



SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI COLLEGE

(Affiliated to Bharathidasan University)

Nationally Accredited at 'A' Grade (4th Cycle) by NAAC | An ISO 9001 : 2015 Certified Institution
Tiruchirappalli - 620 002

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIAL FOR

ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATION
22AMBEEN2



BY
P.D MARY PORTIA
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

SYLLABUS

ENGLISH FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMINATIONS

OBJECTIVES:

To instill confidence in learners and improve their language skills to face the challenges of a competitive examination

To equip learners with adequate English language skills to achieve success in competitive examinations

UNIT – I:

Basics in English Grammar and Usage: Articles, Prepositions, Tenses, Concord, Question

Tag

UNIT – II:

Homophones – Homonyms – Phrases and Idioms – One-word Substitution – Reading Comprehension

UNIT – III:

Error Correction

UNIT – IV:

Letter Writing – Formal and Informal – Note-making

UNIT – V:

Expansion of Proverbs – Writing Essays

UNIT - VI CURRENT CONTOURS (For Continuous Internal Assessment Only):

Solving the previous year questions of various competitive examinations –

Preparing banks for competitive examinations – Involving in peer group study – managing time and stress

FOR REFERENCE:

1. Bhatnagar, R. P. English for Competitive Examinations. Laxmi Publishers India, 2009.
2. Krishnaswamy, N. Modern English: A Book of Grammar, Usage and Composition. Laxmi Publishers, 2000.
3. Pillai, Radhakrishna. G. English Grammar and Composition. Emerald Publishers, 2002.

UNIT –I ARTICLES

Exercise 1: Fill in the blanks with appropriate articles

Use ‘an’, ‘a’ or ‘the’ appropriately in the sentences given below.

1. Sheldon is ___ honest man.
2. King Arthur was ___ just king.
3. ___ lion let go of ___ mouse.
4. I have fixed ___ appointment with ___ doctor.
5. Will you take ___ picture of us?
6. I broke ___ vase my brother brought.
7. My mother has ___ polka-dotted umbrella.
8. The team organised ___ friendly match with ___ Presidents of both ___ countries.
9. We had ___ mulberry tree in the garden.
10. ___ Eiffel Tower lights up at night.
11. ___ huge building turned to dust due to ___ earthquake.
12. ___ famous band Beatles is coming to Texas tomorrow.
13. Charles Babbage is considered as ___ father of computers.
14. ___ famous poem ‘Ode to a Nightingale’ is written by ___ Romantic poet John Keats.
15. ___ Pacific Ocean is one of ___ five oceans of ___ world.
16. ___ painter drew ___ life-sized portrait of Mrs Mary Poppins.
17. My son is ___ apple of my eye.
18. ___ history professor who taught us is retiring today.
19. ___ oranges I brought were very sour.
20. Sharon will take ___ train from ___ next stop.

Exercise 2: Identify and underline the articles

Read the passage given below, and identify and underline the articles used in it.

One day, a dog which was very hungry was crossing the street. Suddenly he saw a shop selling meat. Since the dog hadn’t eaten for a few days, he could not control

his hunger. When the shopkeeper wasn't looking, the dog took a piece of meat and ran away. The dog ran till it came near a clear stream to enjoy his food. As he was about to eat the meat, he saw his own reflection in the water. He didn't understand that it was his own reflection in the clear water; he thought there was another dog with a piece of meat. So without thinking twice, he opened his mouth to bark at the other dog; as soon as he did that, his piece of meat fell into the stream.

PREPOSITION

Complete the following exercises.

Exercise 1 – Fill in the blanks with appropriate prepositions

1. This shop doesn't have the toys I was looking __. (up/for)
2. The teacher divided the sweets __ all the children. (between/among)
3. Bruce did not fare well __ his examination. (in/at)
4. The dog is grateful __ its owner. (to/for)
5. My brother's anniversary is __ 5th November. (on/in)
6. The boy __ the store is quite young. (at/on)
7. Mahatma Gandhi was born __ 2nd October. (on/in)
8. Rupert is fond __ muffins. (of/off)
9. The dog jumped __ the sofa. (on/in)
10. Humpty Dumpty sat __ a wall. (on/at)
11. The police officer is __ the station. (at/on)
12. The Sun will not rise __ 6 o'clock. (before/since)
13. I know Jack __ he was a little boy. (for/since)
14. Priya's house is __ mine. (next to/after)
15. The opponents sat __ to each other. (opposite/behind)
16. The scientist looked __ the microscope. (through/in)
17. I met Suhani when I was __ college. (in/on)
18. I will have completed my task __ Friday. (till/by)
19. There's a rift __ these two kids. (between/among)
20. The soldiers are __ war. (in/at)

Exercise 2 – Underline and identify the prepositions

Read the text given below and underline the prepositions.

On a very hot and sunny day, a thirsty crow was flying in search of water. Due to the hot weather, most of the ponds had dried up. Suddenly, he saw a vessel on the ground. When he flew towards it, he saw there was very little water at the bottom of the vessel. While thinking about how he could drink that water, he saw little pebbles lying around. He started dropping them one by one into the vessel. After some time, the water level rose. The thirsty crow quenched its thirst and flew away happily.

