



UPKAR'S

THE ART OF  
SENTENCE  
ARRANGEMENT

*(Employing Clue and Trick Technique)*

AJAY K. SINGH

 **UPKAR'S**  
**The Art of**  
**Sentence**  
**Arrangement**

(With the most judicious use of the Clue and Trick technique)

**By**

Ajay K. Singh

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## Foreword

English is not a paper/discipline like, say Maths, that has defined chapters having definite formulae. The reason behind this is that here more important than vocabulary and grammar are thoughts. In fact, grammar and words of a language are just media to express different thoughts in that language. That's why, even though we have fair bit of mastery over words and grammar, if the thought is new or unknown we often fail to appreciate that piece properly. Hence, more than anywhere else there is a need to develop some time-saving and accurate tricks to solve the questions of the language. And herein lies the need of this book.

Questions on Sentence Arrangement (SA) are basically solved on the basis of the understanding of the sentences and our reflex action. However, this book has reduced the question on Sentence Arrangement in a bundle of clues to be unbundled easily.

You may have been solving the questions on Sentence Arrangement but, this book is designed to save your time and improve accuracy. For this, you are strictly advised to stick to the suggestions and stages as forwarded literally.

Though assured of it on my part, the book's beneficiality on the part of the students is something that shall keep me on toe until I get to know that. Any suggestion for any sort of improvement in the book's utility will be heartily embraced.

Thanking 'One' and all who helped me directly or indirectly in this endeavour.

—Ajay K. Singh

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# **Sentence Arrangement**

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## CHAPTER 1

# Introduction

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“The given sentences together constitute a paragraph containing a single thought; of course, in different sentences different aspects of that very thought may be enumerated. Once arranged, these sentences together form a cohesive (not aberrative) whole where there is an uninterrupted continuity *i.e.*, previous sentence leads to the next sentence and so on.”

This basic truth about sentence arrangement (SA) or Paragraph Reconstruction (PR) was needed to be reiterated as this works as the ultimate clue to arranging sentences and the most effective factor of measuring accuracy.

But, this is what I'd call idealistic clue which requires a fairly fast understanding and an unerring reflex action. Practically, this misses and more so when there is a severe time constraint and equally important other considerations too.

And herein comes the scope of some 'time-saving' and 'accurate' clues—the two most important considerations of the students.

However, before dealing with the clues in details, it is imperative to expose you to the rationale behind the clues so that you come to realise not only 'how' 'why' too of the clues.

The author would like to emphasize it with all seriousness that rationale is equally important as clues and therefore, imbibe the rationale first in toto to make clues enlighten you in solution to SA.

**Problem :** Arranging a number of sentences each as a separate entity on the basis of its meaning could be problematic in that if we are pitted against sentences of equal status (as it often happens) which one should precede ?

**Rationale :** Simply put, tackling a number of separate entities could be/is difficult. The rationale

behind providing clues is to reduce these entities into fewer in number.....say 2 or 3 groups in place of 5 or 6 independent units (sentences) .....so that arranging them into sequence takes less time.

Let's first take an imaginary example : suppose we get a paragraph containing 5 sentences (A, B, C, D, E) to be arranged. We generally first pick the first sentence, then the next one and so on.

But here, the clues first make you choose the opening sentence.....suppose 'C'.

Then, of the remaining 4 sentences (A, B, D, E) you are required to form at best two groups, say, CD, EA or BE, DA or the like. Now, in the first condition what you have to do is to only ascertain whether 'B' shall come after 'D' (in that case the final sequence will be CDBEA) or 'B' shall be the last sentence (in that case the final sequence will be CDEAB). In the second condition, you have simply to decide whether after 'C' (opening sentence) 'B' shall come (sequence : CBEDA) or 'D' (sequence : CDABE).

Thus, the logic behind arranging clues is to reduce the different sentences into groups of two or more sentences. In this situation what happens is that you have to consider only the first sentence of the group not the latter sentence (s) and wherever the first sentence of the group fits the latter sentence fixes after that automatically. Thus, in the condition C, BE, DA only 'B' and 'D' are to be considered in terms of one of them being the second sentence. If it is 'D' then the sequence automatically is CDABE.

