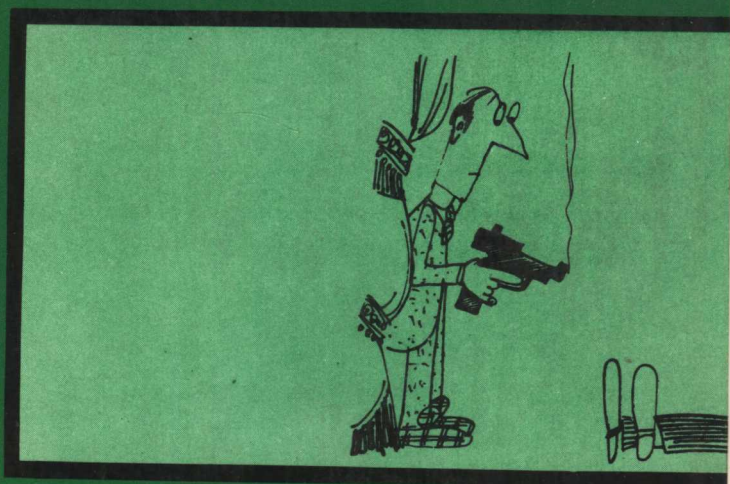


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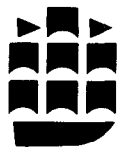


Practice in the Use of English

100 Exercises

John Millington-Ward

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and former Professor of English
in the Royal Hellenic Naval Academy



Longman

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... an appetising smell

One

In the following 25 sentences, fill the blank spaces with the needed adverb-particles (i.e. words like *up*, *down*, *off*, *out*, *in*, *for*, *with*, etc.).

Example: 'I'm going to brush my English a bit.'

Answer: 'I'm going to brush *up* my English a bit.'

1. Are you going to the station to see them
2. The poor chap was attacked by hooligans and cruelly beaten
3. The pan on the stove was giving an appetising smell.
4. As they retreated, the enemy blew all the bridges.
5. Look! That aircraft is about to take
6. The book is reprinting now. It sold its first edition within a fortnight of publication.
7. Daddy really blew this morning! I've never seen him so angry before.
8. There's something wrong with the car. I've asked the mechanic to see it as soon as possible.
9. I hate insinuations of this sort, Tom. What exactly are you driving
10. No, I haven't met Henry Armstrong yet, but I know him, of course. He's very well known.
11. The car drew in front of the hotel.
12. We begged them to be a bit quieter but they went making the devil of a noise.
13. Poor Peter! In the middle of his party he ran of whisky and there was nobody whom he could ask to run out to get some more.
14. No thanks, I don't smoke. I gave it last year.
15. I'm ringing you to say that my wife is ill and we have to put our dinner party tomorrow night.
16. He speaks English well, doesn't he? And yet he's never had a lesson. He's picked it himself.
17. Have you settled yet in your new flat?
18. Please send a doctor at once!

19. He should be in his office at nine o'clock but he rarely turns much before nine-thirty.
20. She stood for a moment, studying her shopping-list and crossing the things she had already bought.
21. Peter kicked the log in the grate. It broke flame at once.
22. We haven't a spare bed but we can put you on the divan in the living-room.
23. He mumbles so much that I can rarely make what he is saying.
24. The weather forecast said it would be cold and rainy but it turned to be a beautiful day.
25. I refuse to have anything more to do him.

Two

A. In each of these ten sentences, the position of the word *only* produces an unambiguous meaning. Say what this meaning is.

1. I don't know why he's making such a fuss. I only smacked him.
2. We're very fond of that only son of theirs.
3. The Judge was very lenient, not sending him to prison. Only, the fine was pretty stiff.
4. You are the only girl in his life, you know.
5. Why do you only giggle when I ask you a question?
6. She was attractive only in her thirties.
7. What are you getting so angry about? I only kissed your wife's cheek.
8. If only I could buy a car like that!
9. Only by long and hard practice can you hope to become a good pianist.
10. Jim hasn't left yet. I saw him only a few minutes ago.

B. In each of these ten sentences, the word *just* produces an unambiguous meaning. Say what this meaning is.

1. They live just round the corner from here.
2. I've just come to tell you that I can't after all buy your car at the price you're asking.
3. He's just told me that he can't buy the car after all.
4. Better not go in to him just yet. He's still in a foul temper.
5. I just can't understand how you came to do such a stupid thing.
6. If we're careful, we shall have just enough money to see us through for the rest of the month.
7. Mary has just had a baby.
8. Pity you didn't wait a moment longer. He arrived just as you turned the corner.
9. I think that was a very just decision, don't you?
10. Oh good, you've brought my luggage. Just put it down here in the hall, will you, please?