TENSES

Go through the sentences provided below and identify the type of tenses.

1. Damon drinks coffee every morning.
2. The boy got up late and missed the bus.
3. My mother goes to pray in the temple.
4. The team is playing very well.
5. The school will be closed for winter break.
6. Leonard graduated from college last year.
7. The baby has eaten all the chips.
8. Have you read Pride and Prejudice?
9. The train has just left the station.
10. The sick child has been sleeping for three hours.
11. They have known each other for a long time.
12. Sam was going to school.
13. When I went there, Bucky was playing video games.
14. The workers have been working on the building for a long time.
15. Penny had done her homework when her parents came back.
16. Mr Arnold had been writing his last book for four months.
17. I will move to Delhi soon.
18. Mr Samuel will be staying in New York next week.
19. Beverly will have left before you arrive to see her.

20. Mr Peter will have been teaching for twelve years next month.

Exercise 2 – Change the tense

Go through the sentences and change their tenses as directed.

1. The boy speaks the truth. (Present Continuous Tense)
2. Mr Cooper has spoken about Dinosaurs. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
3. The boat sailed yesterday. (Simple Present Tense)
4. Amy went to school yesterday. (Future Continuous Tense)
5. The baby cried for hours. (Present Perfect Continuous Tense)
6. Robert ate all the cookies. (Present Perfect Tense)
7. I have finished my assignment. (Past Perfect Tense)
8. Mr Bert had taught for five years. (Past Perfect Continuous Tense).
9. Dev saw the Prime Minister yesterday. (Future Continuous Tense)
10. Priya shall finish her stitching by then. (Future Perfect Tense)

Exercise 3 Fill in the Blanks

- 1 .I _____ Vidya at the town. (saw, have seen, had seen)
- 2 . I _____ Math Teacher this week. (haven't seen, didn't see, am not seeing)
3. This man _____ twice weekly. (is appearing, appearing, appears)
4. Arka jumped off the school bus while it _____. (already started, had already started, would already start)
5. Did you think you _____ Diya somewhere before? (have seen, had seen, were seeing)
6. Look, the beautiful sun _____ over the grey hills. (rises, is rise, is rising)
7. Rita fell off the ladder when she _____ the roof. (is mending, was mending, mended)
8. I _____ the food burning. (smell, am smelling, have been smelling)

9. We _____ our lunch almost 2 hours ago. (finished, have finished, had finished)

10. I _____ for half 30 minutes when it suddenly started to rain. (have walked, had been walking, have been walking)

QUESTION TAGS

Read the following statements and fill in the gaps using correct question tags.

1. Juhi is from Mumbai, ____?
2. We are late for the movies, ____?
3. Sam isn't a good boy, ____?
4. I was wrong about this, ____?
5. Andrew was present at the school yesterday, ____?
6. You have done your homework, ____?
7. Please stop talking, ____?
8. I am afraid Tim is very sick, ____?
9. Sheena won't mind if I use her book, ____?
10. The girl is playing the piano, ____?
11. Patrick will come to the seminar tonight, ____?
12. Rita never acts so rudely, ____?
13. Sam isn't a student, ____?
14. It is very humid today, ____?
15. Laura is beautiful, ____?

Exercise 2 – Fill in the Blanks

Read the sentences and fill in the blanks with the correct question tags.

1. Let's go surfing, ____?
2. The children are sleeping, ____?
3. The pan is hot, ____?
4. Amy doesn't like solving maths problems, ____?
5. You are from West Bengal, ____?
6. I like eating chocolate pastries, ____?
7. You have completed your assignment, ____?

8. You don't live here, ____?
9. The children are playing in the garden, ____?
10. We often go out for dinner on weekends, ____?

HOMOPHONES, HOMONYMS

Let us take a look at the differences between homophones, homographs and homonyms.

Homophones	Homographs	Homonyms
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words that have the same sounds but different meanings and spellings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words that have the same spelling but have different meanings and sometimes different pronunciations as well. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Words that have the same spelling or pronunciation but have different functions and meanings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear/Bare See/Sea Board/Bored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tear(noun)/Tear(verb) Bear(noun)/Bear(Verb) Bank(noun)/Bank(verb) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dye/Die New/Knew Fare/Fair

