

## GRAMMAR

### I. Practice Exercises on Remedial Grammar Covering:

- i. Common Errors in English
- ii. Subject-Verb agreement
- iii. Use of Articles
- iv. Prepositions
- v. Tense and aspect

### I. COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH

#### Objective:

To improve the learners' ability to understand eight common types of errors found in their spoken and written English.

#### 1. Subject – Verb Agreement:

The verb and subject must agree with each other. If the subject is singular, then the verb must be singular. If the subject is plural, then the verb must be plural.

**i. If a singular subject is separated by a comma then the following sentence remains singular:**

1. The child, together with his grandmother and his parents, is going to the beach. (Right)
2. Frank, accompanied by his student, were at the studio. (Wrong)
3. **Frank**, accompanied by his student, **was** at the studio. (Right)

**2. Collective nouns, such as family, majority, audience, and committee are singular when they act as one group. They are plural when they act as individuals.**

1. A **majority** of the shareholders wants the merger.
2. The **jury** were in disagreement.

**3. All phrases separated by and are plural; phrases separated by or are singular.**

1. Ted, John, and I are going.
2. Mary, Sheela and Peter are waiting at the reception.

**4. Neither/nor and either/or are a exceptional case. If two subjects are joined by or or nor, the verb should agree with the subject that is near to it.**

1. Neither the supervisor nor the staff members were able to calm the distressed client.
2. Neither the staff members nor the supervisor was able to calm the distressed client.

**5. Choose the right subject in sentences in which the verb comes before the subject.**

1. There is many reasons why I can't help you. (Wrong)
2. There **are** many **reasons** why I can't help you. (Right)

## 2. Modifiers:

### 1. Use of Adjectives and Adverbs in correction of sentences.

An Adjective describes a noun and gives explanations for questions like how many, which one and what kind

She is a good tennis player. (What kind of tennis player?)

An Adverb describes a verb or an adjective and explains the questions beginning with when, where, why, in what manner, and to what extent.

- i. She plays cricket well. (She plays cricket how?)
- ii. This problem is reasonably simple. (How simple?)

Generally adverbs do end with *-ly* to the adjective, like, "She sang melodiously."

She is a real good swimmer. (Wrong)

She is a really good swimmer. (Right)

"really" is acting as an adverb to modify the adjective "good"

The new student speaks bad. (Wrong)

The new student speaks badly. (Right)

"Badly" changes how the student speaks.

## 2. Corrections in the use of Adjectives with Verbs of Sense.

The below given is the list of verbs of perception which are described by Adjectives: look, smell, taste, seem, taste, hear etc.

After the three week vacation, she looked very well. (Wrong)

After the three week vacation, she looked very good. (Right)

Explanation: "She is well" means "She is healthy" or describes a person's well-being.

The strawberry shortcake tastes deliciously. (Wrong)

The strawberry shortcake tastes delicious. (Right)

## 3. Pronoun Agreement:

It is similar to subject – verb agreement rule. Pronoun that is used should agree with its subject. The following is the list of pronouns used in subject and object positions.

Subject	Object
1. I	Me
2. We	Us
3. You	You
4. He	Him
5. She	Her
6. It	It
7. They	Them

### 1. Pronoun Subject/Object.

Depending on pronoun's position in a sentence, its form should also be changed.

1. How could she blame you and he for the accident? wrong
2. How could she blame you and him for the accident? right

### 2. A pronoun's agreement of its Subject:

1. Everyone on the project have to come to the meeting. **wrong**

2. Everyone on the project has to come to the meeting. right

**3. The singular forms of "either... or" and "neither...nor" take a singular verb. However, if the noun near to the verb in the "neither...nor" or "either...or" it takes plural.**

1. Neither his bodyguards nor he were there. **wrong**

2. Neither his bodyguards nor he was there. right

**4. All Possessive pronouns should agree in person and number.**

1. Some of you will have to bear their own responsibility. **wrong**

2. Some of you will have to bear your own responsibility. right

Some is singular:

3. If anyone seems suspicious over, take their details. **wrong**

4. If anyone seems suspicious, take his details. right

**5. Use of relative pronoun like which, that or who. They link the words before it:**

1. The line at the bank was very slow, which made me late. **wrong**

2. I was late because of the line at the bank. (or) The line at the bank made me late. Right

**6. Use of Indefinite pronouns:**

1. One should have their teeth checked every six months. **Wrong**

2. One should have one's/his or her teeth checked six months. (OR) You should have your teeth checked every six months. Right

1. One should take your responsibilities seriously. **wrong**

2. One should take one's/his or her responsibilities seriously. (OR)  
You should take your responsibilities seriously. Right

**4. Similarities / Comparisons:**

Irrelevant comparisons lead to errors in sentences. For instance, a person can not be compared to a quality or an item to a group. Comparison can be made between two individuals, two qualities and two groups only.

Some common and significant comparisons are made with...

Like, as, compared to, less than, more than, other, that of, those of etc.

Some constructions often state ideas in similar form. Their grammatical structure depends on the subjects being used between them. They are...

Either...or...

Neither...nor...

Not only... but also...

1. The vision from this building is not nearly as impressive as from that mountain lodge. Wrong
2. The vision from this building is not nearly as impressive as the one from that mountain lodge. Right

## EXERCISES FOR PRACTICE

### Exercise – I

The following passage is not edited. It contains an error in each sentence. Identify the incorrect word and write the correct form of it.

The city police have decided to taking stern action against drivers which attempt to overtake in the left side in the city roads. All drivers who violate this rule will be punish. This is a strict order issue by the police department for safety of all drivers.

