

SAMPLE STUDY MATERIAL

Postal Correspondence Course
IES , PSUs & GATE
English (General Ability Test)



General English

Complete book for ESE (General Ability Test)

12years ES paper solved.

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1

ARTICLES

A, An and The is called **Articles** and it is used in a sentence **to make a noun indefinite or definite**. For e.g.

- A beggar has stolen your shirt.
- This is the house in which I live.

(A and An) are called **indefinite articles** because **it makes a noun indefinite**. In sentence 1 a beggar means any beggar, we are indefinite about him.

(The) is called **definite article** because it makes a noun definite. In sentence 2 the house means a definite house where I live.

Use of the Indefinite Article: A and An

1. The **indefinite article is used before singular countable nouns**, For e.g.

A girl likes a toy.

A dog is an animal.

Note: Problems based on this rule is given in exam.

- Ravi prefers/self employment/to job/in any office/no error.
A should be used before job because it is a singular countable noun.
- It being rainy day/most of the people/out on the street were/carrying umbrellas/no error.
A rainy day should be used.
- Summons/was served/on Ram/no error.
Summons is singular countable noun so, a should be used before it. Summons – singular/
Summonses – plural.
- Laser beams can carry/long distance signals in way/somewhat similar to radio waves/no error.
Way is singular countable noun, (a) should be used before it.

2. When a **singular countable noun begins with a consonant sound, we put (a) before it**. For e.g.

- A boy, a woman, a horse, and a toy.

3. When a **singular countable noun begins with a vowel sound, we put (an) before it**. For e.g.

- An ass, an enemy, an ink-pot, and an orange.

Note: Problems based on this rule is asked in exam.

- I am not/wealthy so I/cannot afford to buy/a expensive car/no error.
An expensive should be used instead of a expensive.
- He had no/illusion of being/either a distinguished writer/or a editor/no error.
An editor should be used instead of a editor.

4. When a **singular countable noun begins with the initial consonant h but pronounced with a vowel sound, (An) is put before it**.

- an hour, an honest, an heir and an honour.

5. A yard, a university professor, a union, a unicorn **begin with a consonant sound, that of yu, (a)** is put before it.

➤ A one-rupee note, such a one, a one-eyed man, a one way ticket, **(one) begins with the consonant sound of w. (A)** is put before it.

6. Whether a/an is used before initials depends on how the initial is pronounced. A,E,F,H,I,L,M,N,O,R,S, and X all begin with a vowel sound so,**(an)** is put before it.

➤ an M.P, an M.A, an NCC, an MLA, an X-RAY, an FIR, and an SI.

Note: In using a/an before a word the written form is not important but the spoken form is important.

7. A/An is used before a name of a profession.

- He is a teacher.
- She is a nurse.
- I am an Engineer.

8. Some idiomatic uses of a/an.

(a) A/An is always used in these phrases. For example

Eat a humble pie, in a temper, in a rage, in a mood, in a hurry, in a dilemma, as a rule, as a matter of fact, at a cost, at a loss, at a stone's throw, a short time ago, a short while ago, a love of, a horror of, after a delay of, have a cold, catch a hold, **(but catch cold also)**, have a headache, get a headache, have a fever, have a pain, have an opportunity, have a chance, have a pain, have a cold, have a cough, in a nutshell, in a fix, have a drink, have a rest, have a talk, have a sleep, have a bath, have an interest in, have a pride in, keep a promise, keep an appointment, make a deal with, make an excuse, make a noise, take a risk, at a discount, at a premium, have a swim, go for a swim, have a meal, take a meal, **take courage, (but take a courage)**, take a rest, take a vacation.

(b) A/An is also used with some uncountable nouns. For example

Have a beer, have a shower, have a shave, have a conversation, have a dream, have a chat, have a quarrel, have a fight, have a good day, have a bad day, have a disagreement, have a try, have a good education, have a good knowledge, in a diagram.

(c) A/An is also used with some expressions denoting number and quantity. For e.g.

A lot of, a great deal of, a good deal of, a large quantity of, a large amount of, a great many of, a good many of, a number of, a large number of, a great number of.

Note: In idiomatic expressions, (a) is removed and given as problem.

I. Ravi's habit of/delaying his work/put his colleagues/to lot of trouble/no error.

A lot of trouble should be used. Lots of trouble is also correct.

