

SURE SELECTION SERIES

EXAM WEIGHTAGE: 95%

🔥 TOP 100 ENGLISH GRAMMAR RULES Topper's Personal Draft

Focused syllabus optimization blueprint for SSC CGL, CHSL, CPO, Banking, & Defense exams.



Executive Summary & Core Value Proposition

MUST READ FIRST!

🎯 High-Level Strategy Map

Grammar forms the absolute backbone of English scoring modules. This master lecture highlights the **Top 100 Grammar Rules** from which roughly **95%** of **questions** are directly conceptualized. Mastering these allows rapid identification of errors, saving critical time during active exams.

- ✓ Learn which verbs are permanently banned from continuous form structures.
- ✓ Perfect the tense alignment during dual-past events.
- ✓ Deconstruct the subject identity when surrounded by complex prepositions.
- ✓ Eliminate common mistakes with since and for structures.

HIND MAP

LECTURE SYLLABUS DIRECTORY

1. *Subject-Verb Alignment* → Rule #1
2. *Continuous Form Exceptions* → Rule #2
3. *Past Indicators & Tense* → Rule #3
4. *Narrations & Consistency* → Rule #4
5. *Dual Past Sequence (Had/V2)* → Rule #5
6. *Duration vs Point (For/Since)* → Rule #6

✂ Module 1: Subject-Verb Agreement

Rule #1: A Singular Subject Takes a Singular Verb

The foundational concept of English sentence structure: A verb must match its corresponding controller subject in exact mathematical count.

1. Singular Configurations

Singular Subject → Singular Verb

Example: He / She / It / Rama → Writes / Eats / Runs

2. Plural Configurations

Plural Subject → Plural Verb

Example: They / We / People → Write / Eat / Run

⚠ CRITICAL DIFFERENCE

In English Grammar Morphology:

Noun + "s / es" = PLURAL
(e.g., Cloth → Clothes, Pen → Pens)

Verb + "s / es" = SINGULAR
(e.g., Come → Comes, Run → Runs)

Analysis Breakdown (Real Case Examples)

✓ The price of woolen clothes comes down in summer.

Subject: "Price"
(Singular)

Modifier Phrase: "of woolen clothes" (Only extra context, ignore for agreement)

Verb Match: "comes" (Singular)

✓ The people of coastal regions face tsunamis.

Subject: "People"
(Plural)

Modifier Phrase: "of coastal regions" (Ignore noun 'regions')

Verb Match: "face" (Plural)

! The Preposition Trap Rule

Subject [**Before Preposition**] → Dictates & Controls the Verb Form

✓ **Correct:** A girl with blue eyes is standing there.

Why? The main controller noun is "girl" (singular), not the adjacent word "eyes" (plural) which sits inside the prepositional connector.

💡 ★ **EXAM TIP: NEVER BLINDLY MATCH**

Do not fall for adjacent nouns! Avoid matching the verb with whatever noun sits directly behind prepositions like "of", "with", "in", "on", "among", "along with", "together with". Trace backwards to identify the initial true subject.

🚫 Module 2: Verbs Banned from "-ing" Forms (Non-Continuous)

Rule #2: State Verbs vs Action Verbs

Certain English verbs express a state, possession, perception, or feeling rather than a dynamic action. Because of this semantic profile, they must NOT be used in continuous (ING) tenses unless a primary shift in base meaning occurs.

A. SENSES / PERCEPTION

See
Hear
Taste
Smell
Notice
Look (appear)
Seem
Feel

B. COGNITIVE THOUGHT

Think
Know
Mean

Mind
Remember
Suppose
Understand

C. OWNERSHIP / POSSESS

Have
Own
Belong
Possess
Contain
Consist
Comprise

D. MENTAL FEELINGS

Believe
Like / Dislike
Love
Adore
Want / Wish
Desire
Hate
Agree

E. DISTINCT STATES

Affect
Resemble
Cost
Require
Become
Hope
Refuse
Exist

WRONG PATTERN

- ✗ I am seeing him.
- ✗ I am knowing the answer.
- ✗ I am having a car.
- ✗ I am believing you.

CORRECT PATTERN

- ✓ I see him.
- ✓ I know the answer.

✓ I have a car.

✓ I believe you.

SHORTCUT!

💡 **EXAM SHORTCUT MATRIX:**

Commit this core list to memory. Error identification questions directly attacking these five boxes appear regularly across multiple national testing systems like **SSC, Banking, Teaching, and Defence** exams.