**Answer:**

The city police have decided to **take** stern action against drivers **who** attempt to overtake **on** the left side **on** the city roads. All drivers who violate this rule will be **punished**. This is a strict order **issued** by the police department for safety of all drivers.

### Exercise – II

#### Correction of Sentences for Practice

1. John has been working on the pilot project since two years.
2. When he entered the classroom the lecture already was beginning.
3. Rama has returned back her book in the library.
4. If Peter works hard he would get distinction in the exam.
5. They turn up with the flying colours if they practiced well.
6. If he told them about the route they would not have missed their way.
7. She would not have sent the mail if you did not instruct her.
8. If I had painted the picture well it would cost a great deal.

9. If the Manager had received your project on time he would not fire you.
10. The boy, together with his teachers and friends, are going to the ground.
11. A group of people are rushing into the hall.
12. The team is divided in different perspectives on the issue.
13. Neither the party leader nor the party workers was able to calm the distressed people.
14. Data is being collected by the media.
15. She is a real good singer.
16. All Computer science students should learn computer operating, typing, and how to programme computers.
17. The Lawyer has been warning his clients for the last Sunday.
18. Everybody on the board have to come to the discussion sessions.
19. How could they threaten you and she for this issue?
20. She prefers studying individually than studying collaboratively.
21. He is adept at cricket, badminton, playing basket ball.
22. Neither his followers nor he were welcomed by the society.
23. Some of you will have to get their own id cards for inspection.
24. If anyone peeps into the room, capture their photographs.
25. It must have been him who has sent this mail.
26. One should respect your motherland.
27. It happen only rarely in life.
28. Children is plucking flowers in the garden.
29. They purchased a new air conditioner next month.
30. They is quarrelling over a trifle.
31. It begin to rain as soon as we stepped out of the house.
32. The mother was pray for her ailing child.

33. Among the two sisters, Habiba is a better dancer
34. The officer has given orders to his soldiers yesterday.
35. The girl sat down besides the lake.
36. The two brothers are quarrelling with one another
37. The three business partners are leading their business amicably with each other.
38. Easily, we opened the box.
39. Please write legible.
40. Everyone greatly admired my performance.
41. He did all his work satisfactory.
42. They used to played cricket during their childhood.
43. Varsha saw a lots of swans at the lake.
44. Is there some tea in the flask?
45. The building does not have much windows, and so it is dark and gloomy inside.
46. They did not gave him any ideas for his presentation.
47. Eight kilometers are not a long distance for a man who is an athlete.
48. The transformer we have just installed silently unlike this noisy generators we had earlier.
49. The climate of Ooty is better than Hyderabad.
50. A pair of gloves are lying on the bed.

### Answers for Exercise – II

1. John has been working on the pilot project for two years.
2. When he entered the classroom the lecture had already begun.
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47. Eight kilometers is not a long distance for a man who is an athlete.
48. The transformer we have just installed silently unlike those noisy generators we had earlier.
49. The climate of Ooty is better than that of Hyderabad. (OR) The climate of Ooty is better than the climate of Hyderabad.
50. A pair of gloves is lying on the bed.

## II. SUBJECT VERB AGREEMENT

### Objective:

To enable the learners to identify some of the possible errors occur in subject verb agreement.

According to grammar, the subject of any sentence has to agree with its verb. The following are some of the common errors take place in subject verb agreement.

1. If the subject of a sentence has two or more nouns or pronouns, plural verb should be used.

**She and her friends are** at the fair. (Right)

**She and her friends is** at the fair. (Wrong)

2. If two or more singular nouns or pronouns are linked by or, nor, singular verb should be used.

**The book or the pen is** in the drawer. (Right)

**The book or the pen are** in the drawer. (Wrong)

3. If a compound subject has both a singular and a plural noun or pronoun linked by or, nor, the verb should agree with the subject nearer to the verb.

**The boy or his friends run** every day. (Right)

**His friends or the boy runs** every day. (Right)

4. The helping verb Does should be used only for singular subjects like He, She, and it The helping verb Do should be used for plural subjects like I, You (exception), We, and They.

**He doesn't like** it. (Right)

**He don't like** it. (Wrong)

**They don't like** it. (Right)

**They doesn't like** it. (Wrong)

5. The phrase that appears between the subject and the verb should be observed carefully. The verb goes only with the subject, but not with a noun or pronoun in the sentence.

**One of the doors is** open (Right)

**One of the doors are** open (Wrong)

**The public** who listen to that music **are** few. (Right)

**The public** who listen to that music **is** few. (Wrong)

**The team leader**, as well as his members, **is** anxious. (Right)

**The team leader**, as well as his members, **are** anxious. (Wrong)

**The novel**, including all the chapters in the first section, **is** boring. (Right)

**The novel**, including all the chapters in the first section, **are** boring. (Wrong)

**The hawker** with his food items **walks** down the street. (Right)

**The hawker** with his food items **walk** down the street. (Wrong)

6. Pronouns like each, each one, either, neither, everyone, everybody, anybody, anyone, nobody, somebody, someone, and no one are singular and take singular verbs.

**Each** of these machines **is** noisy. (Right)

**Each** of these machines **are** juicy. (Wrong)

**Everybody** **respects** Bill Gates. (Right)

**Everybody** **respect** Bill Gates. (Wrong)

**Either** **is** acceptable. (Right)

**Either** **are** acceptable. (Wrong)

7. Some nouns which seem to be plural with **s** ending are always singular (i.e Economics, Statistics, measles, dollars etc,) and take singular verbs.