II. Even though our team took the field with great confidence, the opposition made them eat the humble pie.

- (a) A humble pie (b) Humble pie (c) Humble pies (d) No improvement

The correct answer is (a)

USE OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE (THE)

The Definite Article (the) is used:

1. When a singular countable noun is meant to represent a whole class or species; for e.g.

- **The cow** is a useful animal.
- **The tiger** is a dangerous animal.

2. Before some proper names, these kinds of places and names:

- **Oceans and seas**, e. g. **the Pacific, the black Sea.**
- **Rivers**, e.g. **the Ganga, the Nile.**
- **Canals**, e.g. **the Suez Canal**
- **Deserts**, e.g. **the Sahara.**



➤ **Groups of islands, e.g. the West Indies.**

Exceptions: Java, Sumatra, Ceylon, Sicily.

➤ **Mountain-ranges, e.g. the Himalayas, the Alps.**

Exceptions: (The) is not used before peaks of mountain. For example.

Mount Everest, Mount Abu, Nanda Devi, Dhaulagiri, Annapurna, Mount Fuji, Mount Olympus.

Exceptions: A very few **names of countries**, which include words like **republic, federation and kingdom** (e.g. **The Irish Republic, The United Kingdom**) also: **The Ukraine, The Netherlands** (and its seat of government **The Hague**), **The United States, The Sudan, The U.S.S.R., The Yemen, The Soviet Union.**

➤ **Bays, e.g. The Bay of Bengal, The Bay of Biscay.**

Exception: Hudson Bay.

3. Before the names of Religious books; as,

➤ **The Vedas, the Puranas, the Iliad, the Ramayana.**

➤ **But we say-**Homer's Iliad, Valmiki's Ramayana.

4. Before names of things unique of their kind; as,

➤ **The sun, the sky, the ocean, the sea, the earth, the east, the west.**

5. Before Superlatives; For e.g.

➤ Rahul is **the tallest** boy in the class. ➤ Mr Jha is **the oldest** man in the village.

Note: Problems based on this is asked in exam.

➤ Sunil is/ a best student/in our class/at present/no error.

(The) should be used before best not a.

6. With ordinals as,

- He was **the first** man to arrive. ➤ He missed **the last** train.

7. Before musical instruments; as,

- He can play **the flute**. ➤ Can you play **the table**?

8. Before an adjective when the noun is understood; as,

- **The poor** are always with us. ➤ **The rich** should help **the poor**.

9. Before the names of the parts of the body.

- They hit him on **the head**. ➤ He was wounded in **the leg**.

10. To make a common noun out of a proper noun.

- He is **the Tagore** of Hindi poetry.
(He is to Hindi poetry as Tagore is to Bengali poetry).

11. Before the religious group.

- **The Hindus, the Sikhs, the Christians, the Muslims.**

12. Before the Armed Forces and words that represents Law and Order.

- **The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Police.**

13. Before the names of political parties.

- **The Communist party, the Labour party, the BJP, the Congress.**

14. Before a physical position.

- **The top, the bottom, the back, the side.**

15. Before the names denoting nationality.

- **The Indians, the French, the Japanese, the Americans.**

16. (The) is not used before a comparative degree if it is followed by than or to.

- He is **better than** you (**Not the better than**)
➤ She is **senior to** you (**Not the senior to**)

Note: Problem based on this is asked in exam.

- The interviewer asked me/if I knew that/Kalidasa was the greater/**than** any other poet/no error.

The greater should not be used because it is followed by comparative + than.

17. (The) is used before comparative degree if comparative degree is used with (of the two).

- He is **the better of the two** boys

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18. The + comparative + subject + verb, the + comparative + subject + verb is used.

➤ **The more** he gets, **the more** he wants.

Note: Problems based on this is frequently asked in exam.

(i) In a mountaineering expedition/higher you go from the base camp/the colder you feel/no error.

The higher should be used.

(ii) The greater the demand, higher the price.

(a) High (b) The high (c) The higher (d) No improvement

The correct answer is (c).

19. If the construction of the sentence is **Noun + of + Noun**, then **(the)** is used before the first noun.

➤ **The student of this class** is naughty. ➤ He likes **the tea of India**.

Note: Problems based on this is frequently asked in exam.

➤ The teacher drew/**an attention of the/boys** to the importance/of regular practice/no error.

(The) should be used instead of an attention.

