

TYBA Coaching Center

Rajasthan CET (Senior Secondary & Graduate Level) Comprehensive Master Notes

Subject: General English (Part 1: Basics of English Grammar & Word Formation)

Language: English Only (As Prescribed)

Helpline: 6367029449

Chapter 1: Foundations of English Grammar & Structural Mechanics

1.1 The Narrative Context: Why English Mechanics Matter in Competitive Exams

English in competitive examinations such as the Rajasthan Common Eligibility Test (CET) is not tested as mere conversational fluency, but as an exact science of structural syntax, morphology, and formal usage. Candidates who understand the mechanical logic of word formation, grammatical agreement, and syntactic hierarchies consistently achieve 100% accuracy in spot-the-error and sentence-correction questions.

1.2 When, Where, Why and How of the English Linguistic Hierarchy

- **When was Modern English Formed?** Modern English evolved from Early Modern English (~1500 CE) following the Great Vowel Shift, standardizing inflectional systems and reducing morphological noun declensions.
- **Where does it apply?** Official correspondence, administrative gazettes, competitive selection testing, and judicial draftings.
- **Why do errors occur?** Mother Tongue Influence (MTI) causes syntax interference where Hindi sentence structure (Subject-Object-Verb) is incorrectly mapped onto English (Subject-Verb-Object).
- **How to master it?** By decomposing language into five fundamental structural tiers: Phoneme → Morpheme → Word → Phrase → Clause → Sentence.

1.3 English Alphabet, Phonetics, Vowels and Consonants

The English alphabet comprises 26 letters representing 44 distinct phonetic sounds (phonemes) in the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA):

- **Vowels (Letters: A, E, I, O, U):** Produce 20 vocalic sounds (12 pure vowels / monophthongs and 8 gliding vowels / diphthongs). Vowels require an open vocal tract without audible friction.
- **Consonants (21 Letters):** Produce 24 consonantal sounds involving complete or partial closure of the vocal tract.
- **The Core Article Rule:** Indefinite article usage ('A' vs. 'An') is governed exclusively by *sound*, never by orthographic letter spelling.
 - Use **'An'** before vowel sounds: *an hour* (silent h), *an honest officer*, *an heir*, *an MBA* (starts with /e/ sound), *an SP*, *an MLA*.
 - Use **'A'** before consonant sounds: *a university* (starts with consonantal /j/ glide), *a European country*, *a one-rupee note* (starts with /w/ sound), *a unique opportunity*.

1.4 Word Formation: Morphology, Affixation and Syllables

Process	Structural Definition	Concrete Examination Examples
Prefixation	Adding a bound morpheme before a root word to alter semantic meaning.	Un- (Unhappy), In- (Incurable), Dis- (Disloyal), Mis- (Misunderstand), Anti- (Antibody).
Suffixation	Adding a bound morpheme to the end of a root word to alter its grammatical class.	-tion (Noun: Educate → Education), -ify (Verb: Pure → Purify), -al (Adj: Nation → National), -ly (Adverb: Quick → Quickly).
Compounding	Joining two distinct base lexemes to create a new lexical entity.	Blackboard, Toothbrush, Postman, Sunstroke, Firefighter.
Conversion	Shifting a word from one part of speech to another without altering form.	To run (Verb) → A morning run (Noun); Water (Noun) → Water the plants (Verb).

1.5 The Eight Parts of Speech (Overview & Syntactic Functions)

Part of Speech	Core Function in a Sentence	CET High-Yield Example
Noun	Naming entity (Person, Place, Concept, Substance).	<i>Honesty</i> is the best policy. <i>Jaipur</i> is the capital of Rajasthan.
Pronoun	Replaces noun to prevent redundant repetition.	Ramesh is diligent; <i>he</i> completed the task.
Adjective	Qualifies, describes or quantifies a noun/pronoun.	She solved a <i>difficult</i> problem within <i>few</i> minutes.
Verb	Expresses physical action, mental occurrence, or state of being.	The Board <i>conducts</i> the examination annually.
Adverb	Modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb.	He ran <i>exceptionally fast</i> .
Preposition	Establishes spatial, temporal, or logical relationship between noun and predicate.	The committee sat <i>at</i> 10 AM <i>in</i> the conference hall.
Conjunction	Connects words, phrases, or clauses logically.	Neither the teacher <i>nor</i> the students were present.
Interjection	Expresses sudden emotional outburst (grammatically autonomous).	<i>Alas!</i> The heroic soldier breathed his last.

1.6 What Do We Learn From Chapter 1? (Pedagogical Takeaway & Exam Strategy)

- **Structural Discipline:** Every grammatically valid English sentence requires at minimum an explicit or implied Subject and a Finite Verb.
- **Avoid False Friend Traps:** Words ending in '-ly' are not always adverbs (e.g., *friendly*, *cowardly*, *brotherly*, *orderly* are adjectives).
- **The Syllabic Rhythm:** Syllable stress dictates grammatical word class in homographs (e.g., RE-cord is a noun, while re-CORD is a verb; CON-duct is a noun, while con-DUCT is a verb).