

Avoiding Shifts Quiz Key

AVOIDING SHIFT IN PERSON

Change the pronouns (and verbs when necessary) so that there will be no shift in person. Cross out the incorrect words and write the correct ones above. Sometimes you may want to change a sentence from singular to plural to avoid using too many ones or the awkward he or she.

Exercise #1:

I I

Example: I enjoy jogging because ~~you~~ feel so good when ~~you~~ quit.

1. In high school our English teacher wouldn't give **us** more than a C.
2. I like going out with her because she really makes **me** feel important.
3. I used to think my parents were fussy, but as **I grew** older, **they became** more tolerant.
4. I'm finding **I** have to do a lot of memorizing if **I** want to be a good speller.
5. I like living in Oregon because **it has** good weather all year long.
6. As a rule a person can find work if **he is** willing to take what **he** can get.
7. It's wise for a beginning driver to stay out of heavy traffic until **he has** more experience.
8. If I want to play the guitar well, **I** really need lessons.
9. All those who intend to graduate should get fitted for **their** gowns.

Exercise #2:

1. Anyone who doesn't have a reservation is taking a chance unless **he doesn't** really care whether **he has** a place to stay.
2. If **you have** done all the exercises in this book, you should be able to get a perfect score on the final grammar test.
3. At the Oriental Institute **you** can see the great Winged Bull from Iraq, and you can also see many other Middle East antiquities.
4. When we looked down, **we** could see the little farms growing smaller and smaller.
5. We were on the plane for six hours, and **we got** tired of sitting that long.
6. We tried to move around, but there was not too much **we** could do.

Avoiding Shifts Quiz Key

7. Our car was in the middle of a traffic jam, and **we** could see that we weren't going to make our appointment.
8. When they opened the door that morning, **they** could see rabbit tracks in the snow.

Exercise #3:

When students write *you* in a paper, they usually don't mean **you**, the reader. **Rewrite these sentences, eliminating the *you* and stating the sentences as simply as possible. Getting rid of the *you* will usually get rid of wordiness also. For ex. 3-4, corrected sentences will vary upon student.**

1. **He** should have seen the mess my room was in.
2. **She** can imagine how terrified I was.
3. Swimming is the best exercise **she** can take.
4. **One doesn't** need to be a member of the Kiwanis Club to attend their breakfast.
5. **My** paper will always be more interesting if **I** put in specific details.
6. Her paper was excellent; **I** could tell she had spent time on it.
7. To succeed in college, **one needs** to have good vocabulary.
8. **His** vocabulary will improve if **he reads** widely.
9. **I** feel absolutely foolish after **I** have said such a thing.
10. **One** can imagine how I looked forward to that weekend.

Exercise #4:

1. Correct
2. Correct
3. I spent two days in Williamsburg, but **I** really need more time if **I** want to see everything.
4. Correct
5. Call this number for more information.
6. Correct
7. Correct
8. You can't imagine how frustrating it **is** to be unable to get there on time.
9. Correct
10. After an escape like that, **I** feel pretty lucky to be alive.

Avoiding Shifts Quiz Key

AVOIDING SHIFTS IN TIME

Most of these sentences have shifts in time, either from past to present or from present to past. Change the verbs in each sentence to agree with the first verb used. Cross out the incorrect verb and write the correct one above it.

Exercise #5:

1. Only a few feet in front of me I saw a quail, and I **walked** quietly forward, hoping not to frighten it away.

2. Kent stopped me and **said he'd** see me later.

3. We were enjoying the game tremendously, and then it **began** to rain.

4. I tried to keep a study schedule, but sometimes I **gave** up.

5. I closed my book, had a snack, and then **decided** to call it a day.

6. I wanted to register for that course, but it was full, so I **registered** for this one.

7. He thought he wanted a job, but then he finally **came** back to college.

8. I added something to my knowledge of nature today; I **learned** the difference between cumulus and nimbostratus clouds.

9. When I was seven, I ran away and stayed away until dark; then I **came** home.

10. We walked along the shore hunting for shells, and finally we **were** lucky enough to find a perfect specimen of a helmet shell.

Avoiding Shifts Quiz Key

11. We found lots of limpets, and before we finally **gave** up for the day, we discovered a beautiful sea fan coral.

12. We took our specimens home, **washed** them, identified each one accurately, and wrote a label for it.

13. I worked all that summer boning up on my math, and then I **was** rewarded by passing the proficiency exam.

14. The book gives an account of Dickens' life, but it **doesn't** tell much about his novels.

15. After we had driven about 50 miles on the freeway, we **discovered** we **were** going the wrong direction.

16. Here we are minding our own business when a cop came along and **asked** to see my driver's license.

17. *The Two Solitudes* is a novel by Hugh MacLennan which **tells** about the social conflict between the French- and English- speaking Canadians.

18. We drove to the top of the hill to watch the sunset, and then we **came** back in time for supper.

19. I locked the door and then **realized** I **had** left my keys inside.
