

ENGLISH LANGUAGE

- **CHAPTER WISE STUDY MATERIAL**
- **EXAMPLES & MCQ'S WITH SOLUTIONS.**

FOR

NDA - CDS

and other

VARIOUS COMPETITIVE EXAMS.

ENGLISH

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There are three articles in English—**a, an and the**. These articles are classified under two heads—the Indefinite article and the Definite article.

Indefinite Article

A and **An** are known as the indefinite articles.

- **A** is used before consonants; **an** before words beginning with vowel sound : **a** cat, **a** boy, **an** apple, **an** umbrella etc.
- Some words begin with a vowel symbol but are pronounced with the same sound as the **y** in yet, **a** is used for such words. Some such words are: **a** European, **a** union, **a** unique bond, **a** unicorn, **a** university, **a** uniform, **a** universal law, **a** useful hint, **a** unit.
 1. Radha is teaching in a university of Kanpur.
 2. Newton gave a universal law of gravitation.
- The words beginning with unpronounced **h** are preceded by **an**. The following are some such words in English which are spelt with unsounded **h** :

an heir, **an** heiress, **an** honest man, **an** honourable job, **an** hour etc’.

 1. Ramesh is an honest man.
 2. You should wait just an hour.
- Some consonants are pronounced like vowels. Hence **an** is used before them : **an** M.L.A., **an** M.A., **an** N.D.A. officer, **an** S.R., **an** L.L.B. student.

In the above examples, each abbreviation begins with vowel sound—**M** is pronounced as **em**, **N** as **an**, **S** as **as** and **L** as **el**.
- Before singular countable nouns, **a/an** is used :

There was a letter for you.
- In its original numerical sense of one, **a/an** is used.

My salary has been increased by Rs. 1,000 a year.
- In the sense of any, to single out an individual as the representative of a class, use **a/an**.
 1. Jaipur is *a* beautiful city.
 2. *An* elephant is a giant animal.
- Such nouns as rewards, punishments, penalties and salaries, when used in singular, are preceded

by an indefinite article.

1. He was given *a* reward for bravery.
 2. A heavy penalty was imposed on him by the court.
- The names of professions and occupations take the indefinite article.

My father is a doctor.
 - The indefinite articles always follows the word ‘such’ when it is applied to things that are countable.
 - In exclamations before singular countable nouns : What *a* lovely dress!
 - The use of article *a* before the words *few* and *little* changes the meaning. *Few* means only a small number : hardly any worthwhile, *a few* means a small number when none might have been expected.

Definite Article

- The definite article **the** is used :
- Before the names of rivers, valleys, forests, canals, mountains, hills, oceans, seas, gulfs, deserts etc.

The everest is a highest peak of the world.
The Sahara is a largest desert of the world.
The Ganga is a holy river.
- When we speak of a particular person or thing or one already referred to or known to the speaker.

The boy is in blue shirt is my brother.
- When a singular noun is meant to represent a whole class :

The dog is the faithful animal.
The aeroplane is the fastest means of travel.
An exception to the above rule is the noun **man** When it is used to denote the human race as a whole.
- Before common nouns which are names of things unique of their kind.

The moon moves around the earth.
- With superlative adjectives which make a noun definite.

Radha is the most beautiful girl of her class.

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- Before the names of certain books : *The Ramayana, The Mahabharata, The Bible* etc.
- Before terms denoting some political party, nationality or community :
the Congress, the National conference, the Sikhs, the Hindus, the Indian, the English, the Spanish, the French.

THE OMISSION OF ARTICLES

- Omit the article when using a noun in the general sense.
Man is a mammal.
- Do not use an article with abstract nouns; *unless* the abstract noun is restricted to a particular person or thing.
Honesty of the old servant was praiseworthy.
- Do not use an article with proper nouns; *unless* the proper noun is used as a common noun.
Kalidas is *the* Shakespeare of India.
- No article is used before plural nouns used to denote a class.
Children are usually naughty.
- The names of meals and diseases do not take any article with them, *e.g.*, dinner, fever, plague. (Exceptions : *the* measles, *the* mumps).
- With languages and branches of knowledge no article is used : English, Hindi, Mathematics.
- No article is used before the names of days, months, and seasons.
Sunday is a holiday.
- When a noun indicates rank, title, occupation, *etc.* and is used just like an adjective, the article may be omitted, *e.g.*, Lord Byron, King Ashoka, General Paul, Dr. Mathur.
- In many verbal and prepositional phrases, the article is omitted to achieve consciousness, *e.g.*, to give ear, to turn tail.

