

A

Concise English Grammar

For

M.A. Candidates

Including:

M.A Tests from 1371-1400

With Exoplanatory Answers

by

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Table of Contents

Introduction	1
Abbreviations Used in This Book	2
PART I. Style	3
A. Parallelism	3
B. Agreement	5
C. Point of View	8
D. Introductory Phrases (Dangling Structures)	9
E. Redundancy	10
F. Choice of Words	11
G. Prepositions in Combinations	16
H. Wordiness	16
Exercises	19
Answer Key	42
PART II. Verbs	56
A. Verbs of Demand	56
B. Verbs Followed by Infinitives	57
C. Verbs Followed by Gerund	57
D. Verb Phrases (v+ prep.) followed by gerund	58
E. Modals	59
F. Used to/be used to	60
G. Had better / Would rather	61
H. Causatives	62
I. Verbs of Perception	63
J. Verb Tenses in Future Time Clauses	64
K. Wishes	64
L. Conditionals	65
M. Past Participles	67
N. Present Participle and Infinitives	68
O. Tenses	68

Table of Contents

Exercises	70
Answer Key	79
PART III. Modifiers	85
A. Adjectives / Adverbs	85
B. Adjectives After Verbs of Senses	85
C. Noun Adjectives	86
D. Comparatives	86
E. Sameness and Similarity	88
F. Superlatives	89
G. Cause and Result	90
H. Negative Emphasis	91
I. Too, Very, Enough	91
J. Articles (a/an/the)	92
K. Few, A Few, Many/Little, A Little, Much	93
L. Cardinals and Ordinals	94
M. Compound / Hyphenated Adjectives	94
N. Demonstratives (this/that, these/those)	94
O. Consecutive Order	95
P. Pseudo Comparatives (as high as / as soon as)	95
Q. -ing and -ed Adjectives	95
R. Almost / Most	96
S. Split Infinitives	96
Exercises	97
Answer Key	106
PART IV. Pronouns	113
A. Personal Pronouns	113
B. Relative Pronouns	114
C. Those Modified	116
Exercises	117
Answer Key	120
PART V. Prepositions	123
A. Place	123
B. Time	124
C. Direction	124

Table of Contents

E. Purpose	125
F. Partition / Possession (of)	125
G. Measure.....	126
H. Similarity	126
I. Capacity	126
J. Exception.....	126
K. Replacement	126
L. Condition and Unexpected Result	127
M. Cause.....	127
N. Means	128
Exercises	129
Answer Key.....	131
 PART VI. Basic Patterns	132
A. Direct and Indirect objects.....	132
B. Basic patterns: Direct and Embedded questions	134
C. Basic patterns: Double Subjects	135
D. Basic Patterns: Independent and Dependent Clauses.....	136
VI. Basic Patterns	143
Exercises	143
Answer key.....	147
 PART VII. Functional Tests	152
VI. Functional Test.....	154
in M.A Exams	154
Exercises	155
Answer Key.....	155
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	156
APPENDIX I	157
APPENDIX II	163
APPENDIX III (M.A. Exam 1384 to 1400)	170

In the Name of God

Introduction

The general English in M.A exams is based on the TOEFL tests which cover a wide range of material. The following grammatical structures have been tested on in recent M.A exams. It could be considered as a general guide to help you in distributing your study time.

The grammatical structures are arranged according to how often they appeared as part of test questions. Of course, this does not predict what will be on future tests, instead it gives you information about past tests that can help you estimate problems on future tests, and guide you in your choice of study topics.

The chapters are categorized in terms of their frequency in M.A past exams. That is, the most frequently used ones are presented first and the least frequently used ones, last.

Two sets of exercises follow each part. Exercise I contains incorrect sentences you are supposed to correct. Exercise II encompasses structure and written expressions taken from the M.A past tests. At the end of each part an answer key with a brief explanation on each test item is presented.

There is hope that those preparing themselves to take part in M.A exams will be able to get as much information as they can from the test points presented.

Good Luck.

K. Tabibi

Abbreviations Used in This Book

adj.	Adjective
adv.	Adverb
aux.	Auxiliary
ant.	Antecedent
cl.	Clause
CN.	Count Noun
comp.	Comparative
conj.	Conjunction
D.O	Direct Object
infin.	Infinitive
I.O	Indirect Object
N	Noun
NCN	Non-Count Noun
N.Ph.	Noun phrase
obj.	Object
past part.	Past Participle
past perf.	Past Perfect
pl.	Plural
prep.	Preposition
pron.	Pronoun
S	Subject
sing.	Singular
V	Verb
v+ -ing	Present Participle / Gerund
VW	Verb Word

PART I. Style

A. Parallelism

1. Parallelism (items in a series)

Items in a series must have similar grammatical form.

a. Nouns:

I like ^Nmusic, ^Nart and ^Nhistory.

b. Gerunds: (v+ -ing)

They like ^{v+ -ing}swimming, ^{v+ -ing}dancing, and ^{v+ -ing}horseback riding.

c. Adjectives:

She is ^{adj.}tall, ^{adj.}dark and ^{adj.}beautiful.

d. Infinitives: (to+ v)

He learned ^{inf.}to play tennis, ^{inf.}to golf and ^{inf.}to swim.

Note: The preposition "to" may be left out in the second and third infinitives.

She likes to read, travel and paint.

e. Past tense:

They ^{past}came out of the office, ^{past}hailed a cab and ^{past}jumped into it.

f. Past perfect:

He ^{past perf.}had bought a house, ^{past perf.}had found a job, and ^{past perf.}had chosen a school for his children before his wife arrived.