20. Exception: **(The)** is not used before **Parliament**.

Some nouns used with **(the)** and without **(the)**

TYPE OF NAME	WITHOUT (THE)	WITH (THE)
Season	In spring, in summer, in winter, in autumn.	In the spring season, the summer season, the winter season, the autumn season.
Festival and holidays	Holi, Deepawali, Christmas, Independence day, Easter, Good Friday.	The Deepawali holidays, the Christmas holidays.
Family relations	Father, Mother, Sister, Brother, Uncle, Aunt.	The Father was the tallest in the family.
Countries	America, India, China, Russia.	The U.S.A, the U.K.
University	Bihar University, Ranchi University, Jawahar Lal	The University of Bihar. But if the university is in the

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	University.	name of a person. It cannot be changed into The University of Jawahar Lal.
Newspaper	Today's Times of India, Our Indian Nation	The Times of India, The Hindu, The Hindustan Times.
Diseases	Cholera, malaria, typhoid etc.	Only for the names of four diseases. The Plague, the Flu, the Measles, the Mumps.
Mountains	Mount Everest (a peak of a particular series of mountains)	The Himalayas, the Alps.
Place, Institution, like court, jail, hospital, school, court.	Be in/go to prison, school, hospital, court, church. (used in general sense)	See the prison, build the hospital (used when purpose is categorized)

OMISSION OF THE ARTICLE

1. Before names of meals (used in a general sense); as,

- What time do you have **lunch**? ➤ **Dinner** is ready.

Note: We use **(a)** when there is an adjective before **breakfast, lunch, dinner**, etc. We use **(the)** when we **specify**.

I had **a late lunch** today. (An **adjective late** is there before **lunch**)

The dinner we had at the Tourist Hotel was very nice. (**Dinner** is specified here)

2. Before languages:

- We are studying **English**. ➤ They speak **Punjabi** at home.

3. Before school, college, university, church, bed, hospital, prison,

when these places are **visited or used for their primary purpose**; as,

- I learnt French at **school**. ➤ We go to church on **Sundays**. ➤
My uncle is still in **hospital**.

Note: Problems based on this is asked in exam.

- The moment Vignesh was/admitted to **the hospital**/the warden decided/to inform his parents/no error.
(The) should not be used before hospital.
- The robbers were/caught just as they/were about to/escape from **the jail**/no error.
(The) should not be used before jail.

Note: (The) is used with these words when we refer to them as a **definite place, building or object rather than to the normal activity** that goes on there; for e.g.

- **The school** is very **near** to my home. ➤ I **met** him at **the church**.
- I went to **the hospital** to see my uncle.

4. Before the names of games. For e.g.

- They play **football, cricket, tennis, volleyball**.

5. It is not put before a noun if it is preceded by the following words, appoint, declare, elect and made.

- Wrong:** They **elected** him **the president**. **Right:** They **elected** him **president**.
Wrong: We **declared** him a **captain**. **Right:** We **declared** him **captain**.

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Wrong: He was **appointed a teacher.** **Right:** He was **appointed teacher.**
Wrong: We **made him the monitor.** **Right:** We **made him monitor.**

6. **Most** if followed by a noun or **of** is **not** preceded by an article.

Wrong: **The most** birds can fly. **Right:** **Most** birds can fly.

Wrong: **The most of** the girls are here. **Right:** **Most of** the girls are here.

7. It is **not** put before a noun if it is preceded by the following words, **type of, kind of, sort of, variety of, a number of, a large number of, a lot of, lots of, plenty of, a great deal of.**

Wrong: I want this **type of a gun.** **Right:** I want this **type of gun.**

Wrong: He is a different **kind of a man.** **Right:** He is a different **kind of man.**

Wrong: We don't like this **sort of a boy.** **Right:** We don't like this **sort of boy.**

Note: A/An can be used with **kind of, type of, sort of, if the sentence is interrogative.**

➤ What **type of a singer** is he? or What **type of singer** is he?

8. It is **not** put before a noun if it is preceded by the following words, **rank of, title of, post of, position of.**

Wrong: Rakesh is promoted to the **rank of the Major.**

Right: Rakesh is promoted to the **rank of Major.**

Wrong: He was given the **title of a Raja.**

Right: He was given the **title of Raja.**

9. It is **not** put before the names of the month (January, February) and days of the week (Sunday, Monday).

Wrong: He came in **the March.** **Right:** He came in **March.**

Wrong: She left home on **a Sunday.** **Right:** She left home on **Sunday.**

10. It is **not** put before the names of a particular subject.

Wrong: He is a student of **the geography.** **Right:** He is a student of **geography.**

Wrong: She got good marks in **a chemistry.** **Right:** She got good marks in **chemistry.**

11. It is **not** put before a plural noun.

Wrong: **The Cows** give milk. **Right:** **Cows** give milk.

