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**SYLLABUS  
COVERED**

## Objective General English



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# Preface

*The English language is a work in progress, have fun with it!*  
*Quoted by Jonathan Culver for reasons that we shall decode for you here.*

We cannot reiterate enough the importance of English as a language, not only to crack competitive exams but also in widening the prospects their after. Being one of the most used languages, English has occupied a very prominent space in competitive examinations to understand a candidate's proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehension skills.

So, while competitive examinations are a pathway to getting into some of the most elite establishments, this book could be your pathway to cracking one of the most important sections of the exams.

The broad syllabus of this book covers Grammar, Vocabulary, and Verbal & Writing abilities. However, the degree of difficulty varies from paper to paper. The design and planning of Objective General English were done to fill the most identified gaps that could occur during a candidate's preparation.

Oswaal Objective General English book is developed by highly credentialed subject matter experts and is authored with the highest editorial standards, keeping in mind the rigor and meticulousness of competitive examinations.

Our books have ample tools to help candidates in their preparation and that is what sets them apart:

- ***Crisp Revision:*** Concepts Review and Mind Maps offer bite-sized and just-in-time revision tools.
- ***Extensive Practice:*** More than 1000 new questions segregated based on difficulty level.
- ***Concept Clarity:*** Easy to Grasp theory complemented by Rules & Solved examples.
- ***Expert Tips:*** Helps you get expert knowledge to master the English exam on your first attempt.
- ***Learning Objectives:*** Outlines what aspirant should understand or be able to achieve after the course

Our books have always been well received by our readers and this is a testament to our research-oriented approach. Our learning pedagogy supplements our editorial research and makes our book current and relevant. We hope our resources will help students to supplement their examination preparation strategy and secure high scores.

*We wish the readers great success ahead!*

Happy learning!

Team Oswaal

# Contents

◆ Importance of English Language in Competitive Examinations	5 - 5
◆ Tips to Crack English Language in First Attempt	6 - 6
◆ Syllabus of Major Competitive Examinations	7 - 8
◆ Weightage Analysis & Topic-wise Weightage Analysis	9 - 10
◆ 30 Mind - Blowing Facts about English Language	11 - 12
<hr/>	
Mind Maps	1 - 11
Chapter - 1 Parts of speech	12 - 13
Chapter - 2 Noun	14 - 23
Chapter - 3 Pronoun	24 - 32
Chapter - 4 Adjective	33 - 41
Chapter - 5 Verb	42 - 53
Chapter - 6 Adverbs	54 - 61
Chapter - 7 Preposition	62 - 75
Chapter - 8 Conjunction	76 - 84
Chapter - 9 Subject Verb Agreement	85 - 93
Chapter - 10 Articles	94 - 101
Chapter - 11 Active Tenses	102 - 114
Chapter - 12 Narration	115 - 125
Chapter - 13 Active and Passive Voice	126 - 139
Chapter - 14 Mixed Bag	140 - 154
Chapter - 15 Transformation of Sentences	155 - 163
Chapter - 16 Spellings	164 - 173
Chapter - 17 Phrasal Verbs	174 - 192
Chapter - 18 Idioms and Phrases	193 - 234
Chapter - 19 Proverbs	235 - 247
Chapter - 20 Synonyms	248 - 259
Chapter - 21 Antonyms	260 - 271
Chapter - 22 One Word Substitution	272 - 287
Chapter - 23 Confusing Words	288 - 300
Chapter - 24 The Same Word Used as Different Parts of Speech	301 - 306
Chapter - 25 Punctuation	307 - 315
Chapter - 26 Figures Of Speech	316 - 320
Chapter - 27 Modifiers	321 - 324
Chapter - 28 Parallel Structure	325 - 328

# Importance of English Language in Competitive Examinations

English language is a crucial component of many competitive examinations in India, such as the UPSC Civil Services Examination, IBPS Bank Exams, SSC CGL Exams, and many more. The importance of English language in these examinations can be attributed to the following reasons:

- 1. Global Language:** English is the most widely spoken language in the world, and is the language of communication in many international forums. As such, proficiency in English is important for professionals working in various fields, including government services.
- 2. Communication:** English is the language of communication in the modern world. A good command of English is essential to communicate effectively with people from different backgrounds, cultures and countries.
- 3. Education:** In India, English is often the medium of instruction in higher education institutions. Therefore, proficiency in English is crucial for students who want to pursue higher education.
- 4. Employability:** Many employers in India require their employees to be proficient in English, as it is essential for effective communication with customers, clients, and colleagues.
- 5. Competitive Examinations:** Many competitive examinations in India, including those conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS), Staff Selection Commission (SSC), and others, have English language as a compulsory component. Candidates who are unable to demonstrate proficiency in English may lose out on job opportunities and other benefits.

Overall, the importance of English language in competitive examinations in India cannot be overstated. Candidates who have a good command of English are more likely to succeed in these examinations and gain employment in various sectors.

# Tips to Crack English Language in the First Attempt

English language plays a significant role in competitive examinations, both in terms of its importance as a subject and its impact on other subjects, the English language is essential for success in competitive exams and a successful career. It is a key skill that is highly valued in many fields, and candidates who can communicate well in English have an advantage over their peers.

- 1 Think Right**

Calming yourself and thinking positive is the first and the best course of action that one is required to take. Think and believe that the exam goal is achievable if worked upon smartly.
- 2 Start studying from the beginning**

All the aspirants are aware of how vast, comprehensive and detailed the syllabus of the English Language section is. To crack the exam in the first attempt you have to start preparing for the exam from the beginning of your 12th class. It is only then that you will be able to complete the entire syllabus. Following this approach will also allow you plenty of time to revise.
- 3 Respect the syllabus and arrange the materials accordingly**

While preparing for the English Language nothing can be labelled as less important. Questions can come from the most unexpected topics too. Laying down your whole syllabus in front of you will help you to decide on the study material you require.
- 4 Get the right tools and study material**

Gathering and preparing from the appropriate study material is something you cannot be ignorant towards. You can refer to Oswaal 'Objective General English' to enhance your preparation. It is on the lines of the current syllabus and can be entrusted upon before the examination.
- 5 Schedule total time for each subject**

Creating a schedule which gives due time to all the subjects is a must. Giving proper time to all the subjects daily will help you cover the syllabus on time, giving you enough time for revision.
- 6 Understand the concepts**

No one can crack the English Language exam just by mugging up all the concepts and topics. The syllabus of the exam is in-depth such that you need to understand every concept.
- 7 Practice a lot of Sample Papers**

Oswaal 'Objective General English' will not only help you in understanding the examination pattern, but they will also help you in figuring out the questions that come up every year and this might give you an edge over other students. It includes all the typologies of Questions asked in the Examination, Previous Years Papers with solutions, Mind Maps, etc. Referring to various sample papers might also help you in comprehending the areas which require more work.
- 8 Revise whenever you get time**

Make sure you revise as much as possible. The revision will help you in keeping the concepts fresh in your mind.
- 9 Analysing your performance**

While you are solving papers, make sure you keep a track of time i.e. how much time does it take to solve one section or one question? Make a report of the sections and type of questions which take minimum and maximum time.

# Syllabus of Major Competitive Examinations

## SSC - Combined Graduate Level (CGL)

Idioms and Phrases	Reading Comprehension
One word Substitution	Synonyms-Antonyms
Sentence Correction	Active Passive
Error Spotting	Sentence Rearrangement
Fill in the Blanks	Sentence Improvement
Spellings Correction	Cloze test

## SSC - Combined Higher Secondary Level (CHSL)

Reading Comprehension	Multiple Meaning/Error Spotting
Cloze Test	Paragraph Completion
Para jumbles	One Word Substitution
Miscellaneous	Active and Passive Voice
Fill in the blanks	

## IBPS PO (Prelims)

Reading Comprehension	Error Detection, Error Spotting
Cloze Test	Paragraph Completion
Para jumbles	One word Substitution
Word Usage, Word-Swap	Miscellaneous
Fill in the blanks	

## IBPS Clerk

Vocabulary	Phrases and idioms
Homonyms	Direct and Indirect speech
Antonyms	Active/ Passive voice
Synonyms	Reading Comprehension
Word Formation	Theme Detection
Spelling	Passage completion
Grammar	Topic rearrangement of passage
Spotting Errors	Deriving Conclusion

## National Defence Academy/Naval Academy (NDA/NA)

Spotting Errors	Sentence Improvement
Comprehension	Antonyms
Selecting Words	Synonyms
Ordering of Words in a Sentence	

## Combined Defence Service (CDS)

Basic Grammar	Substitution of Words
Idioms & Phrases	Error Spotting
Synonyms and Antonyms	Para Jumbles
Reading Comprehension Solving	

## ....Contd.

### **Agniveer Navy (SSR)**

Passage  
Preposition  
Correction of sentences  
Change active to passive/passive to active voice  
Change direct to indirect/indirect to direct  
Verbs/Tense/Non Finites  
Punctuation  
Substituting phrasal verbs for expression  
Synonyms and Antonyms  
Meanings of difficult words  
Use of adjective  
Compound preposition  
Determiners (use of a, the, any etc), Use of pronouns

### **Agniveer Indian Air Force**

Word Formation (nouns from verbs, adjectives, etc.)  
Preposition  
Determiners  
Noun & Pronoun  
Conjunction  
Adverb  
Modals  
Clauses (noun, adverb & relative clauses)  
Subject-verb concord  
Verb formation and error in their use  
Sentence transformation (simple, negative, compound, complex, etc.)  
One-word substitution  
Synonyms  
Antonyms  
Spelling errors  
Idioms and phrases




# Weightage Analysis & Topicwise Weightage Analysis

Topics	Weightage Analysis & Topicwise Weightage Analysis							
	SSC - CHSL	SSC - CGL	IBPS PO	IBPS Clerk	NDA	CDS	Agniveer - Navy	Agniveer - AirForce
English Language – Section: 1 – Grammar								
Tenses							2-3	
Active & Passive Voice	1-2	2-3				5	2-3	1
Subject Verb Agreement								
Prepositions								
Conjunction								
Articles								
Noun								
Pronoun								
Adjectives								
Verb							2-3	
Adverb								
Direct & Indirect Speech						5		
Narration								1
English Language – Section: Ii – Verbal Ability								
Reading Comprehension	5	5	8-10	8-9	5	20-25	5	4
Cloze Test	5		6-8	5				
Fillers								
Sentence Jumbles								1
Sentence Improvement		1-2				20-24	10	3
Ordering of Sentences					5-10	15-20		
Ordering of Word in a Sentence					5	15-20		1
Para Jumbles	3-4							
Odd One Out								
Sentence Rearrangement		2-3	5					
Sentence Corrections		1-2					2	
Paragraph Completion								
Summary of Paragraph								
Sentence Connectors								
Mis-Spelt or Inappropriate Words	2-3							1
Match the Columns ((Sentence Matching) Matching)								

## ....Contd.

Topics	Weightage Analysis & Topicwise Weightage Analysis							
	SSC - CHSL	SSC - CGL	IBPS PO	IBPS Clerk	NDA	CDS	Agniveer - Navy	Agniveer - AirForce
Fill in the Blanks	1-2	1-2	5-6		5	10-15		3
Error Detection/Spotting	2-3	2-3		5	10	20-25		
Word Usage				4-5				
Jumbled Words			2-3					
Word Rearrangement				4-5				
English Language – Section: Iii – Vocabulary								
Words Often Confused & Misused								
Phrasal Verbs								
Phrase Replacement			5-6				2	
Synonyms	1-2	1-2			10	9-10	1	1
Antonyms	1-2	1-2			10	8-10	1	1
One Word Substitution	1-2	2-3				5-6		1
Idioms & Phrases	2-3	1-2			5			
Active & Passive								
<b>Over All Questions</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>20</b>

# 30 Mind-Blowing Facts about English Language

- 
- #1:** The English language has been around for over 1500 years.
- #2:** There are more than 150,000 words in the English language that are not found in the dictionary.
- #3:** English is the only language with three genders: masculine, feminine, and neuter.
- #4:** The word “set” has more definitions than any other word in the English language.” Set” can mean to put something down or establish a limit or standard. It can also mean to make someone angry or upset.
- #5:** There are more than 250,000 words in the Oxford English Dictionary.
- #6:** The English language is the most commonly spoken language in the world.
- #7:** There are more than 12,000 idiomatic expressions in the English language.
- #8:** The first sentence of the Bible was written in Hebrew, not English.
- #9:** Shakespeare invented over 1700 words that are still used today.
- #10:** A single word can have multiple meanings depending on its context. For example, “bat” can mean a tool for hitting a ball or an animal that flies at night.
- #11:** The English language is constantly changing and evolving.
- #12:** In order to become a proficient English speaker, you need to know about 4000 words.
- #13:** There are more than 100 dialects of the English language spoken around the world.
- #14:** The verb “to be” is one of the most commonly used verbs in the English language.
- #15:** The longest word in the English language is “antidisestablishmentarianism,” which is a word that describes someone who is opposed to the disestablishment of the Church of England.
- #16:** The English language is not phonetic, which means that the pronunciation of a word can vary depending on its context.
- #17:** There are no rules for spelling in the English language – just conventions.

# 30 Mind-Blowing Facts about English Language

**#18:**

“ough” can be pronounced in eight different ways, depending on how it is used in a sentence. For example, “enough” is pronounced “enuf”, “though” is pronounced “tho”, and “through” is pronounced “thro”.

**#19:**

The plural form of words can be spelled in two different ways, depending on whether or not they end with an “-s”. For example, the plural form of “mouse” is “mice”, but the plural form of “house” is “houses”.

**#20:**

There are no definite rules for capitalisation in the English language.

**#21:**

The English language has more than one million words, and new words are added to the dictionary every year. The Oxford English Dictionary is updated every three months with new words and definitions.

**#22:**

A word can be considered slang if it is used primarily by a specific group of people and not generally accepted as standard vocabulary. For example, the word “ghetto” was once considered slang, but it has now been accepted as part of standard vocabulary.

**#23:**

The English language is constantly changing and evolving. There are no definite rules for grammar or spelling, and new words are added to the dictionary every year. So, the next time you feel like complaining about how difficult English is, just remember that it’s this way because it’s alive and constantly growing!

**#24:**

English is the official language of over 60 countries, and it is taught as a foreign language in schools around the world.

**#25:**

English is a “borrowing” language, which means that it has evolved from other languages over the years. The majority of its vocabulary comes from French, Latin, and German. So, the next time you’re struggling with an English word, remember that it might not be English at all – it just looks that way!

**#26:**

The English language is the most commonly studied foreign language in the world.

**#27:**

The two most common words in English are I and you.

**#28:**

The majority of English words are not actually spelled the way they sound. For example, the word “hour” is pronounced “our”, but it is spelled “hour”.

**#29:**

There are no definite rules for using apostrophes in the English language. They can be used to indicate possession (e.g., “John’s book”), to show contractions (e.g., “I’m going”), or to denote a plural word that has been shortened (e.g., “don’t” is short for “do not”).

**#30:**

The English language is one of the most difficult languages to learn in the world. But with a little practice and some dedication, you can become a proficient English speaker!

# Positive Affirmations

I realize what I cannot Control and let the good things flow

I courageously move in the direction of my dreams

I am Supported fully by the universe

I am wrapped in the loving energy of the universe

All of my thoughts are aligned with my desires

I allow my desires to flow to me now

## Affirmations for the new "YOU"

I effortlessly attract my desires

// Accept yourself, love yourself, and keep moving forward. If you want to fly, you have to give up what weighs you down.

I am open to new experiences and welcome abundance into my life

When I let go, I create space for something better.

// I have the power to shift my mindset and see the good in everything.

