

English Language for Competitive Exams
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Week - 12
Lecture - 58
Revision - Subject verb agreement

Welcome friends, to one of the last sessions of this course. Now I am going to as you have seen this week we have been revising this is our last week 12. We have has been revising quite a lot. And today I wanted to talk to you about how to score higher scores or higher marks on your competitive test. So, one I am going to talk about the or revise rather the subject verb agreement form that item we have already done it is just a revision today.

So, before we start with subject verb agreement and other aspects of whatever we have been doing. So, far I wanted to adjust recap what we have been doing throughout the course. So, I cannot stress enough on the importance of reading on regular basis. You we have to be very consistent with your reading, to be able to score high on your verbal test you need to read on a very regular very consistent basis. Magazines newspapers, good novels journal articles all these are mandatory. Op-ed opinion pages' editorials of Indian as well as international newspapers is a must now more you read the stronger your verbal skills.

You need to improve your vocabulary. The fastest way to improve your verbal score is to learn as well as try to use contextualized words. We have done So, much of vocabulary in this course, but do not expect that a week before the exam you are going to just cram it all up and you will be able to crack it. It would not happen that way all words exist in only in isolation, they make some meaning when you contextualize them. So, how you are you are given a particular set of test item, discrete test item as you say, it will all depend on how well you read that and contextualize. So, dictionaries are your best friends. Keep goggling words that you have done, in the course, and see the various ways on which it is employed. Analogy sentence completions antonyms all require you to have an exemplary vocabulary it would not happen you want to score very high.

For these exams you have to really be a master if I may say So, of these aspects elements. Apart from the vocabulary that we have given you in this course, learn as many higher order words. Be consistent, work hard, I am sure you practice your verbal vocabulary on a regular basis vocabulary. Read a lot review your work analyse your strength and weaknesses. Talking about subject verb agreement that I have started with today, remember it is one of the most integral parts of English grammar. Remember subject and verbs must agree. And many of the correct the following sentences type of exercises or items that you get for your competitive exam. They all depend on most of them can derive from subject verb agreement kind.

So, therefore, I cannot emphasize enough on mastering subject verb aspect agreement aspect. So, you must agree or subjects rather subject and verbs must agree, with one another in number singular plural if a subject is singular verb should also be singular that is the golden rule and vice versa. So, plural takes a plural verb.

Remember the rules rule one of s v a or subject verb agreement subjects come before a phrase beginning with of, o f proposition of. For instance, in the phrase a bunch of white lilies the subject is bunch and not lilies. So, the verb should agree with respect to the singular bunch we are not saying bunches we are saying bunch. Do not get confused here. So, it is not lilies is not the subject. Rule 2 or the second rule is the singular subjects connect by or either or either or nether nor neither nor require a singular verb. For instance, neither Romeo nor Juliet survives in Shakespeare's play. Rule number 3 the verb in or e either or neither nor agrees with the noun of pronoun closes to it. So, neither the shirts nor the belt goes with it. Neither the bag, So, I can rephrase it neither the shoes nor the bags go with that dress. So, bags plural. So, plural verb.

Next rule is it is a very general rule use the plural verb with the 2 or more subjects when they are connected by and connector and connective conjunction. And a guitar and the piano are the musical instrument in my positions. A guitar and piano or a guitar or piano parenthesis. And word phrases such as along with as well as besides excreta are not part of the subjects. So, remember the girl along with the father is going to goa. The girl and her father, the girl and her father are going to goa the girl along with her father. So, separated with commas, we have done punctuations.

So, remember that, the girl comma along with her father comma is going to go. Remember in sentences beginning with here or there the true subjects follow the verbs. There are 4 pineapples to plug or you can say there is a big pineapple to plug, and here are the keys. So, remember the true subject follows the verb in here and there. Always remember to use a singular verb with distances periods of times, sums of money we have done all these before. 3 kilometres is too far to walk 5 years is the minimum punishment of sentence for theft a 100 rupees is too high a price to pay. Also remember with words that indicate portions example a lord majority some all rule one is reversed and we are guided by the noun which comes after of go back to your rule one and remember.