Wrong: **A Dogs** are animals. **Right:** **Dogs** are animals.

12. It is **not** put before a proper noun.

Wrong: This is **a Rahul.** **Right:** This is **Rahul.**

Wrong: **The Delhi** is a city. **Right:** **Delhi** is a city.

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13. It is not put before uncountable noun.

Wrong: **The Milk** is good for us. **Right:** **Milk** is good for us.

Wrong: **A Gold** is yellow. **Right:** **Gold** is yellow.

But when **used** in a **particular** sense (**the**) is **put** before it.

Right: **The milk** of this cow tastes good.

Right: **The gold** of this ring is yellow.

14. It is not put before news, information, furniture and advice as they are singular uncountable nouns.

Wrong: This is a good **news**. **Right:** This is good **news**.

Wrong: This is a useful **information**. **Right:** This is useful **information**.

Wrong: I have a new **furniture**. **Right:** I have new **furniture**.

Wrong: You should take a legal **advice**. **Right:** You should take legal **advice**.

15. Fear, beauty, hope and death are uncountable nouns. A/An is not put before them.

Wrong: He was pale with **the fear**. **Right:** He was pale with **fear**.

Wrong: **A Beauty** is only skin deep. **Right:** **Beauty** is only skin deep.

Wrong: **A Death** comes to all. **Right:** **Death** comes to all.

Wrong: We live in a **hope**. **Right:** We live in **hope**.

16. Article is not put before a noun, if it is preceded by a possessive adjective like (My, Your, our, etc.), a demonstrative adjective like (this, that, these, those, no, any, other, any other, etc.) and a distributive adjective like (each, either, neither, every, etc.)

➤ This is **my house** (Not a/the house) ➤ **This house** is mine (Not a/the house)

➤ **Each boy** was ready (Not a/the boy)

17. If man, woman, life, death, science, art, nature is used in general sense. Article is not used before them.

Note: Problem based on this is asked in exam.

➤ The man is mortal/and ultimately he has to leave everything here/yet how irrationally he remains attached to his worldly possessions/no error.

➤ (The) should not be used before man.

18. Article is not used in these phrases.

➤ **By post/by chance/by messenger/by cheque/by air/by land/by sea/by road/ by car/by jeep/by bus/by train/by plane/by steamer/by scooter/by bicycle/by mistake.**

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- **In fact/in detail/in short/in trouble/in confusion/in time/in demand/in danger/in life/in haste/in crisis/in difficulty/in doubt/in debt.**
- **On strike/on duty/on foot/on payment/on leave/on demand/on time/on earth.**
- **Write in ink/write in pencil but we can also say write with a pen/write with a pencil.**

PROBLEMS BASED ON ARTICLES

Directions: Find out the error in each of the following sentences if any. If there is no error, your answer is 'E'.

1. In science the recognition goes to a man / who convinces the world, / not to the man to whom /
(a) (b) (c)
the idea first occurs. / No Error.
(d) (e)
2. It is only after / the war is over / that people realise / how terrible it was/ No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
3. Of the two / answers, this / is certainly / better. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
4. He is unfortunate enough / to lose / few friends he made / during his stay at Ranchi. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
5. There were a number / of pretty girls in the gathering / but it was Ratika / who remained a centre of
(a) (b) (c) (d)
attraction. /No Error.
(e)
6. **I have** been / informed that / Dr. Rahul visits Ranchi / the following month. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
7. He is / the best musician / of the time but unfortunately / least recognised. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
8. He said that he felt anxious / because a friend of his / had given him / a very bad news. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
9. I don't like / that type of a man / who does nothing but / find out faults in others. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
10. He claims to be a linguist / but, in reality, he / does not know even / the A B C of linguistics. /
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No Error.

