

SPOTTING ERRORS



Questions based on spotting error are important from the exam point of view. In the entrance examinations, 8-10 questions are asked from this chapter.

In this section, a number of sentences are given and each of them is divided into three parts (a), (b) and (c). You are required to spot the part which has an error. If there is no error, your answer is (d) which signifies "no error."

Such kind of questions are usually based on different grammatical rules and their correct usage. A sound knowledge of grammatical rules and regular practice will enable you to solve these questions.

1.1 ARTICLES

The demonstrative adjectives *a*, *an* and *the* are called Articles. There are two kinds of articles

(I) Indefinite article—A/An

(II) Definite article—The

(I) Use of Indefinite Article—A/An

1. The article *An* is used before a word beginning with a vowel sound. *e.g.*,

(i) She is an intelligent girl.

(ii) He is an MP.

(iii) You are an honest man.

2. The article *A* is used before a word beginning with a consonant sound. *e.g.*,
 - (i) He is a university student.
 - (ii) He is a European.
 - (iii) He is a one-eyed man.
3. *A/An* is used before a singular countable noun when it is mentioned for the first time representing no particular person or thing. *e.g.*,
 - (i) He has an axe. (ii) She is a lawyer.
 - (iii) A boy came to my office.
4. *A/An* is used before a singular countable noun which is used as the representative of a class of things or persons. *e.g.*,
 - (i) A lion is a fierce animal.
 - (ii) A pupil should obey his teacher.
 - (iii) A dog is a faithful animal.
5. *A/An* is used to make a common noun of a proper noun. *e.g.*,
 - (i) My neighbour is a Daniel.
 - (ii) She is a Lata Mangeshkar.
 - (iii) His brother is a Shylock.
6. *A/An* is used in exclamations before singular countable nouns. *e.g.*,
 - (i) What an interesting movie!
 - (ii) What a pretty girl!
 - (iii) What a lovely morning!
7. *A/An* is used in its original sense of one or any. *e.g.*,
 - (i) She wants a car.
 - (ii) There are twelve inches in a foot.
 - (iii) He bought a book.

(II) Use of Definite Article—The

Article "the" is used in the following contexts

1. when we talk about a particular person or thing or one already mentioned. *e.g.*,
 - (i) Give me the book which you bought yesterday.
 - (ii) The dress you want is out of stock.
 - (iii) I met a girl. The girl was beautiful.
2. when a singular noun represents a whole class. *e.g.*,
 - (i) The lotus is a beautiful flower.
 - (ii) The cat loves comfort.
 - (iii) The banyan is a useful tree.
3. before the first noun in 'noun + preposition + noun' construction. *e.g.*,
 - (i) The Bharat of Ramayana is an ideal brother.
 - (ii) The gold of India is famous.
 - (iii) She likes the sweets of Jaipur.
4. before names of mountain-ranges. *e.g.*,
The Alps, The Himalayas, The Vindhyas

5. before names of groups of islands. *e.g.*,
The Andamans, The Hebrides, The West Indies
6. before names of rivers, oceans, gulfs, deserts and forests. *e.g.*,
The Ganges, The Amazon, The Nile, The Arabian Sea, The Pacific Ocean, The Indian Ocean, The Persian Gulf, The Gulf of Mexico, The Sahara, The Black Forest.
7. before names of religious and mythological books. *e.g.*,
The Veda, The Ramayana, The Bible
8. before names of newspapers and magazines. *e.g.*,
The Hindustan Times, The Times of India, The Statesman
9. before names of heavenly bodies, directions and things unique or one of their kind. *e.g.*,
The earth, The sun, The moon, The east, The north, The equator

■ 'The' is not used before the words 'Heaven, Hell, God, Parliament'.

10. before names of historical buildings, places and events. *e.g.*,
The Taj Mahal, The Red Fort, The Pyramids, The Kabal, The Kurukshetra, The French Revolution
11. before musical instruments. *e.g.*,
 - (i) He can play the guitar.
 - (ii) She is fond of playing on the piano.

■ When musical instruments are used as countable nouns, *A/An* is used. *e.g.*,
(i) We gave her a harmonium.
(ii) I have bought a violin.

12. before religious communities and political parties. *e.g.*,
The Hindus, The Muslims, The Sikhs, The BJP, The Congress Party, The Janata Dal
13. before names of ships, aeroplanes and trains. *e.g.*,
The Virat, The Vikrant, The Meghdoot, The Shatabdi Express, The Punjab Mail, The Rajdhani Express
14. before the words denoting physical positions. *e.g.*,
The top, The bottom, The centre, The inside, The front, The back
15. before parts of body. *e.g.*,
 - (i) He was hit on the head.
 - (ii) She pulled the cat by the tail.
 - (iii) You caught me by the arm.
16. before names of government departments and armed forces. *e.g.*,
The Judiciary, The Legislative, The Executive, The Army, The Navy, The Air Force

17. before the dates of months. *e.g.*,
The 6th of February, The 21st of December
18. before the superlative degree. *e.g.*,
(i) Honesty is the best policy.
(ii) She is the tallest girl in the class.
(iii) The rose is the sweetest of all flowers.
19. before the names of a few countries and provinces.
e.g.,
The USA, The USSR, The Netherlands, The Sudan, The Punjab
20. before comparative degree in case of a choice. *e.g.*,
(i) She is the prettier of the two sisters.
(ii) He is the stronger of the two.
21. before the ordinals. *e.g.*,
The first, The third, The ninth

Omission of Articles

The articles *a*, *an* and *the* are omitted

1. before names of days and months. *e.g.*,
(i) She will go on Monday.
(ii) They are getting married in January.
2. before names of languages. *e.g.*,
(i) He cannot speak French.
(ii) She is learning Marathi.
3. before names of subjects. *e.g.*,
(i) She has no interest in mathematics.
(ii) Biology is his favourite subject.
4. before names of diseases. *e.g.*,
(i) AIDS is spreading like wild fire.
(ii) He died of cancer.