**Measles** **is** a disease. (Right)

**Measles** **are** a disease. (Wrong)

**Phonetics** is a difficult subject. (Right)

**Phonetics** are a difficult subject. (Wrong)

Ten dollars **is** a lot of money.

8. Nouns like pants, scissors, tangs, tweezers, trousers, and shears require plural verbs.

These tangs **are** not good.

Those scissors **s are** made of steel.

9. Collective nouns can be used with singular (if referred as group or whole) verb and plural verb (If referred individually).

The team **accepts its defeat**. (Group)

The committee **are divided into different opinions on the issue**. (Individually)

The family **has** a long history.

My family **has never been able to agree**.

10. Phrases like, together with, including, accompanied by, in addition to, or as well do not change the number of the subject. If the subject is singular, the verb should also be singular.

The leader, accompanied by his wife, **is** traveling to U.K.

All of the clothes, including yours, **are** in that box.

### Exercises for Practice

1. The flute as well as the pipe organ \_\_\_\_\_ to be tuned for the big concert.
  - i. HAS
  - ii. HAVE
2. The speaker together with his two wives \_\_\_\_\_ going to be invited for the party.
  - i. ARE
  - ii. IS
3. Neither of my two bags \_\_\_\_\_ adequate for this trip.
  - i. ARE
  - ii. IS

4. There \_\_\_\_\_ a list of committee members on the head-table.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS
5. Everybody in the class \_\_\_\_\_ done the homework well in advance.  
i. HAS  
ii. HAVE
6. The jury \_\_\_\_\_ their seats in the courtroom.  
i. TAKE  
ii. TAKES
7. Neither the teacher nor the students \_\_\_\_\_ to understand this assignment.  
i. SEEM  
ii. SEEMS
8. \_\_\_\_\_ either my father or my brothers made a down-payment on the house?  
i. HAS  
ii. HAVE
9. Hartford is one of those cities that \_\_\_\_\_ working hard to reclaim a riverfront.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS
10. Some of the grain \_\_\_\_\_ gone bad.  
i. HAS  
ii. HAVE
11. John or his brother \_\_\_\_\_ going to be responsible for this.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS
12. A few of the students \_\_\_\_\_ doing so well they can skip the next course.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS

13. Either the Committee on Course Design or the Committee on College Operations \_\_\_\_\_ these matters.  
i. DECIDE  
ii. DECIDES
14. One of my instructors \_\_\_\_\_ written a letter of recommendation for me.  
i. HAS  
ii. HAVE
15. Dr. Ferndon is one of those professors who \_\_\_\_\_ distracted most of the time.  
i. SEEM  
ii. SEEMS
16. \_\_\_\_\_ either Luis or his parents written to Angela?  
i. HAS  
ii. HAVE
17. Neither Luis nor his parents \_\_\_\_\_ the least bit interested in keeping in touch with her.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS
18. Everybody on this team \_\_\_\_\_ really hard to please the new coach.  
i. TRY  
ii. TRIES
19. Because there \_\_\_\_\_ so many students in that class, I can sometimes sleep in the back row.  
i. ARE  
ii. IS
20. Neither traffic light--neither the one on Asylum Avenue nor the one on Farmington Avenue-- \_\_\_\_\_ working after the storm.  
i. WAS  
ii. WERE
21. Mr. Bradley, along with his two sisters, \_\_\_\_\_ lived in this town for thirty years.  
i. HAS      ii. HAVE

22. There \_\_\_\_\_ no reasons for this horrible development that I can see.

- i. ARE
- ii. IS

23. Some of the water \_\_\_\_\_ already gone bad.

- i. HAS
- ii. HAVE

24. One of these students \_\_\_\_\_ obviously cheated on the exam.

- i. HAS
- ii. HAVE

25. Either the UConn Women's Team or the UConn Men's Team \_\_\_\_\_ going to be national champion this year.

- i. ARE
- ii. IS

26. Carlos and his brother Raoul \_\_\_\_\_ traveling across the country next summer.

- i. ARE
- ii. IS

27. Several of the students \_\_\_\_\_ decided to withdraw from the course.

- i. HAS
- ii. HAVE

**Answers:**

1. I 2. ii 3. ii 4. ii 5. i 6. i 7. ii 8. ii 9. ii 10. ii 11. ii 12. i 13. i 14. i 15. i 16. i 17. i 18. ii 19. i 20. i 21. i 22. i 23. i 24. i 25. ii 26. i 27. ii

### III. USE OF ARTICLES

#### Objective:

To enable the learners to identify some of the common errors pertaining to the use of the articles in sentences.

A, An and The are articles. Articles A and An are considered to be indefinite articles as they do not imply anything in particular. Definite article The always refer to specific and definite things.

#### ***The Use of A and An:***

"A" and "an" mean singular or only one in general.

1. There is a boy on the road. (I do not know who the boy is)
2. I want to buy an apple. (one apple which is not specific/any apple in a group)

An historical event is worth recording.

Sometimes adjectives modify nouns. In such cases, the use of **A** or **AN** depends on the initial sound of the word. If a word begins with a vowel sound, article **AN** will be used. If it begins with a consonant sound, the article **a** will be used.

- **a** one-eyed man
- **an** unexpected situation
- **a** University

#### ***The Use of Definite Article:***

Definite article **THE** implies something definite and specific objects or a persons. It is used both for singular and plural nouns.