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- (e)
11. The cure lies / in promoting values of humanism / and democracy so as to fight /
(a) (b) (c)
the oncoming brand of fascism. / No Error.
(d) (e)
12. When the residence was / set on the fire, all the people / started crying at the top / of their voices.
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No error.
(e)
13. A first step / in a rational solution / to any difficulty is the / recognition of the fact that a difficulty
(a) (b) (c) (d)
exists. / No Error.
(e)
14. Little knowledge / of singing that he possessed / proved to be a help for him /
(a) (b) (c)
when he was totally helpless. / No Error.
(d) (e)
15. Don't speak to / him, he always / remains in temper / these days. /No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
16. He boasts of / having good knowledge / of statistics but everybody /
(a) (b) (c)
knows how far he is good at statistics. / No Error.
(d) (e)
17. It was / by a mistake / that he caught / her hand. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
- 18.** These orders of / the Supervisor / may put the lives of / three thousand employees in a danger. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
19. I inspired him / to take the heart / in all unfavorable situations/ and deserve to be called a real hero. /
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No Error.
(e)
- 20.** In my opinion it is not the failures / that have made / him lose the heart but the lack of /
(a) (b) (c)
emotional support./ No Error.
(d) (e)
- 21.** The most happy / marriage would be / a union of a deaf / man to a blind woman. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
22. Rajesh suggested to / his brothers that they should / go to the school regularly /

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- (a) (b) (c)
and do their home work honestly. / No Error.
(d) (e)
23. After returning / from the jail, Rajesh has deserted / all the criminal activities and is determined /
(a) (b) (c)
to lead a simple life. / No Error.
(d) (e)
24. He was an agnostic / but now-a-days he goes to the temple/ and offers prayers / for hours. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
25. Her mother / forbade him to go / to cinema / late at night. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
26. The fact that the compact car / is better than / conventional cars has / been proved by its sales. /
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No Error.
(e)
27. There was little / milk in the bottle and she gave it / to the child when it / started crying. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
28. He leads / a very busy life / so he goes everywhere / by a car. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
29. Thanks to an insight/ and persistence of the local doctor,/ hundreds of victims have been /
(a) (b) (c)
able to resume a normal life. / No Error.
(d) (e)
30. In a hour's time / when I had finished the job, / I got up and / slipped out unnoticed. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
31. He uses / the mock-heroic / style to show / a violence. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
32. People in Darwin / had become so used to to cyclone warnings /
(a) (b)
that few of them paid any attention to the radio warnings / which began this morning. / No Error.
(c) (d) (e)
33. One should / be true to one's promises / in order to earn / name and fame in the life. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
34. The seed / of all the modern facilities / lies in / the science. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
35. "Music is science / but singing is an art" / said the / music teacher. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

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36. We should spend / a good part of the day / in out of door activities and games /
(a) (b) (c)
because staying indoors all the time is bad for health. / No Error.
(d) (e)
37. He should mix / his authority with little / of civility and / common sense. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
38. It is a pity / that the son of millionaire / should indulge / in shoplifting. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d)
(e)
39. It is / the most important / question which you have / to prepare very carefully. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
40. Brahmaputra is / one of the longest rivers / that originate / in the Himalayas. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
41. The Ganges / is for North India / what Krishna / is for South India. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
42. The first European / sailor to come to India / in modern times / was Vasco-da -Gama. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
43. The trees in a forest / must be properly counted and numbered / and proper entries be made /
(a) (b) (c)
in the register. / No Error.
(d) (e)
44. The principal / asked the girls to return / to the hostel before / the sunset. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
45. He found / himself in a trouble / when he saw no / rickshaw outside the station. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
46. He said / that he did not feel / any need to discuss / the incident in the detail. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)
47. In the conclusion / it may be safely asserted that / the poet preaches some / moral implicitly. /
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No Error.
(e)
48. All the staffs / of this office hold the view / that Mr. Kumar is a very wise / and an intelligent officer. /
(a) (b) (c) (d)
No Error.
(e)
49. The man / is the only creature / that is endowed with / the power of speech. / No Error.
(a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

General English

50. It is very difficult / to point out the number of / the creatures living / on earth. / No Error.

- (a) (b) (c) (d) (e)

ANSWER KEY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
A	b	D	C	d	e	d	d	b	e
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
B	b	A	A	c	b	b	d	b	c
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
C	c	B	B	c	c	a	d	a	a
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
D	e	D	D	a	e	b	b	b	a
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
C	e	E	D	b	d	a	d	a	e

2

THE NOUN: KINDS OF NOUNS

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

For e.g. **Ashoka** was an intelligent **king**.

The **noun** Asoka refers to a **particular king**, but the **noun** king can be applicable to **any other king** as well as to Asoka. So, **Asoka** is a **Proper Noun**, and **king** is a **Common Noun**.