Note: The word "had" may be omitted in the second and third verb phrases.

He had finished the game, taken a shower, eaten lunch by the time I got there.

2. Parallelism (items joined by coordinate conjunctions)

Items joined by coordinate conjunctions such as "and, but, as, or, than, although", must have the same grammatical form.

a. and:

I enjoy ^{N ph.} the music of Iran ^{N ph.} and the art of Italy.

b. but:

She is not ^{adj.} beautiful, but ^{adj.} intelligent.

c. as:

Speaking ^{v+ing} a language is not as difficult as ^{v+ing} writing it.

d. or:

They wanted to ^{inf.} buy a house or to ^{inf.} rent one.

e. than:

Renting ^{v+ing} a house can be more expensive than ^{v+ing} buying an apartment.

f. although:

Although we like to ^{inf.} eat good food, we don't like to ^{inf.} pay high prices.

3. Parallelism (items joined by correlative conjunctions)

Items joined by correlative conjunctions such as "both ... and, not only ... but also, either...or and neither ... nor must have the same grammatical form.

a. both ... and

The exam tests ^{v+ing} both listening and ^{v+ing} reading.

b. not only ... but also

Flying is ^{comp. adj.} not only faster ^{comp.adj.} but also safer than travelling by car.

c. either ... or

They went ^{prep.ph.} either to the park or ^{prep.ph.} to the cinema.

d. neither ... nor

I can ^{vw} neither speak ^{vw} nor read French.

B. Agreement

1. Agreement : Subject - Verb

a. Modified subject and verb

When a subject is modified by a prepositional phrase, the verb must agree in person and number with the subject itself and not with the modifier.

Ex. His ^s knowledge of languages ^v helps him in his work.

The verb "help" agrees with "knowledge" and not with "languages".

b. Agreement - Subject with accompaniment

The verb should agree in person and number with the subject and not with the phrase of accompaniment.

Ex. The ^s president, accompanied by cabinet members, ^v was warmly received by the people.

Other phrases used as accompaniment are: along with, together with, as well as, including, besides and like.

c. Agreement - Subject with appositive

An appositive is a word or phrase that follows a noun and defines it or gives more information about it. The verb should agree with the subject and not with the words in the appositive.

Ex. ^s Pets, ^{appositive} a dog and a cat, ^v need to be taken care of while we are away.

d. Agreement - Verb preceding subject (v+ s)

Certain words such as "there", "here", or adverbial phrases of time or place may come at the beginning of sentences. In this case, the verb should agree in person and number with the subject that follows it and not with the words and phrases that precede it.

Ex. On the door ^v was ^s a wreath of flowers.

Ex. ^v There were ^s many people in line when we arrived.

e. Agreement - Indefinite subjects and verb

Words such as "anyone , everyone , someone , everybody , somebody , something , no one , whatever , what , whoever , nothing , either , neither , etc." are indefinite subjects and singular; therefore, they take singular verbs.

Ex. ^s Either of these buses ^v goes past the university.

Ex. ^s Anyone who ^v wishes to participate may get a ticket there.

Note: When two subjects are joined by either ... or , or neither ... nor , the subject closer to the verb determines its number.

Ex. Neither Mary nor her ^s sisters ^v are going to the party.

Ex. Either my sisters or my ^s mother ^v is going to the wedding.

f. Plural looking subjects and verbs

Words such as economics, physics, politics, news, etc. look plural but are singular.

Ex. ^s The news ^v was good.

Ex. ^s Linguistics ^v is a challenging field.

g. Subject of relative clause and verb

The subject of a relative clause may be singular or plural depending on its antecedent.

Ex. The ^{pl. ant.} students ^s who ^v come to class everyday usually ^{M. V.} progress rapidly.

Ex. Ali is one of the ^{pl. ant.} students ^s who ^v are absent today.

Ex. Ali is the only ^{sing. ant.} one of the students ^s who ^v is absent.

2. Agreement : Noun - Pronoun***a. Person / Number***

A pronoun must agree in person and number with the noun to which it refers.

Ex. A ^{ant.} student must work hard when ^{pron.} he/she goes to university.

Ex. Ali is interested in ^{ant.} physics and ^{pron.} its applications.

Note 1: Sometimes a pronoun may precede the noun to which it refers.

Ex. In spite of ^{pron.} their small size, these ^{ant.} cameras take good pictures.

Note 2: Singular pronouns such as "he, she" (sub. pron.), "him, her" (obj. pron.), "his, her" (poss. adj.) refer to a person, a student, or one.

Remember that the possessive pronoun for "one" can be "one's" or "his".

Ex. ^{ant.} One should do ^{pron. (poss.)} one's/his work carefully.

Note 3: Indefinite pronouns such as "each , either , neither , one , and words ending in - one , - body , or, - thing " are singular and must take singular pronouns.

Ex. ^{ant.} Neither of the men took off ^{pron.} his hat.

Note 4: When subjects are joined by "neither ... nor, or either ... or" , the pronoun must agree with the subject nearer the verb.

Ex. Neither my brother nor my ^{ant. (nearer the v.)} sisters ^{v.} could lend me ^{pron.} their books.

Ex. Neither my sisters nor my ^{ant.} brother ^{v.} could lend me ^{pron.} his books.

Note 5: Words such as physics, mathematics, linguistics, economics, news, etc. look plural, but they are singular; therefore, they must take singular pronouns.

