THOROUGHLY REVISED & UPDATED

ENGLISH GRAMMER

FULLY SOLVED WITH EXPLANATIONS

Highlights

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NOUN

THEORY

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

There are five kinds of Noun :

(i) Proper Noun (ii) Common Noun (iii) Collective Noun

(iv) Abstract Noun (v) Material Noun.

FOLLOWING ARE CERTAIN RULES OF GRAMMAR REGARDING NOUNS THAT WOULD BE USEFUL IN A COMPETITIVE EXAMS:

❖ Proper nouns are sometimes used as common nouns.

Example:

➢ Amitabh is Gandhij of our class. ***(Incorrect)***

Amitabhis the Gandhiji of our class. ***(Correct)***

✪ Here Gandhiji does not mean Mahatma Gandhi. The word here stands for the possessor of the qualities that Gandhiji is most known for truth and non-violence. Thus Gandhiji is being used as a metaphorical common noun. Some nouns have the same form both in singular as well as in plural.

FOLLOWING ARE RULES REGARDING THE NUMBER OF THE NOUN:

Example:

➢ Deer was caught.

➢ Deer were caugh.

✪ Here, the singular and plural form of the noun Deer is same. Like Deer there are other nouns that have the same form in singular as well as plural form ***for example*** sheep, apparatus, deer, species, series, hundred, dozen, hair etc.

✪ Preceding adjectives and articles decide whether the word is used in the singular form or plural form.

Example:

➢ He paid eight hundred rupees for this pair pf shoes.

➢ India again lost the series.

✪ Nouns denoting large numbers are used both in singular and plural form

Example:

➢ Three hundred people attended the function.

In sentence, 'a hundred' is preceded by number 'three'. So hundred' will take no plural form. Word 'three hundred' indicates plurality .

➢ Hundreds of people attended the party.

In sentence, 'hundred' is not preceded by any number. So to indicate plurality , we will write 'hundreds'. So, rule is that when words like hundred, dozen, thousand, pair, score are not preceded by any word denoting number then they take the plural form. Otherwise not.

Example:

- Coca-Cola paid lakhs of rupees to Aamir Khan for promoting their product.
- I brought two dozen bananas.

✪ Tell which sentence is correct:

(i) Since long no news has been heard.

(ii) Since long no news have been heard.

Sentence (i) is correct.

The reason is that some nouns are always used as singular though they look like plural nouns. That's why we should never use the plural verb with these words.

Other similar words are politics, mathematics, physics, gallows, means, billiards, ethics, summons, innings.

Examples:

- Politics is not my cup of tea.
- I received summons.
- Sachin once again played a superb innings

✪ Tell which sentence is correct :

(i) The spectacles that you are wearing are really nice.

(ii) The spectacles that you are wearing is really nice.

Sentence (i) is correct.

The reason being that some noun words are always used in the plural form. *For example:* trousers, arms, drawers, assets, scales, alms, thanks, cards; ashes, riches, premises, scissors, credentials, proceeds.

✪ Tell which sentence is correct:

(i) The cattle was grazing in the field.

(ii) The cattle were grazing in the field.

Sentence (ii) is correct .

The reason being that some nouns arc always used as plurals though they look like singular.

Other nouns like this are public; people, folk, mankind, poultry, sheep, and police. Gentry, peasantry, bulk, majority.

Examples:

- Thermajority are with the leader.
- Police, though late, have come.
- Public wants results.

✪ Tell which sentence is correct :

(i) This project will lead to lots of expenditures

(ii) This project will lead to lots of expenditure.

Sentence (ii) is correct.

The reason is that some nouns are always used as singular. Preceding adjectives or the verb form indicates the none singularity or plurality.

Other nouns are expenditure, furniture, information, machinery, issue, offspring, alphabet, scenery, poetry.

Example:

- All the furniture was bought last year.
- All the information was given to him.

