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Toni's Grammar Challenge

Pick out the Grammar Gremlins that pop up in some of the following sentences—and correct them. Good luck!

1. The man whose coming to dinner will be an hour late.
2. If the parties for you and me, then you and I should arrive together.
3. The novel, that I read last night, convinced me I could write one just as interesting.
4. The best way to loose weight is to eat less, exercise more, and try a little liposuction.
5. \"Even the sight of caterpillars make me sick,\" said Alice.
6. A preposition is a part of speech it's perfectly permissible to end a sentence with.
7. And you can start a sentence with a conjunction; but not too often.
8. The violence in the drama negatively effected many in the audience.
9. \"Whom shall I say is calling?\" asked the butler, with a disdainful sniff.
10. \"Why do you feel bad, Barbie?\" Ken asked, knowing it would be awhile before he got an answer.
11. If it was only up to me, I'd say go ahead with your plans right now.
12. None of the dogs in the park were on a leash.
13. Edna, the eldest, was born ten minutes before her brother, Eldon.
14. Its hard to know when its time to fold your hand and cut your losses.
15. The pirate, to possibly neutralize his crew's mutinous mumbling, ordered an extra pint of grog for each man.
16. The lake was further away than we thought when we started out.
17. The billionaire boasted to the crowd, \"I myself am a self-made man.\"
18. \"I before e except after c\" is an ancient rhyme society has accepted even though there are sufficient exceptions to the rule.
19. After putting on her nightgown, Sleeping Beauty would lay down to await the prince.
20. Whom should I go home with — the prince I just met or the frog who brought me?

[Scroll down for the answers](#)

ANSWERS

So how did you do? Did you find all the mischievous errors—and the right way to correct them? And did you realize that some of the sentences were correct just as they are?

Here are the answers—what should have been used in the sentences above. Remember to keep your guard up against those pesky Grammar Gremlins.

1. *who*'s instead of *whose* (*whose* is possessive, *who*'s is a contraction of "who is")
 2. *party*'s instead of *parties* (possessive, not plural)
 3. *which* instead of *that* (*that* precedes essential information and does not take a comma)
 4. *lose* instead of *loose* (*loose* means to set free)
 5. *makes* instead of *make* (verb should agree with singular subject "sight")
 6. Correct
 7. Correct
 8. *affected* instead of *effected* (*effect* is the noun, *affect* is the verb)
 9. *who* instead of *whom* (subject of the verb; *whom* is used as object and after prepositions)
 10. *a while* instead of *awhile* (*a while* means "a period of time," *awhile* means "for a time")
 11. *were* instead of *was* ("if" takes the subjunctive)
 12. *was* instead of *were* (*none* is a contraction of "no one" and takes a singular verb)
 13. *elder* instead of *eldest* (comparison of two—*eldest* implies more than two)
 14. *It's* instead of *Its* (contraction of "it is")
 15. Correct
 16. *farther* instead of *further* (*farther* refers to distance, *further* means "in addition to")
 17. delete *myself* (*myself* is unnecessary, redundant, and, by the way, pretentious)
 18. Correct
 19. *lie* instead of *lay* (*lay* is a transitive verb that requires a direct object; hint: most often you *lay* an object down, but a person *lies* down)
 20. Correct
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1. If you have any questions, please call Jim Shorts or myself.
2. Posted on the bulletin board, Phyllis read the new job openings.
3. We will succeed irregardless of past failures.
4. The study on puppy nutrition which I prepared is well documented.
5. Rob Burr told us to write correctly and that we should speak fluently.
6. Fred feels badly about his poor performance.
7. We will meet on December 12th to set department goals.
8. The new series of management classes look interesting.
9. Sometimes a person gives up on an exercise program because they don't have time for it.
10. The new incentive program is having a positive affect on our work group.

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