

C2.1 – MTS

(Week 7 & 8)

GRAPPLING WITH GRAMMAR

Task 1: Grammatical Calques and Errors

Worksheet 1:

Each of the following sentences includes a mistake in grammar. Locate the mistake in each sentence and correct it. The first one has been done for you as an example.

1. It's hard to pick up a newspaper these days without getting depressed, because the news featured on the front page are generally full of sad stories about unfortunate events.

MISTAKE: “the newsare”

CORRECTION: “the news...is”

2. Because we had spent too many time chatting and having coffee after lunch, we were late for the afternoon meeting.

MISTAKE: _____

CORRECTION: _____

3. The clothes at Saks Fifth Avenue are all too expensive for we to buy.

MISTAKE: _____

CORRECTION: _____

4. After she had bought himself two new lipsticks and some red nail polish, Beverly decided to have her hair done.

MISTAKE: _____

CORRECTION: _____

5. The next thing we have to do is make up our minds where are we going for vacation this summer.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

6. Leslie hasn't finished writing her thesis yet, and Mark hasn't neither.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

7. Gwen decided to sign up in the morning for aerobics classes, but in the afternoon she changed her mind.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

8. According to witnesses, the man seen running away from the scene of the crime looked very much like Antonio Banderas, which is why the police is questioning the famous actor at his summer home in Marbella.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

9. After Enrique Iglesias finished his concert in Madrid last night, he was drinking an entire bottle of wine all by himself.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

10. Many theories regarding the disappearance of Atlanta has been proposed, but not one has been as widely accepted as the Kalliste theory.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

11. The soup that Karen is making in the kitchen is smelling delicious.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

12. After Iglesias drunk the wine, he yawned and went to sleep.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

13. The class president has announced last night that the strike would begin today.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

14. Because Agnes and Ethel had always done all the housework themselves, they were unable to understand why Janet wanted to hire a maid.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

15. Having worked very hard that day in class, the students crossed their fingers and hoped the teacher would not give them another homework for the weekend.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

16. After to drink the wine, Iglesias became sleepy and lethargic.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

17. I insist on you making that phone call yourself; don't make your poor old secretary do it!

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

18. My mother dislikes my staying out all night without phoning, and my father does so.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

19. It has rained more than usual this week, isn't it?

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

20. I enjoyed to have the opportunity to spend some time with my niece during the holidays.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

21. Having discovered there were no available seats left on the train, Ethel decided rent a car for the trip.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

22. Enrique Iglesias's manager persuaded him give a concert in Castellón between his engagements in Barcelona and Valencia.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

23. The only students who were required to repeat the exercise were Candace, Jeff, Willy, and me.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

24. The work the new cleaning ladies in the administration building do are not up to standard.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

25. Enrique Iglesias plans to spend a weekend in Majorca after he had finished his concert tour of the Valencian Community.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

26. Jeff and Martina plays chess at the café on the corner every Sunday morning.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

27. There were a time when I could eat two cheeseburgers, an order of french fries and a strawberry milkshake for lunch and still feel hungry afterwards, but now, at my age, my stomach won't take the abuse anymore.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

28. I was take bath when you called.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

29. I called yesterday my old friend Lucio in Tarragona to find out about his plans for the upcoming holiday.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

30. We were lying last Sunday afternoon on the beach when it began to rain very hard.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

31. Until you finish your homeworks, there will be no supper for you, young man!

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

32. Could I please have a few ketchup with my french fries if it's no trouble?

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

33. Karen must be some kind of fertility goddess; it's just not normal to have seven childs at the age of thirty.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

34. The used car salesman on television always describes himself as a honest man, but I have my doubts.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

35. Michael and I will not be spending the night in Barcelona for the conference, and neither Susan will.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

36. Stephen prefers soul to rock music, and so is John.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

37. Ever since I moved to Madrid I can't hardly afford to pay my rent anymore.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

38. My niece has decided to attend an university in Barcelona where she can study Chinese/Catalan translation.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

39. The students were interested in take a trip to Seville for Easter, but they couldn't raise the money.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

40. Because Julia's job is so time-consuming, she hardly never comes to visit anymore.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

41. Us students would rather not have class until 9:00 P.M., but we generally have no choice.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

42. The teacher warned the students to don't cheat on the exam.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

43. You should ask your mother how long does it take to make a paella.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

44. It was her who did away with all our illusions.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

45. Lucy and Mark went to the theater last night, and so does Candace.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

46. Daisy had already took the pill when she realized it contained penicillin.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

47. There's a party at Wally's house tonight, isn't it?

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

48. Our friends have decided selling the house now instead of waiting for market conditions to improve.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

49. The local government is thinking to build a new cultural center for immigrants downtown.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

50. My mother does not approve of me to go out on weekdays.

MISTAKE: _____ CORRECTION: _____

TASK 2: USE OF “ONE”

 **Worksheet 3:**

Fill in the gaps with the words ‘one’ or ‘ones’, placing parentheses around them if the word is optional. If nothing goes in the gap, write in the symbol ‘Ø’.

