

Jumbled Sentence



~ English · Competitive Exams ~

Para Jumbles · Sentence Rearrangement



You are given 6 jumbled parts – a fixed opener *S1*, four shuffled parts *P Q R S*, and a fixed ending *S6*. Re-order *P, Q, R, S* so the whole thing reads as one smooth, logical paragraph.

What is it?

A paragraph is broken into pieces and shuffled. Your job is to find the thread of the story — the natural order of ideas — and rebuild it.

Golden rule → a good paragraph has **one flow**: it opens, develops step by step, and closes. Follow the logic and the language clues, not a guess.

How a question looks

- S1** This was an important day for Alatook. ← fixed opener
P. It was a cold day, but Alatook would be warm.
Q. For the first time he was going to hunt seals alone.
R. First he put on his fur-lined jacket.
S. Then he put on mittens and boots of deerskin.
S6 Finally he picked up the gun. ← fixed ending

Options: (a) RQPS (b) **QPRS** (c) RSPQ (d) PQRS → we solve this on page 4!



The opener *S1* and ending *S6* are gifts — they are already fixed. Only *P, Q, R, S* in the middle need sorting.

① How to Approach →

Work in order — each step narrows the options.

1. Find the **opening idea**. It introduces a person, place or topic by **full name / noun** — never by a pronoun. “Venice is a strange city” can open; “These islands...” cannot.
2. Spot the **concluding idea**. It sums up, gives a result, or ends the story — look for *finally, so, thus, at last, this is why*.
3. Link parts with **clue words** — pronouns (he, it, they), articles (a → the), and connectors (but, so, then).
4. Find **mandatory pairs** — two parts that **must** stay together (a noun and the pronoun that replaces it; a cause and its effect).
5. Use the **options** to check. Match your opening / pair against the four choices — eliminate, then **re-read the winner** end to end.



The opener & closer test

A good OPENER

- names the subject in full
 - sets time / place / topic
 - has **no** back-reference
- e.g. “A poor woman lost her son.”

NOT an opener

- starts with he / she / it / they
 - starts with this / that / these
 - starts with but / so / then / and
- e.g. “She came to Buddha...”

🌀 Mandatory Pair — the strongest tool

A **noun** is introduced first; only after that can a **pronoun** point back to it.

“**Nehru went to Cambridge**” must come before “**He rushed back to India.**”

So the part with **He** can never sit before the part naming **Nehru**. Lock the pair, then place it.



First mention uses *a / an* (new); the next mention uses *the* (known). "a stone" → then "the stone".

② Clue Words

These little words reveal **what comes before** a part — circle every one you see.

Pronouns — point back

he, she, it, they, him, this, that, these, those, such

→ the noun came earlier

Time / Sequence

first, then, next, after, later, finally, meanwhile, soon, at last

→ fixes chronological order

Contrast

but, however, yet, although, still, on the other hand, in spite of

→ an opposite idea sat before

Cause / Result

because, since, as, so, therefore, thus, hence, as a result

→ a reason / effect is nearby

Addition

and, also, besides, moreover, furthermore, in addition

→ continues the same idea

Articles

a / an = new thing · the = already named

→ a... comes before the...



Golden link: any part that begins with a pronoun or a connector **cannot** be first — something must come before it.

Clue words in action

- “**He** threw them into the basket.” → He & them need a named man & thing earlier.
- “**But** his mother took them out.” → But means an opposite action came just before.
- “**So** John put the clothing to donate.” → So = a result; its cause sits before it.
- “**Finally** he picked up the gun.” → Finally signals the last step — often S6.



Read for ideas that chain: a question → its answer, a problem → its solution, general statement → example.

③ Worked Example 1

Type: a **sequence** (step-by-step) paragraph — Alatook the hunter.

- SI** This was an important day for Alatook.
- P** It was a cold day, but Alatook would be warm.
- Q** For the first time he was going to hunt seals alone.
- R** First he put on his fur-lined jacket.
- S** Then he put on mittens and boots of deerskin.
- S6** Finally he picked up the gun he had cleaned the day before.

Options: (a) PQRS (b) QPRS (c) RSPQ (d) QRPS

Reasoning

Step 1 — SI says it is an important day. Why important? Q explains: his first solo hunt. So Q follows SI.

Step 2 — P sets the scene (cold, but he'll be warm) — this leads into how he keeps warm. So P comes next.

Step 3 — the dressing sequence is fixed by time words: R (First...jacket) → S (Then...mittens).

Step 4 — S6 begins with Finally (picks up gun) — the perfect last step. Chain: SI-Q-P-R-S-S6.

Answer Key — Example 1

Correct order → **Q P R S** = option (b). Q gives the reason, P the setting, R-S the ordered steps.

Read it back — does it flow?

"This was an important day for Alatook. For the first time he was going to hunt seals alone. It was a cold day, but Alatook would be warm. First he put on his fur-lined jacket. Then he put on mittens and boots of deerskin. Finally he picked up the gun he had cleaned the day before." 



In "how-to" or story paragraphs, *time words rule*: *First* → *Then* → *Finally* is an unbreakable ladder.

④ Worked Example 2

Type: **describe & explain** — the strange city of Venice.

- SI** Venice is a strange city.
- P** There are about 400 odd bridges connecting the islands.
- Q** There are no motorcars, no horses and no buses there.
- R** These small islands are close to one another.
- S** It is not one island but a hundred islands.
- S6** This is because Venice has no streets.

