GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

SSC CGL • CHSL • CPO • MTS • STENO • SELECTION POST

MOST IMPORTANT
RULES OF GRAMMAR

150 RULES • 477 QUESTIONS • COMPLETE GRAMMAR

Every rule explained with structure charts, tables and infographics
in a clear English–हिंदी blend, common errors corrected
and exam traps highlighted

150	14	157	A4
RULES	SECTIONS	PYQs	PRINTABLE

Structure Charts | Comparison Tables | Spot & Fix | Exam Traps | PYQs 2025–26 + Answer Keys

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GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

MOST IMPORTANT RULES OF GRAMMAR

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150 rules • 14 sections • Section या rule पर click करके सीधे उस page पर जाएँ

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🧩 **Structure**
हर rule का formula colour chain में

📊 **Tables**
Compare करके याद रखो

× → ✓ **Spot & Fix**
Common errors और उनका सही रूप

⚠ **Traps & 💡 Hooks**
Exam trick + memory line

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150 rules • click any rule to jump

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GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

SECTION 01

Subject–Verb Agreement

Verb को हमेशा अपने असली subject से match करना • Rules 1–17

R1	The Proximity Principle	R2	The First-Subject Rule
R3	Main Subject, Not the Qualifier	R4	Clause, Gerund & Infinitive as Subject
R5	Distributive Pronouns: Each, Every, Either, Neither	R6	Indefinite Pronouns & "None / Nothing / No one but"
R7	"One of" + Plural Noun + Singular Verb	R8	Many, Many a & A Great Many
R9	"More than one" Takes a Singular	R10	A Number of vs The Number of
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RULE 01

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

The Proximity Principle

Either…or / Neither…nor / Not only…but also / Or / Nor

जब दो subjects इन **correlative conjunctions** से जुड़े हों, तो verb उस subject से agree करती है जो उसके **सबसे nearest** है। पहले वाला subject ignore करो — बस verb के ठीक पहले वाला subject देखो।

STRUCTURE

Subject 1 + **Either / Neither / Not only** + **Subject 2** nearest → **Verb** agrees with S2

Singular nearest → singular verb

Neither the students nor the teacher ***is*** *ready.*

Plural nearest → plural verb

Either Sohan or his friends ***are*** *to blame.*

SPOT & FIX

× Neither he nor they is making any plan. → ✓ Neither he nor they **are** making any plan.

× Either Parmeet or Jyoti have done it. → ✓ Either Parmeet or Jyoti **has** done it.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Person भी nearest subject से: *Neither you nor I **am** guilty.*
- Pronoun भी nearest से: *Neither Rakesh nor Sohan submitted **his** paper.*

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Verb looks LEFT — only one step.

PRACTICE Rule 01 • PYQs & practice questions

Q1. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Neither the projection of growth nor the estimation of deficit trends (1)/ appear to have accounted for the liquidity constraints (2)/ that small-scale enterprises face (3)/ during cyclical downturns in demand. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q2. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Neither the manager nor the employees (1)/ has submitted (2)/ their performance logs (3)/ for the current quarter. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 21 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q3. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Not only each participant's response (1)/ but also their metadata (2)/ was collected (3)/ and cross-validated. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 02

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

The First-Subject Rule

As well as, along with, together with, besides, like, rather than, not

इन **additive phrases** से जुड़ा दूसरा noun सिर्फ़ extra information देता है — वह grammatical subject नहीं है। इसलिए verb **पहले subject** के number और person से तय होती है।

STRUCTURE

Subject 1 real subject + **as well as / along with / with / besides / like / unlike / rather than / and not** + **Noun 2** ignore →

Verb agrees with S1

Sentence	First subject	Verb
The captain, along with his players, ___ honoured.	captain (singular)	**was**
I, as well as you, ___ guilty.	I	**am**
The players, except the captain, ___ practising.	players (plural)	**are**

SPOT & FIX

× The teacher as well as the students have gone. → ✓ The teacher as well as the students **has** gone.

× Patience as well as perseverance are necessary. → ✓ Patience as well as perseverance **is** necessary.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Comma के बीच वाला हिस्सा cover करके पढ़ो — बचा हुआ sentence ही असली है।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Bracket the extra — the first noun rules.

PRACTICE Rule 02 • PYQs & practice questions

Q4. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The teacher who had conducted the workshop earlier, (1)/ along with his assistants, (2)/ have submitted the final report to the board (3)/ before the deadline last week. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-1

(a) before the deadline last week (4)
(b) have submitted the final report to the board (3)
(c) The teacher who had conducted the workshop earlier (1)
(d) along with his assistants (2)

Q5. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The CEO along with his deputies (1)/ were present during the final negotiations (2)/ with the investors (3)/ and regulators. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 18 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 03

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Main Subject, Not the Qualifier

Of / with / containing / between … phrases

Subject के बाद आने वाला **of-phrase या with-phrase** केवल qualifier है। Verb **main noun** से agree करेगी, उसके पास वाले noun से नहीं — यही सबसे common SSC trap है।

STRUCTURE

The box (main subject) + **of apples** (qualifier) + **was** (singular)

SPOT & FIX

✗ The box of apples were thrown away.	✓ The box of apples **was** thrown away.
✗ Lack of vitamins and minerals lead to disease.	✓ Lack of vitamins and minerals **leads** to disease.
✗ The contrast between Britain and Europe are striking.	✓ The contrast between Britain and Europe **is** striking.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *The crowd of migrant workers* **is**… — crowd (unit) main subject है।
- Main subject ढूँढने के लिए पूछो: **"असल में क्या was/were?"**

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Cut the "of-tail" — check the head.

PRACTICE

Rule 03 • PYQs & practice questions

Q6. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The list of recommended candidates for various regional posts (1)/ were prepared in haste without proper background checks, (2)/ which resulted in several administrative complications (3)/ during the initial phase of deployment. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q7. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.
The antique grandfather clock in the hallway have not worked properly for over a decade now, which is a real shame for the family.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-1

(a) The antique grandfather clock in
(b) the hallway have not worked
(c) properly for over a decade now,
(d) which is a real shame for the family.

Q8. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The myriad challenges confronting modern urban planners (1)/, ranging from sustainable infrastructure to social equity, often demands (2)/ an interdisciplinary approach (3)/ to yield effective solutions. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q9. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The paradigm of rational choice theory (1)/ postulate that agents act consistently (2)/ to maximize utility, often ignoring (3)/ the constraints imposed by affective reasoning. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 04

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Clause, Gerund & Infinitive as Subject

What I need... / Writing poems... / To give advice...

जब कोई पूरा **clause, gerund phrase (V-ing) या infinitive (to + V1)** subject बने, तो वह एक single idea माना जाता है → verb **always singular**, भले ही अंदर plural noun हो।

1 Clause
What I need ***is*** *two hundred chairs.*

2 Gerund
Writing poems ***has*** *been my hobby.*

3 Infinitive
To give suggestions ***is*** *easy.*

SPOT & FIX

× Producing different components were simple. → ✓ Producing different components **was** simple.

× That none of them found it viable were surprising. → ✓ That none of them found it viable **was** surprising.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One action = one idea = singular verb.

PRACTICE Rule 04 • PYQs & practice questions

Q10. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
What the committee failed to deliberate on adequately (1)/ were not the policy's objectives themselves, (2)/ but the political ramifications it (3)/ might have had if implemented without broader consensus. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q11. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
All that is needed for the bill to pass (1)/ are a simple majority (2)/ and a signature from the presiding officer (3)/ to certify the vote. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 16 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q12. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
That the report failed to address the root causes (1)/ of the community unrest were surprising (2)/ given the exhaustive data (3)/ compiled over several months. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q13. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
That there exists no recourse for citizens (1)/ if environmental violations are condoned at the ministerial level (2)/ underline a systemic erosion of (3)/ constitutional accountability. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 05

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Distributive Pronouns: Each, Every, Either, Neither

हर एक को अलग-अलग देखना

Each, every, either, neither हर व्यक्ति/चीज़ को अलग-अलग (individually) देखते हैं, इसलिए noun singular, verb singular और pronoun भी singular। ध्यान दो: **every pronoun नहीं है**, इसलिए *every of* गलत है → *each of* लिखो।

Word	Used for	Pattern	Example
Each	दो या ज़्यादा	each + singular / each of + plural noun + singular verb	*Each of the boys **has** done **his** work.*
Every	दो से ज़्यादा	every + singular noun (never "every of")	*Every member **was** present.*
Either	दो में से कोई एक	either of + plural + singular verb	*Either of the two pencils will do.*
Neither	दो में से कोई नहीं	neither of + plural + singular verb	*Neither of them **was** present.*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ Every of the two girls will get a prize. → ✓ **Each** of the two girls will get a prize.
- ✗ Neither of the five accused was present. → ✓ **None** of the five accused was present.
- ✗ Every soldier and every officer was in their place. → ✓ … was in **his** place.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Either/neither = सिर्फ़ **दो**; दो से ज़्यादा के लिए **any / none**।
- *every five hours* ✓ — every + number + plural noun।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Each = one by one → always singular.

PRACTICE Rule 05 • PYQs & practice questions

Q14. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Each participant who registered online for the event (1)/ were given a welcome kit (2)/ along with the program schedule and map (3)/ at the helpdesk near the entrance. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q15. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Each of the committee members (1)/ were obligated to disclose any potential conflict (2)/ regardless of how trivial it might appear (3)/ during the selection process. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 19 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 06

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Indefinite Pronouns & "None / Nothing / No one but"

Everyone, somebody, nobody … + singular • None but / except + noun

Everyone, everybody, someone, somebody, anyone, nobody, no one, nothing, each — ये सब **singular** हैं, इसलिए verb और pronoun दोनों singular। **None / Nothing / No one + but / except + noun** में verb उस **noun के number** से चलता है जो but / except के बाद आता है।

STRUCTURE

None / Nothing / No one + **but / except** + **Noun** (singular / plural) → **Verb** (follows this noun)

Indefinite pronoun always singular

*Everyone in the hostel **has** submitted **his or her** form.*
*Nobody **knows** the answer.*

None but / except noun after but decides

*None but Rahul **has** come.*
*None except the toppers **have** been invited.*

SPOT & FIX

× Everybody have to carry their own ID.	✓ Everybody **has** to carry **his or her** own ID.
× Nobody among the volunteers were willing to stay.	✓ Nobody among the volunteers **was** willing to stay.
× None but the principal were present.	✓ None but the principal **was** present.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *Everyone … their* बोलचाल में चलता है, पर exam में **his or her** safe है।
- *None of + plural noun* (none of the boys) अलग rule है — वहाँ singular / plural दोनों मान्य; **None but / except** में noun देखो।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One-body words are single; after "but", look at the noun.

PRACTICE

Rule 06 • PYQs & practice questions

Q16. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
None except the top-ranked researchers (1)/ has received invitations (2)/ for the closed-door summit (3)/ scheduled next quarter. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q17. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Everyone who had registered for the state-level skill development programme (1)/ were asked to carry (2)/ a self-attested copy of the Aadhaar card (3)/ to the venue on the first day. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q18. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
Nobody among the hundreds of volunteers who had gathered at the relief camp **were willing** to stay back after the floodwaters began to rise again.

✎ Practice Question

(a) was willing **(b)** have been willing
(c) are willing **(d)** No improvement

RULE 07

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

"One of" + Plural Noun + Singular Verb

One of my friends owns...

One of का मतलब है group में से **सिर्फ़ एक**। इसलिए 'of' के बाद noun plural (group) होगा, लेकिन verb 'one' से agree करके singular रहेगी।

STRUCTURE

One of + **plural noun** my friends + **singular verb** owns

SPOT & FIX

× One of my friend lent me money. → ✓ One of my **friends** lent me money.

× One of the students have won. → ✓ One of the students **has** won.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- **One of those who** → verb plural: *He is one of those who **have** sacrificed **their** lives.* (who का antecedent "those" है)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Plural group, singular one.

PRACTICE Rule 07 • PYQs & practice questions

Q19. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.
Entire in my life (A)/ one of the best gift (B)/ I have received (C)/ is the car (D).

❑ SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 11 Dec | Shift-1

(a) one of the best gift (B)
(b) Entire in my life (A)
(c) I have received (C)
(d) is the car (D)

Q20. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
One of the most important reasons (1)/ for the failure of the scheme (2)/ were the lack of coordination (3)/ between the departments concerned. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 08

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Many, Many a & A Great Many

तीनों का meaning same, grammar अलग

तीनों का अर्थ 'बहुत सारे' है, पर structure अलग है। **Many a** एक-एक को अलग देखता है, इसलिए **singular noun + singular verb** लेता है।

Expression	Noun	Verb	Example
Many	plural	plural	*Many soldiers **were** killed.*
Many a	**singular**	**singular**	*Many a soldier **was** killed.*
A great / good many	plural	plural	*A great many students **have** passed.*

SPOT & FIX

× Many a man were taken ill. → ✓ Many a man **was** taken ill.

× A great many student have passed. → ✓ A great many **students** have passed.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"Many a" walks alone — singular.

PRACTICE Rule 08 • PYQs & practice questions

Q21. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Many a promising athlete from the remote hill districts (1)/ have abandoned competitive sport midway (2)/ owing to the absence of proper coaching (3)/ and financial support. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q22. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Many a brave soldier _ _ his life on the icy heights of Siachen, guarding the frontier in temperatures that fall below minus forty degrees.

✎ Practice Question

(a) have laid down **(b)** has laid down
(c) are laying down **(d)** lay down their

Q23. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
A great many applicant (1)/ who appeared for the recruitment test last Sunday (2)/ have complained about (3)/ the poor seating arrangements. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 09

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

"More than one" Takes a Singular

Meaning plural, grammar singular

More than one अर्थ में plural लगता है, पर grammar में यह 'one' से जुड़ा है — इसलिए **singular noun + singular verb** | लेकिन *more than two* हो तो plural!

STRUCTURE

More than one + **singular noun** passenger + **singular verb** was

SPOT & FIX

× More than one passengers were injured. → ✓ More than one **passenger was** injured.

× More than one scientist have contributed. → ✓ More than one scientist **has** contributed.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"One" is the last word you hear → singular.

PRACTICE Rule 09 • PYQs & practice questions

Q24. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
More than one applicant from the northern districts (1)/ have been disqualified for submitting (2)/ forged caste certificates during (3)/ the final round of document verification. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q25. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
According to the audit report released last week, more than one _ _ in the procurement department _ _ been found guilty of flouting the tendering norms.

✎ Practice Question

(a) official, has **(b)** officials, have
(c) official, have **(d)** officials, has

Q26. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
According to the forest officials, **more than one tigers were spotted** near the village pond during the night patrol.

✎ Practice Question

(a) more than one tiger was spotted **(b)** more than one tigers was spotted
(c) more than one tiger were spotted **(d)** No improvement required

Q27. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
More than two volunteers (1)/ has been injured (2)/ while clearing the debris (3)/ after the landslide in the hill town. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 10

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

A Number of vs The Number of

बहुत सारे vs कुल संख्या

दोनों के बाद noun **plural** ही आता है, लेकिन verb अलग: **A number of** = many → plural verb; **The number of** = total count (एक संख्या) → singular verb।

A number of = many	**The number of** = the total
plural noun + **plural verb**	plural noun + **singular verb**
*A number of applicants **are** waiting.*	*The number of accidents **has** increased.*

SPOT & FIX

× A number of boys is reading this novel.	→	✓ A number of boys **are** reading this novel.
× The number of cases have jumped.	→	✓ The number of cases **has** jumped.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"A" = many • "The" = one figure.

PRACTICE Rule 10 • PYQs & practice questions

Q28. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
A large number of candidates who appeared for the civil services examination / has expressed their concern regarding the unexpectedly high difficulty level / of the newly introduced analytical section in the revised exam pattern.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 24 Sep | Shift-2

(a) A large number of candidates who appeared for the civil services examination
(b) has expressed their concern regarding the unexpectedly high difficulty level
(c) of the newly introduced analytical section in the revised exam pattern
(d) No error

Q29. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
The number of avian species in this sanctuary **have decreased** significantly due to the rapid loss of natural habitat and climate change.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) are increasing
(b) were increasing
(c) having increased
(d) has decreased

Q30. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
A number of startups _ _ shut down this year, and the number of investors willing to fund new ventures _ _ also fallen sharply.

✎ Practice Question

(a) has, have
(b) have, has
(c) have, have
(d) has, has

RULE 11

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Portion Words: All, Some, Most, Half, Fractions & Percent

… of + noun → verb follows the noun

All, some, most, half, part, a lot of, one-third, 40 percent खुद न singular हैं न plural — इनके बाद जो noun आता है, **verb उसी noun से agree करती है।**

Portion word + of	Noun	Verb	Example
Some / All / Most of	plural	plural	*Some of the students **were** absent.*
Half / Part of	singular	singular	*Half of the class **has** finished.*
Two-thirds of	plural	plural	*Two-thirds of the pillars **have** rotted.*
40 percent of	singular (uncountable)	singular	*40 percent of the population **lives** here.*

SPOT & FIX

× One third of the birds migrates south. → ✓ One third of the birds **migrate** south.

× Three fourths of the pillar have rotted. → ✓ Three fourths of the pillar **has** rotted.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Numerator 1 से बड़ा हो तो fraction plural: **two-thirds, three-fourths** (not two-third)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Portion is a pointer — look at the noun it points to.

PRACTICE — Rule 11 • PYQs & practice questions

Q31. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Much of what appears to be coordination (1)/ among the regulatory bodies and private stakeholders (2)/ are, in fact, coincidental overlaps (3)/ caused by differing mandates. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q32. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
According to the latest survey, (1)/ sixty percent of the city's drinking water (2)/ are contaminated with industrial waste (3)/ discharged into the river upstream. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

RULE 12

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

The + Adjective = A Whole Class (Plural)

The rich, the poor, the blind, the old

जब **the + adjective** किसी पूरी class के लोगों के लिए आए (*the rich* = सभी अमीर लोग), तो वह **plural noun** की तरह काम करता है → verb और pronoun plural!

SPOT & FIX

✗ The poor needs our help.	→	✓ The poor **need** our help.
✗ The rich always looks down on others.	→	✓ The rich always **look** down on others.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- पर abstract quality हो तो singular: *The beautiful* **is** *not always good.*

💡 MEMORY HOOK

The + adjective = "all such people".

PRACTICE — Rule 12 • PYQs & practice questions

Q33. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
In the aftermath of the devastating cyclone, the state government announced that _ _ would receive free medical care, while _ _ were provided temporary shelters in nearby schools.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the injured, the homeless
(b) injured, homeless
(c) the injureds, the homeless
(d) an injured, a homeless

Q34. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The newly built ramp at the railway station has made it easier for _ _ to board the trains without depending on the porters.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the disabled
(b) disabled
(c) the disableds
(d) a disabled

Q35. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
In a welfare state, (1)/ the government must ensure (2)/ that the poor gets (3)/ free healthcare and education. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 13

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Collective Nouns: Unit or Members?

Committee, jury, team, crew, family, audience

Collective noun अगर **एक unit** की तरह act करे → **singular verb + its**। अगर members **अलग-अलग राय/actions** में हों (divided, disagree, their own) → plural verb + their।

As a unit → singular + its

*The committee **has** submitted **its** report.*
*The crew **was** not perturbed.*

As individuals → plural + their

*The jury **were** divided in **their** opinions.*
*The family **are** quarrelling.*

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Verb और pronoun एक ही sentence में match करने चाहिए: *has ... its* या *have ... their* — mix नहीं।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Acting together = it • Acting apart = they.

PRACTICE Rule 13 • PYQs & practice questions

Q36. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"The board, in a rare moment of complete agreement, were unanimous in its decision to fire the CEO, which came as a surprise."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 18 Nov | Shift-3

(a) The board
(b) in a rare moment of complete agreement
(c) were unanimous in its decision
(d) to fire the CEO, which came as a surprise.

Q37. Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error.
The panel of judges have (1) / asked the participants to (2) / prepare their final presentations. (3) / No error (4)

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 9 Feb 2025 | Shift-2

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q38. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The jury, after deliberating for nearly six hours, (1)/ has finally delivered its verdict (2)/ but the members still differs (3)/ on the quantum of punishment. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q39.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The orchestra _ _ tuning their instruments when the chief guest arrived, so the programme started fifteen minutes late.

✎ Practice Question

(a) was
(b) were
(c) has been
(d) is

RULE 14

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Two Subjects Joined by "And"

Usually plural — with three exceptions

And से जुड़े दो subjects सामान्यतः plural verb लेते हैं। But exceptions याद रखो: **same person**, **one idea** और **each/every...and each/every** → singular।

1 Same person
The Secretary and Treasurer ***is*** *present.* (एक व्यक्ति)

2 One idea
Bread and butter ***is*** *my breakfast. / Slow and steady* ***wins****.*

3 Each/Every ... and
Every boy and every girl ***was*** *given a prize.*

SPOT & FIX

× My friend and guide have come. → ✓ My friend and guide **has** come. (एक ही व्यक्ति)

× Every boy and every girl were present. → ✓ Every boy and every girl **was** present.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two people = plural • One person, two roles = singular.

PRACTICE — Rule 14 • PYQs & practice questions

Q40.

Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The increase in the number of unresolved cases (1)/ and the lack of clear guidelines from the authorities (2)/ has contributed significantly to the confusion (3)/ surrounding the recent procedural changes. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q41. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Slow and steady __ the race, as the old fable reminds us, but in modern corporate life, speed and precision __ equally valued by employers.

✎ Practice Question

(a) wins, are
(b) win, is
(c) wins, is
(d) win, are

Q42. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Rice and dal __ the staple diet of most families in the village, though the younger generation now prefers fast food.

✎ Practice Question

(a) is
(b) are
(c) have been being
(d) has

Q43. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
My friend, philosopher and guide (1)/ have always encouraged me (2)/ to question every assumption (3)/ before accepting it. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 15

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Separate Auxiliaries for Different Numbers

The thief was caught and the goods (were) recovered

जब दो clauses के subjects **अलग number** के हों, तो एक ही auxiliary दोनों के लिए नहीं चल सकता — दूसरे clause में सही auxiliary अलग से लिखो।

SPOT & FIX

× The thief was caught and the stolen goods recovered. → ✓ … and the stolen goods **were** recovered.

× The house was sold and the paintings auctioned. → ✓ … and the paintings **were** auctioned.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Different number, different helper.

PRACTICE Rule 15 • PYQs & practice questions

Q44. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part.
After a week-long operation in the border district, the main conspirator was arrested and **the smuggled weapons seized** from an abandoned warehouse near the railway yard.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the smuggled weapons were seized
(b) the smuggled weapons was seized
(c) the smuggled weapons seizing
(d) No improvement required

Q45. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The main road has been widened (1)/ and the new footpaths constructed (2)/ ahead of the international summit (3)/ to be held in the capital next month. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q46. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The chief engineer has been suspended (1)/ and the two junior contractors blacklisted (2)/ for using substandard cement (3)/ in the construction of the flyover. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q47. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The culprit was identified and **the stolen ornaments returned** to the temple trust within forty-eight hours of the theft.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the stolen ornaments was returned
(b) the stolen ornaments were returned
(c) the stolen ornaments returning
(d) No improvement required

RULE 16

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

Relative Pronoun Agrees with Its Antecedent

who / which / that के बाद की verb

Who / which / that की अपनी कोई number नहीं — उसके बाद verb, pronoun सब **antecedent** (जिसके लिए वह आया है) से agree करते हैं।

Structure	Antecedent	Verb
one of the best novels that ___ been written	novels (plural)	**have**
the only one of the girls who ___ scored 98%	the only one (singular)	**has**
It is I who ___ responsible.	I	**am**
Ravi, not his friends, who ___ shouting	Ravi	**was**

SPOT & FIX

× He is one of those who can sacrifice his life. → ✓ … who can sacrifice **their** lives.

× Atmospheric rivers are bands of moisture that extends… → ✓ … bands of moisture that **extend** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Who borrows the number of its noun.

PRACTICE Rule 16 • PYQs & practice questions

Q48. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The principal emphasized that it was not only a lack of funding for extracurricular activities (1)/ that disheartened students, but the inconsistent support from parents and faculty (2)/ which, despite being crucial for success, (3)/ contribute to a decline in overall participation rates. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q49. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
It was not merely the fragmentation of administrative jurisdictions across sectors (1)/ that disrupted cohesive governance, but the inertia embedded in overlapping regulatory mandates (2)/ which, though designed to safeguard institutional autonomy, (3)/ ends up paralyzing inter-departmental responsiveness altogether. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q50. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The committee, which oversee multiple departments, (1)/ has been granted additional funds (2)/ to implement the new sustainability policies (3)/ across all regional offices. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q51. Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.
Children who does not read books will never be able to receive information in any way.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 26 Nov | Shift-2

(a) Children who does not read books
(b) will never be able to receive
(c) information in any way.
(d) No correction required

RULE 17

SUBJECT–VERB AGREEMENT

"There / Here" and Inverted Sentences

Verb follows the real subject that comes after it

There is / There are, Here comes और inverted sentences में असली subject verb के **बाद** आता है। Verb उसी delayed subject से agree करती है।

SPOT & FIX

× There is many who cannot go there.	→	✓ There **are** many who cannot go there.
× There appears a number of problems.	→	✓ There **appear** a number of problems.
× Just two metres away was lying three bodies.	→	✓ Just two metres away **were** lying three bodies.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *Here comes the bus* ✓ पर pronoun हो तो inversion नहीं: *Here it comes* ✓।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Look RIGHT of the verb for the real subject.

PRACTICE Rule 17 • PYQs & practice questions

Q52. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Rarely if ever have there been a time (1)/ when dissent was met (2)/ with such institutional disregard (3)/ as in the present administration. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q53. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
On the walls of the ancient cave _ _ a number of paintings that archaeologists believe are over ten thousand years old.

✎ Practice Question

(a) is found
(b) was found
(c) are found
(d) has found

Q54. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
There is several reasons (1)/ why the young engineers (2)/ are leaving the public sector (3)/ for private companies. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 01 • Subject–Verb Agreement • Q1–Q54

Q1 (b) R1 **appear → appears** — Nearest subject *the estimation* (singular); *of deficit trends* सिर्फ़ qualifier।

Q2 (b) R1 **has submitted → have submitted** — Neither … nor में verb nearest subject *the employees* (plural) के अनुसार।

Q3 (c) R1 **was collected → were collected** — Verb दूसरे (nearer) subject *their metadata* से agree करेगा; यहाँ metadata plural माना गया है।

Q4 (b) R2 **have submitted → has submitted** — Subject *The teacher* (singular); along with his assistants verb को प्रभावित नहीं करता।

Q5 (b) R2 **were → was** — Along with वाला phrase subject नहीं बदलता; real subject *The CEO* singular है।

Q6 (b) R3 **were → was** — Subject *The list* singular; *of recommended candidates* सिर्फ़ qualifier।

Q7 (b) R3 **have not worked → has not worked** — Subject *The antique grandfather clock* singular; *in the hallway* सिर्फ जगह बताता है।

Q8 (b) R3 **demands → demand** — Head noun *The myriad challenges* plural; बीच का participial phrase verb नहीं बदलता।

Q9 (b) R3 **postulate → postulates** — Head noun *The paradigm* singular है; *of rational choice theory* verb को नहीं बदलता।

Q10 (b) R4 **were → was** — *What the committee failed to deliberate on* noun clause है → singular verb।

Q11 (b) R4 **are → is** — *All that is needed* = 'the only thing needed' — clause subject singular माना जाता है।

Q12 (b) R4 **were surprising → was surprising** — पूरा That-clause एक ही बात है, इसलिए singular subject → *was*।

Q13 (c) R4 **underline → underlines** — पूरा That-clause subject है → singular।

Q14 (b) R5 **were given → was given** — Each + singular noun + singular verb।

Q15 (b) R5 **were → was** — Each of + plural noun → singular verb।

Q16 (b) R6 **has received → have received** — None except + plural noun *the top-ranked researchers* → plural verb।

Q17 (b) R6 **were asked → was asked** — *Everyone* singular है; बीच की relative clause verb नहीं बदलती।

Q18 (a) R6 **was willing** — *Nobody* singular; *among the … volunteers* सिर्फ़ qualifier है।

Q19 (a) R7 **gift → gifts** — One of the + superlative + **plural noun**।

Q20 (c) R7 **were → was** — Subject *One (of the reasons)* singular।

Q21 (b) R8 **have abandoned → has abandoned** — Many a athlete = एक-एक athlete → singular verb।

Q22 (b) R8 **has laid down** — Many a + singular noun + singular verb (his life भी singular)।

Q23 (a) R8 **applicant → applicants** — A great many + **plural noun** + plural verb।

Q24 (b) R9 **have been → has been** — More than one + singular noun (*applicant*) के बाद singular verb आता है, भले ही meaning plural हो।

Q25 (a) R9 **official, has** — More than one के बाद noun भी singular (*official*) और verb भी singular (*has*)।

Q26 (a) R9 **more than one tiger was spotted** — More than one + singular noun + singular verb।

Q27 (b) R9 **has been → have been** — *More than two* में तो plural noun + plural verb।

Q28 (b) R10 **has expressed → have expressed** — A *(large) number of* = 'कई' → plural verb; *their* भी plural का संकेत।

Q29 (d) R10 **has decreased** — *The number of* + plural noun + **singular verb** (subject = the number)।

Q30 (b) R10 **have, has** — A number of = कई → plural; The number of → singular।

Q31 (c) R11 **are → is** — *Much of* + uncountable idea → singular verb; stakeholders सिर्फ बीच का phrase है।

Q32 (c) R11 **are → is** — Percent/fraction के बाद noun (*water*, uncountable) के अनुसार verb → singular।

Q33 (a) R12 **the injured, the homeless** — The + adjective = उस class के सभी लोग (plural); adjective में -s नहीं लगता।

Q34 (a) R12 **the disabled** — Class of people = the + adjective (बिना -s)।

Q35 (c) R12 **gets → get** — *The poor* = सभी गरीब लोग → plural verb।

Q36 (c) R13 **were → was** — एक unit की तरह (complete agreement, *its*) → singular।

Q37 (a) R13 **have → has** — Panel एक unit की तरह action कर रहा है → singular।

Q38 (c) R13 **the members still differs → differ** — Members (plural) → differ; jury as unit ने verdict दिया (has … its) ✓।

Q39 (b) R13 **were** — Members अलग-अलग काम (their instruments) → collective noun plural।

Q40 (c) R14 **has contributed → have contributed** — दो अलग subjects (*the increase* and *the lack*) and से जुड़े → plural verb।

Q41 (a) R14 **wins, are** — *Slow and steady* एक ही idea → singular; *speed and precision* दो अलग qualities → plural।

Q42 (a) R14 **is** — *Rice and dal* एक ही dish/idea माना जाता है → singular।

Q43 (b) R14 **have → has** — Friend, philosopher and guide = एक ही व्यक्ति → singular।

Q44 (a) R15 **were seized** — पहले clause का *was* singular subject के लिए है; plural *weapons* के लिए अलग auxiliary *were* चाहिए।

Q45 (b) R15 **footpaths constructed → footpaths have been constructed** — Plural subject के लिए अलग auxiliary।

Q46 (b) R15 **contractors blacklisted → contractors have been blacklisted** — Plural subject के लिए *has been* नहीं चलेगा; अलग auxiliary लिखो।

Q47 (b) R15 **were returned** — Singular subject वाला *was* plural *ornaments* के लिए नहीं चलेगा।

Q48 (d) R16 **contribute → contributed / contributes** — *which* = the inconsistent support (singular) → singular verb।

Q49 (d) R16 **ends up → end up** — *which* का antecedent *regulatory mandates* (plural) → plural verb।

Q50 (a) R16 **oversee → oversees** — *which* = the committee (singular)।

Q51 (a) R16 **does → do** — *who* का antecedent *Children* (plural)।

Q52 (a) R17 **have → has** — Inversion में real subject verb के बाद है: *a time* (singular) → *has there been*।

Q53 (c) R17 **are found** — Inverted sentence; real subject *a number of paintings* (plural)।

Q54 (a) R17 **There is → There are** — Real subject *several reasons* (plural) verb के बाद है।

SECTION 02

Prepositions

Verbs, time, place और fixed prepositions • Rules 18–33

R18	Verbs That Take No Preposition	R19	Verbs With or Without "To" before a Person
R20	No "As" after Elect, Appoint, Consider	R21	Prepositions of Time
R22	Prepositions of Place & Movement	R23	By, Till, Within, During: Deadline vs Duration
R24	Between vs Among	R25	Beside vs Besides
R26	Angry With / At, Agree To / With / On	R27	Die Of / From, Made Of / From, Different From
R28	Despite, In Spite Of, Instead Of, Because Of	R29	Because, Because of, Due to, Owing to & According to
R30	Fixed Prepositions	R31	Prepositions in Relative Clauses & at the End
R32	Two Words, Two Prepositions	R33	Of / Off, At the End / In the End, On Behalf Of

RULE 18

PREPOSITIONS

Verbs That Take No Preposition

Discuss, enter, marry, resemble, comprise, reach

ये **transitive verbs** हैं — इनके बाद सीधे object आता है। Hindi के 'के बारे में', 'में', 'से' के प्रभाव में preposition जोड़ना सबसे common error है।

No preposition after

discuss • describe • enter • marry • resemble • comprise • reach • attack • order • approach • accompany • investigate • violate • obey • await • emphasise • stress • request • lack • answer • join

SPOT & FIX

× Let's discuss about your situation.	→	✓ Let's **discuss** your situation.
× He entered into the room.	→	✓ He **entered** the room.
× The play comprises of three acts.	→	✓ The play **comprises** three acts.
× The students are awaiting for results.	→	✓ … are **awaiting** the results.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Noun form के साथ preposition चलता है: *a discussion* ***on****, entry* ***into****, enter* ***into*** *an agreement* ✓।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Discuss it — don't discuss about it.