Ex. ^{ant.} Linguistics ^{pron.} interests me as it is challenging.

b. Faulty Reference Pronouns:

When a pronoun refers to a noun, it should be clearly understood that "who" or "what" is the antecedent.

Wrong: Mary told Paula that she had to study more.

(Here "she" may refer to "Mary" or to "Paula", so it is not clearly understood.)

Right: Mary told ^{ant.} Paula, ^{pron.} "You have to study more."

or

Mary told Paula that Paula had to study more.

Wrong: He put the vase on the glass table and it broke.

(Here again, "it" may refer to both "the vase" and "the glass table".)

Right: The ^{ant.}vase broke as he put ^{pron.}it on the glass table.

C. Point of View

1. Sequence of Verb Tenses:

In all sentences, one must maintain a point of view which is either present or past.

Ex. She ^{present}is among the few who ^{present}want to work on this project.

Ex. She ^{past}was among the few who ^{past}wanted to work on this project.

2. Reported Speech:

When the following verbs are used as past main verbs in a sentence, all the other verbs following "that" should be "past" and not "present":

asked, believed, forgot, knew, remembered, reported, said, thought, told.

Ex. He ^{past}said that he ^{past}was coming.

Ex. They ^{past}thought that he ^{past}was sorry.

Ex. When she ^{past}told us that everything ^{past}was ready, we ^{past}went into the dining room and ^{past}seated ourselves.

3. Verbs and Adverbs of Time:

When a past adverb is used in a sentence, the verb should also be past.

Ex. Ali ^{past verb}did not finish typing his paper ^{past adv.}last night.

Ex. ^{past adv.}In 1370, the population of Iran ^{past v.}was 60 million.

4. The Activities of the Dead:

In the sentences referring to the activities of the dead, the past tense should be used and not present.

Ex. Before he died, the man who ^{past}lived across the street ^{past}used to help me a lot.

D. Introductory Phrases (Dangling Structures)

This structure contains an introductory phrase which modifies the subject of the main clause. If the subject that immediately follows the introductory phrase cannot serve as its agent, the introductory phrase is considered as "dangling"; that is, left hanging without an agent to attach to it.

Wrong: ^{Intro.}After eating dinner, ^{phrase}the ^stable was cleaned.

(Here, according to what was said, the table (subject of the main clause) cannot serve as the subject of the introductory phrase.)

Right: After eating dinner, I cleaned the table.

To find out whether the subject of the main clause can serve as the subject of the introductory phrase, we can ask two questions:

1. Who ate the dinner? (I)
2. Who cleaned the table? (I)

Since both questions have one agent; that is, "I" therefore, the structure is not dangling, and it is a correct one.

Introductory phrases may have different structures:

1. A time phrase:

Ex. While a dancer in New York, she injured her leg.

2. A Participial phrase:

Ex. Walking in the park, I saw Ali.

3. An infinitive phrase:

Ex. To learn English, one must study hard.

4. A prepositional phrase:

Ex. At the age of seven, he came to the U.S.

5. A perfect participial phrase:

Ex. Having written the letter, he mailed it on the way to his office.

Note 1: There are two ways to correct the dangling constructions:

1. To provide the introductory with a subject,
2. To provide the main clause with a subject that can be understood as the subject of the introductory phrase.

Dangling: A timid person, every little thing frightened him.

Correct 1: Because he was a timid person, every little thing frightened him.

Correct 2: A timid person, he was frightened by every little thing.

Who was a timid person? (He)

Who was frightened (He)

Note 2: Certain introductory participial phrases have their own subjects and therefore do not depend on the subject of the main clause for their agent.

s (introd.phrase) s (main cl.)

Ex. The bus being very crowded, they decided to take a taxi.

E. Redundancy

1. Repetition of a noun by its pronoun:

Wrong: The most common ^s name in the world ^{pron.} it is Mohammad.

Right: The most common ^s name in the world ^v is Mohammad.

Wrong: ^{ant.} The man ^s who was very young ^{pron.} he tried to solve the problem.

Right: ^{ant.} The man ^s who was very young ^v tried to solve the problem.

or

The young man tried to solve the problem.

Wrong: This is the man whom I talked to him last night. ("whom" takes the place of object in the second clause.)

Right: This is the man whom I talked to last night.

2. Unnecessary phrases:

Adverbs of manner such as "quickly", "carefully", etc. should not be replaced by adjectives with such phrases as "in manner" or "in character".

Wrong: Ali learned English in a ^{adj.}quick manner.

Right: Ali learned English quickly.

3. Repetition of words with similar meaning:

Words with similar meaning should not be used consecutively in a sentence.

Wrong: She returned back to her hometown. ("returen" means "come back")

Right: She returned to her hometown.

F. Choice of Words

1. Parts of speech:

A word can be identified as a noun, adjective, adverb, or verb by its suffix. Therefore, care must be taken not to use one instead of the other.

Wrong: Even young children begin to show ^{adj.}able in mathematics.

(Here a noun should be used not an adjective.)

Right: Even young children begin to show ^Nability in mathematics.

Wrong: The ^vdevelop of hybrids has increased the yield.

(Here a noun should be used not a verb)

Right: The development of hybrids has increased the yield.

Wrong: He speaks English quite ^{adj.}good.

(Here an adverb should be used not an adjective.)

Right: He speaks English quite well.