■ But 'The' is used before the names of a few diseases.
e.g., the measles, the plague, the gout, the mumps

5. before names of festivals and seasons. *e.g.*,
(i) He will go to Canada in winter.
(ii) She celebrated Christmas with her friends.

■ If sentence is about the days of season and holidays,
article (the) will be used. *e.g.*,
(i) He will go to Canada in the winter season.
(ii) She went to Delhi in the Diwali holidays.

6. before names of sports. *e.g.*,
(i) She plays tennis. (ii) We like cricket.
7. before the names of persons, villages, cities, districts,
states and countries. *e.g.*,
(i) Anjali is a beautiful girl.
(ii) London is a big city.
(iii) Paris is the capital of France.

8. before names of meals. *e.g.*,
(i) They take lunch at 2 pm.
(ii) Breakfast is ready.

■ 'A' is used when there is an adjective before names of meals. We use 'the' when we specify. *e.g.*,
(i) We had a late breakfast today.
(ii) The lunch I had at the Rajmahal was nice.

9. after possessive adjectives (*my*, *our*, *your*, *his*, *her*, *their*, *its*) and nouns in possessive case (*Ram's*, *lion's*). *e.g.*,
(i) This is Rahul's car.
(ii) That is my book.
10. before school, college, church, prison, hospital, bed, market, when these places are visited or used for their primary purpose. *e.g.*,
(i) She goes to church on Sunday.
(ii) The criminal was sent to prison.
(iii) I go to bed at 10 pm.
11. before man, life, death, art, science, when these words are used in the widest sense. *e.g.*,
(i) Man is mortal.
(ii) Science has developed much in the past fifty years.
12. before the nouns used after rank of / title of. *e.g.*,
(i) He was promoted to the rank of Colonel.
(ii) He was given the title of Nawab.

1.2 TENSE

Kinds of Tense

There are three basic tenses

1. Present Tense 2. Past Tense 3. Future Tense

There are four sub-categories of each of three

- | | |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| (i) Simple | (ii) Continuous |
| (iii) Perfect | (iv) Perfect Continuous |

Uses of Tense

I. Simple Present Tense

1. Simple Present Tense is used to express universal truth, principle and proverb. *e.g.*,
(i) The earth moves round the sun.
(ii) Oil floats on water.
(iii) Fortune favours the brave.
2. This tense is used to express habitual, regular and repeated actions. *e.g.*,
(i) She takes tea every morning.
(ii) He often gets late for school.
(iii) We like rice and curry.

3. This tense is used to express human feelings, emotions and mental activity. *e.g.*,

- (i) I love my family.
- (ii) She thinks he is the best.
- (iii) Shilpa hates beggars.

4. This tense is used to show possession. *e.g.*,

- (i) She has a piano.
- (ii) This car belongs to him.
- (iii) They have a son and a daughter.

5. This tense is used to express a future event that is part of fixed time table or fixed programme. *e.g.*,

- (i) The next train is at 6 : 00 tomorrow morning.
- (ii) The show starts at 12 o'clock.
- (iii) She goes to London next Monday.

6. This tense is used, instead of the Simple Future Tense, in clauses of time and of condition. *e.g.*,

- (i) She will not come if it rains.
- (ii) I shall wait till he comes.
- (iii) You will get success if you try hard.

II. Present Continuous Tense

1. Present Continuous Tense is used for an action going on at the time of speaking. *e.g.*,

- (i) The boys are playing cricket.
- (ii) It is raining heavily.
- (iii) She is sleeping in the room.

2. This tense is used for a temporary action which may not be actually happening at the time of speaking. *e.g.*,

- (i) He is reading the Bible.
- (ii) She is learning French.
- (iii) They are working on this project.

3. This tense is used for an action that is planned or arranged to take place in the near future. *e.g.*,

- (i) Her brother is arriving tomorrow.
- (ii) We are going to the cinema tonight.
- (iii) They are leaving for Mumbai next Friday.

4. This tense is used to express intention or likelihood and it indicates future time. *e.g.*,

- (i) He is going to meet her.
- (ii) Dhoni is playing to score runs.
- (iii) You are going to fail.

III. Present Perfect Tense

1. Present Perfect Tense is used to indicate completed activities in the immediate past. *e.g.*,

- (i) He has just arrived.
- (ii) They have left for Delhi.

2. This tense is used to denote an action beginning at some time in the past and continuing up to the present moment (often with since/for phrases). *e.g.*,

- (i) I have worked here for five years.
- (ii) She has known him for a long time.
- (iii) We have lived here since 1998.

3. This tense is used to express past actions whose time is not given and not definite. *e.g.*,

- (i) Have you been to Agra?
- (ii) She has read 'Geetanjali'.
- (iii) I have written five books.

IV. Present Perfect Continuous Tense

1. Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used to express an action which began at some time in the past and is still continuing. *e.g.*,

- (i) She has been sleeping for four hours.
- (ii) They have been living here for ten years.
- (iii) We have been working on this project since May last.

2. This tense is also sometimes used for an action already finished. In such cases the continuity of the activity is emphasised as an explanation of something. *e.g.*,

- (i) She has been waiting for you.
- (ii) He has been playing.
- (iii) They have been fighting.

V. Simple Past Tense

1. Simple Past Tense is used to indicate an action completed in the past where time of the completed action is mentioned. *e.g.*,

- (i) I met her a week ago.
- (ii) We left school last year.
- (iii) He saw you yesterday.

2. This tense is used to indicate a situation related to the past. *e.g.*,

- (i) She was a good teacher.
- (ii) We were very poor.
- (iii) I was very happy.

3. This tense is also used to express past habits. *e.g.*,

- (i) He always carried a stick.
- (ii) She never came late.
- (iii) I studied two hours everyday.