✪ Meaning of some nouns in plural form b very different from the meaning of nouns in singular form. Hence, that form should be used which will convey the right meaning.

Examples:

- I opened the letter and read its contents.
- Her mouth was fixed in a smile of pure content.
- The conflict between good and evil is ages old.
- We must produce goods at competitive prices.
- Delhites breathe the most polluted air in the world.
- She was zust putting on airs when she came to visit us/me.
- We should renounce the use of force to settle our dispute.
- Families of people who died as a result of services in the forces should not be ignored.
- I was very excited on my return to my home village.
- Early returns in the ballot indicate majority for opposition.

✪ Other nouns having different meanings in the singular and plural form are :

Singular with Meaning	Plural with Meaning
Advice – counsel	Advises – information
Respect – regard	Respects – compliments
Compass – extent or range	Compasses – instrument
Custom – habit	Customs – duties levied on
Ground – Earth	Grounds – reasons
Iron – metal	Irons – fetters made of iron
Mean – average	Means – way or method
Respect – regard	Respects – polite greetings
Colour – hue	Colours – appearance
Physic – medicine	Physics – Natural science

✪ Please go through the following singulars and plurals as plural forms are commonly known but their singular forms are not commonly kown.

Singular Form	Plural Form	Singular Form	Plural Form
Agendum	Agenda	Criterion	Criteria
Alumnus	Alumni	Radius	Radii
Index	Indices	Formula	Formulae
Phenomenon	Phenomena	Memorandum	Memoranda

✪ Some noun words have two plurals with different meanings.

So that plural form should be selected which will convey the right meaning.

Examples:

- I have one brother and one sister (meaning- sons of the same parents).
- Why should only select brethren be allowed to attend the meeting?
  (meaning - members of same society, organisation)
- I took off my shoes and clothes (meaning- things that people wear).
- Cotton, Nylon, Silk are different kinds of cloths (meaning- kinds or pieces of cloth).

✪ Other nouns having two plurals with different meanings are :

Singular	Plural with Different Meaning
Die	Dies : Stamps Dice : Small cubes used in games
Genius	Geniuses : Persons of great talent Genie : Spirit
Quarter	Quarter : Fourth part Quarter(s) : Loading
Manner	Manner : Method Manners : Correct behavior
Pain	Pain : Suffering Pains : Careful efforts
Spectacle	Spectacle : Sight Spectacles : Eye-glasses
Penny	Pence : Indicate amount of money Pennies : Number of coins

FOLLOWING ARE RULES REGARDING GENDER OF THE NOUN :

✪ Collective nouns, even when they denote living beings, are considered to be of the neuter gender.

Example:

(i) Shahruckh Khan had a herd of cows. He kept a herdsman to look after her.

(ii) Shahrukh Khan hada herd of cows.He kept a herdsman to look after it.

Sentence (ii) is correct.

Though herd consists of cows (females), herd is not a feminine noun as it a collective noun.

✪ Young children and the lower animals are also referred to as of the neuter gender.

➢ The baby loves his toys. ***(Incorrect)***

The baby loves its toys ***(correct)***

➢ The mouse lost his tail when the cat pounced on him.***(Incorrect)***

We are often uncertain regarding the gender of the animals. The mouse here may be a male or a female. So, English language prefers the easy way out: treat it as of the neuter gender.

✪ When objects without life are personified they are considered of

➢ The masculine gender if the object is remarkable for strength and violence.

Example: Sun, Summer, Winter, Time, Death etc.

➢ The feminine gender if the object is remarkable for beauty, gentleness and gracefulness.

Example: Earth, Moon, Spring, Nature, Mercy etc.

Examples:

➢ The Sun came from behind the clouds and with her brilliance tore the veil of darkness. ***(Incorrect)***

The Sun came from behind the clouds and with his brilliance tore the veil of darkness. ***(Correct)***

✪ Convention does not see brilliance as a womanly quality, but a manly one.