Note: To have a good command of parts of speech, one should study suffixes in relevant grammar books. (see "Appendix")

2. Words often confused or misused:**a. 'Lie' and 'Lay'**

"Lie" is an intransitive verb and does not take an object. "Lay" is a transitive verb and takes an object. Here are their different forms:

present	past	past part.	present part.
lie	lay	lain	lying
lay	laid	laid	laying

Ex. He came home and lay on the sofa. (lay: past of lie)

Ex. Birds lay ^{obj.} eggs.

b. Rise and Raise:

"Rise" is intransitive; "raise" is transitive. Here are their different forms:

present	past	past part.	present part.
rise	rose	risen	rising
raise	raised	raised	raising

Ex. The cost of living has risen a lot lately. (risen: past part. of rise)

Ex. The landlord has raised ^{obj.} the rent.

c. Sit and Set:

"Sit" is intransitive; "set" is transitive. Here are their different forms.

present	past	past part.	present part.
sit	sat	sat	sitting
set	set	set	setting

Ex. He has sat there for almost an hour. (sat: past part. of sit)

Ex. Please, set ^{obj.} the telephone on the table.

d. Say and Tell:

"Say" could be transitive or intransitive, but "tell" is a transitive verb. "Say" is usually followed by a "that clause". "Tell" is almost always followed by a pronoun.

Ex. He said, "I will come."

Ex. He said that he would come.

Ex. He said to me that he would come.

Ex. He told ^{pron.} me that he would come.

e. Let and Leave:

"Let" means to allow or to permit. "Leave" means to go or to depart. "Let" is transitive; "Leave" could be transitive or intransitive.

Ex. I let ^{obj.} my son drive the car.

Ex. I left early yesterday. (No object)

Ex. I left ^{obj.} my keys in the office.

f. Borrow and Lend:

"Borrow" and "Lend" have related meanings, "borrow" means take and give back and it is often followed by the word "from", but "lend" means to give and take back and it is often followed by the word "to".

Ex. I borrowed some money from Ali.

Ex. I lent some money to Ali.

Ex. I lent Ali some money.

g. Make and Do:

These two have the same meanings, but "do" is often used before complements that describe "work" or "chores". "Make" is often used before complements derived from verbs.

Ex. She did her homework.

Ex. They made an agreement. (from "to agree")

Note: The list of the complements used with "make" and "do" is presented in the appendix.

h. Learn and Teach:

"Learn" is usually followed by an infinitive as an object.

Ex. He learned ^{inf. (obj.)} to speak English fluently.

"Teach" is usually followed by an object and an infinitive.

Ex. I taught ^{obj.} Ali ^{inf.} to speak English fluently.

i. Hanged and Hung:

Both are past participles of "hang", but "hanged" refers to executions (killings) of persons and "hung" refers to things.

Ex. The murderer was hanged.

Ex. The picture was hung over the fireplace.

j. Amount and Number:

"Amount" is used with uncountable nouns.

Ex. They have a large amount of ^{NCN} money.

"Number" is used with countable nouns.

Ex. They have a large number of ^{CN} books.

k. Accept and Except:

"Accept" is a verb which means to give a positive answer or to receive.

Ex. They **accepted** his offer. (positive answer)

Ex. The club **accepted** three new members. (received)

"Except" is a verb or a preposition.

Ex. All the students ^{prep.} except Ali were present.

Ex. They ^v excepted Ali from the club. (They did not accept Ali.)

l. Advise and Advice:

"Advise" is a verb; "advice" is an uncountable noun.

Ex. The doctor ^vadvised him to stop smoking.

Ex. My father always gives me some good ^{NCN}advice.

m. All ready and Already:

"All ready" is an adjective phrase meaning "completely ready".

Ex. The workers were all ready to go on strike.

"Already" is an adverb meaning "by or before a certain time."

Ex. They had already left at 5:00. (by five)

Ex. He had already had his lunch when I arrived. (before a certain time)

n. Beside and Besides:

"Beside" is a preposition meaning "at the side of", "by", "next to".

Ex. Who's that big guy sitting beside Jane?

"Besides" can be used as a preposition meaning "as well as, in addition to, except".

Ex. Besides literature, we have to study history and philosophy.

"Besides" can also be used as a discourse marker meaning "also", "as well", "in any case".

Ex. I don't like those shoes; besides, they're too expensive.

o. Differ from and Differ with:

"Differ from" means "to be dissimilar".

Ex. Women differ physically from men.

"Differ with" means "to disagree with".

Ex. They differ with us on this matter.

G. Prepositions in Combinations

Some verbs are followed by certain prepositions; therefore, they should be learned together. A list of these verbs and their prepositions is presented in the appendix.

Ex. I agreed with him on that matter. (agree with a person)

Ex. We agreed on that point. (agree on something)

Note 1: Some verbs and their prepositions take two objects.

Ex. I never compare ^{obj.1}you ^{obj. 2}with/to my brother.

Ex. Please excuse ^{obj.1}me ^{obj. 2}for that mistake.

Note 2: Some prepositions occur in fixed phrases such as "according to", "along with", "as well as", "because of", "in consideration of", "in contrast to/with", etc.

Ex. Ali went to Shiraz by way of Isfahan.

Ex. The thief entered the house by means of an open window.

Note 3: Some adjectives with their prepositions occur with the verb "to be".

Ex. He is afraid of dogs.

Ex. They were surprised at/by his behavior.

H. Wordiness

Generally, when the same idea can be expressed in fewer words, we should avoid using lengthy structures; that is, the shorter, the better.