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<b>MUMBAI</b>	Vidyanthi Sales Agencies, 9819776110, New Student Agencies, 7045065799,
<b>LATUR</b>	Yash Book House, 9637936999
<b>KOLHAPUR</b>	Granth the Book World, 9922295522,
<b>NAGPUR</b>	Laxmi Pustakalay and Stationers, (0712) 2727354
<b>NASHIK</b>	Renuka Book distributor, 9765406133, Novelty Book Depot, 9657690220, Karamveer Book Depot, 9923966466
<b>DHULE</b>	Rahul Book Centre, 9970849681, New India Book House, 9623123458
<b>YAVATMAL</b>	Navjeevan Book Stall, 7020525561 Shri Ganesh Pustakalaya, 9423131275

<b>CUTTACK</b>	<b>ODISHA</b> A. K. Mishra Agencies, 9437025991, 9437081319
<b>BHUBANESHWAR</b>	M/s Pragnya, 8847888616, 9437943777, Padmalaya, 9437026922,
<b>BARIPADA</b>	Trimurti Book World, 9437034735
<b>KEONJHAR</b>	Students corner, 7008435418
<b>AMBALA</b>	<b>PUNJAB</b> Bharat Book Depot, 7988455354
<b>JALANDHAR</b>	Cheap Book Store, 9872223458, 9878258592, City Book Shop, 9417440753
<b>LUDHIANA</b>	Amit Book, 9815807871
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<b>AGARTALA</b>	<b>TRIPURA</b> Book Corner, 8794894165, 8984657146
<b>COIMBATORE</b>	<b>TAMIL NADU</b> Majestic Book House, (0422) 2384333, CBSC Book Shop, 9585979752
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<b>PUDUCHERRY</b>	
<b>SALEM</b>	Pattu book centre, 9894816280
<b>TRICHY</b>	P.R.Sons Book Seller, 9443370597
<b>THENI</b>	Maya Book Centre, 9443929274
<b>HYDERABAD</b>	<b>TELANGANA</b> Sri Balaji Book Depot, (040) 27613300, 9866355473, Shah Book House, 9849564564
<b>AGRA</b>	<b>UTTAR PRADESH</b> Sparsh Book Agency, 9412257817, Om Pustak Mandir, (0562) 2464014, 9319117771
<b>ALLAHABAD</b>	Mehrotra Book Agency, (0532) 2266865, 9415636890
<b>AZAMGARH</b>	Sasta Sahitya Sadan, 9450029674
<b>ALIGARH</b>	K.B.C.L. Agarwal, 9897124960, Shaligram Agencies, 9412317800, New Vimal Books, 9997398868
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# WRITING YOUR NOTES

**Just in case you have forgotten today, takedown your notes!**

**But why is it so important?**

Tools for the hands are tools for the brain writes Hetty Roessingh.

Handwritten notes are a powerful tool for encrypting embodied cognition and in turn supporting the brain's capacity for recuperation of information. If that sounds so scientific then in simple words:

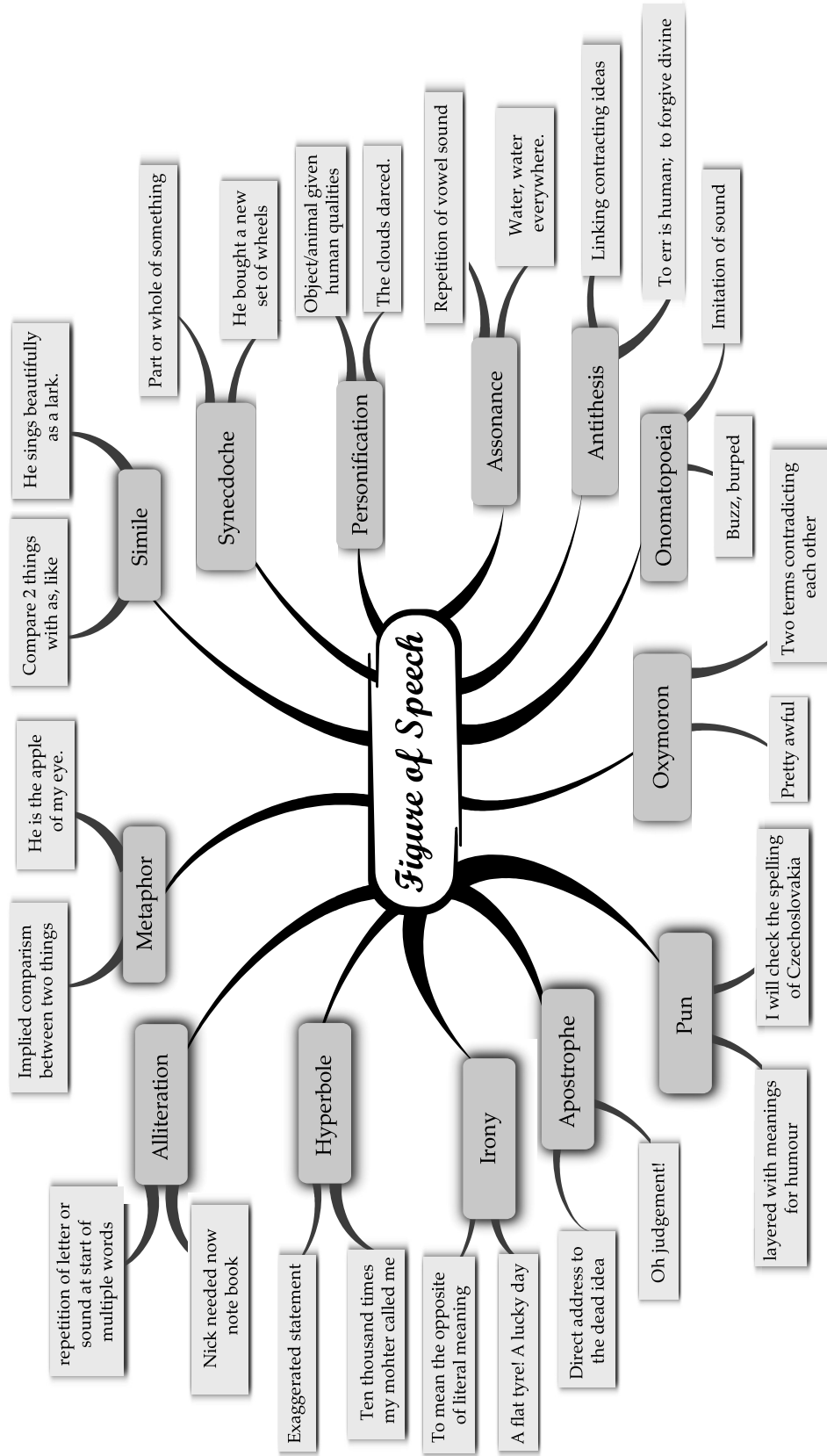
Writing notes by hand help you in:

- Increasing your comprehension
- Strengthening your memory
- Igniting your creativity
- Engaging your mind
- Increasing your attention span

Are these reasons enough to get you started?

