

# Spotting Errors: Your Ultimate Score Booster

- ✓ Most scoring & decisive sections of English.
- ✓ Here, logic beats luck and concept beats confusion.
- ✓ With the right approach, you can spot mistakes in one glance.
- ✓ UPSC is not testing your vocabulary — it tests your logic.
- ✓ Every error has a fixed grammar reason behind it.

# SUBJECT-VERB AGREEMENT

“Know the subject. Command the verb. Conquer the question.”

### Rule 1

- Either–Or / Neither–Nor /OR
- Verb agrees with the subject CLOSEST to the verb.

### Examples:

Either the teacher or the students are going.

The teacher or the students are going to organize the event.

Neither the boys nor the girl was late.

## Rule-2

- *with, as well as, along with, together with, in addition to, accompanied by*, Ignore the phrase → follow main subject (First Subject).

## Examples:

- 1. The captain, with his teammates, *is* addressing the cadets.
- 2. The teacher, as well as her students, *is* attending the workshop.
- 3. The principal, along with the staff, *has* approved the proposal.
- 4. The coach, together with the players, *was* present on the ground.
- 5. The officer, in addition to the cadets, *is* participating in the parade.
- 6. The commander, accompanied by his soldiers, *is* inspecting the camp.

### Rule 3

#### Collective Nouns

- *Singular → when showing one group*
- *Plural → when individuals act separately*

#### Examples:

##### Singular

- The team **has** won.
- The committee **decides** the rules.

##### Plural

- The team **are** arguing among themselves.
- The committee **are** divided on the issue.

## **Rule 4**

- **Uncountable Nouns → Singular**

### **Examples:**

- The furniture **is** expensive.
- The news **is** shocking.
- Her luggage **is** heavy.
- The information **is** useful.

## Rule 5

**Many a + Singular → Singular  
Verb**

### Examples:

- Many a student **has** suffered.
- Many a soldier **has** died for the nation.

### **Rule-6**

**Nouns Ending in –s but Singular  
(mathematics, statistics,  
economics, physics, politics)**

### **Singular Usage:**

- Mathematics **is** tough.
- Economics **is** his favourite subject.

### Rule-7

- **When –s Ending Nouns Take a Plural Verb**
- (*mathematics, statistics, economics, physics, politics*)

### Plural Usage:

- The economics of these companies *are* not stable..
- The politics of the state *are* becoming complicated.
- The statistics of this game *are* unreliable.
- His mathematics *are* weak.

- ***Nothing but* → Verb agrees with the noun after *but***

- Meaning: *Only*

### ✓ Examples

- ***Nothing but excuses comes* from him.**

(noun after *but* = *excuses* → plural → *come*)

- ***Nothing but a miracle can save* him.**

(noun after *but* = *miracle* → singular → *can save*)

***No less than* → Always takes a plural verb**

Meaning: *As many as / not fewer than*

### • ✓ Examples

**No less than 50 students *were* present.**

**No less than 10 officers *have* reported.**

## Rule 9

**A Number of / The Number  
of**

### Examples:

- The number of students **has** increased.
- A number of students **have** failed.

## Rule 10

### **“More than one” → Singular Verb**

☞ When a noun phrase begins with “*more than one*”, it always takes a ***singular verb***.

Even though the meaning appears plural, grammar treats it as **singular**.

Examples (Correct):

- **More than one student *is* absent today.**
- **More than one officer *was* honoured at the ceremony.**
- **More than one vehicle *has* been checked.**

## Rule 11

### Exception (Important!)

☞ **“More than one” + noun + and + noun → Plural Verb**

If it joins **two different nouns**, the verb becomes **plural**.

**Examples (Plural Verb):**

**More than one boy and one girl *are* selected.**

**More than one soldier and one officer *were* injured.**

## Rule 12

### Relative Pronouns (**who/which/that**)

The verb after **who / which / that** agrees with the **antecedent** (the noun before it).

#### Examples:

- He is one of those who **have** passed.
- The cars which *belong* to my uncle are very expensive.
- She is among the girls who **play** football.

### Rule 13

- SPECIAL EXCEPTION : “THE ONLY + NOUN”

When the noun is modified by **the only**, the verb is **always singular**, even if the clause uses *who/that*.

### Examples:

- She is the only one who *knows* the truth.
- He is the only student that *has* passed the test.
- You are the only person who understands me.

## Rule 14

*Majority / Minority /  
Rest/Fractions /Percentage  
Verb depends on following noun.*

### Examples:

- A majority of players **are** injured.
- A majority of work **is** completed.
- The rest of the books **are** new.
- The rest of the money **is** missing.
- 50% of the water **is** gone.
- One-third of the books **are** missing.

