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SKY DIGITAL CYBER

GENERAL ENGLISH 2026

COMPLETE COMPETITIVE EXAM GUIDE

ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶಿ

English Grammar

Vocabulary

Sentence Correction

Reading Comprehension

MCQs & Mock Tests

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Parts of Speech

Welcome to **General English 2026**. This chapter introduces the **eight parts of speech** — the building blocks of every English sentence. When you can identify the job of each word in a sentence, grammar questions in competitive exams become much easier. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಇಂಗ್ಲಿಷ್ ವಾಕ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿನ ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಂದು ಪದಕ್ಕೂ ಒಂದು ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಕೆಲಸವಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆ ಕೆಲಸದ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಪದಗಳನ್ನು ಎಂಟು ಗುಂಪುಗಳಾಗಿ ವಿಂಗಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ; ಈ ಗುಂಪುಗಳೇ Parts of Speech.

The Eight Parts of Speech

Every English word belongs to one of eight groups. The group of a word is decided by the **work it does in the sentence**, not by the word alone. For example, *run* can be a verb ("I run daily") or a noun ("a morning run").

Part of Speech	What It Does	Example
Noun	Names a person, place, thing or idea	<i>teacher, city, honesty</i>
Pronoun	Takes the place of a noun	<i>he, she, it, they</i>
Verb	Shows action or state of being	<i>run, eat, is, seem</i>
Adjective	Describes a noun or pronoun	<i>tall, red, five</i>
Adverb	Describes a verb, adjective or adverb	<i>quickly, very, today</i>
Preposition	Shows relation (time, place, direction)	<i>in, on, at, under</i>
Conjunction	Joins words or sentences	<i>and, but, because</i>
Interjection	Expresses sudden feeling	<i>Oh!, Wow!, Alas!</i>

GRAMMAR RULE

To identify a word's part of speech, ask what it **does** in that sentence. A word's job can change: "*Light*" is a noun in "Switch on the **light**" but an adjective in "a **light** bag". **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಪದದ ಗುಂಪನ್ನು ನಿರ್ಧರಿಸುವುದು ಆ ವಾಕ್ಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಅದರ ಕೆಲಸ; ಪದವೊಂದೇ ಅಲ್ಲ.

EXAM FOCUS

Exams often give one sentence and ask you to identify one underlined word's part of speech. First find what the word describes or connects — that reveals its group.

Parts of Speech

Noun and Pronoun

Noun is a naming word. It names a person (Ravi, teacher), a place (Bengaluru, school), a thing (book, pen) or an idea (honesty, freedom). Nouns have five types:

Type	Meaning	Examples
Proper Noun	Specific name; always capitalised	Ravi, India, Ganga
Common Noun	General name of a class	boy, city, river
Collective Noun	Name of a group	team, crowd, flock
Abstract Noun	Idea or quality; cannot be touched	love, courage, wisdom
Material Noun	Substance things are made of	gold, wood, water

Example: The **teacher** praised the **boy** for his **honesty**. (ಶಿಕ್ಷಕರು ಹುಡುಗನ ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕತೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಗಳಿದರು.) Here *teacher* and *boy* are common nouns; *honesty* is an abstract noun.

Pronoun is a word used **in place of a noun** to avoid repetition. Instead of "Ravi said Ravi is tired", we say "Ravi said **he** is tired".

Type	Examples
Personal	I, we, you, he, she, it, they
Possessive	mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs
Reflexive	myself, yourself, himself, herself, itself
Demonstrative	this, that, these, those
Relative	who, whom, whose, which, that
Interrogative	who, what, which, whose, whom

EASY TO REMEMBER

Possessive adjectives (my, your, his) come **before a noun** — "my book". **Possessive pronouns** (mine, yours, his) stand **alone** — "the book is mine". Exams love this difference.

Parts of Speech

Verb, Adjective and Adverb

Verb shows an action or a state of being. Without a verb, there is no sentence. *Run, eat, write* show action; *is, seem, become* show state.

Example: She **writes** a letter every day. (ಅವಳು ಪ್ರತಿದಿನ ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆಯುತ್ತಾಳೆ.) — *writes* is the action verb.

Example: He **is** a doctor. (ಅವನು ವೈದ್ಯ.) — *is* shows a state of being, not an action.

Adjective describes a noun or pronoun. It answers **what kind?, which one? or how many?**

Example: It is a **beautiful** garden. (ಅದು ಸುಂದರವಾದ ತೋಟ.) — *beautiful* answers "what kind of garden?"

Example: I have **three** pens. (ನನ್ನ ಬಳಿ ಮೂರು ಪೆನ್ನುಗಳಿವೆ.) — *three* answers "how many?"

Adverb describes a verb, an adjective or another adverb. It answers **how?, when?, where? or how often?**

Example: She sings **sweetly**. (ಅವಳು ಇಂಪಾಗಿ ಹಾಡುತ್ತಾಳೆ.) — *sweetly* answers "how does she sing?"

Example: He came **yesterday**. (ಅವನು ನಿನ್ನೆ ಬಂದನು.) — *yesterday* answers "when?"

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: She speaks English **good**.

Correct: She speaks English **well**.

Good is an adjective (describes nouns); *well* is the adverb (describes the verb *speaks*). **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದವನ್ನು (verb) ವಿವರಿಸಲು ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ adverb ಬಳಸಿ — adjective ಅಲ್ಲ.



Parts of Speech

Preposition, Conjunction and Interjection

Preposition shows the relation of a noun or pronoun to another word — usually of **time, place or direction**. It always comes before a noun or pronoun: *in, on, at, under, between, from, to*.

Example: The keys are **under** the table. (ಕೀಲಿಗಳು ಮೇಜಿನ ಕೆಳಗೆ ಇವೆ.) — *under* shows place.

Example: We met **on** Monday. (ನಾವು ಸೋಮವಾರ ಭೇಟಿಯಾದೆವು.) — *on* shows time.

Conjunction joins words, phrases or sentences: *and, but, or, because, although, unless*.

Example: Ravi **and** Sita are friends. (ರವಿ ಮತ್ತು ಸೀತಾ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತರು.)

Example: He stayed home **because** he was ill. (ಅವನು ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯದಿಂದಾಗಿ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲೇ ಇದ್ದನು.)

Interjection expresses a sudden feeling or reaction. It is followed by an exclamation mark: *Oh!, Wow!, Hurrah!, Alas!, Bravo!*

Example: **Hurrah!** We won the match. (ಹುರ್ರೇ! ನಾವು ಪಂದ್ಯ ಗೆದ್ದೆವು.) — joy.

Example: **Alas!** He is no more. (ಅಯ್ಯೋ! ಅವನು ಇನ್ನಿಲ್ಲ.) — sorrow.

Ask This Question	The Word Is
What kind? Which one? How many?	Adjective (describes a noun)
How? When? Where? How often?	Adverb (describes a verb)
Does it join two parts?	Conjunction
Does it show time, place or direction?	Preposition
Does it show sudden feeling?	Interjection

EXAM FOCUS

For "identify the part of speech" questions, first locate the **main verb**. Words describing the subject are usually adjectives; words describing the verb are usually adverbs.



Parts of Speech

Practice: Identify the Part of Speech

Choose the correct answer. Each question tests one part of speech from this chapter.

1. The cat sat on the mat. The underlined word is a:

- A. Noun
- B. Verb
- C. Adjective
- D. Adverb

Correct answer: A. Noun

Explanation: "Cat" is a naming word — it names an animal.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "Cat" ಒಂದು ಹೆಸರಿಸುವ ಪದ (naming word), ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದು Noun.

2. She runs quickly. The underlined word is an:

- A. Adjective
- B. Adverb
- C. Verb
- D. Preposition

Correct answer: B. Adverb

Explanation: "Quickly" answers "how does she run?" — it describes the verb, so it is an adverb.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "Quickly" ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದವನ್ನು (runs) ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ, ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದು Adverb.

3. Wow! That is a beautiful painting. The underlined word is an:

- A. Conjunction
- B. Pronoun
- C. Interjection
- D. Article

Correct answer: C. Interjection

Explanation: "Wow!" expresses a sudden feeling of surprise and stands apart from the sentence.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಹಠಾತ್ ಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುವ ಪದ Interjection.

4. Ravi and Sita are good friends. The underlined word is a:

- A. Preposition
- B. Conjunction
- C. Adverb
- D. Interjection

Correct answer: B. Conjunction

Explanation: "And" joins two nouns (Ravi, Sita); joining words are conjunctions.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡು ಪದಗಳನ್ನು ಜೋಡಿಸುವ ಪದ Conjunction.

EASY TO REMEMBER

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ಯಾವುದೇ ಸ್ಪರ್ಧಾತ್ಮಕ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಯ ಅಧ್ಯಯನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ

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Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

This chapter studies three closely connected topics: **nouns**, **pronouns** and **articles**. Together they decide how we name things, replace names, and point to specific or general things. Article and pronoun questions appear in almost every competitive exam. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಈ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯದಲ್ಲಿ Noun, Pronoun ಮತ್ತು Article ಗಳ ಆಳವಾದ ಅಧ್ಯಯನವಿದೆ. ಇವು ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಅತಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೇಳಲಾಗುವ ವಿಷಯಗಳು.

Types of Nouns — Detailed Study

You met the five noun types in Chapter 1. Now learn to **identify** each type quickly:

Type	Identification Test	Examples
Proper Noun	A specific name; starts with a capital letter	Ravi, Bengaluru, Kaveri
Common Noun	A general class; can take a/an/the	boy, city, river
Collective Noun	One word for a group	team, army, bunch, herd
Abstract Noun	Cannot be seen or touched; only felt	love, anger, beauty, truth
Material Noun	A substance; usually uncountable	gold, milk, iron, rice

Example: The **crowd** cheered for the **team** with great **joy**. (ಜನಸಮೂಹ ತಂಡವನ್ನು ಅಪಾರ ಸಂತೋಷದಿಂದ ಹುರಿದುಂಬಿಸಿತು.) — *crowd*, *team* are collective nouns; *joy* is abstract.

GRAMMAR RULE

A **collective noun** takes a **singular verb** when the group acts as one unit: "The team **is** winning." It takes a plural verb only when members act separately: "The team **are** wearing their own jerseys." **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಗುಂಪು ಒಂದಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಏಕವಚನ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದ; ಸದಸ್ಯರು ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕವಾಗಿ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡಿದರೆ ಬಹುವಚನ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದ.

Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

Countable and Uncountable Nouns

Countable nouns can be counted (one book, two books) and have plural forms. **Uncountable nouns** cannot be counted directly (water, sugar, advice) and usually have **no plural** and take a **singular verb**.

Example: **Water** is precious. (ನೀರು ಅಮೂಲ್ಯ.) — *water* is uncountable: we never say "waters" in general use.

GRAMMAR RULE

Use **much / little / a little** with uncountable nouns ("much water", "little advice") and **many / few / a few** with countable nouns ("many books", "few friends"). **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಎಣಿಸಲಾಗದ ನಾಮಪದಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ much/little; ಎಣಿಸಬಹುದಾದ ನಾಮಪದಗಳೊಂದಿಗೆ many/few ಬಳಸಿ.

Singular and Plural Forms

Rule	Example
Add -s to most nouns	book → books, pen → pens
Add -es after s, sh, ch, x, z	bus → buses, box → boxes
Consonant + y → -ies	city → cities, baby → babies
f / fe → -ves	knife → knives, leaf → leaves
Irregular change	man → men, child → children, foot → feet
No change	sheep → sheep, deer → deer

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: He gave me many **advices**.

Correct: He gave me much **advice** / many **pieces of advice**.

Advice, information, furniture, luggage are uncountable — they never take **-s**.

Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

Pronouns in Detail

A pronoun replaces a noun. The noun it replaces is called its **antecedent**, and the pronoun must **agree** with it in number and gender.

Type	Examples	Use
Personal	I, you, he, she, it, we, they	Replace the subject or object
Possessive	mine, yours, his, hers, ours, theirs	Show ownership; stand alone
Reflexive	myself, himself, herself, themselves	Subject and object are the same person
Demonstrative	this, that, these, those	Point to specific things
Relative	who, whom, whose, which, that	Join a clause to a noun

Example: She hurt **herself** while cooking. (ಅವಳು ಅಡುಗೆ ಮಾಡುವಾಗ ತನಗೆ ತಾನೇ ಗಾಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಳು.) — *herself* is reflexive: she did it to herself.

Example: The boy **who** won the prize is my friend. (ಬಹುಮಾನ ಗೆದ್ದ ಹುಡುಗ ನನ್ನ ಸ್ನೇಹಿತ.) — *who* is a relative pronoun joining two ideas.

GRAMMAR RULE

Use **who** for people, **which** for things, and **that** for both: "the man **who** came", "the book **which** I bought". Use **whom** only as an object: "the officer **whom** I met". **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗಳಿಗೆ who, ವಸ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ which, ಎರಡಕ್ಕೂ that. Object ಆಗಿ ಬಂದಾಗ whom.

Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

Articles: A, An and The

Articles are small words with big exam value. **A / an** = indefinite (any one); **the** = definite (a specific one).

Article	Rule	Example
A	Before a consonant sound	a boy, a university, a one-rupee coin
An	Before a vowel sound	an apple, an honest man, an hour
The	Before something specific / already known	the book on the table
The	Before rivers, seas, oceans, mountain ranges	the Ganga, the Himalayas
The	Before superlatives and ordinals	the best, the first
No article	Before proper nouns, meals, languages (general)	Ravi, dinner, Kannada

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: He is **a** honest man.

Correct: He is **an** honest man.

The *h* in *honest* is silent, so it begins with a **vowel sound** (o-nest). Articles follow **sound**, not spelling: *an hour, a university, an MLA, a European*.

EXAM FOCUS

Watch for **repeated nouns**: first mention takes **a/an**, second mention takes **the**. "I saw **a** dog. **The** dog was black." This pattern is tested frequently.

Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

Practice: Nouns, Pronouns and Articles

1. Which of the following is an uncountable noun?

- A. Chair
- B. Water
- C. Apple
- D. Book

Correct answer: B. Water

Explanation: Water cannot be counted directly and has no plural form; the others are countable.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Water ಅನ್ನು ನೇರವಾಗಿ ಎಣಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಅದು uncountable noun.

2. This is my book. The underlined word is a:

- A. Personal pronoun
- B. Possessive adjective
- C. Reflexive pronoun
- D. Demonstrative pronoun

Correct answer: B. Possessive adjective

Explanation: "My" comes before the noun "book" and shows ownership, so it is a possessive adjective, not a pronoun.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "My" ನಾಮಪದದ (book) ಮುಂದೆ ಬಂದು ಮಾಲೀಕತ್ವ ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ; ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ possessive adjective.

3. He is ____ honest man.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. no article

Correct answer: B. an

Explanation: The *h* in "honest" is silent, so the word begins with a vowel sound — use "an".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "Honest" ನಲ್ಲಿ *h* ಉಚ್ಚಾರವಿಲ್ಲ; ಸ್ವರ ಧ್ವನಿಯಿಂದ ಶುರುವಾಗುವುದರಿಂದ "an" ಬಳಸಬೇಕು.

4. She hurt ____ when she fell down.

- A. her
- B. herself
- C. she
- D. hers

Correct answer: B. herself

Explanation: The subject and the object are the same person (she hurt she), so a reflexive pronoun is required.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಕರ್ತೃ ಮತ್ತು ಕರ್ಮ ಒಂದೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಯಾದಾಗ reflexive pronoun (herself) ಬಳಸಬೇಕು.

Adjectives and Adverbs

Adjectives and adverbs are the **describing words** of English. Adjectives describe nouns; adverbs describe verbs, adjectives or other adverbs. Confusing the two is one of the most common exam errors — this chapter removes that confusion permanently. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** Adjective ನಾಮಪದವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ; Adverb ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದವನ್ನು ವಿವರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ. ಇವೆರಡರ ಗೊಂದಲ ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೆಚ್ಚು ಕೇಳಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Adjectives: Types and Position

Type	Answers	Example
Descriptive	What kind?	a red car, a brave soldier
Demonstrative	Which one?	this book, those girls
Numerical	How many? Which in order?	five pens, the first prize
Possessive	Whose?	my bag, their house
Interrogative	Asks a question	Which colour? What time?

