

EAR02 — Para Jumbles: Sentence Ordering

EAR02 · Para Jumbles · CDS Reading Level

CDS Level

✦ **What Sentence Ordering Tests:** A paragraph is broken into 4–5 sentences labelled P, Q, R, S. Usually the first sentence (S1) is given. Your task: arrange P, Q, R, S in the correct order so the paragraph reads coherently and logically. Each option gives a different sequence. Only one is correct.

💡 **The Key Insight:** Sentences in a paragraph are not isolated — every sentence has a LINK to the one before and after it. These links are visible in the language: pronouns, discourse markers, articles, logical connectors, named nouns, and thematic vocabulary. Your job is to trace these links, not guess.

B1 All 8 Clue Types — Mastering Every Signal

◆ Clue 1: Pronoun → Must Follow Its Noun

- ▶ He/she/it/they/his/her → cannot open a paragraph (no antecedent yet)

- ▶ **this/that/these/those** → refer to an idea/object in the immediately preceding sentence

- ▶ **such + noun** → always refers back (“Such dedication” follows a sentence about dedication)

- ▶ **it** (non-weather) → follows the noun it replaces

- ▶ Test: Can you find what the pronoun refers to in the previous sentence? Yes → correct

◆ Clue 2: Discourse Markers → Fixed Positional Signals

- ▶ **First / Initially / To begin with** → sentence is near the start

- ▶ **Moreover / Furthermore / In addition / Also** → adds to previous; middle position

- ▶ **However / Nevertheless / Yet / But** → contrast; follows a positive claim

- ▶ **Therefore / Thus / Hence / Consequently / As a result** → conclusion from preceding cause

- ▶ **In conclusion / Finally / Ultimately / In sum** → last sentence; always

order.

◆ Clue 3: Article Shift a → the

- ▶ **a/an** = first mention of a noun → appears in an earlier sentence
- ▶ **the** = the same noun mentioned again → appears in a later sentence
- ▶ Example: “**A** general visited the unit” → “**The** general addressed the troops” (must be in this order)
- ▶ Works even with synonyms: “**a** soldier” → “**the** recruit” (if clearly same person)
- ▶ One of the most reliable and unambiguous clues – use it first

◆ Clue 4: Logical Flow Patterns

- ▶ **Claim** → **Evidence**: General statement followed by specific example or proof
- ▶ **Cause** → **Effect**: What happened → what resulted from it
- ▶ **Problem** → **Solution**: Challenge raised → response or remedy
- ▶ **General** → **Specific**: Broad topic → narrowed detail or instance
- ▶ **Question** → **Answer**: Rhetorical question must be directly followed by its answer

◆ Clue 5: Chronological Order

- ▶ Specific dates and years fix the sequence of historical events
- ▶ Sequence words: *first, then, next, subsequently, afterwards, eventually, finally, later*
- ▶ Tense logic: Past Perfect (“had done”) = earlier event; Simple Past = later event
- ▶ Military narratives: deployment → engagement → outcome → aftermath
- ▶ Historical narratives: context → event → significance/legacy

◆ Clue 6: Proper Noun → Pronoun Linkage

- ▶ A named person/place appears in full first, then a pronoun replaces them
- ▶ “General Thimayya led the force.” → “He was known for his decisive action.”
- ▶ If a sentence opens with a pronoun (he/she), the name must appear in the sentence just before
- ▶ Named organisations follow the same rule: Army → it; soldiers → they

◆ Clue 7: Conjunction Logic

- ▶ **and** adds to the previous sentence (same direction)
- ▶ **but / yet** contrasts (change of direction)
- ▶ **because / since / as** provides a reason (what caused the previous sentence)
- ▶ **although / even though** sets up a contrast within a context
- ▶ A sentence starting with a conjunction is LINKED to the sentence immediately before it

◆ Clue 8: Vocabulary & Thematic Link

- ▶ A term introduced in one sentence is elaborated, defined, or exemplified in the next
- ▶ Synonymous words track the same idea: *mission / operation / assault* all refer to the same event
- ▶ “for example / for instance / such as” sentences follow the general claim they illustrate
- ▶ A sentence that opens a new sub-topic signals a paragraph shift

The 5-Step Solving Method

1

Read ALL sentences first — build the story in your head

Before looking at options, read all sentences (including S1 if given). Understand the topic, tone, and arc. Is it a historical narrative? An argumentative paragraph? A description? This tells you whether to expect chronological order, claim–evidence, or problem–solution flow.