## Rule 15

### Indefinite Pronouns

- Always Singular: *each, everyone, someone, anybody, nobody*
- Always Plural: *many, few, several*
- Depends: *some, all, none, most*

### Examples:

- Each of the players **is** tired.
- Everyone **wants** success.
- Several students **have** submitted.
- Many **books have** been sold.
- Some of the water **is** wasted.
- Some of the books **are** missing.

## Rule-16

When *not only ... but also* joins two subjects, **the verb agrees with the subject closest to the verb.**

(Also called the **Proximity Rule**)

### Examples:

- Not only the teacher but also the students *were* present.
- Not only the players but also the coach *was* upset.
- Not only my friends but also my best friend *is* coming.

## Rule-17

### “Not ... but” Construction

- Verb agrees with the **second subject**, not the first.

### Examples:

- ✓ It is not the players but the captain who *decides*.
- ✓ Not the rules but their careless interpretation *creates* confusion.
- ✓ It is not the cadets but the officer who *has* approved the plan.

## Rule-18

*Each / Every / Either / Neither / One*  
+ of + Plural Noun → takes a  
Singular Verb

### Examples:

Each of the boys *is* ready.

Every one of the students *has* arrived.

Either of the answers *is* acceptable.

Neither of the options *is* correct.

**Rule-19**  
**Each/Every before 2 nouns =**  
**Singular**

**Examples:**

- Each boy and each girl is ready.
- Every pen and pencil is kept safely.

## **Rule 20**

### **'AND' Makes It Plural**

**Except when seen as one idea/unit.**

#### **Plural Examples:**

- Ram and Shyam are going.
- Honesty and hard work make a person successful.

#### **Singular Examples (one unit):**

- Bread and butter is my breakfast.
- Time and tide waits for none.
- The poet and philosopher has arrived. (one person)

## Rule-21

### Gerund as Subject is Singular

When a **gerund** (verb + **-ing**) is used as the **subject** of a **sentence**, it is treated as a **singular noun**.

#### BUT

If **two gerunds** are joined by **"and"**, the verb becomes **plural** because the subject becomes **compound**.

### Examples:

- Swimming **is** good.
- Reading books **improves** vocabulary.
- Reading and writing are essential skills.
- Running and jumping are his strengths.

## Rule- 22

### Distance / Time / Money → Singular

When a **distance, time, money, or weight** is treated as **one complete unit**, it takes a **singular verb**—even if the noun looks **plural**.

### BUT

If the amount refers to **separate individual units**, not a single total, we use a **plural verb**:

### Examples:

#### Singular

- Five hundred rupees **is** a small amount.
- Ten kilometers **is** a long distance.
- Two hours **is** enough for revision.

#### Plural

- Five hours **were** wasted in arguments.
- Ten rupees are lying on the table.

## Rule-23

### Titles → Singular

The **title** of a book, movie, newspaper, play, poem, or TV show always takes a **singular verb**— even if the title **looks plural** in form.

-  **Books**

- ✓ *The Arabian Nights* **is** a famous book.
- ✓ *Gulliver's Travels* **is** written by Swift.

-  **Movies**

- ✓ *The Avengers* **is** a blockbuster movie.
- ✓ *The Dark Nights* **is** very popular.

-  **Newspapers**

- ✓ *The Times of India* **is** widely read.
- ✓ *The Hindustan Times* **is** a reputed daily.

-  **Plays / Shows / Poems**

- ✓ *The Three Musketeers* **is** an adventure story.
- ✓ *Greater Expectations* **is** in our syllabus.

## Rule-24

### Ignore Prepositional Phrase

While deciding the verb, always focus on the **MAIN SUBJECT** and ignore the prepositional phrase that comes after it.

### Examples:

- The bouquet of roses **is** beautiful.
- The colour of the walls **was** dull.
- The captain of the teams **is** strict.

## Rule-25

- **Relative Pronoun Verb Agreement (who / which / that)**

The verb always agrees with the ANTECEDENT (the word just before who/which/that), not with the relative pronoun itself.

### EXCEPTION

When “THE ONLY” comes before a plural noun  
→ Verb remains SINGULAR (focus = one unique person/thing)

### Plural

- These are the players **that have** been chosen.
- She is among the students **who are** selected.

### Singular

- She is **the only one of the students who has** cleared the exam.
- This is the only one of the rules **that works** everywhere.

## Rule-26

### Every + Numerical Expression → Singular

When “**Every**” is used before a numerical expression (every + number + plural noun), the **subject is treated as singular**, and a **singular verb is used**.