Position: An adjective usually comes **before the noun** ("a tall boy") or **after a linking verb** ("the boy is tall"). Some adjectives change meaning with position — exam favourite: "the **present** manager" (current) vs "the manager is **present**" (here).

Example: She bought a **beautiful** saree. (ಅವಳು **ಸುಂದರವಾದ** ಸೀರೆಯನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡಳು.) — *beautiful* comes before the noun *saree*.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Order of adjectives: **Opinion → Size → Age → Colour → Origin → Material**. "A **beautiful small old red Indian wooden** box." Exams rarely test the full order, but opinion-before-fact is common.

Adjectives and Adverbs

Adverbs: Five Types

An adverb adds meaning to a verb, an adjective or another adverb. Most (not all) adverbs end in **-ly**.

Type	Answers	Examples
Manner	How?	quickly, slowly, well, bravely
Time	When?	today, yesterday, soon, already
Place	Where?	here, there, everywhere, outside
Frequency	How often?	always, never, often, rarely
Degree	How much?	very, too, quite, almost

Example: He drives **carefully**. (ಅವನು ಎಚ್ಚರಿಕೆಯಿಂದ ವಾಹನ ಚಲಾಯಿಸುತ್ತಾನೆ.) — manner: how does he drive?

Example: I have **already** finished my work. (ನಾನು ಈಗಾಗಲೇ ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದೇನೆ.) — time.

GRAMMAR RULE

Adverbs of frequency (always, never, often, rarely, usually) go **before the main verb** but **after be**: "She **always** comes late" but "She **is always** late". **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** Frequency adverb ಗಳು ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದದ ಮುಂದೆ, ಆದರೆ "be" (is/am/are) ನಂತರ ಬರುತ್ತವೆ.

Adjectives and Adverbs

Degrees of Comparison

Adjectives and adverbs have three degrees to compare things:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative	Rule
tall	taller	tallest	Short words: add -er / -est
happy	happier	happiest	y → i + er / est
beautiful	more beautiful	most beautiful	Long words: more / most
good / well	better	best	Irregular — memorise
bad / badly	worse	worst	Irregular — memorise
much / many	more	most	Irregular — memorise

GRAMMAR RULE

Use the **comparative** when comparing **two** things ("taller **than**") and the **superlative** for **three or more** ("the tallest **in** the class"). Never use double comparatives: **wrong** "more better" — **correct** "better". **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಎರಡರ ಹೋಲಿಕೆಗೆ comparative + than; ಮೂರು ಅಥವಾ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನವುಗಳಿಗೆ superlative + the. "More better" ನಂತಹ ದ್ವಿ-ತುಲನೆ ತಪ್ಪು.

Adjective–Adverb Confusion

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: She sings very **sweet**.

Correct: She sings very **sweetly**.

The verb *sings* needs an **adverb**, not an adjective. Test: ask "how?" after the verb — the answer is always an adverb.

Tricky pairs: *hard* (difficult / with effort) vs *hardly* (almost not); *late* (not on time) vs *lately* (recently). "He works **hard**" (diligently) but "He **hardly** works" (he almost never works) — opposite meanings!

Adjectives and Adverbs

Practice: Adjectives and Adverbs

1. He is a ____ driver.

- A. care
- B. careful
- C. carefully
- D. carefulness

Correct answer: B. careful

Explanation: The word comes before the noun "driver", so an adjective is needed — "careful".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಾಮಪದದ (driver) ಮುಂದೆ ಬರುವುದರಿಂದ adjective (careful) ಬೇಕು.

2. This book is ____ than that one.

- A. good
- B. better
- C. best
- D. more good

Correct answer: B. better

Explanation: Two things are compared, so use the comparative. "Good" becomes "better" (irregular); "more good" is wrong.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡರ ಹೋಲಿಕೆ → comparative. Good ನ comparative "better"; "more good" ತಪ್ಪು.

3. Choose the correct sentence.

- A. She sings very sweet.
- B. She sings very sweetly.
- C. She sing very sweetly.
- D. She sung very sweetly.

Correct answer: B. She sings very sweetly.

Explanation: The verb "sings" needs the adverb "sweetly". A is wrong (adjective used), C is wrong (subject-verb agreement), D is wrong (wrong tense).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದಕ್ಕೆ adverb ಬೇಕು — "sweetly" ಸರಿ. ಉಳಿದ ಆಯ್ಕೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಬೇರೆ ಬೇರೆ ತಪ್ಪುಗಳಿವೆ.

4. He ____ works on Sundays.

- A. hard
- B. hardly
- C. hardest
- D. hardness

Correct answer: A. hard

Explanation: "Hard" (adverb) means "with effort". "Hardly" means "almost not" — the opposite meaning.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "Hard" ಎಂದರೆ ಶ್ರದ್ಧೆಯಿಂದ; "hardly" ಎಂದರೆ ಬಹುತೇಕ ಇಲ್ಲ — ಅರ್ಥವೇ ವಿರುದ್ಧ.

Verbs are the **heart of every sentence**. This chapter covers main and auxiliary verbs, transitive and intransitive verbs, regular and irregular forms, finite and non-finite verbs, and the three non-finite forms — infinitive, gerund and participle. Master this chapter and tenses become easy. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದ ವಾಕ್ಯದ ಹೃದಯ. ಈ ಅಧ್ಯಾಯವನ್ನು ಚೆನ್ನಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಥಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡರೆ Tenses ಸುಲಭವಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Main Verbs and Auxiliary Verbs

Main verbs carry the meaning of the sentence: *run, eat, write, play*. **Auxiliary (helping) verbs** help the main verb show tense, mood or voice: *be, have, do, will, shall, can, may, must*.

Example: She **is writing** a letter. (ಅವಳು ಪತ್ರ ಬರೆಯುತ್ತಿದ್ದಾಳೆ.) — *writing* is the main verb; *is* is the auxiliary.

Example: They **have finished** the work. (ಅವರು ಕೆಲಸ ಮುಗಿಸಿದ್ದಾರೆ.) — *finished* is the main verb; *have* is the auxiliary.

Auxiliary	Job	Example
be (is, am, are, was, were)	Continuous tenses, passive voice	is running, was written
have (has, had)	Perfect tenses	has eaten, had gone
do (does, did)	Questions, negatives, emphasis	Do you know? did not go

GRAMMAR RULE

Be + V-ing = continuous ("is playing"). **Have + V3** = perfect ("has played"). **Do + V1** = question/negative ("did play?", "did not play"). Learn these three formulas by heart. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಈ ಮೂರು ಸೂತ್ರಗಳನ್ನು ಬಾಯಿಪಾಠ ಮಾಡಿ — Tense ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳು ಸುಲಭವಾಗುತ್ತವೆ.

Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

A **transitive verb** needs an **object** to complete its meaning ("She bought **a pen**" — bought what? a pen). An **intransitive verb** needs no object ("He sleeps **early**" — complete without an object).

Example: The boy **kicked** the ball. (ಹುಡುಗ ಚೆಂಡನ್ನು ಒಡ್ಡನು.) — transitive: *kicked* what? *the ball*.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Ask "**what?**" or "**whom?**" after the verb. If you get an answer, the verb is **transitive**. "She wrote (what?) a letter" → transitive. "Birds fly (what?) — no answer" → intransitive.

Regular and Irregular Verbs

Regular verbs form their past tense by adding **-d / -ed**: *play* → *played*, *want* → *wanted*. **Irregular verbs** change completely and must be memorised: *go* → *went* → *gone*, *eat* → *ate* → *eaten*.

V1 (Base)	V2 (Past)	V3 (Past Participle)
go	went	gone
eat	ate	eaten
write	wrote	written
take	took	taken
see	saw	seen
do	did	done
come	came	come

Finite and Non-Finite Verbs

A **finite verb** changes with the subject and tense: "She **writes**", "They **wrote**". A **non-finite verb** does not change — it has three forms:

Non-Finite Form	Structure	Example
Infinitive	to + V1	I want to learn English.
Gerund	V-ing (acts as a noun)	Swimming is good exercise.
Participle	V-ing / V3 (acts as adjective)	A broken chair; a smiling girl.

Example: To err is human. (ತಪ್ಪು ಮಾಡುವುದು ಮಾನವ ಸಹಜ.) — *to err* is an infinitive used as the subject.

Example: Reading books improves vocabulary. (ಓದುವುದು ಶಬ್ದಭಂಡಾರವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುತ್ತದೆ.) — *reading* is a gerund acting as a noun.

GRAMMAR RULE

Some verbs are always followed by a **gerund**: *enjoy, finish, avoid, mind, practise, suggest* ("I enjoy **reading**"). Others take the **infinitive**: *want, decide, plan, hope, agree* ("I want **to read**"). Exams test these lists directly. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ಕೆಲವು ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದಗಳ ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ gerund (V-ing), ಕೆಲವದರ ನಂತರ infinitive (to + V1) ಬರುತ್ತದೆ — ಈ ಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳನ್ನು ನೆನಪಿಡಿ.

Verb Forms: V1, V2, V3 and V-ing

Every verb has four basic forms. Competitive exams test which form follows which helping verb:

Form	Name	Used After	Example
V1	Base form	do / does / did, modals, to	did go , can write
V2	Past tense	Stands alone (simple past)	She went home.
V3	Past participle	have / has / had, passive voice	has gone , was written
V-ing	Present participle	be (is/am/are/was/were)	is going

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: She has **went** to school.

Correct: She has **gone** to school.

Has always takes **V3** (gone), never V2 (went). Similarly: "did **go**" (not "did went"), "is **writing**" (not "is write"). ಕನ್ನಡ

ವಿವರಣೆ: has/have/had ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ V3; do/does/did ಮತ್ತು modals ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ V1.

EXAM FOCUS

When you see a helping verb, immediately check the verb form after it. In error-spotting questions, the wrong verb form after *has*, *have*, *did*, *is* or a modal is the error in most cases.

Practice: Verbs

1. She has ____ to school.

- A. go
- B. went
- C. gone
- D. goes

Correct answer: C. gone

Explanation: "Has" is followed by the past participle (V3). The V3 of "go" is "gone".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: has/have ನಂತರ V3 ಬರಬೇಕು. Go ನ V3 "gone".

2. Which sentence has a transitive verb?

- A. He sleeps early.
- B. She bought a pen.
- C. They arrived late.
- D. Birds fly high.

Correct answer: B. She bought a pen.

Explanation: Ask "bought what?" — "a pen" answers, so "bought" takes an object and is transitive. The others need no object.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "ಏನನ್ನು ಕೊಂಡಳು?" ಎಂದರೆ "a pen" ಉತ್ತರ ಸಿಗುತ್ತದೆ; object ಇರುವುದರಿಂದ transitive verb.

3. ____ is good exercise.

- A. Swim
- B. Swimming
- C. To swim
- D. Swam

Correct answer: B. Swimming

Explanation: The subject position needs a noun form of the verb — the gerund "swimming".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Subject ಸ್ಥಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ನಾಮಪದದ ಕೆಲಸ ಮಾಡುವ gerund (swimming) ಬೇಕು.

4. I enjoy ____ stories.

- A. read
- B. reading
- C. to read
- D. reads

Correct answer: B. reading

Explanation: The verb "enjoy" is always followed by a gerund (V-ing), never an infinitive.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "Enjoy" ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ gerund (reading) ಬರುತ್ತದೆ; infinitive ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

Tense tells us **when** an action happens — in the past, present or future. English has **12 tenses**, and almost every competitive exam tests them through error spotting, fill-in-the-blanks and sentence correction. Master the structures in the table below first; the uses and rules follow on the next pages.

The 12 Tenses — Master Overview

Tense	Structure	Example
Simple Present	Sub + V1 (s/es)	She writes daily.
Present Continuous	am/is/are + V-ing	She is writing now.
Present Perfect	has/have + V3	She has written a letter.
Present Perfect Continuous	has/have + been + V-ing	She has been writing since morning.
Simple Past	Sub + V2	She wrote yesterday.
Past Continuous	was/were + V-ing	She was writing at 8 pm.
Past Perfect	had + V3	She had written before I came.
Past Perfect Continuous	had + been + V-ing	She had been writing for an hour.
Simple Future	will/shall + V1	She will write tomorrow.
Future Continuous	will + be + V-ing	She will be writing at noon.
Future Perfect	will + have + V3	She will have written by evening.
Future Perfect Continuous	will + have + been + V-ing	She will have been writing for two hours.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Learn the **helping verbs**, not just the names: **Present** uses *am/is/are, has/have*; **Past** uses *was/were, had*; **Future** uses *will*. **Continuous** always adds *V-ing*; **Perfect** always adds *V3*.

EXAM FOCUS

Exams love **time expressions**: *since, for, yesterday, already, yet, by next year*. Each time expression points to one tense. Learn the signal words on the following pages.

Present Tenses — Sentence Structures

Study all three forms of each present tense. Notice how the **helping verb changes** but the main-verb form stays fixed for each tense.

Tense	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
Simple Present	She writes .	She does not write .	Does she write ?
Present Continuous	She is writing .	She is not writing .	Is she writing ?
Present Perfect	She has written .	She has not written .	Has she written ?
Present Perfect Continuous	She has been writing .	She has not been writing .	Has she been writing ?

GRAMMAR RULE

Helping verbs for the present: *am/is/are* (I → am, he/she/it → is, you/we/they → are) and *has/have* (he/she/it → has, others → have). In negatives and questions of the **Simple Present**, the helping verb *do/does* carries the tense, so the main verb returns to V1: *Does she **write**?* (not *writes*).

Example: They **play** cricket every Sunday. / They **do not play** in rain. / **Do** they **play** well?

ಅವರು ಪ್ರತಿ ಭಾನುವಾರ ಕ್ರಿಕೆಟ್ ಆಡುತ್ತಾರೆ.

COMMON MISTAKE

X He **don't** like coffee. → ✓ He **doesn't** like coffee.

X **Does** she **writes** neatly? → ✓ **Does** she **write** neatly?

Present Tenses — Uses and Signal Words

Simple Present: habits (*She wakes up at 6*), universal facts (*Water boils at 100°C*), fixed schedules (*The train leaves at 9*).

ಅಭ್ಯಾಸಗಳು, ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಸತ್ಯಗಳು ಮತ್ತು ನಿಗದಿತ ವೇಳಾಪಟ್ಟಿಗಳಿಗೆ Simple Present ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Present Continuous: actions happening **now** (*I am reading now*), temporary situations (*She is staying with us this week*), and fixed future plans (*We are leaving tomorrow*).

Present Perfect: a past action with a **present result** (*I have lost my key* — it is still lost), life experience (*Have you ever visited Delhi?*). **Never** use it with a finished past time like *yesterday*.

Present Perfect Continuous: an action that **started in the past and continues now**, with stress on duration (*It has been raining since morning*).

Tense	Signal words (time expressions)
Simple Present	every day, always, usually, often, never, seldom
Present Continuous	now, at the moment, currently, Look!, Listen!
Present Perfect	just, already, yet, ever, never, so far, recently
Present Perfect Continuous	since + point of time, for + duration, how long, all day

COMMON MISTAKE

✗ I **have seen** him **yesterday**. → ✓ I **saw** him yesterday. (*yesterday* is finished past time → Simple Past.)

✗ He **is working** here **since 2020**. → ✓ He **has been working** here since 2020. (*since* + continuing action → Perfect Continuous.)

Past Tenses — Structures and Uses

Tense	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
Simple Past	She wrote .	She did not write .	Did she write ?
Past Continuous	She was writing .	She was not writing .	Was she writing ?
Past Perfect	She had written .	She had not written .	Had she written ?
Past Perfect Continuous	She had been writing .	She had not been writing .	Had she been writing ?

Simple Past: a finished action in the past — *yesterday, last night, in 2020, two days ago*.

ಮುಗಿದುಹೋದ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಿಯೆಗೆ Simple Past. ಉದಾ: ನಾನು ನಿನ್ನೆ ಸಿನಿಮಾ ನೋಡಿದೆ — I watched a movie yesterday.

Past Continuous: an action **in progress at a past moment** (*At 8 pm I was cooking*), or a longer background action interrupted by a shorter one: *While I was walking, it started to rain*.