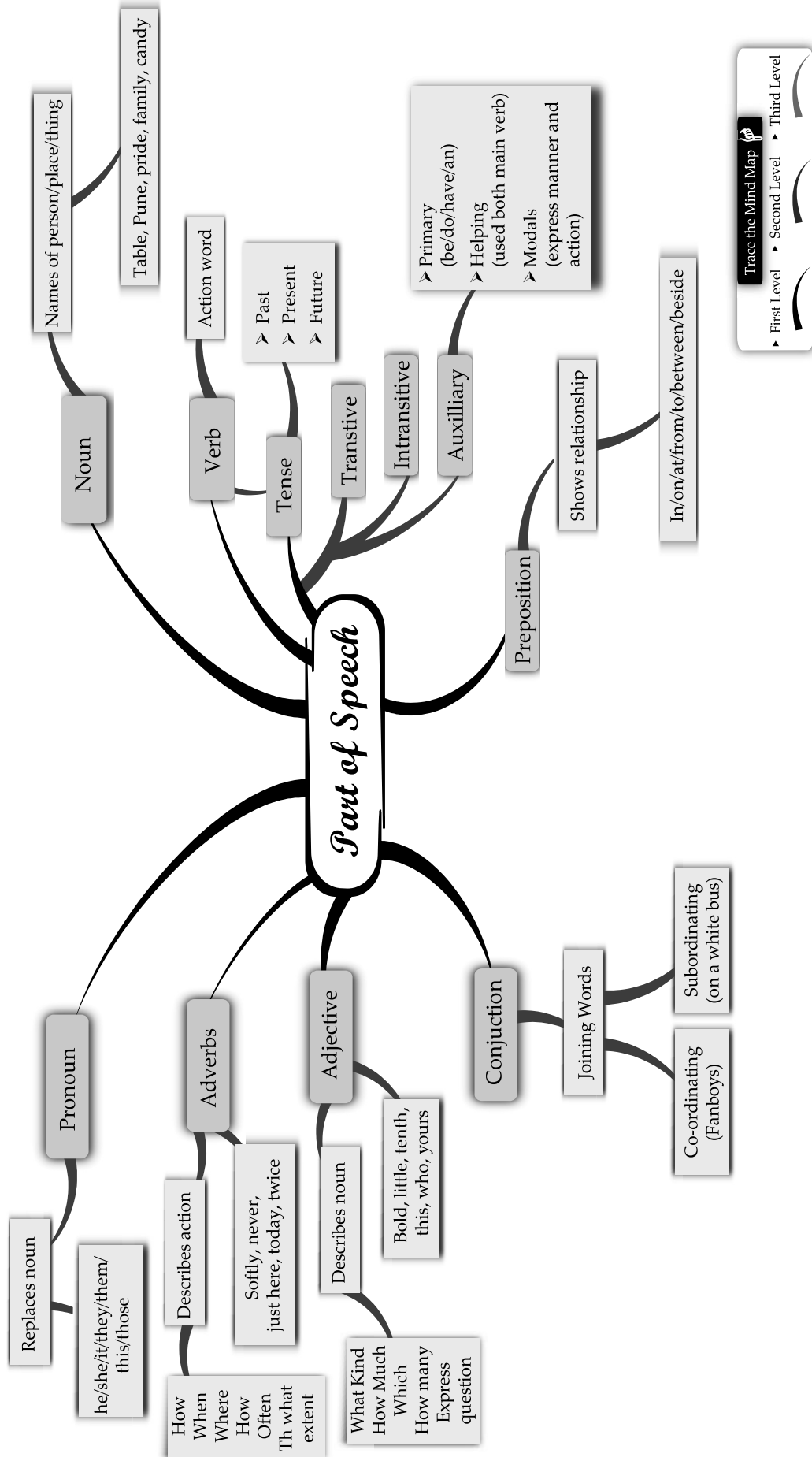
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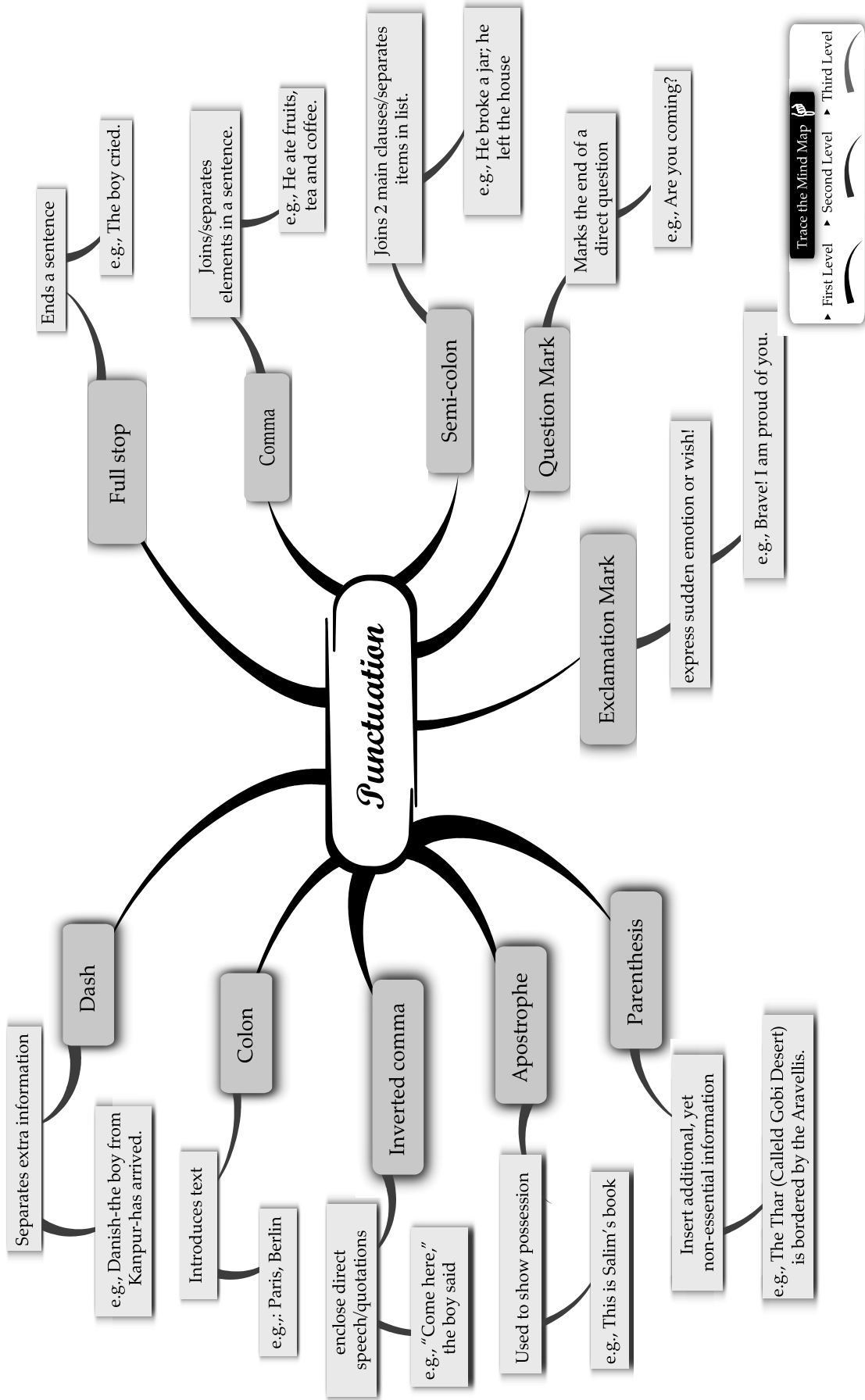
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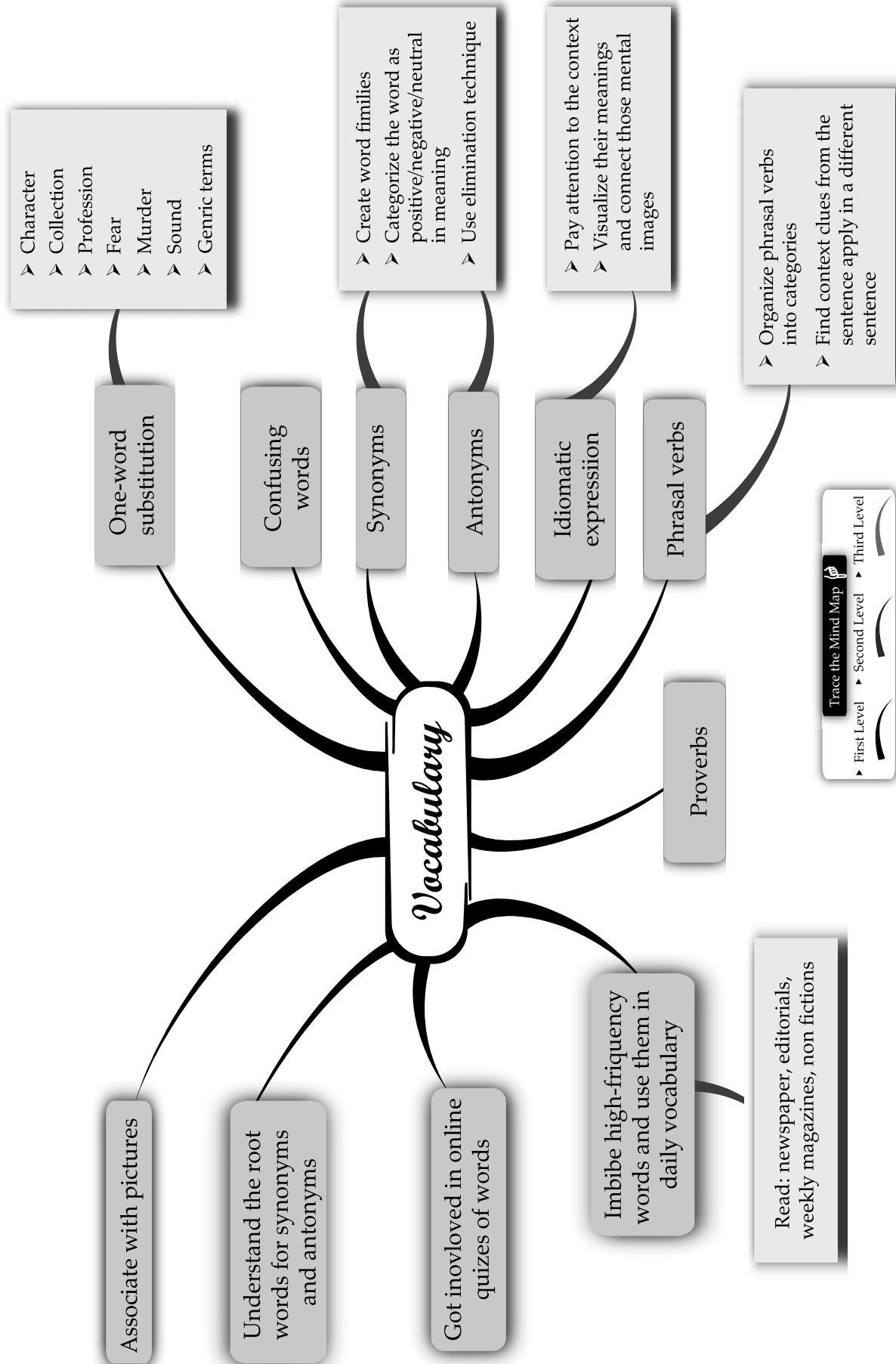
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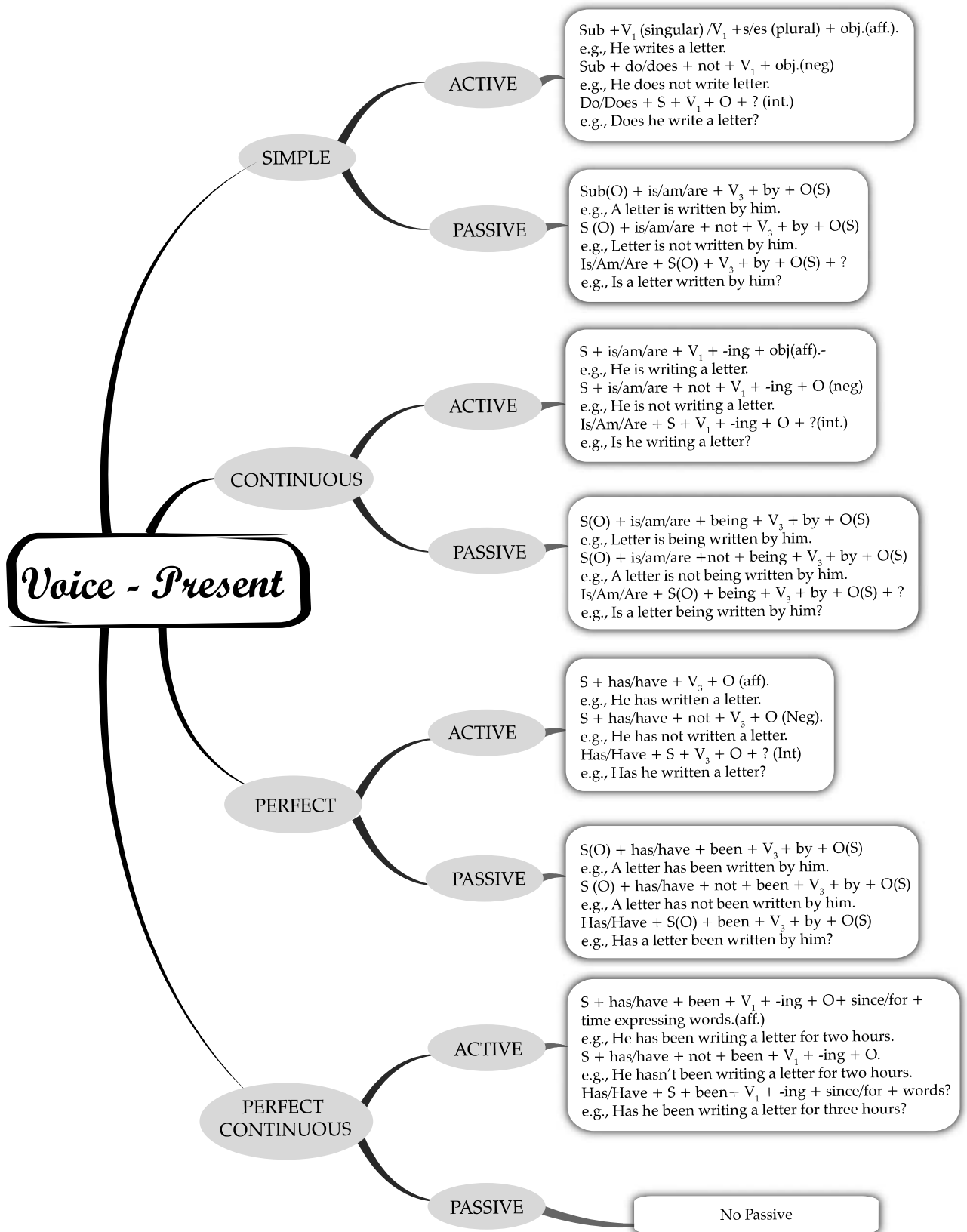
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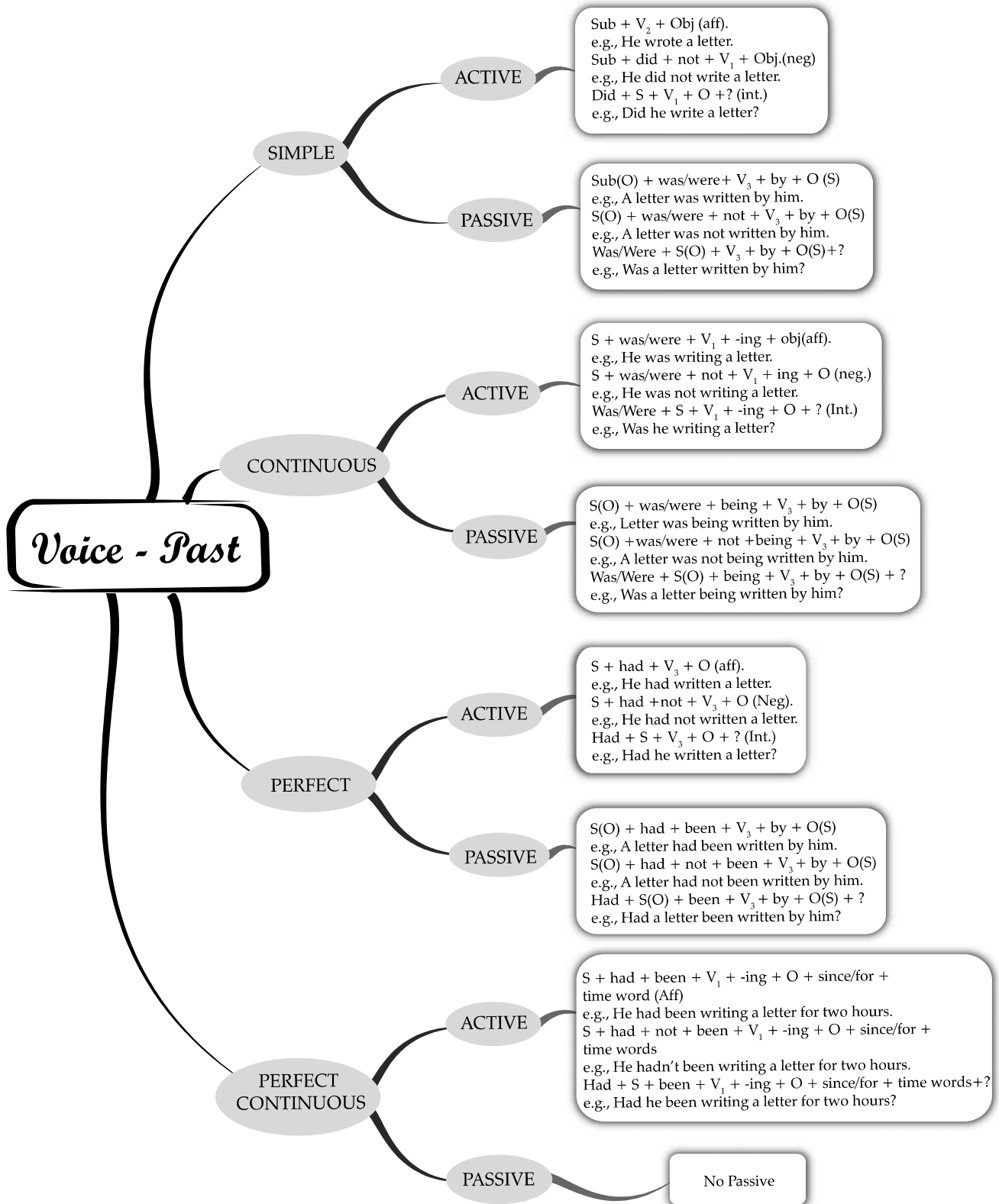
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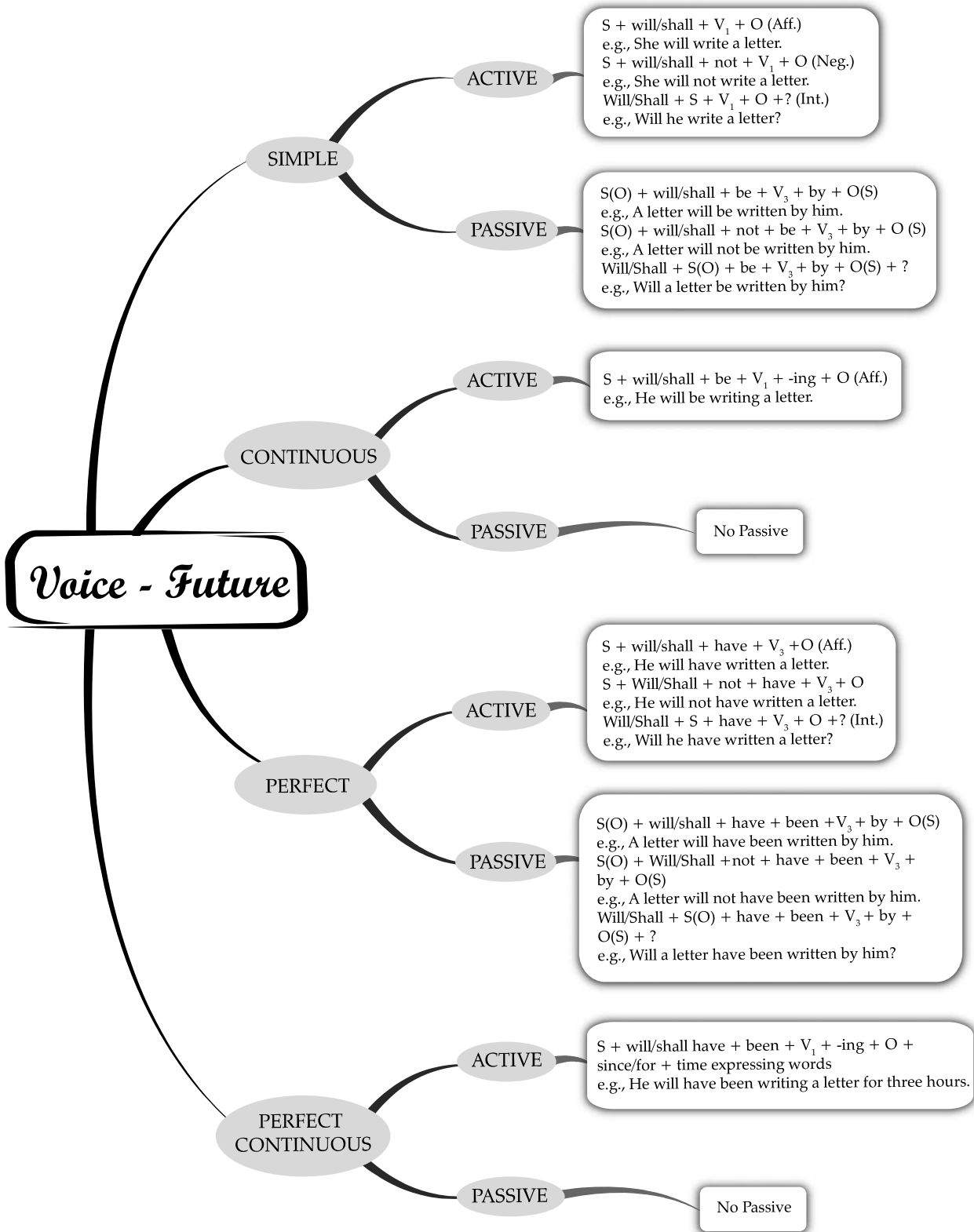


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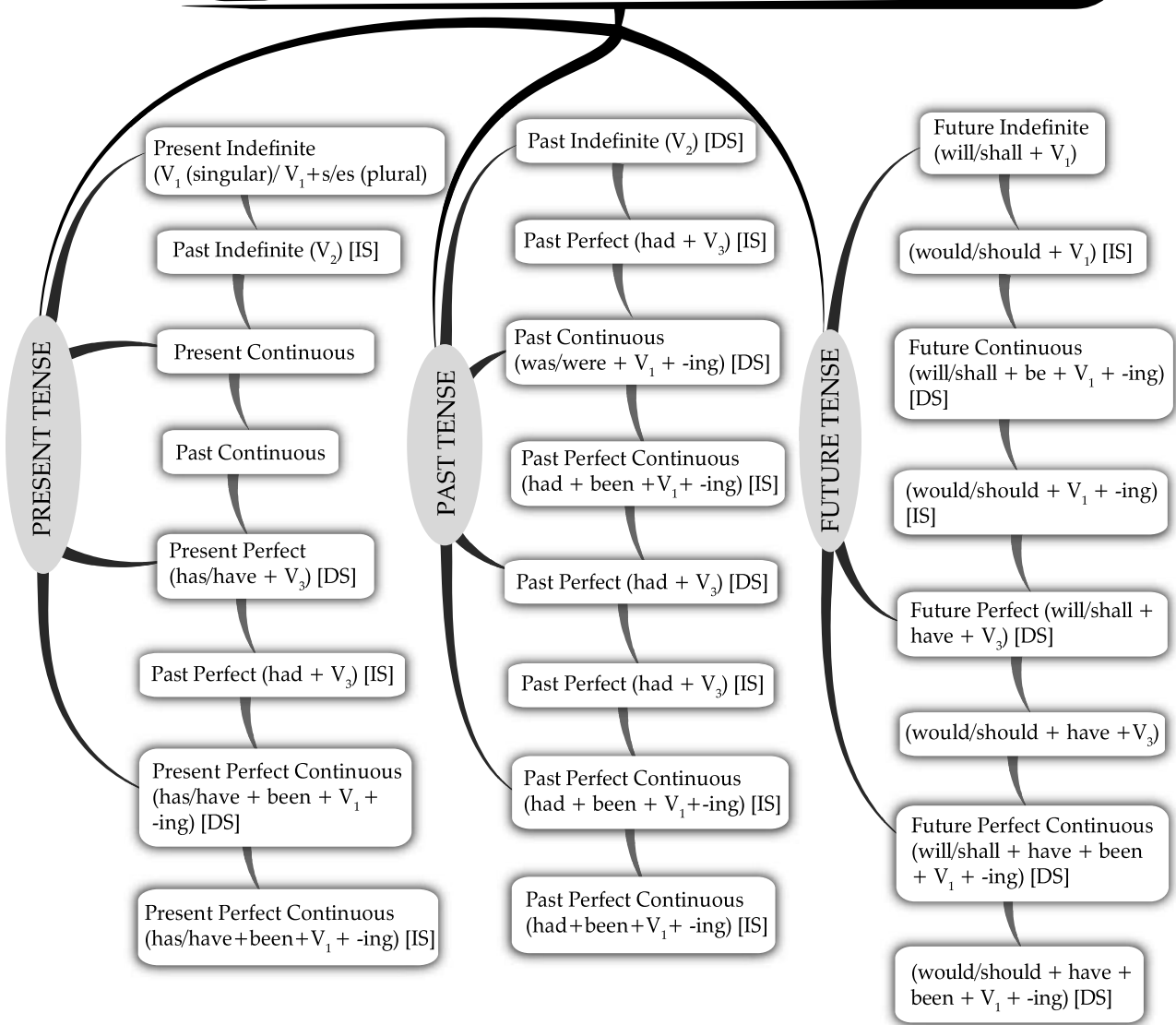