1. **The boy** who sang yesterday was my nephew. (Here it is a specific boy.)
2. **The rose** which she plucked in my garden was beautiful (Here it is not a general rose but a definite one)

#### **The use of Countable and Uncountable Nouns:**

1. They used to play on **the sand** in their childhood.
2. They are fond of **sand** in the beach near their house.
3. **The oil** that Mary uses to cook food is very less.
4. Mary uses more **oil** than necessary.

#### **The use of A and AN with count nouns:**

1. I had **a** mug of beer.
2. She wants **an** iron sheet.

3. They play a wonderful match.
4. I had a glass of mango juice.

**Other Common Uses of the Definite Article:**

**Use of THE:**

1. The should be used before the names of the mountain ranges and chains of Islands. For instance:

1. The Himalayas. 2. The Canary Islands.

2. Before names of the musical instruments:

1. The flute. 2. The piano.

3. Before the names of lakes, oceans and seas...

1. The Ganges. 2.the Pacific 3. The Red sea

4. Before names of the deserts and directions of the globe...

1. the sahara desert 2. the north pole 3. The equator

5. Before geographical areas...

1. The north 2. The Middle East

**Do not use THE Before:**

- 1. before proper names specific names of the people places and streets. (John, America, Wall street)
- 2. Before names of sports (Basket ball, Chess)
- 3. Before the names of academic subjects (Phonetics, Economics)
- 4. Before names of the languages and nationalities. (English, Chinese)

Exercises on Articles for Practice

Exercise - I

Use either definite article THE. If THE is not required keep X mark.

- 1) My mother likes \_\_\_\_\_ sweets very much.
- 2) John eats \_\_\_\_\_ fruits in your garden.
- 3) Meet you on \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday.
- 4) I always listen to \_\_\_\_\_ radio in the morning.
- 5) Peter sings songs when he travels by \_\_\_\_\_ bus.
- 6) Don't be late for \_\_\_\_\_ school.
- 7) Listen! David is playing \_\_\_\_\_ flute
- 8) They often see their cousin over \_\_\_\_\_ Easter.
- 9) The family has never been to \_\_\_\_\_ Alps before.
- 10) What about going to Australia in \_\_\_\_\_ February?

Answers

- 1) My mother likes **x** flowers very much.
- 2) John eats **the** fruits in your garden.
- 3) Meet you on **x** Sunday.
- 4) I always listen to **the** radio in the morning.
- 5) Peter sings songs when he travels by **x** bus.
- 6) Don't be late for **x** school.
- 7) Listen! David is playing **the** flute.
- 8) We often see our cousins over **x** Easter.
- 9) The family has never been to **the** Alps before.

10) What about going to Australia in **x** February

**Exercise – II**

**Use either definite article THE. If THE is not required keep X mark.**

- 1) They visited \_\_\_\_\_ St. Paul's Cathedral and \_\_\_\_\_ Tower last week.
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ Mount Abu is one of \_\_\_\_\_ highest mountain on earth.
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ Loch Ness is \_\_\_\_\_ most famous lake in Scotland.
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_ most girls are fond of \_\_\_\_\_ ice creams.
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_ summer of 1996 was hot and dry.
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_ Queensland Hotel is on the corner of \_\_\_\_\_ 29th Street and \_\_\_\_\_ 6th Avenue.
- 7) My sister often stays at \_\_\_\_\_ Uncle Tim's in Detroit.
- 8) Our friends \_\_\_\_\_ Millers moved to London last August.
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_ pollution is a problem in \_\_\_\_\_ metropolitans.
- 10) Our brother goes to \_\_\_\_\_ school by \_\_\_\_\_ bus

**Answer - II**

- 1) They visited **x** St. Paul's Cathedral and **the** Tower last week.
- 2) **x** Mount Abu is one of **the** highest mountain on earth.
- 3) **x** Loch Ness is **the** most famous lake in Scotland.
- 4) **x** most girls are fond of **x** ice creams.
- 5) **The** summer of 1996 was hot and dry.
- 6) **The** Queensland Hotel is on the corner of **x** 29th Street and **x** 6th Avenue.

- 7) My sister often stays at **x** Uncle Tim's in Detroit.
- 8) Our friends **the** Millers moved to London last August.
- 9) **x** pollution is a problem in **x** metropolitans.
- 10) Our children go to **x** school by **x** bus.

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Exercise –III (Use A, AN Or Nothing)

1. There were many flowers in the park. One flower was \_\_\_ Rose.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

2. Cows and \_\_\_ Buffaloes were both herbivorous.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

3. They purchase \_\_\_ dark black Scorpio car next week.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing
- iv.

4. Hawaii is \_\_\_ island in the Pacific Ocean.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

5. Good Friday comes once \_\_\_ year.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

6. \_\_\_ eagle is \_\_\_ bird.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

7. The Amazon is \_\_\_ river.

- i. a

- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

8. I entered into a milk booth to buy \_\_\_ milk.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing
- iv.

9. He has lost \_\_\_ a gold ring while he was playing.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

10. You have to have \_\_\_ umbrella if it rains.

- i. a
- ii. An
- iii. Nothing

Answers- III

1. a 2. Nothing 3. a 4. an 5. a 6. an, an 7. a 8. Nothing 9. a 10. an

Exercise -IV (Use A, An, The or No Article)

1. Is she purchasing it for \_\_\_ fitness club to join so she becomes lean?
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
2. Buy cleverly or you could end up choosing \_\_\_ wrong club and losing more money than pounds.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
3. You may find out too late that \_\_\_ fitness clubs aren't for you.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
4. \_\_\_ Ostrich is a native of South Africa.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
5. I \_\_\_ Ostrich in my garden.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
6. I saw \_\_\_ orange for my breakfast.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
7. I have recently bought \_ flat.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed
  