Three

In each of these 25 sentences, a phrase with the word *hand* is missing. Following each sentence are four such phrases but only one can be used in the sentence. Choose this one.

Example: 'I'll send you the book tomorrow

at hand in hand by hand on hand

Answer: 'I'll send you the book tomorrow *by hand*.'

1. We have a bit of money this month, my dear. Go ahead and buy those curtains you want.
by hand in hand to hand out of hand
2. I'm very angry with him. His manner to me was insultingly, I thought.
off hand out of hand in hand on hand
3. Your repair was put at midday yesterday. It ought to be finished by tomorrow night.
to hand in hand on hand by hand
4. Dick asked Helen last night to marry him, but she refused him, I'm sorry to say.
by hand to hand out of hand off hand
5. One of these days, somebody will have to take that child very firmly
6. Tom likes to have three well-sharpened pencils and a clean india-rubber always
7. To our great surprise, we had about fifteen pounds at the end of our holiday.
8. You'll have to be quite strict with little Bobby. He very quickly gets
9. We're lucky. We live in a quiet, pretty street, and yet all the necessary shops are close
10. You're asking when we were last in Paris? Oh dear, I can't remember
11. I simply can't take you to the cinema tonight. I have a mountain of work

12. They have so many orders that they're going to start putting us on overtime.
to hand in hand by hand off hand
13. In a modern kitchen everything is arranged so that all the things we need are conveniently
to hand in hand by hand out of hand
14. No, it didn't come by post. It came
in hand by hand to hand off hand
15. When the car backfired, my horse got completely and threw me into the ditch!
off hand out of hand in hand by hand
16. I'll have to keep a gun if you say there is a danger that we'll be attacked again tonight.
to hand off hand by hand out of hand
17. He'll have to leave us soon. He has a number of important appointments
in hand on hand by hand to hand
18. I went to him hat and begged for my job back, but he just showed me the door.
in hand to hand out of hand off hand
19. There's a little hotel somewhere here that I stayed at some years ago.
by hand at hand in hand off hand
20. I'll have to look in the dictionary because I can't remember the word
out of hand at hand by hand off hand
21. Yes, I know it's expensive, but it's worth it. It is made
from hand in hand out of hand by hand
22. The letter was passed to hand and read by everybody present.
by hand from hand in hand out of hand
23. Please, do let me have it as soon as possible. Send it, will you?
in hand by hand to hand on hand
24. The ear-rings that are made in this village are still made entirely
out of hand by hand to hand in hand
25. Jenkins may be an excellent scholar, but he can't keep his pupils
in hand on hand to hand out of hand

Four

Say what each of these 20 things is used for by answering the imaginary question 'What's a _____ for?' or 'What are _____s for?'

Each of your answers should begin with 'It's' or 'They're', each should use an infinitive, and each should end with a preposition.

Example: A raincoat ('What's a raincoat for?')

Answer: It's to keep dry in.

(or) It's to keep the rain off.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| 1. a carpet | 11. a dictionary |
| 2. a walking-stick | 12. a divan |
| 3. a razor | 13. windows |
| 4. a well | 14. a bedside light |
| 5. pavements | 15. a kitchen sink |
| 6. wash-basins | 16. a shower |
| 7. a diving board | 17. a desk |
| 8. a vacuum cleaner | 18. bandages |
| 9. a glass | 19. an umbrella |
| 10. a mirror | 20. fires |



Five

That silly fellow didn't understand . . .

In each of the 25 sentences below that are marked *b*, say which word carries the principal stress. (Ignore the words that are shown in parentheses.)

Example: a. 'I can't find my umbrella anywhere. Have you seen it?'
b. 'It's in the car.'

Answer: b. 'It's in the *car*.'

(i.e. the stress is on the word *car*.)

- 1a. We spent a couple of weeks in Corfu last year.
b. So did we.