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## Change of Tense of Verbs of Direct Narration



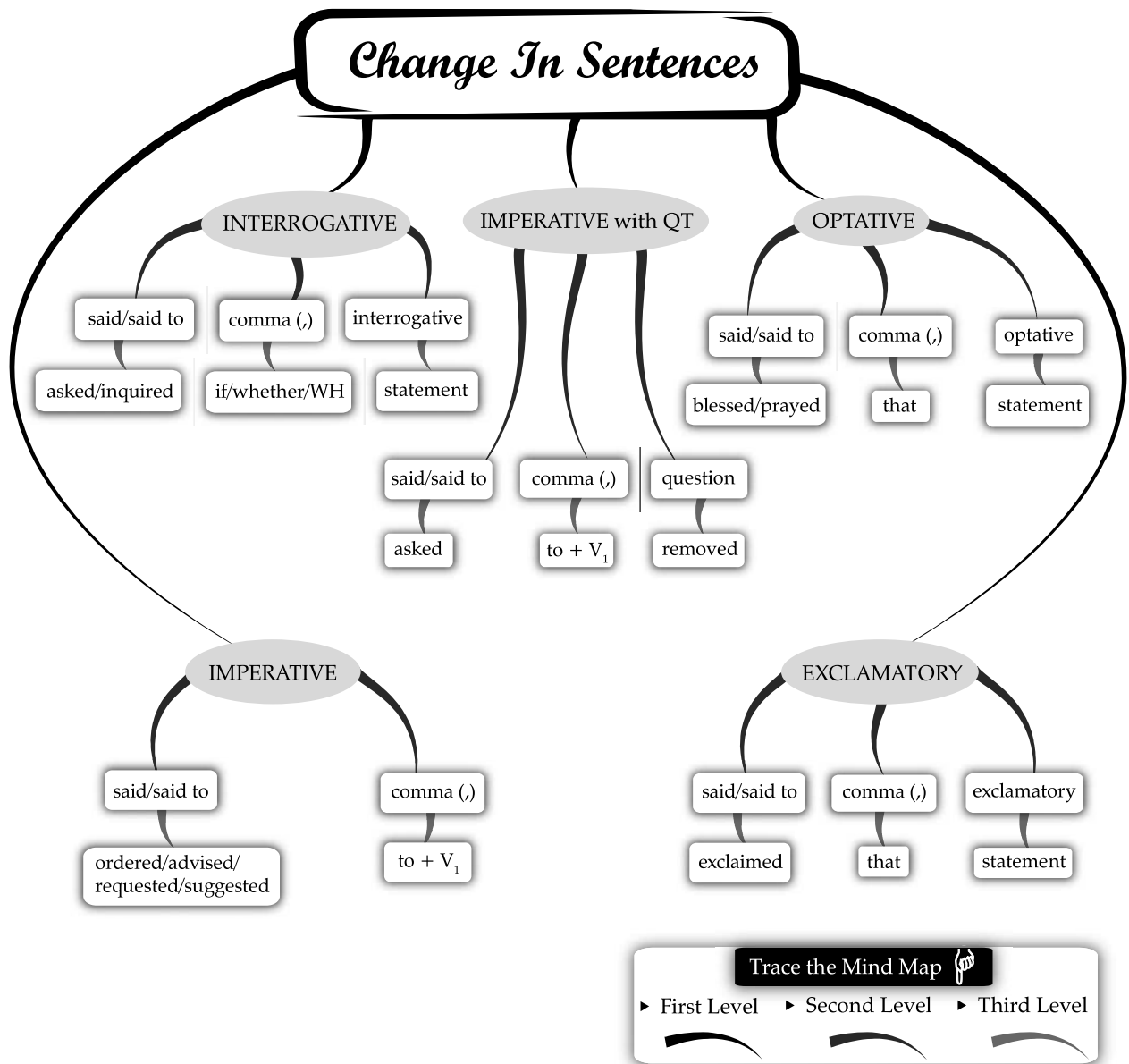
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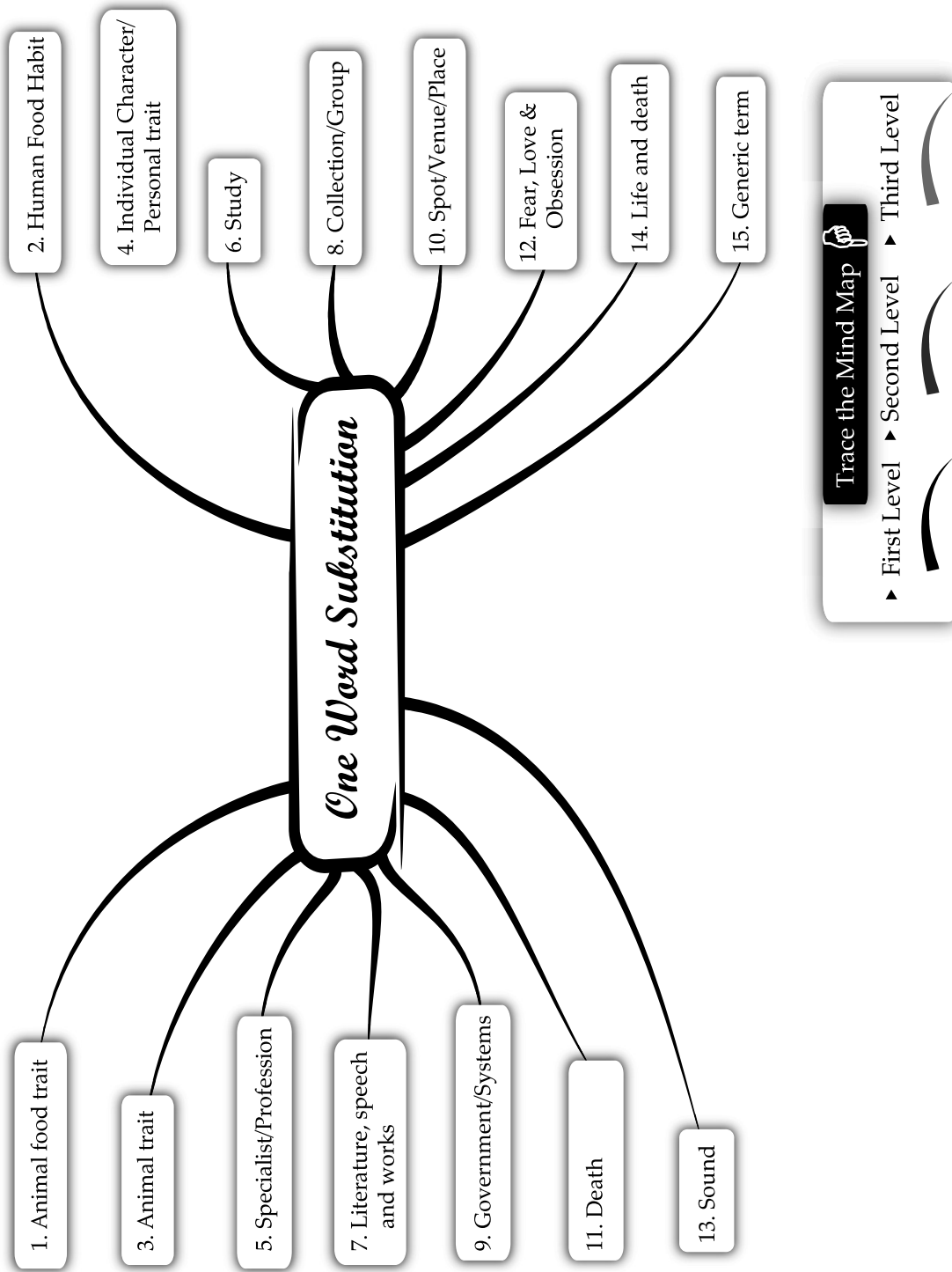
- ▶ DS – Direct Sentence
- ▶ IS – Indirect Sentence

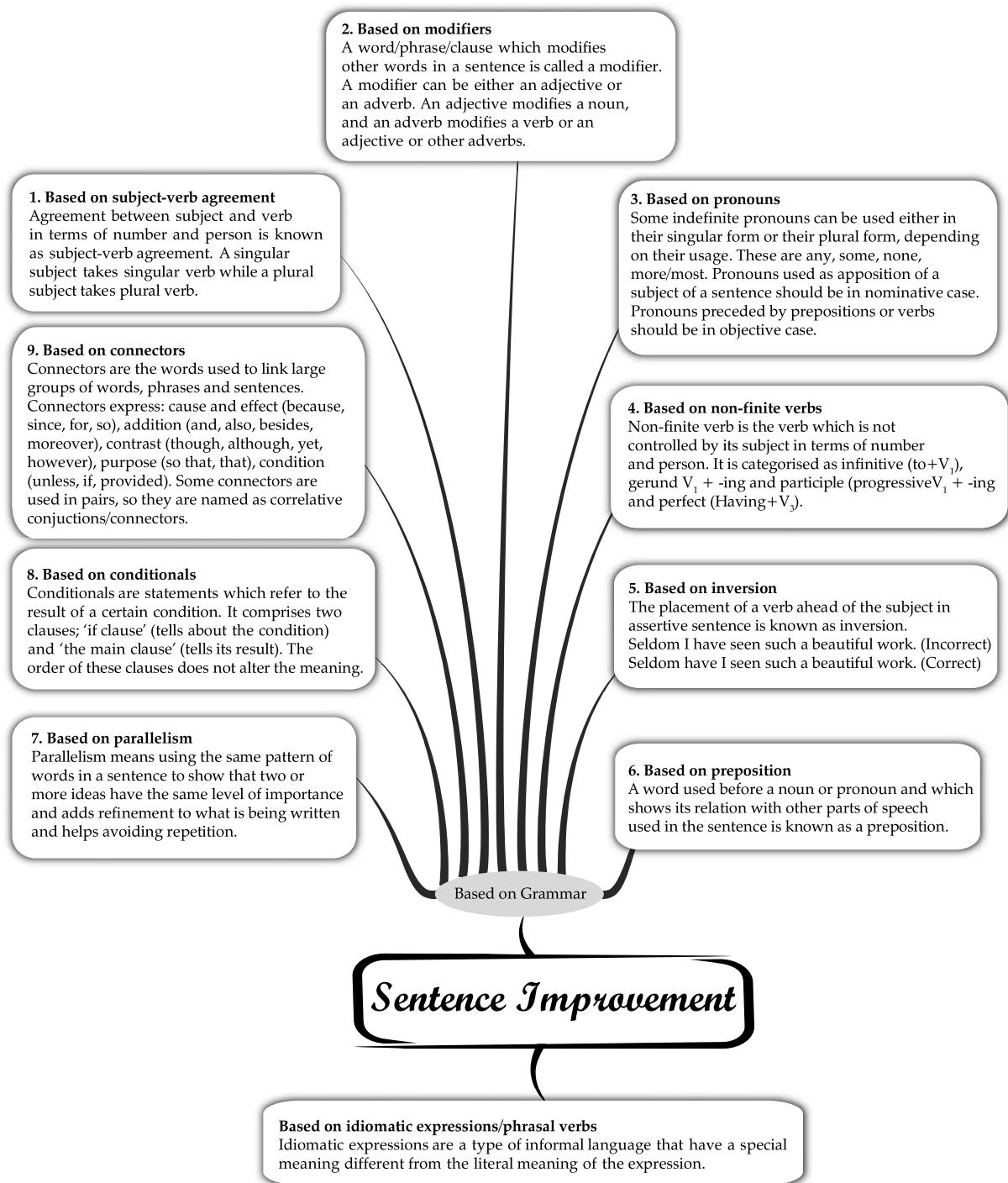
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Trace the Mind Map 

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# CHAPTER

# 1

# PARTS OF SPEECH

Words are divided into different kinds or classes, called Parts of Speech, according to their use; that is, according to the work they do in a sentence.

The parts of speech are eight in number:

1. Noun
2. Adjective
3. Pronoun
4. Verb
5. Adverb
6. Preposition
7. Conjunction
8. Interjection

*The word thing includes (i) all objects that we can see, hear, taste, touch, or smell; and (ii) something that we can think of, but cannot perceive by the senses.*

**NOUN** is a word used as the name of a person, place, or thing; as, Akbar was a great king.

**Examples:**

Solomon was a wise king.

January marks the beginning of a year.

An **ADJECTIVE** is a word used to add something to the meaning of a noun.

**Examples:**

He is a brave boy.

There are twenty boys in this class.

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

**Examples:**

Ram is absent, because he is out of station.

The dresses are where you left them.

A **VERB** is a word used to express an action or state.

**Examples:**

A boy writes letters to her grandmother daily.

London is an expensive city.

An **ADVERB** is a word used to add something to the meaning of a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.

**Examples:**

He finished the meal quickly.

This flower is very beautiful.

**PREPOSITION** is a word used with a noun or a pronoun to show how the person or thing denoted by the noun or pronoun stands in relation to something else.

**Examples:**

There is a book on the table.

The boy plays football in the yard.

A **CONJUNCTION** is a word used to join words or sentences.

**Examples:**

Sita and Mana are good friends.

Two and two make four.

An **INTERJECTION** is a word which expresses some sudden feeling.

**Examples:**

Hurrah! We have won the game.

Alas! She is no more.

Some modern grammars include "Determiners" among the parts of speech.

**DETERMINERS** are words like a, an, the, one, two, this, that, these, those, every, each, some, any, my, his, etc., which determine or limit the meaning of the nouns that follow.

A **Mnemonic Device** for 8 Parts of Speech helps students remember the 8 parts of speech using the acronym PAPA N VIC which stand for pronoun, adverb, preposition, adjective, noun, verb, interjection and conjunction.

Papa N Vic

(P) Pronoun

(A) Adverb

(P) Preposition

(A) Adjective

(N) Noun

(V) Verb

(I) Interjection

(C) Conjunction

**Parts of Speech**

Here are some examples of sentences made with different English parts of speech:

verb
Go!

noun	verb
Simi	dances.

noun	verb	verb
Simi	is	dancing.

pronoun	verb	noun
He	plays	football.

noun	verb	noun	adverb
Pihu	speaks	French	fluently.

noun	verb	adjective	noun
Pihu	speaks	improved	fluently.

pronoun	verb	preposition	determiner	noun	adverb
She	goes	to	the	airport	frequently.

pron.	verb	adj.	noun	conjunction	pron.	verb	pron.
He	hates	chilled	drinks	but	I	prefer	them.

Here is a sentence that contains every part of speech:

interjection	pron.	conj.	det.	adj.	noun	verb	prep.	noun	adverb
Well,	he	and	that	naughty	boy	goes	to	Dennis'	regularly.

**WARM -UP EXERCISE**

Identify the part of speech of the word in bold.

I bought a **small** pup at the mall.

Dhey called his friend **but** no one answered.

**She** was wearing a beautiful attire.

I found a new pen **under** the bed.

I have opted out of the **University** of Wales.

I **lecture** at the Institute of Business. .

I am wearing a **green** dress for the party.

**Oh!** That is really sad.

The parents asked the **teachers** about the curriculum.

The clothes did not dry **as** it was raining all night.

**Answers**

Adjective

Conjunction

Pronoun

Preposition

Noun

Verb

Adjective

Interjection

Noun

Conjunction

# CHAPTER

# 2

# NOUN



## Learning Objectives:

After studying this chapter, you will be able to:

- ❑ Define the term noun, and differentiate the types of noun and their usages.
- ❑ Explain the role of a noun and be able to identify nouns in sentences.
- ❑ Understand the correct usage of nouns and apply them effectively in writing.
- ❑ Change different parts of speech into abstract nouns.
- ❑ Understand the correct rules for nouns with respect to – gender, case and number.

## Definition:

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

1. **Proper Noun:** A Proper Noun is the name of some particular person or place.

*[Proper means one's own. Hence a Proper Name is a person's own name.]*

- **The Statesman** is a leading newspaper in India.
- **Mumbai** is famous for its and night life.