PROPER NOUN	COMMON NOUN
A proper noun is the name of a particular person or place . Jayshree has joined Engineer's Institute of India for learning electronics. Rajesh has also joined Engineer's Institute of India for learning electronics. Jayshree, Rajesh and Engineer's Institute of India is a proper noun .	A common noun is a name given in common to every person or thing of the same class or kind . What is common between Jayshree and Rajesh? Both are students . Jayshree and Rajesh are students . Student is a common noun .

RULE-1: Proper Nouns are always **written** with a **capital letter** at the **beginning**.

Wrong. The capital of **india** is **delhi**.

Right. The capital of **India** is **Delhi**.

India and **Delhi** is the name of a **particular place** so, it should begin with a capital letter.

RULE-2: Proper Nouns are sometimes **used** as **Common Nouns**

Wrong. Kalidasa is Shakespeare of India.

Right. Kalidasa is **the** Shakespeare of India.

General English

The **characteristics or quality** of Kalidasa is being compared to that of Shakespeare. Kalidasa is the Shakespeare (the greatest dramatist) of India. Here proper noun is being used as a common noun.

COMMON NOUNS INCLUDE COLLECTIVE NOUNS AND ABSTRACT NOUNS.

COLLECTIVE NOUNS	ABSTRACT NOUNS
A Collective Noun is the name of a number of persons or things taken together and spoken as a whole; as, Crowd, team, flock, herd, army, fleet, jury, committee etc.	An Abstract Noun is usually the name of a quality, action, or state considered apart from the object to which it belongs; as.
A crowd of people. A team of players. A flock of sheep. A herd of cattle. An army of soldiers. A fleet of ships. A jury of judges. A committee of members.	Quality - Goodness, kindness, hardness, brightness, honesty, Action - Laughter, judgment, hatred. State - Childhood, boyhood, sickness, death, poverty.

RULE-3: A **collective noun** takes a **singular verb** and a **singular pronoun** when it **behaves** as a **group or whole**.

Wrong. The **jury have** given **their** verdict. **Right.** The **jury has** given **its** verdict.

Collective noun **jury** is working as a **group or whole** in the above sentence. No word divides the jury. Use singular verb and singular pronoun instead of plural.

RULE-4: A **collective noun** takes a **plural verb** and a plural **pronoun** when it **behaves** as an **individual** and not as a **group or whole**.

Wrong. The jury **was** divided in **its** views.

Right. The jury **were** divided in **their** views.

The word **divided** in the above sentence divides the jury. It is working as an **individual** not as a group. Use plural verb and plural pronoun.

RULE-5: A **material noun** does not take an **article (a, an, the)** before it.

Wrong. **The wheat** is the main crop of the Punjab.

Right. **Wheat** is the main crop of the Punjab.

Wheat is a material noun. A material noun does not take an article before it.

THE NOUN: GENDER

Living beings are of either the **male** or the **female** sex. For e.g. **Boy, girl**.

Masculine Gender	Feminine Gender	Common Gender	Neuter Gender
A noun that denotes a male animal is said to	A noun that denotes a female animal is said	A noun that denotes either a male or a	A noun that denotes a thing that is neither

General English

be of the Masculine Gender ; as Man.	to be of the Feminine Gender ; as Women.	female is said to be of the Common Gender ; as Student, friend, servant, cousin, teacher etc.	male nor female (i.e., things without life) is said to be of the Neuter Gender ; as, Book, pen, room, pencil and mobile.
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RULE-6: Collective noun, even when they represent living beings, a **neuter gender** should be put.

Wrong. Mr Sinha had a **herd of cows**. He kept a servant to look after **her**.

Right. Mr Sinha had a **herd of cows**. He kept a servant to look after **it**.

Herd is a **collective noun** in the above sentence. It refers to the cows which is a living being and a feminine gender. But irrespective of that we apply neuter gender to it.

RULE-7: Neuter gender is also **applied** for **Young children** and **smaller animals**

Wrong. The **baby** has torn **his** clothes.

Right. The **baby** has torn **its** clothes.

The **baby** is simply unaware about his own gender. To avoid confusion neuter gender is put for the young children.

RULE-8 When **non living objects** are **personified**, that is, **spoken of** as if they were **living beings**; we **treat them as males or females**.

1. **Masculine gender** is **applied** if the **object** is **remarkable for strength and violence** (manly quality) for e.g. The Sun, Winter, Summer, Time and Death etc.

2. **Feminine gender** is **applied** if the **object** is **remarkable for beauty, gracefulness and gentleness** (womanly quality) for e.g. The Moon, The Earth, Spring, Nature and Mercy etc.