8. You may be in \_\_\_ market for a full-service health club; then, make sure it offers lots of activities.
  - a. a
  - b. an
  - c. the
  - d. no article is needed

9. \_\_\_ Ganges is considered to be a holy river for Indians.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
10. They should be educated in physical education or certified by \_\_\_ organization such as the American Council on exercise.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
11. I have some milk and \_\_\_ slice of cake for you.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
12. There is \_\_\_ ghost again which we saw yesterday. Can you see it?  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
13. Try to talk to other members of the club. Find out what they believe are \_\_\_ advantages and disadvantages there.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
14. I saw \_\_\_ one eyed man when I was walking on the road.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
15. There is no sight of \_ University near by.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed
16. \_\_\_ Planets revolve round their suns.  
a. a  
b. an  
c. the  
d. no article is needed

Answers- IV

1. a 2.c 3.d 4c 5.b 6.b 7.a 8.c 9.c 10.b 11.a 12.c 13.c 14.a 15. a 16.d

## IV. PREPOSITION

**Objective:** To enable the learners to identify some of the common errors pertaining to use of prepositions in sentences.

Preposition is one of the parts of speech which means to place something before (pre + position) a noun or pronoun. The role of preposition in a sentence is to show the relationship between subject and object / noun and noun / noun and adjective / noun and pronoun etc.

1. The cow is **on** the field.
2. She is fond **of** ice cream.
3. She told me **about** it.
4. They were nice **to** her.

Although preposition is generally placed before the words it governs, it will also appear in some other positions.

1. Who are you talking **to**?
2. The boy wants something to play **with**.
3. What are you arguing **for**?

Prepositions are mainly of three kinds. They are

1. Simple (ex: in, on, at, by, which, into, about, across, along, among, between etc.)
2. Complex or Phrasal Prepositions (ex: in spite of, in addition to, along with because of)
3. Prepositions which look like adjectives / verbs (ex: including, following, barring, unlike)

Prepositions have a wide variety of roles to play in the sentences they are used. For instance, they indicate things like time, place, direction, movement, comparison, means/instrumentality, concession and source of manner.

**The following sentences explain different roles of prepositions in the sentences.**

1. Ram confuses to make a choice between mango and apple.(position)
2. The A.P. Express starts from Hyderabad to Delhi.(movement and direction)
3. The programme was over by 3 'o' Clock.(time)
4. He could not attend the meeting due to his ill health.(reason)
5. They went to hotel for Biryani.(purpose)
6. Mary chops meat with a knife. (instrument)
7. They are traveling by car.(means)
8. Despite of the busy schedule, the chairman turned up to the meeting.(concession)
9. He fights like a lion.(comparison)
10. John does his job with utmost care. (manner)
11. They brought vegetables from market. (source)

### Prepositions Exercises for Practice - I

**Put in the correct preposition.**

- 1) My friend is good \_\_\_playing volleyball.
- 2) She protests \_\_\_discrimination.
- 3) She is afraid \_\_\_cats.
- 4) The family doesn't feel \_\_\_going outing this season. .
- 5) The company is looking forward \_\_\_giving bonus to its workers.
- 6) She dreams \_\_\_becoming a doctor.
- 7) She apologized \_\_\_her misbehavior.
- 8) Does she agree \_\_\_what you explained?
- 9) Parents often insist \_\_\_good manners.
- 10) Peter reminded me \_\_\_ my appointment with doctor
- 11) The child is allergic \_\_\_insect stings.
- 12) Peter reminded me \_\_\_my appointment with doctor.
- 13) The patrolling van chased the thieves \_\_\_the lanes.
- 14) The secret \_\_\_success lies \_\_\_hard work.
- 15) She said airily that she had not smoked \_\_\_ages.
- 16) Mr.Sethi lives \_\_\_an apartment building in Hyderabad.
- 17) The father's role was brought to life\_\_\_ the actor.
- 18) The P.M. congratulated Indian cricket team \_\_\_their success in 2011 world cup.
- 19) Such difficult words are always found \_\_\_dictionaries.
- 20) We should not put \_\_\_with this kind of nuisance.
- 21) I must apologize you \_\_\_not recognizing you.
- 22) She has been working there \_\_\_two years.
- 23) Parents often insist \_\_\_good manners.
- 24) Mr. John has been the C.E.O. of his company \_\_\_ 2005.

25) Why do you lean \_\_\_ the wall.

Answers - I

- 1) My friend is good **at** playing volleyball.
- 2) She protests **against** discrimination.
- 3) She is afraid **of** cats.
- 4) The family doesn't feel **like** going outing this season. .
- 5) The company is looking forward **to** giving bonus to its workers.
- 6) She dreams **of** becoming a doctor.
- 7) She apologized **for** her misbehavior.
- 8) Does she agree **with** what you explained?
- 9) The company is waiting \_\_\_\_its new C.E.O..
- 10) Peter reminded me **of** my appointment with doctor.
- 11) The child is allergic **to** insect stings.
- 12) Peter reminded me **of** my appointment with doctor.
- 13) The patrolling van chased the thieves **through** the lanes.
- 14) The secret **of** success lies **in** hard work.
- 15) She said airily that she had not smoked **for** ages.
- 16) Mr.Sethi lives **in** an apartment building in Hyderabad.
- 17) The father's role was brought to life **by** the actor.
- 18) The P.M. congratulated Indian cricket team **on** their success in 2011 world cup.
- 19) Such difficult words are always found **in** dictionaries.
- 20) We should not put **up** with this kind of nuisance.
- 21) I must apologize you **for** not recognizing you.
- 22) She has been working there **for** two years.