Past Perfect: the **earlier of two past actions** (*She had finished her work before I arrived*). Think "past of the past".

Past Perfect Continuous: duration **before** a past point (*He had been waiting for an hour when the bus came*).

EASY TO REMEMBER

When two past actions appear, the **first** takes *had + V3* (Past Perfect) and the **second** takes *V2* (Simple Past): *The train **had left** before we **reached** the station.*

Future Tenses — Structures and Uses

Tense	Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
Simple Future	She will write .	She will not write .	Will she write ?
Future Continuous	She will be writing .	She will not be writing .	Will she be writing ?
Future Perfect	She will have written .	She will not have written .	Will she have written ?
Future Perfect Continuous	She will have been writing .	She will not have been writing .	Will she have been writing ?

Simple Future: instant decisions (*I will help you*), promises (*I will call you*), predictions (*It will rain*).

Future Continuous: an action **in progress at a future time** (*At this time tomorrow, I will be travelling*).

Future Perfect: an action **completed before** a future point — look for *by*: *By 2030, she will have finished her degree*.

Future Perfect Continuous: duration **up to** a future point: *By June, he will have been working here for ten years*.

GRAMMAR RULE

will vs going to: Use *will* for instant decisions and promises (*I will open the door*). Use *going to* for **prior plans** (*We are going to buy a house*) and predictions based on **present evidence** (*Look at those clouds — it is going to rain*).

EXAM FOCUS

The word *by* + future time almost always signals **Future Perfect**: *By next Monday, the work **will have been completed***.

Tense Conversion — Step by Step

Exams often ask you to rewrite a sentence in another tense. Follow three steps: **(1)** identify the subject, **(2)** pick the new helping verb, **(3)** change the main verb to the correct form (V1/V2/V3/V-ing).

Example: Convert "She writes a letter." into the past and future.

→ Past: She **wrote** a letter. (V2, no helping verb)

→ Future: She **will write** a letter. (will + V1)

→ Present Perfect: She **has written** a letter. (has + V3)

Example: Convert "They are playing football." into Simple Past and Past Perfect.

→ Simple Past: They **played** football.

→ Past Perfect: They **had played** football.

GRAMMAR RULE

Stative verbs (know, like, want, believe, have (= possess), seem) are **not used in continuous tenses**: say *I **know** the answer*, not *I am knowing*; *She **has** a car*, not *She is having a car*.

PRACTICE TIME

Convert into the tense given in brackets. **1.** He eats breakfast at 7. (Simple Past) **2.** We watched a movie. (Present Perfect) **3.** She will sing a song. (Past Continuous — use "was singing")

Answers: 1. He **ate** breakfast at 7. 2. We **have watched** a movie. 3. She **was singing** a song.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Past ಗೆ V2 (ate), Present Perfect ಗೆ has/have + V3 (have watched), Past Continuous ಗೆ was/were + V-ing (was singing) ಬಳಸಿ.

Common Tense Errors — Master List

COMMON MISTAKE

X I **didn't went** there. → ✓ I **didn't go** there. (After *did*, use V1.)

X She **has went** home. → ✓ She **has gone** home. (After *has/have/had*, use V3.)

COMMON MISTAKE

X I **am knowing** him well. → ✓ I **know** him well. (Stative verbs avoid continuous forms.)

X They **are having** two cars. → ✓ They **have** two cars.

Chapter Practice — Tenses

1. She ____ to school every day.

- A. go
- B. goes
- C. going
- D. gone

Correct answer: B. goes

Explanation: "She" is third-person singular; Simple Present adds -s. "Every day" signals a habit.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: every day ಎಂದರೆ ಅಭ್ಯಾಸ — Simple Present. She ಜೊತೆ verb ಗೆ -s (goes).

2. Look! The baby ____.

- A. cries
- B. is crying
- C. has cried
- D. cry

Correct answer: B. is crying

Explanation: "Look!" shows the action is happening right now — Present Continuous.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Look! ಎಂದರೆ ಈಗ ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿರುವ ಕ್ರಿಯೆ — is + V-ing.

3. I ____ in this city since 2015.

- A. live
- B. am living
- C. have been living
- D. lived

Correct answer: C. have been living

Explanation: "Since 2015" + an action continuing to now needs Present Perfect Continuous.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: since + ಇಂದಿಗೂ ಮುಂದುವರಿದ ಕ್ರಿಯೆ — have been + V-ing.

Chapter Practice — Tenses (continued)

4. He ____ his homework before his mother came home.

- A. finished
- B. has finished
- C. had finished
- D. finishes

Correct answer: C. had finished

Explanation: Of two past actions, the earlier one takes Past Perfect (had + V3).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡು ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕ್ರಿಯೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಮೊದಲನೆಯದಕ್ಕೆ had + V3 (Past Perfect).

5. By 2030, scientists ____ a cure for the disease.

- A. will discover
- B. will have discovered
- C. have discovered
- D. discover

Correct answer: B. will have discovered

Explanation: "By 2030" signals completion before a future point — Future Perfect.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: by + ಭವಿಷ್ಯದ ಸಮಯ ಎಂದರೆ Future Perfect — will have + V3.

6. Choose the correct sentence.

- A. I have seen him yesterday.
- B. I saw him yesterday.
- C. I had seen him yesterday.
- D. I see him yesterday.

Correct answer: B. I saw him yesterday.

Explanation: "Yesterday" is finished past time, so Simple Past is required; Present Perfect never pairs with yesterday.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: yesterday ನಂತಹ ಮುಗಿದ ಸಮಯದ ಜೊತೆ Simple Past ಮಾತ್ರ — have seen ತಪ್ಪು.

7. When I reached the station, the train ____.

- A. already left
- B. has already left
- C. had already left
- D. leaves

Correct answer: C. had already left

Explanation: The train left before I reached — the earlier past action needs Past Perfect.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಾನು ತಲುಪುವುದಕ್ಕಿಂತ ಮೊದಲೇ ರೈಲು ಹೊರಟಿತ್ತು — had + V3.

Subject-Verb Agreement

The verb must **agree with its subject** in number: a singular subject takes a singular verb, a plural subject takes a plural verb. Exams test this through error spotting more than any other grammar topic. The trick is to **find the real subject** before choosing the verb.

Basic Rules of Agreement

Subject	Verb	Example
Singular (he, she, it, one boy)	Singular (writes, is, has)	He writes well.
Plural (they, we, two boys)	Plural (write, are, have)	They write well.
I	am / have / V1	I am ready. I write daily.
You	are / have / V1 (always plural form)	You are right. You write well.

GRAMMAR RULE

Two singular subjects joined by **and** take a **plural** verb: *Ravi and Raju **are** friends*. But if they name **one person or one idea**, use a singular verb: *The poet and singer **is** coming* (one person); *Bread and butter **is** my breakfast* (one idea).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: and ನಿಂದ ಸೇರಿದ ಎರಡು subjects ಗೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯವಾಗಿ plural verb; ಆದರೆ ಒಬ್ಬನೇ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿ ಅಥವಾ ಒಂದೇ ವಿಚಾರವಾದರೆ singular verb.

COMMON MISTAKE

✗ The list of names **are** on the table. → ✓ The list of names **is** on the table. (The subject is *list*, not *names* — ignore the phrase in between.)

Subject-Verb Agreement

Either/Or, Neither/Nor and Each/Every

GRAMMAR RULE

With **either...or** and **neither...nor**, the verb agrees with the **nearer subject**: *Neither the students nor the teacher **was** present. / Either you or I **am** wrong.*

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: either...or / neither...nor ಬಂದಾಗ verb ಹತ್ತಿರದ subject ಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ.

Each, every, everyone, everybody, somebody, anybody, nobody, no one are always **singular**: *Each of the boys **has** a pen. / Everybody **was** happy. / Nobody **knows** the answer.*

Collective Nouns

Words like *team, committee, family, jury, class, army* take a **singular** verb when the group acts as **one unit**, and a **plural** verb when members act **individually**.

Example: The team **has** won the match. (one unit)

Example: The team **are** arguing among themselves. (individual members)

EXAM FOCUS

Watch for "**one of the + plural noun**" — it always takes a **singular** verb: *One of my friends **is** a doctor.* This pattern appears in exams again and again.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Subjects Separated from Verbs

Phrases like *along with*, *together with*, *as well as*, *in addition to*, *accompanied by* do **not** change the number of the subject. The verb still agrees with the **main subject**: *The minister, along with his secretaries, **has** arrived. / Raju, as well as his brothers, **was** invited.*

COMMON MISTAKE

✗ The students, along with the teacher, **is** going. → ✓ The students, along with the teacher, **are** going. (Ignore the phrase in between — the main subject *students* is plural.)

✗ The box of chocolates **are** open. → ✓ The box of chocolates **is** open. (Subject = *box*, singular.)

Special Cases to Memorise

Pattern	Verb	Example
There + noun	agrees with the noun after	There is a book. / There are books.
A number of + plural	plural	A number of students were absent.
The number of + plural	singular	The number of cases is rising.
news, mathematics, physics, measles	singular	The news is good.
Uncountable nouns (information, furniture)	singular	This information is useful.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Find the verb's boss: cross out every prepositional phrase (*of chocolates*, *along with the teacher*) — whatever subject word remains is the boss of the verb.

Subject-Verb Agreement

Chapter Practice — Subject-Verb Agreement

1. Neither the teacher nor the students ____ present yesterday.

- A. was
- B. were
- C. is
- D. has been

Correct answer: B. were

Explanation: With neither...nor, the verb agrees with the nearer subject ("students" — plural), and "yesterday" needs past tense.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: neither...nor ನಲ್ಲಿ ಹತ್ತಿರದ subject (students) ಗೆ verb ಹೊಂದುತ್ತದೆ — were.

2. Each of the boys ____ a new uniform.

- A. have
- B. has
- C. are having
- D. were

Correct answer: B. has

Explanation: "Each" is always singular, so it takes the singular verb "has".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Each ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ singular — has ಎಂಬ singular verb ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

3. The committee ____ submitted its report.

- A. have
- B. has
- C. are
- D. were

Correct answer: B. has

Explanation: The committee acts as one unit here, so the collective noun takes a singular verb.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: committee ಒಂದೇ ಗುಂಪಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಹಿಸಿದಾಗ singular verb (has).

4. One of my friends ____ coming to the function today.

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. have

Correct answer: B. is

Explanation: "One of the + plural noun" always takes a singular verb — the real subject is "one".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: One of the... ಮಾದರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಿಜವಾದ subject "one" — ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ is.

Active and Passive Voice

Voice shows the relationship between the subject and the action in a sentence. In the **Active Voice**, the subject performs the action; in the **Passive Voice**, the subject receives the action. Mastering voice change is essential because it is tested in almost every competitive examination.

What Is Voice?

In the **Active Voice**, the doer (subject) comes first and performs the action directly on the object.

Example: The cat drank the milk. (ಬೆಕ್ಕು ಹಾಲನ್ನು ಕುಡಿಯಿತು.)

In the **Passive Voice**, the receiver of the action becomes the subject. The doer may appear at the end with **by**, or may be left out.

Example: The milk was drunk by the cat. (ಹಾಲನ್ನು ಬೆಕ್ಕು ಕುಡಿಯಿತು.)

GRAMMAR RULE

Basic conversion formula:

Active: Subject + Verb + Object

Passive: Object + be-verb + V3 (past participle) + by + Subject

Example: She (S) writes (V) letters (O). → Letters (O) are written (be + V3) by her (S).

EASY TO REMEMBER

Think **DOER → RECEIVER**. Active = the doer acts. Passive = the receiver is acted upon. If a sentence has **no object** (for example, "She sleeps"), it **cannot** become passive.

Why Do We Use the Passive Voice?

We use the passive when the action is more important than the doer, when the doer is unknown, or in formal and scientific writing. **EXAM TIP** In voice-change questions, first identify the tense — the tense never changes during conversion.

Active and Passive Voice

Voice Change Across Tenses

The tense of the sentence **does not change** during conversion — only the structure changes. Study this table carefully; it is the heart of this chapter.

Tense	Active Voice	Passive Voice
Simple Present	She writes letters.	Letters are written by her.
Present Continuous	She is writing a letter.	A letter is being written by her.
Present Perfect	She has written a letter.	A letter has been written by her.
Simple Past	She wrote a letter.	A letter was written by her.
Past Continuous	She was writing a letter.	A letter was being written by her.
Past Perfect	She had written a letter.	A letter had been written by her.
Simple Future	She will write a letter.	A letter will be written by her.
Future Perfect	She will have written a letter.	A letter will have been written by her.

GRAMMAR RULE

The passive always uses **be + V3**. Learn the be-forms: **is/are** (present), **was/were** (past), **being** (continuous), **been** (perfect), **be** (future and modals).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Passive Voice ನಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ be-verb (is, was, being, been, be) ನಂತರ verb ನ ಮೂರನೇ ರೂಪ (V3) ಬರುತ್ತದೆ. ಉದಾ: is written, was broken, been completed.

Active and Passive Voice

Passive Voice with Modals

With modal verbs (can, could, may, might, must, should, will, would), the structure is:

Object + modal + be + V3 + by + subject

Example: She can solve the problem. → The problem **can be solved** by her. (ಅವಳು ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಬಲ್ಲಳು → ಸಮಸ್ಯೆಯನ್ನು ಅವಳಿಂದ ಬಗೆಹರಿಸಬಹುದು.)

Example: You must obey the rules. → The rules **must be obeyed** by you.

Imperative Sentences

Orders and requests change differently. The common pattern is **Let + object + be + V3**.

Example: Open the door. → **Let the door be opened.**

Example: Please help me. → **You are requested to help me.**

Example: Do not waste time. → **Let time not be wasted.** / You are advised not to waste time.

When Passive Voice Is Not Used

- **Intransitive verbs** (no object): "She sleeps." has no passive form.
- **Perfect continuous tenses** are almost never made passive.
- Verbs like **seem, appear, resemble, lack, agree** have no passive.
- When the **doer is more important** than the action, prefer the active voice.

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: The letter was **wrote** by her.

Correct: The letter was **written** by her. (Use V3, not V2, after the be-verb.)

Wrong: Football is played by **they**.

Correct: Football is played by **them**. (Use the object pronoun after "by".)

Active and Passive Voice

Step-by-Step Conversion

Follow these four steps every time you change voice:

1. **Find** the subject, verb and object in the active sentence.
2. **Make the object** the new subject.
3. **Use the correct be-verb + V3** (keep the original tense).
4. **Put the old subject after "by"** (change I→me, she→her, they→them). Drop the by-phrase when the doer is unknown or unimportant.

Worked example: The teacher praised the students.

Step 1: S = the teacher, V = praised, O = the students.

Step 2 & 3: The students **were praised** (Simple Past → was/were + V3).

Step 4: **by the teacher**.

→ **The students were praised by the teacher.**

Worked example: Someone has stolen my bicycle.

→ **My bicycle has been stolen.** (The doer is unknown, so we drop "by someone".) (ನನ್ನ ಸೈಕಲ್ ಕಳ್ಳತನವಾಗಿದೆ.)

PRACTICE TIME

Convert the following sentences into the Passive Voice:

1. She sings a song.
2. The boy broke the window.
3. They will complete the work.
4. The police caught the thief.
5. Do the work.

Answers: 1. A song is sung by her. 2. The window was broken by the boy. 3. The work will be completed by them. 4. The thief was caught by the police. 5. Let the work be done.

Active and Passive Voice

Practice MCQs — Active and Passive Voice

1. Choose the correct passive form of: "She writes a letter."

- A. A letter is written by her.
- B. A letter was written by her.
- C. A letter has been written by her.
- D. A letter is being written by her.

Correct answer: A. A letter is written by her.

Explanation: Simple Present Active becomes Simple Present Passive: is/are + V3.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Simple Present Tense ನಲ್ಲಿ passive ಮಾಡುವಾಗ is/are + V3 ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

2. "The mason is building the wall." The correct passive form is:

- A. The wall is built by the mason.
- B. The wall is being built by the mason.
- C. The wall was being built by the mason.
- D. The wall has been built by the mason.

Correct answer: B. The wall is being built by the mason.

Explanation: Present Continuous becomes is/are + being + V3. The tense must not change.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Present Continuous ನ passive ರೂಪ is/are + being + V3. Tense ಬದಲಾಗಬಾರದು.