If all sentences are about military discipline, the flow is likely: definition of discipline → its importance → how it is built → conclusion about its impact.

2

Identify the sentence that CANNOT be first

Eliminate any sentence that begins with: a pronoun without antecedent (he/she/they/it), this/that/these/those, a discourse marker (However/Moreover/Therefore), or 'the + noun' (second mention). Cross off all options that start with this sentence.

P begins with 'This approach' → P cannot be first. Eliminate all options where P is the first arranged sentence.

3

Identify the sentence that MUST be first (or follows S1)

The first arranged sentence: introduces a noun for the first time (with 'a'); names a proper noun; has no backward-looking pronoun; may begin with a time/context frame; or starts with 'First/To begin with'.

'A senior officer was tasked with restructuring the unit.' → introduces 'a senior officer' for the first time → this is the opening sentence.

4

Build CHAINS of 2 or 3 sentences that must be together

Find pairs that are inseparable: noun → pronoun; 'a X' → 'the X'; cause → effect; claim → example. Lock these mini-sequences. Two reliable chains usually determine the full order.

Chain 1: P (introduces a challenge) → Q ('This challenge' uses pronoun). Chain 2: R (states a principle) → S ('Therefore' draws conclusion from R). Lock these chains, then fit them around each other.

5

Use options to eliminate — don't build from scratch

Look at the four options. Apply each clue as an elimination test. If Q cannot follow R (pronoun mismatch), eliminate all options where Q follows R. Two correct eliminations usually leave only one answer.

Options: (a) PQRS (b) QPRS (c) RQPS (d) SQPR. If P cannot be first → eliminate (a). If R must follow Q → eliminate (d). If S must be last → eliminate (c). Only (b) remains.

What Cannot Be First — The First-Position Rules

X Cannot Be the First Arranged Sentence

- Starts with **he/she/they/it/his/her/their** (no antecedent yet)

✓ Strong Candidates for First Arranged Sentence

- Introduces noun with **a/an** for the first time

- ▶ Starts with **this/that/these/those** (refers back to something)
- ▶ Starts with **However / Moreover / Therefore / Thus / Nevertheless**
- ▶ Uses **the + noun** where noun was not previously introduced
- ▶ Starts with **Such + noun** (“Such courage” requires a prior mention of courage)

- ▶ Names a **proper noun** (person, place, organisation) directly
- ▶ Provides **historical/contextual frame** (“In recent years...”)
- ▶ Begins with **First / To begin with / Initially**
- ▶ Makes a **general claim** that the rest of the paragraph will develop

⚠ What Must Be the Last Arranged Sentence:

- Starts with *In conclusion / Finally / Ultimately / In sum / Thus / Therefore* (when it is a paragraph-level conclusion)
- Contains a **summary or moral** of the entire paragraph (“It is X that determines Y”)
- Makes a **forward-looking statement** about the future (“only if we address this will...”)
- Delivers the **resolution or outcome** of a narrative (“By dawn, the enemy had retreated.”)

B4

Fully Worked Para Jumbles – Every Clue Identified

WORKED EXAMPLE 1 – PRONOUN + DISCOURSE MARKER + LOGICAL FLOW

S1: The Indian Army has played a crucial role in maintaining peace along the nation’s borders.

P **This commitment** has often required soldiers to serve in extreme weather conditions.

Q Despite **these hardships**, the morale of the troops has remained remarkably high.

R **Moreover**, the Army has been instrumental in disaster relief operations across the country.

S The dedication of every soldier is a testament to the institution’s core values of service and sacrifice.

Options: (a) PQRS (b) PRQS (c) RSPQ (d) RPQS

PRONOUN CLUE P: “**This commitment**” → refers to ‘maintaining peace’ in S1 → P directly follows S1.

PRONOUN CLUE Q: “**these hardships**” → refers to ‘extreme weather conditions’ in P → Q follows P.

DISCOURSE MARKER R: “**Moreover**” → adds another quality of the Army (disaster relief) → follows Q, which ended the hardships thread.

LOGICAL FLOW S: “a testament to core values” → summary/conclusion sentence → must be

last.

Sequence: P–Q–R–S = (a) PQRS ✓

WORKED EXAMPLE 2 – ARTICLE CLUE + CAUSE-EFFECT + CONCLUSION MARKER

S1: Effective leadership is the most critical factor in any military operation.

P **However**, effective communication requires more than technical infrastructure.

Q Nations that master **this art** gain a decisive advantage over their adversaries.

R It demands clarity of message, consistency of intent, and credibility of source.

S **Therefore**, training communicators is as important as training combatants.