☞ This is because “**Every**” focuses on each unit **individually**, not on the group as a whole.

### Examples:

- Every five students *is* given one book.
- Every ten minutes *is* recorded.
- Every four players *is* awarded a medal.
- Every hundred soldiers *is* inspected by the officer.

## Rule-27

### A Lot of / Plenty of → Verb Depends on Noun

#### Concept:

These expressions themselves are **neutral**.  
The **real controller of the verb** is the noun that follows.

#### Examples:

- ✓ Plenty of players *are* warming up.
- ✓ A lot of mistakes *have* been corrected.
- ✓ A lot of water *is* wasted daily.
- ✓ Plenty of time *is* available.

Conjunction Pair

जोड़ी के जोड़”  
(दो शब्द मिलकर एक जोड़ बनाते हैं!)

| Rule Pair                                                                          | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-28</b></p> <p><b>No sooner → THAN</b><br/>(Correlative Conjunction)</p> | <p><b><i>No sooner</i></b> had he arrived <b><i>than</i></b> the rain started.</p> <p>जैसे ही वह पहुँचा, बारिश शुरू हो गई।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-29</b></p> <p><b>Hardly → WHEN</b><br/>(Correlative Conjunction)</p>    | <p><b><i>Hardly</i></b> had I sat <b><i>when</i></b> the bell rang.</p> <p>मैं बैठा ही था कि घंटी बज गई।</p>                   |

| Rule Pair                                                                                                        | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-30</b></p> <p><b>Scarcely → WHEN</b><br/>(Correlative Conjunction)</p>                                | <p><i>Scarcely</i> had the match begun <i>when</i> it started raining.</p> <p>मैच शुरू हुआ ही था कि बारिश शुरू हो गई।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-31</b></p> <p><b>Though / Although → NOT with BUT</b><br/>(Conjunction of Concession / Contrast )</p> | <p><i>Though</i> he is poor, he is honest.</p> <p>भले ही वह गरीब है, फिर भी वह ईमानदार है।</p>                            |

| Rule Pair                                                                                           | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-32</b></p> <p><b>Lest → SHOULD (no NOT)</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Purpose (negative)</p> | <p>Work hard <b>lest</b> you <b>should</b> fail.</p> <p>कड़ी मेहनत करो, नहीं तो फेल हो जाओगे।</p>    |
| <p><b>Rule-33</b></p> <p><b>So → THAT</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Result / Degree</p>                 | <p>He is <b>so</b> weak <b>that</b> he cannot walk.</p> <p>वह इतना कमज़ोर है कि चल भी नहीं सकता।</p> |

| Rule Pair                                                                          | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                                      |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-34</b></p> <p><b>Such → THAT</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Result</p>       | <p>It was <b>such</b> a difficult paper <b>that</b> many failed.</p> <p>पेपर इतना मुश्किल था कि बहुत सारे फेल हो गए।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-35</b></p> <p><b>Too → TO</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Result / Degree</p> | <p>He is <b>too</b> weak <b>to</b> walk.</p> <p>वो इतना कमजोर हो गया है कि चलने की ताकत नहीं है।</p>                     |

| Rule Pair                                                                               | Correct Example (✓)                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-36</b></p> <p><b>As → As (Equality)</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Comparison</p> | <p>He is <i>as</i> tall <i>as</i> his brother.</p> <p>वह उतना ही लम्बा है जितना उसका भाई।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-37</b></p> <p><b>Either → OR</b></p> <p>Correlative Conjunction</p>          | <p><i>Either</i> you <i>or</i> I am wrong.</p> <p>या तो तुम गलत हो या मैं गलत हूँ।</p>        |

| Rule Pair                                                                        | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-38</b></p> <p><b>Neither → NOR</b></p> <p>Correlative Conjunction</p> | <p><i>Neither</i> the teacher <i>nor</i> the students were present.</p> <p>न तो शिक्षक मौजूद थे और न ही विद्यार्थी।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-39</b></p> <p><b>Both → AND</b></p> <p>Correlative Conjunction</p>    | <p><i>Both</i> Ram <i>and</i> Shyam are selected.</p> <p>राम और श्याम दोनों सिलेक्ट हो गए।</p>                          |

| Rule Pair                                                                                 | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-40</b></p> <p><b>Reason → THAT</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Reason/Cause</p>      | <p>The <i>reason</i> is <i>that</i> he was late.</p> <p>कारण यह है कि वह देर से आया था।</p>             |
| <p><b>Rule-41</b></p> <p><b>Whether → OR</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Choice/Alternative</p> | <p>I don't know <i>whether</i> he will come <i>or</i> not.</p> <p>मुझे नहीं पता कि वह आएगा या नहीं।</p> |