*Proper Nouns are always written with a capital letter at the beginning.*

Here, The Times of India and Mumbai are examples of proper nouns.

2. **Common Noun:** A Common Noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind, instead of naming a particular person, animal or thing.

*[Common here means shared by all.]*

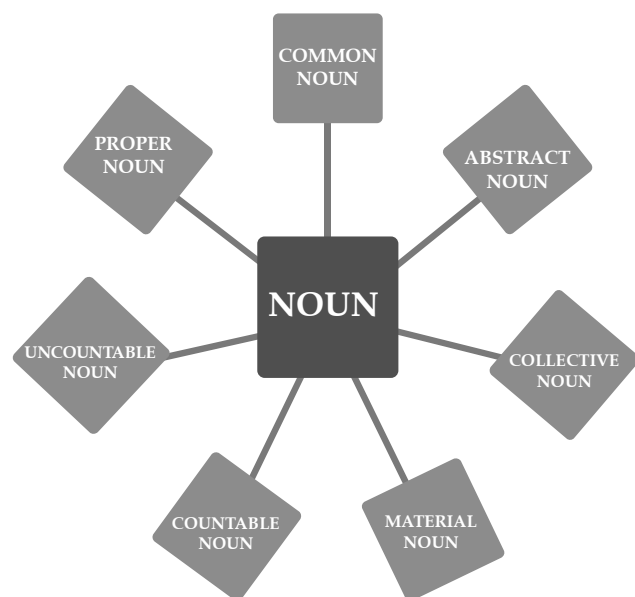
- According to the **sign**, the nearest **town** is 80 km away from here.
- All the **seats** in the **balcony** were booked by the **elites**.

3. **Abstract Noun:** Abstract noun in general refers, the name of state, quality, or action. It is anything which can neither be seen nor be touched but can be felt.

State – Childhood, death, youth, slavery, sleep, sickness, , poverty.

Abstract Nouns usually do not have plural forms.

## TYPES OF NOUN



*Abstract Nouns usually do not have plural forms.*

Quality – darkness , brightness, wisdom , goodness, kindness, whiteness, , hardness, honesty, pride, bravery.

Action – Laughter, movement, judgment, hatred.

The names of the Arts and Science (e.g., grammar, music, chemistry, etc.) are also Abstract Nouns.

- I wished that the country could be free of **slavery**.
- The natural **beauty the youth** attracts my heart.

Abstract Nouns from Common Nouns	
Common Noun	Abstract Noun
brother	brotherhood
child	childhood
friend	friendship
king	kingship
leader	leadership
man	manhood
member	membership
mother	motherhood
neighbour	neighbourhood
scholar	scholarship

Abstract Nouns from Verbs	
Verb	Abstract Noun
behave	behaviour
die	death
free	freedom
grow up	growth
know	knowledge
laugh	laughter
lose	loss
marry	marriage
please	pleasure
sell	sale

Abstract Nouns from Adjectives	
Adjective	Abstract Noun
angry	anger
beautiful	beauty
brave	bravery
great	greatness
happy	happiness
hungry	hunger
kind	kindness
long	length
new	newness
strong	strength

4. **Collective Noun:** A Collective Noun is the name of a number (or collection) of persons or things taken together and spoken of as one whole.

Crowd, mob, team, flock, herd, army, fleet, jury, family, nation, parliament, committee.

- The **flock** of geese is grazing.

The collective noun “geese” takes the singular verb ‘is.’

- The steering **civic body** meets every Wednesday afternoon.

Here the collective noun ‘civic body’ takes a singular verb, “meets.”

**Some examples of collective nouns:**

Collective Nouns for Animals		
An army of ants	A flight of birds	A muster of peacocks
A bevy of quail	A gaggle of geese	A school of dolphins
A troop of monkeys	A herd of cattle	A kindle of kittens
A catch of fish	A host of sparrows	A trip/mischief of mice
A train of camels	A litter of cubs	A plague of locusts
A swarm of insects	A murder of crows	A shoal of whales
A colony of gulls	A pack of wolves	A clutter of spiders
A swarm of bees	A pride of lions	A mob of emus
A team of oxen	A shoal of fish	A litter of puppies
A brood of chickens	A drey of squirrels	A band of jays
A stud of horses	A flock of sheep	A bed of eels

Collective Nouns for Persons		
An army of soldiers	A bevy of ladies	A patrol of policemen
A troupe of artists	A body of men	A crew of sailors
A staff of employees	A gang of prisoners	An audience of listeners
A band of musicians	A group of dancers	A bench of magistrates
A board of directors	A horde of savages	A company of actors
A caravan of gypsies	A host of angels	A choir of singers
A bunch of crooks	A line of kings	A troop of scouts

Collective Nouns for Persons		
A class of students	A mob of rioters	A tribe of natives
A crew of sailors	A pack of thieves	A team of players
A crowd of people	A panel of experts	A regiment of soldiers
A dynasty of kings	A party of friends	A hack of smokers

5. **Material Noun:** A Material Noun is a word used to describe an object that can be perceived by the senses (feel, hear, see)

- The necklace is made of **gold**.
- He got his furniture made of teak **wood**.
- We should drink plenty of **water**.
- My mom wears **diamond**.

Generally, articles (a, an or the) are not used with material nouns when they are uncountable.

### Other kinds of noun:

6. **Countable Nouns:** A Countable Noun is a noun that can be counted and can be used in the singular or plural.

- We painted the **tables** red and the **chairs** blue.
- She found six silver **dollars** in the **toe** of a **sock**.
- The oak **tree** lost three **branches** in the **hurricane**.

7. **Uncountable Nouns:** Uncountable Nouns (or uncountables) are the names of things which cannot be counted. They mainly denote substances and abstract things.

- **He prefers having rice for lunch.**

The word 'rice' cannot normally be made plural.

Since 'rice' is an uncountable noun, it takes the singular verb "is" rather than the plural verb "are."

- They decided to sell the **furniture**.

We cannot make the noun "furniture" plural.



### THE RULE BOOK

1. Some Nouns have the same form whether singular or plural.

*Example:* Sheep / Deer / Service / Series / Species / Fish / Apparatus.

- He saw two sheeps in the zoo. (X)
- He saw two sheep in the zoo. (✓)
- A series of lectures have been scheduled for tomorrow. (X)
- A series of lectures has been scheduled for tomorrow. (✓)

2. The following nouns are always used in the plural form only.

*Example:* Binoculars/Cattle/Clergy/Crackers/Electorate/Gentry/People/Police/Poultry/Trousers/Scissors/Spectacles/Swine.

Some nouns are always used in a plural form and always take a plural verb- annals, alms, chattels, goods, measles, trousers, premises, stockings scissors, spectacles, shorts, thanks, tidings, etc.

- The spectacles is missing. (X)
- The spectacles are missing. (✓)
- The scissor is very sharp. (X)
- The scissors are very sharp. (✓)

3. Normally we treat all **collective nouns** as a singular noun.

- (i) The group of students has come first.
- (ii) My team has won the match.
- (iii) A bunch of keys was found in the trash.

4. All **material nouns** are treated as a singular number.

- (i) **Gold is** expensive.
- (ii) **Water is** healthy.
- (iii) **Oxygen is** important.

**Exception:** When the **material noun** is countable, its usage becomes plural too.

- (i) Diamonds are a woman's best friend. (✓)
- (ii) Please pick up all bricks and stones from the floor. (✓) (as bricks and stones are countable)
- (iii) My house is made of bricks and stones. (X) (Incorrect, because bricks and stones of a house cannot be counted)

5. There are some nouns that indicate length, measurement, money, weight or number. When they are preceded by a numeral, they remain unchanged in form, like, Foot, meter, pair, score, dozen, head, year, hundred, thousand, million.

- (i) It is a three years degree course. (correct use – year)
- (ii) I have eleven dozens of shoes. (correct use – dozen)

6. Be careful of these errors.

- (i) English teacher is wrong; the teacher of English is correct.
- (ii) Cousin – brother or sister is wrong; only cousin is correct.
- (iii) Boarding is wrong; boarding house is correct.
- (iv) Family members is wrong; members of the family is correct
- (v) Lecturership is wrong; lectureship is correct.
- (vi) Freeship is wrong; free – studentship is correct.
- (vii) Wages means punishments when used in the singular. It also means charges for the labour when used in the plural sense.

7. Inanimate objects do not usually take the 's form:

- The chair's legs are broken. (X)
- The legs of the chair are broken. (✓)

8. But the Possessive is used with the names of personified (When an inanimate thing has ascribed



- to it, the attributes of a person, it is said to be personified.)  
as, India's heroes; Nature's laws; Fortune's favourite;  
at duty's call; at death's door.
9. **Do not use 'Double apostrophe':** We should try to avoid double apostrophe in a sentence:
    - (a) My wife's mother's friend has expired.
  10. Anybody/Nobody/Everybody/Somebody/Anyone/Someone/No one/Everyone take Apostrophe 's':
    - (a) Everyone's concern is no one's concern.
    - (b) Everybody's business is nobody's business.
  11. The possessive of a proper name or of a noun denoting a trade, profession, or relationship may be used to denote a building or place of business (church, house, school, college, shop, hospital, etc.)
    - She has gone to the baker's (= baker's shop).
    - Tonight I am moving in at my cousin's (= cousin's house).
    - Can you tell me the way to St .Peter's (=St. Peter's church)?
  12. When two nouns are in apposition, the possessive sign is put to the latter only;
    - That is Holmes, the detective's house.
  13. There are a few pairs of words like above in English vocabulary that have the difference of 'c' and 's'. We must remember that there is a grammatical difference between these words.
    - Advice is a noun. Example: Thank you for your valuable advice.
    - Advise is a verb. Example: Thank you for advising me.
    - Practice is a noun. Example: How is your football practice going?
    - Practise is a verb. Example: Do you practise football everyday?
  14. Add 's' to the main word in compound noun to make it plural. Sister-in-Law, the plural form is Sisters-in-Law, not Sister-in-Laws. Brother-in-Law, the plural form is Brothers-in-law, not Brothers-in-Laws  
The possessive case of a compound noun is formed by adding 's' to the last word. Father-in-Law, Father-in-Law's property. Sister-in-Law, Sister-in-Law's property.
  15. When two nouns are connected by "and", and are closely related, add an apostrophe and 's' to the last noun.  
Tim's and Britney's house ✗ (if you think they are wife and husband then this sentence is wrong) Tim and Britney's house (as they live in a SINGLE house) ✓.
  16. After the phrases One of / Some of / Each of / Either of / Neither of / Any of / None of, a plural form of a noun is used.  
One of my best friends (not One of my best friend)  
One of the biggest cities (not One of the biggest city)  
Each of the boys is (not Each of the boy is)
  17. Some nouns, originally singular, are now used in plural form:  
**Riches** do not last forever.  
The **odds** are definitely against him.
  18. Nouns indicating numerals should be used in singular form:  
"A Dozen eggs/Two Dozen Oranges". But say Hundreds of eggs/A hundred rupees/Two hundred rupees.
  19. If prepositions sit after nouns, then the nouns are treated as singular.  
City after city was rampaged.  
Row upon row of pick marble looks beautiful.
  20. With Common Gender Nouns: Teacher, student, child, clerk, advocate, worker, writer, author, leader, musician. etc., a third person singular pronoun is used.  
Every candidate should write his (her) name.  
Every person should perform his (her) duty.

### COMMON ERRORS

- Incorrect:** I have bought some furnitures online.  
**Correct:** I have bought some furniture online.
- Incorrect:** Have you got any informations/advices?  
**Correct:** Have you got any **information/advice**?
- Incorrect:** Have you packed your luggages?  
**Correct:** Have you packed your **luggage**?
- Incorrect:** Is there any breads?  
**Correct:** Is there any **bread**? OR Are there any **loaves**?
- Incorrect:** He told these news to me.  
**Correct:** He told me **this news**.
- Incorrect:** The society should pay attention to the problems of the residents.  
**Correct:** The society should pay attention to the problems of **the residents**.
- Incorrect:** I have a five dollars note.  
**Correct:** I have a **five dollar note**.
- Incorrect:** She has bought two dozens apples.  
**Correct:** She has bought **two dozen** apples.
- Incorrect:** The boy is in the boarding.  
**Correct:** The boy is in the **boarding house**.
- Incorrect:** She is my cousin sister.  
**Correct:** She is my **cousin**.
- Incorrect:** He provided the blinds with food.  
**Correct:** He provided **the blind** with food.

**GENDER**

Masculine	Feminine	Masculine	Feminine
Author	Authoress	Baron	Baroness
Count	Countess	Giant	Giantess
Host	Hostess	Heir	Heiress
Lion	Lioness	Tiger	Tigress
Mayor	Mayoress	Manager	Manageress
Poet	Poetess	Priest	Priestess
Tutor	Tutoress	Steward	Stewardess
Ambassador	Ambadressess	Director	Directress
Benefactor	Benefactress	Waiter	Waitress
Brother-in-law	Sister-in-law	Step-Father	Step-Mother
He-bear	She-bear	He-goat	She-goat
Bull-calf	Cow-calf	Cock-sparrow	Hen-sparrow

**NUMBER**

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
<b>(a) When nouns end with s, ss, ch, sh, z and x, they have 'es' ending in plural.</b>			
Bus	Buses	Class	Classes
Fox	Foxes	Church	Churches
Watch	Watches	Ass	Asses
Dish	Dishes	Canvas	Canvasses
<b>(b) When nouns have double vowels, they end with 's'</b>			
Bee	Bees	Radio	Radios
Zoo	Zoos	Portfolio	Portfolios
<b>(c) 'y' ending words especially that has a consonant before it, changes to 'ies'</b>			
Cry	Cries	City	Cities
<b>(d) When words end with 'o' and have consonant before them, they end with 'es' in plural.</b>			
Hero	Heroes	Mango	Mangoes
Potato	Potatoes	Cargo	Cargoes
<b>(e) 'y' ending words especially that has a vowel before it, ends with 's'</b>			
Key	Keys	Way	Ways
Donkey	Donkeys	Valley	Valleys
<b>(f) 'f', 'fe' ending words change to '-ves'</b>			
Calf	Calves	Life	Lives
Half	Halves	Leaf	Leaves
<b>Exceptions:</b>			
Belief	Beliefs	Proof	Proofs
Chief	Chiefs	Roof	Roofs
Cliff	Cliffs	Safe	Safes

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
<b>(g) There are some nouns where the inside vowels change completely.</b>			
Man	Men	Mouse	Mice
Woman	Women	Louse	Lice
Foot	Feet	Goose	Geese
Tooth	Teeth	Dormouse	Dormice
<b>Some important number changes:</b>			
Radius	Radii	Locus	Loci
Syllabus	Syllabi	Genius	Genii
Analysis	Analyses	Basis	Bases
Crisis	Crises	Thesis	Theses
Hypothesis	Hypotheses	Parenthesis	Parentheses
Phenomenon	Phenomena	Criterion	Criteria

### NOUNS-CASE

In English, there are five cases.

- **Nominative case:** A noun is said to be in the nominative case if it is the subject of a verb.
  - ◆ Prithvi is an erudite person.
- **Objective case:** Nouns or pronouns are said to be in objective case if they are the direct object of verbs or the objects of the preposition.
- **Dative case:** A noun is said to be in dative case if it is the indirect object of the verb.
  - ◆ He gifted me a phone. ('Me' is in dative case)
- **Possessive case:** A noun is said to be in the possessive case if it denotes possession or ownership.

◆ That is your pet. ('your' is in possessive case)

- **Vocative case:** A noun or pronoun is said to be in vocative case if it is used to call/ or to get attention of a person or persons.  
Mrs. Ray, people are expecting you in the auditorium. (Mr. Sethi is in vocative case)  
NOUN in Apposition: when the noun which follows another to describe it, it is said to be in apposition to the noun which comes before it.  
Vikram, our manager, made the employees go through training.