➢ Nature offers his lap to him that seeks it. ***(Incorrect)***

Nature offers her lap to him that seeks it. ***(Correct)***

✪ The offering of a lap is usually the mother's role. Hence Nature here should be treated as a feminine noun.

➲ Tell which sentence is correct

(i) The earth goes round the sun in 365Vs days. Can you calculate her speed?

(ii) The earth goes round the sun in 365Vs days. Can you calculate its speed?

Sentence (ii) is correct.

The error being made her is that personification is being brought where it does not exist. In the above statement the earth is being treated as a body (a thing), not a person. The scientist here is not concerned with the womanly qualities of the planet. *So, neuter gener should be applied.*

FOLLOWING ARE RULES REGARDING APOSTROPHE :

✪ Rules regarding apostrophe S ('s):

- **Singular noun:** 's is added after the word.
- **Singular noun :** Only an apostrophe is added when there are too many hissing sounds.

  Example : Moses' laws, for goodness' sahe, for justice' sake.
- Plural nouns ending in s like boys, cows : only' is added after the word.
- Plural nouns not ending in s like men, children : s is added after the word.
- 'S is added primarily after the living things and personified objects.

  Example : Governor's bodyguard, horse's head, Natuhe's law, Forture's favourite.
- 'S is not used with inanimate or non-living things.

  Example : leg of the table, cover of the book.
- But nouns that denote time, distance or weight, is used.

  Example : a stone's throw, in a year's time, the earth's surface.
- Some other common phrases where's is used are to his heart's content, at his wit's end, for goodness' sake, out of harm's way.
- When a noun consists of several words, the possessive sign is attached only to the last word.

  Example : (i) The Queen's of England reaction is important in the Diana episode. ***(Incorrect)***

  (ii) The Queen of England's reaction is important in the Diana episode. ***(Correct)***

Do not be mistaken that since it is the Queen's reaction, the should come after queen. You might think that putting it after England would make the reaction England's and not the Queen's. This is shortsightedness. Do not see Queen and England in isolation, Queen of England is one whole unit and the apostrophe should come at its end.

- When two nouns are in apposition, the possessive sign is put to the latter only.

  Example : (i) I am going to Stephen Hawking's the scientist's country. ***(Incorrect)***

  (ii) I am going to Stephen Hawking the scientist's country. ***(Correct)***
- When two or more nouns show joint possession, the possessive sign is put to the latter only.

  Example : (i) Amitabh and Ajitabh are Bachchanji's sons. So Bachchanji is Amitabh's and Ajitabh's father. ***(Incorrect)***

  (ii) Amitabh and Ajitabh are Bachchanji's sons. So Bachchanji is Amitabh and Ajitabh's father. ***(Correct)***
- When two or more nouns show separate possession the possessive sign is put with both.

  Example : (i) The andience listened to Javed and Vajpayee's poems. ***(Incorrect)***

  (ii) The andience listened to Javed's and Vajpayee's poems. ***(Correct)***

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PRACTICE SHEET

OBJECTIVE QUESTIONS

Directions:

(i) In this section a number of sentences are given. The sentences are underlined in three separate parts and each one is labelled (a), (b), (c), Read each sentence to find out whether there is an error in any underlined part. No sentence has more than one error. When you find an error in any one of the underlined parts (a, b, or c), indicate your response on the separate answer sheet at the appropriate space. You may feel that there is no error in a sentence. In that case letter (d) will signify a 'No error' response.

(ii) You are to indicate only one response for each item in you answer sheet. (If you indicate more than one response, your answer will be considered wrong). Errors may be in grammar, word usage or idioms. there may be a word missing or there may be a word which should be removed.

(iii) You are not required to correct the error. You are required only to indicate your response on the answer sheet.