Homophones	Part of Speech	Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bear Bare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun/Verb Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you seen a bear?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I am not able to bear the pain. We don't suggest you walk barefoot on the hike.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Break Brake 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun/Verb Noun/Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I need a break. Did you break the glass? Please apply the brakes. It is not good that you brake abruptly in the middle of the road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blew Blue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wind blew swiftly. I have a blue skirt.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wine Whine 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you ever tasted wine? Angela keeps whining about everything all the time.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sole Soul 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun/Adjective Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My shoes' sole tore after the game. His sole aim of appearing in competitive examinations was to get into a government job. She hoped his soul would rest in peace.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heir Hair 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Who is the next heir to the British throne? She has really long hair.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maze Maize 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This route is such a maze. Maize is one of the chief agricultural crops.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Heal Heel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sitting near a water source heals my soul.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My heel is paining badly since we had been walking all day.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ate • Eight 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They ate rice and curry for lunch. • We have eight rabbits at home.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dear • Deer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjective • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is my dear brother. • We saw a deer on the way to the Nilgiris.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jeans • Genes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salviya bought a new pair of jeans. • You have my genes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serial • Cereal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you like to watch serials? • We have cereal for breakfast when we are in the hostel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brayed • Braid 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The donkey brayed at the sight of his master. • Each one of them was admiring her braid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Browse • Brows 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is easier nowadays to find content on any topic. All you have to do is just browse. • Your brows are really thick.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Days • Daze 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I still remember the days we spent together. • Thomas dazed as the teacher raised questions about the signup sheets.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Haul • Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The vehicles in the accident were hauled to the police station.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The hall for the reception was bigger than we had expected.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sell Cell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do you know the man who sells ice cream? He told me that he felt like every single cell in his body was in pain.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Bored 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children like it when you let them write on the board. They feel special. Danny felt so bored that he started irritating his sister.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bred Bread 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjective Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the pets in this store are domestically bred. The bread my mom bought was stale.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guilt Gilt 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He was filled with guilt and regret. The gilt from the dress has been sticking to my hands; I do not know how to wash it off.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Bee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They will be reaching Dindigul around 11:30 p.m. A bee stung my father when he opened the letterbox.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stationary Stationery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjective Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We did not realise that the picture was stationary as it had an illusionary effect. The stationery shop has been closed for a month now.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun/Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Principal announced that tomorrow will be a

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Principle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun 	<p>holiday on account of centum results.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The principal aim of this induction programme is to introduce the nature of the course and the discipline you have chosen. My father lives by certain principles.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kernel Colonel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Did you know what the kernel of the argument was? Have you tasted the kernel of a badam? My brother is a colonel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Counsel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was decided in the council that all members have to go through the screening process. With proper counsel, you will be able to decide with no doubt which discipline you should take up for your higher studies.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hole Whole 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> He did not notice that there was a hole in the shirt he purchased yesterday. The whole gang was staying at our house tonight.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write Right 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The teacher asked the students to write an essay on friendship. She sat on my right side.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seen Scene 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verb Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have you seen the newly built underwater museum?

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nobody could tell which scene in the movie was the most touching.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Check • Cheque 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can you please check if you have taken my notebook by mistake? • Nive made the payment by cheque.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bore • Boar 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even though he was way too young, he bore all the burdens to help his family stay strong. • Sunny spotted a wild boar.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No • Know 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjective • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was no way we would reach the hall in time. • I know who you are.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New • Knew 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjective • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harsha bought a new car. • Nobody knew anything about the red car parked in front of the apartments.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise • Rays 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of them were asked to raise their glasses for a toast. • The rays of the morning sun hit my window.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace • Piece 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have had no peace at all after we heard the news of the accident. • Do you want another piece of cake?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buy • By 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Preposition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They are planning to buy a dinner set to gift them. • My friends were sitting by the see-saw.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baron • Barren 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you know who the first railway baron was? • The agricultural land has become completely barren.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wise • Vice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adjective • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aaron's father is a wise man. • Man has to bear the consequences of his vices.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fir • Fur 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The little girl was excited to travel through a road with tall fir trees on either side. • The dog's fur was all over the bed.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bow • Bough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of us bowed before the Queen. • We saw a squirrel running up the bough of the tree in front of our house.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pray • Prey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of us are praying for you. • The eagle found its prey in between the bushes.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residence • Residents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not easy to find a good place of residence. • The residents of NSN Palayam have written a letter to the area councillor.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Him • Hymn 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pronoun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I think I know him. • We sing hymns after our family prayer.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sea • See 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The sea was filled with plastic waste. • Did you see my new dress?

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ad • Add 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The newest ad on dog food is very funny. • I will add a few nuts and raisins to the payasam before serving.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allowed • Aloud 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Adverb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have been allowed to take one dress of our choice as a complimentary gift for our service. • My mom asked me to read aloud.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar • Alter 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The altar was decorated with flowers. • I had to alter the dress a little to fit me perfectly.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flea • Flee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were too many fleas on the horses in the stable. • I am planning to flee the country.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bean • Been 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I added boiled beans and potatoes to make the Russian salad. • She has been waiting to talk to you.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meat • Meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do you eat meat? • I will meet my friends tomorrow.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Berry • Bury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the berries you like? • They buried their pet dog in their backyard.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flew • Flu 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cocktail that my cousin had flew away.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flu affected cattle and poultry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Band Banned 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We exchange friendship bands with our dearest friends. The government banned the use of plastic bags in Ooty.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Mane 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adjective Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the main purpose of your visit? She wished she had silky and soft hair, just like her horse's mane.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loan Lone 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun/Verb Adjective 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have applied for a house loan. Can you loan me some amount? I am a lone traveller.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medal Meddle 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> My sister received a medal for her excellent contribution to the research and development department. Danny asked Hari not to meddle with his project.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Fought 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We visited the Tipu Sultan Fort yesterday. My brother and I fought over something so stupid.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ceiling Sealing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noun Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All the classes here have false ceilings. My mom told me not to send the letter without sealing it.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensor • Censor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We stopped by the workshop as we had to change the reverse sensor. • The accreditation board censored some of the dialogues in the movie as it was not age-appropriate.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steal • Steel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The little girl was trying to steal food as she was too hungry and had not eaten anything for days. • My cupboard is made of steel.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Throne • Thrown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun • Verb 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elsa was the next heir to the throne. • The ball was thrown across the road.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cite • Sight • Site 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Verb • Noun • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You have to cite the quotes if you want to use them in your writing in order to avoid plagiarism. • Nobody could bear to see the sight. • They felt that the site was big enough for them to build their dream house.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desert • Dessert 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Noun/Verb • Noun 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We were in the middle of the desert and did not know where to go. • She was deserted by her friends. • We love to have some dessert after every meal.