### Practice Exercise

#### THE PRELIMS

**Directions:** In the following sentences, choose the appropriate option for the blank.

- Mr. Thakur likes the \_\_\_\_\_ (poetry/ poetries) of Keats.
- There are enough \_\_\_\_\_ (apparatus/ apparatuses) in the laboratory.
- The proprietor accepted the \_\_\_\_\_ (worker's demands, workers' demands)
- Convey my (regard/regards) to your parents.
- He will be promoted in a \_\_\_\_\_ (years time, year's time).
- You must keep your \_\_\_\_\_ (valuable, valuables) in the locker.
- Five \_\_\_\_\_ (yoke, yokes) of oxen were ploughing the field.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Keats' poetry, Keat's poetry) appeals to people of all ages.
- Can you tell me the way to \_\_\_\_\_ (St. Paul's, St. Paul )?
- Here is a list of \_\_\_\_\_ (stationeries, stationery) my school has asked me to get.
- Amazing Stories \_\_\_\_\_ (is, are) an interesting book.
- My \_\_\_\_\_ (sympathy is, sympathies are ) always with the poor.
- My sister is the Principal of a \_\_\_\_\_ (boys, boys') school.

14. To fight on the battlefield for one's own country needs \_\_\_\_\_ (great courage, lots of strength) [SSC CGL 2019]
15. To give any programme before a \_\_\_\_\_ (throng / assembly) of sincere listeners was an achievement in itself.
18. The amount of (A)/ accidents is steadily (B) / increasing in Asia. (C) / No error (D)
19. A stock of lectures (A)/ on this topic (B)/ may be fruitful. (C) / No error (D)
20. We were taken aback (A)/by their peculiar behaviours (B)/ with strangers. (C) / No error (D)

### THE INTERMEDIARIES

Directions: *In the following questions, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is free from error, click the "No error" option.*

- The book, being written (A) / in simple language, is suitable for children (B) / as it contains many good advices. (C) / No error (D)
- My sister-in-laws (A)/ who live in Kolkata (B) have come to stay with us. (C). No error. (D) [SSC CGL 2016]
- The curriculum devised by (A)/ the teachers were at par (B)/ with international standards. (C). No error. (D)
- In spite of the doctor's stern warning (A)/ Latika continued taking (B)/ sugars in her milk. (C) No error. (D) [SSC CGL 2017]
- All the boys students (A)/are advised to (B)/ attend the seminar positively. (C) / No error (D)
- She could not complete (A)/even the two third of the work (B)/allotted by her senior managers. (C) / No error (D)
- He has ordered (A)/ bricks for the proposed (B)/ shopping complex. (C) / No error (D)
- She uses herbal oil (A)/ enhanced with Ayurvedic properties (B)/so her hairs are black. (C) / No error (D)
- All the woman teachers (A)/are collaborating to perform (B)/on Children's Day. (C) / No error (D)
- One of the biggest enterprise (A)/ in Asia (B) is about to declare a lockout. (C)
- The team members are requested to (A)/ pay heed to the advices given (B)/ by the captain and the manager. (C) / No error (D)
- Viral scored (A)/ more than (B)/ ten thousands runs. (C) / No error (D)
- The practices (A)/ of the doctor varies (B)/ from that of the lawyers. (C) / No error (D)
- She informed me that (A)/ she had gone to one of (B)/ the person's houses. (C) / No error (D)
- A friend of my brother (A)/ came to me yesterday (B)/ and asked me for some books. (C) / No error (D)
- There was a lot of money (A)/ in the bank in (B)/ Sudha's and Ravi's joint account. (C) / No error (D)
- A part of SSC past question paper. (B)/ and I am likely to dispose it off. (C) / No error (D)

### THE EXPERT

A. Directions: *Choose the grammatically correct sentence from the following options and correct the errors of the remaining three.*

- There are crises in every man's life.
  - All of the radius of a circle are equal.
  - Scientists made many hypotheses about the Earth but later discarded them.
  - The beautiful phenomenons of nature are difficult to predict.
- Two dozens of my pens got lost in the shifting.
  - He has given me a good information.
  - Someone has stolen my belongings.
  - I have five twenty-rupee notes.
- There are only two females in the garden.
  - My sister serves in boys' school.
  - Bacteria is too small to be seen through a microscope.
  - This hall is three and a half times the length of that hall.
- The count married a rich heir, a lass of fifteen, and a Jew by birth.
  - Mohan's car is better than Sohan.
  - I have seen the man's car with a gun.
  - All the furniture of my house have been stolen.
- I saw beautiful sceneries in Kashmir last year.
  - He has gone to market to purchase vegetable.
  - At a certain time, people residing in the Western world were hunters with weapons of stone.
  - Although teachers' salary are not impressive as compared to western standards, but it commands high prestige.
- The children started shivering and seemed to lack the spirit to wake up.
  - He saw a crew of ships in the harbour.
  - Without healthiness there is no happiness.
  - A herd of horses has arrived to join the race.
- The mangers' schedule next week is very busy.
  - There is a reputed boy's college in our locality.
  - Every teacher is expected to carry out his principal's orders.
  - Who has broken the house's door?

**B. Directions:** *In the sentence identify the part that contains the grammatical error.*

8. A. He has read  
B. Shakespeare's play,  
C. who is the greatest of dramatists.  
D. No error.
9. A. One of his son  
B. is a teacher in  
C. a reputed school of Asia.  
D. No Error.
10. A. We should not  
C. any intimacy with  
B. try to develop  
D. a group of liars.
11. A. These kind of shirts  
C. for him to buy.  
B. are rather expensive  
D. No Error.
12. A. I used to live in  
B. a three-hundreds years old  
C. house in Kochi.  
D. No Error.
13. A. Plenty of information  
B. were given to me  
C. at the tourist office.  
D. No error  
[SSC CGL 2019]
14. A. The textile industry cannot operate  
B. properly unless it employs  
C. a talented sale-representative.  
D. No Error.

**C. Directions:** *Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.*

15. The proprietor accepted the workers demand.  
A. workers' demand. B. worker's demand.  
C. demands of worker's. D. No improvement.
16. She has committed not one but many mischiefs.  
A. mischievs B. acts of mischief  
C. mischiefs' D. No improvement
17. The Principal requested the teacher's' to monitor and take care of the small children.  
A. teacher's B. teachers'  
C. teachers D. No improvement
18. The life of the rich is more luxurious than the life of the poors.  
A. the life of the poor. B. the life of the poor's.  
C. the life of the poors' D. No improvement
19. When the sisters met their aunt, they caught one anothers hands and talked for an hour.  
A. one anothers' hands B. one another's hands  
C. one another's hand D. No improvement
20. My shoes were worn out so I had to buy a new one.  
A. new one's B. No improvement  
C. The new ones D. New ones  
[SSC CGL 2019]

SCORE CHART		
STAGE	TOTAL SCORE	SCORE EARNED
THE PRELIMS	15	
THE INTERMEDIARIES	20	
THE EXPERTS	20	

SCORE ANALYSIS	
Strengths	Drawbacks

## Answers

### THE PRELIMS

1. Nouns like 'poetry' are always used in singular form.
2. Some nouns like 'apparatus' are plural in form. There does not exist 'apparatuses'.
3. 'Workers' demands' is correct because the plural noun is "workers", and hence it takes the apostrophe "s" after it.
4. The singular regard is correct in phrases like with regard to and in regard to, meaning with reference to, while the plural of regards expresses respect, affection, or condolences. Hence, 'regards' is correct.
5. 'Year's time' is correct as "years" is simply the plural form of the word 'year' whereas "year's" is the singular form that represents the noun "ownership" or "possession".
6. 'Valuables' refers to the assets, unlike 'valuable', which implies expensive items in general. So 'valuables' is correct.
7. When the plural of "yoke" in this sense (a pair of draught animals in harness) follows a numeral, it is usually "yoke". Hence, 'yoke' is correct.
8. Keats' poetry is correct because Keats is the name of a person, so the apostrophe "s" should imply the possession.
9. Here St. Paul's connotes St. Paul's church. Hence, St .Paul's is correct.
10. There are some nouns like 'stationery' that are singular, yet plural in form. Hence, "stationery" is appropriate.
11. The title of the book is Amazing Stories, so it is singular, and thus a singular verb (is) is to be chosen.
12. 'Sympathy' is singular in form, and does not have plural. Hence, 'sympathy' is appropriate.
13. The plural form of a noun ending with 's' takes an apostrophe after it. Hence, 'boys' is justified.
14. "Strength" implies having the power to move heavy objects or perform other physically demanding tasks. Whereas, 'courage' signifies bravery. Hence, 'courage' is appropriate.
15. An 'assembly' of sincere listeners is correct.
6. "Two-thirds" will replace "two-third," because one part of the work is referred here. Hence, (B) has the error.
7. "Pieces of brick" will be used instead of bricks or any uncountable, material noun. Hence, (B) has the error.
8. 'Hair' should replace 'hairs'. Hence, (C) has the error.
9. Instead of "woman teachers", 'women teachers' should be used. Hence, (B) has the error.
10. After 'one of' a plural noun is used. Hence 'enterprises' to be used instead of 'enterprise'. Hence (A) has the error.
11. 'Advice' appears in singular form, but is to be written as 'pieces of advice' in plural. Hence, (B) has the error.
12. "Run" should replace 'runs'. When the numeral adjective is used before units, the units are always singular in form. Hence, (C) has the error.
13. The singular countable noun 'practice' should replace 'practices'. Hence, (A) has the error.
14. "One of the person's houses" will not be used; instead, "the house of one of the person's" is correct. This is so because "of" is used to show possession, not the apostrophe. Hence, (C) has the error.
15. "Brother's" should replace 'brother', implying that out of the friends of my brother, one of them. Hence, (A) has the error.
16. When two nouns are joined by 'and' and denote joint possession, then the apostrophe is used only with the last noun. Hence, (C) has the error.
17. "The wood of the table," should replace "the table's wood," because apostrophe "s" is not used with non-living things to make possessive form. Hence, (A) has the error.
18. The word "number" should be used instead of "amount," because the latter is used with uncountable nouns and the former with plural countable nouns. Hence, (A) has the error.
19. 'A course' should replace 'a stock'. Hence, (A) has the error.
20. "Behaviour" should replace "behaviours." Behaviour is an uncountable plural noun. Hence, (B) has the error.

### THE INTERMEDIARIES

1. 'Advices' is the plural form; instead, "pieces of advice" is to be written. Hence, (C) has the error.
2. 'sister-in-laws' is incorrect usage, the correct one is 'sisters-in-law'. Hence, (A) has the error.
3. The plural of 'curriculum' is 'curricula', so (A) has the error.
4. Uncountable nouns like 'sugar' do not have any plural, and can never be used with 'a'/'an'.
5. The plural of compound noun, boys students, is boy students. Hence (A) has the error.

### THE EXPERT

1. A. There are crises in every man's life; here 'crises' is plural.
- B. All of the radii of a circle are equal; here, 'radii' is plural.
- C. CORRECT.
- D. The beautiful phenomena of nature are difficult to predict; here, 'phenomena' is plural.

2. A. Nouns indicating numerals should be used in singular form, so the correct answer is: Two dozen of my pens got lost in the shifting.  
 B. Indefinite article cannot be used with abstract nouns, like information.  
 C. "Belongings" is incorrect, the plural form of 'belonging' is 'belonging'.  
 D. CORRECT
3. A. There are only two women in the garden. 'Females' are used to connote the gender.  
 B. CORRECT  
 C. The singular form of 'bacteria' is 'bacterium'.  
 D. This hall is three and a half times the length of that hall.
4. A. 'A rich heiress' to be used in place of 'a rich heir'.  
 B. The comparison between the cars can be established by writing 'better than Sohan's'.  
 C. I have seen the car of the man with a gun. The apostrophe "s" is used here to show possession rather than "of." denotes it.  
 D. CORRECT.
5. A. The plural form of 'scenery' is the same word as the singular form.  
 B. He has gone to market to purchase vegetables (Plural).  
 C. CORRECT. (stone is a material noun, which is used to make weapons, so it will not take 's' after it)  
 D. 'Teachers' salary' should replace 'teachers' salaries' because it involves more than one teacher.
6. A. CORRECT.  
 B. He saw a fleet of ships in the harbour.  
 C. Without health there is no happiness.  
 D. A stud of horses has arrived to join the race.
7. A. The manger's schedule next week is very busy.  
 B. With plural nouns ending with 's', the apostrophe is placed after it. There is a reputed boys' college in our locality.  
 C. CORRECT.  
 D. 'The door of the house' is correct.
8. If a relative pronoun or adverb is used with a noun, "of" is used for possessives. Thus 'the plays of Shakespeare' is to be written. Hence, (B) has the error.
9. After the phrases One of / Some of/ Each of / Either of /Neither of / Any of / None of, a plural form of a noun is used. Thus, 'one of his sons' is to be written. Hence, (A) has the error.
10. The correct collective noun to be used is: 'a pack of liars.' Hence, (D) has the error.
11. 'This /that kind of' is used in singular, 'those/these kinds of' are used in plural. So, the correct part will be: 'These kinds of shirts'. Hence, (A) has the error.
12. The phrasal structure – a+ cardinal adjective+ hyphen + singular noun is used. So the correct phrase is – a three-hundred years old. Hence, (B) has the error.
13. 'Plenty of' is followed by an uncountable noun (information) and it takes a singular verb. Thus, 'were' must be replaced with 'was'. Hence, (A) has the error.
14. 'Sales representative' is correct. Hence, (C) has the error.
15. With plural nouns ending with 's', the apostrophe is placed after it. Hence, (A) is correct.
16. The plural of mischief is not "mischiefs," but 'acts of mischief'. Hence, (B) is correct.
17. The sentence demands a plural noun, not one that is in the possessive case. Hence, (C) is correct.
18. 'The + adjective' is used as plural noun, the plural of poor is 'the poor'. Hence, (A) is correct.
19. It is to be remembered that the apostrophe 's' is used with reciprocal pronouns: one another, and each other for possessive. Moreover, the use of 'hands' is correct. Hence, (B) is correct.
20. 'Shoes' being plural, the new shoes would also be in a pair, hence plural. Thus, 'new ones' is correct. Hence, (C) has the error.

# CHAPTER

# 3

# PRONOUN



## Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define the term 'pronoun', and differentiate the types of pronoun and their usages .
- Understand the correct usage of pronouns and apply them effectively in writing.
- Identify singular and plural pronouns as well as first, second and third person pronouns.
- Understand the correct rules for pronouns and correct their wrong applications in the given sentences.

## Definition:

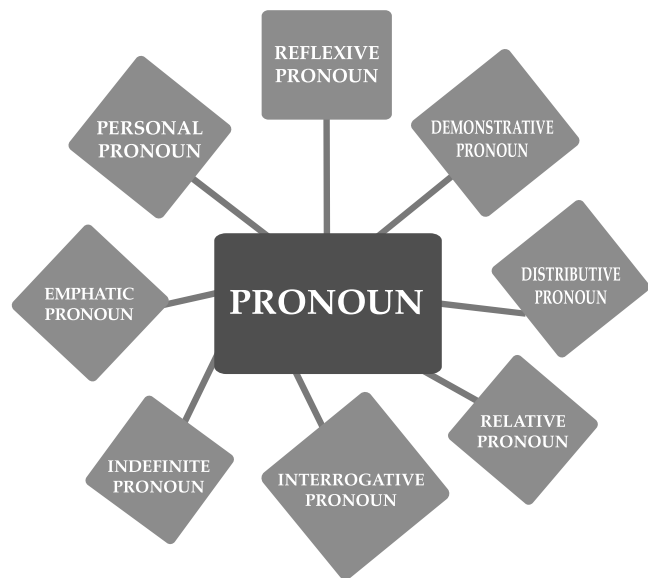
*A Pronoun is a word used in place of a Noun. It is used to stop the repetition of a noun. It is used to refer to a noun, an individual /individuals, thing/ things (the pronoun's antecedent) whose identity is made clear earlier in the text.*

### 1. Personal Pronoun

Read the following sentences : I am happy. We are happy. You are young. They are happy. He (she, it) is happy. I, we, you, he, (she, it), they are called Personal Pronouns because they stand for the three persons:

- i. the person spoken to.
- ii. the person speaking. and
- iii. the person spoken of.

## TYPES OF PRONOUN



### Forms of Personal Pronoun

PRONOUN	NOMINATIVE CASE (used as subject)	ACCUSATIVE CASE (used as object of verb in a sentence)	POSSESSIVE CASE (used to show belongingness)
I (first person)	I	Me	My, mine
We (first person)	We	Us	Our, ours
You (second person)	You	You	Your, yours
He (third person)	He	Him	His
She (third person)	She	Her	Her, hers
It (third person)	It	It	Its
They (third person)	They	Them	Their, theirs



2. **Reflexive Pronoun** – It is used when the action done by the subject turns back (reflects) upon the subject; as,
- I injure myself.
  - We hurt **ourselves**.
  - They ruined **themselves**.