1. I have (a)/ got two (b)/ sister-in-laws (c)/ No error (d).

2. He bought me a (a)/ choclolate box (b)/ for my birthday. (c)/ No error (d)

3. There have been three (a)/ breaks – in (b)/ in this road this year (c)/ No error (d).

4. The cupboard (a)/ was full (b)/ of tin (c)/ No error (d).

5. She has an extensive know-ledges (a)/ of property prices (b)/ in this area (c)/ No error (d).

6. The decision to build the bridge (a)/ later took an unexpected (b)/ Strategic importances. (c)/ No error (d).

7. She is claiming (a)/ damage for the (b)/ injuries caused (c)/ No error (d).

8. The island's politics (a)/ is complex with over twelve parties (b)/ competing for power (c)/ (c)/ No error (d).

9. The latest news (a)/ of the earthquake survivors (b) are very disturbing (c) No error (d).

10. Diabetes are an illness (a)/ caused by too much sugar (b)/ in the blood (c)/ No error (d).

11. Women's gymnastics are (a)/ no longer dominated (b)/ by eastern europeans (c)/ No error (d).

12. Statistics are now compulsory (a)/ for all students taking (b)/ a course in engineering. (c)/ No error (d).

13. Measles are still a fairly (a)/ serious childhood disease (b)/ in some countries (c)/ No error (d).

14. Recent government statistics (a)/ shows a sharp (b)/ decline in crime (c)/ No errror (d).

15. Gymnasts from over 40 countries (a)/ is competing (b)/ in madrid this weekend (c)/ No error (d).

16. Economics have become (a)/ an increasingly popular course (b)/ at university (c)/ No error (d).

17. The spectator were (a)/ growing restless as (b)/ the day got hotter (c) No error (d).

18. Mira have announced (a)/ rising profits for the (b) / third year in running (c)/ No error (d).

19. The police has (a)/ issued a warrant (b)/ for Rahim's arrest (c)/ No error (d).

20. When he was found (a)/ his face was bruised (b)/ and his clothes was torn (c). No error (d).

21. The public has (a)/ a right to know (b)/ how the fund is to be spent (c)/ No error (d).

22. Raunak was thought to be in Pakistan (a)/ although his exact whereabouts (b)/ was unknown (c)/ No error (d).

23. The stairs leading to the exit (a)/ was steep and dangerous (b)/ said the report (c) No error (d).
24. Lord singh's family have (a)/ lived in the house (b)/ for twelve generations (c)/ No error (d).
25. The college have (a)/ spent over E 400,000 (b)/ on a new sports centre (c)/ No error (d).
26. People was running (a) / in all directions (b)/ trying to get away (c) / No error (d).
27. I can assure her that (a)/ everything are (b)/ perfectly safe. (c)/ No error (d).
28. Either of the doctors are(a)/ available. Which one do you (b)/ want to see? (c)/ No error (d).
29. The majority of (a)/ High school teachers (b)/ is women (c)/ No error (d)
30. Each of Sonal's colleagues (a)/ have sent her (b)/ a personal letter of support (c)/ No error (d).
31. Although some people (a)/ find football boring each match (b)/ are different (c)/ No error (d).
32. We've got two bikes (a)/ but neither of them (b)/ are particularly new (c)/ No error (d).
33. A lot of the pollution are (a)/ caused by the coal mines of the (b)/ edge of town (c)/ No error (d).
34. None of the TV serials are (a)/ worth watching (b)/ tonight. (c)/ No error (d)
35. Scientists have reoported that (a)/ neither of the so-called 'environmentally friendly'fuels (b)/ are less damaging than petrol or diesel (c)/ No error (d).
36. I hope everyone have (a)/ a good time. (b)/ See you next time (c)/ No error (d).
37. The number of students in school (a)/ with reading difficulties (b)/ have fallen this year (c)/ No error (d).
38. Some body have (a)/ the strangest hobbies (b)/ My brother collects stamps! (c)/ No error (d).
39. None of the report are (a)/ particulary (b)/ useful to me (c)/ None error (d).
40. Sameer (a)/ computers (b)/ have been stolen (c)/ No error (d).
41. When the teacher had (a)/ called out the boy's name (b)/ they all stepped forward (c)/ No error (d).
42. There was thousands (a)/ of birds'nests (b)/ in the trees (c)/ No error (d).
43. The readers letters page (a)/ in the magazine is full of (b) complaints aobut the article. (c)/ No error (d).
44. They left their homes (a)/ because of the (b)/ railway's extension (c)/ No error (d).
45. At the mall (a)/ I found I had brought (b)/ last week's shopping list (c)/ No error.
46. That isn't (a)/ much use (b)/ it's the last month's calendar (c)/ No error (d).
47. I was shocked (a)/ by (b)/ Maya's opinion (c)/ No error (d).
48. He gently (a)/ patted (b)/ his sister's shoulder (c)/ No error (d).
49. The building's evacuation (a)/ took only (b)/ 20 minutes (c)/ No error (d).

