



Mixed constructions occur when **the subject** and **the predicate** of a sentence **do not** grammatically **fit together**.

Mixed constructions occur in three common cases:

1. The subject does not perform the verb's action.

- a. ✘ Incorrect:

Subject:

The purpose of the computer

Predicate:

was designed to calculate long algorithms.

- b. ✔ Correct:

The computer was designed to calculate long algorithms.

or

The purpose of the computer is algorithm calculation.

2. Using 'is when...' or 'is where...'

- a. ✘ Incorrect:

A hiring freeze is when a company stops hiring new employees due to budget constraints.

- b. ✔ Correct:

A hiring freeze occurs when a company stops hiring new employees due to budget constraints.

3. Using 'the reason...is because...'

- a. ✘ Incorrect:

The reason whole grain is healthier is because it has more nutrients than processed grains.

- b. ✔ Correct:

Whole grain is healthier because it has more nutrients than processed grains.



Practice

Identify the sentences that contain mixed constructions by labeling them “MC”. Rewrite those that are incorrect.

1. _____ The temperature water freezes at zero degrees Centigrade.
2. _____ The purpose of the advertisement influences how consumers think about the product.
3. _____ Atherosclerosis is a condition in which artery walls thicken as a result of plaque buildup.
4. _____ The reason electric vehicles are environmentally friendly is because they have no emissions.
5. _____ Her hard work helped her earn an A in class.
6. _____ The reason I brought my umbrella is because it is raining.
7. _____ Foreshadowing is when the author suggests the possibility of future events in the plot.

Find out more. Search the web or a grammar book for **mixed construction** or **faulty predication**.

Answer Key:

1. Mixed construction. Water freezes at zero degrees Centigrade.

2. Mixed construction. The advertisement influences how consumers think about the product. Or The advertisement's purpose is to influence how consumers think about the product.

3. Correct.

4. Mixed construction. Electric vehicles are environmentally friendly because they have no emissions.

5. Correct.

6. Mixed construction. I brought my umbrella because it is raining.

7. Mixed construction. Foreshadowing is a technique used by authors to suggest future events in the plot.