Water

All of us prefer hot showers, although it's nice to have an icy _____ during the hot summer months. I readily confess that steaming hot water is my favorite, but I don't mind cold _____ when the weather is right for it. In fact, I think our love of water in all its forms is understandable _____. We need it to live, and indeed of all our nutritional necessities, it is perhaps the most imperious _____.

All active sports are of course healthful, but swimming is undoubtedly the best _____. Given a straight choice between two sports I won't deny that I generally opt for the easier _____, but I'll take the wonders of natation any day before I go jogging. Our local swimming pool is a very large _____, held by some to be the biggest _____ in the Midwest. The truth is that I find it somewhat impersonal, and long for a time when smaller _____ will be built. Despite its size, however, I must say that its showers are the finest _____ I have ever seen.

TASK 3: ADJECTIVE ORDER

Text 1:

Use this text to complete Worksheet 4, below.

THE ELF

It was cold and dark. The (1a) old (1b) branches of the trees above me looked like (2a) metal (2b) daggers suspended from the (3a) ominous (3b) sky. I spied the (4a) amber (4b) light from a hearth in a house hidden not far away in the (5a) virgin (5b) forest. I took the (6a) long (6b) path that wound its way to the (7a) wooden (7b) door. With a (8a) dirty (8b) fist, I knocked, and was startled by the (9a) sudden (9b) sound of the (10a) brass (10b) hinges. A (11a) beautiful (11b) elf came to the door, and upon seeing that I was human, she gave me a (12a) little (12b) smile.

"We don't see many of your kind about these parts," she said, with her (13a) mischievous (13b) voice, "What is your business here?"

"Listen well," said I, staring into her (14a) intelligent (14b) eyes, "The goblin king is angry and has ordered me to take you before him. You must escape to Skye right away."

We walked quickly down the (15a) stone (15b) path behind the cabin to the (16a) green (16b) riverbank where I had moored the (17a) small (17b) rowboat. "Hurry!" I said to the elf, "I think I hear the dogs coming."

Worksheet 4:

Next to each of the adjectives numbered 1 – 17, write the letter 'a' or 'b' corresponding to the place it should be inserted in the text.

1) grey	_____	10) old	_____
2) great	_____	11) young	_____
3) Caledonian	_____	12) delightful	_____
4) welcoming	_____	13) elfin	_____
5) dense	_____	14) oval	_____
6) thin	_____	15) ancient	_____
7) carved	_____	16) luscious	_____
8) black	_____	17) cedar-wood	_____
9) shrill	_____		

TASK 4: ARTICLES

 **Worksheet 5:**

Rewrite this passage, correcting the use of the definite and indefinite articles (a/an/the). Use the symbol ‘Ø’ where you suppress an article from the original.

Love

The love is a most intangible thing. To understand the emotion, it is question of looking at the life from many perspectives at the same time. For the poet, the love is either a torment from the hell or taste of the heaven, according to his disposition, while for the scientist, it is a chemical beast, designed to further pair-bonding and to better the chances of the human survival.

I once had a friend who was psychiatrist, but who fancied himself as something of a poet too. He had owned a house with garden nearby, but had later moved, and I had to locate him through his work address. He had secretary, so I asked for appointment. On seeing him, we spoke about the religion for a while, and then I put it to him: Is the love I feel for my partner only result of hormonal imbalance? He told me that that was lie, explaining that although the objective science could only talk about the love in those terms, all emotion was by definition subjective. The love of a people for their leader, or of a parent for their child is not thing of the science. The life, he said, was for living.

Intrigued, I asked him whether he had girlfriend, to which he replied that he did not, but that he had dog, and was very attached to it. He went on to clarify that he was victim of the circumstances.

TASK 5: COUNTABLE AND NON-COUNTABLE NOUNS

Worksheet 6:

Correct the following text, paying special attention to the use of plural nouns:

-Mbanga-

1) Mbanga carried three breads under her arm as she made her way back to the village. **2)** The midday Chad sun was burning her face and arms, but her knowledges of weather patterns at this time of year told her that the rains were not far off. **3)** Almost in response to this thought the low heaving sound of distant thunders came unbeckoned to her ears.

She stopped. **4)** No, it wasn't a storm. **5)** It was the sound of gunfire from the border. **6)** Ammunitions were low, and people were becoming desperate. Mbanga looked back at the rubbles of what had once been an outlying house of her village, remembering the applauses of the guerrillas as they tore it down, smashing all the furnitures within, and stealing all the pots and cutleries.

7) Evidences of the outrage were everywhere, but the advices from the village elders were to stay calm and not to retaliate. **8)** The fighting had broken out when several of the most important local traffickers had been jailed. **9)** When businesses were bad, there was always trouble, but never like this. **10)** The clan leaders were trying to negotiate a truce, but the progresses to date were very little.

11) Mbanga sighed, wondering what sort of a world her two young sons would grow up in, but despite her sadnesses, she wiped the sweat from her brow and the tears from her eyes, and set off once more down the scorching dirt road.