If the noun after of is singular use a singular verb if it is plural use a plural verb. Also remember with collective noun such as group jury family audience population the verb might be singular or plural depending on the writers' intention. You can say the jury is divided or are divided most of the jury is here are here. Next rule is the verb the verb you know past tense of are is used in place of was in sentences that express a wish or are contrary to fact, if your father were here you would be sorry. So, the word were which is you know if it is used in place of is used in place of was in sentences that express a wish if your father were here the father may be a singular, but we do not say was it is a wish. If I were rich, I would have driven around the world. If I were the chief minister, I would have implemented this proposal long back. I wish it was Sunday, but it is not. So, it is some wish.

Coming to the sentence correction type remember which is very important part of your competitive exams, it is often one of the more difficult parts remember that in your competitive exams. So, watch out for sentence correction. First thing is s v a, it is subject verb agreement revise the important rules everyday remember. So, that you do not get confused you can identify an agreement mistakes as soon as you see one, while you may know all the rules remember applying them on a question requires a lot practice. Do not get confused by pronoun ambiguity and eliminate answer options in the first go. Ambiguous pronouns are a problem only if the meaning of the sentence is effective because of the pronoun. Do not get misled by traps by red herrings.

So, remember just because some answer options begin with not only, it does not mean that they not only, but also construct is required in the sentence. Right answer may not use this particular phrase. So, do not jump to conclusions. Treat all the options equality

give attention to a b c d e. Remember to pick up close from the non-underlined part of the sentence. The non-underlined part of the sentence can give you vital clues about tenses, lists, modifies and meanings that will help you eliminate your choices. Do not ignore this part always substitute the choice in the original sentence and see whether it makes sense. Never ever assume that the sentence given in choice a has the intended meaning of the sentence read all the answer choices and make up your own mind about the what the intended meaning is. Remember that every rule has exceptions.

Therefore, keep an open mind and do not eliminate any answer choice out right. Just because it contains being or an ambiguous pro noun. It is good to have thumb rules; this means there are some things that are usually wrong in the exams. Remember prefer active voice over passive, choose a concise statement over a word convoluted kind try to eliminate, your options one by one instead of choosing one first. Sentence correction requires master in basic grammar diction that is word choice idioms and style. The grammar and diction are based on rules of English. Idioms are based on adopted expressions which are deemed right or wrong. Simply because that is the way to serve. Style is not considered right or wrong, but rather it is viewed as more effective or less effective. In grammar the choice between they have arrived and they has arrived is based on the rule of subject verb agreement. So, remember.

Diction, when you the choice is between fewer pencils and less pencils this is based on diction, fewer is used with countable items. So, pencils fewer pencils lesser, milk lesser water. It cannot be counted. Remember idioms the choice between I prefer fish to chicken and I prefer fish over chicken is based on idiomatic expression. In this case to is the correct preposition I prefer fish to chicken.

Also remember, style is very integral part of English language. The choice between employees of the company and company employees is being is on a convention of style brevity. Simplest version company employees is deemed more effective. One has to create affectivity in sentence correction. For example, in sentence correction sections the most affective sentence is preferred remember, you have if whenever you find the choice or you are stuck between passive and active voice as a general rule of style favour the active voice. Other things being equal of course, sally was loved by harry or harry loved sally you know what to choose.

Remember the rule of nominalization. We should prefer verbs and adjectives to nouns. Verbs are considered more powerful than nouns. In other words, a general rule in grammar is that we should not change verbs into nouns. Technical name for this is nominalization. We should not nominalise at least in the competitive type of exams. Reduction of cost is less effective than reduced cost. Remember that. Precise instruments is better than precision of instruments. I know many newspapers resort to nominalization. So, often that we get confused and we get carried away by that, but prefer the supremacy or admit the supremacy of verbs and the nouns. Remember the rule of gravity and redundancy. Redundancy is like repetition is not really required there. As a general rule less is more always. So, consider options that express the same ideas in fewer words, but without changing the meaning of a sentence. For example, when you say we want to hire the second candidate owing to the fact that he is humorous and has many good ideas is less active to we want to hire the second candidate because he is humorous and has many good ideas. So, because makes the difference.

Consider weak openers. Beginning a sentence with it is or there is there are is grounds for a weak opening. So, consider options which rephrase the sentence by deleting these opening words, less effective is, it is a program that traces of history of television in Spain or and more effective would be the program traces the history of television in Spain. So, rather than beginning with it is start with a noun.

Now, let us, I have been giving you all these tips we have been revising these tips. Let us now put them into practice.