VI. Past Continuous Tense

1. Past Continuous Tense is used to denote an action going on at sometime in the past. *e.g.*,

- (i) She was playing chess.
- (ii) We were talking loudly.
- (iii) It was getting dark.

2. This tense is used to denote actions going on at the sametime in the past. *e.g.*,

- (i) While you were sleeping, she was reading.
- (ii) While he was laughing, Sonu was weeping.

3. This tense is also used for persistent habits in the past. *e.g.*,

- (i) She was always complaining.
- (ii) He was always chewing tobacco.

VII. Past Perfect Tense

1. Past Perfect Tense is used to describe an action completed before a certain moment in the past. *e.g.*,

- (i) She had written a poem even before she was eight years old.
- (ii) I had seen him last five years before.

2. If two actions happened in the past, the earlier one will be denoted by past perfect while the latter one is denoted by simple past. *e.g.*,

- (i) The train had left before I reached the station.
- (ii) She took dinner after they had gone.
- (iii) We had slept before he came.

VIII. Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Past Perfect Continuous Tense is used to express an action that had begun before a certain point in the past and continued up to that time. *e.g.*,

- (i) At that time she had been living there for two years.
- (ii) We had been playing football since 2000.

IX. Simple Future Tense

1. Simple Future Tense is used to express an action that is still to take place. *e.g.*,

- (i) He will come here tomorrow.
- (ii) We shall meet her on Monday.
- (iii) You will do it.

2. This tense is also used to express intention, will, threat and determination. *e.g.*,

- (i) I will never tell a lie.
- (ii) He shall not come here again.
- (iii) We will help her.

X. Future Continuous Tense

1. This tense is used to talk about actions which will be in progress at a time in the future. *e.g.*,

- (i) She will be sleeping in the room.
- (ii) They will be watching the match on TV.
- (iii) I shall be reading a novel.

2. This tense is also used to express future events that are planned. *e.g.*,

- (i) She will be coming here for your marriage.
- (ii) I shall be staying here till Monday.

XI. Future Perfect Tense

1. Future Perfect Tense is used to indicate the completion of an action by a certain future time. *e.g.*,

- (i) We shall have reached there by evening.
- (ii) She will have written the letter by then.

2. This tense is used when there are two actions and it is necessary to emphasise that the preceding action will be completely finished before the next action starts. *e.g.*,

- (i) She will have left before you go to see her.
- (ii) I shall have come before she sleeps.

XII. Future Perfect Continuous Tense

Future Perfect Continuous Tense is used for actions which will be in progress over a period of time that will end in the future. *e.g.*,

- (i) We shall have been living here for ten years by next August.
- (ii) She will have been reading for three hours.

Subject-Verb Agreement

The subject and the verb are the essential parts of a sentence. A verb must agree with its subject in number and person. With a singular subject, verb must be singular, with a plural subject verb must be plural.

e.g.,

- (i) The Supreme Court judge decides the appropriate penalty.

The subject is 'judge' which is singular in number. With this singular number the verb will have s or es added to it accordingly.

- (ii) The committee members were satisfied with the resolution.

The subject is members and here verb used is 'were' which is used with plural numbers.

Some Important Rules Related to Tenses

Rule 1 Two or more singular nouns or pronouns joined by *and* take a plural verb. *e.g.*,

- (i) He and his sister were playing.
- (ii) Gold and silver are precious metals.
- (iii) Fire and water do not agree.

Rule 2 If two singular nouns refer to the same person or thing, the verb must be singular. *e.g.*,

- (i) The magistrate and collector has come.
- (ii) The poet and critic has been honoured.
- (iii) A red and white bull is in the field.

When the *article* is used before both the nouns, two different persons/things are intended and hence the verb must be plural. *e.g.*,

- (i) The magistrate and the collector have come.
- (ii) The poet and the critic have been honoured.
- (iii) A red and a white bull are in the field.

When the article is used before only one noun, one person or one object, the verb must be singular.

Rule 3 When two or more subjects are joined by *as well as, like, besides, with, in addition to, together with, along with, but, except* etc, the verb is used according to the first subject. *e.g.*,

- (i) The leader with all his followers was arrested.
- (ii) The ship along with its crew was lost.
- (iii) The guru as well as his disciples is committed to celibacy.

Rule 4 Either, neither, each, every, anyone, someone, nobody must be followed by a singular verb. *e.g.*,

- (i) Neither of your friends is intelligent.
- (ii) Each of these substances is found in India.
- (iii) Either of them has done this.

Rule 5 When the subjects joined by *or, nor, either*or, neithernor are of different persons, the verb agrees with the nearer. *e.g.*,

- (i) Either you or I am going.
- (ii) Neither Rekha nor her friends were present at the party.
- (iii) You or she is to blame.

Rule 6 If two subjects together express one idea, the verb is singular. *e.g.*,

- (i) Honour and glory is his reward.
- (ii) Whisky and soda was served in the party.
- (iii) The horse and carriage is at the door.

Rule 7 If the subject of a clause is a relative pronoun (*who, which, that*), the verb is used according to the antecedent of the relative pronoun. *e.g.*,

- (i) The boys who are playing are my friends.
- (ii) It is I who am helping you.
- (iii) She knows the boy who has broken the glass.

Rule 8 When plural nouns explain specific amount, distance, quantity, time or period as a whole, the verb should be singular. *e.g.*,

- (i) Fifty rupees was the amount given to her.
- (ii) Three hours is too short a time to judge one's character.
- (iii) Hundred miles is a long distance.

Rule 9 When nouns like glasses, shoes, scissors, pants, trousers, spectacles etc are used as subject, the verb is plural.

e.g.,

- (i) His trousers are very loose.
- (ii) My scissors are sharp.
- (iii) Your spectacles were on the table.