EXERCISE

Directions : Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles.

1. He looks as stupid as.....owl.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) none
2. I bought.....horse,.....ox, and..... buffalo.
(A) a, an, a (B) the, a, an
(C) an, a, the (D) an, a, an
3. The guide knows.....way.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) all are correct

4. Honest men speak.....truth.
(A) the (B) a
(C) an (D) no article
5. Copper is.....useful metal.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) none of them
6. He is.....honour to his country.
(A) an (B) a
(C) the (D) all are correct
7. The children found.....egg in the nest.
(A) an (B) the
(C) a (D) all are correct
8. English is.....easy language.
(A) a (B) the
(C) an (D) none of them
9.sun shines brightly.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) none of them
10. French is.....language of.....people of England.
(A) an, a (B) a, the
(C) the, an (D) an, the
11. Rohit is.....untidy boy.
(A) an (B) a
(C) the (D) no article
12. I have come without.....umbrella.
(A) a (B) the
(C) an (D) no article
13.lion is.....king of beasts.
(A) an, a (B) a, the
(C) the, a (D) the an
14. Cylon is.....is land.
(A) an (B) the
(C) a (D) all are correct
15. India is.....home of the tiger.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) no article
16. I suppose he has.....home to go.
(A) an (B) a
(C) the (D) all are correct
17.India of today differs from.....India of yesterday.
(A) an, an (B) a, a
(C) the, the (D) a, the
18. He is not.....Mr. A. K. Verma whom you know.
(A) a (B) an
(C) the (D) none
19. Apple Cart is.....historical novel.
(A) an, a (B) a, an
(C) the, a (D) an, the

20.boy metman with elephant.
 (A) a, the, a (B) a, an, the
 (C) the, a, an (D) an, the, a
21. John got.....best present.
 (A) the (B) a
 (C) an (D) no article
22.one eyed man was standing at the gate.
 (A) the (B) an
 (C) a (D) all are correct
23. Mr Gupta is.....M.P.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) none
24. Mr. Raman Prasad is.....M.L.A.
 (A) the (B) a
 (C) an (D) none
25.man is.....intelligent creature.
 (A) the, an (B) an, a
 (C) no article, an (D) a, no article
26. Mohan is.....honest boy.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) no article
27. He will return after.....hour.
 (A) an (B) the
 (C) a (D) all are correct
28.owl is.....bird.
 (A) a, the (B) an, a
 (C) the, an (D) an, the
29. Mr. Sinha is.....engineer.
 (A) an (B) a
 (C) the (D) all are correct
30. Buxer is.....historical town.
 (A) the (B) a
 (C) an (D) no article
31. He is.....university student.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) all are correct
32. He isM.A.
 (A) an (B) the
 (C) a (D) no article
33. He reads in.....H. E. School.
 (A) an (B) a
 (C) the (D) no article
34. Akshay is.....open-minded man.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) none
35. This is.....honourable act.
 (A) an (B) a
 (C) the (D) all are correct
36.dog is.....animal.
 (A) the, an (B) the, a
 (C) a, the (D) the, the
37. You can write on.....black-board.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) none
38. England is.....Island.
 (A) a (B) the
 (C) an (D) no article
39.Varanasi where he was born, is
dirty city.
 (A) a, the (B) an, the
 (C) the, a (D) a, the
40. Five weeks is.....long absence.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) no article
41. He is.....army officer.
 (A) the (B) an
 (C) a (D) all are correct
42. He is.....honest worker.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) all are correct
43. Kolkata is.....big city.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) all are correct
44. He wrote.....very good letter.
 (A) a (B) the
 (C) an (D) no article
45. Akbar was.....wise king.
 (A) a (B) an
 (C) the (D) no article
46. I got.....hundred pens.
 (A) an (B) a
 (C) the (D) no article