Wrong. The sun sheds **her** rays on rich and poor alike.

Right. The sun sheds **his** rays on rich and poor alike.

The **sun** has a manly quality so put masculine gender instead of feminine gender.

Wrong. Spring has spread **his** layer of green over the earth.

Right. Spring has spread **her** layer of green over the earth.

Spring represents the womanly quality. Feminine gender should be put instead of Masculine gender.

Wrong. The earth goes round the sun in 3651/4 days. Can you calculate **her** speed?

Right. The earth goes round the sun in 3651/4 days. Can you calculate **its** speed?

The **earth** in the above sentence is being treated as an **object** not as a living being. Neuter gender should be applied.

THE NOUN: NUMBER

Singular Number	Plural Number
A Noun that denotes one person or thing , is said to be in the Singular Number ; as, Boy, girl, book, and pen.	A Noun that denotes more than one person or thing is said to be in the Plural Number ; as, Boys, girls, books, and pens.

Another classification of nouns is whether they are “**countable**” or “**uncountable**”.

Countable Nouns	Uncountable Nouns
Countable nouns are the names of objects, people, etc. that we can count , e.g., book, pen, apple, boy.	Uncountable nouns are the names of things which we cannot count , e.g., milk, oil, sugar, gold, sadness. They mainly represent substances and abstract things.

Countable nouns have **plural forms** while **uncountable nouns** do **not**. For example, we say “**books**” but we cannot say “**milks**”.

RULE-9: Units of counting like **pair, dozen, score, gross, hundred, thousand**

(when **used after numerals**) **keep their singular form.**

Wrong. I bought **three dozens** oranges

Right. I bought **three dozen** oranges

Dozen in the above sentence is used after number. It will keep its **singular form.**

Note: **Dozen, hundred, thousand, etc related questions are asked in exam in this way:**

- (a) **Two dozens/eggs** have/ been/bought/no error.
- (b) **Two dozens/of eggs**/have been/bought/no error.

General English

(Of cannot be used if dozen, hundred, thousand is preceded by a, one, two, etc. Also, dozen cannot be used as dozens).

But we can say:

- (a) Dozens of eggs (b) Hundreds of books
(c) In dozens/in scores/in hundreds/in thousands.

RULE-10: Some **nouns** are **used** only in the **plural**.

1. Names of instruments which have **two parts** forming a kind of pair; as, **Bellows, scissors, tongs, pincers, spectacles, fetters, shears and arms.**

2. Names of certain articles of dress; as, **Trousers, drawers, breeches, jeans, tights, shorts, pants, and trappings.**

3. The following nouns look plural but are in fact singular; as **mathematics, physics, electronics, news, politics, innings, mechanics, ethics, linguistics, phonetics, economics, statistics, etc.**

Wrong. Mathematics **are** his favourite study. **Right.** Mathematics **is** his favourite study.

4. Names of some common diseases: as **measles, mumps, and rickets.**

Wrong. Measles **are** infectious. **Right.** Measles **is** infectious.

5. Names of some games: **billiards, draughts, darts.**

Wrong. Billiards **are** my favourite game. **Right.** Billiards **is** my favourite game.

6. Certain **Collective Nouns**, though **singular in form**, are always used as **plurals**; as, **Poultry, cattle, vermin, people, gentry, police, peasantry, electorate, nobility, riches, and odds.**

Wrong. This poultry **is** mine. **Right.** **These** poultry **are** mine.

Wrong. Whose **is this** cattle? **Right.** Whose **are these** cattle?

RULE-11: **Abstract nouns** and **material nouns** are **uncountable nouns**. They are not used in the

plural.

Wrong. **Cares** of the old **are** necessary. **Right.** **Care** of the old **is** necessary.

Care is abstract noun. Abstract noun is uncountable and not used in the plural.

Wrong. A book is printed on **papers**. **Right.** A book is printed on **paper**.

Paper is material noun. Material noun is uncountable and not used in the plural.

NOUNS SOME IMPORTANT CASES

1. **Some nouns are always used in singular:** For example,

Luggage, baggage, breakage, furniture, drapery, imagery, scenery, poetry, pottery, machinery, work, paper, wood, iron, stone, glass, dust, rubbish, dirt, electricity, traffic, information, advice, chalk, food, bread, grass.

These **nouns** are **uncountable**. **Neither** an **Article a/an** is **put before them nor** they are **changed into plurals**.

Wrong: What is **a poetry**? **Right:** What is **poetry**?