23) Parents often insist on good manners.

24) Mr. John has been the C.E.O. of his company since 2005.

25) Why do you lean against the wall?

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**EXERCISE-II (Multiple Choice Questions on Prepositions)**

**EXERCISES ON PREPOSITIONS**

1) \_\_\_\_\_ the two brothers Peter is the better painter.

- a. In
- b. Among
- c. Between

2) They left in midnight \_\_\_\_\_ their village.

- a. at
- b. to
- c. near
- d. in

3. Why did she give it \_\_\_\_\_ you?

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on
- d. to

4) Mary has been living in Hyderabad \_\_\_\_\_ ten years.

- a. in
- b. since
- c. for
- d. at

5) The girl sat down \_\_\_\_\_ the lake.

- a. beside
- b. at
- c. besides
- d. on

6) Put the book \_\_\_\_\_ the table.

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on
- d. to

7) Do not interfere \_\_\_ my personal affairs.

- a. at
- b. on
- c. to
- d. in

8) I drove \_\_\_\_\_ Seattle last weekend.

- a. in
- b. at
- c. to
- d. on

9) We insisted \_\_\_ going for walk.

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on

10 Q: The Mega Mall is \_\_\_\_\_ the building, isn't it?

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on
- d. to

11) The woman \_\_\_ the car was my sister.

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on
- d. to

12) The old building was deserted \_\_\_ pigeons and mice.

- a. in
- b. of
- c. on
- d. to

13) I met my old classmate \_\_\_\_\_ the university.

- a. in
- b. at
- c. on
- d. to

14) The baby slept peacefully \_\_\_\_\_ the telephone ring.

- a. yet
- b. inspite of
- c. with
- d. on

15) They are sorry \_\_\_\_ having teased you.

- a. on
- b. in
- c. with
- d. for

16) The clients of the lawyer were happy \_\_\_\_\_ his work.

- a. with
- b. for
- c. on
- d. in

17) They could swim \_\_\_\_\_ the river when they were young..

- a. in
- b. on
- c. across
- d. into

18) His allegation was based \_\_\_\_ the incident he witnessed.

- a. with
- b. for

- c. on
- d. in

19) The company formed new rules which are acceptable \_\_\_\_ all workers.

- a. to
- b. for
- c. on
- d. in

20) Did you read my article \_\_\_\_ Cellular Micro biology?

- a. with
- b. for
- c. on
- d. in

Answers - II

1.c 2.b 3.d 4.c 5.a 6.c 7.d 8.c 9.a 10.c 11.a 12.b 13.a 14.b 15.d 16.a 17.c 18.c 19.a 20.c

**Objective:**

**To improve students' ability to use and construct error free sentences in spoken and written English.**

The following information gives a bird eye view of all the tenses (i.e. present, past and future) and their use in different time frames besides some signal words for each tense.

**1. Present Tense:**

**1.1 Simple Present Tense: S**

**Structure:** Sub + Verb 1+ S or ES + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Do & Does (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She & It----- Does & I, We, You and They-----Do)

Two helping verbs Do and Does are used in this tense. Do is used for plural subjects like I (exceptional), We, You & They. Does is used for singular subjects like He, She & It. If the subject is singular S or ES is added to the verb ending. This rule does not applicable to plural subjects.

1. She sings excellently.
2. They play very well.

There are some adverbs which are often used in this tense. They are always, every, never, normally, often, seldom, sometimes, usually.

**Simple present tense is used in the following situations:**

- i. action in the present taking place
- ii. facts
- iii. actions taking place one after another
- iv. action set by a timetable or schedule
- v. habitual actions

1. She reads an article. (Affirmative)
2. Does she read an article? (Interrogative)
3. She does not read an article. (Negative)
4. Doesn't she read an article? (Negative Interrogative)

### 1.2 The Present Continuous / Progressive Tense

**Structure:** Sub + Verb+ ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Am, Is & Are (to form questions and negative statements)

(I-----Am, He, She & It----- Is & We, You and They-----Are)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She is reading an article.

Is she reading an article?

She is not reading an article.

Isn't she reading an article?

3. I am giving a presentation now.

.....?

.....

.....?

The following categories of verbs are not used in the present continuous/progressive form.

- a) Verbs denote likes and dislikes (**like, love, hate, adore, hate, dislike, abhor and detest**).
- b) Verbs of perception (**see, hear, smell, taste and feel**)
- c) Verbs of cognition (**know, understand, comprehend**)
- d) Verbs of possession (**have, possess**)

1)\* I am loving classical music (I love classical music)

2)\* I am seeing it now (I see it now)

3)\* She is understanding it well (She understands it well)

4)\* He is having a problem (He has a problem)

### 1.3 The Present Perfect Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb (V3) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Has & Have (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She & It----- Has & I, We, You and They-----Have)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She has written an article.

Has she written an article?

She has not written an article.

Hasn't she reading an article?

3. I have given a presentation just now.

.....?

.....

.....?

Present perfect tense refers to completed actions. They also imply recently finished actions. There are some adverbs which are often used in this tense. They are already, ever, just, never, not yet, so far, till now, up to now

**1.4 The Present Perfect Continuous Tense:**

**Structure:** Sub + Verb ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Has been & Have been (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She & It----- Has been & I, We, You and They-----Have been)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She has been waiting for an hour.

Has she been waiting for an hour

She has not been waiting for an hour.

Hasn't she been waiting for an hour?