**RULES**

- Most of the *transitive verbs take reflexive pronouns*. Some transitive verbs that are without the objects always take a reflexive pronoun after them to substitute for the absence of objects. This is applicable in verbs like avail, absent, enjoy, resign, apply, revenge, exert, etc.
  - (a) I absented myself from the lavish pool side party.
  - (b) He availed himself of the opportunity.
- Certain *verbs that are used intransitively do not take reflexive pronouns* after them. Like in: keep, break, set, bathe, make, stop, steal, qualify, move, open, draw, rest, roll, burst, hide, feed, gather, etc.
  - (a) He kept away from the function. ✓  
He kept himself away from the function. X
  - (b) Let us rest at the bed. ✓  
Let us ourselves rest at the bed. X
  - (c) She hid in the room. ✓  
She hid herself in the room. X

3. **Emphatic Pronoun** – When Compound Personal Pronouns are used for the sake of emphasis, they are called Emphatic Pronouns.
- It was dictated so by the Principal **himself**.
  - He lives here by **himself**.
  - The town **itself** is not very large.
  - They **themselves** asked me to do this.

*It is not necessary that all pronouns will refer to an antecedent.*

*The word 'everyone' (Pronoun) in :  
Everyone here earns over a thousand dollars a day has no antecedent.*

**Reflexive V/S Emphatic Pronouns**

Reflexive pronouns are used in the sense of 'self'. Emphatic pronouns, on the other hand, are used to just emphasize the action of the subject.

He ruined himself. (Reflexive: here the subject and object refer to the same person.)

He himself ruined the plan. (Emphatic: here the emphatic pronoun himself merely puts emphasis on the noun he.)

The core meaning doesn't change when the emphatic pronoun himself is removed from the sentence.

In the second pair of sentences, the meaning changes or becomes incomplete when the reflexive pronoun is removed.

4. **Demonstrative Pronoun** – These pronouns are used to point out the objects to which they refer,
- (a) **This** is the gift from my mother.

- (b) **These** are the same people who humiliated me.
- (c) **That** is my job, I have to do it.

**Demonstrative Pronouns V/S Demonstrative Adjectives**

Consider the examples:

This purse is mine.

This is my purse.

The first use of 'this' modifies the noun 'purse', it is followed by a noun, but not followed by the main verb.

Whereas in the second sentence, 'this' replaces the noun (the particular purse), it is not followed by a noun, but followed by the main verb (is).

Thus, we conclude that the first example is that of a demonstrative adjective and the second sentence is that of a demonstrative pronoun.

Demonstrative Adjectives	Demonstrative Pronouns
modify the noun.	replace the noun.
are followed by a noun.	are not followed by a noun.
are not followed by the main verb.	are often followed by the main verb.

5. **Indefinite Pronoun** – A pronoun that refers to a person or thing in a general way (not in a definite way) is called an Indefinite Pronoun.
- (a) **Some** have joined the party.
  - (b) **All** went to the same hotel in Pune.
  - (c) **Nobody** was interested in his lose talk.
  - (d) Do good to **others**.
  - (e) **Someone** has to take the responsibility.
  - (f) One should carry one's own failures.
6. **Distributive Pronoun** – When pronouns refer to persons or things one at a time, they are called Distributive Pronouns.
- (a) **Each** of the students gets a prize.
  - (b) **Each** got his turn.
  - (c) **Either** of them will have his luck.
  - (d) **Neither** of the girls of this institute is a topper.

**Rules:**

- Either means the one or the other of two. Neither means not the one nor the other of two. It is the negative of either. Hence either and neither should be used only in speaking of two persons or things. When more than two are spoken of, any, no one, none should be used.

Each is used to denote every one of a number of persons or things taken singly.

Distributive pronouns when used with Third person, Singular pronoun, Masculine Gender (he, his, him) is applied –

(a) Everyone should love his country. (b) Neither of these two students has received his prize.

Distributive pronouns when used with feminine Gender 'her' is applied –

(a) *Either of the two men has purchased his car.*

(b) *Each of the boys has donated his blood for the needy.*

7. **Relative Pronoun** – A Relative Pronoun refers to some noun going before, which is called its antecedent.

1. I met Reena who was returning from school.
2. I have discovered a new place that can be our new hangout.
3. The book that you gave is almost over.

The word who is used instead of the noun Reena. It, therefore, does the work of a Pronoun. The word "who" joins or connects two statements. It, therefore, does the work of a Conjunction. The word "who", therefore, does double work – the work of a Pronoun and also the work of a Conjunction.

The Relative Pronoun **who** has different forms for Accusative and Genitive. — Singular and Plural Nominative — who Genitive — whose Accusative — whom/who

#### Rules:

- The Relative Pronoun that has the same form in the Singular and Plural, and in the Nominative and Accusative. 'That' is used for persons and things.

(a) The table that you bought a year ago is here.  
*Subject*

(b) She likes the pizza that was purchased from Pizzeria.  
*Object*

- The Relative Pronoun **what** is used to refer to things only and only in the Singular. It has the same form in the Nominative and Accusative;

What you say is false.

You can say what you feel.

- As a general rule, **who** is used for *persons only*. It may refer to a Singular or a Plural Noun.

(a) They never succeed who claim to have never faced failure.

(b) This is the boy who works hard.

- **Whose** (the Possessive form of who) is used in speaking of persons, animals and also things without life.

This is the question whose solution is still challenged by scientists of all ages.

- **Which** is used for things *without life and for animals*. It may refer to a Singular or Plural Noun.

(a) We had our college reunion dinner in the seafood restaurant, which is now closed.

(b) My mom asked me to clean up the box, which was filled with old clothes we no longer use.

#### Usage of 'That'

After the words all, same, any, none, nothing, everything (the) only, (a, the few), a /the little; as,

(a) Not everything that glitters is gold.

(b) He is the same man that he has been.

(c) It is only donkeys that bray.

After Adjectives in the Superlative Degree; as,

(a) He was the most eloquent speaker that I ever heard.

(b) The wisest man that ever lived made mistakes.

After the Interrogative Pronouns who, what; as,

(a) What is it that bothers you so much?

(b) What is there that I do not know ?

After two antecedents, one denoting a person and the other denoting an animal or a thing; as,

(a) The boy and his dog that had forcefully barged in the school premises were turned out.

8. **Interrogative Pronoun – Interrogative pronouns are used for making queries or asking questions.**

Look at the following sentences :

(a) **What** is that?

(b) **Who** is he?

(c) **Which** is your pen?

(d) I found this bag. **Whose** is this?

(e) **Whom** do you want to talk?

(f) **What** is your name?

Consider the following sentences: -

Which is this place? (Nominative)

Who sold you that book? (Nominative)

What is that? (Nominative)

Whose is this purse? (Possessive)

Who did you see? To whom were you speaking? / Whom did you invite? / Who were you speaking to? (Accusative)

What do you want? (Accusative)

Which book do you prefer? (Accusative)

 **THE RULE BOOK**

1. A personal pronoun **AGREES** with the noun it replaces.
  - **That woman** is my teacher. Do you know her?
  - **My friend and I** are going shopping. Like to join us?
2. Pronouns **NEVER** have an apostrophe ('). Do not add an apostrophe to possessive pronouns like *hers, ours, theirs, etc.*.
  - The red bag is hers, and the blue bag is ours. (NOT The red bag is her's and the blue bag is our's.)
  - One must do it oneself. (NOT one's self)
3. **While confessing a fault (or expressing a negative idea) the sequence of the personal pronouns should be :** [First person first, second person next and third person last]  
I, you, and he have committed a sin and will be punished.
4. **DON'T put yourself first!** It is good manners to put the other person before you, for the sake of manners. The sequence is: [Second person (2), third person (3), and first person (1)]
  - My friends and I are going out of station. (NOT I and my friends are going out of station)
  - You, Ram and I have completed our tuition.
5. The **indefinite pronouns** anyone, anybody, everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, no one, and nobody are always **singular**.  
Everybody loves Ram.
6. A **reflexive pronoun** can never be the subject of a sentence.
  - You and I (not myself) will leave for Paris tomorrow.
7. When 'but' is used, it will be followed by a pronoun in the accusative case.
  - None but her (not 'she') has prepared the dinner.
8. **When two or more singular nouns are joined by 'and' the Pronoun is always in the plural.**  
Mukti and Shakti has similar tastes in arts. (*Incorrect*)  
Mukti and Shakti have similar tastes in arts. (*Correct*)
9. **When any pronoun acts as the complement of the verb 'to be', it is always in the nominative (subject) case.**
  - It is me who is in the wrong. (*Incorrect*)
  - It is I who is in the wrong. (*Correct*)
10. **When two singular nouns joined by 'and' denote the same person or thing, the pronoun used for them must be singular in number. The article 'The' is placed before the first Noun.**
  - The accounts officer and treasurer should be careful in his work of keeping accounts.
11. **When in a sentence 'one' is used as the subject, all pronouns in the sentence must be changed into 'one' or one's and not his, her or him.**
  - One should do one's duty.  
One must finish one's task in time.
12. **When two or more singular nouns are joined by 'either-or', 'neither- nor' the pronoun is always in the singular form.**
  - Either Ira or Clara should put her opinion to the concerned authority.
13. **When two or more singular nouns joined by 'and' are preceded by 'Each' and 'Every' the pronoun must be singular.**
  - Each man and each boy in the party has got his share.
14. **When a pronoun stands for a collective noun, it must be in the singular number when it acts as one unit and it takes the plural pronoun when the members of the collective noun act separately as many individuals.**
  - After a few minutes the jury gave its verdict.
  - The jury have not shown their willingness to give a unanimous decision on the matter.
15. 'Each other' and 'one another' are only two **Reciprocal Pronouns**. These are always used objectively.  
As per traditional grammar rules each other is used for two and one another for more than two.  
Bella and Eve helped each other.  
We sent one another Christmas presents.
16. If two nouns are joined by 'as well as', the pronouns are used according to the gender, number and person of the first noun.
  - Binay as well as his friends is doing his work.
17. If the structure – 'Many a/an +singular noun' is used as the subject of the sentence, a singular pronoun is used for it.
  - Many a soldier has met his death in the battlefield.
18. The pronoun of objective case is used after 'except'.
  - Everyone attended the party except him/her.
19. 'Those' is used before the relative pronoun or after words like 'notably / mainly / especially/ chiefly'.
  - Most of the people, especially those who have committed a crime, are absent today.

 **COMMON ERRORS**

- Incorrect:** One must be careful about what he says.  
**Correct:** One must be careful about what one says.
- Incorrect:** The children always enjoy at the seaside.  
**Correct:** The children always enjoy themselves at the seaside.

**Incorrect:** I still remember the day me and my sister went to Buenos Aires by bus.

**Correct:** I still remember the day my sister and I went to Buenos Aires by bus.

**Incorrect:** I enjoyed at the movie. (use reflexive pronoun after verbs like amuse, avail, cut, dry, behave, hurt, absent, enjoy)

**Correct:** I enjoyed myself at the movie.

**Incorrect:** He always shaved himself before going out in the evening. (do not use reflexive pronoun after verbs which describe what people do for themselves, like wash, shave, dress, rest, stop, etc.)

**Correct:** He always shaved before going out in the evening.

**Incorrect:** The newly married couple danced with one another at the party.

**Correct:** The newly married couple danced with each other at the party.

**Incorrect:** Every policeman and every home guard did their duty.

**Correct:** Every policeman and every home guard did his duty.

## Practice Exercise

### THE PRELIMS

**Directions :** In the following sentences, choose the appropriate option for the blank.

- Bob and Jane decided to tie the knot because \_\_\_\_\_  
[SSC CGL 2013]  
(a) it had come undone.  
(b) they loved each other.  
(c) they needed to save money.  
(d) they wanted to make a long rope.
- An Italian mayor, Mr. Kiev, has been cleaning the streets along with the councillors after their town was left with no manual workers. In fact, \_\_\_\_\_ was sweeping the piazza in front of the local church in preparation for market day.  
[2019]  
(a) he (b) she  
(c) them (d) it
- The plant \_\_\_\_\_ opened in a small Pennsylvania village is today the largest chocolate factory in the world.  
[SSC CGL 2019]  
(a) what (b) that  
(c) when (d) who
- In the beginning, the villagers were suspicious. It was hard to persuade \_\_\_\_\_ to realise that they were really getting something from the schools.  
[SSC CGL 2019]  
(a) him (b) us  
(c) them (d) they
- When a waiter appears, you ask him the routine question, " \_\_\_\_\_ do you have?"  
[SSC CGL 2019]  
(a) when (b) why  
(c) what (d) how
- Seoul's city government is asking people for help to correct poorly translated street signs-with prizes on offer for \_\_\_\_\_ who spot the most errors.

- (a) this (b) those  
(c) that (d) these
- Communication is a connection between people sharing information with \_\_\_\_\_ other.  
(a) some (b) one  
(c) every (d) each
  - The workers, managers, consultants, and scholars \_\_\_\_\_ crack this nut will reshape industries and institutions.  
[IBPS PO PRELIMS 2016]  
(a) who (b) whom  
(c) whose (d) which  
(e) whomsoever
  - The war \_\_\_\_\_ began in 1914 was a total war in which all the resources of the warring states were mobilised  
[SSC CGL 2018]  
(a) which (b) whom  
(c) what (d) who
  - Dogs soon know the persons \_\_\_\_\_ they are kindly treated.  
(a) by them (b) by who  
(c) by whom (d) that

### THE INTERMEDIARIES

**Directions:** In the following questions, one part of the sentence may have an error. Find out which part of the sentence has an error. If the sentence is free from error, click the "No error" option.

- It is I (A) / who is (B) / responsible for the delay. (C) / No error. (D)  
[SSC CGL 2014]
- Do you know (A) / whom the (B) / next speaker is? (C) / No Error (D)  
[SSC CGL 2016]
- What can man die (A) / better than (B) / serving his country? (C) / No Error (D)  
[SSC CGL 2016]
- The two men were (A) quarrelling with one another (B) claiming the same watch as their own. (C) No error. (D)  
[SSC CGL 2017]

## Pronoun

5. These kind of clothes (A) are rather expensive (B) for me to buy. (C) No error. (D) [CGL 2017]
6. Myself and Roshni (A)/ will take care of (B) / the event on Sunday. (C) / No error. (D) [SSC CGL 2017]
7. Each policeman (A)/and each home guard (B) was at his post. (C) /No Error (D).
8. I and my wife (A) / were declared (B) / the best couple at the party (C) / No error (D). [2016]
9. Most of the people which (A)/have been victims (B) / of extreme violence (C)/are too frightened to report it to the police (D)/No error (E).
10. You should learn (A)/ to give away which (B)/ are not needed in future. (C)/No error.
11. My parents taught me (A)/ that one should respect (B)/ other's parents as his own's. (C) / No error (D)
12. The only person (A)/who can get along with (B) / our new pet, is the two-year old Sophia. (C)/ No error. (D)
13. The only person (A) / who can read and write (B) / English well is my friend. (C)/ No error. (D)
14. The hotels of Patna (A) /are cheaper than (B) /that of Kolkata (C). /No error. (D)
15. This is comfortable (A)/ football studs for boys, therefore not appropriate for men. (C)/ No error.