| Rule Pair                                                                                     | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-42</b></p> <p><b>Not only → But also</b></p> <p>Correlative Conjunction</p>        | <p><i><b>Not only</b></i> the boys <i><b>but also</b></i> the teacher was present.</p> <p>न केवल लड़के बल्कि टीचर भी मौजूद थी।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-43</b></p> <p><b>So that → May / Might / Can</b></p> <p>Conjunction of Purpose</p> | <p>He whispered <i><b>so that</b></i> no one <i><b>might</b></i> hear</p> <p>उसने फुसफुसाया ताकि किसी को सुनाई न दे।</p>           |

| Rule Pair                                                                                        | Correct Example (✓)                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-44</b></p> <p><b>Rather than → V<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Conjunction of Preference</p> | <p>He would die <b>rather than beg</b>.</p> <p>वह भीख माँगने से पहले मरना पसंद करेगा।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-45</b></p> <p><b>Had better → V<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Idiomatic expression</p>       | <p>You <b>had better work</b> hard.</p> <p>बेहतर होगा कि तुम कड़ी मेहनत करो।</p>          |

| Rule Pair                                                                                             | Correct Example (✓)                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-46</b></p> <p><b>Would rather → V<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Expression of Preference</p>      | <p>I would <b>rather stay</b> at home.</p> <p>मैं तो घर पर ही रहना पसंद करूँगा।</p>                       |
| <p><b>Rule-47</b></p> <p><b>So as to → V<sup>1</sup></b></p> <p>Conjunction/Expression of Purpose</p> | <p>He whispered <b>so as to</b> avoid attention.</p> <p>उसने फुसफुसाकर बोला ताकि किसी का ध्यान न जाए।</p> |

| Rule Pair                                                  | Correct Example (✓)                                                                            |
|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-48</b></p> <p><b>Prevent → FROM + V-ing</b></p> | <p>He was <b>prevented from</b> entering the hall.</p> <p>उसे हॉल में घुसने नहीं दिया गया।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-49</b></p> <p><b>Stop → FROM + V-ing</b></p>    | <p>The police <b>stopped him from escaping.</b></p> <p>पुलिस ने उसे भागने नहीं दिया।</p>       |

| Rule Pair                                                 | Correct Example (✓)                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-50</b><br/> <b>Accustomed → TO + V-ing</b></p> | <p>He is <b>accustomed to working</b> hard.<br/>         वो कड़ी मेहनत करने का आदि हो गया है।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-51</b><br/> <b>Used to → V<sup>1</sup></b></p> | <p>He <b>used to live</b> in Delhi.<br/>         वो पहले दिल्ली में रहता था।</p>                  |

| Rule Pair                                                   | Correct Example (✓)                                                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Rule-52</b></p> <p><b>Object to → V-ing</b></p>       | <p>I <b>object to being</b> treated badly.</p> <p>मुझे बुरा बर्ताव सहना मंज़ूर नहीं।</p>   |
| <p><b>Rule-53</b></p> <p><b>Look forward to → V-ing</b></p> | <p>I <b>look forward to meeting</b> you.</p> <p>मैं आपसे मिलने के लिए बहुत उत्सुक हूँ।</p> |
| <p><b>Rule-54</b></p> <p><b>Prefer → TO (choice)</b></p>    | <p>I <b>prefer</b> tea <b>to</b> coffee.</p> <p>मुझे कॉफ़ी से चाय ज़्यादा पसंद है।</p>     |

## **Rule: 55**

**When a sentence begins with negative or semi-negative words/phrases, subject-verb inversion is mandatory (auxiliary verb comes before the subject).**

### **Common Triggers for Inversion:**

- **Never | Rarely | Seldom | Hardly | Scarcely**
- **No sooner ... than | Not only ... but also**
- **Barely | Scarcely | Hardly ... when**
- **Little | Nowhere | By no means | In no way**

✓ **Scarcely had we sat down for dinner when the power went off.**

✓ **Barely had the match started when it began to rain.**

✓ **Hardly had the teacher left the classroom when the students started talking.**

✓

✓ **Scarcely had the plane taken off when the warning light came on.**

✓ **No sooner had the chief minister arrived than the crowd started cheering.**

## Rule: 56

### Correlative Pairs (must be parallel)

- Not only ... but also
- Either ... or
- Neither ... nor
- Both ... and
- Whether ... or

### Common Parallelism Structures:

- Noun + and + Noun
- Gerund + and + Gerund
- Infinitive + and + Infinitive
- Clause + and + Clause
- Adjective + and + Adjective, etc.