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Sentence Correction: Exercise 1

❖ As graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have been becoming more and more dependent on alumni networks, corporate sponsorships, and philanthropists.

A) As graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have been becoming

B) As graduate management programs are becoming more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have been becoming

C) As graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have become

D) As graduate management programs are becoming more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have become

E) As graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools will become

So, look at the slide here. This is your sentence correction exercise one as graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have been becoming more and more dependent on alumni networks, corporate sponsorships and philanthropists. Look at the choices as graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have been becoming as graduate management programs are becoming more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings.

The schools have been becoming as graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years, in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have become as graduate management programs are becoming more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools have become as graduate management programs become more competitive in the coming years in terms of their promotional and financial undertakings, schools will become. The best choice is choice e. The classification here is verb tense. The problem is included to highlight the difference between the simple future tenses versus the present perfect tenses both simple and progressive forms.

So you have to remember that all answer choices contain the words in the coming years. We definitely know that we are dealing with the future and choice e therefore,

complements are such that are simple future tense. Remember and notice in choices a and b the tense have been becoming present perfect progressive tense, in the passive voice does not work and in c and d choices the present perfect tense is out therefore, we need a tense that takes us into the future therefore, e.

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Sentence Correction: Exercise 2

❖ The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 1990 and continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years.

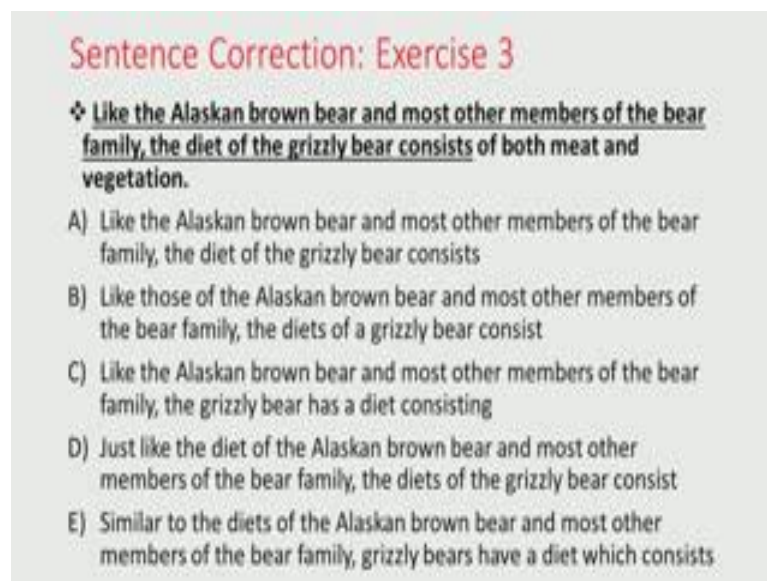
- A) The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 1990 and continued to rise more gradually over the next ten years.
- B) The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 1990 and has continued to rise more gradually over the next ten years.
- C) The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 1990 and had continued to rise more gradually over the next ten years.
- D) There had been an abrupt increase in the percentage of people remaining single in Holland between 1980 and 1990 and it continued to rise more gradually over the next ten years.
- E) There was an abrupt increase in the percentage of people remaining single in Holland between 1980 and 1990 which continued to rise more gradually over the next ten years.

Look at the next slide. The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 1990 and continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years. All the entire sentence is underlined. Please look at the slide and the options given the percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 90 and continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years. The percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 90 and has continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years the percentage of people remaining single in Holland increased abruptly between 1980 and 90 and has continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years.

There has had been an abrupt increase in the percentage of people remaining single in Holland between this and there has been there was an abrupt increase in the percentage of people remaining single in Holland between 1980 and 90 which continued to rise more gradually over the next 10 years. So, take a moment. The best choice would be choice a. Again it is a problem of verb tense. The problem is included to illustrate the difference between the simple past tense versus the past perfect.

Now, the correct answer should go with the simple past tense. So, simple past tense is all that is needed to refer clearly to the past or the time frame in the past 80 to 90. In the choice b if you have noticed the present perfect tense as continued is inconsistent with the timing of an event. And in c the past perfect tense had continued is not required because we are not making a distinction between the sequences of 2 past tense events in choices d and e, remember the focus to switches from a rise in the percentage of people to arise in the increase. There is a shift in meaning it is not wanted and it is incorrect also. Best choice is a. So, because all the also think that the pro noun it in choice d and which are ambiguous. And could refer to even the percentage of people or an abrupt increase. Also notice the use of passive constructs or constructions in d and e, there has been and there was. So, these are considered weak sentence constructions best is a option a.