Module 3: Absolute Completed Past Time Requires V2

Rule #3: Use Simple Past (V2) for Past Time Markers

When a sentence contains a marker pinpointing a fully terminated/completed past frame, do NOT write a Present Perfect tense structure. Force the verb directly into its **Simple Past (V2) form**.

VISUAL TIMELINE



Case 1: Yesterday / Last Night

✗ I have seen him last night.

✓ I saw him last night. [*"last night" is an absolute past timestamp. Force V2 "saw"*]

Case 2: Last Year / Historical Marker

✗ He has been to New York twice last year.

✓ He went to New York twice last year. [*"last year" is completed. Force V2 "went"*]

GOLDEN RULE!**⚠ TRIGGER WORDS MASTER-LIST:**

If any of these specific timeline markers are written in the test question:
yesterday, last night, last year, ago, in 2020, back then → instantly destroy
 any Present Perfect structure and inject simple **V2 (Simple Past)** .



Module 4: Tense Consistency in Past Narration

Rule #4: Tense Alignment Across Compound Structures

When a complex or compound sentence starts its structural journey in the Past Tense, subsequent subordinate actions inside the same logical block must continue inside the Past Tense framework .

1. Narration Begins in Past



2. Align Subsequent Verbs in Past Tense too



3. Exception: Universal Fact / Science

Example A: Action Consequence

✗ They **approached** the CEO and report the matter.

✓ They **approached** the CEO and **reported** the matter.

Explanation: "Approached" establishes the past timeline anchor, forcing "reported" instead of "report."

Example B: Indirect Speech Alignment

✗ Our teacher said we don't have much time.

✓ Our teacher said we didn't have much time.

Explanation: The main clause anchor "said" is past; hence, "don't" converts cleanly to "didn't".

CRITICAL EXCEPTION!



Universal Truth Clause:

When the subordinate clause describes a permanent physical law, geographical fact, mathematical axiom, or astronomical truth, **do NOT alter the tense to past**. Keep it fixed in the Present Tense!

✓ **Correct:** We already knew that the Sun **is** a star.

(Do NOT write "was a star" because the Sun's structural nature remains unchanged!)



Module 5: Two Actions Occurring in the Past (Past Perfect)

Rule #5: The Double Past Sequence Blueprint

When two different actions occurred sequentially in past time, they cannot occupy the exact same tense plane. We must differentiate which action took place *first*.

📅 Action 1 (First Event)

Earlier Past

HAD + V3

Past Perfect Tense

📅 Action 2 (Subsequent Event)

Later Past

V2

Simple Past Tense

Scenario 1: Chronology of Visit vs Speaking

✗ He said that he hasn't been there before.

✓ He said that he hadn't been there before.

Sequence (1st Event) Visited the location → Had not been → (2nd Event) Made the statement → Said
Map: (Past Perfect) → (Simple Past / V2)

Scenario 2: Chronology of Arrival vs Movie Starting

✗ When we reached the theatre, the show was already begun.

✓ When we reached the theatre, the show had already begun.

Sequence (1st Event) Show started rolling → Had already → (2nd Event) We entered the cinema → Reached
Map: begun (Past Perfect) → (Simple Past / V2)

🚀 **EXAM KEY:** Earlier Past Action = Had + V3 / Later Past Action = V2

FORMULA NOTE



Module 6: Temporal Alignment — "For" vs "Since"

Rule #6: Duration (Quantity) vs Starting Node (Point in Time)

The choice between "For" and "Since" is strictly determined by whether you are defining a continuous block of measurement, or pointing to a specific coordinate on the historical calendar.

🕒 **FOR = Period / Duration**

MEASUREMENT

Used when the total duration of the action is calculated explicitly.

- 👉 for two hours
- 👉 for five days
- 👉 for three months
- 👉 for several weeks

✓ **Applied Examples:**

- We have been waiting for two hours.

- She lived there for ten years.

SINCE = Starting Coordinate

ORIGIN POINT

Used when pointing directly to the exact starting node of the timeline.

- 👉 since Monday
- 👉 since morning
- 👉 since 2020
- 👉 since childhood

✅ Applied Examples:

- I have been working here since 2020.
- We have known each other since childhood.

🚫 COMMON MISTAKE SPOTTED IN EXAMS:

✗ We have been waiting since two years.

✓ We have been waiting for two years .

Why? "Two years" is a duration, not a calendar starting point. Hence, "for" is mandatory.

