

Fill in the Blanks



~ English Grammar · Competitive Exams ~

Date: 11 / 07 / 26 ← circled = key info!

What is it?

Choose the word that fits best in a blank — decided by the sentence's grammar or meaning.

Golden rule → read the **whole** sentence first, then ask: what kind of word does the blank need?

How to Attack a Blank →

1. Read fully & grasp the meaning.
2. Decide what's needed — part of speech, tense, or a preposition?
3. Spot **signal words** (since, because, although, so) — they fix the logic.
4. Eliminate the wrong options → pick the best fit.



Fix grammar first, then meaning. If two words both fit grammar, the meaning of the sentence decides the winner!

Worked Example

“_____ he was poor, he was honest.”

Step 1 — poor vs honest = a contrast.

Step 2 — blank starts the clause → needs a conjunction.

Step 3 — contrast word = **Although**. 

① Preposition Blanks

Learn these as fixed pairs — no logic, just memory!

fond **of** music

afraid **of** dogs

depend **on** water

married **to** a lawyer

good **at** · bad **at**

good **at** maths

agree **with** you

arrive **at** a place

senior **to** me

interested **in** art



② Verb & Tense Blanks

Match the **time word** → the tense. Look for *every day, now, already, yesterday, tomorrow*.

He **goes** to school **every day**. (simple present)

They **are** playing **now**. (present continuous)

She **has** **already** left. (present perfect)

I **met** him **yesterday**. (simple past)

If it rains, we **will** stay in. (conditional)

The sun **rises** in the east. (universal truth)



Remember: universal truths & habits always take *simple present* — even in a past-tense story!

More must-know pairs

angry **with** a person

proud **of** it

differ **from**

angry **at** a thing

capable **of**

congratulate **on**

die **of** illness

tired **of**

compare **with**



Same verb, different preposition = different meaning! agree with a person, agree to a plan.

④ Conjunction & Connector Blanks

The connector shows the **relation** between two ideas — contrast, cause or result.

Contrast

although / though, but, yet, however

Cause

because, since, as, due to

Result

so, therefore, hence, thus

Addition

and, besides, moreover, also

Although he was tired, he kept working. (contrast)

We stayed in **because** it rained. (cause)

It rained, **so** we stayed in. (result)

She is smart **and** hard-working. (addition)



Trap! **Although** and **but** never come together. Use only **one** contrast word per sentence.

Paired Conjunctions =

Always come as a **fixed set** — never mix them up!

either ... or

neither ... nor

not only ... but also

both ... and

no sooner ... than

hardly ... when

She likes **neither** tea **nor** coffee.

No sooner did he arrive **than** it rained.

Mini Drill

Fill: “_____ he nor his friend was present.” → **Neither**

⑤ Article Blanks – a / an / the A

Go by **sound**, not spelling!

a university, **a** one-rupee coin (sounds like 'yoo' / 'wun')

an honest man, **an** hour (silent 'h' → vowel sound)

Use **the** for something **specific / unique** – the sun, the Ganga.

⑥ Subject-Verb Agreement <+>

The verb must match the **real subject** – singular or plural.

Neither answer **is** correct. (neither = singular)

Each of the boys **has** a pen. (each = singular)

The team **is** ready. (collective = singular)

Ten years **is** a long time. (distance/time = singular)

Not only he but also they **were** late. (verb follows the nearer subject)

✓ Ignore words between subject & verb! "The box of apples is..." – box, not apples.

When to drop the article

✗ go to **the** school

✗ play **the** cricket

✗ **the** Hindi is easy

✓ before meals, languages, games



Use **the** with rivers, seas, ranges & unique things: the Ganga, the Himalayas, the moon.

A few more agreement rules

Either/Neither + of + plural → verb stays **singular**. Neither of them is here.

A number of → plural, but **The number of** → singular.

Two nouns joined by **and** as one idea → singular. Bread and butter **is** tasty.

None / Some / All follow the noun after 'of'. Some of the milk **is** gone.

⚠ Common Traps ⚠

Cross out the wrong one — keep the **green**!

~~discuss about it~~ → **discuss it**

~~return back~~ → **return**

~~one of my friend~~ → **one of my friends**

~~more better~~ → **better**

look forward ~~to meet~~ → **to meeting**

interested ~~on~~ → interested **in**

Practice Set A 📋

1. He is good ____ chess.
2. They depend ____ farming.
3. She ____ already gone.
4. ____ tired, he worked. (contrast)
5. Each boy ____ a book. (has/have)
6. He is ____ honest man. (a/an)
7. The old model is ____ . (outdated)
8. A judge must be ____ . (fair)

Answer Key – Set A

1→ at 2→ on 3→ has 4→ Although 5→ has 6→ an 7→ obsolete 8→ impartial

Practice Set B ☆

1. Neither he ____ she came.
2. He is senior ____ me.
3. Ten km ____ a long walk.
4. ____ (a/an) one-way street.
5. No sooner did I sit ____ ...
6. She is fond ____ dancing.
7. Please ____ (raise/rise) it.
8. He is capable ____ winning.

Answer Key – Set B

1→ nor 2→ to 3→ is 4→ a 5→ than 6→ of 7→ raise 8→ of

③ Vocabulary Blanks

Here **meaning** is king — pick the word that matches the exact sense.

The medicine will **relieve** the pain.

A judge must stay **impartial** (fair).

He is **optimistic** about the future.

Their **persistent** effort paid off.

The old phone is now **obsolete** (outdated).

Please be **cautious** while crossing.

Easily Confused

raise = lift up

a university

look forward **to** meeting

rise = go up on its own

an honest man

fond **of**, good **at**

Quick Revision Tips

✓ Grammar first, **meaning second**.

✓ Signal words = **free hints**. Circle them.

✓ Learn preposition pairs **by heart**.

✓ Re-read your answer — does the full sentence sound right?

Try it! (cover the answers)

1. She is fond ____ art.

2. ____ he was tired, he worked.

3. The sun ____ in the east.

4. This gadget is ____ (outdated).

Ans: 1→ of 2→ Although 3→ rises 4→ obsolete 

☆ Keep practising — you've got this! ☆