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Sentence Correction: Exercise 3

❖ Like the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, the diet of the grizzly bear consists of both meat and vegetation.

A) Like the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, the diet of the grizzly bear consists

B) Like those of the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, the diets of a grizzly bear consist

C) Like the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, the grizzly bear has a diet consisting

D) Just like the diet of the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, the diets of the grizzly bear consist

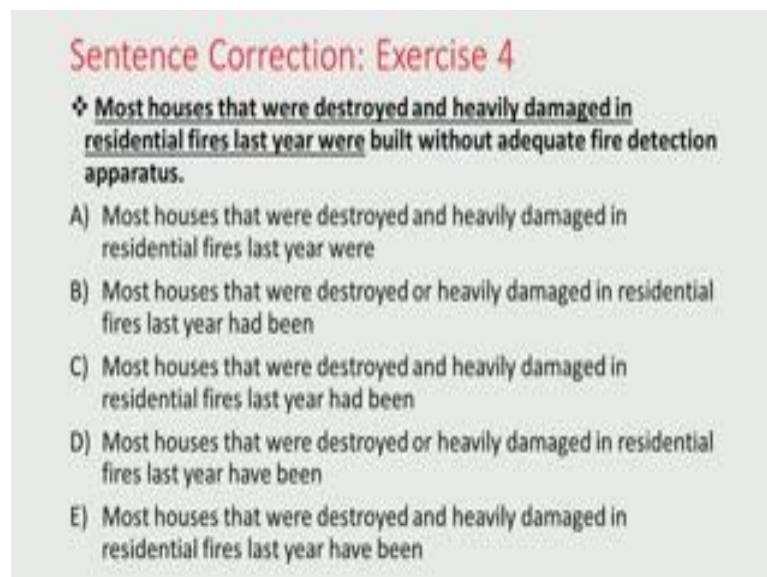
E) Similar to the diets of the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family, grizzly bears have a diet which consists

Look at the next slide. Like the Alaskan brown bear and most of the members of the brow bear family the diet of the grizzly bear consists of both meat and vegetation. Like the Alaskan brown bear and most of the members of the bear family the diet of the grizzly bear consists. Like those of the Alaskan brown bear and most of the members of the brown bear family the diets of the grizzly bear consist. Like the Alaskan brown bear and more most of the members of the bear family the grizzly bear has a diet consisting. Just like the diet of the Alaskan brown bear and most other members of the bear family the diets of the grizzly bear consist. Similar to the diets of the Alaskan brown bear and

most other members of the bear family grizzly bears have a diet which consists. Answer is choice c. It is comparisons when making comparison the most basic rule is to make sure to compare similar or like things.

Compares apples with apples and compare oranges with oranges. So, this is particularly true when distinguishing between the characteristics of one thing to the characteristics of something else. We want to compare bears with bears diets of bears with diets of bears. So, choice a the original compares animals with diets by erroneously comparing the Alaskan brown bear and to other members of the bear family to the diet of the grizzly bear. Choice b is structurally sound those is the demonstrative pro noun that takes the place of the diet, but unidiomatically refers to the diets of the grizzly, bear idiomatic is speech should have diet do not diets. Choice d uses the repetitions just like and choice e comes the original error in reverse diets of Alaskan bear and most of the bear members of the bear family are being compared to grizzly bears. So, the best choice is option c. Remember that like the Alaskan bear brown bear and most of the members of the bear family the grizzly bear has a diet consisting answer choice c.

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Sentence Correction: Exercise 4

❖ Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year were built without adequate fire detection apparatus.