If a pair of is used before these nouns, the verb must be singular. *e.g.*,

- (i) A pair of scissors has been bought.
- (ii) A pair of shoes was presented to him.

Rule 10 Furniture, luggage, scenery, information, percentage, knowledge, advice, news, music etc are always singular and take a singular verb. *e.g.*,

- (i) All his luggage was thrown out.
- (ii) Wordsworth's poetry is immortal.
- (iii) The scenery of Kashmir is beautiful.

1.3 NOUNS

A Noun is a word used as the name of a person, place or thing.

Use of Nouns

Rule 1 Some nouns like furniture, information, scenery, machinery, work, wood, paper, glass, dust, traffic, electricity, food, grass, luggage, advice etc are always singular.

These are Uncountable Nouns. Neither *a/an* is used before them nor their plural is formed. *e.g.*,

- (i) The advice of elderly people help young person grow.
- (ii) He gave me information.

Rule 2 Some nouns have the singular and the plural all. As sheep, deer, swine, species etc. *e.g.*,

- (i) A sheep is grazing in the field.
Sheep are grazing in the field.
- (ii) It is a rare species.
There are many species of dogs.

Rule 3 Nouns expressing number like dozen, score, hundred, thousand etc are used in singular with numerical adjectives. *e.g.*,

- (i) She bought three dozen oranges.
- (ii) There are two score books in this almirah.
- (iii) I gave him five hundred rupees.

Rule 4 Some nouns like cattle, poultry, people, gentry, peasantry, electorate etc are always plural.

- (i) Cattle are not allowed to enter this ground.
- (ii) These poultry are mine.
- (iii) There are few gentry in this town.

1.4 PRONOUNS

A *Pronoun* is a word used instead of a noun.

Use of Pronouns

Some rules are given below according to the kinds of pronoun.

I. Personal Pronouns

I, we, you, he, me, her, them etc.

1. If a pronoun acts as a subject of a verb, it is in nominative/subjective case and if it acts as an object of a verb, it is in objective case.

Nominative case I, we, you, he, she, it, they.

e.g. I am a teacher.

Objective case me, us, you, him, her, it, them.

e.g. Rakesh teaches *me* English.

2. A Pronoun is used in objective case after *let*. *e.g.*,

(i) Let him and me do this .

(ii) Let her and us go.

3. A Pronoun is used in objective case after a *preposition*.

e.g.,

(i) She was angry with you and him.

(ii) They laughed at her and me.

4. Nominative case is used after *than* if the comparison is between two nominatives. *e.g.*,

(i) As a student of science you are far better than he.

(ii) She drives faster than I.

5. Objective case is used after *than* if the comparison is between two objects. *e.g.*,

(i) She loves you more than me.

(ii) I know her better than him.

6. Good manners require that the order of personal pronouns in a sentence is 231 *i.e.*, the second person should come before the third and the third person before the first. *e.g.*,

(i) You and I must work together.

(ii) You and he will follow it.

(iii) You, he and I are going to Delhi.

While referring to unpleasant acts or accepting guilt/ mistake, the order of personal pronouns in a sentence should be 123. *e.g.*,

(i) I, you and he have stolen the money.

(ii) I and you will be punished.

II. Distributive Pronouns

Each, either, neither

1. *Either* and *Neither* are used for two persons or things. *e.g.*,

(i) Either of them can do this.

(ii) Neither of you will go there.

2. *Each* is used for two or more than two persons/ things. *e.g.*,

(i) Each of the students contributed fifty rupees.

(ii) Each of the two boys is doing his work .

For more than two persons or things any/anyone is used in place of either and none in place of neither. *e.g.*,

(i) Anyone of the students can participate in the debate.

(ii) None of these boys will enter the class.

III. Demonstrative Pronouns

This, that, these, those, such.

1. *This* and *these* are used for the persons / things which are near the speaker.

This is used for one person/thing and *these* is used for more than one person/ thing. *e.g.*,

(i) This computer is a present for you.

(ii) These flowers are beautiful.

2. *That* and *those* are used for the persons/things which are away from the speaker.

That is used for one person/thing and *those* is used for more than one person / thing. *e.g.*,

(i) That boy is my friend.

(ii) Those shirts are mine.

IV. Indefinite Pronouns

One, some, any, everybody, somebody, anybody, everyone, someone, anyone, no one, everything, something, anything, nothing etc.

1. In referring to anybody, everybody, everyone, anyone, each etc, the pronoun related to *he* or *she* is used according to the context. *e.g.*,

(i) I shall be glad to help everyone of my boys in his studies.

(ii) Everyone of the Miss India contestants tried to improve herself through rigorous training.

2. The indefinite pronoun *one* should be used throughout, if used at all, *i.e.*, its nominative— one, objective—one, possessive— one's and reflexive— oneself should be used. *e.g.*,

(i) One should take care of one's house .

(ii) One should help oneself.

V. Reflexive Pronouns

Myself, yourself, himself, herself, ourselves, itself etc

1. A reflexive pronoun or an object must be put after verbs such as *acquit*, *absent*, *avail*, *resign*, *revenge*, *enjoy*, *exert*, *apply*, *adopt*, *adjust*, *avenge*, *pride*. *e.g.*,

(i) I absented myself from the class.

(ii) You should avail yourself of every chance in life.

- Verbs such as *bathe, break, burst, feed, gather, hide, keep, make, move, open, qualify, rest, roll, speed, steal, stop, turn*, are usually not followed by a reflexive pronoun. *e.g.*,
 - He has qualified for the post.
 - You should keep away from bad boys.
- A reflexive pronoun cannot be used as a substitute for the subject. *e.g.*,

Bunti and myself decided to join the army. (Incorrect)

Bunti and I decided to join the army. (Correct)

VI. Emphatic Pronouns

When *myself, yourself, ourselves, herself, itself, themselves* etc are used for the sake of emphasis they are called emphatic pronouns. *e.g.*,

- I myself went to finalise the deal.
- They themselves admitted their guilt.