3. "Who broke the window?" The correct passive form is:

- A. By whom was the window broken?
- B. By whom the window was broken?
- C. Who was the window broken by?
- D. By who was the window broken?

Correct answer: A. By whom was the window broken?

Explanation: In questions, "who" becomes "by whom", followed by the correct question word order (was + subject).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಪ್ರಶ್ನಾರ್ಥಕ ವಾಕ್ಯಗಳಲ್ಲಿ who → by whom ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ; ನಂತರ was/were + subject ಎಂಬ ಕ್ರಮ ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

4. "You must finish the work." The correct passive form is:

- A. The work must be finished by you.
- B. The work must finished by you.
- C. The work must have been finished by you.
- D. The work is must finished by you.

Correct answer: A. The work must be finished by you.

Explanation: With modals, the passive structure is modal + be + V3.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Modal verb ಇದ್ದಾಗ passive ರೂಪ modal + be + V3 ಆಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

EXAM FOCUS

Examiners love three traps: (1) **tense matching** — the passive must keep the original tense; (2) **"by whom"** for

Direct and Indirect Speech

We often report what someone said without repeating their exact words. **Direct Speech** repeats the exact words inside quotation marks; **Indirect (Reported) Speech** conveys the meaning with necessary changes. This chapter teaches you every rule examiners test.

Direct and Indirect Speech

In **Direct Speech**, the speaker's exact words are quoted. In **Indirect Speech**, we report the meaning, and the tense, pronouns and time words usually change.

Example: She said, "I am happy." (ಅವಳು ಹೇಳಿದಳು, "ನಾನು ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ.")
→ She said **that she was happy**. (ತಾನು ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗಿದ್ದೇನೆ ಎಂದು ಅವಳು ಹೇಳಿದಳು.)

GRAMMAR RULE

Three basic changes in Indirect Speech:

1. **Tense** moves one step back (backshift): am → was, will → would.
2. **Pronouns** change according to the speaker: I → he/she, my → his/her.
3. **Time and place words** change: now → then, here → there.

Example: He said, "I play cricket." → He said **that he played cricket**.

Example: They said, "We are tired." → They said **that they were tired**.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Remember **SPT**: **S**hift the tense back, change the **P**ronouns, adjust **T**ime words. Apply all three and your conversion will be correct.

Direct and Indirect Speech

Tense Changes (Backshift)

When the reporting verb is in the past ("said", "told"), the reported verb moves one step back in time:

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
Simple Present (play)	Simple Past (played)
Present Continuous (is playing)	Past Continuous (was playing)
Present Perfect (has played)	Past Perfect (had played)
Simple Past (played)	Past Perfect (had played)
will	would
can	could
may	might
must	had to

NOTE No change when: (1) the reporting verb is in the present — "He **says** that he is tired." (2) The statement is a **universal truth** — "The teacher said that the earth **revolves** round the sun."

Changes in Time and Place Words

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
now	then
today	that day
yesterday	the previous day / the day before
tomorrow	the next day / the following day
here	there
this / these	that / those
ago	before

Direct and Indirect Speech

Statements

Use the reporting verbs **said** or **told**, joined by **that**. Remember: **say** → **said** (no object), **tell** → **told** (needs an object — "told me").

Example: She said, "I am busy." → She **said that she was busy**.

Example: He said to me, "I like this book." → He **told me that he liked that book**.

Questions

Use **asked** / **enquired**. Yes/No questions take **if** or **whether**; wh-questions keep the wh-word. Never use "that", and the word order becomes statement order (no question mark).

Example: He said, "Are you coming?" → He **asked if I was coming**.

Example: She said, "Where do you live?" → She **asked where I lived**.

Commands and Requests

Use **ordered** / **commanded** / **requested** / **advised** / **told** + object + **to-infinitive**. For negatives, use **not to**.

Example: The teacher said, "Sit down." → The teacher **ordered the students to sit down**.

Example: She said, "Please help me." → She **requested me to help her**.

Example: He said, "Don't touch it." → He **told me not to touch it**.

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: He asked **to me** where I lived.

Correct: He **asked me** where I lived. ("Ask" takes the object directly.)

Wrong: She asked **that** was I tired.

Correct: She asked **if** I was tired. (Questions never use "that".)

Direct and Indirect Speech

Practice Time — Direct to Indirect Speech

Convert the following sentences into Indirect Speech. Check your answers below.

PRACTICE TIME

1. He said, "I am reading a novel."
2. She said, "I will help you."
3. The boy said, "Where is my bag?"
4. Mother said, "Don't go out."
5. Ravi said, "I bought a car yesterday."
6. She said, "Please give me some water."

Answers:

1. He said that he was reading a novel.
2. She said that she would help me.
3. The boy asked where his bag was.
4. Mother told me not to go out.
5. Ravi said that he had bought a car the previous day.
6. She requested me to give her some water.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Question 5 shows three changes at once: bought → **had bought** (tense), I → **he** (pronoun), yesterday → **the previous day** (time word). In the exam, tick off all three.

Direct and Indirect Speech

Practice MCQs — Direct and Indirect Speech

1. He said, "I am tired." The correct indirect form is:

- A. He said that he is tired.
- B. He said that he was tired.
- C. He said that I was tired.
- D. He says that he was tired.

Correct answer: B. He said that he was tired.

Explanation: Tense backshifts (am → was) and the pronoun changes (I → he).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: am → was (tense ಬದಲಾವಣೆ), I → he (pronoun ಬದಲಾವಣೆ).

2. She said to me, "Will you help me?" The correct indirect form is:

- A. She asked me that will I help her.
- B. She asked me if I would help her.
- C. She said me will you help me.
- D. She asked me that I would help her.

Correct answer: B. She asked me if I would help her.

Explanation: Yes/No questions use "asked" + if/whether; will → would; word order becomes statement order.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Yes/No ಪ್ರಶ್ನೆಗಳಿಗೆ asked + if/whether; will → would ಆಗುತ್ತದೆ.

3. The teacher said, "The sun rises in the east." The correct indirect form is:

- A. The teacher said that the sun rose in the east.
- B. The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.
- C. The teacher said that the sun had risen in the east.
- D. The teacher says that the sun rose in the east.

Correct answer: B. The teacher said that the sun rises in the east.

Explanation: Universal truths and habitual facts never change tense in indirect speech.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಸಾರ್ವತ್ರಿಕ ಸತ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ (universal truth) tense ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

4. He said, "Close the door." The correct indirect form is:

- A. He ordered me to close the door.
- B. He said me to close the door.
- C. He ordered that close the door.
- D. He requested to close the door.

Correct answer: A. He ordered me to close the door.

Explanation: Commands use ordered/commanded/told + object + to-infinitive.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಆಜ್ಞಾರ್ಥಕ ವಾಕ್ಯಗಳಿಗೆ ordered + object + to-infinitive ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

EXAM FOCUS

Three favourite traps: (1) **universal truths** never change tense; (2) **"tell"** needs an object ("told me"), **"say"** does

Prepositions

Prepositions are small words — **in, on, at, by, for** — that show the relationship between a noun and the rest of the sentence. One wrong preposition can make a whole sentence wrong, so examiners test them heavily. This chapter gives you the rules, Kannada meanings, and plenty of practice.

Prepositions of Time

AT — exact point of time: *at 5 o'clock* (5 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ), *at noon*, *at night*, *at Diwali*.

ON — days and dates: *on Monday* (ಸೋಮವಾರದಂದು), *on 15th August*, *on New Year's Day*.

IN — longer periods: *in June* (ಜೂನ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ), *in 2026*, *in summer*, *in the morning*, *in a week*.

GRAMMAR RULE

AT = point of time (at 6 pm). **ON** = day/date (on Sunday). **IN** = longer period (in July, in 2025).

Think: **clock** → **at**, **calendar day** → **on**, **calendar block** → **in**.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಿಖರ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ **at**, ದಿನ/ದಿನಾಂಕಕ್ಕೆ **on**, ತಿಂಗಳು/ವರ್ಷ/ದೀರ್ಘ ಅವಧಿಗೆ **in** ಬಳಸಿ.

Example: The train arrives **at** 6 pm **on** Friday **in** December.

Example: She was born **on** 2nd October **in** 2010.

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: I was born **in** 15th August.

Correct: I was born **on** 15th August. (Dates take "on".)

Prepositions

Prepositions of Place

AT — a specific point: *at the bus stop* (ಬಸ್ ನಿಲ್ದಾಣದಲ್ಲಿ), *at the door*, *at home*.

ON — a surface: *on the table* (ಮೇಜಿನ ಮೇಲೆ), *on the wall*, *on the roof*.

IN — inside an area: *in the box* (ಪೆಟ್ಟಿಗೆಯಲ್ಲಿ), *in Bengaluru*, *in the room*.

Prepositions of Direction and Movement

Preposition	Use	Example
to	direction towards	She went to school.
into	movement inside	He jumped into the river.
onto	movement to a surface	The cat jumped onto the wall.
from	starting point	He came from Delhi.
towards	in the direction of	She walked towards the gate.

Easily Confused Pairs

between (two things: *between Ram and Shyam*) vs **among** (a group: *among the students* — ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳ ನಡುವೆ).

beside (next to: *sit beside me* — ನನ್ನ ಪಕ್ಕದಲ್ಲಿ) vs **besides** (in addition to: *besides English, she knows Hindi*).

since (point of time: *since 2020*) vs **for** (period of time: *for five years*).

EXAM FOCUS

Since + point (since Monday, since 2019); **for + period** (for two days, for a long time). This single distinction appears in exams again and again.

Prepositions

Common Prepositional Phrases

These fixed phrases are frequently tested. Learn each phrase as a whole unit:

Phrase	Kannada Meaning
in spite of	ಆದರೂ / ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ
on behalf of	ಪರವಾಗಿ
by means of	ಮೂಲಕ / ಸಹಾಯದಿಂದ
in favour of	ಪರವಾಗಿ
according to	ಪ್ರಕಾರ
due to	ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ
instead of	ಬದಲಾಗಿ
along with	ಜೊತೆಗೆ
in front of	ಮುಂದೆ
because of	ಕಾರಣ

Example: In spite of the rain, we played the match. (ಮಳೆಯ ಹೊರತಾಗಿಯೂ ನಾವು ಪಂದ್ಯವಾಡಿದೆವು.)

PRACTICE TIME

Fill in the blanks with the correct preposition:

1. She has been working here ___ 2020.
2. The book is ___ the table.
3. He jumped ___ the river.
4. Divide the sweets ___ the two children.
5. She is fond ___ music.

Answers: 1. since (point of time) 2. on (surface) 3. into (movement inside) 4. between (two children) 5. of (fond of — fixed phrase).

Prepositions

Practice MCQs — Prepositions

1. He has lived in this town ___ 2015.

- A. for
- B. since
- C. from
- D. by

Correct answer: B. since

Explanation: "Since" is used with a point of time (2015); "for" needs a period (for ten years).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ (2015) since; ಅವಧಿಗೆ (ಹತ್ತು ವರ್ಷ) for ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

2. Find the error: "She is / married with / a doctor."

- A. She is
- B. married with
- C. a doctor
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. married with

Explanation: The correct fixed phrase is "married to", not "married with".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: married ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ to ಬರುತ್ತದೆ (married to).

3. The cat jumped ___ the wall.

- A. on
- B. onto
- C. in
- D. at

Correct answer: B. onto

Explanation: "Onto" shows movement to a surface; "on" only shows position.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಚಲನೆಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಮೇಲ್ಮೈಗೆ ಹೋಗುವುದಕ್ಕೆ onto ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

4. He died ___ cancer last year.

- A. of
- B. from
- C. by
- D. with

Correct answer: A. of

Explanation: The fixed usage is "die of" a disease.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ರೋಗದಿಂದ ಸಾವಿಗೆ die of ಎಂದು ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

EXAM FOCUS

High-frequency fixed pairs: married **to**, die **of**, good **at**, afraid **of**, interested **in**, depend **on**, congratulate **on**,

Conjunctions

Conjunctions join words, phrases and sentences. Using the right conjunction — **and, but, because, although, unless** — makes your sentences correct and meaningful. Examiners test conjunctions through sentence joining and error spotting.

Coordinating Conjunctions

These join two **equal** parts of a sentence: **for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so**.

Example: She is rich, **but** she is not happy. (ಅವಳು ಶ್ರೀಮಂತಳು, ಆದರೆ ಸಂತೋಷವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ.)

Example: Work hard, **or** you will fail. (ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಓದು, ಇಲ್ಲದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಪಾಸಾಗುವೆ.)

Example: He was tired, **so** he went to bed early.

EASY TO REMEMBER

Remember **FANBOYS**: For, And, Nor, But, Or, Yet, So — the seven coordinating conjunctions.

Subordinating Conjunctions

These join a **dependent clause** to a main clause: **because, although, though, if, unless, until, while, whereas, since, as, when**.

Example: **Although** it was raining, we went out. (ಮಳೆ ಬರುತ್ತಿದ್ದರೂ ನಾವು ಹೊರಗೆ ಹೋದೆವು.)

Example: I stayed at home **because** I was ill. (ನನಗೆ ಅನಾರೋಗ್ಯವಿದ್ದುದರಿಂದ ಮನೆಯಲ್ಲಿದ್ದೆ.)

Example: **Unless** you hurry, you will miss the bus.

Conjunctions

Correlative Conjunctions

These always work in **pairs**: **either...or**, **neither...nor**, **not only...but also**, **both...and**, **whether...or**.

Example: **Either** Ram **or** Shyam will come.

Example: She is **not only** intelligent **but also** hardworking.

Example: **Neither** the teacher **nor** the students were present.

GRAMMAR RULE

With **either...or** and **neither...nor**, the verb agrees with the **nearer subject**.

Neither the teacher nor the **students were** present. / Neither the students nor the **teacher was** present.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: either...or / neither...nor ಇದ್ದಾಗ verb ಹತ್ತಿರದ subject ಗೆ ಹೊಂದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುತ್ತದೆ.

Easily Confused Pairs

although / though (contrast — ಆದರೂ) vs **because** (reason — ಏಕೆಂದರೆ).

unless (if not — ...ಆದರೆ ಹೊರತು) vs **until** (up to the time — ...ವರೆಗೆ). Wait **until** I return. Phone me **unless** you are busy.

while (during — ...ಆಗ) vs **whereas** (contrast — ಆದರೆ). Ram likes tea, **whereas** Shyam likes coffee.

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: Unless you **do not** hurry, you will miss the bus.

Correct: Unless you hurry, you will miss the bus. ("Unless" already means "if not" — never add "not".)

Conjunctions

Practice MCQs — Conjunctions

1. ___ you work hard, you will fail.

- A. Unless
- B. Until
- C. If
- D. Because

Correct answer: A. Unless

Explanation: "Unless" means "if not" — "If you do not work hard, you will fail."

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Unless = if not. "ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಓದದಿದ್ದರೆ ನಪಾಸಾಗುವೆ" ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಥ.

2. She is ___ intelligent ___ hardworking.

- A. either, or
- B. neither, nor
- C. not only, but also
- D. both, or

Correct answer: C. not only, but also

Explanation: Two positive qualities joined together need "not only...but also".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡು ಸಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಗುಣಗಳನ್ನು ಜೋಡಿಸಲು not only...but also ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

3. Find the error: "Scarcely had he / arrived than / the train left."

- A. Scarcely had he
- B. arrived than
- C. the train left
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. arrived than

Explanation: The correct pair is **scarcely/hardly...when** (not "than"). "No sooner" pairs with "than".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: scarcely...when ಸರಿಯಾದ ಜೋಡಿ; no sooner...than ಸರಿಯಾದ ಜೋಡಿ.

4. Neither the manager nor the clerks ___ present yesterday.

- A. was
- B. were
- C. is
- D. has

Correct answer: B. were

Explanation: With neither...nor, the verb agrees with the nearer subject ("clerks" → were).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: neither...nor ಇದ್ದಾಗ verb ಹತ್ತಿರದ subject (clerks) ಗೆ ಹೊಂದುತ್ತದೆ → were.

