Is this class for you? Are you a “proficient non-native speaker of English”? (The term “proficient” means “well-advanced,” “competent,” “skilled.”) Even if your goal is to improve your English language skills, you must have already attained a certain level of English in order to feel comfortable in this class. To test your knowledge, try analyzing the following sentences, which were adapted from the writing of past ESL Writing & Grammar participants. If you can locate at least 10 problems in the sentences--even if you aren’t sure how to fix them--this course may be just the ticket! On the other hand, if you cannot locate more than 5 errors, the course may be too difficult for you.

A.
1. I could not use many vocabulary words until I had been studied in a university.
2. For my job, I want to write correctly emails and work letters.
3. I watch TV every day to practice my listening skills and reading books every day.
4. So I am planning to study until December, I will have confidence in speaking.
5. Now, although I don’t have any confidence when I speak, but I will.

B.
1. Many colleges are providing the distance education via the computer courses.
2. The lessons are provided online in which they can be accessed from any place as long as the internet connection is available.
3. These technologies sometimes brings many complex problems.
4. And most of these classes, student just studies alone; there is no interaction or participation to others.
5. Finally, student does not have the opportunity to practice on oral communication, which is very important in ESL classes.

*Check your work using the answer key below.*
KEY

(note: this is only a preliminary correction; there may be many more ways to continue improving these sentences.)

A.
1. I could not use many vocabulary words until I had been studied in a university. (verb tense)
2. For my job, I want to write correctly emails and work letters correctly. (word order)
3. I watch TV every day to practice my listening skills and reading I read books every day too. (verb form & more)
4. So I am planning to study until December, so I will have confidence in speaking. (conjunction/connecting word)
5. Now, although I don’t have any confidence when I speak, but in the future, I will. OR

Although now I don’t have any confidence when I speak, but someday I will. (connecting word, punctuation, word order, other clarifying information)

B.
1. Many colleges are providing the distance education via the computer courses. (article use)
2. The lessons are provided online; in which they can be accessed from any place as long as the internet connection is available. (sentence structure; incorrect use of relative clause)
3. These technologies sometimes bring many complex problems. (subject-verb agreement)
4. In Most of these classes, the student just studies alone; there is no interaction or participation to with others. (prepositions and articles)
5. Finally, the student does not have the opportunity to practice on oral communication, which is very important in ESL classes. (prepositions and articles)