VII. Relative Pronouns

Who, whom, whose, which, that

- Who* is used for persons only and *which* is used for things without life and for animals. *e.g.*,
 - This is the man who brought the news.
 - The horse which I recently bought is an Arab.
- That* is used for persons and things. *e.g.*,
 - This is the man that brought the news.
 - The horse that I recently bought is an Arab.
- Who/Which* is used in both defining and non-defining cases *that* is used in defining case. *e.g.*,
 - The horse which she has bought is black.
 - I have bought a dog which is white.

Here, in the first sentence *that* can be used in place of *which* but in the second sentence it can't be used.
- That* is used after superlative degree, all, same, only, none, nothing. *e.g.*,
 - He was the most eloquent speaker that I have ever heard.
 - It is only donkeys that bray.
- Who* is used in nominative case *i.e.*, it is followed by a verb while *whom* is used in objective case *i.e.*, it is not followed by a verb *e.g.*,
 - This is the boy who broke the glass.
 - The girl whom I met today was his friend.

VIII. Interrogative Pronouns

Who, whom, whose, which, what

- Who* is used for person. *e.g.*,
 - Who was knocking at the door?
 - Who called you here?

- Which* is used for both persons and things. It implies selection. *e.g.*,
 - Which of these boys will win the prize?
 - Which of them has said so?
- After preposition *whom* is used instead of *who*. *e.g.*,
 - By whom was the flower plucked?
 - About whom are you talking?

IX. Exclamatory Pronouns

When interrogative word *what* is used to express surprise it is called exclamatory pronoun. *e.g.*,

What! you don't know Amitabh?

X. Reciprocal Pronouns

Each other, one another

Each other is used for two persons/ things and *one another* is used for more than two persons/things. When some kind of exchange is implied.

- They all loved one another.
- The two friends quarrelled with each other.

From the examination point of view, you should remember that *each other* is used for two persons / things and *one another* is used for more than two persons/things.

1.5 ADJECTIVES

An *Adjective* is a word that tells us about or adds to the meaning of a noun.

e.g.,

- She lives in a *big* house.

Big is an adjective telling us more about the noun 'house'.

- I like *this* pen.

This is an adjective pointing towards the noun 'pen'.

Position of Adjectives

Descriptive adjectives are used before a noun (attributively)

e.g.,

A *lovely* child.

Lovely is an adjective which is used before a noun.

- Sometimes Adjectives are used after the noun and are called (Predicative)

e.g.,

Mala looks *happy*.

Happy is an adjective which has come after the noun 'Mala'.

Kinds of Adjectives

Some rules are given below according to the kinds of adjective.

I. Proper Adjectives

Proper adjective must begin with a capital letter.
e.g., Indians are well-mannered.

II. Possessive Adjectives

Possessive Adjectives are always used before noun. e.g.,
My book, Your brother, His horse

III. Distributive Adjectives

Each, every, either, neither.

(a) Each is used for two or more than two things/ persons. e.g.,

- (i) Each boy must take his turn.
- (ii) Each of the two girls is beautiful.

(b) Every is used for more than two persons/ things. e.g.,

- (i) Every word of the story is false.
- (ii) He gave every girl the same dress.

(c) Either and Neither are used for two persons/ things. e.g.,

- (i) Take either side, whichever you prefer.
- (ii) Neither of the two ministers was available for comments.

(d) Article is not used before the nouns which are used after each, every, either, neither. e.g.,

- (i) Either a book will serve the purpose. (Incorrect)
- (ii) Either book will serve the purpose. (Correct)

IV. Demonstrative Adjectives

This, that, these, those, such, same, a, an, ascertain, some, any, any other, another, other.

These adjectives are used to point out a noun.
e.g., (i) This book belongs to that girl.

Any of you could do the task easily.

V. Numeral Adjectives

(a) Definite adjective as Cardinals (one, two, three...) and ordinals (first, second, last...) denote exact or order of persons/things.

Cardinals (one, two, three...) are used after ordinals (first, second, third...last), if they both are to be used in a sentence. e.g.,

- (i) The first two lessons of the novel are interesting.
- (ii) The last three questions of this chapter have to be completed.

(b) Indefinite adjective as many, some, enough, few, all, most, various, several, etc. are used to denote number of some kind without saying precisely what the number is e.g.,

- (i) Many students have participated in school function.
- (ii) All of my friends are intelligent.

VI. Quantitative Adjectives

These adjectives show the quantity or degree of a thing.
e.g., much, little, whole, some, enough, all etc.

(i) Much, little, whole are always used for quantity.
e.g., much milk, little sugar, whole book

(ii) All, some, enough, sufficient, most are used for both quantity and number.
e.g., There is sufficient water supply in the locality.

VII. Qualitative Adjectives

These adjectives show what quality or in what state persons or things are.

e.g., big, small, brave, sick, ugly, good etc
brave boy, ugly picture, good student

VIII. Interrogative Adjectives

What, where, which, who etc.

These adjectives are used to ask questions. e.g.,

- (i) Which picture do you like the most?
- (ii) Whose wife is she?

IX. Exclamatory Adjectives

What and How are called Exclamatory Adjective when it is used to express surprise. e.g.,

- (i) What an idea!
- (ii) How beautiful the scenery is!

Rules Related to Adjectives

1. Senior, superior, junior, prior, inferior, posterior are followed by to instead of than.

- (i) All his colleagues are senior than him. (Incorrect)
- All his colleagues are senior to him. (Correct)

2. Interior, exterior, minor, major etc are the adjectives of positive degree. Neither more/most is used before them nor than/to is used after them. e.g.,

- (i) His age is a matter of minor importance.
- (ii) The interior decoration of his office is excellent.

