



Ellipsis & Substitution:

C1 Advanced Ellipsis & Substitution — Formal Register & Inversion

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

- 'I have never encountered such a complex case in my career.' 'Neither ___ I, and I've been practising law for twenty years.'
a) did
b) have
c) was
d) had
- 'The committee had already reviewed the proposal before the deadline.' 'So ___ the finance department — they completed their assessment two days early.'
a) did
b) was
c) has
d) had
- 'The original budget could not have anticipated such inflation.' 'Nor ___ the revised forecast — both projections proved wildly inaccurate.'
a) could
b) did
c) would
d) had
- 'The initial findings were corroborated by an independent review.' 'So ___ the subsequent data, which confirmed the original hypothesis.'
a) did
b) had
c) were
d) have
- 'The lead researcher should have disclosed the conflict of interest.' 'So ___ the co-authors — they were equally aware of the funding source.'
a) had
b) did
c) would
d) should
- The participants, ___ about the potential side effects, signed the consent forms willingly.
a) when informing
b) when informed
c) when to inform
d) when they informing
- The theory, ___ in its initial formulation, has since been refined through extensive empirical testing.
a) although being flawed
b) although it flawed
c) although flawed
d) despite flawed
- Staff should submit reports electronically and, ___, include supporting documentation as attachments.
a) where possible
b) where possibly
c) wherever is possible
d) where it possible
- The unemployment rate in rural areas remains significantly higher than ___ urban centres.
a) those of
b) the one of
c) which of
d) that of

10. The academic standards of this institution are comparable to ____ the most prestigious universities in Europe.
- a) those of
b) that of
c) the ones of
d) them of
11. ____, the new policy will take effect from January and apply to all departments without exception.
- a) As previously announcing
b) As it previously announced
c) As previously announced
d) Like previously announced
12. The CEO acknowledged the error, ____ full responsibility, and pledged to implement corrective measures immediately.
- a) she accepted
b) accepted
c) accepting
d) had accepted
13. The funding for the project was suddenly withdrawn, but the researchers were never told ____.
- a) why
b) why it was
c) why was it
d) for why
14. Confidential data had been leaked to the press, but an internal investigation failed to establish ____.
- a) whom
b) by who
c) who by
d) by whom
15. 'Do you think the merger will receive regulatory approval?' 'It would ____, given the lack of opposition from any major stakeholder.'
- a) seem that
b) look like
c) appear so
d) be so
16. All applicants must submit their documents by 5 p.m. on Friday. Failure to ____ will result in automatic disqualification.
- a) do it
b) do so
c) do this
d) doing so
17. 'Is the project likely to be completed on schedule?' '____. The team has encountered several unforeseen obstacles.'
- a) I fear not
b) I don't fear
c) I'm not fearing
d) I don't fear so
18. 'Has the report been proofread yet?' 'It should have ____, but I doubt anyone got round to it.'
- a) done
b) proofread
c) did
d) been
19. 'Were the safety inspections carried out before the building was opened to the public?' '____. There is no record of any inspection in the files.'
- a) Apparently no
b) It doesn't appear
c) Apparently not
d) Not apparently
20. 'I wouldn't have agreed to those terms.' 'No, nor _____. The conditions were wholly unreasonable.'
- a) I wouldn't
b) would I
c) I would
d) had I



Answers

1. b) have
2. d) had
3. a) could
4. c) were
5. d) should
6. b) when informed
7. c) although flawed
8. a) where possible
9. d) that of
10. a) those of
11. c) As previously announced
12. b) accepted
13. a) why
14. d) by whom
15. c) appear so
16. b) do so
17. a) I fear not
18. d) been
19. c) Apparently not
20. b) would I



Explanations

1. “have” (b)

'Neither have I' matches the present perfect tense of the original statement ('have encountered'). In so/neither inversion, the auxiliary must match the tense of the first clause. 'Did' would imply past simple; 'had' would imply past perfect — neither matches the present perfect here.

2. “had” (d)

'So had the finance department' matches the past perfect 'had reviewed'. In so/neither inversion, we invert the first auxiliary and the subject. 'Did' (past simple) and 'has' (present perfect) are the wrong tenses; 'was' is the wrong auxiliary entirely.

3. “could” (a)

'Nor could the revised forecast' matches the modal 'could not have anticipated'. In VP ellipsis after nor, we keep only the first auxiliary: 'nor could' = 'nor could the revised forecast have anticipated such inflation'. 'Nor' is a formal alternative to 'neither' in written English. 'Would' changes the modal meaning; 'did' and 'had' don't match the original auxiliary.

4. “were” (c)

'So were the subsequent data' matches the passive 'were corroborated'. The auxiliary in a passive construction is 'be' (here 'were'), and that is what must appear in the inversion. 'Did' would imply active voice; 'had' and 'have' are the wrong auxiliaries.

5. “should” (d)

'So should the co-authors' matches 'should have disclosed'. In inversion, only the first auxiliary is used: 'so should' = 'so should the co-authors have disclosed'. 'Would' expresses a different modality (willingness, not obligation); 'did' and 'had' do not match the modal structure.

6. “when informed” (b)

'When informed' is a reduced adverbial clause: 'when (they were) informed'. The participants received the information (passive), so the past participle 'informed' is required. 'When informing' (active) would mean the participants were informing someone else. 'When to inform' is an infinitive of purpose and doesn't fit. 'When they informing' is grammatically broken (missing 'were').