EXAM FOCUS

Watch for these fixed pairs: **scarcely/hardly...when** (never "than"); **no sooner...than**; **unless = if not** (never add

Modals and Auxiliary Usage

Modals are special helping verbs such as **can**, **must** and **should**. They add meanings like ability, permission, obligation or advice to the main verb. This chapter explains every important modal with simple rules, clear examples and exam-style practice.

What Are Modals?

A **modal** is a helping verb that comes before the main verb and changes its meaning. The nine main modals are **can**, **could**, **may**, **might**, **must**, **shall**, **should**, **will** and **would**. Some expressions work like modals and are called **semi-modals**: **have to**, **has to**, **had to**, **need to** and **used to**.

Structure	Pattern	Example
Affirmative	Subject + modal + V1	She can swim.
Negative	Subject + modal + not + V1	She cannot swim.
Question	Modal + subject + V1?	Can she swim?

GRAMMAR RULE

A modal is **always** followed by the base form (V1) of the verb. Never add **-s**, **-ing** or **to** after a modal.

She **can sings** well. ✗ → She **can sing** well. ✓

EASY TO REMEMBER

Chant the nine main modals like a song: **can, could, may, might, must, shall, should, will, would**. A modal never walks alone — it always brings V1 with it, like a lock with its key.

Modals and Auxiliary Usage

Ability, Permission and Possibility

These modals answer three questions: **Can you do it?** (ability), **May you do it?** (permission) and **Could it happen?** (possibility). Study the table carefully.

Modal	Use	Example
can	Present ability; informal permission	He can solve this sum. / You can go now.
could	Past ability; polite request	She could read at age four. / Could you help me?
may	Formal permission; possibility	You may enter. / It may rain today.
might	Weak possibility	He might come, but I am not sure.

COMMON MISTAKE

For one successful action in the past, use **was / were able to**, not **could**. Use **could** only for general past ability.
 He **could** escape from the fire. ✗ → He **was able to** escape from the fire. ✓

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಹಿಂದೆ ಒಮ್ಮೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ **was able to** ಬಳಸಿ; ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಹಿಂದಿನ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ **could** ಬಳಸಿ.

EXAM FOCUS

Might shows weaker possibility than **may**. "It **might** rain" suggests less certainty than "It **may** rain". Exams often test this small difference, so read the sentence mood carefully.

Modals and Auxiliary Usage

Obligation, Necessity and Advice

These modals tell us what is necessary, what is forbidden and what is advisable. The small differences between them are favourite exam traps.

Modal	Use	Example
must	Strong obligation (speaker's own rule)	You must wear a helmet.
have to	Obligation from outside rules	He has to wear a uniform.
mustn't	Prohibition — not allowed	You mustn't smoke here.
don't have to	Not necessary	You don't have to come early.
should / ought to	Advice	You should study daily.
need to	Necessity	We need to leave now.

COMMON MISTAKE

Mustn't (prohibited) and **don't have to** (not necessary) are opposites — do not mix them.

You **mustn't** pay now. (= paying is forbidden here) ✗

→ You **don't have to** pay now. (= paying is not necessary) ✓

EXAM FOCUS

Should have + V3 talks about past advice or regret: "You **should have called** me." (but you did not call). ಕನ್ನಡ

ವಿವರಣೆ: ಹಿಂದೆ ಮಾಡಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದ ಆದರೆ ಮಾಡದ ಕೆಲಸಕ್ಕೆ **should have + V3** ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Modals and Auxiliary Usage

Practice Questions — Modals

1. She ____ swim very well when she was five years old.

- A. can
- B. could
- C. must
- D. should

Correct answer: B. could

Explanation: "When she was five" shows past time, so we need the past form of "can", which is "could".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಹಿಂದಿನ ಕಾಲದ ಸಾಮರ್ಥ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೇಳಲು **could** ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

2. You ____ smoke inside the hospital. It is strictly prohibited.

- A. don't have to
- B. mustn't
- C. needn't
- D. couldn't

Correct answer: B. mustn't

Explanation: "Prohibited" means not allowed, and "mustn't" expresses prohibition. "Don't have to" would mean it is not necessary, which is the opposite.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಿಷೇಧವನ್ನು (prohibition) ಸೂಚಿಸಲು **mustn't** ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

3. My brother ____ wear a uniform to school every day.

- A. has to
- B. have to
- C. must to
- D. can to

Correct answer: A. has to

Explanation: A school rule is an outside obligation, so we use "have to"; with "my brother" (third-person singular) it becomes "has to". Options C and D are wrong because "to" never follows a modal.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಹೊರಗಿನ ನಿಯಮದಿಂದ ಬರುವ ಕಡ್ಡಾಯಕ್ಕೆ **have to**; he/she/it ಜೊತೆ **has to**. Modal ನಂತರ **to** ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

4. You should ____ your elders with respect.

- A. treat
- B. treats
- C. to treat
- D. treating

Correct answer: A. treat

Explanation: A modal is always followed by the base form (V1) of the verb, so only "treat" is correct.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Modal ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ verb ನ ಮೂಲ ರೂಪ (V1) ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

Sentence Structure and Types

Every English sentence is built from a few basic parts. If you can find the **subject**, **verb**, **object** and **complement** in a sentence, spotting errors becomes easy. This chapter teaches sentence structure step by step.

Parts of a Sentence

The **subject** tells us who or what the sentence is about. The **predicate** tells us what the subject does or is — it always contains the verb.

Example: Ravi (subject) **plays football every evening** (predicate).

The **object** receives the action of the verb. The **complement** completes the meaning by renaming or describing the subject or object.

Example: She bought **a book** (direct object) for **her brother** (indirect object).

Example: He is **a teacher** (subject complement). They elected him **president** (object complement).

GRAMMAR RULE

A complete sentence needs **two** things: a **subject** and a **finite verb**. "Running fast in the park" has neither, so it is only a phrase, not a sentence.

COMMON MISTAKE

Do not confuse the object with the complement. The object answers "**whom?**" or "**what?**" after the verb; the complement renames the subject.

"She became **a doctor**." — here **doctor** is a complement (it renames *she*), not an object. ✓

Sentence Structure and Types

Phrase and Clause

A **phrase** is a group of words **without** a subject-verb pair. A **clause** is a group of words that **has** a subject and a verb.

Phrase	Clause
"in the morning" (no verb)	"when she arrived" (she + arrived)
"very happy" (no subject-verb)	"he was very happy" (he + was)
Cannot stand alone as a sentence	May or may not stand alone

Independent and Dependent Clauses

An **independent clause** expresses a complete thought: "She finished her work." A **dependent clause** cannot stand alone and begins with words like **because, although, when, if, who, which**. "Because she was tired..." leaves us waiting for the main clause.

Example: **Although it was raining** (dependent clause), **we played outside** (independent clause).

EXAM FOCUS

Quick identification test: cover the subordinating word (**because, although, when...**). If the remaining words still make a full sentence, the clause is **independent**; if not, it is **dependent**.

Sentence Structure and Types

Simple, Compound and Complex Sentences

Type	Structure	Example
Simple	One independent clause	She sings well.
Compound	Two independent clauses + conjunction	She sings well, and he plays the guitar.
Complex	Independent clause + dependent clause	Although she was tired , she sang well.

Compound sentences join two equal ideas with coordinating conjunctions (**and, but, or, so, yet**). **Complex** sentences join a main idea with a dependent idea using subordinators (**because, although, when, if, since**).

GRAMMAR RULE

In a compound sentence the conjunction sits **between** the two clauses: "He was tired, **but** he continued." Never use two conjunctions together: "Although he was tired, **but** he continued." ✗

COMMON MISTAKE

A **comma splice** joins two full sentences with only a comma.

"She sings well, he plays the guitar." ✗

→ "She sings well, **and** he plays the guitar." ✓

Sentence Structure and Types

Types of Sentences

Type	Purpose	Example
Declarative	States a fact (ends with a full stop)	The sun rises in the east.
Interrogative	Asks a question (ends with ?)	Where do you live?
Imperative	Gives an order, request or advice	Please close the door.
Exclamatory	Shows strong feeling (ends with !)	What a beautiful garden!

Common Mistakes in Sentence Construction

- **Fragments:** "Because he was late." is unfinished. Add a main clause: "Because he was late, he missed the bus."
- **Run-on sentences:** "She ran she fell." is two sentences pushed together. Write: "She ran, and she fell."
- **Double negatives:** "I don't want nothing." ✗ → "I don't want anything." ✓

COMMON MISTAKE

An imperative sentence usually has **no visible subject** — the subject "you" is understood: "(You) sit down, please." Do not insert "you" unnecessarily in formal writing.

Sentence Structure and Types

Practice Questions — Sentence Structure

1. "The teacher gave the students homework." — The direct object in this sentence is ____.

- A. the teacher
- B. gave
- C. homework
- D. the students

Correct answer: C. homework

Explanation: "Homework" answers "what?" after the verb "gave", so it is the direct object. "The students" is the indirect object.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Verb ನಂತರ "what?" ಎಂದು ಕೇಳಿದಾಗ ಬರುವ ಉತ್ತರ **direct object**.

2. Which of the following is a complex sentence?

- A. She ran fast.
- B. She ran fast and won the race.
- C. Because she ran fast, she won the race.
- D. Run fast!

Correct answer: C. Because she ran fast, she won the race.

Explanation: It has an independent clause ("she won the race") plus a dependent clause ("Because she ran fast"), which makes it complex. A is simple, B is compound, D is imperative.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Independent clause ಜೊತೆ dependent clause ಇದ್ದರೆ ಅದು **complex sentence**.

3. ____ he was tired, he finished his work.

- A. Although
- B. But
- C. Although ... but
- D. Despite of

Correct answer: A. Although

Explanation: "Although" alone correctly joins the two ideas. "Although... but" uses two conjunctions together, which is wrong, and "despite" never takes "of".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Although ಜೊತೆ but ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ; despite ನಂತರ of ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

4. "Please shut the window." is a/an ____ sentence.

- A. declarative
- B. interrogative
- C. imperative
- D. exclamatory

Correct answer: C. imperative

Explanation: The sentence gives a request (an order in polite form), and the subject "you" is understood. That is the mark of an imperative sentence.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ವಿನಂತಿ ಅಥವಾ ಆಜ್ಞೆ ನೀಡುವ ವಾಕ್ಯ **imperative sentence**.

Question Tags and Sentence Transformation

A **question tag** is a short question added to the end of a statement, like "isn't it?" Tags turn statements into questions and are asked very often in competitive exams. This chapter gives you every rule, including the special cases examiners love.

Question Tags — Basic Rules

- **Positive statement → negative tag:** "She is busy, **isn't she?**"
- **Negative statement → positive tag:** "She isn't busy, **is she?**"
- The tag repeats the **same helping verb** and uses a **pronoun** for the subject.
- If the statement has no helping verb, use **do / does / did**: "He plays well, **doesn't he?**"

Statement	Correct Tag
They are coming.	aren't they?
He does not like tea.	does he?
She finished early.	didn't she?
We will win.	won't we?

GRAMMAR RULE

The tag mirrors the **tense and auxiliary** of the statement, and the pronoun in the tag must match the subject:
 "The **boys** are playing, aren't **they?**"

COMMON MISTAKE

Keep the polarity opposite. "She can swim, **can she?**" ✗ → "She can swim, **can't she?**" ✓

Question Tags and Sentence Transformation

Question Tags — Special Cases

These seven special cases appear again and again in exams. Learn them by heart.

Special Case	Rule	Example
I am	Tag is aren't I	I am late, aren't I ?
Let's	Tag is shall we	Let's go, shall we ?
Imperative	Tag is will / won't you	Close the door, will you ?
Everyone, somebody...	Use they	Everyone came, didn't they ?
Nothing, everything	Use it	Nothing happened, did it ?
never, hardly, seldom	Already negative → positive tag	He never lies, does he ?
There is / are	Repeat there	There is a problem, isn't there ?

EASY TO REMEMBER

Three odd ones out: **I am** → **aren't I** • **Let's** → **shall we** • **Order** → **will you**. And remember: words like **never** and **hardly** are already negative in meaning, so their tags stay positive.

Question Tags and Sentence Transformation

Sentence Transformation

Transformation means changing the form of a sentence **without changing its meaning**. Exams test whether you can keep the meaning exactly the same.

Affirmative ↔ Negative

Example: She is brave. → She is **not a coward**.

Example: He is always late. → He is **never on time**.

Degrees of Comparison

Example: Ravi is the tallest boy. (superlative)

→ Ravi is **taller than any other boy**. (comparative)

→ **No other boy is as tall as** Ravi. (positive)

Other Useful Transformations

Example: He is **too weak to** walk. → He is **so weak that he cannot** walk.

Example: **As soon as** he came, it rained. → **No sooner had** he come **than** it rained.

Simple ↔ Compound ↔ Complex

Simple: In spite of being rich, he is unhappy.

Complex: Although he is rich, he is unhappy.

Compound: He is rich, but he is unhappy.

EXAM FOCUS

In transformation questions, first **read for meaning**, then change the structure. If your new sentence means even slightly more or less than the original, it is wrong. **ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ:** ರೂಪ ಬದಲಾದರೂ ಅರ್ಥ ನೂರು ಶೇಕಡಾ ಒಂದೇ ಇರಬೇಕು.

Question Tags and Sentence Transformation

Practice Questions — Tags and Transformation

1. She is a doctor, ____?

- A. is she
- B. isn't she
- C. doesn't she
- D. wasn't she

Correct answer: B. isn't she

Explanation: The statement is positive, so the tag must be negative. The helping verb is "is" and the subject "she" becomes the pronoun "she".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Positive ವಾಕ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ negative tag; ಅದೇ helping verb ಮತ್ತು pronoun ಬಳಸಿ.

2. Let's start the work, ____?

- A. shall we
- B. will we
- C. do we
- D. don't we

Correct answer: A. shall we

Explanation: This is the fixed special case: a sentence beginning with "Let's" always takes the tag "shall we?".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Let's ಇಂದ ಶುರುವಾಗುವ ವಾಕ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ shall we? ಎಂಬ tag ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

3. He never tells lies, ____?

- A. doesn't he
- B. does he
- C. didn't he
- D. isn't he

Correct answer: B. does he

Explanation: "Never" makes the statement negative in meaning, so the tag must be positive: "does he?".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: never / hardly / seldom ಇರುವ ವಾಕ್ಯಕ್ಕೆ positive tag ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

4. Choose the correct transformation of "Ravi is taller than Mohan."

- A. Mohan is taller than Ravi.
- B. Mohan is not as tall as Ravi.
- C. Ravi is not tall.
- D. Mohan is the tallest boy.

Correct answer: B. Mohan is not as tall as Ravi.

Explanation: The comparative "taller than" becomes the positive-degree form "not as tall as". The meaning is preserved exactly; the other options change the meaning.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Transformation ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಥ ಬದಲಾಗಬಾರದು; comparative → positive ರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ "not as ... as" ಬಳಸಿ.

Error Spotting and Sentence Correction

Error-spotting questions give you a sentence split into parts and ask you to find the part with the mistake. Toppers do not guess — they follow a fixed checking order. This chapter trains that routine with exam-style questions.

How to Spot Errors — The Checking Order

1. **Subject-verb agreement:** Does the verb match the subject? ("One of the boys *is*...", not "are".)
2. **Tense and verb form:** "has *gone*" (not "has went"); "did *go*" (not "did went").
3. **Articles:** "*an* honest man", "*the* Sun".
4. **Prepositions:** "married *to*"; "discuss *the problem*" (never "discuss about").
5. **Pronouns:** "between you and *me*" (not "I").
6. **Word order:** "asked me *where I was*" (not "where was I").

EXAM FOCUS

Always **read the full sentence first**. The error often hides far from the part you notice first. In this chapter every answer names the **exact** error — study the pattern, not just the answer.

GRAMMAR RULE

When in doubt, **check the verb first**: most error-spotting questions test tense, verb form or subject-verb agreement.

Error Spotting and Sentence Correction

Error Spotting — Set 1

HOW TO READ

Each sentence is split into parts (A), (B), (C). Choose the part with the error, or (D) if there is no error.

1. One of the students (A) / have finished (B) / their homework (C) / No error (D).

- A. One of the students
- B. have finished
- C. their homework
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. have finished

Explanation: The exact error is **subject-verb agreement**. The real subject is "one" (singular), so the verb must be singular: "has finished".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: "One of" ನಂತರ ಬರುವ verb ಏಕವಚನದಲ್ಲಿರಬೇಕು: **has finished**.