SHORT ANSWER

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (B) | 2. (A) | 3. (C) | 4. (A) |
| 5. (A) | 6. (D) | 7. (A) | 8. (C) |
| 9. (C) | 10. (B) | 11. (A) | 12. (C) |
| 13. (B) | 14. (C) | 15. (C) | 16. (B) |
| 17. (C) | 18. (C) | 19. (C) | 20. (B) |
| 21. (A) | 22. (C) | 23. (B) | 24. (C) |
| 25. (C) | 26. (B) | 27. (A) | 28. (B) |
| 29. (A) | 30. (B) | 31. (A) | 32. (A) |
| 33. (A) | 34. (B) | 35. (A) | 36. (A) |
| 37. (C) | 38. (C) | 39. (C) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (B) | 42. (B) | 43. (A) | 44. (A) |
| 45. (A) | 46. (B) | | |



Preposition

A Preposition is a word which is used before a noun or pronoun to show its relation to another word in a sentence. We can define Preposition as a “word governing noun or pronoun expressing latter’s relation to another word.” Prepositions, as mentioned above, express the relation between two objects. In this chapter there are some of the most common relations indicated by Prepositions.

PREPOSITIONS OF PLACE AND POSITION

- **In** is used :
 - (A) For place of residence (countries, towns etc.) when the reference is merely general, *e.g;* Most of Indian peoples lives *in* village.
 - (B) For the names of continents, capital, cities and large towns, *e.g;* He lives *in* America.
 - (C) For place of work if it is a building, *e.g;* My father works *in* factory.
 - (D) To indicate the place, *e.g;* The. birds are flying *in* the sky.
- **At** is used :
 - (A) For smaller towns and villages, *e.g;* He lives at Agra in U.P.
 - (B) For a particular house, a place of residence and a particular place of work, *e.g;* Ram lived *at* the Roorkey.
 - (C) Also refers to an exact point, *e.g;* The baggar is standing *at* the door.
- **Before** stands for in front of something, *e.g;* The student stood *before* the school.
- **Behind** is used to mean at the back of, *e.g;* The cat is *behind* the curtain.
- **Between** is used to distinguish two persons or things, *e.g;* The property was divided *between* two sisters.
- **Among** is used for more than two persons or things. (Remember that the noun or pronoun after **among** must be plural.)
The sweets were distributed *among* the students.
- **Under** is used for a position lower than, *e.g;* She was standing *under* the tree.
- **Over** means something above, *e.g;* Some new

books are published for children *over* ten.

- **Beside** means by the side of, *e.g;* Sonu sets *beside* me.
- **About** is used to mean : (A) Here and there; (B) Some position, state etc.; (C) Near to; (D) Concerning, *e.g;* He was talking *about* the town. His books are laying *about* the room.
- **Above** (contrasted with below and sometimes replaced by over or beyond) means : (A) Higher than; (B) Greater in number, price, weight etc; (C) More than anything, *e.g;* The sun rose *above* the horizon.
- **Below** (contrasted with above and sometimes replaced by under) means lower than, *e.g;* The sun has gone *below* the horizon.
- **On/upon** means lying against something, *e.g;* The book is *lying* on the table
- **Without** is used : (A) For something free from; (B) For outside, *e.g;* He stood *without* the gate.

PREPOSITIONS OF TIME

- **At** is used :
 - (A) For a certain moment or point in time, *e.g;* The train left *at* 5 p.m.
 - (B) For festivals which mark a point in the year, *e.g;* His brother will come *at* Christmas.
- **In** is used :
 - (A) Before words which denote a specific time, period, month, year (*Exception:* noon, use **at**), *e.g;* The boys will play *in* the evening.
 - (B) To show the total length of time taken for the completion of some activity or operation, *e.g;* I shall be able to finish the work in an hour.
 - (C) For indicating a period at the end of which something will happen.
She shall be back *in* few minutes.
- **On** is used for a specific day and date, *e.g;* We go to the church *on* every sunday.
- **By** refers to the latest time by which something was or is to be done. The implication is that it may be done before that but not after, *e.g;* She prefers to trand *by* night.

- **During** means :
 - (A) That a situation continues throughout the whole of a specified period, *e.g;* The sun shines *during* the day.
 - (B) That an event takes place at some point in the duration of the specified period of time, *e.g;* I will come to your house *during* the week.
- For is used to denote a period of time and is used with the perfect continuous tense, *e.g;* My elder brother has been living in London for many years.
- **Since** is used to denote a definite point of time, *e.g;* They have been playing *since* four o'clock.
- **Within** is used when something is done within specified time and not beyond that, *e.g;* It was stipulated that the goods should be delivered *within* three days.
- **From** refers to the starting point of an action, *e.g;* He will join school *from* tomorrow.