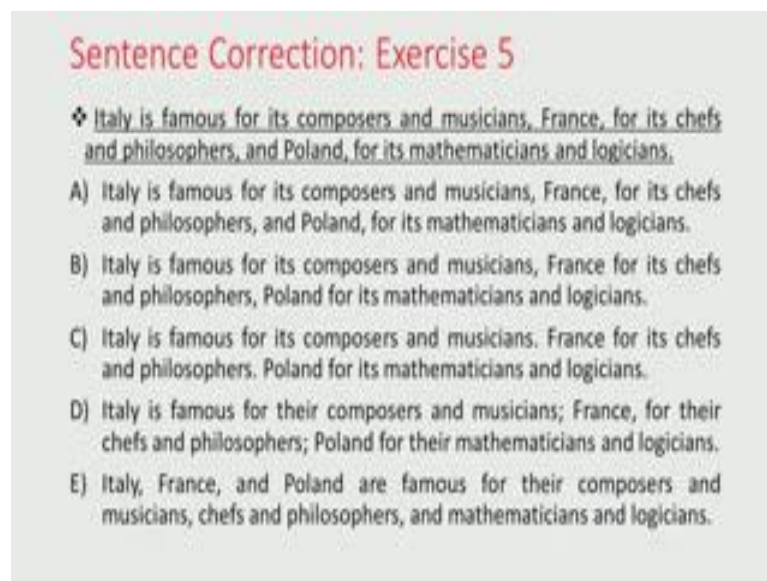
- A) Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year were
- B) Most houses that were destroyed or heavily damaged in residential fires last year had been
- C) Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year had been
- D) Most houses that were destroyed or heavily damaged in residential fires last year have been
- E) Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year have been

Look at the next slide. Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year were built without a adequate fire detection apparatus. Choices are most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year were. Most houses that were destroyed or heavily damaged in residential fires last year

had been. Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year had been most houses that were destroyed or heavily damaged in residential fires last year have been. Most houses that were destroyed and heavily damaged in residential fires last year have been. The best choice is choice b verb tense.

This problem is included to highlight the difference between the past perfect tense versus the simple past tense and the present perfect sent tense. The correct answer sides with the past perfect tense this problem also deals with the passive verb tense. The auxiliary had must be used in conjunction with the first of 2 past periods. Choice is a c and e illogically state that some houses are both destroyed and heavily damaged or is needed to indicate that each of the houses suffered either one side or the other. Therefore, the best choice is choice b which is most houses that were destroyed or heavily damaged in residential fire last year had been, etcetera.

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Sentence Correction: Exercise 5

❖ Italy is famous for its composers and musicians, France, for its chefs and philosophers, and Poland, for its mathematicians and logicians.

A) Italy is famous for its composers and musicians, France, for its chefs and philosophers, and Poland, for its mathematicians and logicians.

B) Italy is famous for its composers and musicians, France for its chefs and philosophers, Poland for its mathematicians and logicians.

C) Italy is famous for its composers and musicians. France for its chefs and philosophers. Poland for its mathematicians and logicians.

D) Italy is famous for their composers and musicians; France, for their chefs and philosophers; Poland for their mathematicians and logicians.

E) Italy, France, and Poland are famous for their composers and musicians, chefs and philosophers, and mathematicians and logicians.

Now, look at the next slide. Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians. France for it is chefs and philosophers, and Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians. Look at the slide and options Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians, France for it is chefs and philosophers, and Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians. Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians France for it is chefs and philosophers Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians France for it is chefs and philosophers Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians. Italy is

famous for their composers and musicians notice the punctuation marks France for their chefs and philosophers and Poland for their mathematicians and logicians. Italy France and Poland are famous for their composers' musicians' chef's philosophers' mathematicians and logicians. The best choice is choice a it is a condition of parallelism. The problem is included to high light the use of parallelism with regards to ellipses and review the semicolons omission comma sentence run on fragments.

In choice a, the comma plays immediately after France and Poland is an omission colon. It takes the place of the missing words is famous. Choice b provides an example of run on sentence there must be as and an presiding the word Poland. As it is stands it is 3 sentences joined together by commas. Choice c contains fragments France for it is chefs and philosophers. Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians. So, these phrases cannot stand on their own as complete sentences. Choice d improperly in or inappropriately uses the pro noun there, rather than it is more over we need to have commas after both the words France and Poland, Poland in order to validate this choice. Alternatively, we could omit commas after France and Poland. Words can be omitted within a sentence if they are readily understood in context. So, choice e changes the meaning of the original sentence. It is a perfect elimination. You just cannot have something like that. So, correct is Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians, France comma France is famous for it is chefs and philosophers' comma and Poland is famous for it is mathematicians and logicians.

Note it repeats 3 times the word it is famous. So, best answer Italy is famous for it is composers and musicians, France for it is chefs and philosophers, and Poland for it is mathematicians and logicians.

Thank you very much and we will be soon meeting for more revision.