2. She is (A) / married with (B) / a doctor (C) / No error (D).

- A. She is
- B. married with
- C. a doctor
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. married with

Explanation: The exact error is a **wrong preposition**. The correct phrase is "married **to** a doctor" — "married with" is never correct.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: **married** ನಂತರ **to** ಬರುತ್ತದೆ, **with** ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

3. He has (A) / went to Bangalore (B) / twice this year (C) / No error (D).

- A. He has
- B. went to Bangalore
- C. twice this year
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. went to Bangalore

Explanation: The exact error is a **wrong verb form**. After "has", the past participle (V3) is needed: "has **gone**". "Went" is V2 and cannot follow "has".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: **has / have** ನಂತರ V3 (gone) ಬರಬೇಕು, V2 (went) ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

Error Spotting and Sentence Correction

Error Spotting — Set 2

4. A honest man (A) / is always (B) / respected (C) / No error (D).

- A. A honest man
- B. is always
- C. respected
- D. No error

Correct answer: A. A honest man

Explanation: The exact error is a **wrong article**. "Honest" begins with a vowel *sound*, so the article must be "an": "An honest man".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Vowel sound ಇಂದ ಶುರುವಾಗುವ ಪದದ ಮುಂದೆ **an** ಬಳಸಿ.

5. Neither of the answers (A) / were correct (B) / in the test (C) / No error (D).

- A. Neither of the answers
- B. were correct
- C. in the test
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. were correct

Explanation: The exact error is **subject-verb agreement**. "Neither" is singular, so it takes a singular verb: "Neither of the answers **was** correct."

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: **neither / either** ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಏಕವಚನ verb ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

6. Choose the correct sentence.

- A. She don't like coffee.
- B. She doesn't likes coffee.
- C. She doesn't like coffee.
- D. She not like coffee.

Correct answer: C. She doesn't like coffee.

Explanation: A wrongly uses "don't" with third-person singular; B marks the verb twice ("doesn't likes"); D has no auxiliary verb. Only C follows the rule: **doesn't + V1**.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: **doesn't** ನಂತರ verb ಗೆ **-s** ಸೇರಿಸುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ; **doesn't + V1** ಮಾತ್ರ ಸರಿ.

Error Spotting and Sentence Correction

Error Spotting — Set 3

7. The sceneries of Kerala (A) / are very (B) / beautiful (C) / No error (D).

- A. The sceneries of Kerala
- B. are very
- C. beautiful
- D. No error

Correct answer: A. The sceneries of Kerala

Explanation: The exact error is an **uncountable noun wrongly pluralised**. "Scenery" has no plural form; the sentence should begin "The **scenery** of Kerala **is** very beautiful."

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Scenery ಎಂಬುದು uncountable noun; sceneries ಎಂದು ಬರೆಯುವಂತಿಲ್ಲ.

8. He discussed (A) / about the problem (B) / with his friends (C) / No error (D).

- A. He discussed
- B. about the problem
- C. with his friends
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. about the problem

Explanation: The exact error is an **unnecessary preposition**. The verb "discuss" takes a direct object: "discussed **the problem**". "Discuss about" is always wrong.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Discuss ನಂತರ about ಬರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ; ನೇರವಾಗಿ object ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

9. She can (A) / sings very (B) / well (C) / No error (D).

- A. She can
- B. sings very
- C. well
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. sings very

Explanation: The exact error is a **wrong verb form after a modal**. A modal is always followed by V1: "She can **sing** very well."

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Modal (can) ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ V1 (sing) ಬರಬೇಕು.

Error Spotting and Sentence Correction

Error Spotting — Set 4

10. Each of the boys (A) / have (B) / a bicycle (C) / No error (D).

- A. Each of the boys
- B. have
- C. a bicycle
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. have

Explanation: The exact error is **subject-verb agreement**. "Each" is always singular, so the verb must be "has": "Each of the boys **has** a bicycle."

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Each / every ನಂತರ ಯಾವಾಗಲೂ ಏಕವಚನ verb (has) ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

11. I have been living here (A) / since (B) / five years (C) / No error (D).

- A. I have been living here
- B. since
- C. five years
- D. No error

Correct answer: B. since

Explanation: The exact error is a **wrong preposition**. "Since" is used for a point of time ("since 2020"); for a duration we use "for": "for five years".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಅವಧಿಗೆ (duration) **for**, ಪ್ರಾರಂಭದ ಸಮಯಕ್ಕೆ (point of time) **since** ಬಳಸಿ.

12. Choose the correct sentence.

- A. The teacher asked me where I was going.
- B. The teacher asked me where was I going.
- C. The teacher asked me that where I was going.
- D. The teacher asked to me where I was going.

Correct answer: A. The teacher asked me where I was going.

Explanation: B wrongly keeps question word order inside reported speech; C wrongly combines "that" with "where"; D wrongly writes "asked to me". Only A is correct: **asked + person + where + subject + verb**.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Indirect question ನಲ್ಲಿ **where I was** ಎಂಬ ಕ್ರಮವಿರುತ್ತದೆ; **asked me** (to ಇಲ್ಲ).

Synonyms and Antonyms

Vocabulary questions appear in almost every competitive examination — usually as direct synonym, antonym or meaning questions. This chapter builds your word power with high-frequency words, their Kannada meanings, example sentences and smart techniques to answer vocabulary questions correctly and quickly.

What are Synonyms and Antonyms?

A **synonym** is a word with the same or nearly the same meaning as another word: *happy – joyful, begin – start*. An **antonym** is a word with the opposite meaning: *happy – sad, begin – end*. In examinations you must pick the correct synonym or antonym from four options, often with no sentence to guide you — so direct word knowledge is essential.

Example: Synonym of *brave* → **courageous** (ಧೈರ್ಯಶಾಲಿ). Antonym of *brave* → **cowardly** (ಹೇಡಿತನದ).

EXAM FOCUS

First decide whether the question asks for the **same** meaning or the **opposite** meaning. Many candidates lose marks by choosing a synonym when an antonym is asked. Read the question word carefully: **synonym = similar meaning, antonym = opposite meaning**.

VOCABULARY BOOST

Ubiquitous (adjective) — present everywhere. **Kannada meaning:** ಸರ್ವವ್ಯಾಪಿ.

Example: Mobile phones are ubiquitous today.

Synonyms and Antonyms

High-Frequency Synonyms

Learn each pair as **word – synonym – Kannada meaning**. Reading the three together fixes the word in your memory.

Word	Synonym	Kannada Meaning
Abandon	Leave, give up	ತ್ಯಜಿಸು, ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಡು
Abundant	Plentiful	ಹೇರಳವಾದ, ಸಮೃದ್ಧವಾದ
Adversity	Hardship	ಕಷ್ಟ, ಸಂಕಟ
Candid	Frank, honest	ನಿಷ್ಕಪಟವಾದ, ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾದ
Diligent	Hardworking	ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾವಂತ, ಪರಿಶ್ರಮಿ
Eloquent	Fluent, expressive	ವಾಕ್ಚತುರ, ನಿರರ್ಗಳ
Frugal	Thrifty, economical	ಮಿತವ್ಯಯಿ
Inevitable	Unavoidable	ಅನಿವಾರ್ಯ
Meticulous	Careful, precise	ಅತ್ಯಂತ ಜಾಗರೂಕ, ನಿಖರ
Obstinate	Stubborn	ಹಟಮಾರಿ, ಮೊಂಡು
Resilient	Strong, quick to recover	ಚೇತರಿಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಶಕ್ತಿಯುಳ್ಳ
Transparent	Clear, open	ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕ, ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟ

EASY TO REMEMBER

Make a tiny story with two new words: "*The **diligent** student gave an **eloquent** speech.*" One sentence now holds two words — ಶ್ರದ್ಧಾವಂತ (diligent) and ವಾಕ್ಚತುರ (eloquent) — and you will recall both together in the exam hall.



Synonyms and Antonyms

High-Frequency Antonyms

Examiners love opposite pairs. Learn each word with its exact opposite and Kannada meaning.

Word	Antonym	Kannada Meaning
Ancient (ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ)	Modern	ಆಧುನಿಕ
Brave (ಧೈರ್ಯಶಾಲಿ)	Cowardly	ಹೇಡಿತನದ
Cruel (ಕ್ರೂರ)	Kind	ದಯಾಳು
Expand (ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸು)	Contract	ಸಂಕುಚಿಸು
Generous (ಉದಾರ)	Stingy, miserly	ಜಿಪುಣ
Honest (ಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ)	Dishonest	ಅಪ್ರಾಮಾಣಿಕ
Optimistic (ಆಶಾವಾದಿ)	Pessimistic	ನಿರಾಶಾವಾದಿ
Permanent (ಶಾಶ್ವತ)	Temporary	ತಾತ್ಕಾಲಿಕ
Victory (ವಿಜಯ)	Defeat	ಸೋಲು
Virtue (ಸದ್ಗುಣ)	Vice	ದುರ್ಗುಣ
Wealth (ಸಂಪತ್ತು)	Poverty	ಬಡತನ
Wisdom (ಜ್ಞಾನ)	Folly	ಮೂರ್ಖತನ

COMMON MISTAKE

Wrong: The antonym of *expand* is *small*.

Correct: The antonym of *expand* (ವಿಸ್ತರಿಸು) is *contract* (ಸಂಕುಚಿಸು). "Small" is the opposite of "big", not of "expand".

Always match the exact action or quality being opposed.

Synonyms and Antonyms

Words with Positive, Negative and Neutral Shades

Some words share a core meaning but carry different feelings. Examinations test whether you notice the shade — the emotional colour of a word.

Word	Shade	Kannada Meaning
Thrifty	Positive	ಮಿತವ್ಯಯಿ (good saving habit)
Stingy	Negative	ಜಿಪುಣ (unwilling to spend)
Confident	Positive	ಆತ್ಮವಿಶ್ವಾಸವುಳ್ಳ
Arrogant	Negative	ದುರಹಂಕಾರಿ
Firm	Positive	ದೃಢವಾದ, ಸ್ಥಿರವಾದ
Stubborn	Negative	ಹಟಮಾರಿ
Curious	Neutral / Positive	ಕುತೂಹಲವುಳ್ಳ
Nosy	Negative	ಇತರರ ವಿಷಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮೂಗು ತೂರಿಸುವ

Commonly Confused Word Pairs

Pair	Difference	Kannada
Imply / Infer	Speaker <i>implies</i> (suggests); listener <i>infers</i> (concludes)	ಸೂಚಿಸು / ಊಹಿಸು
Affect / Effect	<i>Affect</i> is a verb (influence); <i>effect</i> is a noun (result)	ಪರಿಣಾಮ ಬೀರು / ಪರಿಣಾಮ
Accept / Except	<i>Accept</i> = receive; <i>except</i> = excluding	ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸು / ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ
Compliment / Complement	<i>Compliment</i> = praise; <i>complement</i> = complete	ಹೊಗಳಿಕೆ / ಪೂರಕ
Principal / Principle	<i>Principal</i> = main or head; <i>principle</i> = rule, value	ಮುಖ್ಯ / ತತ್ವ
Stationary / Stationery	<i>Stationary</i> = not moving; <i>stationery</i> = writing materials	ನಿಶ್ಚಲ / ಲೇಖನ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ

VOCABULARY BOOST

Pragmatic (adjective) — practical and realistic. **Kannada meaning:** ಪ್ರಾಯೋಗಿಕ.

Example: Be pragmatic in your exam preparation.

Synonyms and Antonyms

Practice Questions — Synonyms and Antonyms

1. Choose the word closest in meaning to CANDID.

- A. Rude
- B. Frank
- C. Hidden
- D. Shy

Correct answer: B. Frank

Explanation: "Candid" means speaking openly and honestly, which is the same as "frank".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Candid ಎಂದರೆ ನಿಷ್ಕಪಟವಾಗಿ ಸ್ಪಷ್ಟವಾಗಿ ಮಾತನಾಡುವುದು; Frank ಎಂದೂ ಅದೇ ಅರ್ಥ.

2. Choose the word opposite in meaning to ANCIENT.

- A. Old
- B. Modern
- C. Aged
- D. Antique

Correct answer: B. Modern

Explanation: "Ancient" means very old (ಪ್ರಾಚೀನ); its opposite is "modern" (ಆಧುನಿಕ). Old, aged and antique are synonyms — a common trap.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Old, aged, antique ಎಲ್ಲವೂ ancient ನ ಸಮಾನಾರ್ಥಕಗಳು; ವಿರುದ್ಧಾರ್ಥಕವೆಂದರೆ modern ಮಾತ್ರ.

3. Compared to "thrifty", the word "stingy" has a ____ shade of meaning.

- A. positive
- B. neutral
- C. negative
- D. formal

Correct answer: C. negative

Explanation: Both words describe careful spending, but "stingy" (ಜಿಪುಣ) carries a negative feeling while "thrifty" (ಮಿತವ್ಯಯಿ) is positive.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡೂ ಪದಗಳು ಹಣ ಉಳಿಸುವುದನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಿದರೂ, stingy ನಕಾರಾತ್ಮಕ ಭಾವನೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿದೆ.

4. From his long silence, I ____ that he disagrees.

- A. imply
- B. infer
- C. implied
- D. inference

Correct answer: B. infer

Explanation: The speaker *implies* (suggests); the listener *infers* (draws a conclusion). Here "I" draw the conclusion, so "infer" is correct.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಮಾತನಾಡುವವನು imply (ಸೂಚಿಸು), ಕೇಳುವವನು infer (ಊಹಿಸು) ಮಾಡುತ್ತಾನೆ.

One-Word Substitution

One-word substitution questions give you a definition and ask for the single word that expresses it — for example, "one who loves books" → *bibliophile*. This chapter collects the most frequently tested one-word substitutes for people, professions, places and ideas, each with a Kannada meaning.

One Word for People and Professions

One Word	Meaning	Kannada Meaning
Philanthropist	One who works for the welfare of mankind	ಪರೋಪಕಾರಿ
Misanthrope	One who hates mankind	ಮಾನವದ್ವೇಷಿ
Optimist	One who looks at the bright side of things	ಆಶಾವಾದಿ
Pessimist	One who looks at the dark side of things	ನಿರಾಶಾವಾದಿ
Orator	One who is a skilled public speaker	ವಾಗ್ಮಿ
Veteran	One with long experience in a field	ಅನುಭವಿ
Novice	One who is new to a profession	ಹೊಸಬ, ಅನುಭವಹೀನ
Eccentric	One with strange or unusual habits	ವಿಚಿತ್ರ ಸ್ವಭಾವದವನು
Ascetic	One who practises self-denial	ತಪಸ್ವಿ, ವೈರಾಗಿ
Bibliophile	One who loves books	ಪುಸ್ತಕಪ್ರೇಮಿ
Polyglot	One who knows many languages	ಬಹುಭಾಷಾ ಜ್ಞಾನಿ
Emigrant	One who leaves a country to settle elsewhere	ವಲಸೆ ಹೋಗುವವನು
Immigrant	One who comes to settle in a country	ವಲಸೆ ಬರುವವನು

EASY TO REMEMBER

Emigrant = Exit (leaves the country), **Immigrant = In** (comes into the country). The first letter tells you the direction of movement.

One-Word Substitution

Personality, Places and Ideas

One Word	Meaning	Kannada Meaning
Ambidextrous	One who can use both hands equally well	ಎರಡೂ ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಬಲ್ಲವನು
Incorrigible	One who cannot be corrected or reformed	ತಿದ್ದಲಾಗದವನು
Gregarious	One who loves company and social life	ಸಂಗಪ್ಪಿಯ
Introvert	One who is shy and reserved	ಅಂತರ್ಮುಖಿ
Extrovert	One who is outgoing and sociable	ಬಹಿರ್ಮುಖಿ
Altruist	One who lives selflessly for others	ಪರಾರ್ಥಜೀವಿ
Museum	A place where artefacts are kept and displayed	ವಸ್ತುಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ
Observatory	A place for observing stars and planets	ಖಗೋಳ ವೀಕ್ಷಣಾಲಯ
Apiary	A place where bees are kept	ಜೇನುಸಾಕಣೆ ಸ್ಥಳ
Aquarium	A place where fish are kept	ಮೀನುಗಳ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ
Democracy	Government by the people	ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ
Autocracy	Government by one person with absolute power	ನಿರಂಕುಶ ಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ

EXAM FOCUS

One-word questions follow fixed patterns. If the definition begins with **"One who..."**, the answer is a person-word (novice, altruist). If it begins with **"A place where..."**, the answer is a place-word (apiary, museum). Recognising the pattern removes two wrong options immediately.

