/ a multitude of ghosts. (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Q3. Much people decide to fast on (1)/ certain days of the year, (2)/ but there are very few (3)/ who can go through with it. (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Q4. The results for the examination (1)/ weren't announced for much (2)/ time after the (3)/ predetermined hour passed. (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Q5. Katherine did not want (1)/ something to do with Richard (2)/ after the Ponzi (3)/ scheme he pulled (4)/ No error (5)

- A. 1 B. 2 C. 3 D. 4 E. 5

Answer Key

Set A	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Answer	E	B	A	D	D

Set B	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
Answer	A	A	A	B	B

Explanations

Set A

Q1. Answer: E

Every part is correct, so no change is needed.

Q2. Answer: B

Part II is wrong: 'address' does not fit the meaning here; the government is unwilling to *accept* or *admit* the fact. Part IV is wrong: after 'considering' we need the objective case, so 'they' should be 'them'.

Correct sentence: Most of the educational organizations are for-profit organizations but the government is not ready to accept the same and it is still formulating policies considering them as not-for-profit organizations.

Q3. Answer: A

Part III is wrong: 'economical' means cheap or thrifty, while the sentence talks about the country's economy, so it should be 'economic'.

Correct sentence: It is very important to note that India is going through a grave financial crisis though the economic situation of the country is strong, according to the Finance Minister.

Q4. Answer: D

Part II is wrong: 'that of mine' is redundant; 'mine' alone is enough. Part III is wrong: 'stood along him' is incorrect; the idiom is 'stood by him', meaning supported him.

Correct sentence: His friends are usually not as helpful and cooperative as mine but I was surprised to see that all his friends stood by him during difficult times.

Q5. Answer: D

Part II is wrong: 'can be founded' should be 'can be found' (to discover something). Part III is wrong: the action began in the past and continues now, so the present perfect continuous 'have been ignoring' is needed.

Correct sentence: If we go through the criminal law guides of other countries a lot of unnecessary laws can be found and the lawmakers have been ignoring all such provisions till date with no possible change in approach expected in near future also.

Set B

Q1. Answer: A

The article is wrong. This is one specific reason, not just any reason, so 'a' must become 'the'.

Correct sentence: The only reason Mario decided to partake in mass was to stop his mother from complaining constantly.

Q2. Answer: A

'Their' (possessive) is wrongly used for 'there', which introduces the existence or location of something.

Correct sentence: **There was a place near the resort that was known to be a place haunted by a multitude of ghosts.**

Q3. Answer: A

'Much' is used with uncountable nouns, but 'people' is countable, so 'many' is needed.

Correct sentence: **Many people decide to fast on certain days of the year, but there are very few who can go through with it.**

Q4. Answer: B

'Much' should be 'some': for an unspecified span of time, 'some time' is the natural expression.

Correct sentence: **The results for the examination weren't announced for some time after the predetermined hour passed.**

Q5. Answer: B

In a negative sentence, 'any' (anything) is used instead of 'some' (something).

Correct sentence: **Katherine did not want anything to do with Richard after the Ponzi scheme he pulled.**