HOMOPHONES EXERCISE

Fill in the blanks by choosing the right homophone from the homophone pairs given in brackets in the following sentences.

1. We saw a _____ (bear/bare) on our way to Ooty.
2. This cupboard is made of _____. (steal/steel)
3. The _____ (soul/sole) purpose of this visit was to resolve the issues between us.
4. I _____ (sell/cell) second-hand cars for a living.
5. We booked the upper _____ (berth/birth) for our trip.
6. Did you _____ (caste/cast) your votes?
7. Can you please give us a _____ (brake/break)?
8. Does the class have a smart _____ (bored/board)?
9. Do you have the _____ (flour/flower) to make cookies?
10. Everyday, my sister wakes up at _____ (eight/ate) in the morning.
11. We saw a bear on our way to Ooty.
12. This cupboard is made of steel.
13. The sole purpose of this visit was to resolve the issues between us.
14. I sell second-hand cars for a living.
15. We booked the upper berth for our trip.
16. Did you cast your votes?
17. Can you please give us a break?
18. Does the class have a smart board?

19. Do you have the flour to make cookies?
20. Everyday, my sister wakes up at eight in the morning.

PHRASAL VERBS

1. Back down	To stop doing something or admit you were wrong because people oppose you <i>If we keep protesting the new city taxes, the mayor will back down.</i>
2. Blow up	To explode <i>That truck crashed into the building and blew up!</i> To lose your temper <i>He was annoying me so much that I blew up at him.</i>
3. Break down	To suddenly stop functioning (used for machinery) <i>We were on our way to the party when our car broke down.</i> To become emotional and start crying <i>When we told her we were moving to Canada, she broke down.</i>
4. Bring up	To mention something <i>He's still very sad about his divorce, so don't bring it up.</i>
5. Bump into	To see or meet someone unexpectedly <i>She was shopping today and she bumped into her old primary school teacher!</i>
6. Call off	To cancel <i>Because of the pandemic, we had to call off our wedding.</i>

7. Check on	To make sure someone is okay or safe <i>My friend broke her leg and she's stuck inside. I check on her every day.</i>
8. Check out	To examine something to get information about it <i>Before we decide on that flat, we should check out the neighbourhood.</i> To pay your bill and leave (usually a hotel) <i>Have you packed yet? We have to check out by 11 a.m.</i>
9. Check with	To ask someone if something is okay or permitted <i>I'm pretty sure I can come to your house. I just have to check with my dad.</i>
10. Come across	To find something unexpectedly <i>When I was cleaning my room, I came across my old photo album.</i> To seem a certain way <i>I'm sure he's great, but he always comes across as an unfriendly person.</i>
11. Come back	To return <i>We had a lovely visit. We'll come back soon!</i>
12. Come in	To enter <i>You don't need to knock – just come in!</i>

13. Come up with	To think of a plan or an idea <i>Have you come up with a good idea for our group project?</i>
14. Cut down	To make something fall by cutting it at its base <i>To build this housing complex, they had to cut down hundreds of trees.</i>
	To do or use something less <i>I'm feeling rather nervous lately – I think I need to cut down on coffee.</i>
15. Drop by	To go somewhere (usually someone's home) for a casual visit <i>I'll be home all day. You can drop by for tea whenever you're free.</i>
16. Drop off	To take something or someone to a specific place <i>You forgot your jacket in my car. I'll drop it off at your house later.</i>
17. Ease up on	To become less strict about something <i>When I was younger, my mom didn't let me see my friends on weeknights, but she's eased up on her rules lately.</i>
18. Fall apart	To break into pieces <i>I think I finally need to get new shoes – these ones are falling apart.</i> To stop working well due to many problems <i>When they couldn't agree on a fair price, the business deal fell apart.</i>

19. Fall down

To collapse and fall to the ground
That big storm last night caused the old tree in our garden to fall down.

20. Find out

To discover
I did a DNA test and found out that I have a brother!

21. Get along

To have a good, friendly relationship with someone
My brother and I never fought when we were growing up. We always got along with each other.

22. Get away

To escape
The police almost caught the bank robber, but he got away.
To go on holiday
I really need to get away for a week. Work has been very stressful lately.

23. Get by

To be able to live through a difficult situation
We don't have a lot of money for food, but we'll get by.

24. Get over

To recover from a negative experience or an illness
I know she's mad at you now, but she'll get over it.