- 2a. **We were there** in summer, and it was so hot!
b. (Was it?) Do you like it so hot?
- 3a. **Look**, you've got some lipstick on your nose.
b. (Well, well) So I have!
- 4a. **Have you done that job?**
b. (No, but don't worry.) I'm going to do it.
- 5a. **Did you see her** on your way to the office?
b. (No.) I saw her on my way from the office.
- 6a. **Thank you so much** for all you've done.
b. Thank you, too.
- 7a. **That silly fellow** didn't understand what I said.
b. Nor did anybody.
- 8a. **Did you say you'd go** for a paper?
b. (No.) I said I wanted you to go for a paper.
- 9a. **Let's have another bottle.**
b. But it costs a pound.
- 10a. **Where's your composition**, Mary?
b. I haven't written one.
- 11a. **I adore you.**
b. I adore you.
- 12a. **Did you go there yesterday?**
b. (No.) I'm going there tonight.
- 13a. **When do you leave?**
b. I'm not going, after all.
- 14a. **Which is your hat?**
b. (I can't see it.) But this is my umbrella.
- 15a. **Where's Jimmy?**
b. I don't know. His father's looking for him, too.
- 16a. **Who's in the bathroom?**
b. Who do you think?
- 17a. **Is he studying English?**
b. (Yes.) And he's studying it more seriously than I have ever done.
- 18a. **What's he doing now?**
b. How on earth should I know?
- 19a. **Did you like his idea?**
b. (Well,) I liked hers better.
- 20a. **Why on earth should we hurry?**
b. But they are waiting for us.

- 21a. When does your ship sail?
b. I'm going by air after all.
- 22a. Did you say he was a prince of story-tellers?
b. (No.) I said he was the prince of story-tellers.
- 23a. Roses were twelve and a half pence a bunch yesterday.
b. I know, and they're seventeen and a half pence today.
- 24a. That was a wonderful dish.
b. Except for the pepper, I agree with you.
- 25a. That man a relation of ours? Nonsense!
b. I tell you he is a relation of ours.

Six

These pairs of words frequently occur together in English, joined by *and*. Say which is the order in which they are generally used. Then put them into sentences that will illustrate their meanings or uses.

Example: seek
hide

Answer: hide and seek

Sentence: The children are playing hide and seek in the garden.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. goods
chattels | 8. ladies
gentlemen | 15. sick
tired |
| 2. figures
facts | 9. women
men | 16. rules
regulations |
| 3. high-water
hell | 10. women
children | 17. needles
pins |
| 4. collar
tie | 11. to
fro | 18. waifs
strays |
| 5. ink
pen | 12. tooth
nail | 19. simple
pure |
| 6. sticks
stones | 13. drakes
ducks | 20. bits
pieces |
| 7. thunder
blood | 14. odds
ends | |

Seven

Here are 25 pairs of sentences which are identical except for a slight change of wording, a change in the order of the words, or a change in the punctuation. Say how these changes alter the meanings.

- 1a. They'd arrive early, before anyone else.
b. They'd arrived early, before anyone else.
- 2a. It's already midnight. I don't particularly want to go to another nightclub.
b. It's already midnight. I particularly don't want to go to another nightclub.
- 3a. Sam planned to murder his boss.
b. Sam planned the murder of his boss.
- 4a. The sheep which had not been brought under cover were killed by the sub-zero temperatures.
b. The sheep, which had not been brought under cover, were killed by the sub-zero temperatures.
- 5a. I wonder why you bought such an enormous car.
b. I wonder that you bought such an enormous car.
- 6a. The twins, Helen and Pauline, were the only ones who didn't pass the examination.
b. The twins, Helen, and Pauline were the only ones who didn't pass the examination.
- 7a. As we expected, Bill didn't arrive on time.
b. Bill didn't arrive on time as we'd expected.
- 8a. She listened for a moment. The radio upstairs was playing a curious piece of jazz.
b. The radio upstairs was playing a curious piece of jazz. She listened for a moment.
- 9a. We're very proud of this painting of our son's.
b. We're very proud of this painting of our son.
- 10a. I went to the chemists and explained what I wanted.
b. I went to the chemist's and explained what I wanted.
- 11a. She has accepted the job which will let her live in London.
b. She has accepted the job, which will let her live in London.
- 12a. They went out of their way to see Richard home.
b. They went out of their way to see Richard's home.
- 13a. Philip said John was a silly idiot.
b. Philip, said John, was a silly idiot.