| Incorrect                                       | Correct                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| She likes swimming and to cycle.                | She likes swimming and cycling.                 |
| He is not only intelligent but also he is kind. | He is not only intelligent but also kind.       |
| My hobbies are reading books and to play chess. | My hobbies are reading books and playing chess. |
| Neither he is honest nor hardworking.           | Neither is he honest nor hardworking.           |

## Rule: 57

**Superior ▶ Inferior ▶ Senior ▶  
Junior ▶ Prior ▶ Posterior ▶  
Anterior ▶ Preferable → *Always  
followed by to (never “than”)***

### Incorrect

Health is superior  
than wealth.

This phone is inferior  
than that one.

He is senior than me  
by two years.

She is junior than  
him in service.

My appointment is  
prior than yours.

### Correct

Health is superior  
to wealth.

This phone is  
inferior to that  
one.

He is senior to me  
by two years.

She is junior to  
him in service.

My appointment  
is prior to yours.

## Rule: 58

### Absolute Adjectives (No Degrees Allowed)

These adjectives are absolute / extreme in meaning. They already express the highest possible degree.

|            |          |       |          |           |
|------------|----------|-------|----------|-----------|
| Unique     | Perfect  | Ideal | Complete | Universal |
| Extreme    | Chief    | Full  | Empty    | Dead      |
| Impossible | True     | False | Round    | Square    |
| Entire     | Absolute | Fatal | Eternal  | Infinite  |

#### Incorrect

This painting is the most unique ever.

Your answer is more perfect than mine.

She is wearing a very unique dress.

This is the most ideal solution for us.

#### Correct

This painting is unique.

Your answer is perfect.

She is wearing a unique dress.

This is an ideal solution for us.

## Rule-59

| Word                          | Superlative Form | When to use “most of”                                                      | Example (Correct)                        |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Many<br/>(Countable)</b>   | Most             | Only when the / my / these / those / possessives / proper noun come before | Most students passed the exam.           |
| <b>Many<br/>(Countable)</b>   | Most             | Only when the / my / these / those / possessives / proper noun come before | Most of the students in my class passed. |
| <b>Much<br/>(Uncountable)</b> | Most             | Only when the / this / my / etc. is present                                | Most water is wasted daily.              |
| <b>Much<br/>(Uncountable)</b> | Most             | Only when the / this / my / etc. is present                                | Most of the water in the tank is dirty.  |

## Rule-60

| Word                 | Meaning                          | Used for                               | Comparison / Note                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b><i>Later</i></b>  | After some time                  | Time only                              | He came later than expected.         |
| <b><i>Latter</i></b> | The second of two things/persons | Choice between two (mentioned earlier) | Tea and coffee → I chose the latter. |
| <b><i>Latest</i></b> | Most recent (still coming)       | News, fashion, model, update           | What is the latest news?             |
| <b><i>Last</i></b>   | Final / previous / end of series | End of list or previous one            | This is my last warning.             |

## Rule-61

### Determiner

### Meaning / Tone

### Example Sentence

**Little**  
(Uncountable)

Very less → almost none  
(Negative)

He has little money. (almost no money)

**A little**  
(Uncountable)

Some, but not much  
(Positive)

He has a little money. (enough to survive)

**The little**  
(Uncountable)

Not much, but all of it

The little money he had was stolen. (जो थोड़ा-सा था, वह भी चला गया)

**Few**  
(Uncountable)

Very less → almost none  
(Negative)

Few people attended the meeting. (almost nobody came)

**A few**  
(Uncountable)

Some, small number  
(Positive)

A few people came to help. (4–5 people, but helpful)

**The few**  
(Uncountable)

Not many, but all of them

The few students who came were rewarded. (जो थोड़े आए, सबको इनाम मिला)

## Rule: 62

Some/Any + Adjective (Confusion Point)

**SOME** → *used in positive sentences*

**ANY** → *used in negative & questions (especially when expecting "no")*

Incorrect

Correct

I don't have some money.

I don't have any money.

Do you have some clean water?

Do you have any water?

She didn't bring some new books.

She didn't bring any new books.

Is there some good news?

Is there any good news?