Wrong: The **sceneries** of Kashmir is beautiful. **Right:** The **scenery** of Kashmir is beautiful.

Wrong: The wall is made of **a stone**. **Right:** The wall is made of **stone**.

2. **Some nouns do not change either in singular or in plural form.** For example,

Series, species, deer, sheep, headquarters, means, agenda, data, fish (but fishes also), some varieties of fish, salmon, turbot, pike, mackerel and plaice etc.

3. **When the structure of the sentence is (Noun + Preposition + Noun) both the nouns preceding and following the preposition should be singular.** For example,

Row upon row (**not** rows upon rows)

Day by day (**not** days by days)

Day after day (**not** days after days)

Note: Problems based on this question are asked in exam in this way:

- **Women after women**/climbed the rostrum to/speak against the cruel/ practices of dowry and bride burning/no error.

Replace women after women with woman after woman.

4. We use **five rupees, ten miles** commonly. **But if it is followed by a noun, it is used in this way:**

- **Five rupees** have been spent. (**Used correctly** because five rupees is not followed by a noun)

- I have a **five rupee note**. (**Five rupee** and **not five rupees** because it is followed by a noun i.e. **note**)

- A **ten- mile walk**. (**Ten-mile** is used as an adjective with hyphenated expression)

- Two **ten-rupee notes**. (**Ten-rupee** is used as an adjective with hyphenated expression)

Note: There is no plural formation of hyphenated expressions.

5. **Remember the construction of the following sentences with respective to the nouns:**

- One of the + Noun (always plural) For e.g. One of the most intelligent boys.
- Each of the + Noun (Plural)
- Either of the + Noun (Plural)
- Neither of the + Noun (Plural) For e.g. Either of the boys.
- None of the + Noun (Plural)
- Any of the + Noun (Plural if it is countable)
- Most of the + Noun (Singular if it is Uncountable)
- Most of the + Noun (Plural if it is Countable)
- All of the + Noun (Singular if it is Uncountable)
- All of the + Noun (Plural if it is Countable)

6. **Remember the plural forms of these Singular Nouns:** For e.g.

General English

SINGULAR	PLURAL
Mouse	Mice
Goose	Geese
Criterion	Criteria
Cupful	Cupfuls
Phenomenon	Phenomena
Foot	Feet
Handful	Handfuls
Axis	Axes
Tooth	Teeth
Mouthful	Mouthfuls
Basis	Bases
Dormouse	Dormice
Spoonful	Spoonfuls
Oasis	Oases

.....**Continue**
(Sample Next Section)

SPOTTING ERRORS

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, i.e., (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.

IES-2014

Directions: Each equation in this section has a sentence with three underlined parts labelled (a), (b) and (c). Read each sentence to find out whether there is any error in any underlined part and indicate your response in the answer sheet against the corresponding letter i.e. (a) or (b) or (c). If you find no error, your response should be indicated as (d).

General English

111. The President reached back this morning after a visit to the southern states.
(a) (b) (c)
No error
(d)
112. It is a fact that cereals constitute major part of the diet of our people.
(a) (b) (c)
No error
(d)
113. He did not observe carefully that what was in front of him. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
114. Most of the residents were inside the building when it was collapsed. Nor
error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
115. There is a service at St. Paul's tomorrow. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
116. Egyptian cotton is superior than Indian. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
117. Your shirt looks so good. Where you bought it? No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
118. A miser man spends very little even on food. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
119. I have sent you a letter last month. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
120. All the glitters is not gold. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
121. The administrator is entrusted the responsibility of the overall management of an
industry
(a) (b)
while the technical personnel remain advisers to other administration. No error
(c) (d)
122. Does it matters whether a cat is white or black as long as it catches mice? No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
123. My friend worked hard with a view to pass the examination. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
124. We shall see him after the dinner. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
125. He looked up into the matter with keen interest. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)

General English

126. He did precious little (a) for me (b) in a way of financial support. (c) No error (d)
127. Mother was (a) looking (b) out of the window. (c) No error (d)
128. This variety of cloth is (a) superior than any other (b) in the shop. (c) No error (d)
129. He went to the house (a) and I (b) followed with him. (c) No error (d)
130. My oldest sonis coming back (a) from the U.S.A. this month. (b) No error (c) (d)

Answer-key

111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
a	b	b	c	b	c	c	b	a	b
121	122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130
a	a	c	d	a	a	a	b	c	a

EXPLANATION

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