3. After comparatively or relatively positive degree is used. e.g.,

- (i) The wind is comparatively colder today. (Incorrect)
- The wind is comparatively cold today. (Correct)

4. Before enough positive degree is used. e.g.,

- (i) He is smarter enough to get selected for this prestigious post. (Incorrect)
- He is smart enough to get selected for this prestigious post. (Correct)

5. **To** is used after *prefer* if the comparison is between two nouns. *e.g.*,

- (i) He prefers milk to tea.

But rather than is used after *prefer* if the comparison is between two infinitives. *e.g.*,
She prefers to sleep rather than play.

6. **To** is used after *preferable*. *e.g.*,

- (i) Fish is preferable to chicken.

7. *Perfect, complete, full, excellent, unique, circular, extreme, universal, chief, golden* etc. are used neither in comparative degree nor in superlative degree. *e.g.*,

- (i) Money is the chiefest aim of his life. (Incorrect)
Money is the chief aim of his life. (Correct)

8. In positive degree, we use 'as...so/as.'

- (i) Dhoni's performance in the match was as better as Yuvraj's. (Incorrect)
Dhoni's performance in the match was as good as Yuvraj's. (Correct)

1.7 ADVERBS

An *Adverb* is a word which modifies the meaning of a verb, an adjective or another adverb.

e.g.,

- (i) Neha sings *melodiously*. (modifying verb sings)
(ii) She is extremely *beautiful*. (modifying adjective beautiful)
(iii) She writes *very* carefully (modifying adverb carefully)

Kinds of Adverbs

- Adverbs of Time** Such adverbs tell us about time. *e.g.*, before, now, soon, today, tomorrow, shortly, early, ago etc.
- Adverbs of Place** These adverbs point out towards place. *e.g.*, above, around, away, below, everywhere, here, nowhere, there, inside, outside etc.
- Adverbs of Manner** These adverbs point out the way or manner in which work is performed. *e.g.*, so, badly, fluently, carefully, fast, hard, certainly etc.
- Adverbs of Number or Frequency** These adverbs denote how many times a work has been done. *e.g.*, once, twice, seldom, always, never, often, hardly, rarely etc.
- Adverbs of Reason** These adverbs denote the reason of any action. *e.g.*, consequently, therefore, hence etc.

6. **Adverbs of Quantity, Extent or Range** These types of adverbs show in what degree or how much or to what extent an action was done. *e.g.*, very, too, enough, almost, partially, whole, little etc.

7. **Adverbs of Affirmation and Negation** These adverbs are used to affirm an action or to negate it. *e.g.*, yes, no, surely, certainly, not etc.

Some Important Adverbs and Their Use

I. Too and Very

Too means 'more than required' and it is usually used before unpleasant adjectives.

Very means 'in a great degree' and it is used before pleasant/unpleasant adjectives.

If the sentence is not based on **too** **to** structure, *very* should be used in place of *too*. *e.g.*,

(i) I am *too* happy today. (Incorrect)
I am *very* happy today. (Correct)

(ii) My son's health has been *too* good. (Incorrect)
My son's health has been *good*. (Correct)

II. Too much and Much too

After *too much* a noun is used.

After *much too* an adjective is used. *e.g.*,

- (i) His wife's rude behaviour gives him *too much* pain. (Incorrect)
His wife's rude behaviour gives him *much too* pain. (Correct)

III. Much and Very

(a) *Very* is used with positive degree and *much* is used with comparative degree. *e.g.*,

- (i) The air is *very* hot today.
(ii) The air is *much* hotter today than yesterday.

(b) *Very* is used with present participle and *much* is used with past participle. *e.g.*,

- (i) It is *very* surprising for me.
(ii) I was *much* surprised at hearing the news.

IV. Fairly and Rather

(a) *Fairly* is used with positive degree while *rather* is used with both positive degree and comparative degree.

(b) *Fairly* is used with pleasant objectives while *rather* is usually used with unpleasant adjectives. *e.g.*,

- (i) She is *fairly* wise.
(ii) This job is *rather* difficult.
But, *rather* good, *rather* clever, *rather* pretty used.

V. Hard and Hardly

Hard means 'difficult' or 'solid'. It is used as an adjective as well as an adverb.

Hardly means 'almost not' and it is used as an adverb. *e.g.*,

- (i) It is hard to believe that he is guilty.
- (ii) There is hardly any tea left.

VI. Late and Lately

Late means 'near the end of a period of time' and *lately* means 'recently'. *e.g.*,

- (i) She married in her late twenties.
- (ii) He had lately returned from Australia.

VII. Ago

Ago is always used in past indefinite tense. *e.g.*,

- (i) I met her a year ago.
- (ii) This had happened a week ago. (Incorrect)
This happened a week ago. (Correct)

VIII. Enough

- (a) *Enough* is used just after the word that it qualifies.
- (b) Always use positive degree of adjective/adverb before *enough*. *e.g.*,

 - (i) He is now strong enough to leave his bed.
 - (ii) She is enough wise to allow her son to go. (Incorrect)
She is wise enough to allow her son to go. (Correct)

IX. Else

Else should always be followed by *but* and never by *than*. *e.g.*, (i) It is nothing else but love.

X. Still and Yet

Still is usually used in affirmative sentences and *yet* in negative sentences. *e.g.*,

- (i) He has not still returned the money. (Incorrect)
He has not yet returned the money. (Correct)

Position of Adverbs

1. Always, often, seldom, never, just, ever, usually, hardly, already, nearly etc are used before the main verb. *e.g.*,

 - (i) I have told often him to write neatly. (Incorrect)
I have often told him to write neatly. (Correct)
 - (ii) He never talks ill of his friends.
 - (iii) Imran always comes late.

