

30 April 2020

B.A. Part-2 English Composition, S. No 11, Topic: Common Errors: Conjunction

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1. Scarcely / hardly should be followed by when.
 - a. Scarcely had I started for the institute when the rain started.
 - b. Hardly had he arrived, when he had to leave again.
 2. No sooner is followed by than.
 - a. No sooner had I started than the rain began.
 - b. No sooner did he arrive than he had to leave.
 - c. No sooner did the thief see the policeman than he ran away.
 3. Seldom or never/ seldom if ever
 - d. He seldom or never goes to watch movie.
 - e. He seldom if ever goes to watch movie.
 4. Co relative conjunction either... or, neither...nor, both...and, whether..or should be followed by same part of speech.
 - a. He agreed neither to my proposal nor to his.
 - b. He helps his mother neither by money nor by other means.
 - c. He helps his mother not only by money but also by other means.
 5. The conjunction /though/although/ but is followed by the correlative yet.
 - a. Though he worked hard, yet he could not come first in the class.
 6. Both ...and/neither... nor
 - a. Both Amit and his friends are coming.(positive)
 - b. Both men and women are recruited by the army.
 - c. Neither Amit and his nor his friends are coming.(negative)
 7. Unless is a negative word so it should not be followed by another negative word/ clause or sentence.
 - a. Unless you work hard, you will fail.
 - b. Unless you work hard, you can't pass.
 - c. You can't succeed unless you work hard.

8. Lest expresses a negative sense so it is not followed by another negative word.
- Walk steadily, lest you should fall.
 - Work hard, lest you should pass.
9. Conjunction of concession(though,although, even if,no matter)
- Though she is black, she looks beautiful.
 - Black as she is, she looks beautiful.
 - Even if he has abused me, I will not harm him.
10. As if and as though are followed by a clause in the past tense.
- He looks as if he suspected me.
 - She looks as if she had seen a ghost.
 - It seems as though he were immortal.
11. Conditional clauses

Type 1- If +SC (present simple) + P C (future tense)

- If you work hard, you will pass.
- If you start early, you will catch the bus.
- If you go by air, you will reach soon.

Type 2 If SC (simple past) + PC(past simple)

- If a tiger came here, all would run away.
- If he won a lottery, he would buy a car.
- If I had wings, I would fly to you.

Type -3 If SC (past perfect) + PC (past perfect)

- If he had worked hard, he would have passed.
- If she had won a lottery she would have bought a car.
- If I had been a Prime Minister I would have abolished caste system in India.

12. Temporal conjunction and tense: PC (future) + when/while/before/after/ until/as soon as + SC in simple present/present perfect tense.

- I will go out when the rain stops.
- I will stay until you have finished writing.
- I will return the book as soon as you need it.

13. Since : time period of time + PC (present perfect tense) + since + S C
(past simple)

- a. Seven years have passed since I came here.
- b. Ten years have passed since my father died.
- c. Tree days have passed he left for Bombay.

TEST YOURSELF

1. Both he as well she is here.
2. I have no pen nor paper with me.
3. You will pass if you work hard.
4. This pen is not either cheap nor good.
5. I will not go out before I finish my work.
6. Take an umbrella in case it may rain.
7. Unless you don't work hard you can't pass the exam.
8. I will wait unless you come.
9. You can't succeed until you work hard.
10. I will go out when the rain will stop.
11. Seven years passed since I came here.
12. He memorises as if he were a parrot.
13. He has no other aim but to earn money.
14. Take an umbrella in case it will rain.
15. I doubt that he will pass this time.