SOME OTHER PREPOSITIONS EXPRESSING TIME

Consider these examples :

1. I reached there after his death, (later than)
2. I must finish my work before 9 p.m. (earlier than)
3. One of my ancestors lived under the Mughals. (during the reign of)
4. I shall wait till tomorrow, (upto the time)
5. It is ten minutes to twelve, (before)
6. His grandfather will not live through the night. (from beginning to the end of)

EXERCISE

Directions : Fill in the blanks with appropriate Prepositions choosing one from the four alternatives given below each sentences.

1. There is a disturbing nexus.....politics and sports in India.
 - (A) among (B) with
 - (C) by (D) between
2. Ritu's marriage.....Rakesh was tumultous.
 - (A) to (B) with
 - (C) between (D) of
3. Baggage can be covered.....loss or accident during travel.
 - (A) against (B) with
 - (C) along (D) for

4. Rita kept talking loudly oblivious.....the fact that it was the college library and not the student's common room.
 - (A) with (B) a
 - (C) for (D) of
5. After the advice of his father, he was reconciled.....his wife.
 - (A) to (B) with
 - (C) by (D) in
6. My father gets up everyday....5 o'clock.
 - (A) on (B) at
 - (C) from (D) upon
7. His path was beset.....difficulties.
 - (A) with (B) within
 - (C) among (D) by
8. I have resigned myself.....my fate.
 - (A) at (B) with
 - (C) on (D) to
9. The train is.....time.
 - (A) besides (B) between
 - (C) behind (D) by
10. He was struck.....lightning.
 - (A) by (B) with
 - (C) at (D) from
11. What do you make.....all this ?
 - (A) with (B) of
 - (C) by (D) for
12. There is the book that you asked.....
 - (A) to (B) after
 - (C) for (D) from
13. He plays cricket.....hockey.
 - (A) beside (B) within
 - (C) after (D) besides
14. You should start at dawn to reach the station.....time.
 - (A) upon (B) by
 - (C) in (D) into
15. I am tired.....writing to him.
 - (A) with (B) of
 - (C) by (D) from
16. There is an exception.....every rule.
 - (A) for (B) from
 - (C) to (D) in
17. He cut his finger.....a knife.
 - (A) with (B) by
 - (C) from (D) into
18. Ninety members voted.....favour of the resolution.
 - (A) in (B) to
 - (C) for (D) from

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19. The parents are usually not satisfied.....the performance of their children.
(A) to (B) with
(C) over (D) about
20. Shylock was devoid.....pity.
(A) of (B) with
(C) in (D) to
21. The art exhibition is to be officially opened.....Wednesday.....2 p.m.
(A) on; at (B) at; on
(C) from; on (D) on; from
22. All the members of my family go to Church.....every Sunday.....the morning, usually.....nine o'clock.
(A) on; in; at (B) in; on; at
(C) on; at; in (D) at; in; on
23. Last year his mother died.....typhoid.....the Christmas eve.
(A) of; on (B) on; of
(C) from; at (D) at; of
24. Good citizens always abide.....the law.
(A) with (B) of
(C) by (D) for
25. He died from want.....medical aid.
(A) with (B) against
(C) by (D) of
26. He has been afflicted.....rheumatism and has almost been confined.....bed.....last two months.
(A) with; to; for (B) with; on; for
(C) for; on; for (D) with; for; to
27. He apologized.....his misbehaviour.
(A) for (B) to
(C) about (D) in
28. They listened.....the music.
(A) to (B) at
(C) from (D) with
29. The postscript.....the letter says that he will be on leave from tomorrow.
(A) of (B) to
(C) in (D) through
30. Perseverance is key.....success.
(A) of (B) about
(C) to (D) with
31. In the morning, I am often short.....time and so I have a glance.....the newspaper headlines.
(A) at; of (B) of; of
(C) of; at (D) of; about
32. My friend has been suffering.....fever.....last Monday.
(A) from; for (B) from; since
(C) with; since (D) with; for
33. We are committed.....maintain peaceful relations.....our neighbours.
(A) to; with (B) with; to
(C) to; against (D) with; about
34. They quarrelled.....us.....a trifle.
(A) with; for (B) with; over
(C) to; for (D) with; about
35. A driver rescued him.....drowning.
(A) for (B) through
(C) about (D) from
36. I have not seen my friend.....we left school.
(A) at (B) for
(C) since (D) of
37. This room hasn't been opened.....weeks.
(A) at (B) for
(C) of (D) with
38. The teacher agreed.....my proposal.
(A) to (B) for
(C) of (D) about
39. Take your feet.....the chair.
(A) on (B) against
(C) at (D) of
40. I am afraid I cannot agree.....you.
(A) with (B) of
(C) for (D) to
41. My opinion on the subject is differentyours.
(A) from (B) for
(C) to (D) at
42. Many people died.....to epidemic.
(A) of (B) off
(C) to (D) from
43. She is expert.....singing.
(A) to (B) in
(C) of (D) on
44. He deals.....silk goods.
(A) to (B) of
(C) in (D) on
45. He is busy.....his work.
(A) in (B) to
(C) for (D) with