2. Adverbs of time/ place/manner are generally placed after the verb or after the object if there is one. *e.g.*,

 - (i) He does his work carefully.
 - (ii) She looked everywhere.
 - (iii) I met her yesterday.

3. If adverbs of time/place/manner all are to be used in a sentence, the normal order is—adverb of manner, adverb of place, adverb of time. *e.g.*,

- (i) He danced in the city hall well last night. (Incorrect)
He danced well in the city hall last night. (Correct)

4. Adverbs of quantity are usually used before the word that they qualify. *e.g.*,

- (i) The party was too dull.
- (ii) She is quite cool.

5. *Only* should be placed immediately before the word it qualifies. *e.g.*,

- (i) We worked only for sums.
- (ii) She has slept only for two hours.

6. Preposition is not used before an adverb. *e.g.*,

- (i) My sister asked me to go to market with quickly. (Incorrect)
My sister asked me to go to market quickly. (Correct)

7. The adverbs of frequency and quantity should be placed before the auxiliaries *have to* and *used to*. *e.g.*,

- (i) I used to often take a break from my packed schedule. (Incorrect)
I often used to take a break from my packed schedule. (Correct)

8. An adverb is not used by splitting an infinitive. *e.g.*,

- (i) She asked him to carefully write the answer. (Incorrect)
She asked him to write the answer carefully. (Correct)

9. No adverb is used before *quite*. *e.g.*,

- (i) Raman is absolutely quite alone. (Incorrect)
Raman is quite alone. (Correct)

10. 'Inverted form of verb' is used in the sentences starting with *seldom*, *never*, *hardly*, *scarcely*, *rarely*, *no sooner*. *e.g.*,

- (i) No sooner had he entered the class than the bell rang.
- (ii) Seldom she meets her friends. (Incorrect)
Seldom does she meet her friends. (Correct)

1.7 CONJUNCTIONS

A *Conjunction* is a word which joins two or more than two words, phrases, clauses or sentences.

Some Important Rules Related to Conjunctions

Rule 1 *Scarcely/hardly* is always followed by *when/ before*. *e.g.*,

- (i) Scarcely had he gone out of the office then he came. (Incorrect)
Scarcely had he gone out of the office when he came. (Correct)

Rule 2 *Lest* is followed by *should*.

Not is not used with it. *e.g.*,

- (i) Be careful lest you will fall. (Incorrect)
 Be careful lest you should fall. (Correct)

Rule 3 *Although/though* must always be followed by *yet* or comma (,). *e.g.*,

- (i) Although he worked hard but he failed. (Incorrect)
 Although he worked hard yet he failed. (Correct)

Rule 4 *Both* is followed by *and* and not by *else*, *but* or *as well as*. *e.g.*,

- (i) Both Sonu as well as Pawan have done their work. (Incorrect)
 Both Sonu and Pawan have done their work. (Correct)

Rule 5 *Rather* and *other* are always followed by *than*. *e.g.*,

- (i) I have no other choice but to do it. (Incorrect)
 I have no other choice than to do it. (Correct)

Rule 6 *Neither* *nor* and *Either* *or* are used in pairs. These are followed by the same part of speech. *e.g.*,

- (i) He has invited neither him not her. (Incorrect)
 He has invited neither him nor her. (Correct)
 (ii) Either the step taken was right or wrong. (Incorrect)
 The step taken was either right or wrong. (Correct)

Rule 7 *Not only* is followed by *but also*. These always join the same parts of speech. *e.g.*,

- (i) He is going not only to open a hospital but also to inn. (Incorrect)
 He is going to open not only a hospital but also to inn. (Correct)

Rule 8 *Whether* is always followed by *or*. *e.g.*,

- (i) We don't care that you pass or fail. (Incorrect)
 We don't care whether you pass or fail. (Correct)

Rule 9 *The same* is followed by relative pronoun that. *e.g.*,

- (i) He is the same boy who broke the glass. (Incorrect)
 He is the same boy that broke the glass. (Correct)

As is used if the verb is not clear in the sentence. *e.g.*,
 This is the same dress as mine.

Rule 10 *Because*, *since*, *as*, *as soon as* are not followed by *therefore*, *thus*, etc. *e.g.*,

- (i) As he came late, therefore he was punished. (Incorrect)
 As he came late, he was punished. (Correct)

CHECK YOUR PREPARATION LEVEL

{EXERCISE 1}

Directions (Q. Nos 1-60) Find out the part which has an error in the following sentences. If there is no error, your answer is (d).

- You can not withdraw (a)/ all your money until (b)/ you give a prior notice. (c)/ No error (d)
- You should behave with others (a)/ the same way which you (b)/ expect them to behave with you. (c)/ No error (d)
- Either he nor his brother (a)/ was informed about the venue (b)/ of the meeting of our society. (c)/ No error (d)
- He not only believes (a)/ in hard work but also (b)/ in honesty of the highest order. (c)/ No error (d)
- No sooner did she (a)/ reach the station (b)/ then it started raining. (c)/ No error (d)
- The captain and his wife (a)/ were invited for the (b)/ cultural function at my home. (c)/ No error (d)
- Lightweight and easy to handle (a)/ automatic scooters have been a (b)/ godsend for women commuters. (c)/ No error (d)
- Let no one (a)/ remain with doubt that (b)/ India is getting stronger and stronger. (c)/ No error (d)
- When the students reached late (a)/ the teacher objected their entering the class (b)/ without his permission. (c)/ No error (d)
- Sheela advised to her (a)/ child not to play (b)/ with the ball on the road. (c)/ No error (d)
- The expert mason reported (a)/ to the owner of the hotel that (b)/ there was no question of the wall's falling down. (c)/ No error (d)
- "This blade's edge is sharper (a)/ than any other blades's," (b)/ said the representative of the company. (c)/ No error (d)
- Your son's-in law's friend is seriously ill and (a)/ he wants you (b)/ to see him as soon as possible. (c)/ No error (d)
- You know it well that your success in life (a)/ depends not on my advice (b)/ but on somebody's else. (c)/ No error (d)
- He suggested me (a)/ that I should go to nursery (b)/ to bring some beautiful summer's flowers. (c)/ No error (d)
- No sooner we entered (a)/ than he got up (b)/ and left the room. (c)/ No error. (d)
- He ultimately decided (a)/ to willingly and cheerfully accept (b)/ the responsibility entrusted to him. (c)/ No error (d)
- The gang members has confessed that (a)/ they had been obtaining bank account details (b)/ of their victims from a source based in Kenya. (c)/ No error (d)