One-Word Substitution

Practice Questions — One-Word Substitution

1. One who loves books.

- A. Bibliophobe
- B. Bibliophile
- C. Orator
- D. Novice

Correct answer: B. Bibliophile

Explanation: "Biblio" relates to books; a *bibliophile* loves books. A *bibliophobe* fears books — note the opposite ending.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Bibliophile ಎಂದರೆ ಪುಸ್ತಕಪ್ರೇಮಿ; -phobe ಅಂತ್ಯವೆಂದರೆ ಭಯಪಡುವವನು.

2. A place where bees are kept.

- A. Aquarium
- B. Apiary
- C. Aviary
- D. Museum

Correct answer: B. Apiary

Explanation: *Apiary* (from Latin *apis* = bee) is a place for beehives. An *aviary* is for birds; an *aquarium* is for fish.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Apiary = ಜೇನುಸಾಕಣೆ ಸ್ಥಳ; aviary = ಪಕ್ಷಿಧಾಮ, aquarium = ಮೀನುಸಂಗ್ರಹಾಲಯ.

3. One who can use both hands equally well.

- A. Ambiguous
- B. Ambidextrous
- C. Gregarious
- D. Illegible

Correct answer: B. Ambidextrous

Explanation: "Ambi" means both and "dextrous" means skilful with the hands — ambidextrous.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಎರಡೂ ಕೈಗಳನ್ನು ಸಮಾನವಾಗಿ ಬಳಸಬಲ್ಲವನು ambidextrous.

4. Government by the people.

- A. Autocracy
- B. Bureaucracy
- C. Democracy
- D. Theocracy

Correct answer: C. Democracy

Explanation: "Demo" (people) + "cracy" (rule) = democracy. Autocracy is rule by one person.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಜನರಿಂದ ನಡೆಯುವ ಆಡಳಿತವೇ ಪ್ರಜಾಪ್ರಭುತ್ವ (democracy).

Idioms and Phrases

Idioms are phrases whose meaning cannot be guessed from the individual words — "spill the beans" has nothing to do with beans. Competitive examinations test idioms through meaning questions and fill-in-the-blanks. Learn each idiom with its simple English meaning, Kannada meaning and one example.

Common Idioms (A–M)

Idiom	Simple English Meaning	Kannada Meaning
A blessing in disguise	A hidden advantage	ಮರೆಮಾಚಿದ ವರ, ಗುಪ್ತ ಲಾಭ
Beat around the bush	Avoid the main point	ಮುಖ್ಯ ವಿಷಯವನ್ನು ತಪ್ಪಿಸಿ ಸುತ್ತಿ ಮಾತನಾಡು
Break the ice	Start a conversation	ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸು
Burn the midnight oil	Work late into the night	ತಡರಾತ್ರಿವರೆಗೆ ಶ್ರಮಿಸು
Cry over spilt milk	Regret what cannot be changed	ಕಳೆದುಹೋದದ್ದಕ್ಕೆ ದುಃಖಿಸು
Cut corners	Do something cheaply or carelessly	ಅಜಾಗರೂಕತೆಯಿಂದ ಅಡ್ಡದಾರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಡು
Hit the nail on the head	Say exactly the right thing	ನಿಖರವಾಗಿ ಸರಿಯಾಗಿ ಹೇಳು
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a secret	ರಹಸ್ಯವನ್ನು ಬಹಿರಂಗಪಡಿಸು
Make ends meet	Manage with limited money	ಕಷ್ಟಪಟ್ಟು ಜೀವನ ಸಾಗಿಸು
Miss the boat	Miss an opportunity	ಅವಕಾಶವನ್ನು ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳು

Example: *She burnt the midnight oil before the examination.* — She studied hard late into the night. (ಪರೀಕ್ಷೆಗೆ ಮುನ್ನ ಅವಳು ತಡರಾತ್ರಿವರೆಗೆ ಶ್ರಮಿಸಿದಳು.)

Common Idioms (N-Z)

Idiom	Simple English Meaning	Kannada Meaning
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely	ಬಹಳ ಅಪರೂಪಕ್ಕೆ
A piece of cake	Something very easy	ಬಹಳ ಸುಲಭವಾದ ಕೆಲಸ
Rain cats and dogs	Rain very heavily	ಧಾರಾಕಾರವಾಗಿ ಮಳೆ ಸುರಿ
Sit on the fence	Avoid taking sides	ಯಾವ ಪಕ್ಷವನ್ನೂ ಸೇರದೆ ತಟಸ್ಥವಾಗಿರು
Spill the beans	Reveal a secret	ರಹಸ್ಯವನ್ನು ಹೇಳಿಬಿಡು
The ball is in your court	It is your turn to act	ಈಗ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸರದಿ ನಿನ್ನದು
Through thick and thin	Through good and bad times	ಸುಖದಲ್ಲೂ ದುಃಖದಲ್ಲೂ
Under the weather	Feeling slightly ill	ಸ್ವಲ್ಪ ಅಸ್ವಸ್ಥ
Up in the air	Not yet decided	ಇನ್ನೂ ನಿರ್ಧಾರವಾಗಿಲ್ಲ
A wild goose chase	A hopeless, useless search	ವ್ಯರ್ಥವಾದ ಹುಡುಕಾಟ

EXAM FOCUS

Never translate an idiom word by word. In meaning questions, first eliminate the options that give a **literal** (word-by-word) meaning — for example, "rain cats and dogs" is not about animals. The correct answer is almost always the **figurative** meaning.

Idioms and Phrases

Phrasal Verbs Frequently Tested

A **phrasal verb** is a verb + preposition (or adverb) with a special meaning that is different from the verb alone. They are favourites in fill-in-the-blank questions.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Kannada Meaning
Look after	Take care of	ಆರೈಕೆ ಮಾಡು
Look into	Investigate	ತನಿಖೆ ಮಾಡು
Put off	Postpone	ಮುಂದೂಡು
Put up with	Tolerate	ಸಹಿಸಿಕೊ
Give up	Quit, stop a habit	ತ್ಯಜಿಸು, ಬಿಟ್ಟುಬಿಡು
Break down	Stop working; collapse	ಕೆಟ್ಟು ನಿಲ್ಲು; ಕುಸಿದುಬೀಳು
Call off	Cancel	ರದ್ದುಪಡಿಸು
Run out of	Have no more of something	ಖಾಲಿಯಾಗು

PRACTICE TIME

Fill in the blank with the correct phrasal verb from the table above.

1. The match was _____ due to heavy rain.
2. You should _____ your elderly parents.
3. He _____ smoking last year.
4. We have _____ petrol; let's stop at the next station.

Answers: 1. called off 2. look after 3. gave up 4. run out of

Idioms and Phrases

Practice Questions — Idioms and Phrases

1. Choose the correct meaning of "to break the ice".

- A. To break something made of ice
- B. To start a conversation
- C. To end a quarrel
- D. To feel very cold

Correct answer: B. To start a conversation

Explanation: "Break the ice" means to start a conversation in a formal or tense situation. Options A and D give literal meanings — a common trap.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಬಿಗುವಿನ ವಾತಾವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತುಕತೆ ಆರಂಭಿಸುವುದೇ break the ice.

2. She has to ____ smoking for the sake of her health.

- A. give up
- B. give in
- C. give away
- D. give out

Correct answer: A. give up

Explanation: "Give up" means to quit a habit. "Give in" means to surrender; "give away" means to distribute free.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಅಭ್ಯಾಸವನ್ನು ತ್ಯಜಿಸುವುದು give up; ಶರಣಾಗುವುದು give in.

3. It has been raining ____ since morning.

- A. cats and dogs
- B. fish and frogs
- C. sun and moon
- D. birds and bees

Correct answer: A. cats and dogs

Explanation: The fixed idiom is "rain cats and dogs", meaning to rain very heavily.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Rain cats and dogs ಎಂದರೆ ಧಾರಾಕಾರ ಮಳೆ; ಇದು ನಿಗದಿತ ಪ್ರಯೋಗ.

4. Choose the sentence in which the idiom is used correctly. "The ball is in your court."

- A. He kicked the ball hard in the court.
- B. I have finished my part; now the ball is in your court.
- C. The court keeps many balls for players.
- D. She plays with a ball in the court daily.

Correct answer: B. I have finished my part; now the ball is in your court.

Explanation: The idiom means it is now your turn or responsibility to act. The other options use "ball" and "court" literally.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಈಗ ಕ್ರಮ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳುವ ಸರದಿ/ಜವಾಬ್ದಾರಿ ನಿನ್ನದು ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಥ.

81 Spelling, Homophones and Commonly Confused Words

Spelling questions test your memory of correct word forms. Examiners often choose words with double letters, silent letters, or tricky vowel combinations. Learn the patterns below and master the most frequently misspelled words.

Frequently Misspelled Words

Many English words break simple spelling rules. Pay special attention to **double consonants** (cc, mm, tt, ss, ll) and the **i-before-e** pattern. Read each word aloud and notice its difficult part.

Correct Spelling	Kannada Meaning	Memory Tip
accommodate	ಸ್ಥಳಾವಕಾಶ ಕಲ್ಪಿಸು	double c + double m
committee	ಸಮಿತಿ	double m , double t , double e
necessary	ಅಗತ್ಯವಾದ	one c , double s
separate	ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ	find "a rat" in sepa rate
definitely	ಖಂಡಿತವಾಗಿ	comes from "finite", not "definate"
embarrass	ಮುಜುಗರಪಡಿಸು	double r , double s
occasion	ಸಂದರ್ಭ	double c , single s
rhythm	ಲಯ, ತಾಳ	rhythm — silent h
weird	ವಿಚಿತ್ರ	breaks i-before-e: ei
receive	ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸು	after c : ei
believe	ನಂಬು	i-before-e: ie
grammar	ವ್ಯಾಕರಣ	double m , ends with -ar

GRAMMAR RULE

"i" before "e" except after "c": believe, achieve, piece — but receive, deceive, conceive. Exceptions to remember: **weird, seize, their**.

Spelling, Homophones and Commonly Confused Words

Homophones and Homonyms

Homophones sound the same but have different spellings and meanings (*their / there*). **Homonyms** are spelled the same but have different meanings (*bank* — river bank / money bank). Examiners love testing homophones in "choose the correct word" questions.

Word 1	Word 2	Meanings
their	there / they're	belonging to them (ಅವರ) / at that place (ಅಲ್ಲಿ) / they are
to	too / two	direction / also, very / the number 2
your	you're	belonging to you (ನಿನ್ನ) / you are
its	it's	belonging to it / it is
accept	except	to receive (ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸು) / not including (ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ)
affect	effect	to influence — verb (ಪ್ರಭಾವ ಬೀರು) / result — noun (ಪರಿಣಾಮ)
principal	principle	main; head of a school / a rule or belief (ತತ್ವ)
stationary	stationery	not moving (ಸ್ಥಿರ) / writing materials (ಬರವಣಿಗೆ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿ)
weather	whether	climate (ಹವಾಮಾನ) / if
compliment	complement	praise (ಹೊಗಳಿಕೆ) / to complete something (ಪೂರಕ)

COMMON MISTAKE

its vs it's: ✗ "Its a sunny day." → ✓ "It's a sunny day." (*It's* = it is). ✗ "The cat licked it's paws." → ✓ "The cat licked its paws." (belonging to it — no apostrophe).

83 Spelling, Homophones and Commonly Confused Words

Commonly Confused Words

These pairs confuse even good students. Learn the difference in meaning — the sentence context always decides which word is correct.

lose / loose: *lose* (verb) = ಕಳೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳು — "Don't **lose** your admit card." *loose* (adjective) = ಸಡಿಲವಾದ — "This shirt is **loose**."

quiet / quite: *quiet* = silent (ಶಾಂತ) — "Please keep **quiet**." *quite* = fairly, very (ಸಾಕಷ್ಟು) — "She is **quite** intelligent."

advice / advise: *advice* (noun) = ಸಲಹೆ — "Take my **advice**." *advise* (verb) = ಸಲಹೆ ನೀಡು — "I **advise** you to rest."

farther / further: *farther* = more distant (physical) — "Mysuru is **farther** than Mandya." *further* = additional — "We need **further** details."

EXAM FOCUS

In "choose the correct word" questions, read the FULL sentence first. The meaning — not the spelling — decides the answer. Ask yourself: is a verb, a noun, or an adjective needed here?

1. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. Their going to win the match.
- B. There going to win the match.
- C. They're going to win the match.
- D. Their going too win the match.

Correct answer: C. They're going to win the match.

Explanation: "They're" = "they are". The sentence needs "they are going".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: They're ಎಂದರೆ they are. ಇಲ್ಲಿ "they are going" ಎಂಬ ಅರ್ಥ ಬೇಕು.

2. The medicine had no ____ on him.

- A. affect
- B. effect
- C. effected
- D. affecting

Correct answer: B. effect

Explanation: After "no", a noun is needed. "Effect" (result) is a noun; "affect" is a verb.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: affect ಕ್ರಿಯಾಪದ, effect ನಾಮಪದ (ಪರಿಣಾಮ). "no" ನಂತರ ನಾಮಪದ ಬರಬೇಕು.

84 Spelling, Homophones and Commonly Confused Words

British vs American Spelling

Indian competitive exams follow **British spelling**. Always use the British forms in your answers.

British (use this)	American	Pattern
colour	color	-our → -or
realise	realize	-ise → -ize
centre	center	-re → -er
travelled	traveled	double l → single l
defence	defense	-ce → -se

NOTE When in doubt in an Indian exam, choose the longer British form — colour, favour, honour, programme (event).

3. Choose the correctly spelt word:

- A. occassion
- B. occasion
- C. ocassion
- D. occation

Correct answer: B. occasion

Explanation: "Occasion" has double **c** and a single **s**.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: occasion ನಲ್ಲಿ ಎರಡು c ಮತ್ತು ಒಂದು s ಬರುತ್ತದೆ.

4. Choose the correctly spelt word:

- A. definately
- B. definitely
- C. definetly
- D. definitly

Correct answer: B. definitely

Explanation: "Definitely" comes from "finite" — remember **finite** inside.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: definitely ಪದ finite ನಿಂದ ಬಂದಿದೆ; ಕಾಗುಣಿತದಲ್ಲಿ -itely ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

Fill-in-the-blank questions test grammar and vocabulary in context. Always read the full sentence before choosing — the words around the blank give the clue. This chapter moves from easy blanks to full cloze passages and reading comprehension.

Fill in the Blanks — Grammar

EXAM FOCUS

Strategy: (1) read the whole sentence; (2) decide what the blank needs — verb, preposition, article; (3) eliminate wrong options; (4) re-read the sentence with your choice.

1. Neither of the two brothers ____ interested in sports.

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. be

Correct answer: B. is

Explanation: "Neither of" takes a singular verb even with a plural noun.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Neither of ನಂತರ ಬಹುವಚನ ನಾಮಪದ ಬಂದರೂ verb ಏಕವಚನದಲ್ಲಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

2. He has been working here ____ 2019.

- A. for
- B. from
- C. since
- D. by

Correct answer: C. since

Explanation: "Since" is used with a point of time (2019); "for" is used with a period (five years).

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ನಿರ್ದಿಷ್ಟ ವರ್ಷ/ಸಮಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ since, ಅವಧಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ for ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

3. This is the house ____ I was born.

- A. which
- B. where
- C. that
- D. what

Correct answer: B. where

Explanation: "Where" refers to a place. "The house where I was born" = the place of birth.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಸ್ಥಳವನ್ನು ಸೂಚಿಸಲು where ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

Fill in the Blanks — Vocabulary

Vocabulary blanks test whether you know exact word meanings. Look for **clue words**: "but/however" signals an opposite meaning, while "and/also" signals a similar meaning.