25. Get up

To stand
Can you please get up? I think you're sitting on my glasses.
To leave your bed in the morning/after sleeping
I always get up at 7 a.m. – even on Saturdays.

26. Give away

To give something to others for free
None of these dresses fit me anymore. I think I'm going to give them away.
To provide information about something that should be kept secret
This farewell party is supposed to be a surprise. Don't give away the secret!

27. Give in

To finally agree to someone's requests after refusing for a while
Our kids have been asking us for a puppy for six months. We finally gave in and got them one.

28. Give up

To stop doing something permanently
My health is getting worse. I need to give up drinking.
To stop trying
We've been working on this maths problem for an hour. I give up!

29. Go ahead

To start or continue a planned activity
Despite the social distancing rules, the music festival will go ahead.

30. Go out

To leave home and go somewhere
We've stayed home for months! I just want to go out and have fun.
To have a romantic (dating) relationship with someone
My girlfriend and I have been going out two years now.

31. Grow up	To develop into adulthood <i>When I grow up, I want to be a biologist.</i>
32. Hang on	To wait for a short period of time <i>Can you hang on for two minutes? I just need to finish writing this email, then I'll be ready to go.</i>
	To hold something tightly <i>This boat ride will be a little bumpy – hang on!</i>
33. Hang out	To spend time relaxing or socialising casually <i>My favourite thing to do at the weekend is to hang out with my dog.</i>
34. Kick out	To forcefully tell someone to leave a place <i>She was so angry at her teenage son that she kicked him out of the house!</i>
35. Let in	To allow someone to enter a place <i>Let me in the house! It's freezing out here!</i>
36. Look after	To take care of something or someone <i>Can you look after my plants while I'm on holiday next month?</i>
37. Look for	To try to find something <i>We'll leave in a minute. Help me look for my keys!</i>

38. Look up	To search for information (usually in a book or online) <i>I want to try that new Japanese restaurant. Can you look up their menu online?</i>
39. Make up	To become friendly with someone again or forgive them after a disagreement or fight <i>You two haven't spoken to each other in three weeks! When are you going to make up?</i>
40. Pay back	To repay the money you borrowed from someone <i>Can I borrow some money for lunch? I'll pay you back tomorrow.</i> To take revenge <i>I can't believe she ate all the biscuits I made! I'll pay her back for this!</i>
41. Pick up	To lift something from a surface <i>My dog has got so big! He's too heavy for me to pick up now.</i> To go somewhere and collect something or someone <i>Let's go to the cinema in one car – I'll pick you up at 8 o'clock.</i> To improve or increase <i>Business was slow last year, but sales are finally picking up!</i>
42. Put off	To delay doing something <i>I know I should clean my bathroom, but I've been putting it off for weeks.</i>

43. Put on To begin wearing something
If you want to play outside in the snow, make sure to put on a coat.

44. Put up with To tolerate something
The neighbour's dog barks all night long, but I put up with it because I love my house.

45. Run out To have no more of something
Oh, no! Why didn't you tell me we ran out of coffee?

46. Take off To leave somewhere suddenly
He didn't even say goodbye. He just took off!
To go into the air (used for aircraft)
Our flight is taking off at 2 p.m. so we need to be at the airport by 11 a.m.
To remove something (like an article of clothing)
I can't wait to get home and take off these tight shoes!

47. Turn on To cause something to start working; to activate
It's getting dark; let's turn on the lights.

48. Turn up To increase the volume, heat, or lights
This is my favourite song! Turn it up!
To appear suddenly
Would you believe our cat turned up after being lost for six months?

49. Wait up

To stay awake because you are waiting for something or someone

I'll be home late tonight. You don't have to wait up for me.

50. Watch out

To be careful of danger (usually said as a warning)

Watch out! There's a car coming!

IDIOMS

Idiom	Meaning	Sentence Example
Under the weather	Feeling ill / Getting a cold	My mom was feeling a bit <i>under the weather</i> .
Cold feet	Becoming nervous	It was her chance to speak and she was getting <i>cold feet</i> .
Apple of my eye	Used to refer to someone whom you are very fond of or like	My younger brother is the <i>apple of my eye</i> .
Set the record straight	To reveal the truth / To clarify	In order to <i>set the record straight</i> , the umpires checked the camera to review the previous shot.
Kill two birds with a stone	Achieve two results by doing one thing	None of us understood that he was trying to <i>kill two birds with a stone</i> when he joined the military forces.
Snowed under	To be busy	My father seems to have been <i>snowed under</i> for the last few weeks.

To break someone's bubble	To do or say something that proves someone else's beliefs are not true	Glint just <i>broke my bubble</i> when he said that he was a part of it.
Walk on eggshells	To be very careful with your actions and words	Talking to my mom about my grades made me feel like I was <i>walking on eggshells</i> .
Bite the bullet	Finish something no matter how unsatisfying or unpleasant it is / Get something over with	Danny had been putting off discussing the financial management of the company but decided to <i>bite the bullet</i> and talk to Sid today.
Make two ends meet	To have just enough money for all your needs	Harry and Hani are finding it really difficult to <i>make two ends meet</i> .
To be at loggerheads with someone	To quarrel or disagree	Jithin's parents seem to be <i>at loggerheads</i> over something or the other all the time.
Pretty penny	Expensive	The dress she wants for her birthday will cost a <i>pretty penny</i> .
Break a leg	Used instead of good luck	The teacher asked us to <i>break a leg</i> at the annual day dance.
Through thick and thin	At all times – both good and bad	My friends are always there for me – <i>through thick and thin</i> .