Thus, with the technique after you have chosen the first sentence, you generally consider

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only two more sentences in terms of their place in place of considering the remaining four.

Let's consider this in an actual example :

##### **Examples—**

(A) President George Bush too has added his bit about the state of the largest economy in the world by observing that his country's financial woes are a 'hangover' from the 'economic binge' of the Nineties.

(B) The goings on in the largest financial market in the world, that of the U. S., have cast their shadow on the global market place.

(C) The U. S. Congress is now close to passing its biggest package of measures for the financial markets in some 25 years.

(D) The chairman of the Federal Reserve, Alan Greenspan, has spoken of the 'infectious greed' of senior corporate executives who enriched themselves in that heady decade.

(E) In the U. S. these days most observations about the financial markets are critical of the Nineties.

Here, (B) stands as the first sentence. And if you look closely you shall find that sentences (E),

(D) and (A) are making a group because of the word 'Nineties' (E), 'that heady decade' (D) and 'too'/'Nineties' (A). Now, in this situation you have simply to decide whether sentence (C) will come after first sentence (B) or is the last sentence. The word 'now' in (C) obviously makes it the last sentence as it talks about the steps being taken in the current situation. So, easily the final sequence stands as BEDAC.

#### **CAUTION**

As the book has been set in stages *i.e.*, Introduction, Opening Sentence, Group Arrangement, Sequence Arrangement, so are you required to solve the given examples in stages. So, while in the chapter of Opening Sentence, try to find only the first sentence on the basis of the given clues.

There shall be a natural urge to arrange the final sequence as soon as you get the example. But, **never ever try to do that even if you are sure of that** as this shall defeat the very purpose of the book. Go strictly by stages given in the book. Do what you are asked to do.

## CHAPTER 2

# Opening Sentence

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In place of calling it the first sentence, it should be logically more viable to call it the opening sentence as it opens/introduces the thought detailed in the latter sentences.

The questions where the first sentence is numbered, it is numbered. However, where it is not, in terms of finding that through clues a few factors shall have to be considered.

### Factor I

If the passage contains just one subject-matter, that sentence which introduces the Noun per se rather than talking any of its aspects shall be the first sentence. In fact, the first sentence defines the Noun whereas the latter sentences enumerate some of its aspects. It shall be clearer through examples :

#### EXAMPLE 1.

(A) The force of habit should be fought against.

(B) If we don't continue to do it, we feel unhappy.

(C) It is very easy to acquire bad habits.

(D) Even good things should be done from time to time only.

(E) This is called the force of habit.

(F) The more we do a thing, the more we tend to like doing it.

Here, 'habit' is the centre-point of discussion—'bad habits' in particular. However, two phrases are important here—'force of habit' (A, E) and 'bad habits' (C). As, force of habit is a part of habit, neither of them (A, E) can be the first sentence. Hence, the first sentence is (C).

#### EXAMPLE 2.

(A) Globalisation entitles the integration of economic, social, political and cultural aspects of life at the global level.

(B) Globalisation of international trade, technology transfers, information exchange and capital flow will have profound implications for the agricultural sectors of the developing countries.

(C) Globalisation is complex, multi-dimensional and largely misunderstood.

(D) Globalisation is also a result of an increasing trend towards the rapid movement of people, goods, assets and information within and across nations.

Though 'globalisation' is the subject of all the four sentences, they each deal with the different aspects of globalisation; such as, the function of globalisation (A), globalisation of trade (B) and the cause of globalisation (D). Only sentence (C) tends to define the concept of globalisation. Hence, it is the first sentence.

#### EXAMPLE 3.

(A) Another important aspect of stress is that the human body reacts to stress in a stereotyped, physiological way.

(B) But as long as we are alive, we are experiencing stress.

(C) Besides the fact that stress is unavoidable, there are several aspects of stress that one should understand.

(D) Sometimes the stress is small and sometimes it is large.

(E) Stress cannot be avoided and our stress level is never at zero.

(F) One is that both too high and too low a stress level is damaging.

(G) We are always under the stress as long as we are alive.