2. I have been speaking since 2pm.

.....?

.....

.....?

Present perfect continuous tense refers to actions which started in the past and are continuing till the present and have chance to continue in the future. There are some adverbs which are often used in this tense. They are since and for. Since refers to point of time (exact time) eg: 1997, January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2 o Clock, Wednesday. For implies period of time like two weeks, three hours, fifteen minutes and two years.

## 2. The Past Tense

### 2.1 The Simple Past Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb (V2) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Did (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, I, We, You and They-----Did + V1)

**Usage in sentences:**

- |                             |                                  |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. She played yesterday.    | 2. I drew the picture last week. |
| Did she play yesterday?     | .....?                           |
| She did not play yesterday. | .....                            |
| Didn't she play yesterday?  | .....?                           |

Simple past tense refers to actions occurred in the past. A past tense should be used with past time reference. They are like yesterday, 2 minutes ago, in 1950, the other day, last Friday.

### 2.2 The Past Continuous Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Was & Were (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, I ---- Was    We, You and They-----Were)

**Usage in sentences:**

- |                    |                                |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. She was typing. | 2. They were watching cricket. |
| Was she typing?    | .....?                         |

She was not typing .....

Wasn't she typing? .....

Past continuous tense refers to actions continuing from one period of time to another in the past. Generally it is used to refer two actions in a sequence. Some adverbs are used to describe such actions. They are while, when & as long as.

- 1. When I entered the room the telephone was ringing.
- 2. I met with accident while I was walking on the road.

**2.3 The Past Perfect Tense:**

**Structure:** Sub + Verb (V3) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Had (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, I, We, You and They-----Had)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She had finished it.

2. They had settled the issue.

Had she finished it? .....

She had not finished it .....

Hadn't she finished it? .....

Past perfect tense refers to actions took place in the past. Generally it is used to refer two actions in a sequence. The first happened action in the past should always be in the past perfect and the second happened action in the past should be in the simple past. Some adverbs are used to describe such actions. They are already, just, never, not yet, once, until that day.

- 1. When I entered the hall the programme had already begun.
- 2. The train had already left when I reached the station.

**2.4 The Past Perfect Continuous Tense:**

**Structure:** Sub + Verb ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Had been (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, I, We, You and They-----Had been)

**Usage in sentences:**

- |                              |                                |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. She had been cleaning it. | 2. They had been preparing it. |
| Had she been cleaning it?    | .....?                         |
| She had not been cleaning it | .....                          |
| Hadn't she been cleaning it? | .....?                         |

Past perfect continuous tense refers to actions took place in the past. Generally it is used to refer two actions in a sequence. One action in the past should be continuing till another action began. Some adverbs are used to describe such actions. They are when and before.

1. They had been playing before the coach called them.
2. I had been reading the article before my friend invited me for a movie.

**3 The Future Tense:**

**3.1 The Simple Future Tense:**

**Structure:** Sub + Verb (V1) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Will & Shall (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, You and They-----Will I, We ----- Shall)

**Usage in sentences:**

- |                                 |                                       |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. She will finish it tomorrow. | 2. I shall purchase a T.V. next week. |
| Will she finish it tomorrow?    | .....?                                |
| She will not finish it tomorrow | .....                                 |
| Won't she finish it tomorrow?   | .....?                                |

Simple future tense refers to actions take place in the future. Generally it is used to refer actions scheduled in the near future. There should be a future reference in this tense. Some adverbs are used to describe such actions are in a year, next, tomorrow.

### 3.2 The Future Continuous Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Will be & Shall be (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, You and They-----Will be I, We ----- Shall be)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She will be going abroad next year.      2. We shall be celebrating a party tomorrow.

Will she be going abroad next year? .....

She will not be going abroad next year .....

Won't she be going abroad next year? .....

Future Continuous tense refers to actions taking place in the future. Generally it is used to refer actions continuing from one time frame to another in the near future. There should be a future reference in this tense. Some adverbs are used to describe such actions are by this time next year, by this time tomorrow.

### 3.3 The Future Perfect Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb (V3) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Will have & Shall have (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, You and They-----Will have I, We ----- Shall have)

**Usage in sentences:**

1. She will have finished her degree by 2012.      2. We shall have done it tomorrow.

Will she have finished her degree by 2012? .....

She will not have finished her degree by 2012 .....

Won't she have finished her degree by 2012? .....

Future perfect tense refers to actions that are expected to be finished at some time in the future.

### 3.4 The Future Perfect Continuous Tense:

**Structure:** Sub + Verb ing form (V4) + Object

**Helping Verbs Used:** Will have been & Shall have been (to form questions and negative statements)

(He, She, It, You and They-----Will have been I, We ----- Shall have been)

#### Usage in sentences:

1. She will have been doing her degree next year.
2. We shall have been traveling by this time tomorrow.

Future perfect continuous tense refers to actions that are expected to be continuing from one time frame to another in the future.