1. Unnecessary passive structure:

It is common in English to use active rather than passive although passive voice is acceptable and even preferred sometimes.

a. Active voice should be used when the actor is more important than action.

Ex. The boys ate the cake.

not

The cake was eaten by the boys.

b. If the actor is unknown or unimportant, the passive voice is preferred.

Ex. The mosque was built 900 years ago.

c. When we discuss history, the passive voice is often used.

Ex. The war was fought over gold.

d. Active and passive should not be used in the same sentence if possible.

Ex. She ^{act.} cleaned the room and ^{act.} washed the dishes.

not

She ^{act.} cleaned the room and the dishes were ^{pass.} washed by her.

2. Unnecessary relative clauses:

Where an adjective, a participial phrase, a prepositional phrase, or an appositive suffices, the relative clause should be avoided.

Examples:

{	The ^{adj.} <u>tall</u> man sold the car.
	<i>not</i>
	The man ^{rel.} <u>who was tall</u> ^{cl.} sold the car.

{	The boy ^{part.} <u>standing</u> there is my friend.
	<i>not</i>
	The boy ^{rel.} <u>who is standing</u> ^{cl.} there is my friend.

- { The doctor ^{prep. ph.} from India is coming here.
- not*
- { The doctor ^{rel. cl.} who is from India is coming here.
- { Mr. Smith, ^{appositive} a famous writer, won the first prize.
- not*
- { Mr. Smith, ^{rel. cl.} who is a famous writer, won the first prize.

3. Expressing ideas directly:

The ideas should be expressed as directly as possible and lengthy structures should be avoided.

Examples:

- { It was an important discovery.
- not*
- { It was a discovery of great importance.
- { He believed in God.
- not*
- { He believed in the existence of a Supreme Being.

I. Style

Exercise I

I. Correct the following sentences.

1. When they were in Italy, they saw museums, ruins, and folk dancing.
2. We enjoyed the museums and going to the excellent theaters in NewYork.
3. All trade between the two countries were suspended.
4. Mary, accompanied by her brother on the piano, were received well at the show.
5. That soup should not be served hot, but at a cold temperature.
6. She is not only famous in the U.S., but also abroad.
7. State University, the largest of the state - supported schools, have more than 50,000 students.
8. Along the beach was several small boats that have been washed ashore.
9. Although he was quick to criticize, he was slow praising his students.
10. He was a man of intellectual strength, moral character, and he had personal integrity.
11. Everyone who majors in architecture and fine arts study History of Arts.
12. Neither my sisters nor my brother are ready to begin college.
13. My uncle, as well as my father, are going to Canada on business.
14. The lack of logic in his arguments never cease to surprise me.
15. When I arrived, she had eaten her dinner, washed the dishes and went to bed.
16. They are neither intelligent nor they have creativity.
17. The kidneys both eliminate water and salt.
18. Twenty-five thousand dollars are the average income in the United States.
19. The staff are meeting in the conference room.
20. We are indebted to Arabs not only for reviving Greek works but also they introduced useful ideas from India.
21. Over the fire place hangs two small paintings.
22. I asked all the students who was willing to help to meet me at the school.

23. Although their visas will expire in June, they can have it extended for three months.
24. At a large university, one will almost always be able to find a friend who speaks your language.
25. One can only live without water for about ten days because almost 60 percent of their body is water.
26. The first two problems are very difficult, but the rest is easy.
27. Those of us who are over fifty should get their blood pressure checked regularly.
28. Until she died at the age of forty, she is the most glamorous star in Hollywood.
29. Styles that have been popular in the 1940s have recently reappeared in high-fashion boutiques.
30. He was the first educator who tries to establish schools of higher education for blacks.
31. The president told the people that he cannot run for president for personal reasons.
32. Waitresses and waiters who serve in a courteous manner deserve at least a 20 percent tip.
33. The new innovations at the World's Fair were fascinating.
34. The flag is risen at the dawn by an honor guard.
35. Her coat was laying on the chair.
36. Terrorists are capable to hijacking planes and taking hostages in spite of security at airports.
37. When a human being gets hurt, the brain excretes a chemical to numb the painful.
38. Because of the traffic, the police will not leave anyone use his car in the restricted area.
39. When only a child, my father taught me how to play football.
40. To understand the subject, a great deal of studying must be done.

Style in M.A Exams

Exercise II

A. Structure : Write the letter of the word, phrase, or sentence that best completes the items.

- 1. The boss asked his secretary to answer the phone, to take all messages, and..... some letters. (71-72)
a. to type b. typing c. type d. typed
- 2. Dr. Davis has contributed a great deal to his community: (72-73)
a. teaching, as a writer, and lecturer
b. teaching, lecturing, and as a writer
c. teaching, writing, and lecturing
d. writing, a teacher, and a lecturer
- 3. Mr. Javadi gave me a ride and dropped in front of the bookstore. (71-72)
a. me off b. me out c. off me d. out me
- 4. You should hand your homework even if the teacher doesn't ask for it. (71-72)
a. around b. in c. off d. to
- 5. The ad says that you must have not only a degree in chemical engineering (74-75)
a. also two years experience b. but also two years experience
c. but more two years experience d. but two years experience
- 6. Having studied only English, (73-74)
a. another foreign language would appeal me
b. I'm looking forward to taking another foreign language.
c. I like to take foreign language
d. to take another foreign language is appealing