PRACTICE Rule 18 • PYQs & practice questions

Q55. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
So profound was the impact (1)/ of the new policy that it not only changed recruitment standards (2)/ but also reduced with overall efficiency (3)/ across departments. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 19 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q56. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The finance team (1)/ comprises of experts (2)/ in risk, audit, and compliance (3)/ from various industries. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 19 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 19

PREPOSITIONS

Verbs With or Without "To" before a Person

Ask him / explain to him

कुछ verbs के बाद person **सीधे object** बनता है; कुछ के साथ person से पहले **to** ज़रूरी है।

No "to" verb + person

ask • thank • inform • tell • remind • warn • forbid • advise • invite • order • request • congratulate

Needs "to" verb + to + person

explain • suggest • propose • apologize • describe • complain • talk • speak • report • write • listen

SPOT & FIX

× I want to thank to Reeta. → ✓ I want to **thank Reeta**.

× The teacher explained me the rule. → ✓ The teacher explained the rule **to me**.

× He suggested his friends that they invest. → ✓ He suggested **to his friends** ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Explain TO, suggest TO, apologize TO.

PRACTICE Rule 19 • PYQs & practice questions

Q57. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
When the manager asked why the report was late, the clerk _ _ that the server had crashed the previous night.

✎ Practice Question

(a) said him
(b) told to him
(c) explained him
(d) explained to him

Q58. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The tour guide described us (1)/ the history of the fort (2)/ in great detail (3)/ before we entered the palace. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 20

PREPOSITIONS

No "As" after Elect, Appoint, Consider

Regard as ✓, consider as ✗

Elect, appoint, make, choose, select, name, call, consider, think, declare, nominate के बाद complement सीधे आता है — **as नहीं**। लेकिन **regard, treat, describe, look upon** के साथ **as** ज़रूरी है।

No "as"	Needs "as"
They elected him captain.	*We regard him **as** honest.*
I consider him a friend.	*treat it **as** urgent*
He was appointed lecturer.	

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ The members elected Rohan as the captain. → ✓ The members elected Rohan **the** captain.
- ✗ I consider him as one of my closest friends. → ✓ I consider him one of my closest friends.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Regard AS — the others need no "as".

PRACTICE Rule 20 • PYQs & practice questions

Q59. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After a closely fought contest, (1)/ the members of the bar association elected (2)/ the senior advocate as their president (3)/ for a term of two years. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q60. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The board unanimously appointed (1)/ Mrs. Iyer as the new chairperson (2)/ of the company after (3)/ the sudden resignation of Mr. Rao. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q61. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The villagers considered the old banyan tree __ sacred and refused to let the contractors cut it down for the road.

✎ Practice Question

(a) as **(b)** to be
(c) being as **(d)** as being

Q62. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The professor was elected (1)/ as the president (2)/ of the Indian Science Congress (3)/ for the year 2026. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 21

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions of Time

At, on, in — and when to drop them

Time के लिए: **at** (exact time), **on** (day / date), **in** (month, year, part of day)। **Last, next, this, every, today, tomorrow, yesterday, home** से पहले **कोई preposition नहीं**।

In after a period

*I will be back **in** an hour.*

Within before the period ends

*Submit **within** seven days.*

Preposition	Used with	Example
at	clock time, night, festivals period	*at 5 pm, at night*
on	day / date / day + part	*on Monday, on Monday morning*
in	month, year, season, part of day	*in May, in 2025, in the morning*
none	last / next / every / this / home	*every morning, next week, go home*

SPOT & FIX

× He goes to the park on every morning. → ✓ He goes to the park **every** morning.

× She went to home early. → ✓ She went **home** early.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Every / next / last stand alone.

PRACTICE Rule 21 • PYQs & practice questions

Q63. Spot the error in the given sentence.
On the time / of the opening ceremony of the restaurant / a large gathering had assembled / No error

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 28 Nov | Shift-3

(a) No error
(b) of the opening ceremony of the restaurant
(c) a large gathering had assembled
(d) On the time

Q64. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The examination will begin (1)/ sharp on 10 a.m. (2)/ and candidates must reach the centre (3)/ at least thirty minutes early. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 22

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions of Place & Movement

In / at / on • into / onto • above / over / below / under / beneath • across / through

Position (रुकी हुई स्थिति) और **movement** (गति) के लिए अलग prepositions। Bada / enclosed area → **in**, specific point → **at**, surface → **on**। अंदर की ओर गति → **into**, सतह पर जाना → **onto**।

Preposition	Use	Example
in / at / on	enclosed area / exact point / surface	*in Delhi • at Laal Chowk • on the table*
into / onto	movement inside / on to a surface	*jumped **into** the lake • climbed **onto** the roof*
above / below	higher / lower level, no contact	*above sea level • below the fan*
over / under	directly above / below (covering)	*a bridge over the river • under the bench*
beneath	just below, often hidden / touching	*beneath the floorboard*
across / through	surface side to side / inside a 3-D space	*across the road • through the crowd / tunnel*

SPOT & FIX

× The ball rolled in their yard. → ✓ The ball rolled **into** their yard.

× He placed the keys in the kitchen counter. → ✓ He placed the keys **on** the kitchen counter.

× The old woman made her way out the crowd. → ✓ … made her way **through** the crowd.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *in the car / in a taxi* लेकिन *on the bus / train / plane / bike*!
- *in the street* (BrE) / *on the street* — exam options में *on the streets* (gathered on the streets) देखा गया है।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Still → in / on • Moving → into / onto.

PRACTICE Rule 22 • PYQs & practice questions

Q65. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After waiting for nearly an hour, the stranded commuters finally climbed (1)/ in the roof of the overcrowded bus (2)/ and travelled the remaining distance (3)/ to the district headquarters. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q66. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
The rescue team slowly made its way **across the dense forest** to reach the villagers who had been trapped by the landslide for two days.

✎ Practice Question

(a) through the dense forest **(b)** over the dense forest
(c) along the dense forest **(d)** No improvement

Q67. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
Ignoring the repeated warnings of the lifeguards, the young tourist jumped **in the river** to retrieve the phone that had slipped from his hand.

✎ Practice Question

(a) into the river
(b) onto the river
(c) at the river
(d) No improvement

RULE 23

PREPOSITIONS

By, Till, Within, During: Deadline vs Duration

By = not later than • Till = up to • Within = before the end • During = in the course of

Time में **by** = **deadline** (उस समय तक या पहले), **till / until** = उस समय तक **लगातार**, **within** = दी गई अवधि **के अंदर**, **during** = किसी event / period **के दौरान**, **for** = duration।

By (agent / transport)

written ***by*** *Premchand*
by *bus / train (no article)*

With (instrument)

cut ***with*** *a knife*
write ***with*** *a pen*

Word	Meaning	Example
by	not later than (deadline)	*Submit the form* ***by*** *5 pm.*
till / until	continuously up to	*You are free* ***till*** *5 pm.*
within	before a period ends	*Reply* ***within*** *a week.*
during	in the course of an event	*He slept* ***during*** *the lecture.*
for	length of time	*She waited* ***for*** *two hours.*

SPOT & FIX

× You must finish the project till Friday. → ✓ You must finish the project **by** Friday.

× She remained calm by the procedure. → ✓ She remained calm **throughout / during** the procedure.

× The letter was written with him. → ✓ The letter was written **by** him.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *by the time* + Past Perfect / Future Perfect → Tenses section का rule।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

By = deadline • Till = non-stop.

PRACTICE Rule 23 • PYQs & practice questions

Q68. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
All candidates who have cleared the preliminary round must upload their documents on the official portal **till 5 p.m. on Friday**, failing which their candidature will be cancelled.

✎ Practice Question

(a) by 5 p.m. on Friday
(b) since 5 p.m. on Friday
(c) during 5 p.m. on Friday
(d) No improvement

Q69. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
The ancient manuscript, which was discovered in a temple library in Odisha, is believed to have been written **with a famous poet** of the twelfth century.

✎ Practice Question

(a) by a famous poet
(b) from a famous poet
(c) through a famous poet
(d) No improvement

Q70. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The district administration has assured the residents (1)/ that the damaged bridge will be repaired (2)/ during the next three months, (3)/ before the monsoon sets in. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 24

PREPOSITIONS

Between vs Among

दो या अलग-अलग नामित vs समूह

Between = दो के बीच, या **अलग-अलग नामित** items के बीच आपसी relation। **Among** = दो से ज़्यादा / group। Between के साथ **and** (to / or नहीं)।

Between two / named items	**Among** a group
between the bed and the table	*distributed among the children*
between India, China and Nepal (agreement)	*among the passengers*
between you and me	

SPOT & FIX

✗ The chocolates were divided among both daughters.	→	✓ … divided **between** both daughters.
✗ There is an old rivalry between the three families.	→	✓ … rivalry **among** the three families.
✗ Between 1858 to 1947	→	✓ Between 1858 **and** 1947

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two → between • Crowd → among.

PRACTICE Rule 24 • PYQs & practice questions

Q71. Identify the alternative containing the part of the sentence that has an error.
Between the advantages of being an Indian citizen, freedom to worship one's own god is of utmost importance for the orthodox.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 10 Feb 2025 | Shift-3

(a) being an Indian citizen,
(b) freedom to worship one's own god is
(c) of utmost importance for the orthodox.
(d) Between the advantages of

Q72. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
After the death of their father, the ancestral property was divided equally **among the two brothers** as per the decision of the village panchayat.

✎ Practice Question

(a) between the two brothers
(b) in between the two brothers
(c) amongst the two brothers
(d) No improvement

Q73. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
There has been a long-standing disagreement (1)/ between the members of the five farmer unions (2)/ over the issue of minimum support price (3)/ for pulses. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 25

PREPOSITIONS

Beside vs Besides

के पास vs के अलावा

Beside = next to (के पास) — location। **Besides** = in addition to (के अलावा)। एक 's' से पूरा meaning बदल जाता है।

Beside location	**Besides** addition
*She sat **beside** her mother.*	***Besides** English, he knows French.*

SPOT & FIX

× The girl lay down besides her mother.	✓ … **beside** her mother.
× Do you play any sports beside of cricket?	✓ … any sports **besides** cricket?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Beside = by the side • Besides = plus.

PRACTICE — Rule 25 • PYQs & practice questions

Q74. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
__ being an excellent surgeon, Dr. Mehra is also a trained classical singer who performs at charity concerts every winter.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Beside
(b) Besides
(c) Despite
(d) Instead of

Q75. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Beside being a talented painter, (1)/ the young engineer is also (2)/ a trained classical dancer (3)/ who performs at national festivals. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q76.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The old man sat _ _ the window all evening, watching the children play cricket in the lane outside.

✎ Practice Question

(a) besides
(b) beside
(c) beyond
(d) aside

RULE 26

PREPOSITIONS

Angry With / At, Agree To / With / On

Person या चीज़ के हिसाब से preposition

Angry / annoyed with + person; **angry at / about** + thing, action, situation| **Agree to** + proposal / plan; **agree with** + person / opinion; **agree on** + common point|

Phrase	Object	Example
angry with	person	*angry with his son*
angry at	thing / situation	*angry at the delay*
agree to	proposal / terms	*agreed to the proposal*
agree with	person / opinion	*I agree with you.*
agree on	a point	*They agreed on a date.*

SPOT & FIX

× I was angry at my mother. → ✓ I was angry **with** my mother.

× The management agreed with the proposal. → ✓ … agreed **to** the proposal.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

People WITH, things AT.

PRACTICE Rule 26 • PYQs & practice questions

Q77.

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The teacher was angry at Rohan (1)/ for not completing his homework, (2)/ but he agreed with (3)/ the proposal for an extra class. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q78. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The members of the committee (1)/ could not agree to each other (2)/ on the location (3)/ of the new hospital. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q79. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The workers were angry __ the sudden decision to cut their overtime wages without any prior notice.

✎ Practice Question

(a) with **(b)** at
(c) on **(d)** upon

RULE 27

PREPOSITIONS

Die Of / From, Made Of / From, Different From

Cause, material और comparison

Die of disease / hunger; **die from** wound / overwork। **Made of** — material दिखता है / नहीं बदलता; **made from** — material पूरी तरह बदल जाता है। **Different from** (than नहीं)।

Made of physical change	**Made from** chemical change
a table made of wood	*paper made from wood pulp*
a statue made of bronze	*cheese made from milk*

SPOT & FIX

× He died from cancer.	→	✓ He died **of** cancer.
× Cookies are made of flour and sugar.	→	✓ Cookies are made **from** flour and sugar.
× Your curry tastes different than mine.	→	✓ … different **from** mine.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

See the wood? made OF • Lost the milk? made FROM.

PRACTICE Rule 27 • PYQs & practice questions

Q80. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The traditional bangles sold in the local markets of Firozabad (1)/ are made from glass (2)/ that is melted and shaped by skilled artisans (3)/ in small family-run units. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q81. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
The elderly man, who had been suffering for several years, finally **died from cancer** in a government hospital in Lucknow last month.

✎ Practice Question

(a) died of cancer **(b)** died with cancer
(c) died by cancer **(d)** No improvement

Q82. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The traditional handloom sarees of Varanasi (1)/ are made from pure silk threads (2)/ that are woven by hand (3)/ over several weeks. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 28

PREPOSITIONS

Despite, In Spite Of, Instead Of, Because Of

Preposition vs conjunction

Despite के साथ **of नहीं**; **in spite of** के साथ of। **Instead of** = की बजाय। **Because / in case** clause से पहले; **because of / in case of** noun से पहले।

Word	Followed by	Example
despite	noun / V-ing (no of)	*despite being friends*
in spite of	noun / V-ing	*in spite of the rain*
because	clause	*because the rain stopped*
because of	noun	*because of the heavy rain*
in case	clause	*in case the lockdown is extended*
in case of	noun	*in case of any emergency*

SPOT & FIX

× Despite of being a close friend...	→	✓ **Despite** being a close friend...
× The match was stopped because the heavy rain.	→	✓ ... because **of** the heavy rain.
× Instead of the difficulties, they never borrowed.	→	✓ **In spite of** the difficulties ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Clause → because • Noun → because of.

PRACTICE Rule 28 • PYQs & practice questions

Q83. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"Despite of his low score in the test, he was able to pass the course."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 18 Nov | Shift-3

(a) Despite of
(b) his low score in the test
(c) he was able to pass
(d) the course.

Q84. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The match was postponed (1)/ because of it rained heavily (2)/ throughout the afternoon (3)/ in the city. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 29

PREPOSITIONS

Because, Because of, Due to, Owing to & According to

Clause के साथ conjunction • Noun के साथ preposition

Because / since / as के बाद **clause** (S + V)। **Because of, owing to, on account of** के बाद **noun / gerund**। **Due to** = 'caused by' — classical rule में **be verb / noun के बाद** (adjective की तरह)। **According to** के बाद कभी **me / my opinion** नहीं।

Conjunction + clause	Preposition + noun
*He was late **because** the train was delayed.*	*He was late **because of / owing to** the delay.* *The delay was **due to** fog.*

SPOT & FIX

× He could not attend because of he was ill.	→	✓ He could not attend **because** he was ill.
× Due to heavy rain, the match was cancelled.	→	✓ **Owing to** heavy rain, the match was cancelled. (formal / exam)
× According to me, the plan will fail.	→	✓ **In my opinion**, the plan will fail.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *The reason ... is because* × → *The reason ... is that* (Conjunctions section)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Clause → because • Noun → because of / owing to.

PRACTICE Rule 29 • PYQs & practice questions

Q85. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
Due to the sudden strike by transport workers, thousands of daily-wage earners in Mumbai could not reach their workplaces on time.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Owing to the sudden strike
(b) Because the sudden strike
(c) Due of the sudden strike
(d) No improvement

Q86. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The final match of the inter-college tournament (1)/ was postponed because of (2)/ the ground was waterlogged (3)/ after the overnight rain. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q87. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
According to me, the new policy will benefit small traders only if the government simplifies the registration process.

✎ Practice Question

(a) In my opinion
(b) According to my
(c) As per me
(d) No improvement

RULE 30

PREPOSITIONS

Fixed Prepositions

Accused of, afraid of, superior to, cope with

कुछ words के साथ preposition **fixed** है — इन्हें combination में याद करो।

Word	Preposition	Word	Preposition
accused	of	cope	with (not up with)
afraid	of	dispose	of (not off)
confident	of	prevent / prohibit	from
answerable	to	based	on
suffering	from	responsible	for
contrary	to	supply sth	to sb / sb with sth
pride oneself	on	take pride	in

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ He was accused for theft. → ✓ He was accused **of** theft.
- ✗ She is coping up with grief. → ✓ She is coping **with** grief.
- ✗ Dispose off the extra items. → ✓ Dispose **of** the extra items.
- ✗ She is afraid from wild animals. → ✓ She is afraid **of** wild animals.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Learn the pair, not the word.

PRACTICE Rule 30 • PYQs & practice questions

Q88. Read the sentence and select the segment that contains a grammatical, syntactic or idiomatic error.
(P) Although the newly appointed directors were initially eager to exculpate the CEO by any wrongdoing, / (Q) they found themselves entirely at odds with the legal counsel's aggressive strategy, / (R) which sought to attribute the catastrophic financial losses directly to systemic institutional negligence / (S) rather than to external, unpredictable market forces.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 17 Sep | Shift-1

(a) P **(b)** Q
(c) R **(d)** S

Q89. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The new encryption protocol is capable for thwarting (1)/ sophisticated cyber-intrusions that were previously considered (2)/ impervious to defensive measures (3)/ according to recent white-paper findings. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q90. Three of these sentences are error-free. Identify the option that contains a grammatical error, improper word usage or structural flaw.

SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 19 Sep | Shift-1

(a) Intellectual property attorneys noted that the firm's subtle proclivity of predatory litigation tactics left it exposed to severe antitrust penalties.
(b) Financial analysts pointed out that the retail conglomerate's rapid expansion in emerging overseas markets helped stabilise its quarterly stock value.
(c) The lead aerospace engineer expressed absolute confidence in the structural integrity of the newly designed composite fuselage.
(d) High-altitude atmospheric measurements revealed that the seasonal shifts in wind patterns were heavily influenced by thermal currents over the Pacific.

Q91. Identify the alternative containing the part of the sentence that has an error.
Nirmala has a passion in writing one-act plays based on realities, and she is really adept at it.

SSC MTS Tier-I | 6 Feb 2025 | Shift-1

(a) Nirmala has a passion in writing
(b) one-act plays based on realities,
(c) and she is really
(d) adept at it.

RULE 31

PREPOSITIONS

Prepositions in Relative Clauses & at the End

With whom • in which • a chair to sit on

Verb का fixed preposition relative pronoun के साथ **आगे** आ सकता है (formal) या clause के **अंत** में (informal), पर गायब नहीं होना चाहिए। Preposition के बाद हमेशा **whom / which** — **who / that नहीं**।

STRUCTURE

Noun + **preposition** + **whom / which** + **clause**

Formal preposition first

*the officer **with whom** I spoke*
*the hotel **in which** we stayed*

Informal preposition at end

*the officer **(whom)** I spoke **with***
*a chair to sit **on***

SPOT & FIX

× The building which he lives needs repair. → ✓ The building **in which** he lives needs repair.
× The manager with who I spoke was polite. → ✓ The manager **with whom** I spoke was polite.
× This is the policy about that the minister spoke. → ✓ This is the policy **about which** the minister spoke.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Preposition दो बार नहीं: *the topic* ***on which*** *he spoke* ***on*** ✕।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Preposition first → whom / which.

PRACTICE Rule 31 • PYQs & practice questions

Q92. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
The heritage building **which the freedom fighters had once taken shelter** is now being converted into a museum by the state government.

✎ Practice Question

(a) in which the freedom fighters had once taken shelter
(b) that the freedom fighters had once taken shelter
(c) where in the freedom fighters had once taken shelter
(d) No improvement

Q93. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
This is the controversial report (1)/ on which the parliamentary committee (2)/ had spent several weeks deliberating on (3)/ before submitting its findings. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q94. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The senior officer (1)/ with who the delegation had discussed (2)/ the terms of the agreement (3)/ was transferred last week. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE **32**

PREPOSITIONS

Two Words, Two Prepositions

Superior to and cheaper than

जब दो words **and / or** से जुड़ें और **अलग prepositions** लेते हों, तो दोनों के preposition लिखो — एक preposition दोनों पर लागू नहीं होता।

SPOT & FIX

✕ My bag is superior but cheaper than yours. → ✓ My bag is superior **to** and cheaper **than** yours.

✕ I won't be liable for any loss and damage to this car. → ✓ … any loss **of** and damage **to** this car.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Each word keeps its own preposition.

PRACTICE Rule 32 • PYQs & practice questions

Q95. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The young researcher has always shown (1)/ a keen interest and aptitude for (2)/ molecular biology, which has earned her (3)/ a fellowship at a leading institute. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q96. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The young officer has always shown (1)/ great respect and confidence in (2)/ his senior colleagues, (3)/ which has earned him their trust. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q97. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The villagers were **both afraid and angry with** the leopard that had been attacking their cattle for weeks.

✎ Practice Question

(a) both afraid and angry at **(b)** both afraid of and angry with
(c) both afraid with and angry of **(d)** No improvement required

Q98. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The scientist was not only interested _ _ but also devoted _ _ the study of rare Himalayan orchids.

✎ Practice Question

(a) in, to **(b)** to, in
(c) in, in **(d)** for, to

RULE 33

PREPOSITIONS

Of / Off, At the End / In the End, On Behalf Of

Small words, big errors

Off = अलग होना / हटना; **of** = संबंध। **At the end (of)** = आख़िरी हिस्से में; **in the end** = आख़िरकार। सही phrase **on behalf of** (the नहीं)।

Of / Off

*switch **off** the light • a cup **of** tea*

At / In the end

***at the end of** the hall • **In the end**, we cancelled.*

On behalf of

*He spoke **on behalf of** the team.*

SPOT & FIX

× The leaves fell of the tree. → ✓ The leaves fell **off** the tree.

× The lawyer appeared on the behalf of the accused. → ✓ … **on behalf of** the accused.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Off = away • Of = belongs.

PRACTICE Rule 33 • PYQs & practice questions

Q99. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
As Farooque was migrating to the US, he wanted **to dispose off** his furniture.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Nov | Shift-3

(a) to dispose of
(b) to dispose in
(c) disposal of
(d) to dispose

Q100. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition.
The committee is not authorized to act _ behalf of the organization in international matters.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 30 Nov | Shift-1

(a) in
(b) for
(c) on
(d) upon

Q101. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
After months of uncertainty, the two companies finally signed the merger agreement, and _ _ both sides were satisfied with the terms.

✎ Practice Question

(a) at the end
(b) in the end
(c) on the end
(d) by the end

Q102. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The candidate was asked to (1)/ get of the stage (2)/ after he insulted (3)/ the panel of judges. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 02 • Prepositions • Q55–Q102

Q55 (c) R18 **reduced with** → **reduced** — Reduce transitive है, preposition नहीं।

Q56 (b) R18 **comprises of** → **comprises** — Comprise (= consist of) transitive है।

Q57 (d) R19 **explained to him** — explain/say/suggest के बाद person से पहले to।

Q58 (a) R19 **described us** → **described to us** — describe something **to** someone।

Q59 (c) R20 **as their president** → **their president** — *Elect* के बाद 'as' नहीं आता।

Q60 (b) R20 **as the new chairperson** → **the new chairperson** — Appoint/elect के बाद 'as' नहीं।

Q61 (b) R20 **to be** (या सीधे 'sacred') — Consider के बाद 'as' नहीं।

Q62 (b) R20 **as the president** → **president** — Elected के बाद 'as' नहीं (और designation से पहले article भी अक्सर नहीं)।

Q63 (d) R21 **On the time** → **At the time** — Specific moment → at।

Q64 (b) R21 **on 10 a.m.** → **at 10 a.m.** — Clock time → at।

Q65 (b) R22 **in the roof** → **onto the roof** — सतह के ऊपर जाने की गति → *onto*।

Q66 (a) R22 **through the dense forest** — 3-D space (forest, tunnel, crowd) के अंदर से गुज़रना → *through*; *across* surface के लिए।

Q67 (a) R22 **into the river** — पानी के अंदर गति (movement) → *into*; *in* सिर्फ़ position के लिए।

Q68 (a) R23 **by 5 p.m.** — deadline (उससे पहले या तक) → *by*; *till* लगातार चलने वाली action के लिए।

Q69 (a) R23 **by a famous poet** — Passive में doer (agent) के साथ *by*; *with* instrument के लिए।

Q70 (c) R23 **during the next three months** → **within the next three months** — अवधि के अंदर काम पूरा होना → *within*।

Q71 (d) R24 **Between** → **Among** — कई advantages में से → among।

Q72 (a) R24 **between** — दो (two brothers) → *between*; *among* तीन या अधिक के लिए।

Q73 (b) R24 **between** → **among** — पाँच unions का समूह → *among*।

Q74 (b) R25 **Besides** — 'इसके अलावा / साथ ही' के अर्थ में besides।

Q75 (a) R25 **Beside** → **Besides** — 'के अलावा' = besides; beside = बगल में।

Q76 (b) R25 **beside** — बगल में/पास = beside।

Q77 (c) R26 **agreed with the proposal** → **agreed to the proposal** — Proposal/plan से agree **to**; person से with।

Q78 (b) R26 **agree to each other** → **agree with each other** — Persons के साथ agree **with**; topic पर agree **on**।

Q79 (b) R26 **at** — Decision/situation पर angry **at**; person पर with।

Q80 (b) R27 **made from** → **made of** — material पहचान में रहता है (glass) → *made of*।

Q81 (a) R27 **died of** — बीमारी से मृत्यु → *die of*; *die from* injury / बाहरी कारण से।

Q82 (b) R27 **made from → made of** — Material पहचान में रहता है (silk threads) → made of।

Q83 (a) R28 **Despite of → Despite / In spite of**।

Q84 (b) R28 **because of it rained → because it rained / because of heavy rain** — because of + noun; because + clause।

Q85 (a) R29 **Owing to** — sentence की शुरुआत में reason (adverb) के लिए *owing to* formal/exam-safe; *due to* be verb / noun के बाद।

Q86 (b) R29 **because of → because** — आगे clause (*the ground was waterlogged*) है → conjunction *because*।

Q87 (a) R29 **In my opinion** — *according to* दूसरों की राय / source के लिए; अपने लिए *in my opinion*।

Q88 (a) R30 **exculpate ... by → exculpate ... from** — exculpate somebody **from** something (दोषमुक्त करना)।

Q89 (a) R30 **capable for → capable of** + V-ing।

Q90 (a) R30 **proclivity of → proclivity for** — proclivity / propensity / penchant **for**।

Q91 (a) R30 **passion in → passion for**।

Q92 (a) R31 **in which** — *take shelter in* का preposition गायब नहीं होना चाहिए → *in which* (या *where*)।

Q93 (c) R31 **deliberating on → deliberating** — *on which* पहले आ चुका है; preposition दोबारा नहीं।

Q94 (b) R31 **with who → with whom** — preposition के बाद objective *whom*।

Q95 (b) R32 **interest and aptitude for → interest in and aptitude for** — दोनों words के अपने prepositions लिखो।

Q96 (b) R32 **respect and confidence in → respect for and confidence in** — respect **for**, confidence **in** — दोनों अलग लिखो।

Q97 (b) R32 **afraid of and angry with** — afraid **of**, angry **with** — हर word का अपना preposition।

Q98 (a) R32 **in, to** — interested **in**, devoted **to** — दोनों अलग prepositions लिखो।

Q99 (a) R33 **dispose of** — 'off' नहीं; dispose of = छुटकारा पाना।

Q100 (c) R33 **on** — Fixed idiom: *on behalf of*।

Q101 (b) R33 **in the end** — आख़िरकार (finally) = in the end; at the end (of) = किसी चीज़ के अंत में।

Q102 (b) R33 **get of → get off** — उतरना = get off (adverb particle 'off')।

SECTION 03

Conjunctions & Connectors

Pairs, position और meaning • Rules 34–39

R34 Correlative Conjunctions: Pairs and Position

R35 Although / Though … Yet (Never "But")

R36 Too…To vs So…That

R37 Such…As, Such…That and "The Reason…That"

R38 If vs Whether; No "That" before Wh-words

R39 Choosing the Conjunction by Meaning

RULE 34

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

Correlative Conjunctions: Pairs and Position

Neither…nor, not only…but also, both…and

Correlatives हमेशा **अपने fixed partner** के साथ आते हैं, और दोनों हिस्सों के बाद same part of speech होना चाहिए — इसलिए इनकी position भी सही होनी चाहिए।

Pair	× Wrong partner	✓ Correct
neither … nor	neither … or	*neither the famine **nor** the fire*
either … or	either … nor	*either tea **or** coffee*
not only … but also	not only … and also	*not only Sanya **but also** Sam*
both … and	both … as well as	*both Renu **and** her sister*
between … and	between … to	*between 9 pm **and** 10 pm*
whether … or	whether … nor	*whether he comes **or** not*

SPOT & FIX

× Neither Raju is intelligent nor hardworking. → ✓ Raju is **neither** intelligent **nor** hardworking.

× Not only the judges acquitted him but also praised him. → ✓ The judges **not only** acquitted him **but also** praised him.

× He teaches not only maths but also provides counselling. → ✓ He **not only teaches** maths **but also** provides …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Same partner, same rank, same position.

PRACTICE Rule 34 • PYQs & practice questions

Q103. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
That certain state governments have invoked archaic laws (1)/ to suppress dissent does not only reflect legal opportunism (2)/ but also undermines the constitutional ethos (3)/ that such provisions were meant to uphold. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q104. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The proposal seeks to neither expand existing facilities (1)/ nor hire additional staff members (2)/ until the budget allocation (3)/ for the next fiscal year is confirmed. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q105. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
Students must ensure that **their papers are not only coherent but they are also well-researched**.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-2

(a) their papers not only coherent but they are also
(b) their papers are not only coherent but also well-researched.
(c) their papers be not only coherent but also well-researched.
(d) their papers are not only coherent but well-researched also

Q106. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The committee concluded that the proposal was **not acceptable nor was it feasible** for implementation.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-1

(a) not acceptable nor was it feasible **(b)** neither acceptable nor feasible
(c) not acceptable and not feasible **(d)** unacceptable nor unfeasible

RULE 35

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

Although / Though ... Yet (Never "But")

Contrast के conjunctions

Although / though के साथ **but नहीं** आता; **yet** या सिर्फ़ comma use करो। Contrast के लिए yet / but, result के लिए so — meaning देखकर conjunction चुनो।

STRUCTURE

Although / Though + **clause** + **yet / ,** + **clause**

SPOT & FIX

× Although he worked hard, but he failed.	→	✓ Although he worked hard, **yet** he failed.
× Though there were many people but there was silence.	→	✓ … **yet** there was pin-drop silence.
× He has all the skills and he dare not start a company.	→	✓ … **yet** he dare not start a company.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Although invites yet, not but.

PRACTICE — Rule 35 • PYQs & practice questions

Q107. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although the monsoon arrived nearly two weeks late this year, (1)/ but the farmers in the district (2)/ managed to sow their kharif crops (3)/ well before the end of July. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q108. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Though the young batsman had scored three centuries in the domestic season, _ _ the selectors ignored him for the national squad once again.

✎ Practice Question

(a) but **(b)** yet
(c) and **(d)** so

Q109. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
_ _ the medicine was expensive and difficult to find, the family managed to arrange it within a day for their ailing grandmother.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Despite **(b)** Although
(c) But **(d)** In spite

Q110. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Though the team practised (1)/ for months before the tournament, (2)/ but it failed to qualify (3)/ for the knockout stage. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 36

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

Too...To vs So...That

Result structures

Too + adjective + to + V1 — इसमें पहले से negative meaning है (not मत लगाओ)। **So + adjective + that + clause** (cannot / could not के साथ)।

Too ... to already negative	**So ... that** with a clause
*He is **too weak to** walk.*	*He is **so weak that** he cannot walk.*

SPOT & FIX

× The box is too heavy that I cannot lift it.	→	✓ The box is **so** heavy that I cannot lift it.
× His marks were so low to get admission.	→	✓ His marks were **too** low to get admission.
× He is too weak to not walk.	→	✓ He is too weak **to walk**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Too...to (infinitive) • So...that (clause).

PRACTICE Rule 36 • PYQs & practice questions

Q111. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The box was _ _ heavy for the young boy to lift, so his elder brother carried it to the car.

✎ Practice Question

(a) so **(b)** too
(c) very **(d)** such

Q112. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The old man was too tired (1)/ that he could not climb (2)/ the stairs to (3)/ his first-floor flat. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q113. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The question paper was _ _ lengthy that most students could not attempt the last section.

✎ Practice Question

(a) too **(b)** so
(c) such **(d)** very

RULE 37

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

Such...As, Such...That and "The Reason...That"

Relative vs result

Such ... as = 'जैसे / जो' (relative); **such ... that** = result। **The reason ... is that** (because नहीं)। **As** से शुरू sentence में **so** नहीं जोड़ते।

Structure	Example
such ... as	*I like only **such** students **as** are serious.*
such ... that	*She is **such** a bad-tempered person **that** no one can live with her.*
the reason ... that	*The reason she is upset is **that** she failed.*
as ... (no so)	*As I have lived in Mumbai, I know it well.*

SPOT & FIX

× I like only such students who are serious. → ✓ ... such students **as** are serious.

× The reason Payal was absent was because she was ill. → ✓ ... was **that** she was ill.

× As I have lived here, so I know it. → ✓ As I have lived here, **I know** it.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Reason ... that, never because.

PRACTICE Rule 37 • PYQs & practice questions

Q114.

Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence.
The reason why I am confused is because they are giving me mixed signals.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 6 Feb 2025 | Shift-3

(a) Why am I confused is because
(b) The reason for my confusion is because
(c) I am confused because
(d) No improvement required

Q115.

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The opposition demanded such an inquiry (1)/ that would be headed by a retired judge (2)/ and would submit its report (3)/ within three months. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q116.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The flood caused _ _ damage to the crops that the government had to announce a special relief package for the farmers.