TASK 6: EXTRAPOSITION

 **Worksheet 7:**

Rewrite the following sentences where possible, beginning with the word 'It'.

- 1) To criticise is easy.
- 2) That he was lying never occurred to me.
- 3) To give up now seems a pity.
- 4) His resignation is improbable.
- 5) That he hasn't phoned is odd.
- 6) To be early is better.
- 7) That prices will go up is certain.
- 8) What you say does not matter.
- 9) The amount does not matter.
- 10) How it can rain so much is extraordinary.

TASK 7: SUBJECT-FINITE VERB INVERSION

Worksheet 8:

Rewrite the following sentences beginning with the underlined words. In some cases you may have to change the underlined words slightly so that they make sense in their new position.

Example:

People should not travel to the Congo alone under any circumstances ↗

Under no circumstances should people travel to the Congo alone

- 1) There has rarely been such a need for new blood.
- 2) I have never heard of such a thing.
- 3) I seldom travel that far south.
- 4) I sometimes thought I could hear voices in the night.
- 5) I have not only met Camilo, but I have had dinner with him.
- 6) The red button must not be pressed on any account.
- 7) Weight can be lost only by dieting and exercise.
- 8) I did not realise the implications of it all until I got home.
- 9) You should in no circumstances eat the eggs raw.
- 10) I frequently leave things too late.
- 11) She had not once been told to do it by hand.

TASK 8: NOUN GROUPS

Worksheet 9:

Compare the expressions in the first two columns. In the second column, two nouns are linked in some way. Determine whether the first noun corresponds to the subject, verb, object or object of a preposition of the paraphrase in the first column, and write S, O, V or Oprep accordingly in the column marked 'Order'. Then do the same for the second noun, making sure that the order is correct. A few examples have been provided to help you get started.

Paraphrase	Noun Group	Order
My mother has a house .	My mother's house	SO
The plane arrived .	The plane's arrival	
The cup holds coffee.	A coffee cup	
The man is from Leeds.	A Leeds man	Oprep S
The jury decided .	The jury's decision	SV
The well produces oil.	An oil well	
The bus goes to the station.	The station bus	
The fisherman has a net .	The fisherman's net	
The dog looks after sheep.	The Sheepdog	
The gnome goes in the garden.	The garden gnome	
The policeman wears a helmet .	A policeman's helmet	

Worksheet 10:

Consider the results you have obtained from worksheet 1, and use them to fill in the following table, writing 'Saxon genitive' or 'Noun-Noun' in the column marked 'Noun Group'.

Order	Noun Group
Subject – Verb	
Subject – Object	
Object – Subject	
Object of a preposition – Subject	

 **Worksheet 11:**

Refer to worksheets 1 and 2 to do this exercise. Now, consider the two nouns in each box in the first column of worksheet 3. (The first of these, highlighted in bold, is the main noun, which, as you have seen, always comes last in a noun group). Write a sentence in the second column that links them in a simple, logical way. Next, in the column marked 'Order', indicate the parts of speech to which they correspond (S, V, O or Oprep) in the order that they will appear in the noun group. Finally, complete the last column with the appropriate noun group (Saxon genitive or noun-noun construction).

Nouns	Paraphrase	Order	Noun Group
boat , Mr Brown		So	
gambling , my husband			
dog , lap	The <u>dog</u> sits on your lap.		
lighter , cigarette			
report , board			
eruption volcano			
bench , park			
spoon , tea			
entry , Spain			Spain's <u>entry</u> into the EU
teacher , English			

 Consider what you have learned about the circumstances in which you can use the Saxon genitive. Not all nouns can take the genitive case, and if they cannot, you must use an 'of' construction instead. In fact, a Saxon genitive can only be used in the following circumstances:

- (1) when the noun represents a person, an animal or a group of people or animals (e.g. my friend's, the government's),
- (2) when it is the subject of the implied action (e.g. The plane's arrival) or
- (3) when it represents some human activity (e.g. The plan's implications)

Only in the first case –that of an animate noun- is the Saxon genitive really obligatory.

 **Worksheet 12:**

Complete the following table, writing 'Correct' or 'Incorrect' in the second column according to the acceptability of the sentences in the first column. If an alternative construction is possible, write it in the last column. The first one has been done for you.

Original construction	Correct or Incorrect?	Alternative construction (when possible)
1. the crowd's enthusiasm	Correct	the enthusiasm of the crowd
2. my cousin's dog		
3. the President's speech		
4. the teacher's black list		
5. the first decision of the new dean		
6. Ricky Martin's fame		
7. her perfume's smell		
8. the century's turn		
9. the Knights of the Round Table		
10. the salary of my ex-husband		
11. the wood's grain		
12. my life's man		
13. the cafeteria's tables		
14. the pub's owner		
15. the suit's cut		
16. a complaint's letter		
17. the spokesperson of the organization		
18. the plan's repercussions		
19. the refreshing taste of Budweiser		
20. the study's conclusions		
21. a pint of beer		
22. the plot of the novel		
23. the success's degree		
24. the chef's recommendation		
25. the song's lyrics		