4. His speech was so ____ that the audience gave him a standing ovation.

- A. boring
- B. impressive
- C. silent
- D. common

Correct answer: B. impressive

Explanation: A "standing ovation" is praise, so the speech must have been impressive.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: standing ovation ಎಂದರೆ ದೊಡ್ಡ ಮೆಚ್ಚುಗೆ; ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ impressive (ಪ್ರಭಾವಶಾಲಿ) ಸರಿ.

5. The old building was ____ to make way for a new hospital.

- A. constructed
- B. demolished
- C. decorated
- D. painted

Correct answer: B. demolished

Explanation: "Demolished" means pulled down (ಕೆಡವಲಾಯಿತು) — the old building had to go.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: demolished ಎಂದರೆ ಕೆಡವಿದ್ದು. ಹೊಸ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆಗೆ ಜಾಗ ಬೇಕಾದ್ದರಿಂದ ಹಳೆಯ ಕಟ್ಟಡವನ್ನು ಕೆಡವಲಾಯಿತು.

6. Despite the noise, he remained ____ and continued reading.

- A. calm
- B. angry
- C. careless
- D. doubtful

Correct answer: A. calm

Explanation: "Continued reading" shows he was undisturbed — calm fits best.

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: ಗದ್ದಲದ ನಡುವೆಯೂ ಓದುವುದನ್ನು ಮುಂದುವರಿಸಿದನು ಎಂದರೆ ಅವನು ಶಾಂತವಾಗಿದ್ದ (calm).

EASY TO REMEMBER

For vocabulary blanks, check the **tone** of the sentence first. Positive result → positive word; problem described → negative word. The tone eliminates two options immediately.

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

Cloze Test 1 – Easy

Read the whole passage once before answering. In a story told in the past tense, most blanks need past-tense verbs.

Honesty is the best policy. Once, a poor boy (7)_____ his money purse on the way to school. He searched everywhere but (8)_____ not find it. Soon, a kind farmer found the purse lying (9)_____ the road. He picked it up and (10)_____ it to the boy. The boy was overjoyed and thanked the farmer (11)_____ his honesty.

7.

- A. lost
- B. lose
- C. losing
- D. loss

8.

- A. can
- B. could
- C. may
- D. might

9.

- A. on
- B. in
- C. at
- D. over

10.

- A. returned
- B. return
- C. returns
- D. returning

11.

- A. for
- B. of
- C. with
- D. by

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

ANSWER KEY — CLOZE 1

7. A — past-tense story, so "lost" (V2). 8. B — "could not" shows past ability. 9. A — "lying on the road". 10. A — past tense "returned". 11. A — "thanked him for his honesty".

Cloze Test 2 — Moderate

This passage mixes grammar and vocabulary. Watch for "can/to" (base verb follows) and subject-verb agreement.

Water is the basis of all life. Without it, no plant or animal can (12)____. Yet crores of people still lack clean drinking water. In many villages, women walk for miles every day to (13)____ water from distant wells. This daily struggle harms their health and (14)____ their children's studies. The government has launched several schemes to (15)____ safe water to every household. If each of us uses water (16)____, there will be enough for all.

12.

- A. survive
- B. survival
- C. survived
- D. surviving

13.

- A. fetch
- B. fetched
- C. fetching
- D. fetches

14.

- A. damage
- B. damages
- C. damaging
- D. damaged

15.

- A. provide
- B. provides
- C. provided
- D. providing

16.

- A. wise
- B. wisely
- C. wisdom
- D. wiser

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

ANSWER KEY — CLOZE 2

12. A — "can" + base verb. 13. A — "to" + base verb. 14. B — "struggle" is singular, so "damages". 15. A — "to" + base verb. 16. B — adverb "wisely" describes the verb "uses".

Reading Comprehension

How to attempt: read the questions first, then the passage. Answer only from the passage — never from your own knowledge. For "main idea", pick the option that covers the **whole** passage.

The banyan tree is one of the most respected trees in India. It can live for hundreds of years and spread so wide that a single tree gives shade to hundreds of people. Its hanging branches send down roots which become new trunks, so the tree keeps growing wider year after year. In villages, the banyan is often the natural meeting place: elders discuss important matters under it while children play in its cool shade. Countless birds build nests in its branches, and many small animals find shelter there. The banyan teaches us a beautiful lesson — like its spreading branches, we too should support and shelter others. Protecting such trees means protecting both our heritage and our environment.

17. What is the passage mainly about?

- A. How banyan trees grow
- B. The importance of the banyan tree
- C. Village meetings
- D. Birds and animals

18. According to the passage, the banyan spreads because:

- A. its seeds fly far away
- B. its branches drop roots that become trunks
- C. villagers plant new trees
- D. birds carry its seeds

19. The word "shelter" in the passage is closest in meaning to:

- A. shade and protection
- B. danger
- C. height
- D. beauty

20. What lesson does the banyan teach us?

- A. To grow tall
- B. To live a long life
- C. To support and shelter others
- D. To meet under trees

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

ANSWER KEY — PASSAGE 1

17. B — the whole passage praises the banyan's value. **18.** B — stated directly: roots become new trunks. **19.** A — "shade and protection" fits the context. **20.** C — stated in the lesson sentence.

Reading is one of the finest habits a student can develop. It enriches vocabulary, strengthens grammar, and trains the mind to follow an author's ideas from sentence to sentence. Students who read daily find comprehension passages far easier, because they are already comfortable with longer texts. Reading also improves writing: when the eyes meet correct sentences again and again, the hand begins to produce them naturally. Newspapers, storybooks, biographies, and magazines are all excellent choices — what matters is interest, not the type of book. Even twenty minutes of reading every day can transform a student's English within a year. The secret is regularity: a little reading daily is far more powerful than a lot of reading once in a while.

21. The main idea of the passage is:

- A. Students should read newspapers only
- B. Daily reading builds many skills
- C. Writing is more important than reading
- D. Magazines are the best books

22. According to the passage, reading improves writing because:

- A. readers memorise grammar rules
- B. readers see correct sentences repeatedly
- C. readers write every day
- D. readers are naturally intelligent

23. The word "regularity" in the passage means:

- A. rules and laws
- B. happening daily without a break
- C. reading very fast
- D. reading aloud

24. The author would agree that:

- A. reading once a month is enough
- B. only textbooks help students
- C. small daily effort beats occasional big effort
- D. grammar need not be studied

Cloze Test, Fill in the Blanks and Reading Comprehension

ANSWER KEY — PASSAGE 2 21. B — covers vocabulary, grammar, writing, comprehension. 22. B — stated directly in the passage. 23. B — "regularity" = daily without a break. 24. C — the last two sentences say exactly this.

Quick Revision — Cloze & RC

EASY TO REMEMBER

Cloze: the blank's neighbours decide — after "to/can", use the base verb; the subject decides singular/plural. **RC:** answer only from the passage, not from your memory. **Vocabulary:** the sentence's positive/negative tone points to the answer.

25. Scarcely had he ____ the room when the phone rang.

- A. entered
- B. enter
- C. entering
- D. enters

Correct answer: A. entered

Explanation: "Scarcely... when" uses the past perfect: had + V3 ("had entered").

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: Scarcely/hardly ನಂತರ when ಬರುತ್ತದೆ; had + V3 (past perfect) ಬಳಸಲಾಗುತ್ತದೆ.

26. The committee ____ submitted its report to the chairman.

- A. has
- B. have
- C. are
- D. were

Correct answer: A. has

Explanation: "Committee" acts as one unit here, and "its" shows it is singular — so "has".

ಕನ್ನಡ ವಿವರಣೆ: committee ಒಂದೇ ಗುಂಪಾಗಿ ಪರಿಗಣಿಸಲ್ಪಟ್ಟಿದೆ; "its" ಏಕವಚನವನ್ನು ತೋರಿಸುತ್ತದೆ, ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ "has".

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

This final chapter brings everything together. Revise the rapid charts below, and then test yourself with two full 25-question mock tests mixing grammar, vocabulary, error spotting, voice, speech, and tenses.

RAPID REVISION

Tenses — Present: do/does+V1, is/am/are+V-ing, has/have+V3. Past: did+V1, was/were+V-ing, had+V3. Future: will+V1, will be+V-ing, will have+V3.

Agreement & articles: singular subject → singular verb; each/every/either/neither → singular. a/an = one of many; the = specific/unique; no article for general plurals.

Traps: between → two, among → more; prefer X **to** Y; scarcely/hardly → **when**; no sooner → **than**.

Mock Test 1

Attempt all 25 questions in 20 minutes; check the answer key only afterwards.

1. Neither of the candidates ____ qualified for the post.

- A. are
- B. is
- C. were
- D. be

2. She ____ in this office since 2018.

- A. works
- B. is working
- C. has been working
- D. will work

3. Choose the passive of: "The teacher praised the students."

- A. The students were praised by the teacher.
- B. The students are praised by the teacher.
- C. The students have been praised by the teacher.
- D. The students had been praised by the teacher.

4. Synonym of "candid":

- A. rude
- B. frank
- C. clever
- D. shy

5. Correctly spelt word:

- A. occassion
- B. occasion
- C. ocassion
- D. occation

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

6. He has been suffering ____ fever for three days.

- A. from
- B. with
- C. by
- D. of

7. "She said, 'I am tired.'" Correct indirect speech:

- A. She said that she is tired.
- B. She said that she was tired.
- C. She said that I was tired.
- D. She told that she is tired.

8. ____ honest man always respects others.

- A. A
- B. An
- C. The
- D. No article

9. Find the error: "Each of the boys (A)/ have finished (B)/ their work (C)/ No error (D)"

- A. A
- B. B
- C. C
- D. D

10. "To bite the dust" means:

- A. to eat quickly
- B. to be defeated
- C. to work hard
- D. to hide away

11. You ____ respect your elders.

- A. should
- B. can
- C. may
- D. might

12. ____ he is rich, he is not happy.

- A. Because
- B. Although
- C. Unless
- D. Until

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

13. "One who can use both hands equally well":

- A. versatile
- B. ambidextrous
- C. flexible
- D. skilled

14. "____ going to rain today."

- A. Their
- B. There
- C. They're
- D. Theirs

15. "She can swim, ____?"

- A. can't she
- B. can she
- C. doesn't she
- D. isn't she

16. "This is the ____ book I have ever read."

- A. good
- B. better
- C. best
- D. well

17. By next March, he ____ his training.

- A. will complete
- B. will have completed
- C. completes
- D. has completed

18. Antonym of "expand":

- A. extend
- B. contract
- C. enlarge
- D. spread

19. Divide the mangoes ____ the two brothers.

- A. between
- B. among
- C. in
- D. with

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

20. "He asked me where I lived." Direct speech:

- A. He said to me, "Where do you live?"
- B. He said to me, "Where did you live?"
- C. He said to me, "Where you live?"
- D. He said to me, "Where I live?"

21. "Who wrote this poem?" Correct passive:

- A. By whom was this poem written?
- B. By whom this poem was written?
- C. Who was this poem written by?
- D. By who was this poem written?

22. The committee ____ its report to the chairman.

- A. has submitted
- B. have submitted
- C. are submitting
- D. were submitting

23. The paper was so ____ that many left it blank.

- A. easy
- B. difficult
- C. short
- D. interesting

24. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. She prefers coffee than tea.
- B. She prefers coffee to tea.
- C. She prefers coffee over tea than.
- D. She prefer coffee to tea.

25. "A blessing in disguise" means:

- A. a hidden curse
- B. a misfortune that proves good
- C. a religious gift
- D. a secret blessing

ANSWER KEY — MOCK TEST 1

1. B (neither → singular) 2. C (since → present perfect continuous) 3. B (is/are + V3) 4. B (frank) 5. B 6. A (suffer from) 7. B (am → was) 8. B (an + vowel sound) 9. B (each → has) 10. B (to be defeated) 11. A (advice → should) 12. B (contrast → although) 13. B (ambidextrous) 14. C (they're = they are) 15. A (negative tag) 16. C (superlative) 17. B (by next March → future perfect) 18. B (contract) 19. A (between → two) 20. A 21. A (by whom + was) 22. A (committee + its → has) 23. B 24. B (prefer → to) 25. B

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

Mock Test 2

Attempt all 25 questions in 20 minutes; check the answer key only afterwards.

1. I ____ my homework already; I can play now.

- A. finished
- B. have finished
- C. finish
- D. had finished

2. He plays ____ guitar very well.

- A. a
- B. an
- C. the
- D. no article

3. Choose the passive of: "They are building a bridge."

- A. A bridge is built by them.
- B. A bridge is being built by them.
- C. A bridge was built by them.
- D. A bridge has been built by them.

4. Synonym of "abundant":

- A. scarce
- B. plentiful
- C. rare
- D. small

5. Correctly spelt word:

- A. definately
- B. definitely
- C. definetly
- D. definatly

6. She is very good ____ mathematics.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. for
- D. with

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

7. He said, "I will come tomorrow." Indirect speech:

- A. He said he will come tomorrow.
- B. He said he would come the next day.
- C. He said he comes the next day.
- D. He told he will come.

8. ____ till I return from the market.

- A. Wait
- B. Waiting
- C. To wait
- D. Waits

9. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. One of my friends are coming.
- B. One of my friends is coming.
- C. One of my friend is coming.
- D. One of my friends were coming.

10. "To burn the midnight oil" means:

- A. to waste fuel
- B. to work late at night
- C. to cook at night
- D. to stay awake idly

11. ____ I borrow your pen for a minute?

- A. Must
- B. May
- C. Should
- D. Need

12. Iron is ____ than wood for this work.

- A. more useful
- B. most useful
- C. usefuller
- D. more usefull

13. "A person who speaks many languages":

- A. polyglot
- B. orator
- C. spokesman
- D. scholar

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

14. "The ____ will announce the holiday."

- A. principal
- B. principle
- C. princepal
- D. principel

15. "Let's go for a walk, ____?"

- A. shall we
- B. will we
- C. don't we
- D. can we

16. When I reached, the train ____ already.

- A. left
- B. has left
- C. had left
- D. leaves

17. Antonym of "ancient":

- A. old
- B. modern
- C. antique
- D. aged

18. He congratulated me ____ my success.

- A. for
- B. on
- C. at
- D. about

19. "The sun rises in the east," the teacher said. Indirect:

- A. The teacher said the sun rose in the east.
- B. The teacher said the sun rises in the east.
- C. The teacher said the sun will rise in the east.
- D. The teacher told the sun rises in the east.

20. Choose the passive of: "She posted the letter."

- A. The letter was posted by her.
- B. The letter is posted by her.
- C. The letter has been posted by her.
- D. The letter had posted by her.

Mixed MCQs, Mock Tests and Final Revision

21. Either Ram or his brothers ____ coming to the function.

- A. is
- B. are
- C. was
- D. be

22. His argument was so ____ that all agreed.

- A. weak
- B. convincing
- C. silent
- D. confusing

23. Choose the correct sentence:

- A. He is junior than me.
- B. He is junior to me.
- C. He is more junior than me.
- D. He is junior from me.

24. "Once in a blue moon" means:

- A. every night
- B. very rarely
- C. on full-moon days
- D. once a month

25. "No sooner had he arrived ____ it started raining."

- A. when
- B. than
- C. then
- D. that

ANSWER KEY — MOCK TEST 2

1. B (already → present perfect) 2. C (the + musical instrument) 3. B (is/are + being + V3) 4. B (plentiful) 5. B 6. B (good at) 7. B (will → would, tomorrow → next day) 8. A (imperative) 9. B (one of → singular) 10. B 11. B (polite request → may) 12. A 13. A (polyglot) 14. A (head of school) 15. A (let's → shall we) 16. C (earlier action → past perfect) 17. B (modern) 18. B (congratulate on) 19. B (universal truth — no change) 20. A (was + V3) 21. B (nearest subject → brothers) 22. B 23. B (junior → to) 24. B 25. B (no sooner → than)

Final Revision Checklist

1. Revise all 12 tense structures — especially perfect and continuous forms.
2. Each/every/either/neither → singular verb; "the" for specific nouns.
3. Voice: never change the tense; passive = be + V3.
4. Speech: will → would, tomorrow → the next day; no change for universal truths.
5. Steady daily practice is the real key to success — revise well and give your best!

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Keep practising. Revise grammar rules every week, learn five new words daily with their Kannada meanings, and attempt one mock test before every exam. Consistent practice beats last-minute cramming — your selection is built one honest hour of study at a time.

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