- 72. To succeed in a difficult task..... . (83)
- a. *persistence is needed* b. *one needs to be persistent*
c. *you need a persistent nature* d. *persistence is what you need*
- 73 , the Congressman spoke eloquently to his colleagues. (83)
- a. *Arguing that the law was bad and suggesting that it be repealed*
b. *Suggesting the bad law's repeal as he argued*
c. *Saying that the bad law needed repealing*
d. *Arguing for the repeal of the bad law*
- 74.has finally been recommended. (83)
- a. *A solution to the problem of pollution*
b. *How to get a solution to the problem concerning pollution*
c. *The problem's solution for pollution*
d. *A solving of the pollution problem*
- 75. He cannot find a suitable job although he has been trained thoroughly in (83)
- a. *the repair and maintenance of air conditioners*
b. *air conditioning repair and their maintenance*
c. *how to repair and maintaining air conditioners*
d. *repairing and how you maintain air conditioning*
- 76. It would be difficult for a man of his political affiliation,,to become a senator from the South. (83)
- a. *even with charm and so capable*
b. *though charming and capable is he*
c. *however charming and capable*
d. *charming and having capability*
- 77. You can learn a language easily..... .
- a. *if you talk with native speakers and reading newspapers.*
b. *by talking with native speakers and reading newspapers.*
c. *by talking with native speakers and if you read newspapers.*
d. *if one talks with native speakers and reads newspapers*

-- 78. He speaks (83)

- a. *correctly English and easily*
- b. *and easy, correct English*
- c. *English easily, with correctness*
- d. *English easily and correctly*

B. Written Expressions: Identify the one underlined word or phrase that should be corrected and write the letter in the blank.

-- 1. Standing in the driveway ^a, the house ^b appeared to be much smaller than it had seemed ^c to us as children ^d many years ago. (71-72)

-- 2. After the team of geologists had drawn diagrams in ^a their notebooks and ^b wrote explanations of the formation ^c which they had observed, they returned to their campsite ^d to compare notes.

-- 3. The robin ^d will defend ^a their ^b territory by aggressively approaching any bird that enters ^c within the nesting area it ^d has chosen. (71-72)

-- 4. The principal speakers ^c at the news conference ^a agreed that ^d the ways in which television can educate a person ^b is ^c almost ^d infinite. (71-72)

-- 5. In the past ^a, the rulers of the country ^b has been ^c selfish, but the present king ^d has great respect and concern ^a for his people ^b. (71-72)

-- 6. The first ^a electric lamp had two carbon rods from which vapor ^b serves ^c to conduct ^d the current across the gap. (72-73)

-- 7. Increasing involvement in agriculture ^a by large corporations ^b has resulted ^c in what is known as ^d agribusiness, that is, agriculture with business techniques, including heavy ^a capitalization, specialization of production, and to control ^b all stages of the operation. (75-76)

-- 8. The information officer ^a at the bank ^b told his customer ^c that ^d there was several different kinds of checking accounts available. (72-73)

- 9. Benjamin Franklin was^a the editor of the largest^b newspaper in the colonies, a diplomatic representative to France and later to England, and he invented^c many^d useful devices. (76-77)
- 10. The duties of the secretary are^a to take^b the minutes, mailing^c the correspondence, and calling the members before meetings^d. (79-80)
- 11. An unexpected raise^a in the cost of living as well as^b a decline in employment opportunities has resulted^c in the rapid^d creation by Congress of new government program for the unemployment.
- 12. Anthropologists assert that many of the early American plains Indians did not engage in planting crops but^a to hunt^b, living^c primarily^d on buffalo meat. (76-77)
- 13. Even though^a computers operate without^b human prejudice, some people fear that its^c logical solutions can be^d harmful to man. (73-74)
- 14. During^a the long journey across^b the prairies, pioneer families entertained itself^c with songs, stories, or simple games. (73-74)
- 15. Far fewer^a sperm whales were seen^b in the Atlantic Ocean this year as comparing^c last year^d. (73-74)
- 16. Tom ran as quick^a as he could^b to the doctor's office when^c he saw that^d his mother had fainted. (73-74)
- 17. The major works of romanesque sculpture^a was created^b near the end^c of the eleventh century^d. (73-74)
- 18. The convict, free^a after twenty years, he came^b out to a world quite different from^c the one he had left^d. (74-75)
- 19. Professor Bakert told her class that a good way to improve^a listening comprehension skills is^b to watch^c television, especially^d news programs and documentaries. (75-76)

- 91. Some hand - made products. such as baskets or pottery, can commonly be purchased in department stores, in hardware stores, or even drugstores. (83)
- 92. Although a large amount of people think the man to be guilty, I believe him to be innocent of the crime. (83)
- 93. He appeared hot and flush , and he was not dressed with his customary care and completeness . (83)
- 94. The library of Congress, with a large number of books in its stacks, attracts students from most every state in the Union. (83)
- 95. Her dress was spotlessly clean and well made, but it was the kind of a dress which the daughter of a poor man might have worn . (83)
- 96. Despite the alarming report of earth tremors nearby , the workers preceded to lay the foundation of the building. (83)
- 97. In one of our first conversation, she informed me that she had been ill for months, but that she hoped to be better by spring. (83)
- 98. Mr. Gilmore is one of those men who appears to be friendly however, it is very hard to deal with him. (83)
- 99. He sat the boxes of fruit down and looked around for someone to help him carry them. (83)
- 100. The surface of the tongue covered with tiny taste buds. (83)
- 101. The scientific method consists of forming hypotheses, collect data, and testing results. (83)
- 102. The famous Jim Thorpe won both the pentathlon or decathlon in the 1912 Olympic Games. (83)
- 103. George Gershwin not only composed popular songs for musicals, also wrote more serious concerts. (83)