✎ Practice Question

(a) so
(b) such
(c) too
(d) such a

RULE 38

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

If vs Whether; No "That" before Wh-words

Indirect questions

Whether use करो: **or not** के साथ, preposition के बाद, to-infinitive से पहले। Indirect speech में wh-word, if, whether खुद connector हैं — इनसे पहले **that** नहीं।

Situation	✓ Use	Example
with "or not"	whether	*whether he will come or not*
after a preposition	whether	*It depends on whether he agrees.*
before to-infinitive	whether	*I am not sure whether to go.*
doubt / uncertainty	if / whether	*I am not sure if the car is yours.*
before wh-word	no "that"	*He asked me where I lived.*

SPOT & FIX

× He asked me that where I lived.	→	✓ He asked me **where** I lived.
× I am not sure that the red car is yours.	→	✓ I am not sure **if / whether** the red car …
× She asked her teacher that if she could explain.	→	✓ She asked her teacher **if** she could explain.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Wh-word walks in alone.

PRACTICE Rule 38 • PYQs & practice questions

Q117. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
It remains unclear whether the board intends to implement the proposal (1)/ or if the statement was merely a strategic ploy (2)/ aimed at appeasing shareholders (3)/ in light of the recent legal setback. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 15 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q118. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The officer wanted to know (1)/ that whether the documents (2)/ had been verified (3)/ by the regional office. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 39

CONJUNCTIONS & CONNECTORS

Choosing the Conjunction by Meaning

And, but, yet, so, as, if

Conjunction का चुनाव **logic** से होता है: addition → and; contrast → but / yet / although; result → so / therefore; reason → as / because / since; condition → if / unless!

Relation	Conjunctions	Example
Contrast	but, yet, although	*He had little money, **yet** he helped her.*
Result	so, therefore	*She broke my laptop, **so** I asked her to repair it.*
Reason	as, because, since	***Since** the trip was costly, I stayed home.*
Condition	if, unless, provided	*She wouldn't have suffered **if** you had helped.*

SPOT & FIX

× I missed my bus as I had to book a taxi.	→	✓ I missed my bus, **so** I had to book a taxi.
× Her husband was caring although she left him.	→	✓ Her husband was caring, **yet** she left him.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Read the logic before the grammar.

PRACTICE Rule 39 • PYQs & practice questions

Q119. Choose the option that will replace the error highlighted in bold.
Catherine said she loved Heathcliff, **however**, she could not marry him because of his social standing.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII 2025 | 01 Aug | Shift-2

(a) Because
(b) But
(c) Since
(d) And

Q120. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction.
He has a lot of potential, ___ his lack of discipline may hinder his growth.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 15 Nov | Shift-2

(a) whereas
(b) unless
(c) because
(d) albeit

Q121. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
__ the government announces a relief package soon, the farmers will be forced to sell their land at throwaway prices.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Until
(b) Unless
(c) Although
(d) Since

ANSWER KEY Section 03 • Conjunctions & Connectors • Q103–Q121

Q103 (b) R34 **does not only reflect → not only reflects** — not only … but also के बीच 'does' नहीं; reflects ↔ undermines parallel।

Q104 (a) R34 **to neither expand → neither to expand** — Correlative ठीक उन्हीं दो parallel हिस्सों से पहले: neither to expand … nor (to) hire।

Q105 (b) R34 **not only coherent but also well-researched** — not only + adj … but also + adj।

Q106 (b) R34 **neither acceptable nor feasible** — nor का pair *neither*; दोनों तरफ़ adjective (parallel)।

Q107 (b) R35 **but → (हटाओ) / yet** — Although के साथ 'but' नहीं; जरूरत हो तो *yet* या comma।

Q108 (b) R35 **yet** — Though/Although का साथी *yet* (या कुछ नहीं), but कभी नहीं।

Q109 (b) R35 **Although** — Clause से पहले although (despite + noun)।

Q110 (c) R35 **but → yet / (हटाओ)** — Though के साथ but नहीं।

Q111 (b) R36 **too** — too + adj + for + person + to-inf (negative result)।

Q112 (a) R36 **too tired that → so tired that** — so … that + clause; too … to + V1।

Q113 (b) R36 **so** — so + adj + that + clause।

Q114 (c) R37 **I am confused because** — 'The reason … is because' redundant।

Q115 (b) R37 **that would be → as would be** — *such … as* (relative sense); such … that परिणाम के लिए।

Q116 (b) R37 **such** — such + (uncountable) noun + that; such a + countable singular।

Q117 (b) R38 **or if → or whether** — whether … or whether (parallel); if नहीं।

Q118 (b) R38 **that whether → whether** — Wh-/whether से पहले 'that' नहीं।

Q119 (b) R39 **But** — Comma से जुड़े दो clauses में contrast के लिए conjunction but; however (adverb) के लिए semicolon चाहिए।

Q120 (a) R39 **whereas** — दो विरोधी बातों की तुलना (potential vs lack of discipline)।

Q121 (b) R39 **Unless** — 'अगर नहीं' (condition) → unless।

SECTION 04

Verb Patterns, Verb Forms & Voice

Infinitive, gerund, participle, causative और passive • Rules 40–56

R40 Bare Infinitive after Make, Let, See, Hear, Help

R41 Causative Verbs: Have and Get

R42 Verb + To-Infinitive or Verb + Gerund?

R43 Remember, Forget, Stop, Try: Meaning Changes

R44 "To" as a Preposition: Look Forward to + V-ing

R45 Gerund as Subject and after Prepositions

R46 Bare Infinitive after But, Than, Rather & Why

R47 Infinitive Usage: Know How To, Split Infinitive & Infinitive + Preposition

R48 Participles as Adjectives: -ing vs -ed

R49 Perfect Participle, Dangling Modifiers & Absolute Phrases

R50 Confusing Verb Pairs: Rise/Raise, Lie/Lay, Fall/Fell

R51 Irregular and Unchanging Verb Forms

R52 Active or Passive? Choosing the Right Form

R53 Passive Voice: Key Transformations

R54 Make vs Do

R55 Marry, Marriage, Married

R56 Noun–Verb Look-alikes

RULE 40

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Bare Infinitive after Make, Let, See, Hear, Help

V1 without "to"

Make, let, have, see, hear, watch, feel, notice, bid, help के बाद object + **bare infinitive (V1)**। Passive में **to** लौट आता है।

STRUCTURE

make / let / see / hear / watch / help + **Object** + **V1** no "to"

Active bare V1	Passive to + V1
*She made him **do** it.*	*He was made **to do** it.*
*We saw him **cross** the road.*	

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ The teacher made us to rewrite the essay. → ✓ The teacher made us **rewrite** the essay.
- ✗ He wouldn't let anyone to drive. → ✓ He wouldn't let anyone **drive**.
- ✗ We saw him to walk in the park. → ✓ We saw him **walk** in the park.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Make, let, see — no "to" for me.

PRACTICE Rule 40 • PYQs & practice questions

Q122. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The strict rules of the library don't let students (1)/ to take more than two books (2)/ out at a time, which is often (3)/ inconvenient for researchers. (4)

SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 22 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q123. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The HR head made the assistant resubmitting (1)/ all the documentation after discovering (2)/ a discrepancy in the date of joining (3)/ for three contractual employees. (4)

SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 22 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q124. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The strict warden would not let (1)/ the hostel students to leave the campus (2)/ after eight in the evening (3)/ without written permission from their parents. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q125. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The heavy rain made the organisers _ _ the outdoor concert at the last minute, much to the disappointment of the fans.

✎ Practice Question

(a) to cancel **(b)** cancel
(c) cancelling **(d)** cancelled

RULE 41

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Causative Verbs: Have and Get

काम दूसरों से करवाना

Causative structure में person या thing के हिसाब से verb form बदलता है।

Verb	+ Person	+ Thing
have	have + person + **V1**	have + thing + **V3**
get	get + person + **to V1**	get + thing + **V3**
make / let	make / let + person + **V1**	—

SPOT & FIX

× She had the cook prepared a meal.	→	✓ She had the cook **prepare** a meal.
× I got my car to repair.	→	✓ I got my car **repaired**.
× She had the dog to groomed.	→	✓ She had the dog **groomed**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Person → act (V1) • Thing → acted upon (V3).

PRACTICE — Rule 41 • PYQs & practice questions

Q126. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Before the wedding season began, (1)/ the jeweller had all the old ornaments (2)/ polish by his most experienced craftsman (3)/ in the workshop behind the shop. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q127. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The minister had the documents _ _ to the committee before the meeting so that everyone could study them in advance.

✎ Practice Question

(a) send **(b)** sent
(c) sending **(d)** to send

Q128. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Before the inspection, (1)/ the principal got the broken benches (2)/ repair by the school carpenter (3)/ in just two days. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q129.

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The landlord is getting (1)/ the entire building painted (2)/ and the old pipes replace (3)/ before the new tenants arrive. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 42

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Verb + To-Infinitive or Verb + Gerund?

Decide to go / avoid going

कुछ verbs के बाद **to + V1** आता है, कुछ के बाद **V-ing**। इन्हें lists में याद करो।

+ to-infinitive	+ gerund (V-ing)
agree • decide • refuse • hope • plan • want • promise • afford • fail • seem • manage • desire • tend	avoid • enjoy • finish • mind • deny • suggest • consider • recommend • detest • defer • postpone • practise • resist • risk • miss

SPOT & FIX

× He decided going to Manali. →	✓ He decided **to go** to Manali.
× The committee suggested to conduct another round. →	✓ The committee suggested **conducting** …
× She avoids to eat junk food. →	✓ She avoids **eating** junk food.
× The porter denied to take the money. →	✓ The porter denied **taking** the money.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Future intention → to • Activity itself → -ing.

PRACTICE — Rule 42 • PYQs & practice questions

Q130.

Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.
The child requested his mother to gave him a big chocolate because he had been very good all day long and deserved a treat.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 09 Sep | Shift-2

(a) The child requested his mother to
(b) gave him a big chocolate because he
(c) had been very good all day
(d) long and deserved a treat.

Q131. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
What he regretted the most (1)/ was not the outcome of the negotiation, (2)/ but that he had failed communicating (3)/ his intent clearly at the outset. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 24 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 43

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Remember, Forget, Stop, Try: Meaning Changes

To-infinitive vs gerund

इन verbs के बाद to-infinitive और gerund **दोनों** आ सकते हैं, लेकिन meaning बदल जाता है।

Verb	+ to V1	+ V-ing
remember	करना याद रखना (future)	किया हुआ याद आना (past)
forget	करना भूल जाना	किया हुआ भूल जाना
stop	कुछ करने के लिए रुकना	करना बंद करना
try	कोशिश करना	प्रयोग करके देखना

SPOT & FIX

× I remember to meet her last year. → ✓ I remember **meeting** her last year.

× She forgot lock the door. → ✓ She forgot **to lock** the door.

× Do you recall to meet her? → ✓ Do you recall **meeting** her?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

To = ahead • -ing = behind.

PRACTICE Rule 43 • PYQs & practice questions

Q132. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The manager who was on leave last week (1)/ forgot bringing the files (2)/ that were required for the monthly review (3)/ despite being reminded thrice. (4)

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII 2025 | 29 Jul | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q133. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
On the long drive from Delhi to Manali, we stopped _ _ tea at a small roadside dhaba because the driver was feeling sleepy.

✎ Practice Question

(a) drinking
(b) to drink
(c) drink
(d) for drinking of

Q134. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
I clearly remember to lock (1)/ the main door last night, (2)/ so I cannot understand how (3)/ the thieves got inside the house. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q135. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The patient was advised to stop _ _ junk food immediately if he wanted to bring his cholesterol level under control.

✎ Practice Question

(a) to eat
(b) eating
(c) eat
(d) to eating

RULE 44

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

"To" as a Preposition: Look Forward to + V-ing

Not every "to" is an infinitive

इन phrases में **to** preposition है, infinitive नहीं — इसलिए इसके बाद **V-ing / noun** आता है।

to + V-ing
look forward to • be used to • be accustomed to • object to • with a view to • be addicted to • confess to • be devoted to • be committed to • prefer (V-ing) to (V-ing) • in addition to • averse to • prone to

SPOT & FIX

× I look forward to meet you.	→	✓ I look forward to **meeting** you.
× With a view to avoid conflict...	→	✓ With a view to **avoiding** conflict...
× She is addicted to watch web series.	→	✓ She is addicted to **watching** web series.

💡 MEMORY HOOK
Can you put a noun after "to"? Then use -ing.

PRACTICE Rule 44 • PYQs & practice questions

Q136. Read the two sentences carefully. Identify which of them contains a grammatical error.
P: After the Supreme Court rejected their final statutory appeal, the board of directors resigned themselves to losing their proprietary vaccine patent rights.
Q: The eccentric quantitative fund manager was given to executing high-risk volatility trades during periods of extreme global market contraction.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 22 Sep | Shift-1

(a) Only P
(b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q
(d) Neither P nor Q

Q137. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
We look forward to meet you (1)/ at the orientation session (2)/ scheduled for next Tuesday (3)/ in the seminar hall. (4)

❑ SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 11 Dec | Shift-2

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q138. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The villagers strongly objected to (1)/ give their fertile land (2)/ for the proposed industrial corridor (3)/ without adequate compensation. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 45

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Gerund as Subject and after Prepositions

Buying presents is difficult; before taking

Action को noun की तरह use करना हो (subject / object) तो **gerund (V-ing)**। हर preposition (by, at, of, before, after, in, on, from) के बाद भी verb V-ing में आती है।

STRUCTURE

Preposition by / before / of / in / from + V-ing

SPOT & FIX

× Buy presents in their absence is difficult.	→	✓ **Buying** presents in their absence is difficult.
× Before take this medicine, consult a doctor.	→	✓ Before **taking** this medicine …
× They prevented me to join.	→	✓ They prevented me **from joining**.
× I take pride to serve my country.	→	✓ I take pride **in serving** my country.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Preposition first? Then -ing next.

PRACTICE Rule 45 • PYQs & practice questions

Q139. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The young athlete is very keen in participating (1)/ in the national games, (2)/ but her coach is worried (3)/ about her injured ankle. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q140. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After the tragic accident, the young driver (1)/ was banned from drive (2)/ any commercial vehicle (3)/ for a period of five years. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q141. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Instead of __ the matter to the police, the shopkeeper tried to settle it with the customer privately.

✎ Practice Question

(a) report **(b)** to report
(c) reporting **(d)** reported

RULE 46

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Bare Infinitive after But, Than, Rather & Why

Nothing but laugh, why go

Do nothing but, cannot but, would rather … than, had better, why / why not के बाद **V1 (बिना to)** आता है।

SPOT & FIX

× He does nothing but to find faults.	→	✓ He does nothing but **find** faults.
× He would rather die than to beg.	→	✓ He would rather die than **beg**.
× Why to go there?	→	✓ **Why go** there?
× She could not help but to laugh.	→	✓ She could not help but **laugh**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

But, than, why — drop the "to".

PRACTICE Rule 46 • PYQs & practice questions

Q142. Spot the error in the given sentence.
She was attempting to crossing the road but was scared as there was heavy traffic.

❑ SSC DP HCM Tier-I | 12 Jan 2026 | Shift-2

(a) She was attempting
(b) to crossing the road
(c) but was scared
(d) as there was heavy traffic.

Q143. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Rather than to wait for the bus (1)/ in the scorching heat, (2)/ the students decided (3)/ to walk to the stadium. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 47

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Infinitive Usage: Know How To, Split Infinitive & Infinitive + Preposition

Know how to swim; someone to talk to

Know के बाद सीधा infinitive नहीं — **know how to** I To और verb के बीच adverb न डालो (split infinitive)। Infinitive से noun describe हो तो ज़रूरी preposition जोड़ो।

Point	×	✓
know how to	She knows to swim.	She knows **how to** swim.
split infinitive	to quickly finish	**to finish quickly**
infinitive + preposition	no one to talk	no one **to talk to**
	a chair to sit	a chair **to sit on**

SPOT & FIX

× Suman didn't know to operate her account. → ✓ … didn't know **how to** operate …

× He needs someone to rely. → ✓ He needs someone **to rely on**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Talk TO, rely ON, sit ON — keep the partner.

PRACTICE Rule 47 • PYQs & practice questions

Q144. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Had he not deferred the proposal for weeks, (1)/ the board would have had a better chance (2)/ to evaluating the project's long-term viability (3)/ before the deadline lapsed. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q145. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The new employees were told (1)/ how they should to operate (2)/ the machines safely (3)/ during the night shift. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q146. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The trainer warned the recruits _ _ the safety harness under any circumstances while climbing the wall.

✎ Practice Question

(a) to not remove **(b)** not to remove
(c) to remove not **(d)** not remove

RULE 48

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Participles as Adjectives: -ing vs -ed

Interesting vs interested

Present participle (V-ing) = जो effect पैदा करे (interesting, confusing)। **Past participle (V3 / -ed)** = जिस पर effect हुआ (interested, confused)। Compound adjectives भी इसी logic से।

-ing (cause)	-ed (effect)
an interesting novel	*an interested reader*
a confusing question	*a frightened child*
the ever-growing number	*law-abiding / exam-oriented*

SPOT & FIX

× She was quite amusing when she heard it.	→	✓ She was quite **amused** …
× He solved that confused question.	→	✓ He solved that **confusing** question.
× I could not find my losing book.	→	✓ I could not find my **lost** book.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

-ing gives the feeling, -ed gets the feeling.

PRACTICE Rule 48 • PYQs & practice questions

Q147. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.
Please provide a detailing explanation of the research methodology used in your recent scientific paper for clarification purposes requested by the board.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) Please provide a detailing explanation
(b) of the research methodology used in
(c) your recent scientific paper for
(d) clarification purposes requested by the board.

Q148. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.
The ancient ruins attract thousands of tourists every year who are fascinating by the rich history and culture of the place.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-1

(a) The ancient ruins attract thousands
(b) of tourists every year who are
(c) fascinating by the rich history
(d) and culture of the place.

Q149. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The children were so exciting (1)/ about the school trip (2)/ that they could not (3)/ sleep the night before. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 49

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Perfect Participle, Dangling Modifiers & Absolute Phrases

Having + V3; It being a holiday...

Having + V3 = पहले पूरा हुआ काम। Participle phrase का **subject वही होना चाहिए** जो main clause का है, वरना dangling error। Subject अलग हो तो absolute phrase में अपना subject दो।

STRUCTURE

Having + V3 earlier action + **Main clause** same subject

SPOT & FIX

× Walking on the road, a rickshaw hit him.	→	✓ **While he was walking** on the road, a rickshaw hit him.
× Being a rainy day, we stayed home.	→	✓ **It being** a rainy day, we stayed home.
× Having learn my lesson, I was careful.	→	✓ Having **learnt** my lesson ...
× Having caught, the thief admitted the theft.	→	✓ Having **been caught**, the thief ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Who is doing the -ing? Name them.

PRACTICE Rule 49 • PYQs & practice questions

Q150. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Being largely ignored in the early discussions, (1)/ the revised charter was again subjected (2)/ to reviews by external experts (3)/ who had earlier flagged similar inconsistencies. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 24 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q151. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.
Qatar has extended strict quarantine rules having required travellers to isolate for up to 14 days upon their arrival in the country.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 09 Sep | Shift-1

(a) to isolate for up to
(b) has extended strict quarantine rules
(c) having required travellers
(d) upon their arrival

RULE 50

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Confusing Verb Pairs: Rise/Raise, Lie/Lay, Fall/Fell

Transitive vs intransitive

एक verb **object लेती है (transitive)**, दूसरी नहीं (intransitive) — यही फर्क याद रखो।

Without object	Forms	With object	Forms
rise (उठना)	rise – rose – risen	raise (उठाना)	raise – raised – raised
lie (लेटना)	lie – lay – lain – lying	lay (रखना)	lay – laid – laid – laying
fall (गिरना)	fall – fell – fallen	fell (गिराना)	fell – felled – felled
lie (झूठ बोलना)	lie – lied – lied	—	—

SPOT & FIX

× Prices are raising day by day. → ✓ Prices are **rising** day by day.
× He should lay in bed for a few days. → ✓ He should **lie** in bed ...
× The hen has lain an egg. → ✓ The hen has **laid** an egg.
× I knew it the moment I felled. → ✓ ... the moment I **fell**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK
Raise / lay / fell → need an object.

PRACTICE Rule 50 • PYQs & practice questions

Q152. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
The university was / found in 1950 / when India was not self-dependent in many aspects.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 23 Sep | Shift-2

(a) The university was
(b) found in 1950
(c) when India was not self-dependent
(d) No error

Q153. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The cost of essential medicines (1)/ has raised sharply (2)/ after the new tax (3)/ was imposed last month. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q154. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Please __ the files on my table before you leave, and don't let anyone else touch them.

✎ Practice Question

(a) lie **(b)** lay
(c) lain **(d)** lied

RULE 51

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Irregular and Unchanging Verb Forms

Put–put–put, lead–led, tear–tore, hang–hanged

कुछ verbs के तीनों forms **same** रहते हैं; कुछ के forms meaning के साथ बदलते हैं — इन्हें याद रखना ज़रूरी है।

Group	Verbs
Same in all three	put • cut • hit • hurt • cost • let • set • shut • burst • broadcast • bid • spread • quit • cast
Often misspelt	lead–led–led • tear–tore–torn • bear–bore–borne • slay–slew–slain • fly–flew–flown • overflow–overflowed
Meaning-based	hang–hung (वस्तु) / hang–hanged (फाँसी) • melt–melted (verb) / molten (adj) • prove–proved

SPOT & FIX

× He has putted the books on the table. → ✓ He has **put** the books …

× A rise in petrol prices has lead to inflation. → ✓ … has **led** to inflation.

× The prisoner was hung. → ✓ The prisoner was **hanged**.

× Loss of goods was born by the company. → ✓ Loss of goods was **borne** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Put, cut, hit — no change, no -ed.

PRACTICE Rule 51 • PYQs & practice questions

Q155. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
By the time the firefighters arrived, (1)/ the old wooden house (2)/ had already burnt down (3)/ and the roof had fell in. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q156. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The thief had (1)/ hid the stolen jewellery (2)/ under the floorboards (3)/ before the police arrived. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 52

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Active or Passive? Choosing the Right Form

Does the subject act or receive?

Subject **खुद काम करे** → active; subject पर काम हो → passive (be + V3)। Intransitive verbs (fail, happen, die, arrive) का passive नहीं बनता।

STRUCTURE

Subject receives action → **be** + **V3** (+ by agent)

SPOT & FIX

× He has warned by the teacher many times.	→	✓ He **has been warned** by the teacher …
× The man who was committed the theft was caught.	→	✓ The man who **committed** the theft …
× He had been failed to arrange money.	→	✓ He **had failed** to arrange money.
× Her relatives were presented at the station.	→	✓ Her relatives were **present** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

By whom? If an agent fits, it's passive.

PRACTICE Rule 52 • PYQs & practice questions

Q157. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No Error'.
(A) The investigation revealed that the culprit / (B) rather than being remorseful, was insolent enough / (C) to have been taunted the victims during the trial.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-2

(a) The investigation revealed that the culprit
(b) rather than being remorseful, was insolent enough
(c) to have been taunted the victims during the trial
(d) No error

Q158. Examine the given sentence and pick out the error.
In order to give up the mental depression and stress (1) adapting meditation, yoga or (2) similar other methods (3) can be helped (4).

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 29 Nov | Shift-3

(a) adapting meditation, yoga or
(b) can be helped
(c) in order to give up the mental depression and stress
(d) similar other methods

Q159. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.
The bank will be continued to transfer the interest to your account unless instructed otherwise.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-1

(a) interest to
(b) will be continued
(c) unless instructed
(d) to your account

Q160. Identify the fragment that contains a grammatical error.
National liberation struggles / were driving with a diverse / range of radical, reformist, / and Marxist ideologies.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 26 Sep | Shift-1

(a) National liberation struggles
(b) were driving with a diverse
(c) range of radical, reformist,
(d) and Marxist ideologies.

RULE 53

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Passive Voice: Key Transformations

Modals, continuous, perfect, let, imperatives

Passive बनाते समय **tense वही** रहता है, सिर्फ़ structure बदलता है। Modal, continuous और perfect के passive patterns याद रखो।

Active form	Passive form	Example
modal + V1	modal + be + V3	*The meeting **will be held** next week.*
is / was + V-ing	is / was + being + V3	*The patient **was being treated**.*
has / had + V3	has / had + been + V3	*The work **has been done**.*
let + O + V1	let + O + be + V3	***Let** the work **be done**.*
Imperative	Let … be + V3 / You are requested to	***Let** the door **be shut**.*

SPOT & FIX

× The first meeting will be hold next week. → ✓ The first meeting will be **held** next week.

× Why should I be suspect by you? → ✓ Why should I **be suspected** by you?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Keep the tense, add "be + V3".

PRACTICE Rule 53 • PYQs & practice questions

Q161. Convert the sentence from passive to active voice.
It was being suggested by multiple sources that the operation had been compromised internally.

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Sep | Shift-1

(a) Multiple sources suggested the operation was compromised internally.
(b) The operation was compromised, multiple sources suggested.
(c) Multiple sources were suggesting that the operation had been compromised internally.
(d) The operation had compromised multiple internal sources.

Q162. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
The new metro line, which connects the airport to the old city, **was inaugurating by the Prime Minister** in the presence of thousands of commuters last Sunday.

✎ Practice Question

(a) was inaugurated by the Prime Minister
(b) has inaugurated by the Prime Minister
(c) was being inaugurate by the Prime Minister
(d) No improvement

Q163. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
It is expected that the results of the recruitment examination (1)/ will declare by the commission (2)/ within a fortnight, (3)/ according to the official notice. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 54

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Make vs Do

Collocations

Make = कुछ बनाना / पैदा करना; **do** = कोई task / activity करना। Exam में इनके fixed combinations पूछे जाते हैं।

Make	Do
a mistake • a decision • a promise • an effort • progress • a noise • money • a plan • a request • a choice	homework • one's duty • a favour • business • harm • good • one's best • the dishes • research

SPOT & FIX

× You have done a serious mistake. → ✓ You have **made** a serious mistake.

× Please make your homework. → ✓ Please **do** your homework.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Make = create • Do = perform.

PRACTICE Rule 54 • PYQs & practice questions

Q164. Complete the collocation by choosing a suitable word to fill in the blank.
The student could not _ _ _ _ a decision about his career as there were many alternatives to choose.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII 2025 | 02 Aug | Shift-2

(a) build **(b)** give
(c) make **(d)** think

Q165. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The young athlete made (1)/ a lot of hard work (2)/ before the Asian Games (3)/ and won a gold medal. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q166. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The new principal promised to __ every effort to improve the results of the school in the board examinations.

✎ Practice Question

(a) do **(b)** make
(c) take **(d)** give

Q167. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Before you __ any changes to the project report, please __ a backup of the original file.

✎ Practice Question

(a) do, make **(b)** make, make
(c) make, do **(d)** do, do

RULE 55

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Marry, Marriage, Married

Verb, noun, adjective

Marry transitive verb है — इसके बाद **सीधा object** (preposition नहीं)। **Be / get married to** (with नहीं)। **Marriage** noun है।

Form	Pattern	Example
marry (verb)	marry + person	*She **married** a scientist.*
married (adj)	be / get married **to**	*She is **married to** a doctor.*
marriage (noun)	subject / object	*Their **marriage** was solemnised.*

SPOT & FIX

× She married with an engineer. → ✓ She **married** an engineer.

× She is married with a doctor. → ✓ She is married **to** a doctor.

× Their married was solemnised. → ✓ Their **marriage** was solemnised.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Marry somebody; be married TO somebody.

PRACTICE Rule 55 • PYQs & practice questions

Q168. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
My cousin has been _ _ to a German engineer for ten years, and they now live in Munich with their two children.

✎ Practice Question

(a) married with
(b) married
(c) marrying
(d) marriage

Q169. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Their _ _ took place in a small temple in the village, attended only by close relatives and friends.

✎ Practice Question

(a) marry
(b) married
(c) marriage
(d) marrying

Q170. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
She married with (1)/ a young army officer (2)/ whom she had met (3)/ during a trek in Ladakh. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 56

VERB PATTERNS, VERB FORMS & VOICE

Noun–Verb Look-alikes

Advice/advise, practice/practise, affect/effect...

इन जोड़ों में एक **noun** है और दूसरा **verb** — sentence में जगह देखकर सही चुनो।

Noun	Verb	Quick check
advice	advise	*a piece of advice • He advised me*
practice	practise	*regular practice • You must practise*
effect (प्रभाव)	affect (प्रभावित करना)	*the effect • can affect crops*
breath	breathe	*a deep breath • struggling to breathe*
complaint	complain	*lodged a complaint • I complained*
licence	license	*driving licence • licensed the software*
bath	bathe	*take a bath • bathe the baby*

Other look-alikes
lose (खोना) / loose (ढीला) • elicit (निकलवाना) / illicit (अवैध) • quiet / quite • beside / besides

SPOT & FIX

× He gave me a piece of advise. → ✓ … a piece of **advice**.

× The bad weather can effect the crops. → ✓ … can **affect** the crops.

× The baby was struggling to breath. → ✓ … struggling to **breathe**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK
C / -th = noun • S / -the = verb.

PRACTICE Rule 56 • PYQs & practice questions

Q171.
Choose the option that will replace the errors highlighted in bold.
Despite his apology, she refused to accept his gift and did not **except** his explanation.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII 2025 | 01 Aug | Shift-3

(a) accept, accept
(b) except, accept
(c) accept, except
(d) except, except

Q172.
Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The sudden change in weather (1)/ has badly effected (2)/ the health of the elderly residents (3)/ of the colony. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 04 • Verb Patterns, Verb Forms & Voice • Q122–Q172

Q122 (b) R40 **let … to take → let … take** — Let + object + bare V1।

Q123 (a) R40 **made … resubmitting → made … resubmit** — Make + object + bare infinitive (V1)।

Q124 (b) R40 **let … to leave → let … leave** — *Let* के बाद 'to' नहीं, bare V1।

Q125 (b) R40 **cancel** — Make + object + bare V1।

Q126 (c) R41 **polish → polished** — Causative *have + object + V3* (काम दूसरे से करवाना)।

Q127 (b) R41 **sent** — have + object (documents) + V3 — काम दूसरे से करवाया।

Q128 (c) R41 **repair → repaired** — get + object + V3 (काम करवाना)।

Q129 (c) R41 **replace → replaced** — get + object + V3 (दोनों हिस्सों में)।

Q130 (b) R42 **to gave → to give** — request + object + to + V1।

Q131 (c) R42 **failed communicating → failed to communicate** — *Fail* के बाद to-infinitive।

Q132 (b) R43 **forgot bringing → forgot to bring** — Forget to + V1 = करना भूल जाना; forget + V-ing = किया हुआ भूलना।

Q133 (b) R43 **to drink** — Stop + to-infinitive = कुछ करने के लिए रुकना; stop + V-ing = काम बंद करना।

Q134 (a) R43 **remember to lock → remember locking** — पहले किया हुआ काम याद रखना → remember + V-ing।

Q135 (b) R43 **eating** — Stop + V-ing = आदत/काम छोड़ना।

Q136 (d) R44 **Neither P nor Q** — *resign oneself to* और *be given to* में to preposition है → V-ing सही।

Q137 (a) R44 **to meet → to meeting** — look forward to + V-ing।

Q138 (b) R44 **give → giving** — object to (preposition) + V-ing।

Q139 (a) R45 **keen in → keen on** + V-ing।

Q140 (b) R45 **from drive → from driving** — Preposition के बाद gerund।

Q141 (c) R45 **reporting** — Preposition (instead of) के बाद gerund।

Q142 (b) R46 **to crossing → to cross** — attempt + to + V1।

Q143 (a) R46 **Rather than to wait → Rather than wait / waiting** — rather than के बाद bare V1 (या V-ing)।

Q144 (c) R47 **to evaluating → to evaluate / of evaluating** — Infinitive marker *to* के बाद V1।

Q145 (b) R47 **should to operate → to operate / should operate** — how + to-infinitive; modal के बाद to नहीं।

Q146 (b) R47 **not to remove** — Infinitive का negative: not to + V1।

Q147 (a) R48 **detailing → detailed** — Noun से पहले adjective *detailed*।

Q148 (c) R48 **fascinating → fascinated** — लोगों की feeling → -ed; कारण बनने वाली चीज़ → -ing।

Q149 (a) R48 **exciting → excited** — व्यक्ति की feeling → -ed adjective।

Q150 (a) R49 **Being ignored → Having been ignored** — पहले हो चुकी action → perfect participle।

Q151 (c) R49 **having required → requiring** — साथ-साथ होने वाली action → present participle; having + V3 = पहले पूरी हो चुकी।

Q152 (b) R50 **found → founded** — स्थापित करना = found–founded–founded; found = find का V2/V3।

Q153 (b) R50 **has raised → has risen** — Intransitive (बिना object) बढ़ना = rise–rose–risen।

Q154 (b) R50 **lay** — Transitive (object: files) रखना = lay।

Q155 (d) R51 **had fell → had fallen** — had + V3।

Q156 (b) R51 **had hid → had hidden** — hide–hid–hidden; had + V3।

Q157 (c) R52 **to have been taunted → to have taunted** — Culprit ने taunt किया (active); object मौजूद है।

Q158 (b) R52 **can be helped → can help** — Methods मदद करते हैं (active), मदद पाते नहीं।

Q159 (b) R52 **will be continued → will continue** — Bank खुद action कर रहा है → active।

Q160 (b) R52 **were driving with → were driven by** — Struggles action के receiver हैं → passive (be + V3 + by)।

Q161 (c) R53 **(c)** — was being suggested (past continuous passive) → were suggesting; inner clause वैसा ही।

Q162 (a) R53 **was inaugurated** — Passive = be + V3; line ने खुद inaugurate नहीं किया।

Q163 (b) R53 **will declare → will be declared** — Future passive = will + be + V3।

Q164 (c) R54 **make** — *make a decision* (take a decision भी चलता है)।

Q165 (a) R54 **made → did** — *do hard work / do one's best*; make के साथ नहीं।

Q166 (b) R54 **make** — Fixed collocation: make an effort।

Q167 (b) R54 **make, make** — make changes, make a backup (create/produce वाले collocations)।

Q168 (b) R55 **married (to)** — be married **to** someone।

Q169 (c) R55 **marriage** — Article/possessive के बाद noun (marriage)।

Q170 (a) R55 **married with → married** — Active 'marry' transitive है (बिना preposition)।

Q171 (a) R56 **accept** — Accept (V) = स्वीकार करना; except (prep) = के सिवाय।

Q172 (b) R56 **effected → affected** — प्रभावित करना = affect (V); effect = परिणाम (N) / लाना (V)।

SECTION 05

Tenses

Time indicators, forms और sequence • Rules 57–68

R57 Simple Present: Habits, Facts and Universal Truths
R58 Stative Verbs Don't Take -ing
R59 Since vs For
R60 Present Perfect (Continuous) with Since/For
R61 Present Perfect vs Past Simple
R62 Past Perfect: Two Actions in the Past
R63 By the Time
R64 No Future after Time & Condition Conjunctions
R65 Sequence of Tenses
R66 Correct Tense Forms
R67 Do / Does / Did and Modals + Base Form
R68 Future Indicators and Planned Future

RULE 57

TENSES

Simple Present: Habits, Facts and Universal Truths

Usually, always, often, every day

Habit, routine, general fact और universal truth के लिए **simple present** use होता है। **Usually, always, often, seldom, daily, every day** जैसे indicators continuous या perfect नहीं लेते।

STRUCTURE

Indicator usually / always / seldom / every day + **Subject** + **V1 / V1+s**

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ She is usually wearing traditional clothes. → ✓ She usually **wears** traditional clothes.
- ✗ He is seldom leaving his home. → ✓ He seldom **leaves** his home.
- ✗ Rohan has often gone for a hike. → ✓ Rohan often **goes** for a hike.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Universal truth reported speech में भी present रहता है: *He said that the sun **rises** in the east.*

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Routine → simple present.