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ANSWERS AND EXPLANATIONS

1. ***Ans. (c)***

We usually make the second noun plural, to make a compound noun plural. But if the compound noun consists of two nouns joined by 'in', we make plural form by making the first noun plural. So it should be 'sisters-in-law' instead of 'sister-in-laws'.

Note: The second rule also applies to compound nouns joined by 'of; as, bird (s) of prey, commanders — in chief, rule(s) of thumb.

2. ***Ans. (b)***

Chocolate box should be used in passive voice, so replace choclate box with 'box of chocolate'

3. ***Ans. (b)***

The correct phrasal verb is 'break-in' which means 'theft'. To make (break-in) plural we add (–s) to the second word (–in) instead of the first word 'break'. So replace 'breaks-in' with 'break-ins'.

Note: Some compound nouns are made up of (Noun + preposition/adverb). We make such nouns plural by adding (–s) to the last word; as, road –out(s) out—come(s) push —up(s).

However, there are a few exception to this rule; as– looker(s) on, runners (s) —up, passer(s) by, hanger (s) — on.

4. ***Ans. (c)***

We use 'tins' rather than 'tin' in the sense of metal food container.

5. ***Ans. (a)***

Uncountable noun like 'knowledge' can be used countably, but only in the singular. So replace 'knowledges' with 'knowledge'.

6. ***Ans. (c)***

'Importance' is only used in the singular. So replace 'importances' with 'importance'.

7. ***Ans. (b)***

'Damage' is always used in plural form – 'damages'.

8. ***Ans. (b)***

Politics when used in general sense is used as plural and is followed by plural verb 'are' rather than singular 'is'

9. ***Ans. (c)***

'News' when used as subject is followed by singular verb (is) rather than plural verb (are).

10. ***Ans. (a)***

11. ***Ans. (a)***

Some sports like gymnastics is followed by singular auxiliary (is) rather than plural auxiliary 'are'.

12. ***Ans. (a)***

'Statistics' when used as academic subject is followed by singular auxiliary 'is' rather than plural auxiliary 'are'.

13. ***Ans. (a)***

Common disease like 'measles' is followed by singular auxiliary (is) rather than plural auxiliary (are).

14. ***Ans. (d)***

'Statistics' used in general sense (not as an – academic subject) is followed by plural verb (show) rather than singular verb 'shows'.

15. ***Ans. (b)***

Gymnasts (plural) should be followed by plural verb 'are' rather than singular verb 'is'.

16. ***Ans. (a)***

Here 'economics' has been used as an academic subject. So it should be followed by singular auxiliary 'has' rather than plural auxiliary 'have'.

17. ***Ans. (a)***

Spectator (singular) should be followed by singular auxiliary 'has' rather than plural auxiliary 'have'.

18. ***Ans. (a)***

Mira (singular) should be followed by singular auxiliary 'has'.

19. ***Ans. (a)***

The noun 'police' (plural) is followed by plural auxiliary 'have' rather than singular auxiliary 'has'.