I. Style

Answer Key to Exercise I

1. (parallelism) ^N museums, ^N ruins, and ^N folk dances.
2. (parallelism) ^{N. ph.} the museums and ^{N. ph.} the excellent theaters
3. (prep. phrase with subject - agreement). All ^s trade ... ^v was ...
4. (agreement - accompaniment) ^s Mary ... ^v was ...
5. (parallelism - but) ... hot, but cold ...
6. (parallelism - not only ... but also) ... not only in the US ...
7. (agreement - appositive). ^s state university, ..., ^v has ...
8. (agreement - v+ s order) ... ^v were several small ^s boats
9. (parallelism - although) ... quick ^{inf.} to criticize ... slow ^{inf.} to praise
10. (parallelism) ... ^{N. ph.} intellectual strength, ^{N. ph.} moral character, and ^{N. ph.} personal integrity. "he had" should be omitted.
11. (agreement - indefinite pronoun) ^s Everyone ... ^v studies ...
12. (agreement - correlatives) ... nor ^s my brother ^v is ... the subject nearer the verb.
13. (agreement - accompaniment) ^s My uncle, ..., ^v is going ...
14. (agreement - prep. phrase modifying sub.) The ^s lack ... ^v ceases ...
15. (parallelism - past perf.) ... ^{past perf.} had eaten ... ^{past perf.} washed ... ^{past perf.} gone ...
16. (parallelism - correlatives) ... neither ^{adj.} intelligent nor ^{adj.} creative.
17. (parallelism - correlatives) ... both ^N water and ^N salt
18. (agreement - collective nouns + sing. verb) ... ^{col. N.} 25000 dollars ^v is ...
19. (agreement - collective nouns + sing. verb) ... The ^s staff ^v is ...
20. (parallelism - correlatives) ... not only for reviving ... but also for introducing ...
21. (agreement - v+ s order) ... ^v hang ... ^s paintings
22. (agreement - relative cl.) ... ^{ant.} students ^s who ^v were ...
23. (agreement - noun - pron.) ... ^s visas ... ^{pron.} them extended ...

I. Style in M.A Exams

Answer Key to Exercise II

A. Structure:

1. "a" (parallelism - inf.) $\frac{\text{inf.}}{\text{to answer}} \dots \frac{\text{inf.}}{\text{to take}} \dots \frac{\text{inf.}}{\text{to type}}$
2. "c" (parallelism - v+ -ing) $\frac{\text{v+ ing}}{\text{teaching}}, \frac{\text{v+ ing}}{\text{writing}} \text{ and } \frac{\text{v+ ing}}{\text{lecturing}}$
3. "a" (prep. in combination) drop sb off = set down
4. "b" (prep. in combination) hand in = submit
5. "b" (correlative conjunctions) not only ... but also
6. "b" (introductory phrases - dangling modifiers) only "b" can provide a sub. for phrase.
"c" is not logical.
7. "a" (parallelism - v+ -ing) ... $\frac{\text{v+ ing}}{\text{riding a bicycle}} \dots \frac{\text{v+ ing}}{\text{driving a car}} \dots$
8. "d" (prep. in combination) come to = reach, rise
9. "a" (adj. prep.) be afraid of + v+ ing / be afraid of + Nph.
10. "b" (introductory phrase - dangling)
11. "c" (parallelism - to+ v) to answer ... to finish
12. "d" (N + prep.) difficulty with
13. "d" (preposition in combination) tune up = adjust
14. "a" (parallelism - to+ v and to+ v)
15. "b" (introductory phrase - dangling)
16. "b" (wordiness - unnecessary passive) "a" is passive, "c" is not logical, "d" is not a complete clause (no finite verb)
17. "a" (prep. in combination) entrust with = trust sb to complete or safeguard sth.
18. "b" (wordiness - expressing ideas directly) "b" is more direct and shorter than the others, above all it is quite clear.
19. "b" (prep. in fixed phrase) contrary to / independent of

63. "b" (Style - Parallelism) The structure before and after 'than' should be parallel. (a) is progressive; (c) is ungrammatical because there is no need for an inversion here, and (d) is a double subjects.
64. "c" (Style - Wordiness) Choice (c) is direct and brief whereas the other choices are wordy and redundant.
65. "c" (Style - Parallelism) In choice (a) 'neither' is usually used with 'nor'; Choice (b) is not parallel, and nor is choice (d)
66. "c" (Style - Wordiness) choice (c) expresses the same ideas in (a), (b) and (d), but briefly and clearly.
67. "c" (Style - Wordiness) Choice (c) is clear and to the point. Choices (a) and (b) are redundant. Choice (d) is ungrammatical; it should read: ; ... was really courageous.
68. "b" (Style - Wordiness) Choice (b) expresses the same ideas in (a), (c), and (d) but with brevity and clarity.
69. "c" (Style - Dangling Modifiers) Choice (c) provides the subject (We) that can be understood as the subject of the introductory phrase. Choice (b) is not correct because we do not go the route, but we take the route. Choices (a) and (d) do not provide the subjects that can be modified by the introductory phrase.
70. "c" (Style - Wordiness) Choices (a), (b) and (d) are not common in Standard English.
71. "c" (Style - Voice) Choice (a) is passive and one should avoid using active and passive in the same sentence. In choice (b) if 'yet' is a coordinate conjunction, it is commonly used at the beginning of a clause or phrase e.g. 'yet discovering no error'. Choice (d) is double negative which is not acceptable in standard English.
72. "b" (Style - Dangling Modifiers) Choices (a) and (d) are dangling because their subjects cannot be understood as the subject of the introductory phrase. Choice (c) is redundant.

