

Important English Grammar Notes

1. Some Nouns are pronounced and written in unnecessarily extended form which is strictly wrong from the exam point of view.

- (A) Lecturership is wrong; Lectureship is correct.
- (B) Freeship is wrong; Free studentship is correct.
- (C) Boarding is wrong; Boarding house is correct.
- (D) Family members is wrong; members of the family is correct.
- (E) English teacher is wrong; the teacher of English is correct.
- (F) Cousin brother or sister is wrong; only cousin is correct.

2. When any pronoun functions as the complement of the verb 'To be', it is always in the nominative case.

- Ex.- (A) It is me who have to go. (Incorrect); It is I who have to go. (Correct)
(B) It is him who is to blame. (Incorrect); It is he who is to blame. (Correct)

3. After 'BUT', 'EXCEPT', 'BETWEEN' and 'LET' the pronoun is used in objective case, whereas after 'such as' in the subjective case.

- Ex.- (A) Everyone laughed but I. (Incorrect); Everyone laughed but me. (Correct)
(B) None attended the meeting except he. (Incorrect); None attended the meeting except him. (Correct)
(C) Let we laugh away our sorrows. (Incorrect); Let us laugh away our sorrows. (Correct)
(D) This is between you and I. (Incorrect); This is between you and me. (Correct)

4. Don't get confused by the words that come between the subject and verb; they do not affect Agreement Rule.

- Ex- (a) The man who met us in the party last night are my old friend. (Incorrect)
(b) The man who met us in the party last night is my old friend. (Correct)

5. If two different singular nouns express one idea, the verb should be in the singular form.

- Ex.- (A) Bread and milk is good for Breakfast.
(B) Rice and curry is my favorite dish.
(C) This is the long and the short of the matter.

6. Enjoy, apply, resign, acquit, drive, exert, avail, pride, absent, etc. in the absence of direct object and used as a verb themselves always take a Reflexive pronoun after them. When 'self' is added to 'my', 'your', 'him', 'her', and 'it', and 'selves' to our and them - they are known as reflexive pronouns.

- For ex - (A) He absented from the meeting.
(B) He absented himself from the meeting.

7. If two infinitives are separated by 'and' they take the plural form of the verb.

- For Ex: To walk and to chew gum require great skill.

8. 'Some' is used in affirmative sentences to express quantity or degree. 'Any' is used in Negative or interrogative sentences.

For Ex.-(A) I shall buy some apples.

(B) I shall not buy any apples.

(C) Have you bought any apples?

(D) I shall read any book. (Incorrect); I shall read some book. (Correct)

9. We don't use indefinite articles A/AN with Possessive pronouns, Demonstratives or Cardinal numbers.

For Ex- My shirt is dirty. (Possessive Pronoun)

(B) This car is expensive. (Demonstrative Pronoun)

(C) One person is in the reception. (Cardinal Number)

10. (i) Many languages and nationalities are not preceded by an article. Consider the example below:

(A) I studied the French in high school for four years. (Incorrect)

(B) I studied French in high school for four years. (correct)

(ii) Sports and academic subjects do not require articles. See the sentences below:

(A) I like to play the baseball. (Incorrect); I like to play baseball. (Correct)

(B) My sister was always good at the Mathematics. (Incorrect); My sister was always good at Mathematics. (Correct)