20. ***Ans. (c)***

'Clothes' (plural) should be followed by plural auxiliary 'were' rather than singular auxiliary 'was'

21. ***Ans. (a)***

'Public' is followed by plural auxiliary 'have' rather than singular auxiliary 'has'.

22. ***Ans. (c)***

'Where abouts' (plural) should be followed by plural auxiliary (were) rather than singular auxiliary (was).

23. ***Ans. (b)***

'Stairs' (Plural) should be followed by plural Auxiliary (were) rather than singular auxiliary (was)

24. ***Ans. (a)***

Here 'lord singh's family' is considered a single unit. So it should be followed by singular auxiliary (has) rather than plural auxiliary 'have'.

25. ***Ans. (a)***

The college (Singular) should be followed by singular auxiliary (has) rather than plural auxiliary (have)

26. ***Ans. (a)***

'People' is followed by plural auxiliary 'were' rather than singular auxiliary (was).

27. ***Ans. (B)***

With 'everything' we use singular auxiliary (is) rather than plural auxiilary (are).

28. ***Ans. (a)***

With 'either of and a plural noun (doctors) we prefer singular auxiliary (is) rather than plural auxiliary (are).

29. ***Ans. (c)***

With 'the majority of and plural noun (teachers), we use plural auxiliary 'are' rather than singular auxiliary (is).

30. ***Ans. (b)***

With 'each of and plural noun (colleagues) we prefer, singular auxiliary 'has' rather than plural auxiliary 'have'.

31. ***Ans. (c)***

With 'each' and a singular noun (match) we use a singular auxiliary 'is' rather than plural auxiliary 'are'.

32. ***Ans. (c)***

With 'neither of and plural noun (bikes) we prefer a singular verb 'is' rather than plural 'are'.

33. ***Ans. (a)***

With 'a lot of and uncountable noun (pollution), we use singular auxiliary (is) rather than plural auxiliary 'are'.

34. ***Ans. (a)***

With 'none of and plural noun (serial) we prefer singular verb 'is' rather than plural verb 'are'.

35. ***Ans. (c)***

With 'neither of and plural nouns (fuels) we prefer singular verb (is) rather than plural verb (are).

36. ***Ans. (a)***

With 'everyone' we use a singular verb (has) rather than plural verb (have).

37. ***Ans. (c)***

With 'the number of we use a singular auxiliary 'has' rather than plural auxiliary 'have'.

38. ***Ans. (a)***

With 'some body' we use singular auxiliary 'has' rather than plural auxilary 'have'.

39. ***Ans. (a)***

'With 'none of and uncountable 'report' we use singular auxiliary 'is' rather than 'are'.

40. ***Ans. (a)***

To make possessive form of noun (sameer) we add ('s) (Sammeer's) to singular noun. So replace 'sameer' by (Sameer's).

41. ***Ans. (b)***

We add ('– an apostrophe) to regular plural (ending in –s, i.e. boys, girls). So replace (boys') with boy's).

42. ***Ans. (a)***

'Thousands of birds' nests' (Plural) should be governed with plural auxiliary 'were' rather than singular auxiliary 'was'.

43. ***Ans. (a)***

Replace (readers) with (readers')

44. ***Ans. (c)***

With inanimate noun (railway) we use (of + noun – of railway).

So the correct sentence is ..... the extension of railway.

45. ***Ans. (c)***

Replace (last week's shopping list) with (shopping list of the last week).

46. ***Ans. (c)***

Replace 'last months calender' with 'the calender of last month'.

47. ***Ans. (c)***

Replace (maya's opinion) with (opinion of maya) as we prefer (of + noun – of maya) instead of ('s – maya's) when we are talking about process (opinion).

48. ***Ans. (c)***

Replace 'his sister's shoulder' with shoulder of his sister'. We use (of + noun – of his sister) rather than ('s – sister's – when we are talking about a process (patting of shoulder).

49. ***Ans. (a)***

Replace 'the building's evacuation' with (the evacuation of building) rather than ('s – building's) with non living things.

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