## Rule Description

## Key Words / Adjectives Involved

### Rule-63

When comparing two things, use  
Comparative (-er / more) + than

*Any adjective (taller than, more  
beautiful than)*

### Rule-64

When comparing more than two,  
use Superlative (est / most)

*the tallest, the most intelligent*

### Rule-65

No double comparison → Never use  
-er + more or -est + most

*This novel is superior to that one. She  
is the smartest student in the class.*

## Rule Description

## Key Words / Adjectives Involved

### Rule-66

**As ... as” for equal comparison**

**He is as tall as his brother. / He is not as tall as his brother.**

### Rule-67

**When Comparing Two Qualities of the Same Person/Thing**

**He is more brave than wise.  
This cloth is more strong than durable.**

### Rule-68

**Than after comparative → must be followed by same part of speech**

**Wrong: She is taller than me.  
(formal: taller than I am)**

## Rule-69

| Adjective | With a/an → Meaning                                             | With the → Meaning                                | Correct Examples                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| quite     | fairly, rather, very, remarkably<br>(बहुत / कमाल का / जबरदस्त ) | completely, absolutely, exactly that person/thing | <p>1. She is quite a beauty. (= very/really beautiful)<br/>(वह बहुत खूबसूरत है)</p> <p>1. He is quite the hero in his village. (= he is exactly the real hero)<br/>(वह अपने गाँव में बिल्कुल असली हीरो है)</p> |

# **Rule: 71**

**No Article in General / Universal  
Sense**

**When we talk about something in a  
general or universal sense (i.e., the  
whole class, species, invention, etc.),  
we do not use a/an/the before the  
noun.**

## **Examples**

**Man is mortal.**

**Woman is more caring than man  
by nature.**

**Gold is a precious metal.**

**Honesty is the best policy.**

## **Wrong in Exams**

**× A man is mortal.**

**× The woman is more caring...**

**× The gold is a precious metal.**

**× The honesty is the best policy.**

## Rule: 72

To show direct proportion (one thing increases → the other also increases OR one decreases → the other also decreases), we use:

***The + comparative ..., the + comparative ...***

(दोनों तरफ The + comparative होना ही चाहिए )

## Examples

The higher you go, the cooler it gets.

The harder you study, the better marks you get.

The more you spend, the less you save.

The sooner you come, the better it will be.

## Rule: 72

When comparing one item/person with others in the same group/class, always use any other (or all other / no other) before the noun.

***Without “other” → the item is compared to itself → illogical!***

| Correct                                               | Why “other” is needed                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| This book is better than any other novel I have read. | Book itself is a novel → must exclude it       |
| Gold is more precious than any other metal.           | Gold is a metal → exclude gold from comparison |
| Mumbai is larger than any other city in India.        | Mumbai is a city in India → exclude Mumbai     |

## Rule: 73

### ***“That of” Rule in Comparisons***

When comparing a quality/characteristic (climate, population, height, price, etc.) of two different persons/places/things, we must use ***“that of” (singular) or “those of” (plural)*** to avoid repetition of the noun.

#### Incorrect

The climate of Patna is hotter than Ranchi.

The population of Mumbai is greater than Delhi.

The roads of Kolkata are wider than Chennai.

The height of Everest is greater than K2.

The price of gold is higher than silver.

#### Correct

The climate of Patna is hotter than **that of** Ranchi.

The population of Mumbai is greater than **that of** Delhi.

The roads of Kolkata are wider than **those of** Chennai.

The height of Everest is greater than **that of** K2.

The price of gold is higher than **that of** silver.

## Rule: 74

**Attributive Position:** Adjective comes *before the noun* it describes (modifies the noun directly).

**Predicative Position:** Adjective comes *after a linking verb* (be, seem, appear, feel, look, become, etc.) and describes the subject.

| Attributive (Before Noun) | Predicative (After Linking Verb) |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| a <b>beautiful</b> girl   | The girl is <b>beautiful</b> .   |
| a <b>tall</b> building    | The building is <b>tall</b> .    |
| a <b>happy</b> family     | The family seems <b>happy</b> .  |

| Type                                              | Rule                                                                           | Examples                                           |
|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| Only Attributive<br>(Never after<br>linking verb) | Chief, main,<br>principal,<br>former, latter,<br>elder, old (in<br>some cases) | ✓ the chief<br>reason<br>X The reason is<br>chief. |
| Only Predicative<br>(Never before<br>noun)        | afraid, alive,<br>asleep, awake,<br>alone,<br>ashamed, alike                   | X an asleep<br>child<br>✓ The child is<br>asleep.  |

# Rule: 75

## Order of Adjectives (OSASCOMP Rule)

When multiple adjectives come before a noun, they must follow this fixed sequence:

*Opinion → Size → Age → Shape → Colour → Origin → Material → Purpose*

**Incorrect (Completely Wrong Order – Common Exam Trap)**

a dining **wooden**  
**Italian brown round**  
**old big beautiful**  
table

**Correct (Proper OSASCOMP Order)**

a **beautiful big old**  
**round brown Italian**  
**wooden dining** table

# Pronoun

## Rule: 76

**Reflexive Pronoun (myself, yourself, himself, etc.) – Never as Subject or Object of Verb**

## Examples

**Wrong:** **Myself** did the work.

**Correct:** I did the work **myself**.

**Wrong:** He gave the book to **myself**.

**Correct:** He gave the book to **me**.

**Wrong:** **Yourself** and he will go.

## Rule: 77

**Who/Whom – Who (subject), Whom (object)**

*Use who for subject; whom for object (after preposition or as object of verb).*

## Examples

**Wrong:** Whom wrote this letter?

**Correct:** Who wrote this letter

**Wrong:** The man who I met was kind.

**Correct:** The man whom I met was kind.

**Wrong:** To who did you give the gift?

**Correct:** To whom did you give the gift?

## Rule: 78

**Each/Every/Either/Neither/  
None → Singular Pronoun &  
Verb**

## Examples

**Wrong:** Neither of the boys brought **their** books.

**Correct:** Neither of the boys brought **his** book.

**Wrong:** Each student must do **their** duty.

**Correct:** Each student must do **his/her** duty.

**Wrong:** None of them have completed **their** work.

**Correct:** None of them has completed **his** work.

Rule: 79

One → Must use “one/one’s”  
(not he/his/him)

Examples

Wrong: One should do **his** duty sincerely.

Correct: One should do **one’s** duty sincerely.

Wrong: One must respect **his** parents.

Correct: One must respect **one’s** parents.

## Rule: 80

### **Exception**

If “**one**” refers to the **numeral one (not a person)**, then it can be followed by **his/her** (referring to a specific person).

### Examples

One of the boys lost **his** pen.

One of the girls forgot **her** bag.

Only one of them completed **his/her** assignment.

Rule: 81

**“Between” Takes Object Pronoun.**

**“Between” is a preposition, and every preposition must be followed by an *object pronoun*, not a subject pronoun**

✗ Between **he and she**, the matter was resolved.

✓ Between **him and her**, the matter was resolved.

✗ Between **we students**, the teacher was popular.

✓ Between **us students**, the teacher was popular.

## Rule: 82

**Collective noun = singular  
when acting as a unit  
&  
Plural when acting  
Individually**

- ✓ The committee submitted **its** report.
- ✓ The team won **its** first match.
- ✓ The jury were divided in **their** opinions.
- ✓ The team changed **their** jerseys.
- ✓ The staff are arguing among **themselves**.
- ✓ The family decided to sell **its** house

## Rule: 83

•  
**Pronoun Must Be Clear  
(Avoid Ambiguous  
Reference)**

✚ **Must clearly refer to only  
one noun (antecedent).**

✗ Ravi told Mohan that he  
was selected.

✓ Ravi told Mohan that Ravi  
was selected.

✗ When Sita met Gita, she  
was happy.

✓ When Sita met Gita, Sita  
was happy

## Rule: 84

**“It” for Unborn /  
Unknown Gender**

**Use it for infants,  
animals, or things  
unless gender is known.**

✗ *The baby cried because he was hungry.*

✓ *The baby cried because it was hungry.*

✗ A dog followed us until he got tired.

✓ A dog followed us until **it** got tired.

## Rule: 84

**Pronoun after “Let”  
Must Be Object Case**

- ✗ Let she speak first.
- ✓ Let **her** speak first.
- ✗ Let we complete the task.
- ✓ Let **us** complete the task.

Rule: 85

**“Same” Requires “As”,  
Not “That”**

✗ She wore the same dress that she wore yesterday.

✓ She wore the same dress **as** she wore yesterday.

✗ He made the same mistake that his brother made.

✓ He made the same mistake **as** his brother made.

## Rule: 86

### “Each Other” vs “One Another”

- **One another** → more than two persons
- **Each other** → two persons

- ✓ The five friends helped **one another**.
- ✓ The two brothers helped **each other**.
- ✓ The teacher and the student respected **each other**.

Rule: 87

- “That” Cannot Refer to a Person

- ✚ **That** should not be used for **human beings**; use **who/whom** instead.

✘ He is the teacher **that** teaches us English.

✓ He is the teacher **who** teaches us English.

✘ She is the woman **that** helped me yesterday.

✓ She is the woman **who** helped me yesterday.

### Rule: 88

## • Use of “That” after Superlatives & Certain Determiners

When a relative pronoun is used after **superlative adjectives or words like only, very, same**, we use “that”, not “which.”

✗ This is the best movie **which** I have seen.