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

PRONOUN CLUE Q: "**this art**" → refers to 'effective leadership'/communication from S1 → Q follows S1.

DISCOURSE MARKER P: "**However**" → contrast; Q stated an advantage → P follows Q, introducing a qualification.

LOGICAL FLOW R: "It demands clarity..." → elaborates what P said ('more than technical infrastructure') → R follows P.

DISCOURSE MARKER S: "**Therefore**" + conclusion statement → draws conclusion from R's elaboration → last.

Sequence: Q–P–R–S = (a) QPRS ✓

WORKED EXAMPLE 3 – CHRONOLOGICAL + PROPER NOUN + VOCABULARY LINK

S1: The Battle of Longewala in 1971 stands as one of the most remarkable chapters in Indian military history.

P Outnumbered and with limited resources, **the garrison** held its ground through the night.

Q **A company of Indian soldiers** faced an overwhelming Pakistani armoured column.

R By dawn, the Indian Air Force had arrived, and the enemy was decisively repulsed.

S The battle became a symbol of courage and determination against impossible odds.

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

ARTICLE CLUE Q: "**A company of Indian soldiers**" → first mention of the soldiers with 'a' → Q must come first (introduces the subject).

PRONOUN CLUE P: "**the garrison**" (= the company from Q, referred to as 'the') → article shift a → the confirms Q before P.

CHRONOLOGY R: "By dawn" → time marker; after a night-long fight in P → R is the morning resolution → follows P.

CONCLUSION MARKER S: "became a symbol" → thematic conclusion about significance → must be last.

Sequence: Q–P–R–S = (b) QPRS ✓

Q1. S1 is given. Choose the correct sequence for P, Q, R, S to form a coherent paragraph:

S1: Discipline is the foundation on which every military institution is built.

P: It begins with small habits and extends to the highest levels of command.

Q: Without it, even the most sophisticated equipment and tactics become ineffective.

R: Moreover, discipline instils in soldiers a sense of responsibility that goes beyond the battlefield.

S: In the final analysis, it is disciplined individuals who win wars, not weapons alone.

(a) PQRS

(b) QPRS

(c) QRPS

(d) PRQS

Answer: (b) Q–P–R–S

PRONOUN CLUE

Q: 'Without it' → 'it' = 'discipline' from S1; reinforces S1 with negative consequence → Q first.

LOGICAL FLOW

P: 'It begins with small habits' → explains HOW discipline operates; develops Q further.

DISCOURSE MARKER

R: 'Moreover' → adds a second quality of discipline (beyond battlefield) → follows P.

CONCLUSION MARKER

S: 'In the final analysis' → classic concluding marker → must be last.

Sequence: Q–P–R–S = (b)

Q2. S1 is given. Choose the correct sequence for P, Q, R, S to form a coherent paragraph:

S1: In recent years, cyberwarfare has emerged as a critical dimension of modern conflict.

P: This vulnerability is compounded by the increasing dependence of military systems on networked technology.

Q: Nations are now investing heavily in cyber defence capabilities to protect critical infrastructure.

R: A successful cyberattack can cripple communication networks, financial systems, and even weapons platforms.

S: However, building robust cyber defences requires sustained investment and international cooperation.

(a) RQPS

(b) RPSQ

(c) QRPS

(d) PRQS

Answer: (b) R-P-S-Q

LOGICAL FLOW R follows S1: S1 says cyberwarfare is critical → R explains WHY (can cripple systems) = Claim → Evidence.

PRONOUN CLUE P: 'This vulnerability' → refers to the vulnerability described in R → P immediately follows R.

DISCOURSE MARKER S: 'However' → contrast to P's problem (building defences is hard) → S follows P.

Q: 'Nations are investing' = positive response to the challenge in S; must follow S naturally.

Sequence: R-P-S-Q = (b) RPSQ

Q3. S1 is given. Choose the correct sequence for P, Q, R, S to form a coherent paragraph:

S1: The concept of jointness in military operations has gained significant importance in recent decades.

P: This coordination ensures that each service's strengths are maximised while weaknesses are compensated.

Q: Jointness refers to the integrated use of Army, Navy, and Air Force in a unified operational framework.

R: The Kargil conflict, for example, demonstrated the value of effective tri-service coordination.

S: Consequently, modern armed forces worldwide have established dedicated joint command structures.

(a) QPRS

(b) RQPS

(c) PRQS

(d) QRPS

Answer: (a) Q-P-R-S

VOCABULARY LINK Q defines 'Jointness' (the term from S1) → technical term introduction always comes immediately after the term is mentioned.