Beat around the bush	Not saying directly	Jason's neighbour kept <i>beating around the bush</i> and did not give a direct answer.
Hang in there	Stay strong in a difficult situation	<i>Hang in there!</i> Everything will be okay before you know it.
Cut corners	Purchase something in the least expensive way or do something easily / reduce expenses	I often <i>cut corners</i> in order to buy something for my brother.
Steal someone's thunder	Directing the attention and doing something to gain praise and preventing another person from gaining praise	Monica claimed that Rachel tried to <i>steal her thunder</i> .
Call it a day	To stop doing something	After the movie, we had planned to go to the beach, but we decided to <i>call it a day</i> as everyone was tired.
Better late than never	To do something rather than not doing	Well, we thought it was <i>better late than never</i> , but where are the others?
Stick to your guns	Stay morally strong or be firm in decisions especially when being opposed	The lawyer asked Rakesh to <i>stick to his guns</i> if he wants to win the case.
Leave no stone unturned	To look everywhere without missing a spot or to take every effort possible to achieve something	The police were determined not to <i>leave any stone unturned</i> .
Clouds on the horizon	Problems/ Trouble	Vishnu sensed that there were

		multiple <i>clouds on the horizon</i> .
A blessing in disguise	Something that you think is bad but turns out to be a blessing	Me catching a cold was <i>a blessing in disguise</i> .
Blue in the face	To be exhausted due to strain or anger	Usha looked <i>blue in the face</i> after the marathon.
Make a long story short	To say something in simple words in a brief manner	We decided to <i>cut the long story short</i> and tell them what actually happened at the mall.
Cup of tea	Not something that a person would do	Cooking has never been Rachel's <i>cup of tea</i> .
Beating a dead horse	Overdoing something or an action that is pointless	She was just <i>beating a dead horse</i> in thinking she could change his mind.
Speak of the devil	A phrase used to refer to a person who appears as soon as they are being mentioned	<i>Speak of the devil!</i> Here he comes.
Let sleeping dogs lie	To stop discussing something that is already over or sorted out	The police had warned us to <i>let sleeping dogs lie</i> and move ahead with our lives.
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret carelessly	Adharsh just <i>let the cat out of the bag</i> by revealing the gender of the baby.
Elephant in the room	A controversial problem or a major issue	We had to identify the <i>elephant in the room</i> before we made a decision.

To say in a nutshell	To sum up the points and be brief	The teacher asked us to quote the findings <i>in a nutshell</i> .
Worth its weight in gold	To be highly valuable	Every word of what you say is <i>worth its weight in gold</i> .
To weather the storm	To go through something difficult	My mom taught me how to stand strong and <i>weather the storm</i> .
A piece of cake	An easy task	Solving the Wordle everyday was just <i>a piece of cake</i> .
Get your act together	To stop fooling around and do something in the way it should be done	It is time you <i>get your act together</i> and do something useful.
Cost an arm and a leg	Used to refer to something that is extremely expensive	I think it will <i>cost an arm and a leg</i> to get the car my brother wants.
On top of the world	A state of extreme happiness	Niya seemed to be <i>on top of the world</i> since she heard the news of her son's promotion.
Time is money	To work quickly in the time that is left	The manager encouraged the employees to realise that <i>time is money</i> and work harder.
Get out of hand	Not in one's control anymore	The situation has <i>gotten out of hand</i> and there is

		nothing anyone here can do to help.
Like two peas in a pod	Be together always	My cousin and I are always like <i>two peas in a pod</i> .
Know which way the wind blows	To understand what is happening	As a detective, you are always obliged to learn <i>which way the wind blows</i> and then make a statement.
Hit the nail on the head	To do something the exact way in which it should be done / Also refers to giving a direct answer	Harish <i>hit the nail on the head</i> with his decision to buy this piece of land.
Catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar	Getting what you want by being nice	If you ask politely, you may be able to <i>catch more flies with honey than you can with vinegar</i> .
Let someone off the hook	Releasing someone or letting someone go	The court decided to <i>let the guy off the hook</i> as there was no evidence proving his crime.
Like riding a bicycle	A skill that you learn and will never forget	Learning a language is <i>like riding a bicycle</i> ; you will never forget it.
Blame one's tools	Blaming something on someone else	When he understood he had no way out of the problem, he <i>blamed his tools</i> .
It's not rocket science	Not that difficult to comprehend	Cooking sambar is easy; I will figure it out. After all, <i>it is not rocket science</i> .