✓ This is the best movie **that** I have seen.

✗ She is the only student **which** passed the test.

✓ She is the only student **that** passed the test.

## Rule: 89

# Possessive Pronoun with Gerund

When a gerund (verb + ing) is used, the *possessive form of the noun or pronoun* should be used before it, not the objective form.

✗ I object to **him** coming late.

✓ I object to **his** coming late.

✗ She insisted on **me** attending the meeting.

✓ She insisted on **my** attending the meeting.

Rule: 90

• **Relative Pronoun after  
“Such + Noun”**

When a sentence contains the structure **“such + noun”**, the correct relative pronoun use is **“as”**, not **“which”**

✗ He gave me such advice **which** helped me.

✓ He gave me such advice **as** helped me.

✗ She spoke in such a manner **that** impressed everyone.

✓ She spoke in such a manner **as** impressed everyone.

# CONDITIONAL SENTENCES

| Type of Conditional                         | Time Reference          | Reality                            | Examples                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Rule-91</b><br><b>Zero Conditional</b>   | <b>Present</b>          | <b>Always true / General facts</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If you heat ice, it melts.</li> <li>✓ If it rains, the ground gets wet.</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Rule-92</b><br><b>First Conditional</b>  | <b>Future</b>           | <b>Real / Possible</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If you study, you will pass.</li> <li>✓ If he calls me, I will help him.</li> </ul>                                   |
| <b>Rule-93</b><br><b>Second Conditional</b> | <b>Present / Future</b> | <b>Unreal / Imaginary</b>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If I were rich, I would buy a car.</li> <li>✓ If she worked hard, she would succeed.</li> </ul>                       |
| <b>Rule-94</b><br><b>Third Conditional</b>  | <b>Past</b>             | <b>Impossible (Past)</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ If I had studied, I would have passed.</li> <li>✓ If they had left early, they would have reached on time.</li> </ul> |

## Rule: 95

**IF + HAD (Past Perfect)  
→ WOULD HAVE**

✗ If he had worked hard, he **would pass** the exam.

✓ If he had worked hard, he **would have passed** the exam.

✗ If they had reached the station earlier, they **would catch** the train.

✓ If they had reached the station earlier, they **would have caught** the train.

## Rule: 96

**UNLESS = (No Double  
Negatives)**

### **Rule**

**After unless, do NOT use  
*not*.**

✗ Unless you **do not** work hard, you will fail.

✓ Unless you **work** hard, you will fail.

✗ Unless he **does not** follow the rules, he will be punished.

✓ Unless he **follows** the rules, he will be punished.

# Rule: 97

**Had / Were / Should +  
Subject → IF is  
automatically removed**

✗ Had **if** I known the truth, I would have acted.

✓ Had I known the truth, I would have acted.

✗ Were **if** I rich, I would help the poor.

✓ Were I rich, I would help the poor.

✗ Should **if** you need any help, inform me.

✓ Should you need any help, inform me.

# Rule: 98

**WERE Used for All Subjects  
in Unreal/Imaginary  
Conditions**

✗ *If I **was** a bird, I would fly.*

✓ *If I **were** a bird, I would fly.*

✗ *If he **was** the manager, he would change the rules.*

✓ *If he **were** the manager, he would change the rules.*

## Rule: 99

**BUT FOR → CONDITIONAL  
STRUCTURE**

### Rule

**“But for” imply an if-  
condition, usually  
followed by *would have*.**

✗ But for his help, I **will fail**  
✓ But for his help, I **would have  
failed**

## Rule: 99

### • WISH + PAST

(Regret about the present situation)

#### Rule:

When we **wish something were different now**, use **Past** (even though meaning is present).

✗ *I wish I **know** the answer.*

✓ *I wish I **knew** the answer.*

✗ *She wishes she **has** more time.*

✓ *She wishes she **had** more time.*

✗ *I wish I **am** taller.*

✓ *I wish I **were** taller.*

✗ *I wish I **studied** harder last year.*

✓ *I wish I **had studied** harder last year.*

# Rule: 100

**PROVIDED / AS LONG AS →  
NO FUTURE IN IF-CLAUSE**

## Rule:

These words act like **if**, so **future tense is not used** in that clause.

### PROVIDED

✗ You will be selected, provided you **will work** hard.

✓ You will be selected, provided you **work** hard.

यदि तुम मेहनत करो, तो तुम्हारा चयन होगा।

### AS LONG AS

✗ You can stay here as long as you **will follow** the rules.

✓ You can stay here as long as you **follow** the rules.

जब तक तुम नियमों का पालन करते हो, तुम यहाँ रह सकते हो।