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The Correct Usage of **Nouns**

STUDY NOTES

Dear Aspirants,

We hope you have grasped a clear idea of “Nouns” from our brief discussion about the various kind of nouns in the previous part. Now let us delve deep into some of the most important rules of the noun chapter as these rules will help you in identifying minute errors in sentences:

Rule 1

Some nouns always remain in the plural number and these nouns have no singular form.

For instance, **Alms, annals, archives, ashes, arrears, athletics, auspices, species, scissors, trousers, pants, clippers, embers, bellows, gallows, fangs, measles, eyeglasses, goggles, fireworks, belongings, breeches, bowels, braces, binoculars, dregs, earnings, entrails, fetters, longings, odds, outskirts, particulars, proceeds, proceedings, riches, remains, shambles, shears, spectacles, surroundings, tidings, tactics, tongs, valuables, wages etc.**

This means if the question says,

Eatable is (a) not allowed (b) in the cinema hall. (c) No error (d)

the error is in part (a). The correct sentence should be-

Eatables are not allowed in the cinema hall.

Rule 2

Some nouns look plural in form but have singular meaning. Such nouns take a singular verb. These are: **news, innings, gallows, politics, summons, Physics, Economics, ethics, Mathematics, measles, mumps, rickets, billiards, draughts, etc.**

So, if the question says,

Gymnastics are (a) a sport that requires balance, (b) strength, agility, coordination and endurance. (c) No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

Gymnastics is a sport that requires balance, strength, agility, coordination and endurance.

Rule 3

Some nouns look singular but have plural meaning. Such nouns take plural verbs. These are: **cattle, clergy, folk, infantry, poultry, vermin, peasantry, gentry, police etc.**

So, if the question says,

The public (a)/ has been waiting (b)/ for the arrival of the chief guest. (c)/ No error (d) the error is in part (b) as the correct sentence should be-

The public **have been** waiting for the arrival of the chief guest.

Rule 4

Some nouns are always used in the singular number. We should not use article A/An with such nouns as these fall under the category of uncountable nouns.

Eg. **Scenery, poetry, furniture, advice, information, business, mischief, bread, stationery, crockery, luggage, baggage, postage, knowledge, wastage, money, jewellery, breakage etc.**

So, if the question says,

The crockeries (a)/ in my kitchen (b)/ always shines. (c)/No error (d) the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The crockery in my kitchen always shines.

Rule 5

Some nouns have the same form in singular as well as in plural. Some such nouns are listed below:

Deer, fish, crew, family, jury, carp, trout, aircraft, accommodation, nail clippers etc.

So, if the question says,

The offsprings (a) /never fought with (b) /each other as they were very amiable.(c)/No error(d)

there is error in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The offspring (a) /never fought with (b) /each other as they were very amiable.(c)/No error(d)

Rule 6

If the same noun is repeated after preposition, the noun will be singular.

For instance, ***town after town, question after question, day by day, row upon row*** etc

So, if the question says,

Pages after pages (a)/ was read by (b)/ him on that day.(c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

Page after page was read by him on that day.

Rule 7

If a numeral adjective and a fraction are used with a noun, the noun is used with the numeral and the noun will be in singular.

For instance, ***four dollars and a half, two rupees and a half etc.***

So, if the question says,

On her mother`s request (a)/ Ellina lent (b) Priya one and a half rupees.(c)

the error is in part (c) as the correct sentence should be-

On her mother`s request Ellina lent Priya **one rupee and a half** .

Rule 8

Some nouns are used in both singular and plural form although they cannot be interchangeably used. These nouns can be used in the singular form only if they convey an unanimous meaning. In such a case a singular verb is added to it.

For instance,

The jury has decided to pardon the thief.

But the same word can be used in the plural form if it is diversified.

For instance,

The jury are divided in their opinion.

Some such other words are **plenary, panel, committee, team, crew etc.**

So, if the question says,

The choir have (a)/ sung well (b)/ and it deserves applause.(c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The choir has sung well and it deserves applause.

Rule 9

The singular and plural form of some compound nouns are commonly mistaken.

For instance,

The plural form of **attorney general** is **attorneys general** and not **attorney generals** as is commonly mistaken by students. A short list of some such words is listed below so that you develop a conceptual understanding of such nouns:

Singular	Plural
governor-general	governors-general
brother-in-law	brothers-in-law
bystander	bystanders
commander-in-chief	commanders-in-chief
court martial	courts martial
man-of-war	men-of-war
father-in-law	fathers-in-law
sergeant major	sergeants major
go-between	go-betweens
passer by	passers by
handful	handfuls
heir apparent	heirs apparent
maidservant	maidservants
son in law	sons in law

So, if the question says,

The Commander in chief (a)/ have come to greet (b)/ the Chief Minister.(c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The **Commanders in chief** have come to greet the Chief Minister.

Rule 10

The possessive case of a compound noun is made by adding 's with the last word.