- 14a. We decided to stop for the night at the first hotel which had a private bathroom.
 b. We decided to stop for the night at the first hotel, which had a private bathroom.
- 15a. He wondered how I could ever get together enough money for the project.
 b. He wondered: 'How could I ever get together enough money for the project?'
- 16a. He arrived in time. The ceremony had not begun.
 b. He arrived on time. The ceremony had not begun.
- 17a. She tried to push the car to start it, but without success.
 b. She tried pushing the car to start it, but without success.
- 18a. Peter dared to ask me for a rise, in spite of the lack of business.
 b. Peter dared me to ask for a rise, in spite of the lack of business.
- 19a. Don't rush away. I have to tell you something that will interest you.
 b. Don't rush away. I have something to tell you that will interest you.
- 20a. She stopped to look at the jeweller's window.
 b. She stopped looking at the jeweller's window.
- 21a. I remember telling my pupils that there would not be any lessons the next day.
 b. I remembered to tell my pupils that there would not be any lessons the next day.
- 22a. You must try not to do that again.
 b. You must not try to do that again.
- 23a. At the beginning, we imagined that it might be very difficult to do it.
 b. We imagined that it might be very difficult to do it at the beginning.
- 24a. You can be pleased about little that you have done for us.
 b. You can be pleased about the little that you have done for us.
- 25a. He would like to have met her.
 b. He would have liked to meet her.

Eight

Put the italicised words in these 20 sentences at the beginning of each sentence. Make any alterations to these words or to the rest of the sentences that are necessary to produce grammatically correct results.

Example: 'A body fell out of the wardrobe!'

Answer: 'Out of the wardrobe fell a body!'

1. Marilyn sleeps *so soundly* that she wouldn't be woken by even a jazz-band playing in her room.
2. The rain came *down* in buckets.
3. He fell *down* the stairs.
4. I shall *never* set foot in their house again.
5. I shall never set foot in their house again *in any circumstances*.
(*Careful!*)
6. The cat jumped *up* on to her lap.
7. We have *hardly ever* seen her smile.
8. You must not *on any* account take more than two of these pills at a time.
9. If anybody *should* find my wallet and return it to me, I'd be the most grateful man alive.
10. He *not only* complained about the food, he also tore up the bill and threw it on the floor.
11. I have *seldom* seen such a beautiful girl.
12. They went all the way *in vain*. The shop was shut.
13. The poor maid fell *into a flower-bed* when she was cleaning the windows.
14. I have never seen anything like this *anywhere* in the world.
15. A good result can be achieved *only* like this.
16. You said that *with very good reason*.
17. He went *to such lengths* with his lateness every morning that he simply had to be given the sack.
18. I tripped *over*, to my great annoyance.
19. Paul tripped *over*, to his great annoyance.
20. Timothy's pomposity is *so* annoying that one wants to kick him round the square.



Nine

After-life

Here are 25 'head-words' which are printed in capital letters. Below each 'head-word' there are six other words. Some, but not all, of these can combine with the 'head-word' to form an accepted compound,

with the 'head-word' coming first in the compound. In some cases the compound needs a hyphen; in other cases it does not.

- Say a. which words can combine with the 'head-words' to form an accepted compound;
b. what the compound means;
c. whether a hyphen is needed or not.

Example: ROAD
side
speed
house
path
police
way

Answer: There are three accepted compounds:

- i. *Roadside*; i.e. the strip of free ground which commonly borders a road on either side. No hyphen is needed.
- ii. *Road-house*; i.e. a large restaurant or hotel situated in the country on one of the main roads. A hyphen is needed.
- iii. *Roadway*; i.e. the highway; that part of a road used by vehicles. No hyphen.

- | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. POST
script
letter
card
room
mark
date | 2. TEST
table
case
tube
man
room
place | 3. WHIP
round
well
lash
cord
hand
box | 4. OIL
cloth
pan
can
field
coat
skins |
| 5. SUNDAY
bread
best
cloth
school
time
ride | 6. SAND
paper
boy
stone
floor
fly
wasp | 7. WORK
house
shop
flat
room
full
shy | 8. MONEY
lender
making
sacks
bags
smell
box |
| 9. MOUTH
shape
piece
teeth
organ
place
moisture | 10. AFTER
thought
think
feeling
nuisance
joy
life | 11. SAFETY
place
razor
room
match
pin
needle | 12. OUT
cast
throw
see
look
wit
size |

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| 13. RUN
away
way
route
ground
about
girl | 14. UNDER
cat
dog
man
wear
hand
leg | 15. WINDOW
view
pane
piece
sill
shine
man | 16. SUN
stroke
chair
heat
burn
beam
down |
| 17. OVER
ocean
seas
sky
dose
rule
go | 18. RED
handed
hot
telegram
herring
letter
fish | 19. FLOOR
carpet
rug
show
walker
bell
cloth | 20. UP
lift
right
left
roar
start
stop |
| 21. TOOTH
ache
pain
doctor
brush
pick
soap | 22. IN
go
come
born
joy
doors
look | 23. BLOOD
warmth
heat
group
hound
quarrel
feud | 24. LIGHT
house
weight
year
month
fingered
faced |
| 25. DOOR
keeper
holder | way
mat | pin
nail | |

Ten

Change these 20 sentences into their passive forms.