In all these sentences though ‘stress’ is the common factor, in all sentences except one it is either discussed as being ‘unavoidable’ or discussed as its effects. And that one sentence is (G) where it has simply been called a ‘Life-long’ factor. Hence, it is the first sentence.

**EXAMPLE 4.**

(A) It seems logical to try to unite these separated functions in the activities of basic health workers under a participating rural health scheme.

(B) These include especially water supply, sanitation and also curative work.

(C) A variety of other air-borne or physically transmitted and water-borne diseases also take their toll.

(D) These can be and have been pursued by expensive separate programmes, but with limited success.

(E) The main sources of mortality in India are malnutrition, malaria, tuberculosis and tetanus.

(F) The main measures to reduce their incidence require control, prevention and environment improvements.

Here, in the passage different diseases and the methods of their prevention are discussed. Among these only (E) is such a sentence that introduces diseases as the main factor of mortality in India. It is the first sentence.

**To be Worked Out**

**EXAMPLE 5.**

(A) When we consider, how recently it has risen to power, we find ourselves forced to believe that we are at the very beginning of its work in transforming human life.

(B) In this brief period, it has proved itself on incredibly powerful revolutionary force.

(C) He has possessed writing for about 6000 years, agriculture somewhat longer, but perhaps not much longer.

(D) Man has existed for about a million years.

(E) What its future effects will be is a matter of conjecture, but possibly a study of its effects

hitherto may make the conjecture a little less hazardous.

(F) Science, as a dominant factor is determining the beliefs of educated men, has existed for about 300 years; as a source of economic technique for about 150 years.

**First Sentence : .....**

**EXAMPLE 6.**

(A) Nevertheless, religion and rituals pervade the lives of Indians more than they do the lives of most other people.

(B) Religion plays a very important part in Indian life.

(C) That’s why, religious considerations are sometimes more vital than economic factors.

(D) There is more talk about money and material things in India than in the so-called materialistic societies.

(E) But the claim that Indians are more spiritually minded than any other people in the world is not correct.

**First Sentence : .....**

**Factor II**

Those sentences that contain Personal Pronouns—particularly third person Pronouns—cannot be the first sentence. The logic is quite simple : Pronoun is used in place of a Noun. Hence, first Noun and then its Pronoun. So, the sentence that contains Personal Pronoun (He, She, It, They) or its derivatives (Him, His, Its, Them, Their etc.) will come after the sentence that contains its Noun and thus cannot be the first sentence.

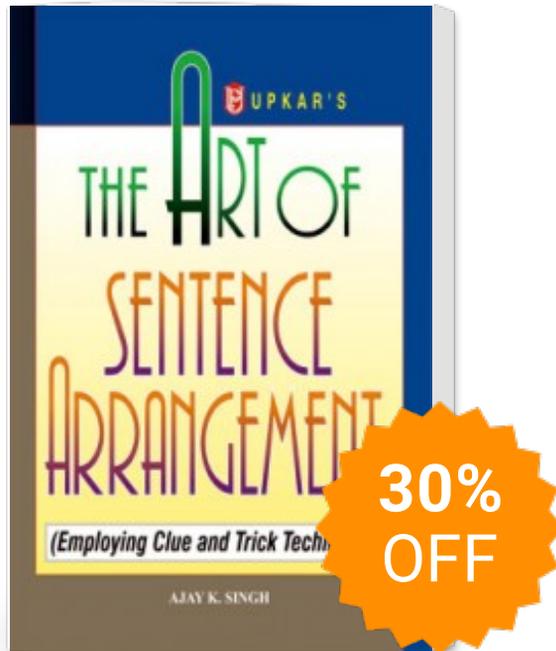
But, among the Personal Pronouns ‘I’, ‘We’, ‘You’ are not considered for the purpose *i.e.*, the sentence having them can be the first sentence because while by ‘I’, the author might talk of himself and by ‘You’ the author addresses the reader, by ‘We’ he may address both or the mankind as a whole.

In Example 1 sentence B contains ‘it’ but its noun is not in the sentence. In fact, ‘it’ has come for ‘a thing’ (F) and as such it cannot be the first sentence.

Likewise, in Example 5 A, B, C and D cannot be the first sentence. (Why ?).

**To be Worked Out**

# The Art of Sentence Arrangement



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