(Exercises - I)

1. John (construct) \_\_\_\_\_ three apartments in this part of the town in 1990.
2. By the time the project completed she (know) \_\_\_\_\_ intricacies of it.
3. All of a sudden, Ram understood that he (lose) \_\_\_\_\_ his valet.
4. (you see) \_\_\_\_\_ Mary in the meeting last week?
5. Rani said that she (write) \_\_\_\_\_ three exams.
6. Peter's uncle (not want) \_\_\_\_\_ to stay at the flat the entire day.
7. The workers were dog-tired as they (work) \_\_\_\_\_ continuously a week without a holiday. .
8. The insurance company (extend) \_\_\_\_\_ her assistance for her new house.
9. The boys told their teacher all what they (do) \_\_\_\_\_ the night before.
10. The two unemployed youth (get) \_\_\_\_\_ an opportunity in their desired media yesterday.
11. Martin said that he (never be) \_\_\_\_\_ so delighted.
12. I wanted to purchase this painting but the shop-keeper (already sell) \_\_\_\_\_ it to another.
13. Mary (see) \_\_\_\_\_ John at the university last week.
14. How many years (you study) \_\_\_\_\_ English when you applied for that job?
15. I (can't paint) \_\_\_\_\_ when I was a child.
16. When I went to the concert the programme (already begin) \_\_\_\_\_.
17. After a heated argument with her brother Sharon (forget) \_\_\_\_\_ to post the letter.
18. I didn't go to the marriage because nobody (tell) \_\_\_\_\_ me about it.
19. She asked him if he (ever swim) \_\_\_\_\_ in the ocean.
20. The boy said: " he (sleep) \_\_\_\_\_ until his mom came".

Answers Part – I

1. built 2. had known / knew 3. lost 4. did you 5. had written / wrote
6. did not want 7. worked 8. has extended 9. did 10. found 11. was never
12. had already lent 13. saw 14. did you study 15. could not paint
16. had already begun 17. forgot 18. told 19. had ever swum 20. slept

Exercises for Practice - II

Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in brackets.

How smart is an ant? Some people \_\_\_\_ 1(say) that ants \_\_\_\_ 2(make) good use of \_\_\_\_ 3(its/their) brains. Others \_\_\_\_ 4(say) that ants \_\_\_\_ 5 (have/has) no brains at all. The first group of people \_\_\_\_ 6 (tell) strange tales about ants marching in armies, obeying ant generals and captains. But the truth about ant \_\_\_\_ 7 (be) surprising enough. Ants

in hot countries \_\_\_\_8 (does) go on long marches. They \_\_\_\_9 (does) roll themselves into a single ball at night. Ants \_\_\_\_10 (not, go) apart rather each ant \_\_\_\_11 (walk) in a queue among themselves.

**Part - II Answers**

1. say
2. make
3. their
4. say
5. have
6. tells
7. is
8. do
9. do
10. do not
11. walks



Part – III

Choose the right verb for the following objective type of questions on Tenses.

1) The company (offer, always) \_\_\_\_\_rewarding wages to its employees.

- a. always offer
- b. always offers
- c. always offered
- d. offered

2) Peter (be, not) \_\_\_\_\_Irish, he is an American.

- a. was not
- b. were not
- c. are not
- d. is not

3) Sharon is not an industrious student and she (do, not)\_\_\_\_ complete her project.

- a. does not
- b. were not
- c. are not
- d. is not

4) It (rain)\_\_\_\_\_since this morning.

- a. was raining
- b. were raining
- c. has been raining
- d. is raining

5) Hey, John, here your bus \_\_\_\_\_ (come)!

- a. comes
- b. came
- c. was coming
- d. has come

6) Traditional values \_\_\_\_\_ (be extend) from one generation to following generations by our elders

- a. are extended
- b. were extended
- c. extended
- d. are extending

7) Ram \_\_\_\_\_ (run) for his cab every morning.

- a. ran
- b. was running
- c. is running
- d. runs

8) If you \_\_\_\_\_ (study) well you will achieve success.

- a. studies
- b. study
- c. are studying
- d. studied

9) If you played well you (win)\_\_\_\_\_ the match.

- a. would win
- b. will win
- c. won
- d. win

10) If the manger had recognized John's efforts at the right time, he (not leave)\_\_\_\_\_ the company.

- a. will not left
- b. will not leave
- c. will not have left
- d. would not have left

11) The President's guest house \_\_\_\_\_ (is locate) at 1054 street.

- a. were located
- b. was located
- c. is located
- d. is locating

12) Mary \_\_\_\_ (work) in the same company for the last ten years.

- a. is working
- b. has been working
- c. has worked
- d. works

13) The C.E.O. \_\_\_\_ (present) the annual report tomorrow.

- a. will present
- b. presenting
- c. presents
- d. would present

14) They \_\_\_\_ (complete) their engineering course by 2015.

- a. complete
- b. completed
- c. will have completed
- d. would complete

15) John \_\_\_\_ (present) a gift to his cousin two days ago.

- a. presents
- b. presented
- c. was presented
- d. had presented

16) The meeting \_\_\_\_ already (begin) when he stepped inside the hall.

- a. had already begun
- b. has already begun
- c. was already begun
- d. is already begun

17) The bell \_\_\_\_ (ring) when Mary entered the room.

- a. had rung
- b. had rang
- c. was ringing
- d. is ringing

18) At present everybody \_\_\_\_ (wait) for the new manager.

- a. is waiting
- b. waits
- c. was waiting
- d. are waiting

19) A Doctor \_\_\_\_ (perform) surgeries a hospital

- a. is performing
- b. performs
- c. was performing
- d. performed

20) The boy \_\_\_\_ just (finish) his lunch.

- a. had just finished
- b. finished
- c. finishes
- d. has just finished

21) \_\_\_\_ Mary just (go) \_\_\_\_ outside?

- a. Has Mary just gone
- b. Had Mary just gone
- c. Did Mary just go
- d. was Mary just going

**Part – III Answers**

1. b 2.d 3.a 4.c 5.a 6.a 7.d 8.b 9.a 10.d 11.c 12.b 13.b 14.c 15.b 16.a 17.c 18.a 19.b 20.d 21.a

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