⚠️ CRITICAL TENSE CONSTRAINT:

MUST STUDY

When using "for" or "since" to convey continuous action spanning across time:

ALLOWED PERFECT AUXILIARY VERBS:

Have been

Has been

Had been

Will have been

BANNED SIMPLE AUXILIARY VERBS (IN DURATION CONTEXTS):

~~Is~~~~Am~~~~Are~~~~Was~~~~Were~~

🎯 **MEMORY KEY:** Duration = FOR / Starting Node = SINCE



Module 7: Unreal / Imaginary Present Situations

Rule #7: Hypothetical Subjunctive Mood

When constructing statements representing pure wishes, imaginations, or unreal present situations that are contrary to current reality, we must use a subjunctive structure.

✨ THE STRUCTURAL SHIFT KEY:



Apply "WERE" uniformly for ALL subject pronouns (He/She/It/They/I) in imaginary statements.

Type A: Expressing a Wish

WISH

✗ I wish I was a billionaire.

✓ I wish I were a billionaire.

✓ I wish I were rich.

Type B: Unreal "If" Conditional

IF-STATE

✓ If I were the Prime Minister, I would change the education system.

(Note: In actual reality, the speaker is NOT the PM. This triggers the subjunctive "were" + would construction.)



IMPORTANT EXAM RULE RECAP:

Do not use "was" in imaginary or hypothetical configurations, regardless of how singular the pronoun appears. "I", "He", "She", "It" all map to "WERE".



Key Vocabulary & Grammar Glossary

Term

Target Definition & Contextual Meaning

Subject

The primary person, entity, object, or concept performing the target sentence action.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Target Definition & Contextual Meaning</i>
Verb	The structural word detailing active physical action or an emotional/cognitive state.
Singular Subject	A baseline entity grouping exactly one person, coordinate, object, or thought.
Plural Subject	A composite entity grouping two or more distinct elements or individuals.
Subject-Verb Agreement	The syntactic constraint forcing a verb to align in count (singular/plural) with its controller subject.
V2	The structural second form of the English verb, expressing past timeline terminations.
V3	The structural third form of the English verb (Past Participle) utilized in perfect configurations.
Past Perfect	The compound tense format (Had + V3) indicating an action completed prior to another past action.
Simple Past	The basic past tense structural form using the V2 representation directly.
Universal Truth	A permanent natural fact, scientific rule, or astronomical axiom that remains invariant across timelines.
Verb of Perception	Sensing-related verbs (see, hear, smell, feel, notice) that are normally restricted from continuous forms.
Verb of Possession	Ownership-related verbs (have, own, possess, belong) that are restricted from continuous expressions.
Duration	A calculated physical block or span of measurement in time (triggering FOR).
Starting Point	The specific calendar node signifying the initial origin of an action (triggering SINCE).
Hypothetical Situation	An imagined, unreal, or subjunctive condition contrary to present real-world reality.

 **Actionable Next Steps & Master**  **TAP TO COMPLETE**

Interactive Note: Click individual checklist boxes below to visually cross them off as you revise.

I. SUBJECT-VERB ALIGNMENT MASTERY

- Ensure accurate identification of true singular/plural subject before matching verb form.
- Completely ignore intervening trap preposition items like **of, with, in, among** when evaluating agreement.

II. NON-CONTINUOUS VERB SAFETY

- Memorize all 5 categories of restricted continuous state verbs (Perception, Cognitive, Possession, Feelings).
- Double-check writing prompts to ensure words like **know, believe, belong, own** are not written in "ING" forms.

III. TENSE & SEQUENCE CONSISTENCY

- Locate physical past indicators like **yesterday, ago, last night** and immediately apply V2 forms.
- Audit compound narrations to ensure past starts cleanly match past continuations (unless stating permanent laws).
- Identify chronologies during past events to map **Earlier Event → Had+V3 vs Later Event → V2**.

IV. DURATION MARKERS & SUBJUNCTIVES

- Validate temporal markers: Use **For** with calculated durations; use **Since** for coordinate starting points.
- Swap "was" for **were** during hypothetical present statements containing wish/if triggers.

🌟 FINAL CRAM KEY

SSC Grammer Core Checklist - 7 Pillars of Sure Selection

Pillar 1: SUBJECT AGREEMENT

Singular → Singular
Plural → Plural

Pillar 2: "ING" EXCEPTIONS

Know, Own, Believe, Smell, Contain = NO "-ing"

Pillar 3: TIME REFERENCE

Yesterday, Last Night, Ago = Force V2

Pillar 4: CHRONOLOGY

Earlier → Had + V3
Later → V2

"Mastering these seven structural blueprints ensures rapid score safety under active exam timers!"