## THE EXPERT

**A. Directions :** *In the following questions, a sentence is given, a part of which may need improvement. Alternatives are given as (A), (B) and (C). In case, no improvement is needed, mark your answer as In case, no improvement is needed, mark your answer as (D).*

1. They recommend this book even though **they himself** had never read it.  
(A) they themselves had (B) they themself has  
(C) it itself had (D) one oneself has  
(E) No improvement required
  2. This is the house **that Jack built**.  
(A) that Jack is building it  
(B) which Jack built it  
(C) whom Jack built  
(D) No improvement required
  3. **Something is pretty here** that Vineeta can wear to the party. [SSC CGL 2014]  
(A) Something here is pretty  
(B) Something is here pretty  
(C) Here is something that  
(D) No improvement required
  4. We had a grand party and we enjoyed very much. [SSC GCL 2011]  
(A) We had a grand party and enjoyed very much.  
(B) We had a grand party to enjoy very much.  
(C) We had a grand party and we **enjoyed ourselves** very much.  
(D) No error.
  5. When I was working in a software company, it was mandatory to **register my legally** as an authorised software developer. [2019]  
(A) register mine legally  
(B) register me legal  
(C) register myself legally  
(D) No improvement required
  6. The second player left the field, just as the first **player had done**.  
(A) One had done that  
(B) One had flown away  
(C) Had done  
(D) No improvement required
  7. Mr. Mukherjee knows ten languages, **isn't it?**  
(A) doesn't Mr. Mukherjee?  
(B) hasn't he?  
(C) doesn't he?  
(D) No improvement required
- B. In the sentence identify the part that contains the grammatical error.**
8. Those who are late they will not be allowed inside the classroom. [SSC CGL 2019]  
(A) Those who are late  
(B) they will not be allowed  
(C) inside the classroom  
(D) No error
  9. The Green River cuts through the Colorado plateau, gathering plant life and minerals that give them their exquisite colour.  
(A) The Green River cuts through  
(B) the Colorado plateau,  
(C) gathering plant life and minerals that  
(D) give them their exquisite colour
  10. The present what I bought for you yesterday was very expensive. [SSC CGL 2019]  
(A) Was very expensive  
(B) The present  
(C) For you yesterday  
(D) What I bought
- C. Choose the grammatically correct sentence from the following options and correct the errors of the remaining three.**
11. (A) The members of the executive committee want the facilities of car and accommodation for themselves.  
(B) None of the two girls could complete the job.  
(C) Who should I talk to about labelling food in the refrigerator?  
(D) The guests whom we were talking about have arrived are my colleagues.

12. (A) The farmer and his cow which lived here have died.  
 (B) Many a soldier has sacrificed their life during the World War.  
 (C) Shlok speaks more fluently than she.  
 (D) The five sisters lived in Mumbai and they loved each other.
13. (A) Veena is fatter than either of her five sisters.  
 (B) My father has given me everything that he had.  
 (C) One must not be blind to his own defects.  
 (D) Mr. Chaubey is the most laborious man whom I know.
14. (A) Nobody but her can come to the rescue of her friends.  
 (B) Our is the only house which has all modern amenities.  
 (C) This is the house in which she lives in.  
 (D) All of the participants, mainly whom I have selected, have been eliminated.
15. (A) Whose is that house which looks exceptionally beautiful?  
 (B) Either the teachers or the principal failed in **their** duty.  
 (C) My friend forced my brother and I to stay away from the award ceremony.  
 (D) He hates everybody and everything that reminds him of his mistakes of young age.

SCORE CHART		
STAGE	TOTAL SCORE	SCORE EARNED
THE PRELIMS	15	
THE INTERMEDIARIES	20	
THE EXPERTS	20	

SCORE ANALYSIS	
Strengths	Drawbacks

## Answers

### THE PRELIMS

1. The sentence concerns two people, thus 'each another' is the appropriate choice.  
Hence, correct answer is (b).
2. The personal pronoun 'he' is the correct choice because the antecedent refers to the Italian mayor, Mr. Kiev. Hence, correct answer is (a).
3. The relative pronoun 'that' is the correct choice because the antecedent refers to the 'plant'.  
Hence, correct answer is (b).
4. The personal pronoun 'them' refers to the suspicious 'villagers'.  
Hence, correct answer is (c).
5. The interrogative pronoun 'what' is the correct choice to ask the question.  
Hence, correct answer is (c).
6. "Those" will be the most appropriate word for the blank. "Those" is used to refer to specific people or things that are being mentioned, known or understood in the statement. Here, "those" is used for 'People who spot the most errors'. Hence, correct answer is (b).
7. The sentence implies that communication deals with people sharing information, 'between' themselves. The preposition 'between' is used to refer to the dealings within two people. Therefore, 'each other' is appropriate, which has to do with two people, unlike 'one another'. Hence, correct answer is (d).
8. The subject of the sentence consists of the workers, managers, consultants, and scholars, hence 'who' is correct. Hence, correct answer is (a).
9. 'Which' is used for things *without life and for animals*, the antecedent being in 'the war'. Hence, correct answer is (a).
10. 'By whom' is correct because the antecedent is 'persons', thus, it will take the objective case (whom). Hence, correct answer is (c).

### THE INTERMEDIARIES

1. When any pronoun functions as the complement of the verb 'to be', it is always in the nominative (subject) case. 'I' being the subject, the verb will be 'am', not 'is'. Hence, correct answer is (B).
2. The question can be altered and represented as : I know he is the next speaker. Since, 'he' is appropriate to the context, it is clear that the pronoun will be in the subjective case (who). Hence, correct answer is (B).
3. Use 'how' in place of 'what' as question word. Hence, correct answer is (A).
4. As per traditional grammar rules, 'each other' is used for two and one another for more than two. Hence, correct answer is (B).

5. This / that kind of something is used for singular; these/those kinds of something is used for plural. Answer should be : These kinds of clothes... Hence, correct answer is (A).
6. Reflexive pronouns are not used at the subject, unless there is an I previously in the same sentence. Like : 'I , myself and Rohini... or 'I will take care...'  
Hence, correct answer is (A).
7. As per the usage, when two or more singular nouns joined by 'and' are preceded by 'Each' and 'Every' the pronoun must be singular (his). Hence, correct answer is (D).
8. Arrangement of persons  $\Rightarrow$  231, i.e., second, third and first persons. Hence, my wife and I .....should be used here. Hence, correct answer is (A).
9. The statement should read as: Most of the people who have gone through episodes of extreme torment are too terrified to report it. The error in part A is that 'which' has been used instead of 'who'. Hence, correct answer is (A).
10. Replace which to what: because when there is no antecedent in the sentence, then relative pronoun 'what' is used. Hence, correct answer is (B).
11. Replace his to one's : Possessive "one's" is used for 'One' Hence, correct answer is (C).
12. Replace I and my sister to 'my sister and I'. Hence, correct answer is (A).
13. Replace 'who' with 'that', because the relative pronoun 'that' is used after 'the only. Hence, correct answer is (B).
14. Replace 'that' with 'those of'. This is so because the latter denotes plural pronoun and has its antecedent in 'hotels'. Hence, correct answer is (C).
15. 'These are' will be used in place of 'This is'. Because football studs are a plural noun. Hence, correct answer is (A).

### THE EXPERT

1. Reflexive pronouns can also act as emphatic pronouns, but they are used differently. An emphatic pronoun emphasises its antecedent. Hence, the correct phrase is "they themselves had". Hence, correct answer is (A).
2. In the Relative clause, the 'relative pronoun' is the subject/object of the relative clause, so we should not repeat the subject/object. And as 'that' is already used as the object of 'built', which is just object of 'built' and written ahead of 'Jack' to connect the sentences, then we should not use 'it' as the object of 'built'. Thus, we don't need the object of 'built' which is given as 'it'. Hence, correct answer is (D).
3. The relative pronoun 'that' refers to 'something', therefore it should sit next to its antecedent to avoid confusion. Other sentences distort the meaning. Hence, correct answer is (C).

4. In the question 'we' denotes a group, an emphatic pronoun 'ourselves' is used to emphasize the enjoyment by the group. Hence, correct answer is (C).
5. Since the sentence has first person pronoun 'I', so it will take the reflexive pronoun 'myself'. Hence, correct answer is (C).
6. The underlined portion of the sentence needs to be rectified. It may be replaced with one had done. So, the sentence will be as The second player left the field, just as the the first one had done. Hence, correct answer is (B).
7. Since, name of person is present in the given sentence, 'isn't it?' may be replaced with 'doesn't he?' Hence, correct answer is (C).
8. The pronoun 'those' already refer to the people, so another pronoun 'they' is unnecessary. Hence, correct answer is (B).
9. The subject of the sentence is singular (the Green River), therefore the subsequent pronoun to refer to the subject will also be in singular. The correct sentence should be : The Green River cuts through the Colorado plateau, gathering plant life and minerals that give it its exquisite colour. Hence, correct answer is (D).
10. The relative pronoun 'that' must be indicating to the present, instead of 'what'. Hence, correct answer is (D).
- C. Choose the grammatically correct sentence from the following options and correct the errors of the remaining three.**
11. (A) Here members of the executive committee are not used as a collective noun. So it will take a plural pronoun. Hence (A) is correct.  
 (B) 'Neither' will replace 'none' because the former is used with two people.  
 (C) 'whom' should replace 'who' as the subject is I, and object is the person being talked to = him/her (object). Thus the objective case (whom).  
 (D) 'who' should replace 'whom' because the players are the subject / antecedent.
12. (A) 'Which' should be replaced by 'that' because it is used after two antecedents, when one denotes a person and the other an animal / thing.  
 (B) 'Many a' is always followed by a singular noun / pronoun /verb.  
 (C) 'Than' always takes pronoun in the nominative case (she). Hence (C) is correct.  
 (D) 'one another' should replace 'each other' because the former is used for reciprocal relationship for more than two persons or things, while the latter (each other) is used for relationships between two persons.
13. (A) 'Either' is used with two persons, while 'any' is used for more than two persons. The comparison being among five sisters, 'any' is the correct alternative.  
 (B) 'That' is used after words all, same, any, none, nothing, everything. Hence (B) is correct.  
 (C) The indefinite pronoun 'one' must be followed by 'one/one's'. Here, 'one's' is correct.  
 (D) 'That' is used after superlative degree, hence, 'whom' will be replaced by 'that'.
14. (A) 'but/except' always take the pronoun in the objective case (her/him). Hence (A) is correct.  
 (B) 'Ours' needs to be used instead of 'our'.  
 (C) If a preposition is used before 'whom /which', the preposition is not used after it. So, the correct one will be : This is the house in which she lives.  
 (D) 'Those' is used before the relative pronoun or after words like 'notably / mainly / especially/ chiefly'. So the correct one is : All of the participants, mainly those whom I have selected, have been eliminated.
15. (A) 'That' is used after interrogative pronouns 'who/ whom/ whose'.  
 (B) With 'either...or/ neither...nor' the pronoun adheres to the second subject. Hence the correct one is :  
 Either the teachers or the principal failed in **his** duty.  
 (C) A pronoun is used in objective case when used as an object in a sentence: My friend forced my brother and me to stay away from the award ceremony.  
 (D) Correct. Hence (D) is correct.



## CHAPTER

# 4

# ADJECTIVE



### Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this lesson, students will be able to:

- Define adjectives and their usage.
- Understand the purpose and types of adjective.
- Recognise the correct usage of adjectives through examples.
- Construct sentences using adjectives and recognise the common errors related to them.

### Definition:

*An Adjective is a word, when used with a noun or pronoun, adds something to the meaning of the noun or pronoun.*

1. **Adjective of Quality** – They depict the kind or quality of a person or thing. They may refer to the size, shape, kind, quality, or state of a person.

Adjectives of Quality answer the question: *Of what kind?*

- Honest man, beautiful lady, big city, large building, beautiful palace, black dog, white tiger, etc.

Kolkata is a large city.

He is an honest man.

The foolish old crow tried to sing.

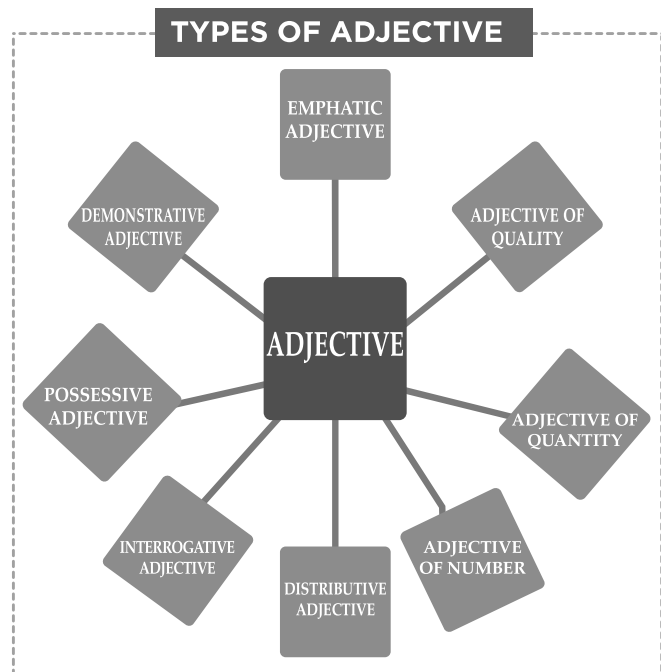
2. **Adjective of Quantity** – They show the quantity of a thing.

- He claimed his half share of the booty.
- There has not been sufficient rain this year.
- The whole sum was expended.

Adjectives of Quantity answer the question: *How much?*

3. **Adjective of Number** – They denote the number of persons or things.

- The hand has five fingers.
- Few cats like cold water.
- There are no pictures in this book.



### Adjectives of Number (or Numeral Adjectives) are of three kinds:

- (i) Definite Numeral Adjectives, which denote an exact number; as, *One, two, three, etc.* – These are called Cardinals. *First, second, third, etc.* – These are called Ordinals.
- (ii) Indefinite Numeral Adjectives, which do not denote an exact number; as, *All, no; many, few; some, any; certain, several, sundry.*
- (iii) Distributive Numeral Adjectives, which refer to each one of a number; as., *Each boy must take his turn. India expects every man to do his duty.*

Adjectives of Number answer the question: *How many?/ In what order?*

4. **Demonstrative Adjective** – They point out which person or thing is meant.
  - This boy is stronger than Hari.
  - These mangoes are sour.
  - Those rascals must be punished.

Demonstrative Adjectives answer the question: Which?
5. **Distributive Adjective** – They refer to each one of a number.
  - Each boy must take his turn.
  - India expects every man to do his duty.
  - On either side is a narrow lane.
6. **Possessive Adjective** – They are the ownership denoting adjectives.
  - This is your pen.
  - That is my car.
  - These are our chairs.
7. **Interrogative Adjective** – They are used with nouns to ask questions.
  - What manner of man is he?
  - Which way shall we go?
  - Whose book is this?
8. **Emphasising Adjective** – They are used before nouns to emphasise them.
  - I saw it with my own eyes.
  - He was beaten at his own game.
  - Mind your own business.

## CORRECT USE OF SOME 'ADJECTIVES'

### 1. Some/Any

- a. Some – it is used in the sense of 'an amount of', in affirmative sentences before singular uncountable nouns. It is also used in the sense of 'a number of' in affirmative sentences before plural countable nouns.

I shall buy some books.  
Countables

They have purchased some fruit.  
Uncountable

Any – it is used in the sense of 'an amount of something', in negative sentence before a singular uncountable noun to denote quantity. It is also used in the sense of 'a number of' in negative sentences before singular countable noun and plural countable noun.

I don't have any pen.

She is not putting any pens in the box.

- b. Both 'some' and 'any' can be used in interrogative sentences before singular countable noun and plural countable noun.

Will you give me some sugar?

Have you any money?

### 2. Much/Many

Much – used with quantity, MUCH precedes uncountable nouns:

I don't have much patience.

She doesn't have much money.

How much did you pay for the car?

Many – used with number, MANY precedes countable nouns:

We have many friends, in many countries.

How many children does Bob have?

**MNEMONIC:** You can't count much, but you can count many.

### 3. Each/Every

Each – Each stresses individual members of a group.

Each refers to two or more people who share the work.

Each of the two girls gets a prize.

Each of the ten students gets a prize.

Every – Every emphasises on all the members of the complete group.

Every student gets a prize.

Every candidate was given a certificate.

### 4. Little/A little/The little

We use little with uncountable nouns.

*Little – not much (i.e., hardly any).* Thus, the adjective little has a negative meaning. There is little hope of his recovery, i.e., he is not likely to recover.

*A little – some though not much.* 'A little' has a positive meaning. There is a little hope of his recovery, i.e., he may possibly recover. A little tact would have saved the situation.

*The little – not much, but all there is.*

The little knowledge of carpentry that he possessed stood him in good stead. [The sentence means – The knowledge of carpentry he possessed was not much; but all that knowledge stood him in good stead.] .

### 5. Few/A Few/The Few

They are used with countable nouns.