Some will require only the simple, basic change:

Example: 'They are preparing the meal.'

Answer: 'The meal is being prepared.'

But others will require the more complicated change which uses an infinitive:

Example: 'They say that it was a good party.'

Answer: 'It's said *to have been* a good party.'

1. Somebody has burnt a hole in this carpet.
2. They are building a new aerodrome there.
3. Rumour says that the Princess is expecting a baby.
4. Some people think that this portrait, which has no signature, was painted by Da Vinci.
5. The students have said that Susan Kerr is the most beautiful girl in the college this term.

6. It disappoints me that the Council has adopted that policy.
7. People expect that the Home Secretary will resign.
8. They will be overhauling the machines all day tomorrow.
9. They are going to do it while we watch.
10. They have built an extremely good new road between Belgrade and the Greek frontier.
11. Most people believed that he had been telling the truth.
12. The radio reports that all out-going flights have been cancelled because of the fog.
13. They have offered him the Presidency.
14. The radio reports that the Cabinet has resigned.
15. The newspaper says that our Professor is being considered for that top job.
16. Everybody knows that this machine is by far the best.
17. He has had to do it all over again.
18. Someone had let the air out of the tyres and they couldn't move the car. They had to borrow a bicycle from a cottage nearby and fetch a car from the village.
19. Last night's paper said that poor Mary Moppet has had her throat cut.
20. People assume only too easily that politics solve all human problems. No one ought ever to make so false an assumption.

Eleven

In these 25 sentences, the verbs in brackets are given in one basic infinitive form, which may or may not be correct in the sentence. If this form is not correct, some other form must take its place. If, for example, you have the infinitive (*give*) you may replace it by *to give*, *gives*, *gave*, *giving*, *given*—or you may leave it as it is in the brackets.

Say which form is appropriate for the meaning of each sentence. (In some cases you may find that two different forms are equally correct.)

Example: 'You ought (have) (be) (listen) all the time.'

Answer: 'You ought *to have been listening* all the time.'

1. Philip loves (give) outdoor barbecue parties.
2. You are not yet used to (take) orders, I (see).
3. We (have) (be) (look) for a house like this since we got married.
4. I wish I (speak) as many languages as you (do).
5. She used (play) tennis very well indeed.
6. You seem (have) (be) (make) a lot of progress since I (see) you last.
7. Beethoven's Fifth (be) (go) (be) (play) at eight on the radio tonight.
8. I ought not (have) (forget) his birthday.
9. We shall probably (have) (pay) a fine for leaving the car here so long.
10. He (be) (plan) (go) to America soon.

11. Why do you always put off that job? You (have) (be) (go) (do) it every day this month, but you don't keep your word.
12. Last night I (think) it (be) (go) (snow).
13. If we can (afford) it next year, we'll (have) the front of the house (paint) again.
14. I (have) (grow) accustomed to not (believe) what he tells me.
15. The children ought (be) (get) ready for bed now.
16. That type of skirt (be) now (be) (wear) again.
17. Peter is behaving more correctly today, isn't he? He must (have) (be) (speak) to!
18. You must be wrong. He can't (have) (forget) that he was (invite). He (be) probably on the way.
19. I wish we could stop him (make) such a fool of himself.
20. They decided (ask) him (resign).
21. My hair needs (cut) badly.
22. I'd prefer anybody but her (dance) with.
23. Would you mind (come) back again tomorrow at about the same time?
24. He would (have) (explain) it again for you if he (have) (know) that you (have) not (understand).
25. We should (have) (like) (be) there with you.

Twelve

This is a test of your ability to *assimilate* the full meaning of something that you read.

What to do:

1. Read each piece once—ONLY ONCE.
2. Cover the piece with a slip of paper or something similar, and read the sentences *a, b, c, d* below it.¹ Only *one* of these is correct.
3. Decide which of these four sentences is the correct one. *Do not cheat by looking back at the piece again! Make your decision first.*

Example: Dr Drew has a younger brother and a couple of sisters, both older than he is. Including Dr Drew and his parents, how many members are there in his immediate family?

- a. Three?
- b. Six?
- c. Four?
- d. Five?

Answer: b.

¹ If you can get somebody to read everything to you, *so that you test your ear too*, the exercise will be even more valuable.