PRACTICE Rule 57 • PYQs & practice questions

Q173. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Every morning before sunrise, (1)/ the old priest walks to the river, (2)/ took a holy dip (3)/ and offers prayers to the Sun God. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q174. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Our geography teacher explained (1)/ that the earth revolved around the sun (2)/ and that it takes (3)/ about 365 days to complete one revolution. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q175. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Every year, thousands of migratory birds __ to the Chilika lake from Siberia and spend the winter there before returning in March.

✎ Practice Question

(a) are coming **(b)** come
(c) came **(d)** have came

Q176. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The trains to Shimla __ from platform number five every day, but today the 7:40 service has been shifted to platform two.

✎ Practice Question

(a) leaves **(b)** leave
(c) are leaving **(d)** left

RULE 58

TENSES

Stative Verbs Don't Take -ing

Know, love, believe, own, resemble, remember

Stative verbs state, possession, feeling या mental condition दिखाती हैं — action नहीं। इसलिए ये **continuous tense** में नहीं आतीं। But same verb action के meaning में हो तो -ing चल सकता है।

State → no -ing	Action → -ing allowed
I ***know*** *him. (not am knowing)* I ***have*** *two cars.*	*We* ***are having*** *lunch.* *I* ***am thinking*** *about it.*

Mind
know • believe • understand • remember • forget • think (= believe) • suppose

Feeling
love • like • hate • want • prefer • wish

Possession / state
have (= own) • own • possess • belong • contain • consist • resemble • seem • appear • cost

SPOT & FIX

× I am knowing the answer.	→	✓ I **know** the answer.
× He is strongly resembling his brother.	→	✓ He strongly **resembles** his brother.
× I have been knowing her for five years.	→	✓ I **have known** her for five years.

💡 MEMORY HOOK
States are still — no -ing.

PRACTICE Rule 58 • PYQs & practice questions

Q177. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Had he been knowing (1)/ about the regulatory changes (2)/ he would not have proceeded (3)/ with the merger deal. (4)

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII 2025 | 31 Jul | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q178. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The members of the selection committee (1)/ are seeming to be divided (2)/ on the question of (3)/ extending the deadline. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q179. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
I am knowing the answer (1)/ to this question (2)/ because I solved a similar one (3)/ in yesterday's mock test. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 59

TENSES

Since vs For

Point of time vs duration

Since = एक निश्चित **point of time** (कब से); **for** = **duration** (कितने समय से)। दोनों आमतौर पर present perfect (continuous) के साथ आते हैं।

Since point of time	**For** length of time
since Monday, since 2010, since morning, since childhood	*for ten years, for two hours, for a long time, for centuries*

SPOT & FIX

× They have lived here since ten years.	→	✓ They have lived here **for** ten years.
× It has been raining since two hours.	→	✓ It has been raining **for** two hours.
× Clamouring from the past two weeks.	→	✓ Clamouring **for** the past two weeks.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Since = starting line • For = length.

PRACTICE Rule 59 • PYQs & practice questions

Q180. Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.
I'm lucky that I have been doing a job I enjoy, all my working life.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 29 Nov | Shift-1

(a) I'm lucky that
(b) I have been doing a job
(c) I enjoy all my working life.
(d) No correction required

Q181. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The two countries have maintained (1)/ diplomatic relations (2)/ since more than seventy years, (3)/ despite occasional tensions. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 60

TENSES

Present Perfect (Continuous) with Since/For

From past till now

जो काम past में शुरू होकर **अब तक जारी** है, उसके लिए present perfect continuous (state verbs के लिए present perfect) — simple present या present continuous नहीं।

STRUCTURE

Subject + **has / have been** + **V-ing** + **since / for**

SPOT & FIX

× I am working with him since 2002.	→ ✓ I **have been working** with him since 2002.
× She is living here for 20 years.	→ ✓ She **has been living** here for 20 years.
× No one heard anything since he left.	→ ✓ No one **has heard** anything since he left.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *since* के बाद वाला clause **past simple** में: *since he **left**, since I **was** a child*।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Started then, still on → has been + ing.

PRACTICE

Rule 60 • PYQs & practice questions

Q182. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The school authorities _ _ several measures to improve student safety over the past few months.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-2

(a) introduce
(b) introduced
(c) have introduced
(d) had introduced

Q183. Fill in the blank.
The new policy _ a significant impact on the local economy since it was implemented.

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-1

(a) had
(b) will have
(c) has had
(d) was having

RULE 61

TENSES

Present Perfect vs Past Simple

Yet / just / so far vs yesterday / ago / last

Present perfect का past time से कोई **definite link** नहीं होता (yet, just, already, so far, lately)। Definite past time (yesterday, ago, last week, in 2019) आए तो **past simple**।

Present perfect indefinite / up to now	**Past simple** definite past
*I **haven't got** any email yet.*	*I **went** to the cinema last Sunday.*
*Her children **haven't been** well lately.*	*It **rained** heavily yesterday.*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ I have gone to the cinema last Sunday. → ✓ I **went** to the cinema last Sunday.
- ✗ I hadn't got any email yet. → ✓ I **haven't got** any email yet.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Yesterday never meets "have".

PRACTICE — Rule 61 • PYQs & practice questions

Q184. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The official, addressing the press yesterday, (1)/ claimed that the matter had been resolved (2)/ though no evidence supporting the statement (3)/ was ever made available. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 20 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q185. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
He had never seen (1) / such a masterpiece (2) / until he (3) / visits the gallery last spring. (4)

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII | 28 Jul 2025 | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 62

TENSES

Past Perfect: Two Actions in the Past

Before / after / when

Past के **दो actions** में जो पहले हुआ वह **had + V3**; बाद वाला **past simple**। **After** वाले clause में past perfect, **before** वाले main clause में।

STRUCTURE

Earlier action had + V3 → **Later action** V2

SPOT & FIX

× The train left before I reached.	→ ✓ The train **had left** before I reached.
× After he had finished, he had gone out.	→ ✓ After he had finished, he **went** out.
× The doctor had arrived after the patient had died.	→ ✓ The doctor **arrived** after …

💡 **MEMORY HOOK**

First event, one step deeper — "had".

PRACTICE

Rule 62 • PYQs & practice questions

Q186. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
I completed the report before the senior manager entered the office to request the final figures for the board presentation.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-2

(a) I had completed the report
(b) I have finished my dissertation
(c) I was finishing my dissertation
(d) I had finish my dissertation

Q187. Improve the sentence by selecting the appropriate tense of the underlined word.
They **lives** in this city for ten years before they moved to the countryside.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII | 24 Jul 2025 | Shift-3

(a) live
(b) lived
(c) had lived
(d) have lived

RULE 63

TENSES

By the Time

Past perfect / future perfect

By the time + past simple → main clause **past perfect** | **By the time + present simple** → main clause **future perfect** (will have + V3)|

By the time clause	Main clause	Example
past simple	had + V3	*By the time police arrived, the thieves **had fled**.*
present simple	will have + V3	*The show **will have ended** by the time we reach.*

SPOT & FIX

× By the time you come back, I will complete it. → ✓ … I **will have completed** it.

× He will have retired by the time he will be 60. → ✓ … by the time he **is** 60.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"By the time" = already done.

PRACTICE Rule 63 • PYQs & practice questions

Q188. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate verb.
By the time the rescue team __ at the site, most of the villagers had already been evacuated to safer ground.

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-3

(a) will arrive
(b) had arrived
(c) arrives
(d) arrived

Q189. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
By the time the new flyover is opened (1)/ to the public next year, (2)/ the traffic police will shift (3)/ the bus stop to the other side. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 64

TENSES

No Future after Time & Condition Conjunctions

When, if, until, unless, as soon as, before

When, if, unless, until, as soon as, before, after, provided वाले clause में future (will) **नहीं** आता — future meaning के लिए simple present use करो।

STRUCTURE

When / If / As soon as + **Simple present** + **Main clause** will + V1

SPOT & FIX

× I will call her when I will finish.	→	✓ I will call her when I **finish**.
× If my father will approve, I will go.	→	✓ If my father **approves**, I will go.
× Unless we will act, production will fall.	→	✓ Unless we **act** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"If" and "when" never borrow "will".

PRACTICE — Rule 64 • PYQs & practice questions

Q190. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The professor postponed the discussion (1)/ until the research would be published (2)/ to maintain confidentiality (3)/ of the findings. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 15 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q191. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The spokesperson refused to comment (1)/ until the investigation would be completed (2)/ to avoid jeopardising (3)/ ongoing proceedings. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 15 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q192.

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
If the monsoon will arrive on time this year, (1)/ the farmers in the region (2)/ will be able to sow (3)/ their kharif crops early. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE **65**

TENSES

Sequence of Tenses

Past reporting → past subordinate

Main clause **past** में हो तो subordinate clause भी past form में चला जाता है। Exception: universal truth, habitual fact।

Main clause	Subordinate	Example
asked (past)	was going	*My mother asked me where I **was** going.*
wanted to know (past)	had completed	*He wanted to know if they **had** completed it.*
expected (past)	would	*He expected that it **would** be solved.*

SPOT & FIX

× The judge asked if he has stolen the money. → ✓ … if he **had** stolen the money.

× It grew fast as the country is experiencing a boom. → ✓ … as the country **was** experiencing a boom.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Past leads, past follows.

PRACTICE Rule 65 • PYQs & practice questions

Q193.

Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Only after the final audit report was submitted (1)/ did the committee realise (2)/ that the estimates, although well-documented, (3)/ has omitted indirect liabilities. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 25 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q194. Choose the option which can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence.
The minister clarified that the funds allocated for the scheme **are disbursed judiciously and not misused** as it has been alleged.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 20 Feb 2026 | Shift-2

(a) were disbursed judiciously and not misused
(b) were disbursed with judiciousness and not misused
(c) were not misused and had been disbursed in judiciously
(d) No improvement required

Q195. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The student responded to the question so logically (1) / that the audience (2) / praise his analytical approach repeatedly (3) / despite the time constraints. (4)

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIII | 28 Jul 2025 | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q196. Choose the most suitable option to replace the underlined part. If already correct, select 'No substitution required'.
The research paper was full of errors because the data **is not verified** by any expert.

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-2

(a) has not been verified **(b)** is not being verified yet
(c) No substitution required **(d)** was not verified

RULE 66

TENSES

Correct Tense Forms

Helping verb + right verb form

हर tense का fixed structure है — helping verb के साथ verb का **गलत form** सबसे common error है।

Tense	Structure	Example
Present continuous	is / am / are + V-ing	*She **is playing** chess.*
Present perfect	has / have + V3	*He **has written** three books.*
Perfect continuous	has / have been + V-ing	*She **has been working** since 8.*
Past perfect	had + V3	*She **had not eaten** there before.*
Future continuous	will be + V-ing	*She **will be studying** tomorrow.*
Future perfect	will have + V3	*Will Ramya **have completed** it?*

SPOT & FIX

× Trisha is play chess.	→	✓ Trisha is **playing** chess.
× He has already wrote three books.	→	✓ He has already **written** three books.
× She has been worked on it since eight.	→	✓ She has been **working** on it …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Helper decides the form.

PRACTICE Rule 66 • PYQs & practice questions

Q197. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
When the police finally arrived at the scene, (1)/ the robbers already escaped (2)/ through the back door (3)/ with all the cash. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q198. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
By the end of this month, (1)/ the company will complete (2)/ twenty-five years (3)/ of its operations in India. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q199. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Look! The children _ _ in the rain without umbrellas; please call them inside before they catch a cold.

✎ Practice Question

(a) play **(b)** are playing
(c) have played **(d)** were playing

RULE 67

TENSES

Do / Does / Did and Modals + Base Form

V1 only

Do, does, did और सभी modals (can, may, must, should, will, would) के बाद verb हमेशा **base form (V1)** में आती है — -s, V2 या V3 नहीं।

STRUCTURE

do / does / did / modal + **V1** base form

SPOT & FIX

× Did you baked the cake?	→	✓ Did you **bake** the cake?
× She does not likes spicy food.	→	✓ She does not **like** spicy food.
× This will explains the decision.	→	✓ This will **explain** the decision.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

After a helper, the verb goes bare.

PRACTICE Rule 67 • PYQs & practice questions

Q200. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
That the framework lacks provisions for backward compatibility (1)/ is less problematic than the assumption (2)/ that all peripheral institutions will, without coercion, (3)/ adheres to the central directive as framed. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q201. Spot the error.
You must to ensure that (1)/ all parameters are recorded (2)/ before the simulation (3)/ can be rerun. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q202. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Did the committee members (1)/ discussed the budget proposal (2)/ before they submitted (3)/ the final report to the minister? (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 68

TENSES

Future Indicators and Planned Future

Tomorrow, shortly, in the coming days

Tomorrow, next week, shortly, in the coming days जैसे indicators **future** माँगते हैं। Pre-decided plan के लिए **be going to**।

SPOT & FIX

✗ The guests arrive shortly.	→	✓ The guests **will arrive** shortly.
✗ We gather more information in the coming days.	→	✓ We **will gather** more information …
✗ I will be gone to buy a cupboard.	→	✓ I **am going to** buy a cupboard.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Future word → future verb.

PRACTICE Rule 68 • PYQs & practice questions

Q203. Choose the alternative containing the part that has an error.
It is 14:25 hours now and the arrival time of the train is 14:30 hours, so we have to wait for five more minutes, and the train is going to come to the station within five minutes.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 18 Feb 2026 | Shift-2

(a) It is 14:25 hours now and the arrival
(b) time of the train is 14:30 hours, so we
(c) have to wait for five more minutes, and
(d) the train is going to come to the station within five minutes.

Q204. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The prime minister _ _ the new airport on the 15th of next month, according to the schedule released by the ministry.

✎ Practice Question

(a) inaugurates
(b) is inaugurating
(c) has inaugurated
(d) inaugurated

Q205. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Look at those dark clouds; (1)/ it will rain (2)/ any moment now, (3)/ so take your umbrella. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 05 • Tenses • Q173–Q205

Q173 (c) R57 **took → takes** — Daily habit → simple present (walks, takes, offers parallel)।

Q174 (b) R57 **revolved → revolves** — Universal truth reported speech में भी simple present।

Q175 (b) R57 **come** — हर साल होने वाली नियमित घटना → simple present।

Q176 (b) R57 **leave** — Regular schedule → simple present; subject *The trains* plural।

Q177 (a) R58 **Had he been knowing → Had he known** — *Know* stative है; continuous form नहीं।

Q178 (b) R58 **are seeming → seem** — Stative verb (seem) continuous में नहीं।

Q179 (a) R58 **am knowing → know** — Know (mental state) continuous में नहीं।

Q180 (c) R59 **all my working life → for all my working life** — Duration के साथ for।

Q181 (c) R59 **since → for** — Duration (more than seventy years) → for।

Q182 (c) R60 **have introduced** — *over the past few months* (past से अब तक) → present perfect।

Q183 (c) R60 **has had** — since + past point → present perfect।

Q184 (d) R61 **was ever made → has ever been made** — *ever* (अब तक) present perfect के साथ आता है।

Q185 (d) R61 **visits → visited** — last spring (definite past) → simple past।

Q186 (a) R62 **I had completed the report** — दो past actions में पहली → past perfect।

Q187 (c) R62 **had lived** — Moved (past) से पहले की अवधि → past perfect।

Q188 (d) R63 **arrived** — By the time + simple past → main clause past perfect (had been evacuated)।

Q189 (c) R63 **will shift → will have shifted** — By the time + present (future) → future perfect।

Q190 (b) R64 **would be published → was published** — Time clause (until) में would/will नहीं।

Q191 (b) R64 **would be completed → was completed** — *until* वाले time clause में future/would नहीं।

Q192 (a) R64 **will arrive → arrives** — Condition clause (if) में future नहीं; simple present।

Q193 (d) R65 **has omitted → had omitted** — Main clause past (*did realise*) → subordinate भी past; estimates plural।

Q194 (a) R65 **were disbursed** — Reporting verb past (clarified) → reported clause भी past।

Q195 (c) R65 **praise → praised** — Main clause past (responded) → result clause भी past।

Q196 (d) R65 **was not verified** — Main clause past (*was full*) → dependent clause भी past।

Q197 (b) R66 **already escaped → had already escaped** — Police के आने से पहले हुई action → past perfect।

Q198 (b) R66 **will complete → will have completed** — By + future point → future perfect।

Q199 (b) R66 **are playing** — 'Look!' = अभी हो रहा काम → present continuous।

Q200 (d) R67 **will ... adheres → will ... adhere** — Modal के बाद bare V1।

Q201 (a) R67 **must to ensure** → **must ensure** — Modal के बाद 'to' नहीं।

Q202 (b) R67 **discussed** → **discuss** — Did + S + V1।

Q203 (d) R68 **is going to come** → **arrives / is due** — Timetable वाला fixed schedule → simple present।

Q204 (b) R68 **is inaugurating** — पहले से तय arrangement (planned future) → present continuous।

Q205 (b) R68 **will rain** → **is going to rain** — सामने दिख रहे evidence पर prediction → be going to।

SECTION 06

Adjectives, Determiners & Degrees of Comparison

Order, comparison और quantity words • Rules 69–84

R69	Order of Adjectives: OSASCOMP	R70	Predicative-only Adjectives
R71	Absolute Adjectives Have No Degrees	R72	No Double Comparatives or Superlatives
R73	Latin Comparatives Take "To", Not "Than"	R74	Comparing within the Same Group: "Any Other"
R75	Comparing Two Qualities of One Person	R76	Parallel and Progressive Comparison
R77	As...As and So...As	R78	Confusing Comparatives I: Later/Latter, Last/Latest
R79	Confusing Comparatives II: Elder/Older, Farther/Further	R80	Little, A Little, The Little / Few, A Few, The Few
R81	Much vs Many, Less vs Fewer	R82	Some vs Any
R83	Very, Much, Too, So, Enough	R84	Kind of / Sort of / Type of

RULE 69

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Order of Adjectives: OSASCOMP

Opinion → Size → Age → Shape → Colour → Origin → Material → Purpose

एक noun से पहले कई adjectives आएँ तो उनका एक fixed natural order होता है। Numbers में **ordinal पहले, cardinal बाद में** (the first five)।

THE OSASCOMP CHAIN

Opinion beautiful | **Size** small | **Age** old | **Shape** round | **Colour** red | **Origin** Japanese | **Material** wooden | **Purpose** dining

Ordinal first / last / next + **Cardinal** two / five + **Noun** chapters

SPOT & FIX

× a red, small, leather bag	→	✓ a **small red leather** bag
× his blonde long hair	→	✓ his **long blonde** hair
× the two first chapters	→	✓ the **first two** chapters

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"Old Sita Always Sells Cheap Old Mangoes Profitably".

PRACTICE Rule 69 • PYQs & practice questions

Q206.

Identify the segment that contains an error.
Please go and meet the chairperson. / She will be / away for the / few next days.

☐ SSC PYQ (Eduquity Pattern)

(a) She will be
(b) away for the
(c) few next days.
(d) Please go and meet the chairperson.

Q207.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The _ _ chapters of the textbook deal with the history of ancient India, while the rest cover the medieval period.

✎ Practice Question

(a) two first
(b) first two
(c) second two
(d) two firsts

Q208.

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The museum has recently acquired (1)/ a wooden beautiful small (2)/ Mughal jewellery box (3)/ from a private collector in Lucknow. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q209.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
For the wedding, she chose a _ _ saree with a golden border that her grandmother had gifted her.

✎ Practice Question

(a) silk red beautiful old
(b) beautiful old red silk
(c) red beautiful silk old
(d) old beautiful silk red

RULE 70

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Predicative-only Adjectives

Afraid, asleep, alive, alone, awake, ready, glad, well

कुछ adjectives सिर्फ़ **verb के बाद (predicative position)** में आते हैं, noun से पहले नहीं। Ill और sorry noun से पहले आएँ तो meaning बदल जाता है।

✓ After the verb predicative

The child is asleep.
The lady is afraid.
The food is ready.

✗ Before a noun attributive

an asleep child → a sleeping child
an afraid lady → a frightened lady

Word	Predicative meaning	Before noun
ill	बीमार (He is ill.)	ill health, ill effects = बुरा
sorry	दुखी / माफ़ (I am sorry.)	a sorry state = दयनीय

💡 MEMORY HOOK

a-words (afraid, asleep, alive, alone) stand after the verb.

PRACTICE — Rule 70 • PYQs & practice questions

Q210. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The rescue team was relieved to find (1)/ an alive child trapped beneath the rubble (2)/ of the collapsed building (3)/ nearly forty hours after the earthquake. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q211. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The nurse tiptoed out of the ward so that she would not disturb the __ patients, most of whom had undergone surgery that morning.

✎ Practice Question

(a) asleep **(b)** sleeping
(c) slept **(d)** sleepy-like

Q212. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The zookeeper was relieved to see that **the only alive cub** of the tigress had started feeding on its own.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the only living cub
(b) the only cub alive is
(c) the alive only cub
(d) No improvement required

Q213. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The afraid villagers (1)/ refused to step out of their houses (2)/ after a leopard was spotted (3)/ near the school. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 71

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Absolute Adjectives Have No Degrees

Unique, perfect, ideal, complete, supreme, excellent

Ye adjectives अपने आप में **पूर्ण (absolute)** हैं, इसलिए इनके साथ **more, most, very** नहीं लगते।

Absolute adjectives
unique • perfect • ideal • complete • entire • supreme • excellent • extreme • chief • universal • eternal • impossible • round • square • dead • empty • full

SPOT & FIX

× This is the most unique design.	→	✓ This is **a unique** design.
× Her performance was more perfect.	→	✓ Her performance was **perfect**.
× I see it as the most ideal place.	→	✓ I see it as **an ideal** place.

💡 MEMORY HOOK
Perfect can't be more perfect.

PRACTICE Rule 71 • PYQs & practice questions

Q214. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The newly discovered species was (1)/ quite unique, possessing characteristics (2)/ that set it apart from (3)/ all its known relatives. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 20 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q215. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The architect claimed that his design for the new parliament complex was _ _ in every respect and needed no further modification.

✎ Practice Question

(a) more ideal **(b)** most ideal
(c) ideal **(d)** very much ideal

Q216. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The jury described her performance (1)/ as the most perfect rendition (2)/ of the classical raga (3)/ ever heard at the festival. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 72

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

No Double Comparatives or Superlatives

More better, most smartest

एक adjective में comparison **एक ही बार** दिखाओ: या -er/-est, या more/most — दोनों साथ नहीं।
Comparative को intensify करना हो तो **much / far / still** लगाओ।

× Double	✓ Correct
more better, more heavier	*better, much better, far heavier*
most smartest	*smartest, by far the smartest*

SPOT & FIX

× It is more better if one parent stays home.	→	✓ It is **better** …
× He is more stronger than Ajay.	→	✓ He is **much stronger** than Ajay.
× The weather is much more warmer.	→	✓ The weather is much **warmer**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One comparison per adjective.

PRACTICE Rule 72 • PYQs & practice questions

Q217. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Of all the candidates who appeared in the interview, (1)/ Meera gave the most clearest answers (2)/ to the technical questions (3)/ asked by the panel. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q218. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The newly launched electric car is __ than its petrol version, though its battery takes nearly eight hours to charge fully.

✎ Practice Question

(a) more cheaper to run **(b)** much cheaper to run
(c) most cheap to run **(d)** more cheap to running

RULE 73

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Latin Comparatives Take "To", Not "Than"

Senior to, superior to, prefer A to B

Latin से आए **-ior** adjectives (senior, junior, superior, inferior, prior, anterior, posterior) और **preferable / prefer** के बाद **to** आता है।

Word	✓ Pattern	Example
senior / junior	to	*He is senior **to** me by two years.*
superior / inferior	to	*This cloth is superior **to** that.*
prior	to	*prior **to** the meeting*
preferable	to (not "more preferable")	*Death is preferable **to** dishonour.*
prefer	A to B	*I prefer tea **to** coffee.*

SPOT & FIX

× Death is preferable than dishonour. → ✓ Death is preferable **to** dishonour.

× I prefer watching movies than reading. → ✓ I prefer watching movies **to** reading.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- prefer + **to-infinitive** हो तो *rather than*: *I prefer to walk rather than drive.*

💡 MEMORY HOOK

-ior words love "to".

PRACTICE Rule 73 • PYQs & practice questions

Q219. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
I prefer to analyze the raw data personally to relying on the subjective interpretations provided by the junior researchers.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 09 Sep | Shift-2

(a) I prefer analyzing
(b) I prefer reading ... than
(c) I prefer to reading
(d) I prefer read

Q220. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The report was more preferable (1)/ to the previous version (2)/ due to its structured layout (3)/ and clarity of language. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 20 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q221. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The analyst insisted that the latest forecasting model was **superior than the one** used last year.

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 25 Sep | Shift-3

(a) more superior than the one
(b) superior to the one
(c) superior then the one
(d) superior over the one

Q222. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence.
I **prefer travelling on train than travelling by bus** as I suffer from motion sickness.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 28 Nov | Shift-3

(a) Prefer travelling in train to travelling by bus
(b) Prefer travelling by train to travelling by bus
(c) Prefer travelling by train than travelling by bus
(d) No substitution

RULE 74

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Comparing within the Same Group: "Any Other"

Taller than any other boy

जब किसी को उसके अपने group से compare करें, तो उसे group से बाहर रखो: **any other / all the other / no other**। अलग group से comparison हो तो 'other' नहीं।

Same group + other	**Different group** no "other"
*Ravi is taller than **any other** boy in the class.*	*Ravi is taller than any girl in the class.*
*No **other** animal is as cunning as a fox.*	

SPOT & FIX

× Rohan is taller than all the boys of his class.	→	✓ … than all the **other** boys …
× No animal is as cunning as a fox.	→	✓ No **other** animal …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

You can't be taller than yourself.

PRACTICE — Rule 74 • PYQs & practice questions

Q223. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Among all the ministers in the cabinet, (1)/ the finance minister is more experienced (2)/ than any minister in the government, (3)/ having served for over three decades. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q224. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Mount Everest is higher than __ in the world, which is why climbers from every country dream of reaching its summit.

✎ Practice Question

(a) any peak **(b)** any other peak
(c) all peaks **(d)** the other peak

Q225. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The Ganga is longer (1)/ than any Indian river, (2)/ and its basin supports (3)/ a large share of the country's population. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 75

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Comparing Two Qualities of One Person

More wise than brave

एक ही व्यक्ति/चीज़ के **दो गुणों** की तुलना हो तो -er form नहीं, **more + positive degree** use करो।

STRUCTURE

more + Adjective 1 positive + than + Adjective 2 positive

SPOT & FIX

× He is wiser than brave. → ✓ He is **more wise** than brave.

× This road is narrower than long. → ✓ This road is **more narrow** than long.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One person, two qualities → "more".

PRACTICE Rule 75 • PYQs & practice questions

Q226. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The new manager is cleverer than honest, (1)/ and the employees have already begun (2)/ to doubt the figures he presents (3)/ at every review meeting. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q227. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The old fort on the hill is _ _ than beautiful, and tourists who expect an architectural marvel often return disappointed.

✎ Practice Question

(a) larger **(b)** more large
(c) largest **(d)** much larger

Q228. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The new librarian is _ _ than strict, and students often take advantage of his gentle nature by returning books late.

✎ Practice Question

(a) kinder
(b) more kind
(c) most kind
(d) kindest

Q229. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The minister's speech was (1)/ longer than informative, (2)/ and many in the audience (3)/ left before it ended. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 76

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Parallel and Progressive Comparison

The more..., the better / hotter and hotter

Parallel increase के लिए **The + comparative ..., the + comparative**। धीरे-धीरे बढ़ने/घटने के लिए **comparative and comparative**। दो में से चुनाव के लिए **the + comparative of the two**।

Parallel	Gradual	Of the two
The harder you work, the better you score.	*It is getting hotter and hotter.* *more and more people*	*Rahul is the smarter of the two.*

SPOT & FIX

× The more you practise, more confident you become. → ✓ ... **the** more confident you become.

× Of the two sisters, Riya is the most beautiful. → ✓ ... Riya is **the more** beautiful.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two "the"s go together.

PRACTICE Rule 76 • PYQs & practice questions

Q230. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The more you delay the decision, (1)/ more difficult it becomes (2)/ to convince the investors (3)/ to stay with the project. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q231. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
As the monsoon advanced, the river grew _ _, and by midnight the villagers had to move to the relief camps.

✎ Practice Question

(a) wider and wider **(b)** more and more wide
(c) widest and widest **(d)** wide and wider

RULE 77

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

As...As and So...As

Equality and its negative

Positive sentence में बराबरी के लिए **as + positive + as**। Negative में **not so...as** (not as...as भी चलता है)। Double comparison में पहली तुलना पूरी करो।

Positive as ... as

*She is **as** intelligent **as** her sister.*

Negative not so ... as

*He is not **so** tall **as** his brother.*

Double comparison complete both

*He is as smart **as**, if not smarter **than**, his brother.*

SPOT & FIX

× He is so respectful as Gandhiji. → ✓ He is **as** respectful **as** Gandhiji.

× I am nearly as taller as her. → ✓ I am nearly as **tall** as **she**.

× Shivam's car is so expensive as mine. → ✓ ... is **as** expensive as mine.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Yes → as...as • No → not so...as.

PRACTICE Rule 77 • PYQs & practice questions

Q232. Choose the best option to fill in the blanks.
This is _ _ biryani I have had in a year. It is almost _ _ the one from Nizam's House in Hyderabad.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-2

(a) a, gooder than
(b) the better, as good as
(c) a, better
(d) the best, as good as

Q233. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The new metro line is as fast, (1)/ if not faster, (2)/ the express bus service (3)/ between the two cities. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 78

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Confusing Comparatives I: Later/Latter, Last/Latest

Time vs order

Later / latest time से जुड़े हैं; **latter / last** order (क्रम) से। Former–latter सिर्फ़ **दो** चीज़ों के लिए।

Later समय: बाद में	**Latter** दो में से बाद वाला	**Latest / Last** सबसे नया / आख़िरी
I will call you later.	*Of tea and coffee, I prefer the latter.*	*the latest news • the last chapter*

SPOT & FIX

× Of these two choices, I love the later one. → ✓ … I love the **latter** one.

× Let's postpone it to a latter date. → ✓ … to a **later** date.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Later = clock • Latter = list.

PRACTICE Rule 78 • PYQs & practice questions

Q234. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Both Ravi and Sunil applied for the post, (1)/ but the committee selected the later (2)/ because of his experience (3)/ in rural development. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q235. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Of the two proposals placed before the board, (1)/ the latter was cheaper (2)/ but the later was (3)/ more environment-friendly. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q236. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Have you read the _ _ edition of the dictionary, which includes over five thousand new words added last month?

✎ Practice Question

(a) latter **(b)** latest
(c) last **(d)** later

RULE 79

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Confusing Comparatives II: Elder/Older, Farther/Further

Family & distance

Elder / eldest सिर्फ़ family members के लिए, noun से पहले, **than के साथ नहीं**। **Older** लोग व चीज़ें दोनों, than के साथ। **Farther** = दूरी; **further** = अतिरिक्त / आगे का।

Word	Use	Example
elder	family, before noun	*my elder brother*
older	anyone/anything, with than	*He is older than me.*
farther	physical distance	*Mumbai is farther from Delhi than Patna.*
further	additional / more	*further information, further investigation*

SPOT & FIX

× My brother is elder than me.	→	✓ My brother is **older** than me.
× If he wants farther information...	→	✓ If he wants **further** information...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Elder = family • Further = more.

PRACTICE Rule 79 • PYQs & practice questions

Q237. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The committee has decided to postpone (1)/ the project until it receives (2)/ farther information about the land acquisition (3)/ from the district collector's office. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q238. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The village school is _ _ from the highway than the hospital, so children have to walk nearly three kilometres every day.

✎ Practice Question

(a) further **(b)** farther
(c) elder **(d)** farthest

Q239. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
My cousin is elder (1)/ than me by five years, (2)/ but he still asks me (3)/ for advice on his career. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q240. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Her eldest brother, (1)/ who is three years elder than her, (2)/ has recently been posted (3)/ as a district magistrate. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 80

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Little, A Little, The Little / Few, A Few, The Few

Negative, positive और "जितना भी"

Little uncountable (मात्रा) के साथ, **few** countable (संख्या) के साथ। Article से meaning बदलता है:

Form	Meaning	Example
little / few	न के बराबर (negative)	*There is **little** hope. **Few** students came.*
a little / a few	थोड़ा, कुछ (positive)	*I have **a little** money. **A few** friends helped.*
the little / the few	जितना भी था, सब	***The few** friends he had stood by him.*

SPOT & FIX

× The debate was cancelled as a few students participated.	→	✓ … as **few** students participated.
× I got very a little sleep.	→	✓ I got **very little** sleep.
× He rested for the few days.	→	✓ He rested for **a few** days.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *quite a few* = काफ़ी सारे (idiom)।
- "that / which" clause आए तो **the few / the little**।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

No "a" = no hope • "a" = some • "the" = all of it.