73. "d" (Style - Wordiness) Choice (d) expresses the same ideas as other choices but with brevity and clarity.
74. "a" (Style - Wordiness) Here again, choice (a) is direct and clear. When the same idea can be expressed directly in fewer words, choose the shorter version; in this case choice (a) is preferred to choice (b). Choice (c) is ungrammatical and in choice (d), a gerund (solving) followed by an of - phrase is usually preceded by 'the' not 'a'.
75. "a" (Style - Parallelism) Choice (b) is not parallel and the pronoun 'their' had no antecedent. Choices (c) and (d) are not parallel, either.
76. "c" (Style - Parallelism) choices (a) and (b) are not parallel and choice (b) is ungrammatical.
77. "b" (Style - Parallelism) Choices (a) and (b) are not parallel, and choice (d) is a faulty reference pronoun (you and one).
78. "d" (Style - Parallelism) Only choice (d) expresses a parallel structure correctly.

B. Written Expressions:

- "a" (introductory phrase) This sentence is dangling because "the house" (the sub. of the main clause) cannot be understood as the sub. of introd. ph.
- "b" (parallelism - past perf.) ... had drawn ... written
- "b" (agreement - noun-pron.) The ^s robin ... ^{pron.} its ...
- "c" (agreement - sub.+ v) ^s The ways ... ^v are
- "b" (point of view - past adv. / agreement - sub.+ v) ^{past adv.} In the past ... ^{sub.} rulers ...
^v had been/were
- "c" (point of view - past) The first ... served
- "d" (parallelism - nouns) ^{N. ph.} heavy capitalization, ^{N. ph.} specialization of production, and ^{N. ph.} control of ...
- "d" (agreement - v+ s order) ... There ^v were ... ^s kinds ...

50 ■ A Concise English Grammar For M.A. Candidates

9. "c" (parallelism - nouns) ... a ^{N.} diplomatic ^{ph.} representative, ... and the ^{N.} inventor ^{ph.} of ...
10. "b" (parallelism - v+ -ing) ... taking ... mailing ... calling
11. "a" (words often confused - rise/raise) ... rise (For increase in value , temperature , etc. as in a rise in prices or social position)
12. "b" (parallelism - but) ... planting ... but ... hunting
13. "c" (agreement - noun - pron.) ... ^{ph.} computers ^{N.} ... ^{pron.} their ...
14. "c" (agreement - noun - pron.) ... families ... themselves
15. "c" (prep. in comb. - fixed phrase) ... as compared with/to
16. "a" (word choice - parts of speech) ... ran as quickly as ... only an adv. of manner modifies a verb.
17. "b" (agreement - sub. + verb) ... ^s works ... ^v were ...
18. "b" (redundancy - repetition of a noun by its pronoun) The ^s convict ... came ... "he" should be omitted.
19. "b" (point of view - past main v.) ... told ... was
20. "c" (prep. in comb.) settle in a place = move to a new place
21. "c" (redundancy - repetition of a noun by its pronoun) "it" should be omitted.
22. "d" (word choice - parts of speech) ... ^{adj.} special ^{N.} intensity
23. "d" (word choice - parts of speech - adv.+ adj.+ N) ^{adv.} steadily ^{adj.} expanding ^{N.} population.
"steady" is an adjective.
24. "c" (words often confused - lie/lay) ... had been lying ... "lying" is the present part. of
lie (no obj.)
25. "d" (prep. in comb. - fixed phrases) ... equal to ...
26. "c" (agreement - impersonal nouns) ... one ... one / he
27. "b" (agreement - sub./v) ... ^{sub.} support ... is ...
28. "d" (agreement - sub./v) ... ^{sub.} forms ... have ...
29. "b" (agreement - sub./v) the ^{sub.} employment ... has ...

incorrect forms of 'kind of' and 'sort of'.

96. "c" (Style - Words often Confused) ... the workers proceeded to ... 'Precede' means :

come and go before (in time, place , or order) ; 'proceed' to do sth/to sth/ ... with sth means: go forward, continue , go on , etc. Compare:

- A subject usually precedes a verb . (= comes before it in order or place)
- Let us proceed to business , etc. (=continue , move forward)

97. "a" (Style - One of + P1.Nph.) In one of our first conversations ... 'One of' is followed by a determiner (my, the , those , etc.) and a noun phrase (usually plural) , or by a plural pronoun.

- One of my friends , one of them , etc.

Occasionally 'one of ' is used with a singular noun referring to a group - Why don't you ask one of the crew .

98. "a" (Style - Sub/ Verb Agreement) ... is one of those men who appear ... The subject of a relative clause , who , which , or that , is singular or plural depending on its antecedent.

99. "a" (Style - Usage) He set the boxes The word 'sit' is intransitive and cannot take an object; 'set ' , on the other hand , is transitive and must have an object.

100. "b" (Style - Voice : Passive) The surface of the tongue is covered...

101. "c" (Style - Parallelism) ... of forming collecting ... and testing

102. "c" (Style - Correlative conjunctions) ... both .. and

103. "c" (Style - correlative Conjunctions) ... not only ... but also

104. "d" (Style - Part of Speech) ... among tribes

The word 'tribal' is an adjective and cannot be used here.