Spill the beans	Reveal a secret	Remya spilled the beans about her sister coming to her mom.
Get the show on the road	Start something or begin an enterprise	The circus company had completed its trail run and was ready to <i>get the show on the road</i> .
Pull the last straw	The final point in a series of unfortunate events when you feel you cannot take it anymore	Sheetal decided to <i>pull the last straw</i> and inform the manager about what was happening in the office.
That ship has sailed	It is too late to do something	Norah said that she won't be performing live anymore as she announced to the press, " <i>That ship has sailed</i> ".
It is always the darkest before dawn	Something good is coming / Things will get better	Do not be worried about what is going on in your life right now; <i>it is always the darkest before dawn</i> .
Have one's head in the clouds	To have no concentration at all	I knew that you <i>had your head in the clouds</i> throughout the ceremony. What happened to you?
On thin ice	Used to refer to a sensitive scenario or a person who is in trouble	Zeke was <i>on thin ice</i> ; he had to figure out a way to help his brother.
Give a cold shoulder	Act rudely to someone	Nobody knows why Dias <i>gave Rayon a cold shoulder</i> .

Cannot make an omelette without breaking some eggs	Everything has a cost to pay	You just have to understand that you <i>cannot make an omelette without breaking some eggs.</i>
Once bitten, twice shy	Being extremely cautious as you have been hurt already	Nitheesh has been extremely careful with making new friends. After all, <i>once bitten, twice shy</i> right?
Bolt from the blue	Something that happens unexpectedly or without a warning	The news of my friend's pregnancy was a <i>bolt from the blue.</i>
When it rains, it pours	When everything goes wrong at once	They not only left home late but also got stuck in traffic. <i>When it rains, it pours.</i>
Miss the boat	To act too slowly and miss an opportunity	You will <i>miss the boat</i> if you wait any longer.
Pull someone's leg	To make fun of someone	Kevin's friends kept <i>pulling his leg</i> all evening.
No pain no gain	Suffering or making efforts is required to achieve something	It is better you start learning now. It will be difficult but <i>no pain, no gain.</i>
See eye to eye	Have the same opinion or have the same point of view	It is highly required that you both <i>see eye to eye</i> if you want this resolved.
Wear your heart on your sleeve	To be extremely open about what you feel and think	Divya <i>wears her heart on her sleeve;</i>

		she tends to get hurt very often.
Takes two to tango	Two persons are equally responsible for what is happening or has happened	It is not possible Sandhya is the only one involved. After all, <i>it takes two to tango.</i>
Come rain or shine	No matter what happens	<i>Come rain or shine</i> , I will be there for you.
So far so good	Means that everything has turned out well until that point	Everything <i>so far</i> has been <i>so good</i> .
Comparing apples to oranges	To compare two things that are completely different and cannot be compared	Comparing a doctor's profession to a teacher's profession is like <i>comparing apples to oranges</i> .
When pigs fly	When something uncanny or impossible happens	<i>Pigs would fly</i> if you cooked.
Curiosity killed the cat	Asking too many questions or involving too much in other people's affairs will get you into trouble	It is better we don't dig more into this case; <i>curiosity killed the cat</i> .
The best of both worlds	Good in every way	Having my best friend is <i>the best of both worlds</i> .
Burn bridges	Do something to spoil relationships	Susan did not realise she would be <i>burning bridges</i> when she took up the job.
The whole nine yards	Refer to everything that is there	He has to <i>sell the whole nine yards</i> if he wants to buy that house.

Grass is greener on the other side	Never being satisfied with what one gets	For her, <i>grass is always greener on the other side.</i>
Every dog has its day	Everyone gets a chance	Do not worry about it. <i>Every dog has his day.</i> Today, it is his.
Counting your chickens before they hatch	Expecting good results before something is done	She started <i>counting her chickens before they hatched.</i> That will only disappoint her; I hope she understands.
Go down in flames	To fail terribly	Everything <i>went down in flames</i> when we lost the lottery.
Adding fuel to the fire	Aggravating the problem	She was just <i>adding fuel to the fire</i> telling Tom's mom about his health.
Wrap your head around something	Try to make sense about what is going on	My mom was finding it hard <i>to wrap her head around the fact</i> that I am getting married tomorrow.
Cut the mustard	Do a perfectly good job	The police <i>cut the mustard</i> in finding the gang that robbed the bank.
Jump from the frying pan into the fire	Refers to a situation becoming worse	He did not know he was <i>jumping off the frying pan into the fire</i> when he decided to speak about the problems at work.

Cry over spilt milk	Worrying or complaining about something that cannot be fixed/rectified	There is no use <i>crying over spilt milk</i> ; you just have to move on with your life.
Have a method to one's madness	Seeming to be crazy but in fact, clever	Everyone thinks he is crazy, but he sure <i>has a method to his madness</i> .
Do something at the drop of a hat	Do something unplanned	He can plan a whole trip <i>at the drop of a hat</i> .
Get wind of something	To have information about something secret	It is so hard to <i>get wind of</i> what is going on here.
Hear it from the horse's mouth	To know something from the person involved	We finally <i>heard it from the horse's mouth</i> .
Fit as a fiddle	To be in good health	My great grandmother is surprisingly <i>fit as a fiddle</i> .
Take everything with a pinch of salt	Refers to being sceptic and not believing blindly	My mom always asks to believe everyone <i>with a pinch of salt</i> .
A pain in the neck	Refers to a person who is annoying	Rayana was a constant <i>pain in the neck</i> .
The best thing since sliced bread	A good and useful invention	The smartphone is <i>the best thing since sliced bread</i> .
Walk in the other's shoes	To understand what the other is going through	You will not understand unless you <i>walk in their shoes</i> .