PRACTICE — Rule 80 • PYQs & practice questions

Q241. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The less clothes that I made for the wedding have gone out of style.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Nov | Shift-1

(a) The few clothes
(b) The fewer clothes
(c) The fewest clothes
(d) The little clothes

Q242. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The debate competition had to be cancelled (1)/ at the last moment because (2)/ a few students turned up (3)/ despite repeated announcements in the morning assembly. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q243. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
There is _ _ hope of finding survivors under the debris now, but the rescue teams refuse to give up.

✎ Practice Question

(a) a little
(b) little
(c) the little
(d) few

Q244. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The few books (1)/ that he owned (2)/ was donated (3)/ to the village library after his death. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 81

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Much vs Many, Less vs Fewer

Quantity vs number

Much, less, little → uncountable (money, traffic, work)। **Many, fewer, few** → countable plural (people, changes, men)।

Uncountable much / less	Countable many / fewer
much traffic, much planning	*many changes, many thanks*
less money, less time	*fewer men, fewer mistakes*

SPOT & FIX

× Much villagers attended the feast.	→	✓ **Many** villagers attended the feast.
× There is not many traffic here.	→	✓ There is not **much** traffic here.
× Less men will be recruited.	→	✓ **Fewer** men will be recruited.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Count it? many / fewer • Measure it? much / less.

PRACTICE Rule 81 • PYQs & practice questions

Q245. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Fewer of the experimental designs (1)/ was compatible with the theoretical model (2)/ proposed by the research team (3)/ in their meta-analysis. (4)

SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q246. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Much efforts have been made (1)/ by the development team (2)/ to reduce the application's loading time (3)/ without compromising features. (4)

SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 25 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q247. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Much of the guidelines (1)/ pertaining to AI governance (2)/ were based on speculative models (3)/ and industry projections. (4)

SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

RULE 82

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Some vs Any

Positive vs negative / question

Some → positive sentences और offer/request वाले questions। **Any** → negative sentences और सामान्य questions, और 'कोई भी' के meaning में।

Some positive / offer	**Any** negative / question
I need some time.	*I don't have any experience.*
Would you like some tea?	*Did you buy any books?*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ She needed any time to think. → ✓ She needed **some** time to think.
- ✗ Please don't bring some presents. → ✓ Please don't bring **any** presents.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Offer = some, even in a question.

PRACTICE Rule 82 • PYQs & practice questions

Q248. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The guests had been travelling since dawn, so the host politely asked, "Would you like _ _ tea and snacks before we leave for the venue?"

✎ Practice Question

(a) any
(b) some
(c) few
(d) none

Q249. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Hardly some students (1)/ turned up for the extra class (2)/ that the teacher had arranged (3)/ on Sunday morning. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q250. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
If you need _ _ help with the registration forms, please contact the counter near the main gate.

✎ Practice Question

(a) some
(b) any
(c) none
(d) few

RULE 83

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Very, Much, Too, So, Enough

Intensifiers ka sahi use

Very → positive degree / present participle; **much** → comparative / past participle। **Much too** + adjective; **too much** + noun। **Enough** adjective के **बाद**।

Word	Goes with	Example
very	positive, -ing adjective	*very good, very interesting*
much	comparative, past participle	*much better, much criticised*
much too	adjective	*much too heavy*
too much	noun	*too much noise*
enough	after adjective	*wise enough, fast enough*

SPOT & FIX

× Vikram is very stronger than I. → ✓ Vikram is **much** stronger than I.

× The luggage was too much heavy. → ✓ The luggage was **much too** heavy.

× He was enough wise to do it. → ✓ He was **wise enough** to do it.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Too much noise is much too loud.

PRACTICE Rule 83 • PYQs & practice questions

Q251. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The rescue team was very late (1)/ to save the passengers (2)/ trapped in the coaches (3)/ of the derailed train. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q252. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The new policy has been _ _ criticised by economists for ignoring the needs of small traders.

✎ Practice Question

(a) very **(b)** much
(c) too much **(d)** enough

RULE 84

ADJECTIVES, DETERMINERS & DEGREES OF COMPARISON

Kind of / Sort of / Type of

This kind of book / these kinds of books

This kind of / that type of के बाद **singular noun + singular verb**; plural के लिए **these kinds of + plural noun**। इनके बाद article नहीं लगता।

Singular	Plural
*This kind of book **is** useful.*	*These kinds of books **are** useful.*

SPOT & FIX

× These kind of books are useless.	→	✓ **These kinds** of books are useless.
× What sort of the people are they?	→	✓ What sort of **people** are they?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

This kind → one • These kinds → many.

PRACTICE — Rule 84 • PYQs & practice questions

Q253. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The inspector wanted to know **what sort of a machine** was being used to manufacture the counterfeit coins in the basement.

✎ Practice Question

(a) what sort of machine
(b) what sorts of a machine
(c) what a sort of machine
(d) No improvement required

Q254. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
These kind of cheap plastic toys (1)/ are imported in large quantities (2)/ even though they often fail (3)/ the basic safety standards. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q255. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
These kinds of _ _ have been banned in the state because they choke the drains and cause waterlogging during the monsoon.

✎ Practice Question

(a) plastic bag
(b) plastic bags
(c) a plastic bag
(d) the plastic bag

Q256. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Those kind of remarks (1)/ are not expected from a person (2)/ holding such a responsible position (3)/ in the government. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 06 • Adjectives, Determiners & Degrees of Comparison • Q206–Q256

Q206 (c) R69 **few next days → next few days** — Ordinal/sequence word (*next*) पहले, quantity (*few*) बाद में।

Q207 (b) R69 **first two** — Ordinal पहले, cardinal बाद में।

Q208 (b) R69 **wooden beautiful small → beautiful small … wooden** — OSASCOMP: opinion → size → origin → material → purpose: *a beautiful small Mughal wooden jewellery box*।

Q209 (b) R69 **beautiful old red silk** — Opinion → Age → Colour → Material।

Q210 (b) R70 **an alive child → a living child** (या *a child alive*) — *Alive* predicative-only है, noun से पहले नहीं आता।

Q211 (b) R70 **sleeping** — *asleep* noun से पहले नहीं आता (the patients are asleep ✓); attributive में *sleeping*।

Q212 (a) R70 **the only living cub** — *Alive* noun से पहले नहीं; attributive में *living*।

Q213 (a) R70 **The afraid villagers → The frightened villagers** — *Afraid* predicative-only है।

Q214 (b) R71 **quite unique → unique** — Absolute adjective के साथ degree words (quite/very/most) नहीं।

Q215 (c) R71 **ideal** — Absolute adjective; more/most नहीं।

Q216 (b) R71 **the most perfect → a perfect** — Perfect absolute adjective, degree नहीं लेता।

Q217 (b) R72 **the most clearest → the clearest** — Double superlative नहीं।

Q218 (b) R72 **much cheaper** — comparative को intensify करने के लिए much; 'more cheaper' double comparative।

Q219 (a) R73 **I prefer analyzing** — prefer + V-ing **to** V-ing (दोनों तरफ़ gerund)।

Q220 (a) R73 **more preferable → preferable** — Preferable में पहले से comparison है; 'more' नहीं।

Q221 (b) R73 **superior to** — -ior adjectives के साथ to।

Q222 (b) R73 **prefer … by train to …** — prefer X **to** Y; mode of transport → by train।

Q223 (c) R74 **than any minister → than any other minister** — वह भी उसी group (ministers) का हिस्सा है।

Q224 (b) R74 **any other peak** — Everest भी peaks के group में है → other।

Q225 (b) R74 **than any Indian river → than any other Indian river** — Ganga भी Indian rivers में शामिल है।

Q226 (a) R75 **cleverer than honest → more clever than honest** — एक व्यक्ति के दो गुणों की तुलना → more + positive।

Q227 (b) R75 **more large** — Same चीज़ के दो qualities (large vs beautiful) → *more large than beautiful*।

Q228 (b) R75 **more kind** — एक व्यक्ति के दो गुण (kind vs strict) → more + positive।

Q229 (b) R75 **longer than informative → more long than informative** — Same चीज़ की दो qualities की तुलना।

Q230 (b) R76 **more difficult → the more difficult** — The + comparative …, **the** + comparative।

Q231 (a) R76 **wider and wider** — धीरे-धीरे बढ़ना → comparative and comparative।

Q232 (d) R77 **the best, as good as** — पूरे साल में → superlative; बराबरी → *as good as*।

Q233 (c) R77 **as fast, if not faster, the → as fast as, if not faster than, the** — Double comparison में दोनों हिस्से पूरे करो।

Q234 (b) R78 **the later → the latter** — दो में से दूसरा = latter।

Q235 (c) R78 **the later → the former** — दो में पहला = former; later = समय में बाद।

Q236 (b) R78 **latest** — सबसे नया = latest; last = आख़िरी (क्रम में)।

Q237 (c) R79 **farther information → further information** — Additional/more के अर्थ में *further*; farther = दूरी।

Q238 (b) R79 **farther** — Physical distance + than → farther।

Q239 (a) R79 **elder than → older than** — Elder के साथ than नहीं आता।

Q240 (b) R79 **elder than → older than** — Elder के साथ than नहीं आता।

Q241 (a) R80 **The few clothes** — Countable (clothes) के लिए few; the few = 'जो थोड़े-बहुत थे, वे सब'।

Q242 (c) R80 **a few → few** — Cancel होने का कारण 'न के बराबर' students → negative sense में *few*।

Q243 (b) R80 **little** — 'न के बराबर' (negative sense, uncountable) → little।

Q244 (c) R80 **was → were** — *The few books* (जो थोड़ी-बहुत थीं, सब) plural → were।

Q245 (b) R81 **was → were** — *Fewer of the designs* plural → plural verb।

Q246 (a) R81 **Much efforts → Many efforts** (या much effort) — Countable plural के साथ many।

Q247 (a) R81 **Much of → Many of** — Guidelines countable plural → *many*।

Q248 (b) R82 **some** — Offer/request वाले question में भी *some* आता है।

Q249 (a) R82 **Hardly some → Hardly any** — Hardly (negative) के साथ any।

Q250 (b) R82 **any** — Condition (if) वाले sentence में any (कोई भी)।

Q251 (a) R83 **very late to save → too late to save** — negative result (बचा नहीं पाए) → too … to।

Q252 (b) R83 **much** — Past participle (criticised) के साथ much।

Q253 (a) R84 **what sort of machine** — *sort of / kind of* के बाद article नहीं लगता।

Q254 (a) R84 **These kind → These kinds** — Plural के लिए *these kinds of + plural noun*।

Q255 (b) R84 **plastic bags** — These kinds of + **plural noun** + plural verb।

Q256 (a) R84 **Those kind → That kind / Those kinds** — Singular kind + singular noun; plural के लिए those kinds of + plural।

SECTION 07

Sentence Structure & Style

Inversion, tags, parallelism और redundancy • Rules 85–92

R85 Inversion after Negative and Restrictive Adverbs

R86 Hardly / Scarcely … When, No Sooner … Than

R87 Inversion in Short Answers and "Here / There" Sentences

R88 Question Tags: The Basics

R89 Question Tags: Special Subjects

R90 Avoid Double Negatives

R91 Parallelism

R92 Avoid Superfluous Words (Redundancy)

RULE 85

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Inversion after Negative and Restrictive Adverbs

Never have I..., Not only did he...

Sentence **never, hardly, scarcely, seldom, rarely, little, no sooner, not only, not until, under no circumstances, on no account** से शुरू हो तो **helping verb subject से पहले** आती है (question जैसा order)।

STRUCTURE

Negative adverb Never / Seldom / Not only + **Helping verb** have / did / should + **Subject** + **Main verb**

SPOT & FIX

× Never I have seen such a place.	✓ Never **have I** seen such a place.
× Not only he completed the task...	✓ Not only **did he complete** the task...
× Under no circumstances employees should share passwords.	✓ Under no circumstances **should employees** share passwords.
× Seldom nature does operate in closed compartments.	✓ Seldom **does nature** operate ...

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- **Not until + clause** में inversion main clause में: *Not until the movie ended **did I understand** it.*

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Negative first? Ask it like a question.

PRACTICE Rule 85 • PYQs & practice questions

Q257. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
(A) Little did the CEO realise that the proposed restructuring / (B) would be met with such vehemence by the labour unions / (C) as to force a complete abandonment of the project.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) Little did the CEO realise that the proposed restructuring
(b) would be met with such vehemence by the labour unions
(c) as to force a complete abandonment of the project
(d) No error

Q258. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
Not only did the CEO's controversial statement / led to a sharp decline in the company's stock price, / but it also permanently damaged the brand's reputation.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 19 Sep | Shift-2

(a) Not only did the CEO's controversial statement
(b) led to a sharp decline in the company's stock price
(c) but it also permanently damaged the brand's reputation
(d) No error

Q259. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
It was not until she finished her degree (1)/ and gained some experience (2)/ did she feel confident enough (3)/ to start her own business. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q260. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Seldom the panel encounters (1)/ a situation in which the evidence (2)/ and the testimony contradict so directly (3)/ that a unanimous ruling becomes impossible. (4)

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 25 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 86

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Hardly / Scarcely … When, No Sooner … Than

Two quick past actions

दो actions के बीच **बहुत कम gap** दिखाने के लिए। Partners fixed हैं: **hardly / scarcely / barely → when**; **no sooner → than**; और sentence इनसे शुरू हो तो inversion + past perfect।

Hardly / Scarcely … when	No sooner … than
Hardly had I *reached home* ***when*** *it started raining.*	***No sooner had she*** *left* ***than*** *he arrived.*

SPOT & FIX

× Hardly we had reached when the train started.	→ ✓ Hardly **had we** reached when …
× No sooner did Priya get it when she jumped.	→ ✓ … **than** she jumped.
× Hardly had I started than the bell rang.	→ ✓ … **when** the bell rang.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Hardly–when, no sooner–than (comparative → than).

PRACTICE — Rule 86 • PYQs & practice questions

Q261. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
No sooner the legendary orator starting his keynote address / than the power supply in the auditorium failed, / plunging the entire audience into total darkness.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 22 Sep | Shift-2

(a) No sooner the legendary orator starting his keynote address
(b) than the power supply in the auditorium failed
(c) plunging the entire audience into total darkness
(d) No error

Q262. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
No sooner had the proposal been circulated (1)/ that objections were raised (2)/ regarding its feasibility and financial implications (3)/ across all departments. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 18 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q263. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
No sooner the results were announced (1)/ than the shareholders (2)/ started questioning the management's (3)/ strategic decisions. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 87

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Inversion in Short Answers and "Here / There" Sentences

So do I, neither do I, here comes the bus

किसी बात से सहमति दिखाने के लिए **So + helping verb + subject** (positive) और **Neither / Nor + helping verb + subject** (negative)। Here / There से शुरू वाले sentence में noun subject verb के बाद आता है।

Statement	Response
I love Italian food.	**So do I.**
I never tell a lie.	**Neither do I.**
He is not an artist,	**nor is he** a musician.
Here ... the bus.	**Here comes the bus.** (Here it comes.)

SPOT & FIX

× Rajesh joined me and so Kunal did. → ✓ ... and **so did Kunal**.

× He is not an artist, nor he is a musician. → ✓ ... nor **is he** a musician.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

So / neither + helper + subject.

PRACTICE Rule 87 • PYQs & practice questions

Q264. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
"I can't attend the seminar on Friday because of my sister's wedding." "_ _, because I have to appear for my driving test that day."

✎ Practice Question

(a) Neither I can **(b)** Neither can I
(c) So can't I **(d)** I can't neither

Q265. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
My elder brother did not attend the reunion (1)/ because of his office deadline, (2)/ and neither I did, (3)/ as I was down with fever. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q266. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Riya has already submitted her project on renewable energy to the science teacher, and __, though both of us finished it only last night.

✎ Practice Question

(a) so I have **(b)** so have I
(c) so did I **(d)** I have so

Q267. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The finance minister has not commented on (1)/ the leaked budget documents, (2)/ and neither the opposition has, (3)/ though both were asked by reporters. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 88

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Question Tags: The Basics

Helping verb + pronoun, opposite polarity

Question tag में **helping verb + pronoun** आते हैं (proper noun नहीं)। Positive statement → negative tag; negative statement → positive tag। Hardly, never, seldom, little, few भी negative हैं।

STRUCTURE

Positive statement → **Negative tag** isn't he?

Negative statement → **Positive tag** is he?

SPOT & FIX

- × We have already met, didn't we? → ✓ We have already met, **haven't we**?
- × The trains never come on time, aren't they? → ✓ … never come on time, **do they**?
- × He hardly works, doesn't he? → ✓ He hardly works, **does he**?
- × Rahul can't swim, can't Rahul? → ✓ Rahul can't swim, **can he**?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Echo the helper, flip the sign.

PRACTICE Rule 88 • PYQs & practice questions

Q268. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
I will depart immediately, mustn't I, to avoid missing the final flight connection to the international conference in London?

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-1

(a) I must have depart immediately
(b) I must been depart immediately
(c) I must had depart immediately
(d) I must depart immediately

Q269. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.
We don't have to go to the party, don't we? We can stay at home.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-2

(a) don't we
(b) have to go
(c) can stay
(d) to the party

Q270. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Let us go for a walk (1)/ along the riverbank (2)/ before it gets dark, (3)/ will we? (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 89

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Question Tags: Special Subjects

I am, let's, everybody, nobody, imperatives

कुछ subjects के tags fixed हैं — इन्हें table से याद करो।

Statement starts with	Tag	Example
I am	aren't I?	*I am right,* ***aren't I****?*
Let's	shall we?	*Let's go out,* ***shall we****?*
Imperative	will you? / won't you?	*Shut the door,* ***will you****?*
Everybody / somebody / nobody / none	they	*Nobody came,* ***did they****?*
Everything / nothing / something	it	*Nothing was available,* ***was it****?*
All of you	you	*All of you were present,* ***weren't you****?*

SPOT & FIX

× Everybody has come, hasn't he?	→	✓ Everybody has come, **haven't they**?
× Let's go for dinner, will we?	→	✓ Let's go for dinner, **shall we**?
× None of them objected, did he?	→	✓ None of them objected, **did they**?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

People → they • Things → it.

PRACTICE Rule 89 • PYQs & practice questions

Q271. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Let's finish the pending chapters of history before the weekend so that we can revise geography on Sunday, __?

✎ Practice Question

(a) will we
(b) shall we
(c) don't we
(d) won't you

Q272. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
I am the one who is supposed to submit the attendance register to the principal today, __?

✎ Practice Question

(a) am not I
(b) aren't I
(c) isn't it
(d) don't I

Q273. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Everybody in the hostel (1)/ has been informed about (2)/ the new curfew timings, (3)/ hasn't he? (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 90

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Avoid Double Negatives

Hardly, scarcely, deny, forbid, unless, lest

Hardly, scarcely, seldom, never, neither, nor, deny, forbid, unless, lest, too...to में पहले से negative meaning है — इनके साथ **दूसरा not / no** लगाना double negative error है।

SPOT & FIX

× She cannot hardly sing.	→	✓ She **can hardly** sing.
× He denied that he was not present.	→	✓ He denied that he **was** present.
× The Principal forbade the students not to stage a walkout.	→	✓ … forbade the students **to stage** a walkout.
× I don't recognise none of them.	→	✓ I don't recognise **any** of them.
× Neither the manager nor the staff did not support it.	→	✓ … **supported** it.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two negatives cancel — keep only one.

PRACTICE Rule 90 • PYQs & practice questions

Q274. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The doctor strictly forbade the patient (1)/ not to eat oily food (2)/ for at least six months (3)/ after the surgery. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q275. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The accused denied that he _ _ at the scene of the crime on the night of the robbery.

✎ Practice Question

(a) was not present **(b)** was present
(c) had not been present **(d)** wasn't presented

RULE 91

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Parallelism

Same grammatical form in a series

And, or, but और correlatives से जुड़े हिस्से **same form** में होने चाहिए: verb–verb, V-ing–V-ing, noun–noun, superlative–superlative।

STRUCTURE

Element A V1 / V-ing / noun + **and / or / not only…but also** + **Element B** same form

SPOT & FIX

× They could go inside and worshipped God.	→	✓ They could go inside and **worship** God.
× Before you finalise, search and comparing.	→	✓ … search and **compare**.
× He went up to her and asks why.	→	✓ He went up to her and **asked** why.
× He is the most intelligent and the very talented student.	→	✓ … and **the most** talented student.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Match the twins.

PRACTICE Rule 91 • PYQs & practice questions

Q276. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Rarely had the court encountered a petition (1)/ so devoid of legal merit, nor so conspicuously intended (2)/ to attract media attention rather than judicial remedy. (3)/ No error (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q277. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The extent to which the minister's statement came under criticism (1)/ reflects not merely public dissatisfaction (2)/ but also that the media has (3)/ increasingly begun scrutinising political rhetoric. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q278. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
She was confident that her plan would succeed, (1)/ for it was not only innovative (2)/ but also it was thoroughly tested (3)/ by an independent team. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 13 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q279. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
What troubled the evaluators most (1)/ was not the complexity of the argument (2)/ but that its logic (3)/ and conclusions were fundamentally flawed. (4)

SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 92

SENTENCE STRUCTURE & STYLE

Avoid Superfluous Words (Redundancy)

Return back, repeat again, equally as

जब एक शब्द का meaning पहले से दूसरे में शामिल हो, तो दोनों साथ लिखना **redundancy (superfluous expression)** है — एक को हटाओ।

× Redundant	✓ Concise	× Redundant	✓ Concise
return back	return	repeat again	repeat
revert back	revert	reply back	reply
sufficient enough	enough	equally as ... as	as ... as
just exactly	exactly	throughout the whole year	throughout the year
a big blunder	a blunder	precedes before	precedes
approach near	approach	may possibly	may
suppose if	suppose / if	the final conclusion	the conclusion

SPOT & FIX

× I could have returned back by 11 am. → ✓ I could have **returned** by 11 am.

× The project was equally as successful as the first. → ✓ ... was **as successful as** the first.

× Your name precedes before mine. → ✓ Your name **precedes** mine.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

If one word says it, don't use two.

PRACTICE Rule 92 • PYQs & practice questions

Q280. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
The architectural design of the new international airport / is not only more aesthetically pleasing but also / more functional than the previous old terminal.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 25 Sep | Shift-2

(a) The architectural design of the new international airport
(b) is not only more aesthetically pleasing but also
(c) more functional than the previous old terminal
(d) No error

Q281. Choose the option that best improves the underlined portion of the sentence.
The committee's decision, **which was based on exhaustive data analysis, it received** widespread approval from stakeholders.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-1

(a) which was based on exhaustive data analysis, it received
(b) which was based on exhaustive data analysis, received
(c) based on exhaustive data analysis, it received
(d) that was based on exhaustive data analysis, it received

Q282. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The committee will meet again next week to _ _ the issue of salary arrears that remained unresolved in the last meeting.

✎ Practice Question

(a) revert back to
(b) return back to
(c) revisit
(d) repeat again

Q283. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The two brothers (1)/ have been running the family business (2)/ together jointly (3)/ for over thirty years. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 07 • Sentence Structure & Style • Q257–Q283

Q257 (d) R85 **No error** — Little did + S + V1 (inversion) ✓; such … as to + V1 ✓।

Q258 (b) R85 **led → lead** — Not only + did + S + V1।

Q259 (c) R85 **did she feel → that she felt** — 'It was not until … that' (cleft) में inversion नहीं; inversion सिर्फ़ 'Not until …' से शुरू होने पर।

Q260 (a) R85 **Seldom the panel encounters → Seldom does the panel encounter** — Negative adverb के बाद inversion।

Q261 (a) R86 **No sooner had the orator started** — Inversion + past perfect ज़रूरी।

Q262 (b) R86 **that → than** — No sooner … than।

Q263 (a) R86 **No sooner the results were → No sooner had the results been** — Inversion + past perfect।

Q264 (b) R87 **Neither can I** — Negative से सहमति: Neither + auxiliary + subject।

Q265 (c) R87 **neither I did → neither did I** — Neither/So + auxiliary + subject (inversion)।

Q266 (b) R87 **so have I** — Positive agreement: so + auxiliary (has → have) + subject।

Q267 (c) R87 **neither the opposition has → neither has the opposition** — Neither/nor + auxiliary + subject।

Q268 (d) R88 **I must depart immediately** — Tag 'mustn't I' के लिए statement में *must* + V1।

Q269 (a) R88 **don't we → do we** — Negative statement → positive tag।

Q270 (d) R88 **will we → shall we** — Let us/Let's का tag shall we।

Q271 (b) R89 **shall we** — Let's … का tag हमेशा *shall we*।

Q272 (b) R89 **aren't I** — I am … का tag aren't I।

Q273 (d) R89 **hasn't he → haven't they** — Everybody/everyone/nobody का tag *they* से।

Q274 (b) R90 **not to eat → to eat** — Forbid में पहले से negative अर्थ।

Q275 (b) R90 **was present** — Deny + negative = double negative; deny that he was present।

Q276 (b) R91 **nor → or** — दोनों 'so …' phrases एक ही negative (Rarely) के अंदर parallel हैं → or।

Q277 (c) R91 **but also that the media has → but also the media's increasing scrutiny** — not merely + noun phrase ↔ but also + noun phrase।

Q278 (c) R91 **but also it was thoroughly tested → but also thoroughly tested** — adjective ↔ adjective (parallel)।

Q279 (c) R91 **but that its logic → but the fact that its logic** — not + noun phrase … but + noun phrase।

Q280 (c) R92 **previous old → previous / old** — दोनों का अर्थ same → redundancy।

Q281 (b) R92 **(b)** — Subject पहले से है; extra *it* superfluous (double subject)।

Q282 (c) R92 **revisit** — revert back / return back / repeat again सब redundant।

Q283 (c) R92 **together jointly** → **together / jointly** — दोनों का अर्थ same → redundancy।

SECTION 08

Mood, Conditionals & Modals

Wish, if-clauses और modal verbs • Rules 93–102

R93 Subjunctive I: Wish, As If, If Only

R94 Subjunctive II: Suggest, Demand, Insist + That

R95 Conditional Sentences: Types 0 to 3

R96 Unless and Until

R97 Lest…Should

R98 Modals of Ability, Permission and Possibility

R99 Modals of Duty and Advice

R100 Modal + Have + V3: Regret, Deduction & Missed Chance

R101 Need and Dare

R102 Used to, Be Used to, Get Used to

RULE 93

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Subjunctive I: Wish, As If, If Only

Imaginary situations → were / V2 / had V3

जो बात **सच नहीं, केवल कल्पना** है, उसके लिए **subjunctive** use होता है। Present imagination → **were (हर subject के साथ) / V2**; past regret → **had + V3**।

Expression	Present unreal	Past unreal
I wish	*I wish I **were** taller.*	*I wish I **had helped** him.*
As if / as though	*He talks as if he **knew** everything.*	*as if he **had seen** a ghost*
If only	*If only I **were** rich!*	*If only I **had listened**!*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ I wish I was more fluent. → ✓ I wish I **were** more fluent.
- ✗ I wish I know how to solve it. → ✓ I wish I **knew** how to solve it.
- ✗ I wish he saw you when you were in England. → ✓ I wish he **had seen** you …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Dreams use "were".

PRACTICE Rule 93 • PYQs & practice questions

Q284. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
The young scientist often wishes that he / was able to travel back in time to / witness the groundbreaking discoveries of the Renaissance.

SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 18 Sep | Shift-2

(a) The young scientist often wishes that he
(b) was able to travel back in time to
(c) witness the groundbreaking discoveries of the Renaissance
(d) No error

Q285. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The newly appointed officer behaves (1)/ as if he was the owner (2)/ of the entire company, (3)/ which annoys his seniors. (4)

Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 94

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Subjunctive II: Suggest, Demand, Insist + That

Subject + base form, every time

Suggest, demand, insist, recommend, propose, order, request और **it is necessary / vital / imperative / essential that** के बाद that-clause में verb **base form (V1)** में आती है — subject singular हो या tense past।

STRUCTURE

Subject + **suggested / demanded / insisted** or: It is necessary + **that** + **Subject** + **V1** be / come / submit

SPOT & FIX

× The CEO demanded that the report is submitted. → ✓ The CEO demanded that the report **be** submitted.

× It is imperative that he understands it. → ✓ It is imperative that he **understand** it.

× The doctor recommended that she takes rest. → ✓ … that she **take** rest.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *should* + V1 भी सही माना जाता है: *that he (should) come*।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Demand that he BE — no -s, no tense.

PRACTICE Rule 94 • PYQs & practice questions

Q286. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
If the policy were to be implemented nationwide (1)/ it would necessitate that every regional office (2)/ conducts a comprehensive audit (3)/ within a period of six months. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 25 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q287. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"It is imperative that he understands the severity of the situation and that he makes a clear, concise, and decisive statement to the press."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Nov | Shift-2

(a) It is imperative that he
(b) understands the severity of the situation
(c) and that he makes
(d) a clear, concise, and decisive statement to the press.

Q288. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
To ensure every participant be heard (1)/ the chairperson requested that questions (2)/ be submitted in advance and that (3)/ moderators be assigned to each group. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 20 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q289. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The CEO demanded that the report is submitted (1)/ to the board (2)/ not later than Wednesday afternoon (3)/ for immediate evaluation. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 18 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 95

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Conditional Sentences: Types 0 to 3

If-clause और main clause का tense pairing

हर type का fixed tense pair है। **If-clause में will / would नहीं** आता।

Type	If-clause	Main clause	Example
Zero (truth)	V1	V1	*If you heat ice, it **melts**.*
First (possible)	V1 / V1+s	will + V1	*If you work hard, you **will pass**.*
Second (imaginary)	V2 / were	would + V1	*If I **were** you, I **would accept**.*
Third (past unreal)	had + V3	would / could have + V3	*If you **had told** me, I **could have helped**.*
Mixed	had + V3	would + V1 (now)	*If she had asked, she **would be** alive today.*

SPOT & FIX

× If I would have realised it, I would have acted. → ✓ If I **had realised** it …

× Had you not reached in time, we will have lost. → ✓ … we **would have** lost.

× If I was the President… → ✓ If I **were** the President…

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- **Suppose / supposing** और **if** साथ नहीं: *Suppose if it rains* ×।
- *Had I known…* = If I had known (inversion)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

If-clause never says "will".

PRACTICE Rule 95 • PYQs & practice questions

Q290. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
The pilot had been more vigilant regarding the weather reports, the emergency landing could have been successfully averted.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-1

(a) If the pilot was
(b) Should the pilot be
(c) Had the pilot been
(d) Was the pilot being

Q291. Choose the option that can replace the underlined part to improve the sentence.
If I **would be laid off again**, I would seriously consider a career switch.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 10 Feb 2025 | Shift-3

(a) will be laid off again
(b) had been laid off again
(c) No improvement required
(d) were to be laid off again

RULE 96

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Unless and Until

Condition vs time — never with "not"

Unless = if…not (condition); **until** = जब तक (time)। दोनों में पहले से negative भाव है, इसलिए उनके clause में **not नहीं** लगता।

Unless condition	**Until** time
Unless you work hard, you will fail.	*Wait here until the doctor calls you.*

SPOT & FIX

× Unless you do not take care, you will suffer.	→	✓ **Unless you take** care, you will suffer.
× Wait for me here unless I return.	→	✓ Wait for me here **until** I return.
× Until you control your diet, you won't lose fat.	→	✓ **Unless** you control your diet ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Unless = if not — don't add another not.

PRACTICE Rule 96 • PYQs & practice questions

Q292. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
Unless the regulators do not intervene in the proposed corporate merger, the resulting monopoly will stifle all local competition and innovation.

SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-1

(a) If the regulators
(b) Unless the regulator
(c) Provided the regulators
(d) Unless the regulators

Q293. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The doctors have clearly told the family (1)/ that the patient cannot be discharged (2)/ until his blood pressure does not return (3)/ to normal levels. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q294. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The bank will not release the loan amount _ _ all the property documents are verified by its legal team.

✎ Practice Question

(a) unless
(b) until not
(c) unless not
(d) if not until

Q295. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Wait here (1)/ until I do not return (2)/ from the bank with (3)/ the demand draft. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 97

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Lest...Should

कहीं ऐसा न हो

Lest का अर्थ है 'कहीं ऐसा न हो' – यह स्वयं negative है। Structure: **lest + subject + should + V1**; not / will / may नहीं।

STRUCTURE

Lest + **Subject** + **should** + **V1**

SPOT & FIX

× Work hard lest you should not fail.	→ ✓ Work hard lest you **should fail**.
× Study daily, lest you will fail.	→ ✓ ... lest you **should** fail.
× Keep him away lest you may not repent.	→ ✓ ... lest you **should** repent.

💡 **MEMORY HOOK**

Lest already says "not".

PRACTICE

Rule 97 • PYQs & practice questions

Q296. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The students were asked to revise every chapter thoroughly (1)/ lest they should not forget (2)/ the important formulae (3)/ during the board examination. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q297. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The guard kept awake all night (1)/ lest the thieves may break into (2)/ the warehouse (3)/ again. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 98

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Modals of Ability, Permission and Possibility

Can, could, may, might

Modal का चुनाव **meaning** से: **can** = ability / informal request; **may** = permission / possibility; **could** = polite request / past ability; **might** = कम संभावना / may का past।

Modal	Use	Example
can	ability	*She **can** speak several languages.*
may	permission	***May** I use your phone?*
could	polite request	***Could** you come with me?*
might	past of may (reported)	*He told me he **might** join.*
may / might	wish / prayer	*May you prosper! He wished she **might** prosper.*

SPOT & FIX

× She may speak several languages. → ✓ She **can** speak several languages.

× May you come with me to the clinic? → ✓ **Could** you come with me …

× Students could not be able to attend. → ✓ Students **could not** attend.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *can / could + be able to* साथ नहीं — एक ही चुनो।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Can = power • May = permission.