- (CHAPTER 1)
19. Mahesh thought that he would pass (a)/ in the examination although he did not (b)/ answer most of the questions correct. (c)/ No error (d)
 20. Kunal's father advised him (a)/ not to ride the motorcycle (b)/ lately at night. (c)/ No error (d)
 21. Looking into the situation (a)/ that prevailed a few years ago (b)/ he was taken that decision. (c)/ No error (d)
 22. If you had not come in time (a)/ the child would have taken (b)/ by the dacoits. (c)/ No error (d)
 23. I knew our college library was run chaotically (a)/ but only recently did I discover (b)/ how bad the situation is. (c)/ No error (d)
 24. They talked for a while (a)/ and then they will continue to play (b)/ the game till tomorrow morning. (c)/ No error (d)
 25. We got everything ready (a)/ for all of them (b)/ long before they arrived. (c)/ No error (d)
 26. He looks more depressed (a)/ than her but I don't (b)/ know the reason. (c)/ No error (d)
 27. The person which was (a)/ recommended for the position (b)/ did not fulfil the prescribed qualifications. (c)/ No error (d)
 28. Weather officials said that there is (a)/likely to be wide spreading rainfall all over the (b)/ region over the next few weeks. (c)/No error (d).
 29. If all of you quarrel (a)/ among yourself we shall not (b)/ be able to solve your problems. (c)/ No error (d)
 30. They have invited Ramesh and I (a)/ to the function (b)/ to be held in the next month. (c)/ No error (d)
 31. We should drink several glasses (a)/ of the water daily (b)/ if we want to remain healthy. (c)/ No error (d)
 32. Children who have had (a)/ good Pre-School Education are most likely (b)/ to out do other children at school. (c)/ No error (d)
 33. On my request Jatin (a)/ introduced me to his friend (b)/ who is singer and scientist. (c)/ No error (d)
 34. The burglars were caught just as (a)/ they were about to (b)/ escape from the jail. (c)/ No error (d)
 35. The teacher drew (a)/ and attention of the boys (b)/ to the importance of regular practice. (c)/ No error (d)
 36. The committee has asked for more information (a)/and will again consider the entries on (b)/ the next meeting. (c)/No error (d)
 37. The monsoon showers and the fell in temperature (a)/ have brought a smile (b)/ on many faces. (c)/ No error (d)
 38. "I have never seen (a)/ such a lovely spectacles in my life," (b)/said the passer by. (c)/ No error (d)
 39. When you see his offsprings (a)/ you can't (b)/ believe that he is above seventy. (c)/ No error (d)
 40. An earthquake (a)/ is a natural phenomena (b)/ and nobody can check it, be sure. (c)/ No error (d)
 41. The Secretary of the worker's union remarked that (a)/ the present government is so selfish that (b)/ it cared very little about solving anyone else's problem. (c)/ No error (d)
 42. Please explain to me (a)/ how is a digital computer different (b)/ from an analogue computer. (c)/ No error (d)
 43. Schoolchildren in the city were in (a)/ for a surprise as they were treated to a feast (b)/ of some children's films being screened in the local theatres. (c)/ No error (d)
 44. The Secretary and Treasurer (a)/ were not present (b)/ at today's meeting. (c)/ No error (d)
 45. There is no field of (a)/ human endeavour that has been so (b)/ misunderstood as health. (c)/No error (d)
 46. My book is superior (a)/ than yours although it has (b)/ cost me much less. (c)/ No error (d)
 47. When Charles was in hospital (a)/ his sister sent (b)/ much fruit than his uncle. (c)/ No error (d)
 48. Dilip's performance in the film (a)/ was worst than Amit's (b)/ but was not as bad as Vinod's. (c)/ No error (d)
 49. The teacher said that (a)/ Ajay was capable of (b)/ doing more better work (c)/ No error (d)
 50. Even Shushruta has warned (a)/ that this provided the medical (b)/Practitioner Power over the patient which could be misused (c)/No error (d)
 51. He discussed about the problem so thoroughly (a)/ on the eve of the programme (b)/ that we found it very easy to work it out (c)/ No error (d)
 52. An Iranian ship (a)/ Laden with huge merchandise (b)/ got drowned in the Ocean (c)/ No error (d)
 53. Rakhi could not put up in a hotel (a)/ because the boarding and lodging charges (b)/ were exorbitant (c)/ No error (d)
 54. The Indian radio (a)/ which was previously controlled by the British rulers (b)/ is free now from the narrow vested interests (c)/ No error (d)
 55. If she had known (a)/ this yesterday (b)/ she will helped him (c)/ No error (d)
 56. A lot of delay in travelling is caused (a)/ Due to the inefficiency and lack of proper management (b)/ On behalf of the railways (c)/ No error (d)
 57. One of the members (a)/ Expressed doubt if (b)/ The player was an atheist (c)/ No error (d)
 58. You have got (a)/ Your M.Sc. degree (b)/ in 1988 (c)/ No error (d)
 59. Having received her letter (a)/ This morning, I am writing (b)/ To thank her for the same (c)/ No error (d)
 60. If I lend him a pen (a)/ He will lend it to someone else (b)/ And never I will get it back (c)/ No error (d)