Break the ice	To make people feel comfortable with those who are unfamiliar to them	The communication trainer conducted an activity to <i>break the ice</i> .
Having a monkey on your back	To have a problem that you cannot solve or get rid off easily	Not completing my degree is a <i>monkey on my back</i> .
Go on a wild goose chase	Doing something pointless	Finding the red and black dress I saw online felt like <i>going on a wild goose chase</i> .
Rain cats and dogs	Raining heavily	It has been <i>raining cats and dogs</i> since yesterday.
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely	We met each other only <i>once in a blue moon</i> .
Bark up the wrong tree	Following a misguided or mistaken thought or action	He did not know he was <i>barking up the wrong tree</i> .
Have the ball in one's court	One can make a call / decide on their own	Rahul finally <i>had the ball in his court</i> .
Devil quoting the Bible	Good things being twisted for selfish and evil purposes	Mephistopheles speaking about going to heaven is like the <i>devil quoting the Bible</i> .
The devil is in the details	Refers to something that seems to be good only from a distance	Haven't you heard <i>the devil's in the details</i> ?
Other fish in the sea	More opportunities	My father told me not to worry about the competition as there would be <i>other fish in the sea</i> .

A snowball's chance in hell	No chance at all at surviving	You will require <i>a snowball's chance in hell</i> to clear this exam.
Something ain't over until the fat lady sings	It is not over yet / there is more to the situation	For all we know, <i>this will not end until the fat lady sings</i> .
Bounce off the walls	To be extremely excited and energetic	The children were <i>bouncing off the walls</i> the moment they heard about going to an amusement park this weekend.
As right as rain	Something is perfect	I don't know about the others, but I feel that your decision is <i>as right as rain</i> .
To get bent out of shape	To be upset, to take offence, to be angry	My cousins have <i>been bent out of shape</i> after my uncle passed away.
Every cloud has a silver lining	There is always some good in every thing that happens / Something good will happen after something bad	Do not be worried about your current situation; after all, <i>every cloud has a silver lining</i> .
Play the devil's advocate	To argue or fight over something just for the sake of it	We had no idea why he was <i>playing the devil's advocate</i> when he knew what had happened.
Cross that bridge when we get to it	Deal with the problem when it happens	I know there are decisions to be made about the selling of the house but we

		<i>will cross that bridge when we get to it.</i> As of now, let us focus on this.
Throw caution to the wind	To take a risk	Gaurav <i>threw caution to the wind</i> in trying to save me from the accident.
A penny for your thoughts	Used to ask someone what they are thinking	I would like to give <i>a penny for your thoughts</i> .
Bite off more than you can chew	To do more than you can	My mom thinks that my brother is <i>biting off more than he can chew</i> by taking up a night job and a day job.
Judging a book by its cover	Judge or form an opinion on someone based on appearances	People are known to always <i>judge a book by its cover</i> .
Rain on one's parade	To spoil someone's moment of praise / To spoil something	Rachel did not really think she was <i>raining on Monica's parade</i> when she announced about her new job.
By the skin of your teeth	By a very narrow margin, the slightest if chances	The doctors said that Manu had escaped serious injuries <i>by the skin of his teeth</i> .
Put all your eggs in one basket	Doing something risky	Rounak's parents think that he is <i>putting all his eggs in one basket</i> .

Put something on ice	To hold off something	We decided to <i>put</i> the case <i>on ice</i> until we had some clue of what had happened.
Cannot have a cake and eat it too	Cannot have everything for yourself	It is not at all that you <i>have the cake and eat it too</i> .

ERROR CORRECTION

Read the following sentences and identify and correct the errors.

1. Many peoples attended the funeral of the great man.
2. The shepherd took the cattles to the field.
3. Sita could not understands what the teacher was saying.
4. Do you know the importance for clean water?
5. Laugh is the best medicines.
6. The flock of sheeps blocked the road.
7. The children was playing in the Giant's garden.
8. The children decided to surprise Miss Holmes on teacher's day.
9. I saw Richard when I'm on the flight.
10. Man have depended on nature for a long time.
11. Ramu is a honest man.
12. Bread and butter are Sheldon's favourite breakfast.
13. Birds of feathers flock together.
14. The teacher called me on 12 o'clock.
15. The sweets was distributed between all the children.

Exercise 2 – Correct the Errors

Read the following passage, identify the errors and correct them.

My little sister Lisa was practising how to riding a bicycle yesterday. Suddenly I hear a loud crash and ran to see what had happened. I saw that she was lying in the

ground. I quickly pulled her up and bought her home. She was crying out loud. I quickly go inside the house and brought the first aid box. After cleaning the wound, I apply antiseptic to the wound. Lisa has scratches on her hand and knee. To calm her down, I took her to the nearby shop and brought her a big chocolate. Seeing her favourite chocolate, she immediately stop crying. Within two day, her wounds healed, and she went to play again.