7. “although flawed” (c)

'Although flawed' is a reduced adverbial clause: 'although (it was) flawed'. In formal English, 'although' + adjective/past participle is the standard reduced form — 'being' is unnecessary and considered awkward. 'Although it flawed' is missing the verb 'was'. 'Despite flawed' is wrong because 'despite' requires a noun or gerund ('despite being flawed').

8. “where possible” (a)

'Where possible' is a reduced adverbial clause: 'where (it is) possible'. This is a fixed formal expression common in official instructions. 'Where possibly' incorrectly uses an adverb instead of an adjective. 'Wherever is possible' is missing the subject 'it'. 'Where it possible' is missing the verb 'is'.

9. “that of” (d)

'That of urban centres' uses 'that' as a formal pronoun substitute for the singular noun 'the unemployment rate'. Since 'rate' is singular, we use 'that' (not 'those', which is plural). 'The one of' is not idiomatic in formal English. 'Which of' is not a substitution pattern.

10. “those of” (a)

'Those of' replaces the plural noun 'the academic standards'. Since 'standards' is plural, we use 'those' (not 'that', which is singular). This is a formal substitution pattern common in academic writing. 'The ones of' is not idiomatic, and 'them of' is not a valid English pattern.

11. “As previously announced” (c)

'As previously announced' is a reduced passive clause: 'as (was/has been) previously announced'. This is standard in formal communications. 'As previously announcing' uses the wrong voice (active). 'As it previously announced' implies 'it' did the announcing, which is semantically odd. 'Like' cannot replace 'as' in this formal adverbial pattern.

12. “accepted” (b)

In a coordinated structure with three parallel verbs ('acknowledged ... accepted ... and pledged'), the subject is stated once and elided from subsequent verb phrases. 'Accepted' maintains parallel past-tense form. 'She accepted' disrupts the parallel structure (would require 'and she accepted'). 'Accepting' is a participle, breaking the verb-form parallelism. 'Had accepted' shifts to past perfect, breaking the tense parallelism.

13. “why” (a)

This is sluicing — a type of ellipsis where the *wh*-word remains but the rest of the clause is omitted: 'why' = 'why (the funding was withdrawn)'. 'Why it was' is incomplete (missing the main verb 'withdrawn'). 'Why was it' uses question word order, which is wrong in an embedded clause. 'For why' is non-standard English.

14. “by whom” (d)

'By whom' preserves the preposition from the passive construction ('leaked by someone'): 'by whom (the data had been leaked)'. In formal sluicing, the preposition must be fronted with the *wh*-word. 'Whom' alone loses the 'by' and changes the meaning. 'By who' is grammatically incorrect in formal English — after a preposition, 'whom' is required. 'Who by' is informal stranded preposition, inappropriate for this formal register.

15. “appear so” (c)

'It would appear so' is a formal clausal substitution: 'so' replaces the entire clause 'the merger will receive regulatory approval'. This is a C1-level upgrade from 'I think so' — using 'appear' with 'so' in a more impersonal, formal register. 'Seem that' requires a full clause after it. 'Look like' requires a complement ('look like it will'). 'Be so' means 'be the case', which doesn't convey the evidential meaning of 'appear'.

16. “do so” (b)

'Failure to do so' is a fixed formal expression meaning 'failure to submit their documents'. In legal, official, and academic English, 'do so' is the standard verbal substitute after 'failure to'. 'Do it' is too informal for this register and rarely collocates with 'failure to'. 'Do this' is also too informal. 'Doing so' is a gerund form that cannot follow 'to'.

17. “I fear not” (a)

'I fear not' is a formal clausal substitution: 'I fear (that the project will) not (be completed on schedule)'. After 'fear', we place 'not' directly — this is the same pattern as 'I hope not' and 'I'm afraid not', but more formal. 'I don't fear' means 'I am not afraid' — a completely different meaning. 'I'm not fearing' is wrong because 'fear' is a stative verb that resists the continuous. 'I don't fear so' is not a standard English pattern.

18. “been” (d)

The full form is 'should have been proofread'. In VP ellipsis, we retain the auxiliary chain up to the point where meaning is recoverable: 'It should have been' = 'It should have been proofread'. 'Been' is the last auxiliary before the main verb. 'Proofread' repeats the full verb phrase rather than using ellipsis. 'Done' implies active voice ('should have done it'), but the original is passive. 'Did' cannot follow 'have'.

19. “Apparently not” (c)

'Apparently not' is a formal clausal substitution: 'apparently (the inspections were) not (carried out)'. Adverbs like 'apparently', 'presumably', 'probably', and 'certainly' can combine with 'so' or 'not' for concise clausal substitution. 'Apparently no' is wrong — 'no' cannot substitute for a clause. 'It doesn't appear' is incomplete (needs a complement). 'Not apparently' reverses the meaning ('it's not apparent').

20. “would I” (b)

'Nor would I' uses inversion after 'nor': the auxiliary 'would' comes before the subject 'I'. This matches the modal 'wouldn't have agreed' — in ellipsis, only the first auxiliary ('would') is retained. 'I wouldn't' lacks the required inversion after 'nor'. 'I would' has no inversion and no negation (the negation is carried by 'nor'). 'Had I' uses the wrong auxiliary — the original uses 'would', not 'had'.