Options: (a) SRPQ (b) PSRQ (c) RQPS (d) QSRP

Step 1 — **SI** calls it *strange*; **S** explains the strangeness (not one but a hundred islands). **S** follows **SI**.

Step 2 — **R** starts with “These small islands” — a pronoun pointing back to the islands in **S**. So **R** follows **S**.

Step 3 — islands close together → need links, so **P** (400 bridges connect them) comes next.

Step 4 — **Q** (no cars/buses) leads into **S6** (because Venice has no streets). Chain: **S-R-P-Q**.

Answer Key – Example 2

Correct order → **S R P Q** = option (a). “These islands” (**R**) must chase the islands named in **S**.

⑤ Worked Example 3

Type: **general** → **specific** — Hyde Park's Speaker's Corner.

- SI** In London there is a popular public park called Hyde Park.
- P** He may succeed in attracting an audience.
- Q** Anyone who wants to make a speech can do so in Speaker's Corner.
- R** In this park, there is a place known as ‘Speaker's Corner’.
- S** On Sunday afternoons, we can find many such people there.
- S6** They will be standing on soapboxes, speaking on various subjects.

Reason: **R** (“this park”) narrows **SI**'s park to a spot → **Q** names who speaks there → **P** (“He” = the speaker) → **S** (“such people”) → **S6**.

Answer $\rightarrow$ **R Q P S** = option (c).

⑥ Worked Example 4

Type: a **process / recipe** — making white sauce.

- S1** The recipe of making white sauce is very simple.
P Stir the mixture of maida and butter constantly.
Q Put one tablespoon of fine flour (maida) when the butter gets heated.
R Heat one tablespoon of butter in a pan.
S Add one cup of milk to the mixture and cook for one minute.
S6 Add salt and pepper to taste.

Options: (a) QRSP (b) PRQS (c) SRQP (d) RQPS

Step 1 — a recipe runs in action order. First heat the fat: **R** (heat butter) follows **S1**.

Step 2 — **Q** says “when the butter gets heated” — it needs **R** done first. So **Q** follows **R**.

Step 3 — now a mixture exists, so **P** (stir the mixture) comes next.

Step 4 — **S** (add milk, cook) → **S6** (season to taste). Chain: **R-Q-P-S**.

Answer Key – Example 4

Correct order → **R Q P S** = option (d). “the mixture” can't exist until butter + maida are combined.

Quick Tips

- ✓ Fix the **first part** first — it usually decides two of the four options instantly.
- ✓ Lock **mandatory pairs** (noun→pronoun, cause→effect) — then only slot the pairs.
- ✓ Use the **options as scaffolding** — you only need to find one right link to cut choices.
- ✓ Always **re-read the full paragraph** once before marking — the ear catches what the eye misses.

Practice Set A

Cover the key — arrange P, Q, R, S.

- S1** The king was distressed because people were lazy.
P. All cursed the stone and blamed the government.
Q. Then the king had the stone removed.
R. Next day people passed by and went round it.
S. He had a big stone put in the middle of the road one night.
S6 Under the stone the king had placed a purse full of money.

Options: (a) PSRQ (b) **SRPQ** (c) QPRS (d) PQRS

Answer Key — Set A

S R P Q = option (b). Why: **S** (“He had a big stone put”) follows the king in **S1** → **R** people go round it (the stone) → **P** they curse the stone → **Q** king removes it → **S6** the reward under it.

Practice Set B

- S1** A man who climbs a mountain faces several dangers.
P. A cylinder of oxygen can be very expensive.
Q. The atmosphere at such height has less oxygen, so he may find it hard to breathe.
R. Yet another danger is the avalanche — snow sliding down that may sweep him off.
S. This means he has to carry his own supply of oxygen in a cylinder.
S6 It is a proof of man's courage that he still climbs the highest peaks.

Options: (a) **QSPR** (b) SRPQ (c) QSRP (d) PSRQ

Answer Key — Set B

Q S P R = option (a). Why: **Q** names the first danger (thin air) → **S** (“This means... cylinder”) → **P** the cylinder is costly → **R** (“Yet another danger”) adds the avalanche → **S6** concludes.



“Yet another” & “This means” are dead giveaways — they can only follow the idea they refer to.

Practice Set C

- S1** Nehru spent most part of his childhood in studies.
P. He rushed back to India and led an active political life with Gandhi.
Q. His studies went on abroad until he received a call from India.
R. He went to Cambridge to study.
S. But now and then, he could not help listening to political talk at home.
S6 Till the end of his career, he made Gandhi his political master.

Options: (a) **RSQP** (b) **SRQP** (c) **PQRS** (d) **SRPQ**

Answer Key – Set C

R S Q P = option (a). Why: **R** (went to Cambridge) → **S** (“But...political talk”) → **Q** (studies continued till a call came) → **P** (“He rushed back” – answering that call) → **S6**.

Common Traps

- X** Making a part with a **pronoun** (He / It / They / These) the opener — it always needs a noun before it.
- X** Ignoring **a** → **the** order — the second mention (“the stone”) can't come before the first (“a stone”).
- X** Breaking a **mandatory pair** just because a wrong option looks tidy. Trust the link, not the layout.
- X** Choosing on the **first link alone** — verify the whole sequence, especially where it meets **S6**.
- X** Forcing your own logic over the passage's — go by **what the words say**, not what you'd expect.

 **Final habit:** once you pick an option, read the paragraph aloud in your head end-to-end. If it flows without a bump — mark it.

☆ Find the thread — order the story! ☆