PRACTICE — Rule 98 • PYQs & practice questions

Q298. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
When he was only twelve, (1)/ the young chess prodigy can defeat (2)/ grandmasters twice his age (3)/ in rapid tournaments. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q299. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although the bridge was damaged, (1)/ the villagers can cross the river (2)/ last night (3)/ with the help of boats. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q300. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The doctors said that the patient _ _ walk without support within a week if the physiotherapy continues regularly.

✎ Practice Question

(a) can
(b) could
(c) might be
(d) may to

Q301. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
_ _ I borrow your notes for the weekend? I missed two lectures because of fever.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Can
(b) May
(c) Must
(d) Need

RULE 99

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Modals of Duty and Advice

Must, should, ought to, had better, would rather

Must = obligation / prohibition; **should** = general advice; **ought to** = moral duty; **had better + V1** = strong advice; **would rather + V1 + than + V1** = preference। Past के लिए **should / must / could + have + V3**।

Expression	Pattern	Example
must not	prohibition	*Passengers **must not** smoke.*
ought to	moral duty	*One **ought to** love one's country.*
had better	+ V1 (no to)	*You **had better go** now.*
would rather ... than	+ V1 ... V1	*I would rather **die** than **beg**.*
should have + V3	past advice	*You **should have responded** sooner.*

SPOT & FIX

× You had better to stop taking it. → ✓ You had better **stop** taking it.

× Passengers may not smoke inside. → ✓ Passengers **must not** smoke inside.

× He did not help me but he could do it. → ✓ ... though he **could have done** it.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Had better + bare verb.

PRACTICE Rule 99 • PYQs & practice questions

Q302. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Students who wish to apply for the scholarship (1)/ ought submit their income certificates (2)/ along with the application form (3)/ before the end of this month. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q303. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
You _ _ have informed the police immediately; by the time you reported the theft, the thieves had left the city.

✎ Practice Question

(a) must **(b)** should
(c) would **(d)** can

Q304. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
All candidates must to carry (1)/ their original admit cards (2)/ and a valid photo identity proof (3)/ to the examination centre. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 100

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Modal + Have + V3: Regret, Deduction & Missed Chance

Should have • must have • could have • might have • needn't have

Modal + have + V3 हमेशा **past** के बारे में बोलता है। **Should / ought to have** = past की गलती पर regret, **must have** = past के बारे में पक्का अनुमान, **could / might have** = मौका था पर नहीं हुआ / संभावना, **needn't have** = किया, पर ज़रूरत नहीं थी।

Form	Meaning	Example
should / ought to have + V3	regret / criticism	*You **should have** informed me earlier.*
must have + V3	strong deduction	*The roads are wet; it **must have** rained.*
could / might have + V3	unused ability / possibility	*India **could have** won the final.*
needn't have + V3	unnecessary action done	*You **needn't have** bought so much food.*

SPOT & FIX

× He must had left before we arrived.	→	✓ He **must have left** before we arrived.
× You should informed the police yesterday.	→	✓ You **should have informed** the police yesterday.
× She could have went to Delhi.	→	✓ She **could have gone** to Delhi.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Modal के बाद **have** ही — *has / had* नहीं; और उसके बाद **V3**।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Modal + have + V3 = looking back.

PRACTICE Rule 100 • PYQs & practice questions

Q305. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
Looking at the waterlogged streets and the fallen branches early in the morning, the residents realised that it **must rain heavily** throughout the night.

✎ Practice Question

(a) must have rained heavily
(b) must had rained heavily
(c) should rain heavily
(d) No improvement

Q306. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Had the authorities paid attention to the early warnings (1)/ issued by the meteorological department, (2)/ hundreds of lives in the coastal villages (3)/ could be saved. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q307. Select the most appropriate option to improve the highlighted part of the sentence.
You **needn't have bring** so many sweets for the staff, because the office had already arranged a small celebration for the occasion.

✎ Practice Question

(a) needn't have brought
(b) needn't bring
(c) needn't had brought
(d) No improvement

RULE 101

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Need and Dare

Modal use vs main-verb use

Need / dare modal की तरह (negative / question में) **need not / dare not + V1** — बिना -s, बिना to। Main verb की तरह: **does not need to, does not dare to**।

Modal	Main verb
You **need not** go.	He **does not need to** go.
How **dare** you **say** that?	She **needs to** rest.
He **dare not** speak.	

SPOT & FIX

× You need not to worry. →	✓ You need not **worry**.
× How dare you to face them? →	✓ How dare you **face** them?
× He dares not read without glasses. →	✓ He **dare not** read …
× Need I to wait? →	✓ **Need I wait?**

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Past में अनावश्यक काम: You **need not have told** a lie.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Modal need/dare — no -s, no to.

PRACTICE Rule 101 • PYQs & practice questions

Q308. Read the two sentences and identify which one contains a grammatical or structural error.
(P) The macroeconomist argued that the sovereign wealth fund performed significantly better during the market crash than anyone had dare predicted.
(Q) The clinical trials indicated that the newly formulated neuroprotective drug suppressed cellular apoptosis far more effectively than any existing therapeutic alternative ever could.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 24 Sep | Shift-1

(a) Only P
(b) Only Q
(c) Both P and Q
(d) Neither P nor Q

Q309. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Since the bank has already approved the loan, (1)/ you need not to worry (2)/ about arranging the money (3)/ for your daughter's admission. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q310. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
He __ not come to the office tomorrow because the meeting has been postponed to next week.

✎ Practice Question

(a) need
(b) needs
(c) needed to
(d) is needing

RULE 102

MOOD, CONDITIONALS & MODALS

Used to, Be Used to, Get Used to

Past habit vs आदी होना

Used to + V1 = past की आदत (अब नहीं)। **Be / get used to + V-ing** = आदी होना / होने लगना (to यहाँ preposition है)।

used to + V1 past habit	be used to + V-ing accustomed	get used to + V-ing becoming accustomed
*I **used to play** cricket.*	*I **am used to working** at night.*	*She **got used to driving** on the left.*

SPOT & FIX

× He used to sits under a tree.	→	✓ He used to **sit** under a tree.
× I am used to work in night shifts.	→	✓ I am used to **working** in night shifts.
× When I was used to go to the farm...	→	✓ When I **used to go** to the farm...

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Passive meaning: *The car **was used to carry** drugs.* (use किया गया)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Used to DO (then) • used to DOING (now).

PRACTICE Rule 102 • PYQs & practice questions

Q311. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
When we were in college, we __ go to the library every evening, but now we hardly find time to read.

✎ Practice Question

(a) are used to
(b) used to
(c) were used to
(d) use to

Q312. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
My grandfather is used to walk (1)/ five kilometres every morning (2)/ even at the age of (3)/ eighty-five. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

ANSWER KEY Section 08 • Mood, Conditionals & Modals • Q284–Q312

Q284 (b) R93 **was able → were able** — असंभव इच्छा (time travel) → subjunctive *were*।

Q285 (b) R93 **as if he was → as if he were** — As if (unreal) → were।

Q286 (c) R94 **conducts → conduct** — necessitate/demand/insist that … → base form, -s नहीं।

Q287 (b) R94 **understands → understand** — It is imperative that + subject + base form (subjunctive)।

Q288 (a) R94 **be heard → is heard** — 'To ensure' के बाद normal indicative; subjunctive सिर्फ़ requested/demanded that के बाद।

Q289 (a) R94 **is submitted → be submitted** — demand that + subject + base form (subjunctive)।

Q290 (c) R95 **Had the pilot been** — Type 3 में 'If' हटाकर inversion: Had + S + V3।

Q291 (d) R95 **were to be laid off** — Hypothetical future (Type 2) → If + were to + V1।

Q292 (d) R96 **Unless the regulators (intervene)** — Unless = if not; इसके साथ 'not' नहीं।

Q293 (c) R96 **until … does not return → until … returns** — *Until* में पहले से negative भाव; extra 'not' नहीं।

Q294 (a) R96 **unless** (= if … not) — इसके साथ अलग से 'not' नहीं लगता।

Q295 (b) R96 **until I do not return → until I return** — Until में negative भाव पहले से।

Q296 (b) R97 **lest … should not forget → lest … should forget** — Lest = 'ऐसा न हो कि' — negative पहले से है।

Q297 (b) R97 **lest … may → lest … should** — Lest के साथ should / base form।

Q298 (b) R98 **can defeat → could defeat** — Past ability (when he was twelve) → *could*।

Q299 (b) R98 **can cross → could cross / were able to cross** — Past (last night) ability → could/was able to।

Q300 (b) R98 **could** — Reported speech (said) में can → could (possibility/ability)।

Q301 (b) R98 **May** — Formal permission → may।

Q302 (b) R99 **ought submit → ought to submit** — *Ought* के बाद हमेशा *to* + V1।

Q303 (b) R99 **should have** — पीछे की ग़लती पर advice/regret → should have + V3।

Q304 (a) R99 **must to carry → must carry** — Duty modal must के बाद bare V1।

Q305 (a) R100 **must have rained** — past के बारे में पक्का अनुमान → must + have + V3।

Q306 (d) R100 **could be saved → could have been saved** — past में मौका था पर नहीं हुआ → could + have + been + V3।

Q307 (a) R100 **needn't have brought** — किया, पर ज़रूरत नहीं थी → needn't + have + V3।

Q308 (a) R101 **Only P** — *had dare predicted* → *had dared (to) predict*; main verb dare के बाद V3 चाहिए।

Q309 (b) R101 **need not to worry → need not worry** — Modal *need not* के बाद bare V1।

Q310 (a) R101 **need** — Modal need (negative) + bare V1; needs नहीं।

Q311 (b) R102 **used to** — Past habit (अब नहीं) → used to + V1I

Q312 (a) R102 **is used to walk** → **is used to walking** — Be used to (आदी) + V-ingI

GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

SECTION 09

Pronouns

Case, order, agreement और relative pronouns • Rules 103–115

R103 Objective Case after Prepositions, Let & But

R104 Case in Comparison: Than I or Than Me?

R105 "It Is I", Not "It Is Me"

R106 Order of Personal Pronouns: 231 and 123

R107 Pronoun–Antecedent Agreement

R108 "One" Takes One's and Oneself

R109 Who vs Whom

R110 Who, Which, Whose: Choosing the Relative

R111 "That" Preferred after Superlatives & All

R112 What vs That

R113 Reflexive vs Emphatic Pronouns

R114 Verbs That Demand a Reflexive Object

R115 Each Other vs One Another

RULE 103

PRONOUNS

Objective Case after Prepositions, Let & But

Between you and me; let him and me

Preposition (between, with, for, to, among), **let** और **but / except** (= के अलावा) के बाद pronoun हमेशा **objective case** में आता है: me, him, her, us, them।

After	× Subjective	✓ Objective
between	between you and I	between you and **me**
let	Let he and I go.	Let **him and me** go.
but / except	everyone but he	everyone but **him**
instruct … to let	let the students and I go	let the students and **me** go

SPOT & FIX

× There was a comparison between you and he. → ✓ … between you and **him**.

× The tension between Sam and I was one-sided. → ✓ … between Sam and **me** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

After a preposition, always me / him / them.

PRACTICE Rule 103 • PYQs & practice questions

Q313. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The confidential details of the merger (1)/ were to remain strictly between you and I (2)/ until the board of directors (3)/ made the official announcement. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q314. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The old lady insisted that the property be divided equally among her three nephews, and that nothing be left for anyone but _ _.

✎ Practice Question

(a) they **(b)** them
(c) their **(d)** themselves

Q315. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The headmaster asked (1)/ my brother and I (2)/ to represent the school (3)/ at the state-level quiz. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 104

PRONOUNS

Case in Comparison: Than I or Than Me?

Hidden verb से case तय होता है

Than / as के बाद pronoun का case उस **छुपी हुई verb** से तय होता है। Compare होने वाला subject हो तो I/he; object हो तो me/him। Sentence को पूरा करके पढ़ो।

Subject vs subject → I / he / she

He runs faster than ***I*** *(run).*
You are as smart as ***he*** *(is).*

Object vs object → me / him / her

Mother loves Chhotu more than (she loves) ***me****.*

SPOT & FIX

× You are stronger than him. → ✓ You are stronger than **he** (is).

× Their tallest player was shorter than me. → ✓ … was shorter than **I** (was).

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Meaning बदल जाता है: *She loves him more than I* (मुझसे ज़्यादा वह) vs *more than me*!

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Finish the sentence — the case appears.

PRACTICE Rule 104 • PYQs & practice questions

Q316. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although my cousin started training two years after me, (1)/ she now swims much faster than me (2)/ and has already represented the state (3)/ in three national championships. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q317. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although my younger sister joined the firm (1)/ three years after me, (2)/ she now earns much more than me (3)/ because of her skills in data analytics. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q318. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The manager trusts Rohan more than __, which is why Rohan is always given the most sensitive client accounts, while I handle the routine ones.

✎ Practice Question

(a) I **(b)** me
(c) mine **(d)** myself

Q319. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The new recruit is not as experienced as __, but the manager trusts him more because of his honesty and eagerness to learn.

✎ Practice Question

(a) me **(b)** I
(c) myself **(d)** mine

RULE 105

PRONOUNS

"It Is I", Not "It Is Me"

Subjective case after It is / It was

Formal grammar में **It is / It was** के बाद pronoun **subjective case** में आता है, और आगे की verb उसी pronoun से agree करती है।

SPOT & FIX

× It was him who broke the glass.	→	✓ It was **he** who broke the glass.
× It is me who is responsible.	→	✓ It is **I** who **am** responsible.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"It is" is a mirror — subject stays subject.

PRACTICE Rule 105 • PYQs & practice questions

Q320. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
When the inspector asked who had left the main gate of the warehouse unlocked, the night guard confessed, "It was _ _ who forgot to lock it."

✎ Practice Question

(a) me
(b) I
(c) myself
(d) mine

Q321. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
When the principal asked who had (1)/ broken the laboratory equipment, it was him (2)/ who confessed honestly and offered (3)/ to pay for the damage. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q322. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
It is I who _ _ responsible for the delay in submitting the report, so please do not blame the junior staff for it.

✎ Practice Question

(a) is
(b) am
(c) are
(d) was being

Q323. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
It was they (1)/ who was responsible (2)/ for the delay in the project, (3)/ not the contractor. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 106

PRONOUNS

Order of Personal Pronouns: 231 and 123

You, he and I / I, you and he

Courtesy का rule: सामान्य/positive बात में order **2nd → 3rd → 1st** (You, he and I)। गलती या दोष स्वीकारने वाले sentence में 1st → 2nd → 3rd (I, you and he)।

Positive / neutral 2 – 3 – 1

You, he and I will go.
Tina and I will go.

Guilt / confession 1 – 2 – 3

I, you and he are to blame.

SPOT & FIX

× He, you and I shall arrange everything.	→	✓ **You, he and I** shall arrange everything.
× I and my wife were declared the best couple.	→	✓ **My wife and I** were declared …
× Me and my friend started a project.	→	✓ **My friend and I** started a project.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Be polite — put yourself last.

PRACTICE Rule 106 • PYQs & practice questions

Q324. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
After the window was broken, _ _ apologised to the neighbour, because the three of us had been playing cricket in the lane against his advice.

✎ Practice Question

(a) you, he and I **(b)** I, you and he
(c) he, I and you **(d)** he, you and I

Q325. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
I, he and you (1)/ have been selected to represent the college (2)/ at the national debate competition (3)/ to be held in Pune next month. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q326. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
After the inquiry, the coach admitted that _ _ were responsible for the team's poor performance, as we had ignored the fitness schedule completely.

✎ Practice Question

(a) you, he and I **(b)** he, you and I
(c) I, you and he **(d)** you, I and he

Q327. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
He, you and I (1)/ have been nominated (2)/ to organise the farewell party (3)/ for the outgoing principal. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 107

PRONOUNS

Pronoun–Antecedent Agreement

You and I → our; You and he → your

Pronoun अपने antecedent से **number, person और gender** में match करना चाहिए। Mixed persons हों तो priority: 1st person > 2nd person > 3rd person।

STRUCTURE

1st person present? → our → **No; 2nd person present?** → your → **Only 3rd** → their

SPOT & FIX

× You and I have done my best.	→	✓ You and I have done **our** best.
× You, he and she have done her best.	→	✓ … have done **your** best.
× Neither of them did their work.	→	✓ Neither of them did **his** work.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

I beats you, you beat he.

PRACTICE Rule 107 • PYQs & practice questions

Q328. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The draft policy outlines (1)/ that each employee must adhere to (2)/ the code of conduct (3)/ irrespective of their position. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q329. Identify the part which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'No error'.
Every one of the students who participated / in the national science fair / has brought their own equipment.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (12th) | 17 Sep | Shift-2

(a) Every one of the students who participated
(b) in the national science fair
(c) has brought their own equipment
(d) No error

Q330. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Neither of the two candidates (1)/ who appeared for the final interview (2)/ were able to answer (3)/ the questions about their own project. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 108

PRONOUNS

"One" Takes One's and Oneself

One should keep one's promises

जब **one** general sense (कोई भी व्यक्ति) में subject हो, तो आगे भी **one's / oneself** ही आएगा — his/himself/their नहीं।

SPOT & FIX

- × One should respect his parents. → ✓ One should respect **one's** parents.
- × One should adapt himself to change. → ✓ One should adapt **oneself** to change.
- × I want the red one's. → ✓ I want the red **ones**.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Everyone / everybody के साथ *his* (या modern usage में *their*) — one's नहीं।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Once "one", always "one".

PRACTICE Rule 108 • PYQs & practice questions

Q331. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
One must learn to forgive __ for past mistakes if one wishes to move ahead in life with a clear and peaceful mind.

✎ Practice Question

(a) himself
(b) oneself
(c) themselves
(d) yourself

Q332. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
In a democracy, one has the right to express **their opinion** freely, provided one does not violate the rights of others.

✎ Practice Question

(a) one's opinion
(b) his opinion
(c) ones opinion
(d) No improvement required

Q333. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
One should always fulfil (1)/ his responsibilities towards (2)/ the society in which (3)/ one has grown up. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 109

PRONOUNS

Who vs Whom

Subject = who • Object = whom

Who verb का subject (कर्ता) है; **whom** verb या preposition का object। Trick: बीच में आए **I think / I know / they say** को हटा कर देखो कि pronoun subject है या object।

STRUCTURE

Answer with he? → who → **Answer with him?** → whom

Sentence	Test	Correct
the girl ___ you slapped	you slapped **her**	whom
candidates ___ have the qualification	**they** have	who
the beggars ___ I know are hypocrites	(I know) **they** are	who
___ever comes late	**he** comes	Whoever

SPOT & FIX

× Do you know whom the next speaker is? → ✓ Do you know **who** the next speaker is?

× I wonder to who it belonged. → ✓ I wonder to **whom** it belonged.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

he → who • him → whom (both end in m).

PRACTICE Rule 109 • PYQs & practice questions

Q334. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The novelist who her editor had praised (1)/ for stylistic ingenuity and metaphorical clarity (2)/ was yet to submit (3)/ the final chapters of the manuscript. (4)

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 09 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q335. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The scientist __ the committee believes deserves the national award has worked for three decades on drought-resistant crops.

✎ Practice Question

(a) whom **(b)** who
(c) which **(d)** whose

Q336. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The candidate who the selection board (1)/ had rejected last year (2)/ has now topped (3)/ the civil services examination. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 110

PRONOUNS

Who, Which, Whose: Choosing the Relative

Person, thing, possession

Relative pronoun antecedent से तय होता है: **who** → persons; **which** → things, animals, institutions और **पूरा preceding clause**; **whose** → possession (who's ×)।

Antecedent	Use	Example
Person	who	*a member **who** exerts influence*
Thing / organisation	which / that	*a new law **which** forces farmers*
Possession	whose	*my friend **whose** leg was fractured*
Whole clause	which	*He never questioned his master, **which** shows his loyalty.*
Selection from a group	which of	***which** of the servants broke it*

SPOT & FIX

× This is the album who I found. → ✓ This is the album **which** I found.

× My friend who's leg was fractured has recovered. → ✓ My friend **whose** leg …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

People who • things which • owners whose.

PRACTICE — Rule 110 • PYQs & practice questions

Q337. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The suddenness with which the issue escalated (1)/ took not only the negotiators but also the observers (2)/ by surprise who were expecting (3)/ a gradual resolution process. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 24 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q338. Choose the option that best improves the underlined portion of the sentence.
The novel's intricate plot, **who was developed over many years, it captivated** readers worldwide.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 15 Sep | Shift-2

(a) who was developed over many years, it captivated
(b) which was developed over many years, captivated
(c) developed over many years, it captivated
(d) that was developed over many years, captivating

Q339. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The village, whom the river had flooded twice (1)/ in the last decade, (2)/ has finally been relocated (3)/ to higher ground. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q340. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The author, _ _ latest novel has been translated into twelve languages, will deliver the keynote address at the literature festival.

✎ Practice Question

(a) who **(b)** whom
(c) whose **(d)** which

RULE 111

PRONOUNS

"That" Preferred after Superlatives & All

The best that..., all that..., the same that...

Superlatives, **all, only, any, none, nothing, everything, the same** और person+thing mixed antecedent के बाद relative pronoun **that** आता है।

SPOT & FIX

× This is the best book which I have read.	→	✓ This is the best book **that** I have read.
× All which glitters is not gold.	→	✓ All **that** glitters is not gold.
× He is the same boy who killed your dog.	→	✓ He is the same boy **that** killed your dog.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Best, all, only, same → that.

PRACTICE Rule 111 • PYQs & practice questions

Q341. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
According to the jury, this is the most original documentary (1)/ which has been produced in the country (2)/ in the last two decades (3)/ on the lives of tribal artisans. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q342. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
All _ _ the villagers demanded from the visiting minister was a proper road connecting their hamlet to the district hospital.

✎ Practice Question

(a) which **(b)** what
(c) that **(d)** whom

Q343. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
This is the finest Banarasi saree (1)/ which I have ever seen (2)/ in any exhibition (3)/ of handloom products. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q344. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
He is the only one of the trainees _ _ has completed all the field assignments before the deadline.

✎ Practice Question

(a) which **(b)** that
(c) whom **(d)** what

RULE 112

PRONOUNS

What vs That

Antecedent है या नहीं?

That / which से पहले एक antecedent (noun) होता है। **What** में antecedent छुपा होता है (= the thing which) — इसलिए **noun के ठीक बाद what नहीं** आता।

Antecedent present → that / which	No antecedent → what
all the information ***that*** *I needed*	***What*** *I mean is not clear.* *I can't predict* ***what*** *might happen.*

SPOT & FIX

× This is the book what he was talking about.	→ ✓ This is the book **that** he was talking about.
× That I mean is not understood.	→ ✓ **What** I mean is not understood.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Noun + that • No noun → what.

PRACTICE Rule 112 • PYQs & practice questions

Q345. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
This is exactly the kind of evidence (1)/ what the investigating officer had been (2)/ searching for since the robbery (3)/ took place last winter. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q346. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The witness could not clearly explain _ _ she had seen on the night of the robbery, which weakened the prosecution's case.

✎ Practice Question

(a) that **(b)** what
(c) which **(d)** whom

Q347. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
That he said at the meeting (1)/ was completely misunderstood (2)/ by the reporters, (3)/ who published a distorted version. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 113

PRONOUNS

Reflexive vs Emphatic Pronouns

Myself as object or for emphasis — never alone as subject

Reflexive pronoun (myself, himself) तब आता है जब **subject और object same** हों। Emphatic use में वह subject पर ज़ोर देता है। लेकिन यह कभी अकेले subject नहीं बन सकता।

Reflexive object = subject	**Emphatic** emphasis	**Never** as subject
*He hurt **himself**.*	*The PM **himself** inaugurated it.*	*Myself and Ravi came.* ✗

SPOT & FIX

✗ Myself and my brother will attend.	→	✓ **My brother and I** will attend.
✗ You and myself will enjoy the function.	→	✓ **You and I** will enjoy …
✗ If you quarrel among yourself…	→	✓ … among **yourselves** …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

-self needs a subject to reflect.

PRACTICE — Rule 113 • PYQs & practice questions

Q348. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Myself and my colleague from the accounts department (1)/ have been asked to present (2)/ the quarterly budget review (3)/ before the board on Friday. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q349. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The Prime Minister _ _ inaugurated the new bridge, which had been delayed for over a decade due to land disputes.

✎ Practice Question

(a) himself
(b) itself
(c) oneself
(d) his self

Q350. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The project report was prepared (1)/ by Ravi and myself (2)/ under the guidance (3)/ of our senior manager. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 114

PRONOUNS

Verbs That Demand a Reflexive Object

Enjoy, avail, absent, pride, introduce, prostrate

कुछ transitive verbs के बाद object ज़रूरी है; जब अलग object न हो तो **reflexive pronoun** लगाना पड़ता है।

Verb	✓ Correct pattern
enjoy	We enjoyed **ourselves**.
avail	avail **oneself** of an opportunity
absent	He absented **himself** from class.
pride	She prides **herself** on her honesty.
introduce / prostrate / adjust	He introduced **himself**. He prostrated **himself**.

SPOT & FIX

× He absented from the class. → ✓ He absented **himself** from the class.

× We tried to avail of all facilities. → ✓ We tried to avail **ourselves** of all facilities.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Prepositions याद रखो: **pride oneself on**, **take pride in**, **be proud of**।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Enjoy what? → enjoy yourself.

PRACTICE Rule 114 • PYQs & practice questions

Q351. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The young entrepreneur **prides on** his ability to turn failing startups into profitable companies within a year.

✎ Practice Question

(a) prides himself on **(b)** prides himself in
(c) is pride on **(d)** takes pride on

Q352. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The senior clerk absented (1)/ from the office for a week (2)/ without informing (3)/ the department head. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 115

PRONOUNS

Each Other vs One Another

दो के बीच vs दो से ज़्यादा के बीच

Reciprocal pronouns: **each other** दो persons/things के लिए; **one another** दो से ज़्यादा के लिए। Possessive form: each other's, one another's।

Each other 2	One another 3 or more
The two sisters love ***each other****.* *His knees knocked* ***each other****.*	*The five brothers avoid* ***one another****.*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ A few politicians were at enmity with each other. → ✓ … with **one another**.
- ✗ Two people making one another's life miserable. → ✓ … making **each other's** life miserable.
- ✗ We must take care of one other. → ✓ … of **one another**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two → each other • Team → one another.

PRACTICE — Rule 115 • PYQs & practice questions

Q353. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The members of the newly formed eleven-member committee rarely agreed with _ _, and the meetings often ended without any concrete decision.

✎ Practice Question

(a) each other **(b)** one another
(c) themselves **(d)** one other

Q354. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The two neighbouring countries have agreed (1)/ to share one another's (2)/ satellite data for monitoring (3)/ cyclones in the Bay of Bengal. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q355. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The two rival companies finally agreed to respect _ _ patents after years of expensive legal battles in several countries.

✎ Practice Question

(a) one another's
(b) each other's
(c) each others'
(d) one another

Q356. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
All the members of the family (1)/ help each other (2)/ in running the small dhaba (3)/ on the highway. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

ANSWER KEY Section 09 • Pronouns • Q313–Q356

Q313 (b) R103 **between you and I → between you and me** — *between* preposition है → objective case।

Q314 (b) R103 **them** — *but* (= except) preposition की तरह → objective case।

Q315 (b) R103 **my brother and I → my brother and me** — Verb (*asked*) का object → objective case।

Q316 (b) R104 **than me → than I (do)** — छुपी verb *swim* का subject चाहिए → I।

Q317 (c) R104 **than me → than I (do)** — छुपी verb *earn* का subject → I।

Q318 (b) R104 **me** — Manager trusts Rohan more than (he trusts) **me** → object।

Q319 (b) R104 **I** — as … as I (am) — छुपी verb का subject → subjective case।

Q320 (b) R105 **I** — It was के बाद subjective case।

Q321 (b) R105 **it was him → it was he** — It is / It was के बाद subjective case।

Q322 (b) R105 **am** — Verb antecedent *I* से agree करती है: It is I who **am** …

Q323 (b) R105 **was → were** — Relative clause की verb antecedent *they* (plural) से agree करती है।

Q324 (b) R106 **I, you and he** — ग़लती मानने पर order 1–2–3।

Q325 (a) R106 **I, he and you → You, he and I** — Positive बात में order 2–3–1।

Q326 (c) R106 **I, you and he** — गलती/दोष स्वीकार करने पर order 1–2–3।

Q327 (a) R106 **He, you and I → You, he and I** — Neutral/positive बात में 2–3–1 order।

Q328 (d) R107 **their → his or her** — *each employee* singular antecedent।

Q329 (c) R107 **their → his or her** — Subject *Every one* singular है → pronoun भी singular।

Q330 (c) R107 **were → was** — Neither (singular) → singular verb।

Q331 (b) R108 **oneself** — One का reflexive *oneself*।

Q332 (a) R108 **one's opinion** — One + one's (apostrophe s)।

Q333 (b) R108 **his → one's** — *One* के साथ one's / oneself ही।

Q334 (a) R109 **who → whom** — *her editor had praised* _ में *novelist object* है → whom__।

Q335 (b) R109 **who** — 'the committee believes' बीच का clause है; scientist *deserves* का subject → who।

Q336 (a) R109 **who → whom** — *the board had rejected* _ __ → candidate object है।

Q337 (c) R110 **who misplaced** — Relative pronoun अपने antecedent (*the observers*) के ठीक बाद आना चाहिए।

Q338 (b) R110 **which …, captivated** — निर्जीव plot के लिए *which*; subject पहले से है, extra *it* नहीं।

Q339 (a) R110 **whom → which** — निर्जीव (village) के लिए *which*।

Q340 (c) R110 **whose** — Possession (author का novel) → whose।

Q341 (b) R111 **which → that** — Superlative (*the most original*) के बाद relative pronoun *that*।

Q342 (c) R111 **that** — *All* के बाद relative pronoun *that* आता है।

Q343 (b) R111 **which** → **that** — Superlative (*the finest*) के बाद that।

Q344 (b) R111 **that** — *the only* के बाद relative pronoun that preferred; verb singular (has)।

Q345 (b) R112 **what** → **that** — Antecedent (*evidence*) मौजूद है → *that / which*, what नहीं।

Q346 (b) R112 **what** — Antecedent नहीं है (= the thing which) → what।

Q347 (a) R112 **That** → **What** — 'जो उसने कहा' — antecedent नहीं → What।

Q348 (a) R113 **Myself and my colleague** → **My colleague and I** — -self pronoun अकेले subject नहीं बनता।

Q349 (a) R113 **himself** — Emphatic use (ज़ोर देने के लिए) — subject के बाद।

Q350 (b) R113 **Ravi and myself** → **Ravi and me** — -self बिना reflexive/emphatic ज़रूरत के नहीं; by + objective case।

Q351 (a) R114 **prides himself on** — pride oneself **on** (take pride **in**)।

Q352 (a) R114 **absented** → **absented himself** — Absent (verb) को reflexive object चाहिए।

Q353 (b) R115 **one another** — दो से ज़्यादा (eleven members) के बीच → *one another*।

Q354 (b) R115 **one another's** → **each other's** — सिर्फ़ दो countries → *each other*।

Q355 (b) R115 **each other's** — दो companies → each other's (possessive)।

Q356 (b) R115 **each other** → **one another** — दो से ज़्यादा (all the members) → one another।

SECTION 10

Articles

A, An, The और Zero Article • Rules 116–126

R116 A vs An: The Sound Rule
R117 First Mention vs Specific Reference
R118 "The" with Unique Things, Geography & Instruments
R119 "The" with Superlatives, Ordinals & "Of the Two"
R120 Zero Article: General Sense
R121 Places Used for Their Primary Purpose
R122 Proper Nouns Used as Common Nouns
R123 One Article for One Person, Two for Two
R124 Idiomatic Phrases without an Article
R125 Idiomatic Phrases Needing an Article
R126 "The" + Common Noun = Abstract Quality

RULE 116

ARTICLES

A vs An: The Sound Rule

Spelling नहीं, pronunciation देखो

A / an का चुनाव अगले शब्द की **पहली आवाज़ (sound)** से होता है, letter से नहीं। Vowel sound → **an**; consonant sound → **a**।

an + vowel sound	a + consonant sound
an hour, an honest man, an heir	*a university, a unique idea, a European*
an MBA, an FIR, an SMS, an IPS officer	*a one-day match, a useful tool*
an X-ray, an LLB	*a union, a uniform*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ He has an unique sense of humour. → ✓ He has **a unique** sense of humour.
- ✗ She is a honest woman. → ✓ She is **an honest** woman.
- ✗ Sivaram has become a IPS officer. → ✓ Sivaram has become **an IPS** officer.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Abbreviations में letter का नाम बोलो: F, H, L, M, N, R, S, X की आवाज़ vowel से शुरू होती है → **an**।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Say it aloud, then choose.

PRACTICE Rule 116 • PYQs & practice questions

Q357. Select the alternative which contains the part that has an error.
Our bicycles are fully equipped, with head and tail lights, gear shifts, a bell, and even a air pump.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 12 Feb 2025 | Shift-1

(a) Our bicycles are fully
(b) equipped, with head and
(c) tail lights, gear shifts, a bell,
(d) and even a air pump.

Q358. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The report lacks a clear justification (1)/ for the measures undertaken (2)/ and overlooks the impact (3)/ on a environment. (4)

❑ SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 9 Dec | Shift-1

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q359. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After completing an one-year course in journalism, (1)/ she joined a European news agency (2)/ as a trainee correspondent (3)/ covering an Asian summit. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q360. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
The candidate, _ _ M.Phil. holder from _ _ university in Kerala, was offered _ _ honorary post in the research council.

✎ Practice Question

(a) an, a, an
(b) a, an, an
(c) an, an, a
(d) a, a, an

RULE 117

ARTICLES

First Mention vs Specific Reference

A dog... The dog...

किसी चीज़ का **पहली बार** या 'कोई भी' के sense में ज़िक्र → **a / an**। जब वही चीज़ दोबारा आए या clause/context से specific हो जाए → **the**।

STRUCTURE

First mention a / an → **Mentioned again** the → **Made specific by clause** the

SPOT & FIX

× A man whom we met is my uncle.	→	✓ **The** man whom we met is my uncle.
× My uncle gifted me the expensive watch.	→	✓ My uncle gifted me **an** expensive watch.
× Can you make sure you have a correct address?	→	✓ … you have **the** correct address?