PRONOUN CLUE P: 'This coordination' refers to the integrated framework defined in

Q → P follows Q.

LOGICAL FLOW R: 'for example' = specific historical instance of P's principle →

Principle → Example.

DISCOURSE MARKER S: 'Consequently' draws overall conclusion from the example in

R → last.

Sequence: Q–P–R–S = (a) QPRS

Q4. S1 is given. Choose the correct sequence for P, Q, R, S to form a coherent paragraph:

S1: Strategic communication has become an indispensable tool in modern statecraft and military operations.

P: Furthermore, a credible communicator must be consistent in messaging across all platforms and audiences.

Q: It involves not just transmitting information but shaping perceptions and influencing decisions.

R: Building this credibility, however, takes years of consistent, truthful communication.

S: Therefore, nations invest heavily in training spokespersons and developing communication doctrine.

(a) QPRS

(b) QRPS

(c) RQPS

(d) PQRS

Answer: (b) Q–R–P–S

PRONOUN CLUE Q: 'It involves' → 'It' = 'Strategic communication' from S1 → Q follows S1 directly, elaborating the concept.

DISCOURSE MARKER R: 'however' → introduces a challenge (building credibility takes time) contrasting Q's positive description.

DISCOURSE MARKER P: 'Furthermore' → adds another requirement (consistency) to what R started (building credibility) → P follows R.

CONCLUSION MARKER S: 'Therefore' + investment conclusion → draws logical result from the entire discussion → last.

Sequence: Q–R–P–S = (b) QRPS

Q5. S1 is given. Choose the correct sequence for P, Q, R, S to form a coherent paragraph:

S1: Leadership in a military context demands qualities that extend far beyond mere rank or authority.

P: Furthermore, a good leader must be able to communicate clearly under pressure and inspire confidence in subordinates.

Q: Such qualities are not inherited but are developed through rigorous training and real-world experience.

R: Foremost among these are courage, integrity, and the ability to make sound decisions in uncertain situations.

S: Ultimately, it is the quality of leadership that determines the outcome of any operation, regardless of other advantages.

(a) RPQS

(b) QRPS

(c) PQRS

(d) RQPS

Answer: (a) R-P-Q-S

PRONOUN CLUE R: 'Foremost among these' → 'these' = 'qualities' from S1 → R follows S1, listing the key qualities.

DISCOURSE MARKER P: 'Furthermore' → adds communication skill to the list of qualities in R → P follows R.

PRONOUN CLUE Q: 'Such qualities' → refers back to ALL qualities in R and P → Q follows P.

CONCLUSION MARKER S: 'Ultimately' = paragraph-level conclusion → last sentence always.

Sequence: R-P-Q-S = (a) RPQS



Quick Reference – Sentence Ordering

① 5-Step Method

- 1. Read all sentences – understand the story arc
- 2. Find sentences that CANNOT be first

② All 8 Clue Types

- Pronoun clue (he/she/this/that → follows noun)
- Discourse marker (However/Therefore/Finally)

③ Cannot Be First

- Starts with he/she/it/they/his/her
- Starts with this/those/these/those
- Starts with However/Moreover/Th

- 3. Find sentences that MUST be first
- 4. Build 2–3 sentence chains
- 5. Eliminate options using each clue found

- Article shift (a → the = first → second mention)
- Logical flow (claim → evidence / cause → effect)
- Chronology (dates, then/subsequently, tense)
- Proper noun → pronoun linkage
- Conjunction logic (and/but/because)
- Vocabulary/thematic link

- erefore
- Uses 'the + noun' without prior 'a + noun'
 - Starts with 'Such' without prior reference

④ Must Be Last

- Starts with In conclusion/Ultimately/Finally
- Makes summary of entire paragraph
- Contains the moral or lesson
- Gives the resolution of a narrative
- Contains 'Therefore' as paragraph conclusion

⑤ Article Clue Details

- a/an = first mention → this sentence comes earlier
- the = second mention → this sentence comes later
- Works for synonyms too (a soldier → the recruit)
- The + noun without prior introduction = cannot be first
- Most unambiguous clue — use it first

⑥ Discourse Marker Positions

- First/Initially → near start of paragraph
- Moreover/Furthermore/Also → middle (adds)
- However/Nevertheless → after positive claim
- Therefore/Thus/Consequently → after cause sentence
- In conclusion/Ultimately/Finally → always last

 **Mock Tests**

 **Subject Quiz**

 **Telegram**

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