For instance,

Father in law's or Chief Of Corporation's etc

So, if the question says,

He came to (a)/ see us by his(b)/father's in law's car.(c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (c) as the correct sentence should be-

He came by his **father in law's** car.

Rule 11

Apostrophe s can be added to nouns in order to indicate possessiveness only if they do not end in `s`. We should use apostrophe in the following situations only:

- (1) Living things → Manisha's house
- (2) Thing personified; as → a week's vacation
- (3) Certain dignified objects such as given below:

The court's summons

At duty's call

- (5) Familiar phrases such as given below:

At his wit's end

At a stone's throw

Rule 12

There are many nouns that end in 's'. In order to write them in the possessive case they should not be written as –

Girls's College but Girls' College

This means that apostrophe 's' after nouns that end in 's' is wrong. To such nouns which end in 's' only an apostrophe should be added.

So, if the question says,

The boss's (a)/ car was (b)/brand new. (c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The **boss'** car was brand new.

Rule 13

If two nouns are connected by 'and' and both are closely related, apostrophe s will be added after the second noun.

So, if the question says,

My brother's (a)/ and sister's (b)/ choice is perfect. (c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

My **brother and sister's** choice is perfect.

Rule 14

The use of two consecutive possessives ('s) is considered wrong.

So, if the question says,

My aunt's friend's son(a)/ is a scientist (b)/ in London. (c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

The son of my aunt's friend is a scientist.

Rule 15

Apostrophe s should not be added to words which are preceded by "sake".

For instance, if the question is :

She does everything for conscience's (a)/ sake and this always makes her(b)/ take the right decision.(c)/ No error (d)

the error is in part (a) as the correct sentence should be-

She does everything for **conscience sake** and this always makes her take the right decision.

Some such other terms are **God sake, truth sake, Heaven sake etc**

Since "Noun" is a lengthy chapter it is not possible to encapsulate everything within the span of a few pages. So, the students are advised to attend the classes regularly and appear in frequent mock tests for their own betterment. **Based on some of the very important rules of noun, a few important "Spot the Error" questions are given below to test your understanding of the chapter:**

Q.1 Though my means is small (a)/ I help my brothers (b)/ with money and physical labour. (c)/ No error (d)

Q2. They are a (a)/ gang of workmen (b)/ who excel in their work. (c)/ No error (d)

Q3. In the previous dart competition (a)/ Kabir beat me two-one, but I (b)/ turned the tables on him today by (c)/ winning all three games. (d)/ No error (e)

Q4. Rahul must help Sohan. (a)/ After all, they are brothers (b)/ of the same profession.(c)/ No error (d)

Q5. The blind lady who (a)/ was walking at the centre (b)/ of the road was run over by a speeding car. (c)/ No error (d)

Q6. One of these men's sons was (a)/ killed in the recent (b)/ police firing and this has made the men mad with rage. (c)/ No error (d)

Q7. The scenery of (a)/Switzerland are very (b)/ Charming and the memories (c)/ of the place still haunt me day and night. (d)/ No error (e)

Q8. When Ria came to my house (a)/ she wanted a playing card (b)/ so that she could play with me.(c)/ No error (d)

Q9. Men after men came (a)/ to rescue the little boy (b)/ from the devastating fire.(c)

Q10. There is no place (a)/ for you on this (b)/ bench. So, you have to (c)/ sit on that chair. (d)/ No error (e)

Q11. The police is becoming (a)/ more and more inactive (b)/ while the criminals are becoming (c)/ more and more active.(d)/ No error (e)

Q12. The present datas show (a)/ that the death rate (b)/ has fallen down to a great extent. (c)/ No error (d)

Q13. No summon has yet (a)/ been issued by the court (b)/ but we know that it will soon come. (c)/ No error (d)

Q14. We all know (a)/ that his service has been (b)/ terminated because of misconduct.(c)/ No error (d)

Q15. Sawita's sister does (a)/ not even know the alphabets (b)/ of English and this makes her feel embarrassed everywhere.(c)/ No error (d)

Q16. My brother saw (a)/ the minaret which (b)/ was built of bricks and stones.(c)/ No error (d)

Q17. Arpita's sister was annoyed (a)/ with Raghav because he did many mischiefs (b)/ which disturbed the class to a great extent.(c)/ No error (d)

Q18. Ananya learnt poetries (a)/ by heart and solved (b)/ all the sums correctly. (c) / No error (d)

Q19. My parents have always (a)/ taught me to be true (b)/ to our words and never tell a lie.(c)/ No error (d)

Q20. Agatha met him in (a)/ the hospital and enquired (b)/ about his state of health.(c)/ No error (d)



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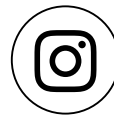
SBI PO | IBPS PO | RBI GRADE B | IBPS CLERK | IBPS SO | NABARD | SBI CLERK | SIDBI
RBI ASSISTANT | IPPB OFFICER | IBPS RRB OFFICER | IBPS RRB ASSISTANT |
DENA BANK PO | BOB MANIPAL | BOM MANIPAL | SYNDICATE BANK PO | IDBI BANK PO

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