💡 MEMORY HOOK

New → a • Known → the.

PRACTICE Rule 117 • PYQs & practice questions

Q361. Choose the best option to fill in the blanks.
There was __ robbery in __ university campus. __ thief entered __ boys' hostel and took away __ laptop. __ FIR was lodged by __ Principal.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 10 Sep | Shift-2

(a) a, the, a, the, a, an, the
(b) a, the, the, the, a, a, the
(c) the, the, the, the, the, the, a
(d) a, a, a, the, the, a, the

Q362. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article.
While __ *notion of progress remains central to modern discourse*, __ definition of what constitutes true advancement varies significantly across cultures.

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 24 Sep | Shift-3

(a) a, the
(b) the, a
(c) a, a
(d) the, the

Q363. Fill in the blanks with the appropriate article.
In __ *absence of comprehensive data and* __ presence of conflicting anecdotal evidence, policy decisions often rest on precarious assumptions.

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-2

(a) an, a
(b) the, the
(c) an, the
(d) a, a

Q364. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
A stranger knocked at our door late at night (1)/ and asked for water; (2)/ a stranger looked tired and hungry, (3)/ so my mother gave him food as well. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 118

ARTICLES

"The" with Unique Things, Geography & Instruments

The sun, the Ganga, the guitar, the east

जो चीज़ें **अपने आप में एक** हों या पहले से specific मानी जाती हैं, उनके साथ **the** लगता है।

Category	Examples
Unique objects	the sun, the moon, the earth, the sky, the universe
Rivers, seas, oceans, ranges	the Ganga, the Arabian Sea, the Himalayas
Musical instruments (played)	plays the guitar, the flute
Directions	the east, the north
Union / United / Republic countries	the USA, the UK, the Republic of India
Holy books, famous buildings	the Gita, the Taj Mahal, the Leaning Tower of Pisa
Nationality as people	the English, the French (plural)

SPOT & FIX

× Ganga is a holy river. → ✓ **The** Ganga is a holy river.

× The English often fought French. → ✓ The English often fought **the** French.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One of a kind → the.

PRACTICE Rule 118 • PYQs & practice questions

Q365. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The pilgrims took a holy dip in Ganga (1)/ at Haridwar before (2)/ beginning their long trek (3)/ to the Himalayan shrines. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q366. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Her grandfather, who played __ sitar for All India Radio for forty years, still practises every morning facing __ east.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the, the
(b) a, the
(c) the, an
(d) no article, the

Q367. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The expedition team (1)/ crossed Sahara in forty days (2)/ and reached the coast (3)/ of the Atlantic Ocean. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 119

ARTICLES

"The" with Superlatives, Ordinals & "Of the Two"

The best, the first, the better of the two

Superlative degree, ordinals (first, last, next) और **of the two** वाले comparative से पहले **the** ज़रूरी है।

Structure	×	✓
Superlative	a best soldier	**the** best soldier
Ordinal	a first woman medallist	**the** first woman medallist
Of the two	she is better (of the two)	she is **the** better
Former / latter	than latter	than **the** latter

SPOT & FIX

× This is a worst famine in a decade. → ✓ This is **the** worst famine in a decade.

× This is first time I have eaten such a cake. → ✓ This is **the** first time …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Best, first, last, better-of-two → the.

PRACTICE Rule 119 • PYQs & practice questions

Q368. Choose the correct alternative that best improves the highlighted part.
She is considered **the most intelligent of the two architects** who designed the sustainable skyscraper project for the new business district.

SSC Steno 2026 | 09 Sep | Shift-2

(a) most intelligent between the two
(b) the more intelligent of the two
(c) more intelligent than the two
(d) intelligent of the two

Q369. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Of all the proposals submitted to the committee, (1)/ the one prepared by the junior team (2)/ was considered as most practical (3)/ and cost-effective. (4)

Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q370. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Of the two brothers, Arjun is _ _ and he was also _ _ to complete the marathon in the family.

Practice Question

(a) the taller, the first
(b) the tallest, first
(c) taller, a first
(d) the taller, first

Q371. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Mount Everest is highest peak (1)/ in the world, (2)/ and the first successful ascent (3)/ was made in 1953. (4)

Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 120

ARTICLES

Zero Article: General Sense

Man is mortal; gold is precious; after breakfast

General sense में बात हो तो **कोई article नहीं**: abstract nouns, materials, languages, meals, games, diseases, festivals और mankind (man)।

Category	✓ No article	But specific → the
Abstract / material	Honesty is the best policy. Gold is precious.	**The** gold of South Africa…
Man (mankind)	Man is mortal.	**The** man in red…
Meals / games	after breakfast, plays cricket	**the** breakfast you cooked
Languages	English is easy.	**the** English (people)
Diseases / festivals	suffering from cancer, on Diwali	—
Transport	by train, by air	in **the** train

SPOT & FIX

× The man is a social animal. → ✓ **Man** is a social animal.

× They will start after the breakfast. → ✓ They will start after **breakfast**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

General → no article • Particular → the.

PRACTICE Rule 120 • PYQs & practice questions

Q372. Fill in the blank with the appropriate article.
Despite efforts to standardize practices, _ law remains subject to cultural interpretation in many regions.

SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 10 Dec | Shift-2

(a) a (b) an
(c) the (d) no article

Q373. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The honesty is the best policy, (1)/ as our grandparents always told us, (2)/ but in modern business (3)/ it is often ignored. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q374. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
_ _ gold is a precious metal, but _ _ gold used in this necklace is of very poor quality.

✎ Practice Question

(a) The, the (b) No article, the
(c) A, the (d) No article, no article

Q375. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After the breakfast, (1)/ the children left for school (2)/ and their father (3)/ went to his office. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 121

ARTICLES

Places Used for Their Primary Purpose

Go to school / go to the school

School, college, church, temple, hospital, prison, jail, bed, court — जब इनके **मूल उद्देश्य** के लिए जाएँ तो article नहीं; किसी और काम से जाएँ तो **the**।

Primary purpose no article	**Other purpose** the
He goes to school (to study). *She went to bed (to sleep).* *returned from jail*	*Father went to **the** school to meet the teacher.*

SPOT & FIX

- ✗ He goes to the church to pray daily. → ✓ He goes to **church** to pray daily.
- ✗ Yamini came home and went to the bed. → ✓ … and went to **bed**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Purpose served → no article.

PRACTICE Rule 121 • PYQs & practice questions

Q376. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Every Sunday morning, my grandmother (1)/ goes to the church to pray (2)/ and then visits the old-age home (3)/ to spend time with the residents. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q377. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The minister went to _ _ hospital not as a patient but to inspect the newly built trauma ward and interact with the doctors on duty.

✎ Practice Question

(a) a
(b) the
(c) an
(d) no article

Q378. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Every evening after work, the old carpenter goes to _ _ temple to pray, but yesterday he went to _ _ temple only to repair its broken door.

✎ Practice Question

(a) no article, the
(b) the, the
(c) the, no article
(d) a, the

Q379. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The convict was released from the jail (1)/ after serving his sentence (2)/ and went straight (3)/ to meet his ailing mother. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 122

ARTICLES

Proper Nouns Used as Common Nouns

The Shakespeare of India; a Mr Sharma

Proper noun को किसी जैसे व्यक्ति/चीज़ के meaning में use करें तो वह common noun बन जाता है → **the** (...of somewhere) या **a** (कोई वैसा)। Speaker किसी को नहीं जानता हो तो **a + name**।

Meaning	Example
उस जैसा महान (with of)	*Kalidas is **the** Shakespeare of India.*
उस जैसा (कोई)	*You are not **a** Sachin.*
Unknown person	***A** Mr Sharma came to see you.*

SPOT & FIX

× Kashmir is known as Switzerland of India. → ✓ ... known as **the** Switzerland of India.

× Ahmedabad wants to become next Manchester of India. → ✓ ... become **the** next Manchester ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Famous name as a type → article returns.

PRACTICE Rule 122 • PYQs & practice questions

Q380. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
With its snow-covered peaks, (1)/ pine forests and crystal-clear lakes, (2)/ Gulmarg is often described as (3)/ Switzerland of India by tourists. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q381. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Experts often describe Mumbai as __ New York of India because of its towering skyline and bustling financial district.

✎ Practice Question

(a) a **(b)** the
(c) an **(d)** no article

Q382. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
For his consistency over two decades, (1)/ Sachin Tendulkar is often called (2)/ Bradman of Indian cricket (3)/ by sports commentators. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 123

ARTICLES

One Article for One Person, Two for Two

The Secretary and Treasurer / the Secretary and the Treasurer

दो nouns **एक ही व्यक्ति/चीज़** के लिए हों → article सिर्फ़ पहले noun के साथ + singular verb। दो अलग लोग हों → दोनों के साथ article + plural verb।

One person article once

*The Secretary and Treasurer **is** present.*
Gandhiji was a philosopher and politician.

Two persons article twice

*The Secretary and **the** Treasurer **are** present.*
*a white and **a** black dog **guard***

SPOT & FIX

× Mr Das, my friend and Principal, have retired.	→	✓ … my friend and Principal, **has** retired.
× The Principal and the Secretary is coming.	→	✓ The Principal and the Secretary **are** coming.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Count the articles to count the people.

PRACTICE Rule 123 • PYQs & practice questions

Q383. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The secretary and the treasurer of the club, (1)/ who has served the organisation for twenty years, (2)/ is retiring this month (3)/ after a grand farewell ceremony. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q384. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
At the award ceremony, _ _ were seated together on the dais, and both were honoured for their contribution to Hindi literature.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the poet and novelist **(b)** the poet and the novelist
(c) a poet and novelist **(d)** poet and the novelist

Q385. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
_ _ black and _ _ white cow were grazing together in the field when the farmer's son came to take them home.

✎ Practice Question

(a) A, a **(b)** A, no article
(c) The, no article **(d)** No article, a

Q386. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The poet and the philosopher, (1)/ who had influenced an entire generation, (2)/ was honoured with (3)/ a lifetime achievement award. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 124

ARTICLES

Idiomatic Phrases without an Article

By mistake, in trouble, set on fire, kind of

कुछ fixed phrases में article **नहीं** लगता — उन्हें phrase की तरह याद करो। **Kind of / type of / sort of** के बाद भी article नहीं।

No article

by mistake • by train / by air • in trouble • in conclusion • set on fire • lose heart • at home • on foot • in debt • at night • fall silent

After kind / type / sort of

that type of man • what sort of people • this kind of book

SPOT & FIX

× It was by a mistake that he injured her.	→	✓ It was **by mistake** …
× I don't like that type of a man.	→	✓ I don't like that type of **man**.
× The house was set on the fire.	→	✓ The house was **set on fire**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Fixed phrase = frozen — don't add "a".

PRACTICE Rule 124 • PYQs & practice questions

Q387. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
He took such an offense at the remark (1)/ that he refused to speak with the manager (2)/ despite repeated requests made (3)/ on behalf of the HR department. (4)

❑ SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 10 Dec | Shift-1

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

Q388. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The house was set on a fire (1)/ by the angry mob (2)/ who suspected the owner (3)/ of hoarding grain. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) (b) (2)
(c) (3) (d) (4)

RULE 125

ARTICLES

Idiomatic Phrases Needing an Article

In a hurry, in a temper, what a...

कुछ phrases में **article ज़रूरी** है। Exclamation में **what a / what an** + singular countable noun।

With "a / an"

in a hurry • in a temper • in a bad mood • in a fix • at a loss • as a rule • a few • a lot of • make a noise • have a headache

Exclamation

What a beautiful place! • What an ugly face!

SPOT & FIX

× My father is in bad mood today.	→	✓ My father is in **a** bad mood today.
× What ugly face Leela had got!	→	✓ What **an** ugly face ...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Mood, temper, hurry — always "a".

PRACTICE — Rule 125 • PYQs & practice questions

Q389. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The auditorium is spacious and can accommodate (1)/ large number of participants (2)/ for the seminar on rural banking (3)/ being held next week. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 20 Sep | Shift-3

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q390. Choose the option that can replace the highlighted part to improve the sentence.
It was **a once-in-the-lifetime opportunity** that many would consider invaluable, but very few got the chance to experience.

❑ SSC MTS Tier-I | 5 Feb 2025 | Shift-1

(a) the once-in-a-lifetime
(b) an once-in-a-lifetime
(c) a once-in-a-lifetime
(d) No improvement required

Q391. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The minister left the meeting in hurry (1)/ after receiving a call (2)/ about the accident (3)/ on the highway. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 126

ARTICLES

"The" + Common Noun = Abstract Quality

The judge in him, the poet in her

The + common noun कभी-कभी उस व्यक्ति के **अंदर के गुण/भाव** को दिखाता है — यह ख़ास structure है।

SPOT & FIX

× Judge in him prevailed upon the father. → ✓ **The** judge in him prevailed upon the father.

× Student in me is still alive. → ✓ **The** student in me is still alive.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

"The ___ in him" = the quality inside.

PRACTICE Rule 126 • PYQs & practice questions

Q392. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Even after forty years in the corporate world, __ in her never died, and she published her first collection of verses at the age of sixty-five.

✎ Practice Question

(a) a poet **(b)** the poet
(c) poet **(d)** poets

Q393. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
When the accused turned out to be his own nephew, (1)/ judge in him prevailed (2)/ over the uncle, and he (3)/ recused himself from the case. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q394. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
When he saw the orphaned child shivering in the cold, (1)/ father in him awoke, (2)/ and he decided to adopt (3)/ the boy that very day. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q395. Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate option.
Despite his strict exterior, _ _ in the old headmaster always forgave the students who confessed their mistakes honestly.

✎ Practice Question

(a) teacher
(b) a teacher
(c) the teacher
(d) teachers

ANSWER KEY Section 10 • Articles • Q357–Q395

Q357 (d) R116 **a air pump** → **an air pump** — 'air' vowel sound से शुरू।

Q358 (d) R116 **a environment** → **the environment** (या an) — vowel sound से पहले a नहीं।

Q359 (a) R116 **an one-year** → **a one-year** — one = 'वन' (/w/ consonant sound) → a।

Q360 (a) R116 **an, a, an** — M.Phil. ('एम', vowel sound) → an; university ('यू', consonant) → a; honorary (h silent) → an।

Q361 (a) R117 **a, the, a, the, a, an, the** — पहली बार उल्लेख → a/an; specific/known → the; FIR ('एफ') → *an*।

Q362 (d) R117 **the, the** — दोनों nouns *of*... से restricted (specific) हैं।

Q363 (b) R117 **the, the** — *of* ... phrase noun को specific बना देता है → *the*।

Q364 (c) R117 **a stranger** → **the stranger** — दूसरी बार उसी व्यक्ति का ज़िक्र → specific → the।

Q365 (a) R118 **in Ganga** → **in the Ganga** — नदियों के नाम से पहले the।

Q366 (a) R118 **the, the** — Musical instrument बजाना → the sitar; दिशा → the east।

Q367 (b) R118 **Sahara** → **the Sahara** — Desert के नाम से पहले the।

Q368 (b) R119 **the more intelligent of the two** — दो में तुलना → *the* + comparative + of the two।

Q369 (c) R119 **as most practical** → **the most practical** — Superlative से पहले the।

Q370 (a) R119 **the taller, the first** — Of the two → the + comparative; ordinal (first) से पहले the।

Q371 (a) R119 **highest peak** → **the highest peak** — Superlative से पहले the।

Q372 (c) R120 **the** — Key के अनुसार *the law* = law as a system/institution (specific sense)।

Q373 (a) R120 **The honesty** → **Honesty** — Abstract noun general sense में → no article।

Q374 (b) R120 **—, the** — Material general sense → no article; specific gold (used in this necklace) → the।

Q375 (a) R120 **After the breakfast** → **After breakfast** — Meals (breakfast, lunch) सामान्य अर्थ में बिना article।

Q376 (b) R121 **goes to the church** → **goes to church** — मूल उद्देश्य (prayer) के लिए जाने पर article नहीं।

Q377 (b) R121 **the** — Hospital अपने मूल उद्देश्य (इलाज) के लिए नहीं, inspection के लिए → *the*।

Q378 (a) R121 **—, the** — Prayer (primary purpose) → no article; repair (दूसरा काम) → the।

Q379 (a) R121 **from the jail** → **from jail** — Prisoner का jail से जाना primary purpose से जुड़ा → no article।

Q380 (d) R122 **Switzerland of India** → **the Switzerland of India** — Proper noun common noun की तरह (comparison) → *the*।

Q381 (b) R122 **the** — Proper noun comparison (...of India) → the New York of India।

Q382 (c) R122 **Bradman of Indian cricket** → **the Bradman of Indian cricket** — Proper noun as common noun (...of) → the।

Q383 (a) R123 **the secretary and the treasurer → the secretary and treasurer** — एक ही व्यक्ति (has served, is retiring) → article सिर्फ़ एक बार।

Q384 (b) R123 **the poet and the novelist** — दो अलग व्यक्ति (*both, were*) → दोनों के साथ article।

Q385 (a) R123 **A, a** — दो अलग गायें (were grazing, them) → दोनों adjectives के साथ article।

Q386 (a) R123 **the poet and the philosopher → the poet and philosopher** — एक ही व्यक्ति (was honoured) → article एक बार।

Q387 (a) R124 **such an offense → such offense** — Idiom: *take offence* (बिना article)।

Q388 (a) R124 **set on a fire → set on fire** — Idiom बिना article।

Q389 (b) R125 **large number → a large number** — Fixed phrase: *a large number of*।

Q390 (c) R125 **a once-in-a-lifetime** — Fixed expression; once ('वन्स') consonant sound → *a*।

Q391 (a) R125 **in hurry → in a hurry** — Fixed phrase में article ज़रूरी।

Q392 (b) R126 **the poet** — *the poet in her* = उसके अंदर का कवि-भाव।

Q393 (b) R126 **judge in him → the judge in him** — The + common noun = व्यक्ति के अंदर का गुण।

Q394 (b) R126 **father in him → the father in him** — The + common noun = व्यक्ति के अंदर का भाव।

Q395 (c) R126 **the teacher** — 'the teacher in him' = उसके अंदर का शिक्षक-भाव।

SECTION 11

Nouns: Number & Form

Singular, plural और countability के exam-favourite rules • Rules 127–135

R127 Uncountable Nouns — Singular by Nature

R128 Nouns Always Plural

R129 Plural in Look, Singular in Sense

R130 Plural in Sense, No -s in Form

R131 Same Form in Singular and Plural

R132 Irregular and Foreign Plurals

R133 Plurals of Compound Nouns

R134 Numbers and Units: Five-Year Plan, Two Dozen

R135 Nouns That Change Meaning in the Plural

RULE 127

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Uncountable Nouns — Singular by Nature

Furniture, information, advice, luggage, machinery...

Ye nouns किसी **mass, collection या abstract idea** को denote करते हैं, इसलिए इन्हें 1, 2, 3 करके count नहीं किया जाता। Result: **no -s / -es**, **no a / an** और verb हमेशा singular। मात्रा के लिए **much, little, a lot of** use करो।

1 No plural ending

furnitures, advices, informations — ये words exist ही नहीं करते।

2 No a / an

Count करना हो तो **a piece / an item of** लगाओ।

3 Singular verb

The furniture **is** *new.* • *much / little advice*

Noun	× Never write	✓ To count, use
Furniture	furnitures, a furniture	a piece of furniture
Information	informations	a piece of information
Advice	advices, an advice	a piece / word of advice
Luggage / Baggage	luggages	a piece of luggage
Machinery	machineries	a machine / machines
Equipment	equipments	a piece of equipment
Scenery	sceneries	a scene / a view
Poetry	poetries	a poem / poems
Evidence	evidences	a piece of evidence
Jewellery / Stationery	jewelleries	an ornament / an item

🧳 Belongings
luggage • baggage • furniture • jewellery • stationery • crockery • cutlery

🧠 Knowledge & ideas
information • advice • knowledge • evidence • wisdom • work

⚙️ Masses
machinery • equipment • scenery • poetry • traffic • bread • hair (सिर के)

SPOT & FIX

✗ She gave me many advices.	→	✓ She gave me **a lot of advice**.
✗ All the luggages were checked.	→	✓ All the **luggage was** checked.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- **Machinery is** ✓ और **machines are** ✓ — form देखो।
- Work = कार्य (uncountable); **works** = रचनाएँ / factory (countable)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Can I count it 1-2-3? No → no -s, no a/an, singular verb.

PRACTICE Rule 127 • PYQs & practice questions

Q396. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
Most of the feedbacks received from senior scholars (1)/ were overwhelmingly in favour (2)/ of increasing emphasis on interdisciplinary research (3)/ as opposed to segmented evaluation models. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q397. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
A large number of equipments were delivered to the warehouse (1)/ last week (2)/ to support the upcoming production schedule (3)/ without any delay. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 23 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q398. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The committee has postponed (1)/ the announcement until (2)/ further informations is received (3)/ from the regional offices. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 16 Sep | Shift-1

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 128

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Nouns Always Plural

Scissors, trousers, goods, outskirts, thanks...

कुछ nouns हमेशा **plural form** में रहते हैं और **plural verb** लेते हैं। एक गिनना हो तो pair-nouns के साथ **a pair of** लगाओ — तब verb singular।

✂️ Pairs (two parts)
scissors • trousers • jeans • spectacles • tongs • pliers • binoculars • shorts

📦 Possessions
goods • belongings • valuables • earnings • savings • riches • arrears

🏙️ Others
outskirts • surroundings • proceeds • remains • thanks • congratulations • alms

SPOT & FIX

× This jeans has been bought.	→	✓ **These jeans have** been bought.
× The outskirts of the city has good hospitals.	→	✓ The outskirts of the city **have** good hospitals.
× All his goods was packed.	→	✓ All his goods **were** packed.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *A pair of trousers* **is** *lying on the bed.* — "a pair" subject है।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Two legs, two lenses, two blades → plural.

PRACTICE — Rule 128 • PYQs & practice questions

Q399. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
After the fire broke out in the godown on the outskirts of the city, all the goods stored inside _ _ shifted to a safer warehouse before the fire brigade arrived.

✎ Practice Question

(a) was
(b) were
(c) has been
(d) is

Q400. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The new pair of designer spectacles (1)/ that she had bought at the airport duty-free shop (2)/ were stolen from her handbag (3)/ during the crowded metro ride home. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q401. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The proceeds from the charity auction (1)/ organised by the alumni association last month (2)/ has been handed over (3)/ to the flood relief fund. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q402. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
Before boarding the flight, the passengers were told that **their belongings was being screened** again because of a security alert.

✎ Practice Question

(a) their belongings were being screened
(b) their belonging was being screened
(c) their belongings is being screened
(d) No improvement required

RULE **129**

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Plural in Look, Singular in Sense

News, mathematics, measles, darts, innings

S पर खत्म होने के बावजूद ये nouns **singular verb** लेते हैं — subjects, games, diseases और कुछ special words। किसी book/series का **title** भी singular माना जाता है।

Category	Words	Example
Subjects	mathematics, physics, economics, politics, ethics	*Mathematics **is** my favourite subject.*
Games	billiards, darts, athletics, dominoes	*Darts **is** played by men and women.*
Diseases	measles, mumps, rickets, diabetes, rabies	*Rickets **causes** weak bones.*
Others	news, innings, summons, series (one)	*The news **was** surprising.*

SPOT & FIX

× The news are quite surprising today. → ✓ The news **is** quite surprising today.

× Mathematics have always been my favourite. → ✓ Mathematics **has** always been my favourite.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Summons का plural **summonses** है।
- *His mathematics is weak* ✓ — subject के अर्थ में।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Ends in -s, behaves like one.

PRACTICE Rule 129 • PYQs & practice questions

Q403. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Economics, which many students consider a dry subject, (1)/ have become one of the most sought-after courses (2)/ in the universities of the country (3)/ over the last decade. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q404. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Measles, which was once a common childhood illness, (1)/ have made a worrying comeback (2)/ in several districts (3)/ because of low vaccination coverage. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q405. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Politics __ never been his cup of tea, yet the young economist accepted the ministry's offer to draft the new tax policy.

✎ Practice Question

(a) have **(b)** has
(c) were **(d)** are

RULE 130

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Plural in Sense, No -s in Form

Cattle, police, people, poultry, clergy, gentry

ये nouns -s के बिना ही **plural** हैं, इसलिए हमेशा plural verb लेते हैं। इनका **-s वाला plural नहीं बनता** (cattles, polices ×)।

SPOT & FIX

× These stray cattles are roaming around.	→	✓ These stray **cattle** are roaming around.
× The police was informed by the locals.	→	✓ The police **were** informed by the locals.
× Most of the poultries come from Bangladesh.	→	✓ Most of the **poultry** comes / come from Bangladesh.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- गिनती में: *five* ***policemen*** ✓ — *five police* ✗।
- *People* = लोग (plural); *peoples* = राष्ट्र/जातियाँ।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Herd, force, crowd → already plural.

PRACTICE Rule 130 • PYQs & practice questions

Q406. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
As the drought intensified across the region, (1)/ the cattle in the village was moved (2)/ to the fodder camps set up (3)/ by the district administration. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q407. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Thousands of people from neighbouring villages (1)/ has gathered at the river bank (2)/ to witness the annual boat race, (3)/ which is held every August. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q408. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The poultry on the farm __ been vaccinated against bird flu after several cases were reported in the adjoining district.

✎ Practice Question

(a) has **(b)** have
(c) was **(d)** is

RULE 131

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Same Form in Singular and Plural

Sheep, deer, aircraft, species, series, means

इन nouns का plural अलग नहीं बनता — **singular और plural दोनों same**। Number की पहचान determiner (a, two, many) और context से होती है।

Noun	Singular	Plural
Sheep / Deer / Fish	a sheep is	two sheep are
Aircraft	an aircraft	some aircraft (not aircrafts)
Series / Species	a series is	two series are
Means	a means (= तरीका)	his means (= income) **are**
Offspring / Headquarters	his offspring	the headquarters (not headquarter)

SPOT & FIX

× Sheeps are economically useful. → ✓ **Sheep are** economically useful.

× His means is not enough. → ✓ His means **are** not enough.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One sheep, ten sheep — the word never changes.

PRACTICE Rule 131 • PYQs & practice questions

Q409. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The fishermen caught many fishes (1)/ from the lake yesterday (2)/ and sold them in the market (3)/ at a good price. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q410. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The national carrier has grounded six aircrafts (1)/ after engineers detected a series of (2)/ hairline cracks in the engine mountings (3)/ during the routine safety inspection. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q411. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
During the winter, **herds of deers** come down from the higher slopes in search of grass near the forest guest house.

✎ Practice Question

(a) herds of deer **(b)** herd of deers
(c) herds of deers' **(d)** No improvement required

Q412. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Two new species of frogs (1)/ has been discovered (2)/ in the Western Ghats (3)/ by a team of young herpetologists. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 132

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Irregular and Foreign Plurals

Teeth, oxen, mice, phenomena, criteria, strata

कुछ nouns plural बनाने के लिए -s नहीं लेते, बल्कि **अंदर से बदलते हैं** या Latin/Greek ending लेते हैं। SSC इनके singular-plural mix-up पर error बनाता है।

Singular	Plural	Singular	Plural
tooth	teeth	phenomenon	phenomena
ox	oxen	criterion	criteria
mouse	mice	stratum	strata
child	children	datum	data
brother (religious)	brethren	analysis	analyses
offspring	offspring	alphabet (पूरा)	—

SPOT & FIX

× An earthquake is a natural phenomena. → ✓ An earthquake is a natural **phenomenon**.

× He knocked out four tooths. → ✓ He knocked out four **teeth**.

× She is yet to learn the alphabets. → ✓ She is yet to learn **the alphabet**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Phenomenon = one; phenomena = many.

PRACTICE Rule 132 • PYQs & practice questions

Q413. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"The company's data, which has been collected and analyzed for over a decade, support the conclusion that the new strategy is ineffective."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 21 Nov | Shift-3

(a) The company's data
(b) which has been collected and analyzed
(c) for over a decade
(d) support the conclusion that the new strategy is ineffective.

Q414. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The selection committee has not yet announced (1)/ the criterions on which the scholarship (2)/ will be awarded to the students (3)/ from economically weaker sections. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q415. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The rapid melting of Arctic ice (1)/ is a phenomena that (2)/ climate scientists have been (3)/ warning about for decades. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q416. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The fossilised remains were found in three distinct _ _ of rock, each representing a different geological age.

✎ Practice Question

(a) stratum **(b)** stratums
(c) strata **(d)** stratas

RULE 133

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Plurals of Compound Nouns

Mothers-in-law, passers-by, break-ins, cupfuls

Compound noun में **main (head) word** plural बनता है, attached word नहीं। लेकिन **-ful** वाले nouns और जिनमें कोई noun ही नहीं है, उनमें -s आख़िर में लगता है।

Rule	Singular	Plural
Head noun first	mother-in-law, passer-by, commander-in-chief	mothers-in-law, passers-by, commanders-in-chief
Noun + adverb (verb-based)	break-in, grown-up	break-ins, grown-ups
-ful nouns	cupful, mouthful, handful	cupfuls, mouthfuls, handfuls
man / woman + noun	man teacher, woman doctor	men teachers, women doctors

SPOT & FIX

× Both of his brother-in-laws live in Agra. → ✓ Both of his **brothers-in-law** live in Agra.

× She drank two mouthsful of coffee. → ✓ She drank two **mouthfuls** of coffee.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Pluralise the person, not the relation.

PRACTICE Rule 133 • PYQs & practice questions

Q417. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Both of her brother-in-laws (1)/ have been working in the merchant navy (2)/ for more than a decade and (3)/ visit the family only during Diwali. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q418. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The traffic police appealed to the _ _ to report the accident immediately, but most of them simply walked away without helping the injured cyclist.

✎ Practice Question

(a) passer-bys **(b)** passers-by
(c) passers-bys **(d)** passer-by

Q419. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The recipe asks for three _ _ of sugar, but most people reduce it to two because the dessert turns out too sweet otherwise.

✎ Practice Question

(a) cupsful **(b)** cupfuls
(c) cup-fuls **(d)** cupsfuls

Q420. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The newly appointed commander-in-chiefs (1)/ of the three services (2)/ met the Defence Minister (3)/ on their first day in office. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 134

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Numbers and Units: Five-Year Plan, Two Dozen

Number + unit used as adjective

Number + unit जब किसी noun से पहले **adjective** का काम करे तो hyphen लगता है और unit **singular** रहती है। Definite number के बाद dozen/hundred/thousand भी singular; indefinite हो तो **dozens of, thousands of**।

Usage	× Wrong	✓ Right
Unit as adjective	a five-years plan	a **five-year** plan
Currency note	a hundred rupees note	a **hundred-rupee** note
Definite number	two dozens mangoes	**two dozen** mangoes
Indefinite number	thousand of people	**thousands of** people
Predicative (after be)	He is five year old.	He is **five years old**.
Time possessive	five minutes time	**five minutes' time**

SPOT & FIX

× The wall is fifty foot high. → ✓ The wall is **fifty feet** high.

× A ten-miles distance is too long. → ✓ A **ten-mile** distance is too long.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *a five-year-old boy* ✓ लेकिन *the boy is five years old* ✓।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Before a noun → singular & hyphenated.

PRACTICE Rule 134 • PYQs & practice questions

Q421. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The jeweller asked for __ rupees as an advance, saying the remaining amount could be paid when the necklace was delivered.

✎ Practice Question

(a) two thousands
(b) two thousand
(c) two thousand of
(d) two-thousands

Q422. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The government has launched (1)/ a five-years plan (2)/ to improve rural healthcare (3)/ in the hilly districts. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 135

NOUNS: NUMBER & FORM

Nouns That Change Meaning in the Plural

Custom–customs, manner–manners, work–works

कुछ nouns plural होते ही **अलग meaning** दे देते हैं। Sentence का sense देखकर सही form चुनो।

Singular	Meaning	Plural	Meaning
custom	रिवाज़	customs	सीमा शुल्क / चुंगी
manner	तरीका	manners	शिष्टाचार
work	कार्य (uncountable)	works	रचनाएँ / कारखाना
good	भलाई	goods	सामान
iron	लोहा	irons	बेड़ियाँ
content	संतोष	contents	विषय-सूची / अंदर की चीज़ें
effect	प्रभाव	effects	सामान / असबाब

SPOT & FIX

× The manager asked them to complete all the works. → ✓ … to complete all the **work**.

× The judge ordered that the iron of the accused be removed. → ✓ … the **irons** of the accused …

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Add -s, change the story.

PRACTICE Rule 135 • PYQs & practice questions

Q423. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The passengers arriving from Dubai were stopped at the airport because the _ _ officials suspected that they were carrying undeclared gold in their baggage.

✎ Practice Question

(a) custom
(b) customs
(c) customary
(d) customer

Q424. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Parents and teachers must ensure (1)/ that children are taught good manner (2)/ from an early age so that (3)/ they behave politely with everyone. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q425. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The newly appointed manager asked the team (1)/ to complete all the pending works (2)/ before the auditors arrived (3)/ on Monday morning. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q426. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
Before he left for the United States, the professor donated the complete _ _ of Tagore from his library to the college.