SHORT ANSWER

- | | | | |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. (D) | 2. (B) | 3. (A) | 4. (D) |
| 5. (A) | 6. (B) | 7. (A) | 8. (D) |
| 9. (C) | 10. (A) | 11. (B) | 12. (C) |
| 13. (D) | 14. (C) | 15. (B) | 16. (C) |
| 17. (A) | 18. (A) | 19. (D) | 20. (C) |
| 21. (A) | 22. (A) | 23. (A) | 24. (C) |
| 25. (D) | 26. (A) | 27. (A) | 28. (A) |
| 29. (B) | 30. (C) | 31. (C) | 32. (B) |
| 33. (A) | 34. (B) | 35. (D) | 36. (C) |
| 37. (B) | 38. (A) | 39. (B) | 40. (A) |
| 41. (A) | 42. (B) | 43. (B) | 44. (C) |
| 45. (D) | | | |



Tense is that form of a verb which shows the time and state of an action or event. Tenses comes from Latin Word 'tempus', meaning 'time'.

There are three main tenses :

- (1) The Present Tense, (2) The Past Tense, (3) The Future Tense

THE PRESENT TENSE

The present tense indicates action in the present.

(1) **Present Indefinite Tense** ; The Present Indefinite or Simple Present Tense is used :

- To express a habitual action—
 1. The cock *crows* every morning.
 2. I get *up* everyday at 6.0' clock.
 - To express general truths—
 1. The earth is round.
 2. The sun *sets* in the west.
 - In exclamatory sentences beginning with *here* and *there* to express what is actually taking place in the present—
 1. Here *comes* the tram!
 2. There he goes!
 - In vivid narrative, as substitute for the simple past—
 1. The officer now *comes* forward and *tells* the staff to complete all the work by 6 p.m.
 2. Sachin now *makes* quick *runs* to save the follow on.
 - To indicate a future event that is part of a plan or arrangement—
 1. We *leave* for Delhi next Wednesday.
 2. When *does* the school *reopen*?
- (2) **Present Continuous Tense** : The Present Continuous Tense is used ;
- For an action going on at the time of speaking—
 1. He is *reading*.
 2. The boys *are playing* cricket.
 - For a temporary action which may not be actually happening at the time of speaking.

1. I am reading 'Romeo Juliet'.

2. He is reading 'Illyus and the Oddyssey'.

- For an action that is planned or arranged to take place in the near future—

1. I *am, going* to the party tonight.

2. My father is arriving day after tomorrow.

Exception : The following verbs are not used in the continuous form—

(A) Verbs of Perception: see, hear, smell, notice, recognize.

(B) Verbs of Appearance : appear, look, seem.

(C) Verbs of Emotion : want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, refuse, prefer.

(D) Verbs of Thinking : think, suppose, believe, agree, consider, trust, remember, forget, know, understand, imagine, mean, mind.

(3) **Present Perfect Tense** : The Present Perfect Tense is used :

- To indicate complete activities in the immediate past—

1. He *has* just finished the work.

2. The train *has* just started.

- To express past actions whose time is not given and not definite—

1. I have never *known* him to be pessimistic.

2. Mr. John *has been* to Europe.

- To describe past events when we think more of their effect in the present than of the action itself—

1. I *have finished* my home work.

2. Mohan *has drank* all the milk.

- To denote an action beginning at some time in the past and continuing upto the present moment—

1. I *have known* him for a long time.

2. He *has been* ill since last week.

(4) **Present Perfect Continuous Tense** : The Present Perfect Continuous Tense is used for an action which began at some time in the past and is still continuing.

I *have been watering* the plants since 5 o' clock.

He *has been fishing* for two hours.



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