

DOUBLE NEGATIVE

A double negative is a construction that uses two negative terms when one would be sufficient.

No, nothing, not, none, nobody, should not be used with another negative to convey a denial.

I don't want none of it.

The correct sentence:

I don't want any of it.

OR

I want none of it.

Hardly, barely, and scarcely are negatives, they do not require supporting negatives.

He hardly feels the difference in colors.

PRACTICE EXERCISE

Directions: The following sentences contain problems in grammar, usage, diction (choice of words), and idiom. Some sentences are correct.

No sentence contains more than one error. You will find that the error, if there is one, is underlined and lettered. Assume that all other elements of the sentence are correct 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 in order to make the sentence correct.

Answer and explanation of each question has been given at the end of the book.

1. Her and the other participants quickly

A B C
supported the proposal written by
D

the selection committee.

Case of pronouns; "her" can only be an object. "She" is needed as the subject here.

2. To invest in a unit fund as a kind of

A B

a compulsory savings, you must make

C

arrangements with your bank for an

D

automatic transfer of funds.

The idiom kind of a is nonstandard as an equivalent for kind of.

3. During the early days of hockey,

A

before the development of the modern hockey, almost the only long passes

B

attempted were those that are

C

D

desperately thrown as time expired.

Tense of verb; "were desperately" is correct.

4. Healthy climate of Kaghan will restore

A

B

not only his health but his good nature

C

D

as well.

A person is healthy; climate is healthful.

5. Dentists have clearly shown

A

B

the relation between Vitamin C intake plus

C

freedom from scurvy.

D

Diction; "and" is the correct conjunction; "plus" is too casual.

6. The best manufactured dresses, although not as prestigious as designer

A

B

clothing, is almost its equal in

C

D

elegance and flair.

Subject-verb agreement. The subject is "dresses"; "dresses are," not "dresses is."

7. Millions of Pakistanis were introduced

A

to classical music by Ustad Ghulam Ali, who begun to broadcast his

B C

young people's concerts over Pakistan

D

radio.

Tense of verbs. "Begun" is the past participle and needs a helper like "was" or "had" to be a verb. "Began," a verb in the past tense, is correct.

8. If they had stayed at room more often,

A B C

the situation would be far different

D

than it is today.

The standard idiom is different from.

9. His difficult to assert himself made

A B

Mansoor a lifelong junior manager

C

in his company.

D

Idiomatic use of prepositions; "difficulty in asserting" is correct.

10. This is my final idea that solution to

A B

the problem lays right before our eyes.

C D

Lies means rests and lays means puts.

BRAIN BUSTER

1. Junaid Shah experimented with all of

A B

his native recipes, occasionally

C

substituting spices and he would

D
adapt his dishes for Pakistani tastes.

2. There was scarcely no time left for

A B

the family to leave before the voting

C

would begin.

D

3. Some parents complain about their children, but they do hardly nothing

A B

to correct their children's behavior.

C D

4. I had to lay down on the sofa for five

A B

minutes before going into the room in

C D

which the examination was being held.

5. I disapprove of your claiming that the

A B

set of papers were corrected with

C

supervision.

D

6. In his short stories Saleem Khan described the problems of young poor

A

men which tried to enter the

B C

stream of life in big cities.

D

7. I lived in this neighborhood for more

A B C

than 15 years, and I will not move now.

D

8. Go slow, don't be hasty; and you

A B C

won't have no regrets.

D

9. He do not feel well, you had ought not
to expect me to do so much of the
proposed plan to day.

10. Since there are only four to choose
from many I claim the latter.

11. While studying in Japan, Jahangir
ran out of money and must sell his
art work so that he could finish taking
his study successfully.

12. If Amanat were still alive, he would,
without hardly a doubt, not want his
name linked with this Jazz production.

13. Neither her nor the other workers
were seriously distracted when the
they had to be performed with out
sufficient light.

14. It does not make sense to me that up

15. until yesterday he could have been
jailed for life for this act.

16. The bell had rung and the classes had

begun by the time he was reaching the
school.

17. They said that I sung a song in the
wrong tune, which annoyed me very
much.

The pronoun which lacks an antecedent.

18. If only he would have listened to them
then, he would not be in danger now.

The form for the past subjunctive is had, not would have.

19. Before they had began, she was ready
to complain to the principal.

The past perfect is had begun.

20. People must not think that novelty is
the key factor for every particle in the
universe but they.

21. Our Nazim has always had a deep
interest for youth's struggle for
identity.

22. Laser discs, while somewhat more
expensive than recording tape, is

- hi-fi sounding and longer-lasting.
D C
23. He was formerly introduced to the
A
principal of the college which he had
B
applied to only a few days before.
C D
24. In times passed, I would have refused
A B
to raise a finger to help them.
C D
25. Unless the government and private
A
corporations continue to underwrite
B
programs, public television will never
be able to satisfy the demands for all
C D
its viewers.
26. The novels of Mustanzar center on
A
poor people which lead rich and
B C
dynamic inner lives.
D
27. Every middle-class families are
A
frightened by the raising price of
B C
college education and the decreasing
number of need base scholarships.
D
28. The typical salaried man rushes out the door
and runs to the bus stop where
- A
they have to wait forty minutes
B C
for the bus.
D
29. Since I do not feel well, you had ought
A B
not to expect me to do so much of the
C D
organizing.
30. Small newspapers are springing up in
A B
Punjab as rural towns grow and as
C
community programs will expand.
D
31. After she seen that the lunch was
A
laid out for the workers, Mrs. Khan
B
chatted easily with the old woman,
C
whose poverty was reflected by her
D
face.
32. They had seen all of their friends .
A B
except Mujahid and I at the festival.
C D
33. It's one of them items that I always
A B C
find so attractive.
D
34. Shyness may hamper one sometimes,
A
but you can still talk very comfortably
B C
with the people you know well.

D

B

C

35. Since the development of computer

A

movie systems, thousands of

B

video-cassette camera have been sold

C

at very little cost.

D

entered school.

D

36. A new phenomenon in the marketing

A

world were the 'Rainbow' dolls that begun to

sweep the nation in 1984.

B

C

D

37. These flowers do not smell so sweetly

A

B

C

as did those I bought last Sunday.

D

38. She had brought the picture of a

A

B

elephant into the dining room.

C

D

39. Many experts say that dressing well and

taking lessons that teaches tactics

A

B

can help the graduates get a job with

C

both status and high salary.

D

40. In times passed, he would have refused

A

B

to raise a finger to help them.

C

D

41. Many mothers in cities begin doing

A

social work as soon as their children