✎ Practice Question

(a) work
(b) works
(c) worked
(d) working

ANSWER KEY Section 11 • Nouns: Number & Form • Q396–Q426

Q396 (a) R127 **feedbacks → feedback** — Feedback uncountable है; plural नहीं बनता (verb भी *was*)।

Q397 (a) R127 **A large number of equipments → A large amount of equipment** — Equipment uncountable; 'number of' और -s दोनों ग़लत।

Q398 (c) R127 **informations → information** — Information uncountable है।

Q399 (b) R128 **were** — *Goods* हमेशा plural है (सामान) → plural verb; past context।

Q400 (c) R128 **were stolen → was stolen** — *A pair of* spectacles में subject 'pair' है → singular verb।

Q401 (c) R128 **has been → have been** — *Proceeds* (आमदनी) हमेशा plural।

Q402 (a) R128 **belongings were being screened** — *Belongings* always plural → plural verb।

Q403 (b) R129 **have become → has become** — *Economics* (subject का नाम) singular माना जाता है।

Q404 (b) R129 **have made → has made** — Measles (बीमारी का नाम) -s के बावजूद singular।

Q405 (b) R129 **has** — Politics (subject/field के अर्थ में) singular।

Q406 (b) R130 **was moved → were moved** — *Cattle* बिना -s के भी plural है।

Q407 (b) R130 **has gathered → have gathered** — *People* plural (बिना -s)।

Q408 (b) R130 **have** — Poultry (मुर्गियाँ, collectively) plural verb लेता है।

Q409 (a) R131 **many fishes → many fish** — Fish का plural सामान्यतः fish ही है; fishes सिर्फ़ अलग-अलग species के लिए।

Q410 (a) R131 **aircrafts → aircraft** — Aircraft का singular और plural same है।

Q411 (a) R131 **herds of deer** — Deer का plural deer ही रहता है।

Q412 (b) R131 **has been → have been** — *Species* singular-plural same; यहाँ *two* species → plural।

Q413 (d) R132 **support → supports** — Sentence में *data* को singular (has been collected) माना गया है, तो main verb भी singular।

Q414 (b) R132 **criterions → criteria** — Criterion (singular) का plural *criteria* है।

Q415 (b) R132 **a phenomena → a phenomenon** — Singular = phenomenon; plural = phenomena।

Q416 (c) R132 **strata** — Stratum (परत) का plural *strata*।

Q417 (a) R133 **brother-in-laws → brothers-in-law** — Compound noun में main word (*brother*) plural बनता है।

Q418 (b) R133 **passers-by** — Head noun *passer* plural बनता है, by नहीं।

Q419 (b) R133 **cupfuls** — -ful वाले nouns में -s आख़िर में।

Q420 (a) R133 **commander-in-chiefs → commanders-in-chief** — Main noun (commander) plural बनता है।

Q421 (b) R134 **two thousand** — Definite number के बाद thousand singular।

Q422 (b) R134 **five-years plan → five-year plan** — Number + unit adjective बने तो unit singular।

Q423 (b) R135 **customs** — *Customs* = सीमा शुल्क विभाग; *custom* = रिवाज़।

Q424 (b) R135 **good manner → good manners** — शिष्टाचार = *manners* (plural); manner = तरीका।

Q425 (b) R135 **works → work** — कार्य के अर्थ में *work* uncountable है; *works* = रचनाएँ/कारखाना।

Q426 (b) R135 **works** — रचनाएँ = *works*; work (uncountable) = कार्य।

SECTION 12

Narration (Direct & Indirect Speech)

Reported speech के core rules • Rules 136–138

R136 Narration I: Backshift of Tenses
R137 Narration II: Pronouns, Time and Place Words
R138 Narration III: Questions, Commands and Requests

RULE 136

NARRATION (DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH)

Narration I: Backshift of Tenses

Reporting verb past → tense one step back

Reporting verb **past** में हो तो reported speech की tense एक step पीछे जाती है। Reporting verb present / future में हो, या बात universal truth / habitual fact हो, तो tense **नहीं बदलती**।

Direct	Indirect
V1 (present simple)	V2 (past simple)
is / am / are + V-ing	was / were + V-ing
has / have + V3	had + V3
V2 (past simple)	had + V3
will / can / may / shall	would / could / might / should
must (obligation)	had to (या must)

SPOT & FIX

× He said that he is busy. → ✓ He said that he **was** busy.

× She said that she has finished. → ✓ She said that she **had** finished.

× The teacher said that the earth moved round the sun. → ✓ … the earth **moves** round the sun. (universal truth)

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Past reporter pushes every tense one step back.

PRACTICE Rule 136 • PYQs & practice questions

Q427. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
Rashmi said to Reshma, "Mahima was dancing on the floor when she was called by her mother."

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-2

(a) Rashmi told Reshma that Mahima had danced on the floor when she had been called by her mother.
(b) Rashmi told Reshma that Mahima had been dancing on the floor when was called by her mother.
(c) Rashmi told Reshma that Mahima had been dancing on the floor when she had been called by her mother.
(d) Rashmi told Reshma that Mahima was dancing on the floor when she was called by her mother.

Q428. Choose the option that most accurately conveys the sentence in indirect speech.
The officer said, "Had I known about the problem earlier, I would have helped."

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-1

(a) The officer said he had helped if he had known it.
(b) The officer told if he knew about the problem, he would help.
(c) The officer said that he know if he had helped.
(d) The officer said that if he had known about the problem earlier, he would have helped.

RULE 137

NARRATION (DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH)

Narration II: Pronouns, Time and Place Words

Now → then, tomorrow → the next day

Indirect speech में pronouns **speaker और listener** के हिसाब से बदलते हैं, और nearness दिखाने वाले words दूरी वाले words बन जाते हैं।

Direct	Indirect	Direct	Indirect
now	then	today	that day
here	there	tonight	that night
this / these	that / those	tomorrow	the next day / the following day
ago	before	yesterday	the previous day / the day before
next month	the following month	last week	the previous week

SPOT & FIX

× He said, "I will come tomorrow." → He said that he would come tomorrow.	→	✓ He said that he would come **the next day**.
× She said that she was busy now.	→	✓ She said that she was busy **then**.
× He said the meeting is next month (reported later).	→	✓ … the meeting was **the following month**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Near becomes far: now → then, here → there.

PRACTICE Rule 137 • PYQs & practice questions

Q429. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
He said to Renuka, "We must do it now and go there as soon as possible."

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 7 Aug | Shift-1

(a) He told Renuka that they must do it then and go there as soon as possible.
(b) He told Renuka that they have to do it now and go there as soon as possible.
(c) He told Renuka that they must do it now and go here as soon as possible.
(d) He told Renuka that they had to do it then and go there as soon as possible.

Q430. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
The manager said to me, "You must finish this report by tomorrow, or I will hand it over to someone else."

✎ Practice Question

(a) The manager told me that I had to finish that report by the next day, or he would hand it over to someone else.
(b) The manager told me that you must finish this report by tomorrow, or he will hand it over to someone else.
(c) The manager said to me that I had to finish this report by tomorrow, or I would hand it over to someone else.
(d) The manager told me that I must finish the report the next day, or he would handed it to someone else.

Q431. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
The guide said to the tourists, "We will visit this temple here again tomorrow."

✎ Practice Question

(a) The guide told the tourists that they would visit that temple there again the next day.
(b) The guide told the tourists that we would visit this temple here again tomorrow.
(c) The guide told the tourists that they will visit that temple there the next day.
(d) The guide said the tourists that they would visit that temple there again the next day.

RULE 138

NARRATION (DIRECT & INDIRECT SPEECH)

Narration III: Questions, Commands and Requests

Asked if / whether; told / ordered + to

Yes/No questions → asked + **if / whether** + assertive order| **Wh-questions** → asked + wh-word + assertive order (that नहीं)| **Commands / requests** → told / ordered / requested + object + to + V1; negative → not to|

Type	Direct	Indirect
Yes/No question	"Are you ready?"	asked **if** I **was** ready
Wh-question	"Where do you live?"	asked **where I lived**
Command	"Shut the door."	**ordered** him **to shut** the door
Negative command	"Don't go."	told him **not to go**
Request	"Please help me."	**requested** me **to help** her

SPOT & FIX

× He asked me where did I live. → ✓ He asked me where **I lived**.

× Mohan's mother asked him that if he had watered the plants. → ✓ … asked him **if** he had watered the plants.

× He told me don't go there. → ✓ He told me **not to go** there.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Questions lose their question form.

PRACTICE Rule 138 • PYQs & practice questions

Q432. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
The labourers said to the contractor, "Did you ask the manager when we are going to receive our remuneration that has been pending for the last three months?"

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 6 Aug | Shift-2

(a) The labourers asked the contractor if he asked the manager when they were going to receive their remuneration that had been pending for the previous three months.
(b) The labourers asked the contractor if he had asked the manager when they were going to receive their remuneration that had been pending for the previous three months.
(c) The labourers asked the contractor if he had asked the manager when they are going to receive their remuneration that was pending for the previous three months.
(d) The labourers asked the contractor if had he asked the manager when they are going to receive their remuneration that was pending for the last three months.

Q433. Choose the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence.
Rukmini said to Sanjana, "Why didn't you appear in the UPSC Preliminary Examination last year?"

❑ SSC Steno 2025 | 7 Aug | Shift-1

(a) Rukmini asked Sanjana why had she not appeared in the UPSC Preliminary Examination the previous year.
(b) Rukmini asked Sanjana why she had not appeared in the UPSC Preliminary Examination the previous year.
(c) Rukmini told Sanjana why she had not appeared in the UPSC Preliminary Examination the last year.
(d) Rukmini asked Sanjana why she did not appear in the UPSC Preliminary Examination last year.

ANSWER KEY Section 12 • Narration (Direct & Indirect Speech) • Q427–Q433

Q427 (c) R136 **(c)** — was dancing → had been dancing; was called → had been called।

Q428 (d) R136 **(d)** — Type-3 conditional (had known … would have helped) indirect में नहीं बदलता।

Q429 (d) R137 **(d)** — we → they; must → had to; now → then।

Q430 (a) R137 **(a)** — you → I; must → had to; this → that; tomorrow → the next day; I → he; will → would।

Q431 (a) R137 **(a)** — this → that, here → there, tomorrow → the next day, will → would।

Q432 (b) R138 **(b)** — Yes/no question → asked if; did ask → had asked; are → were; has been → had been; last → previous।

Q433 (b) R138 **(b)** — Wh-question → asked + wh-word + assertive order; didn't appear → had not appeared; last year → the previous year।

SECTION 13

Possessive Case

Apostrophe, ownership और possessive forms • Rules 139–144

R139 The Apostrophe 's: Living vs Non-living

R140 Joint vs Separate Possession

R141 Possessive Look-alikes: Its / It's, Their / There, Your / Yours

R142 Possessive Adjective vs Possessive Pronoun

R143 Possessive in Comparison

R144 Possessive Before a Gerund

RULE 139

POSSESSIVE CASE

The Apostrophe 's: Living vs Non-living

किसका? — 's या of

Living beings के लिए possession **'s** से दिखाते हैं; non-living चीज़ों के लिए **of** का use होता है। But कुछ fixed exceptions हैं जहाँ non-living के साथ भी 's चलता है।

Living → 's

Ram's book, the cat's tail

Non-living → of

the leg of the table
the roof of the building

Exception type	Allowed with 's
Time / distance / weight / value	a day's journey, an hour's walk, a stone's throw, a pound's worth
Personification	Nature's law, the sun's fury, death's door, duty's call
Dignified / celestial	the court's order, the Earth's atmosphere, the country's honour
Fixed phrases	for God's sake, at his wit's end, to his heart's content

SPOT & FIX

× The table's leg is broken. → ✓ The **leg of the table** is broken.

× The village is just an hour journey from here. → ✓ … just **an hour's journey** from here.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Alive or idiom → 's • Otherwise → of.

PRACTICE Rule 139 • PYQs & practice questions

Q434. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"The professors recommendation was that the student, whom she had worked with for years, be granted a full scholarship."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Nov | Shift-3

(a) The professors recommendation was
(b) that the student
(c) whom she had worked with for years
(d) be granted a full scholarship.

Q435. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"The companys latest report, which was released only this morning, provided the data that supports our initial hypothesis."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 15 Nov | Shift-3

(a) The companys latest report
(b) which was released only this morning
(c) provided the data that
(d) supports our initial hypothesis.

Q436. Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.
A bigger budget has been set aside for this years marketing campaign in Asia.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 27 Nov | Shift-3

(a) A bigger budget
(b) has been set aside
(c) for this years
(d) marketing campaign in Asia.

Q437. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The legs of the table in the drawing room (1)/ were damaged by termites, (2)/ so my mothers' decision to replace (3)/ the entire furniture was justified. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 140

POSSESSIVE CASE

Joint vs Separate Possession

Ram and Shyam's shop / Ram's and Shyam's shops

दो या ज़्यादा लोगों की **एक ही चीज़** (joint ownership) हो तो 's **सिर्फ़ आख़िरी नाम** पर; सबकी **अलग-अलग** चीज़ें हों तो हर नाम पर 's।

Joint एक ही चीज़

*Raj and Arun's startup **has** grown.*
John and Mary's house

Separate अलग-अलग चीज़ें

Ram's and Mohan's bikes were stolen.

SPOT & FIX

× I visited John's and Mary's house. → ✓ I visited **John and Mary's** house.

× David's and Mindy's car has broken down. → ✓ **David and Mindy's** car has broken down.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

One thing, one 's.

PRACTICE Rule 140 • PYQs & practice questions

Q438. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
After years of hard work in the textile market, (1)/ Rakesh's and Mohit's garment export firm (2)/ has finally bagged its first (3)/ international order from a Dubai-based retailer. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q439. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The renovation of Shyam's and Mohan's ancestral house (1)/ which they jointly inherited from their grandfather (2)/ has been delayed (3)/ because of a dispute with the contractor. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q440. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The police found that _ _ mobile phones had been stolen from the same locker room during the inter-school basketball tournament.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Aman and Ravi's **(b)** Aman's and Ravi's
(c) Aman and Ravis' **(d)** Amans' and Ravis'

Q441. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
Ravi and Sunita's bicycles were stolen from two different parking lots on the same evening.

✎ Practice Question

(a) Ravi's and Sunita's
(b) Ravi and Sunita
(c) Ravis' and Sunitas'
(d) No improvement required

RULE 141

POSSESSIVE CASE

Possessive Look-alikes: Its / It's, Their / There, Your / Yours

Spelling same जैसी, meaning अलग

Possessive adjectives में **apostrophe नहीं** लगता: **its, your, their, whose**। Apostrophe वाले forms contraction हैं: *it's = it is/has, you're, who's*।

Possessive	Contraction / Other	Example
its (उसका)	it's = it is / it has	*The company changed **its** logo. **It's** been years.*
their (उनका)	there (वहाँ / है)	***There** is proof of **their** honesty.*
your (तुम्हारा)	you're = you are	***Your** book is here.*
whose (जिसका)	who's = who is / has	*the friend **whose** leg broke*

SPOT & FIX

× Its been more than a decade. → ✓ **It's** been more than a decade.

× They lost there way. → ✓ They lost **their** way.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Apostrophe = missing letter, not ownership.

PRACTICE Rule 141 • PYQs & practice questions

Q442. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The ancient tree is famous for (1)/ it's beautiful, sprawling branches (2)/ which provide shade for the entire park (3)/ during the hot summer months. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 24 Sep | Shift-2

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q443. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
"The team's success was largely a result of it's coach's dedication, a fact which they would all attest to."

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 17 Nov | Shift-1

(a) The team's success was largely
(b) a result of it's coach's dedication
(c) a fact which they would all
(d) attest to.

Q444. Identify the grammatical error in the sentence below.
The palace is heavily guarded, because inside it's walls sit the European leaders.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 11 Sep | Shift-1

(a) palace is
(b) inside it's walls
(c) European leaders
(d) heavily guarded

Q445. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The organisers announced that (1)/ their would be no entry (2)/ for spectators after (3)/ the opening ceremony began. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 142

POSSESSIVE CASE

Possessive Adjective vs Possessive Pronoun

My / mine, your / yours, their / theirs

My, your, our, their, her के बाद **noun आता है**; **mine, yours, ours, theirs, hers** अकेले आते हैं (noun के बिना)। Pronouns mix हों तो: 1st person शामिल → **our**; वरना 2nd person → **your**।

Before a noun	Standalone	Example
my	mine	*This book is **mine**.*
your	yours	*The job could be **yours**.*
their	theirs	***Theirs** is the best offer.*
our	ours	*You and I must do **our** duty.*

SPOT & FIX

× I won't work at yours company.	→	✓ I won't work at **your** company.
× Her handwriting is better than your.	→	✓ … better than **yours**.
× You and Rohan should not waste his time.	→	✓ … waste **your** time.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Noun follows? → my • Stands alone? → mine.

PRACTICE Rule 142 • PYQs & practice questions

Q446. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
You and Rohan have been preparing for this examination for two years, so you must not waste _ _ time on social media in these final weeks.

✎ Practice Question

(a) his
(b) their
(c) your
(d) yours

Q447. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although both the teams had prepared well, (1)/ our presentation was clearer than their, (2)/ and the judges awarded us (3)/ the first prize unanimously. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q448. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The architect claimed that the design of the new library (1)/ was entirely her, (2)/ although the junior engineers had (3)/ contributed several key ideas. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q449. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
I have lost my umbrella in the bus, so may I borrow **your's** for the evening walk to the market?

✎ Practice Question

(a) yours
(b) your
(c) you're
(d) yours'

RULE 143

POSSESSIVE CASE

Possessive in Comparison

Than Radhika's / than that of Mumbai

Comparison हमेशा **same type की चीज़ों** में होता है। दूसरे noun को repeat करने की जगह उस पर possessive लगाओ या **that of (singular) / those of (plural)** use करो।

STRUCTURE

Thing A + **than** + **that of / those of / Radhika's** (same thing B)

SPOT & FIX

× His hair is longer than Radhika.	→	✓ His hair is longer than **Radhika's**.
× The air of Delhi is more polluted than Mumbai.	→	✓ … more polluted than **that of** Mumbai.
× The standards of Finland are higher than India.	→	✓ … higher than **those of** India.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *than that of yours* × → *than yours* ✓ (double possessive नहीं)।

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Compare apples with apples.

PRACTICE Rule 143 • PYQs & practice questions

Q450. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The training programme of the new coach was (1)/ more effective than the previous coach, (2)/ as it offered better structure and helped (3)/ participants stay focused for a greater portion of the day. (4)

❑ SSC CGL 2025 Tier-I | 14 Oct | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q451. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
It is difficult to diagnose malaria because its first symptoms **are similar to any viral fever**.

❑ SSC CHSL 2025 Tier-I | 12 Nov | Shift-3

(a) are similar to all fevers
(b) are similar to those of any viral fever
(c) is similar to those of any other viral fever
(d) is similar to those of any viral fevers

Q452. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The literacy rate of Kerala (1)/ has always been much higher (2)/ than Bihar, according to (3)/ the latest census report. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q453. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The climate of Shimla (1)/ is far more pleasant (2)/ than Delhi, especially (3)/ during the months of May and June. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 144

POSSESSIVE CASE

Possessive Before a Gerund

Your helping, my being, his coming

Gerund (V-ing) action noun है, इसलिए उससे पहले noun/pronoun का **possessive form** आता है: *your helping, my being*।

STRUCTURE

possessive my / your / his / Ram's + **gerund** V-ing

SPOT & FIX

× I appreciate you helping me.	→	✓ I appreciate **your** helping me.
× Excuse me coming late.	→	✓ Excuse **my** coming late.
× The technicality of me being an American...	→	✓ The technicality of **my** being an American...

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Owner before the action.

PRACTICE Rule 144 • PYQs & practice questions

Q454. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The principal did not approve of (1)/ him leaving the examination hall (2)/ before the invigilator had (3)/ collected all the answer sheets. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q455. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
The committee members strongly objected to **the minister announcing** the new tax policy before it had been discussed in Parliament.

✎ Practice Question

(a) the minister announce
(b) the minister's announcing
(c) the minister to announce
(d) No improvement required

Q456. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
We were all surprised at (1)/ Rahul winning the debate competition (2)/ because he had never (3)/ spoken on a stage before. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

Q457. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The coach was unhappy about _ _ skipping the morning practice sessions just a week before the national championship.

✎ Practice Question

(a) him
(b) he
(c) his
(d) himself

ANSWER KEY Section 13 • Possessive Case • Q434–Q457

Q434 (a) R139 **professors → professor's** — एक professor की recommendation → singular possessive।

Q435 (a) R139 **companys → company's** — Singular noun का possessive = 's।

Q436 (c) R139 **this years → this year's** — Time expressions भी 's लेते हैं: *this year's campaign*।

Q437 (c) R139 **mothers' → mother's** — एक माँ (singular) → 's; निर्जीव table के लिए 'of' सही है।

Q438 (b) R140 **Rakesh's and Mohit's firm → Rakesh and Mohit's firm** — एक ही firm (joint ownership) → 's सिर्फ़ आख़िरी नाम पर।

Q439 (a) R140 **Shyam's and Mohan's house → Shyam and Mohan's house** — एक ही घर (jointly inherited) → 's सिर्फ़ आख़िरी नाम पर।

Q440 (b) R140 **Aman's and Ravi's** — दोनों के अलग-अलग फ़ोन (separate possession) → दोनों नामों पर 's।

Q441 (a) R140 **Ravi's and Sunita's** — अलग-अलग bicycles (separate possession) → दोनों पर 's।

Q442 (b) R141 **it's → its** — Possessive *its*; it's = it is।

Q443 (b) R141 **it's → its** — यहाँ ownership (*its coach*) है, contraction नहीं।

Q444 (b) R141 **it's walls → its walls** — Possessive *its* में apostrophe नहीं; *it's* = it is / it has।

Q445 (b) R141 **their → there** — 'there would be' (अस्तित्व) — their = उनका।

Q446 (c) R142 **your** — You + third person मिलें तो 2nd person (*your*) लगता है; noun से पहले possessive adjective।

Q447 (b) R142 **than their → than theirs** — Noun के बिना अकेले आने पर possessive pronoun (*theirs*)।

Q448 (b) R142 **her → hers** — Noun के बिना अकेले → possessive pronoun *hers*।

Q449 (a) R142 **yours** — Possessive pronouns में apostrophe नहीं लगता।

Q450 (b) R143 **than the previous coach → than that of the previous coach** — Programme की तुलना programme से।

Q451 (b) R143 **are similar to those of any viral fever** — Symptoms की तुलना symptoms (*those of*) से होगी, fever से नहीं।

Q452 (c) R143 **than Bihar → than that of Bihar** — Literacy rate की तुलना literacy rate से: *that of*।

Q453 (c) R143 **than Delhi → than that of Delhi** — Climate vs climate।

Q454 (b) R144 **him leaving → his leaving** — Gerund (*leaving*) से पहले possessive form आता है।

Q455 (b) R144 **the minister's announcing** — Gerund से पहले noun का possessive: *the minister's announcing*।

Q456 (b) R144 **Rahul winning → Rahul's winning** — Gerund से पहले noun का possessive।

Q457 (c) R144 **his** — Gerund (skipping) से पहले possessive।

SECTION 14

Adverbs & Linking Verbs

Adjective या adverb — सही चुनाव • Rules 145–150

R145 Linking Verbs Take Adjectives, Action Verbs Take Adverbs

R146 Adjectives Ending in -ly

R147 Twin Forms: Hard/Hardly, Late/Lately, High/Highly...

R148 Position of Adverbs

R149 Yet, Still and Already

R150 Good vs Well, Bad vs Ill

RULE 145

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Linking Verbs Take Adjectives, Action Verbs Take Adverbs

Looks angry / looked angrily at me

Linking (copula) verbs subject की **state** बताती हैं, इसलिए उनके बाद adjective आता है। वही verb जब कोई **action** दिखाए तो उसके manner के लिए adverb लगेगा।

LINKING PATTERN

Subject + **be / seem / appear / look / feel / taste / smell / sound / become / grow / get / keep / remain / turn / prove** + **Adjective**

Linking (state) → adjective	Action (manner) → adverb
*He looked **angry**.*	*He looked **angrily** at me.*
*The rose smells **sweet**.*	*She turned the key **slowly**.*
*She kept **calm**.*	*He spoke **bitterly**.*
*Her dream came **true**.*	

SPOT & FIX

× The apple tasted bitterly.	✓ The apple tasted **bitter**.
× I don't feel safely here.	✓ I don't feel **safe** here.
× She behaved very rude.	✓ She behaved very **rudely**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Replace with "is" — if it fits, use an adjective.

PRACTICE Rule 145 • PYQs & practice questions

Q458. Read the sentence divided into segments P, Q, R and S, and select the segment that contains an error.
(P) Equipped with advanced bio-luminescent sensors, / (Q) the deep-sea submersible sounded cautious as it navigated / (R) the uncharted hydrothermal vents, monitoring for volatile acoustic signatures / (S) that could signal an imminent volcanic eruption.

❑ SSC Selection Post Ph-XIV (Graduate) | 17 Sep | Shift-1

(a) P **(b)** Q
(c) R **(d)** S

Q459. Select the alternative that contains the part of the sentence with an error.
Remember to brush your teeth thorough before you go to bed every single night without fail as instructed by the dentist.

❑ SSC Steno 2026 | 12 Sep | Shift-2

(a) Remember to brush your teeth **(b)** thorough before you go to bed
(c) every single night without fail **(d)** as instructed by the dentist.

Q460. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error.
The manager asked the interns (1)/ to compile the data accurately and quick (2)/ for tomorrow's presentation (3)/ before the end of the day. (4)

❑ SSC CPO 2025 Tier-I | 9 Dec | Shift-2

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 146

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Adjectives Ending in -ly

Friendly, cowardly, lovely, costly, miserly, motherly

-ly पर खत्म होकर भी ये words **adjectives** हैं — इनसे adverb नहीं बनता। Adverb का काम लेना हो तो **in a ... manner / way** या **like a ...** use करो।

-ly adjectives
friendly • cowardly • lovely • lively • costly • manly • motherly • fatherly • brotherly • miserly • kingly • ugly • deadly • scholarly • silly

Both adj & adverb
daily • weekly • monthly • yearly • early

SPOT & FIX

× He behaved cowardly before the principal.	→	✓ He behaved **in a cowardly manner** ...
× She always treats me motherly.	→	✓ She treats me **like a mother**.
× He doesn't treat me friendly.	→	✓ He doesn't treat me **in a friendly way**.

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- *a coward person* × → *a coward* / *a cowardly person* ✓I

💡 MEMORY HOOK

-ly + noun-root = adjective.

PRACTICE Rule 146 • PYQs & practice questions

Q461. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence.
When the robbers attacked the bus, the young conductor did not **behave cowardly** but fought them off bravely until the police arrived.

✎ Practice Question

(a) behave cowardlily
(b) behave in a cowardly manner
(c) behave coward
(d) No improvement required

Q462. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The old shopkeeper always spoke to the children _ _, so they preferred buying their sweets from him rather than from the new mall.

✎ Practice Question

(a) friendly
(b) in a friendly manner
(c) friendlily
(d) friendliness

Q463. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although the new principal (1)/ spoke to the nervous students very friendly, (2)/ most of them remained silent (3)/ during the orientation session. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1)
(b) (2)
(c) (3)
(d) (4)

RULE 147

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Twin Forms: Hard/Hardly, Late/Lately, High/Highly...

-ly लगते ही meaning बदल जाता है

कुछ words adjective और adverb दोनों हैं; उनमें **-ly** लगाने से **बिलकुल अलग meaning** बन जाता है। **Fast** का कोई fastly नहीं होता।

Plain form	Meaning	-ly form	Meaning
hard	मेहनत से / ज़ोर से	hardly	मुश्किल से (negative)
late	देर से	lately	हाल ही में
high	ऊँचाई पर	highly	बहुत अधिक
wide	चौड़ा खोलकर	widely	बहुत लोगों में
near	पास	nearly	लगभग
deep	गहराई तक	deeply	अत्यधिक (feel)
fast	तेज़	—	"fastly" नहीं होता

SPOT & FIX

- × He studied so hardly. → ✓ He studied so **hard**.
- × The train is running lately. → ✓ The train is running **late**.
- × He ran so fastly. → ✓ He ran so **fast**.
- × This hardly won liberty... → ✓ This **hard-won** liberty...

⚠ EXAM TRAP

- Idioms: *Old habits die **hard**; Open your mouth **wide**; highly recommended*l

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Hard work, hardly any work.

PRACTICE Rule 147 • PYQs & practice questions

Q464. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The colourful kite flew high (1)/ above the rooftops and was (2)/ high appreciated by (3)/ the children watching from below. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q465. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
I have not met him lately (1)/ because he has been (2)/ working hardly (3)/ for his civil services examination. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q466.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The young scientist's research on solar cells has been __ appreciated by experts across the world.

✎ Practice Question

(a) high
(b) highly
(c) height
(d) higher

RULE 148

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Position of Adverbs

Always, enough, only, just

Adverb का स्थान fixed है: **frequency adverbs** main verb से पहले पर be-verb के **बाद**; helping + main verb के बीच; **definite frequency** (daily, weekly) clause के अंत में; **enough** adjective के बाद।

Rule	✓ Example
After be-verb	*She **is always** late.*
Before main verb	*I **rarely have** time.*
Between auxiliary & verb	*He **has just** finished.*
Definite frequency → end	*He goes to the gym **daily**.*
Enough after adjective	*He is **strong enough**.*

SPOT & FIX

× He always is late. → ✓ He **is always** late.
× She has finished just her work. → ✓ She **has just finished** her work.
× He daily goes to the gym. → ✓ He goes to the gym **daily**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Be + adverb • adverb + verb.

PRACTICE — Rule 148 • PYQs & practice questions

Q467.

Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The new trainee is __ to handle the night shift alone, so the supervisor has asked a senior nurse to stay with her.

✎ Practice Question

(a) enough experienced
(b) not experienced enough
(c) not enough experienced
(d) experienced not enough

Q468. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
The rescue team reached the village (1)/ only after the floodwaters (2)/ had receded almost, (3)/ leaving behind a thick layer of mud. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q469. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Hardly the students had (1)/ entered the examination hall (2)/ when the invigilator (3)/ distributed the question papers. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

RULE 149

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Yet, Still and Already

अभी तक, अभी भी, पहले ही

Yet → negative / question, usually sentence के अंत में (अभी तक)। **Still** → चल रहा काम (अभी भी), verb से पहले। **Already** → positive, उम्मीद से पहले हो चुका।

Yet negative / question	**Still** continuing	**Already** completed early
*He has not arrived **yet**.*	*She is **still** waiting.*	*She has **already** finished.*

SPOT & FIX

× He is yet recovering from his illness.	→	✓ He is **still** recovering.
× She hasn't still finished the book.	→	✓ She hasn't finished the book **yet**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Not yet • still on • already done.

PRACTICE Rule 149 • PYQs & practice questions

Q470. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Even after the rescue operation had ended, (1)/ the relatives of the missing fishermen (2)/ yet hoped (3)/ that they would return safely. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q471. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The final results of the recruitment examination held in March have not been declared _ _, and the candidates are getting restless.

✎ Practice Question

(a) already **(b)** still
(c) yet **(d)** since

Q472. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Even after three hours of surgery, (1)/ the doctors are yet waiting (2)/ for the patient (3)/ to regain consciousness. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q473. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
By the time the fire brigade reached the godown, the flames had _ _ spread to the adjoining shops.

✎ Practice Question

(a) yet **(b)** still
(c) already **(d)** just yet

RULE 150

ADVERBS & LINKING VERBS

Good vs Well, Bad vs Ill

Adjective vs adverb

Good, bad → adjectives (noun / state के लिए)। **Well, ill** → adverbs (action का manner)। Health के sense में well और ill adjectives हैं।

Word	Part of speech	Example
good	adjective	*good Indian food*
well	adverb (manner)	*She sings **well**. It didn't go **well**.*
well	adjective (health)	*I am feeling **well**.*
bad	adjective	*He is not a **bad** person.*
ill	adverb / adj (health)	*He was **ill**-treated. • He is **ill**.*

SPOT & FIX

× This restaurant serves well Indian food. → ✓ … serves **good** Indian food.

× The meeting didn't go good. → ✓ The meeting didn't go **well**.

💡 MEMORY HOOK

Good thing, done well.

PRACTICE Rule 150 • PYQs & practice questions

Q474. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although the team did not play good (1)/ in the first half, (2)/ it recovered well (3)/ to win the match in extra time. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q475. Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.
Although the patient looked well (1)/ after the operation, (2)/ the doctor said his condition (3)/ was not so well as expected. (4)

✎ Practice Question

(a) (1) **(b)** (2)
(c) (3) **(d)** (4)

Q476. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
After a week of rest and medication, the patient is feeling __ now and will be discharged tomorrow.

✎ Practice Question

(a) good **(b)** well
(c) nicely **(d)** goodly

Q477. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option.
The young singer performed _ _ at the competition that the judges gave her a standing ovation.

✎ Practice Question

(a) so good
(b) so well
(c) such good
(d) very good

GOPAL VERMA ENGLISH

ANSWER KEY Section 14 • Adverbs & Linking Verbs • Q458–Q477

Q458 (b) R145 **sounded cautious → proceeded cautiously** — Movement (action) के लिए action verb + adverb।

Q459 (b) R145 **thorough → thoroughly** — Action verb (*brush*) को adverb चाहिए।

Q460 (b) R145 **quick → quickly** — accurately के साथ parallel adverb; verb (compile) को modify।

Q461 (b) R146 **behave in a cowardly manner** — Cowardly adjective है; इसका adverb नहीं बनता।

Q462 (b) R146 **in a friendly manner** — Friendly adjective है; adverb का काम phrase से।

Q463 (b) R146 **very friendly → in a very friendly manner** — *Friendly* adjective है (-ly होते हुए भी); adverb का काम *in a ... manner* से।

Q464 (c) R147 **high appreciated → highly appreciated** — ऊँचाई पर = high; बहुत अधिक = highly।

Q465 (c) R147 **working hardly → working hard** — मेहनत से = hard; hardly = मुश्किल से।

Q466 (b) R147 **highly** — 'बहुत अधिक' (degree) = highly; high = ऊँचाई पर।

Q467 (b) R148 **not experienced enough** — Enough adjective के बाद।

Q468 (c) R148 **had receded almost → had almost receded** — almost (degree) helping verb और main verb के बीच।

Q469 (a) R148 **Hardly the students had → Hardly had the students** — Negative adverb पहले आए तो inversion (adverb position rule)।

Q470 (c) R149 **yet hoped → still hoped** — अभी भी जारी भावना → still।

Q471 (c) R149 **yet** — Negative present perfect के अंत में yet।

Q472 (b) R149 **yet waiting → still waiting** — चल रहा काम (अभी भी) → still; yet negative/question में।

Q473 (c) R149 **already** — उम्मीद से पहले पूरा हो चुका → already।

Q474 (a) R150 **play good → play well** — Action (play) का manner → adverb well।

Q475 (d) R150 **not so well → not so good** — Condition (noun) की quality → adjective good।

Q476 (b) R150 **well** — Health के अर्थ में well (adjective)।

Q477 (b) R150 **so well** — Verb (performed) का manner → adverb well; so ... that।

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