

<sup>1</sup> Professor Gonzalez gave a lecture on transistors last Tuesday. <sup>2</sup> First, he explained what transistors **were**. <sup>3</sup> He said **(,)** that they **were** very small electronic devices used in telephone, automobiles, radios, and so on. <sup>4</sup> He further explained that transistors **controlled** the flow of electric current in electronic equipment. <sup>5</sup> He wanted to know which popular technological invention **could** not operate without transistors. <sup>6</sup> Most students agreed **(,)** **that** it **was** the personal computer. <sup>7</sup> Professor Gonzalez then asked if the students **knew** how **(do)** transistors **functioned** in computers. <sup>8</sup> He said that the transistors **were** etched into tiny silicon microchips and that these transistors **increased** computers' speed and data storage capacity. <sup>9</sup> Then he asked the class when transistors **had been** invented. **(?)** <sup>10</sup> Abdul guessed that they **had been** invented in 1947. <sup>11</sup> The professor said that he was correct. <sup>12</sup> Professor Gonzalez then asked what the importance of this invention **was**. **(?)** <sup>13</sup> Many students answered that it **was** the beginning of the information age. <sup>14</sup> At the end of the lecture, the professor assigned a paper on transistors. <sup>15</sup> He requested that each student **choose** a topic by next Monday. <sup>16</sup> He suggested that the papers **be** typed.

Verbs marked in **GREEN** must be in **agreement**. However, a writer can choose **either** past or present tense since the verbs do not show actions in the past but rather states that are timeless.

Verbs marked in **BLUE** must be in **past tense** since they denote actions and states clearly occurring in the past. However, I would prefer "was" invented over "had been" invented.

The **two commas** and **two questions** marks are all errors and **must** be removed. The commas are errors because a comma can replace a "that" conjunction before a quote. However, none of these are quotes. The insertion of the "that" in 6 adds clarity but is not required.

The **question marks** are more common errors, but the sentences themselves are no longer questions but statements.

The **"do"** is also an error and must be removed for the same reason the **three verbs** must be moved.

The two boxed verbs are **subjunctive**.

