

## Exercise on Inappropriate Shift in Person or Tense

In the following pairs, one sentence is correct, and the other sentence has an inappropriate shift in mood, person, tense or voice. Mark the CORRECT sentence.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ Before going on the tour, we learned that we should leave our itinerary with the park ranger.

B \_\_\_\_\_ Before going on the tour, we learned that you should leave your itinerary with the park ranger.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. There is a shift from first person (*we*) to second person (*you*).

2. A \_\_\_\_\_ If one wants to be successful, you must work hard, ask questions, and keep an open mind.

B \_\_\_\_\_ If you want to be successful, you must work hard, ask questions, and keep an open mind.

Answer A is incorrect. There is a shift from third person (*one*) to second person (*you*).

Answer B is correct.

3. A \_\_\_\_\_ The characters in the novel are average people, but they had more than average problems.

B \_\_\_\_\_ The characters in the novel are average people, but they have more than average problems.

Answer A is incorrect. There is a shift in tense from present tense (*are*) to past tense (*had*).

Answer B is correct.

4. A \_\_\_\_ The driver yelled at me to get off the bus, so I asked him why, and he told me it was none of my business.

B \_\_\_\_ The driver yelled at me to get off the bus, so I asked him why, and he tells me it is none of my business.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. There is a shift from past tense (*yelled, asked*) to present tense (*tells, is*).

5. A \_\_\_\_ Advisors will tell their students to register early so that they got the classes they wanted.

B \_\_\_\_ Advisors will tell their students to register early so that they will get the classes they want.

Answer A is incorrect. There is an inappropriate shift from future tense (*will tell*) to past tense (*got*).

Answer B is correct.

6. A \_\_\_\_ In 1835 Charles Darwin explored the Galapagos Islands, and in 1850 he writes *Origin of Species*.

B \_\_\_\_ In 1835 Charles Darwin explored the Galapagos Islands, and in 1850 he wrote *Origin of Species*.

Answer A is incorrect. There is an inappropriate shift from past tense (*explored*) to present tense (*writes*).

Answer B is correct.

7. A \_\_\_\_ In the interview, the star of the film explained the stunt work and talked about the special effects. However, she never mentions her costars.

B \_\_\_\_ In the interview, the star of the film explained the stunt work and talked about the special effects. However, she never mentioned her costars.

Answer A is incorrect. There is a shift from past tense (*explained, talked*) to present tense (*mentions*).

Answer B is correct.

8. A \_\_\_\_\_ The virus mutated so rapidly that it developed a resistance to most vaccines.  
B \_\_\_\_\_ The virus mutated so rapidly that it develops a resistance to most vaccines.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. There is a shift from past tense (*mutated*) to present tense (*develops*).

9. A \_\_\_\_\_ Salespeople have to be careful when a customer tries on clothes. They can't hint that a suit may be a size too small.  
B \_\_\_\_\_ Salespeople have to be careful when a customer tries on clothes. You can't hint that a suit may be a size too small.

Answer A is correct.

Answer B is incorrect. There is a shift from third person (*salesperson*) to second person (*you*).

10. A \_\_\_\_\_ If you want to learn to write well, people need to practice, practice, practice!  
B \_\_\_\_\_ If people want to learn to write well, they need to practice, practice, practice!

Answer A is incorrect. There is an inappropriate shift from second person (*you*) to third person (*people*).

Answer B is correct.