

General ENGLISH

for

MPSC-MES
Preliminary Examination

2024

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Visit us at: www.madeeasypublications.org

General English for MPSC-MES Preliminary Examination, 2024

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First Edition: 2020

Reprint: 2023

Second Edition: 2024

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General English

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General English

Section

A

Tense

Tense is a form of verb which tells us about the time of action.

1. The Present Tense
2. The Past Tense
3. The Future Tense

Aspects

1. Indefinite / Simple
2. Progressive / Continuous
3. Perfect
4. Perfect Progressive

NOTE

In fact there are only two tenses in English, but the future aspect is possible with the help of modal i.e. will / shall or *Present Simple / Present Progressive*.

Simple Present

introduced by

Always, Everyday, Sundays, Mondays, Often, Usually, Seldom, .

Formation

1. **Singular Subject** : *He, She, It, Name.*
2. **Plural Subject** : *You, we, They.*
3. 'I' is a singular subject, but treated as plural in the present tense.

Rule : 1 (Singular sub + V₁ + s/es + ob)

V₁ [main verb/base form/principal verb/root verb] is always plural; we add s/es to make it singular.

1. *Go* : Plural verb
2. *Goes* : Singular verb

EXAMPLES —

1. Mohan *goes* to office.
2. She cooks food.
3. One of my friends lives in Delhi.

Rule : 2 (Plural sub + V₁ + object)

1. They go to temple.
2. We help the poor.

(Negative)

[To say no to something or somebody]

(Singular sub + does not + V₁ + ob)

EXAMPLES —

1. She does not go to temple.
2. I do not compose a song.

Never = Not any time in Present, Past or Future.

1. She never comes on time.
2. They never help the poor.

Interrogative / Interrogative negative [Asking Question]

Yes / No Type [Do/ Does/ Sub + V₁ + ob?]

1. Does she write a letter?
2. Do you play hockey?

WH type [WH + do / does + sub + V₁ + ob?]

Where do you live?

When does she go to office?

Why do you not go to school?

NOTE

Who functions as a singular sub. (**Who + V₁ + s/es + ob?**)

Who teaches you English?

Usage:

1. Present Habits

- Cindy cooks food [Again and again]

3. Near future

- She goes to Holland next month.

2. News paper headlines

- India wins by three wickets.

4. Universal Truth

- The sun rises in the east.

Present Continuous Tense

The present continuous tense is used to indicate an action which is going on at the time of speaking.

EXAMPLE —

She is writing a letter. [*Now*]

To understand it better, please read the following points carefully:

1. Action should be going on while speaking.
2. Action should be deliberate.
3. Action should be temporary.
4. Sometimes action may be incomplete while speaking.
5. Verb should be dynamic

EXAMPLE —

I am writing a novel. [It maybe the writer is not writing a novel while speaking]

Rule : (Subject + is / am / are + V₁ + ing + object)

EXAMPLES —

1. She is writing a letter.
2. I am listening to the music.
3. They are watering the plants.

VERB	
Action	State
Reading	Taste
Writing	Hate
Playing, etc.	Prefer, like, etc.

To indicate 'state' we do not use progressive tense.

Some verbs are not used in progressive tenses. They are called **Stative Verbs**.

Stative Verbs

like, dislike, know, belong to, love, hate, detest, realise, seem, appear, sound, agree, mind, believe, remember, forget, [look = seem] prefer, resemble, see, hear, smell, taste, astonish, have, recognise, own, wonder, understand, think.

- Wrong** : I am understanding your problem.
- Right** : I understand your problem.
- Wrong** : He is wondering to see her shouting at the beggar.
- Right** : He wonders to see her shouting at the beggar.

NOTE

Some *Stative verbs* can be used in continuous to indicate temporary action.

1. Think (Stative) : Opinion / believe

Ex: I *think* you are right [correct]

It *means*, It is my opinion that you are right.

Think (Dynamic) : Consider, or to have something on mind

Ex: I am *thinking* about my friend.

2. See (Stative) : Understand / see with your eyes

Ex: I *see* what you mean.

I *see* a donkey on the road.

See (Dynamic) : To meet

I am *seeing* her tomorrow.

Present Perfect Tense

This tense is used to indicate an action which is finished just now / recently.

[Sub + has / have + V₃ + ob]

[V₃ = Past Participle]

1. [He / She / It / Name + has]
2. [I, you, we, they + have]

EXAMPLES —

1. He has written a letter.
2. They have composed a song.

Negative [Subject + has / have + not + V₃ + Ob]

He has not written a letter.

They have not composed a song.

Interrogative / Negative**WH + (has / have + subject + V₃ + object?)**

1. Have they watered all the plants?
2. Why have you not eaten food yet?

Errors in the use of present perfect.**Rule : 1 (Imperative sentence + when + subject + has / have + V₃ + object.)**

- Wrong** : Take this medicine when you ate food.
- Right** : Take this medicine when you have eaten food.
- Wrong** : Ask him to go to school when he completes his homework.
- Right** : Ask him to go to school when he has completed his homework.

Rule : 2 (Gone / been)

Gone : To go somewhere and be there.

Been : To go somewhere and come back.

- Wrong** : Have you ever gone to Holland?
- Right** : Have you ever been to Holland?
- Wrong** : Cindy has been to office, so Rochester is waiting for her.
- Right** : Cindy has gone to office, so Rochester is waiting for her.

Rule : 3 (It is the first time, the second time + + Subject + has / have + V₃ + object.)

- Wrong** : It is the third time, I saw her melting in his arms.
- Right** : It is the third time, I have seen her melting in his arms.

Rule : 4 (This is the only time + Subject + has / have + V₃ + object.)

- Wrong** : This is the only time Cathy went to America to meet her Sunday husband.
- Right** : This is the only time Cathy has gone to America to meet her Sunday husband.

Rule : 5 (Present Perfect + since + subject + V₂ + object.)

- Wrong** : Five years have passed since I have seen him reading a detective novel.
- Right** : Five years have passed since I saw him reading a detective novel.

7. The sun rises in the east and set in the west. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
8. Mona came to the meeting much later than the boss expect. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
9. One of my relatives has this flat since 2010. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
10. It is high time we go to market with a view to purchasing a few books. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
11. In the morning I found that it was raining the whole night No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
12. They will have completed their homework before she enter the room. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
13. Sandra is appearing in her exams next week. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
14. It is known to all of us that the problem of metropolitans seem to be increasing rapidly. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
15. Mohan sang a sweet song before Meera returned from market. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
16. Have you ever gone to Canada? No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
17. He is loving her since childhood. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
18. He rarely come on time to attend the class. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
19. They had been teaching in this college since 2015? No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)
20. Two and two makes four. No error
(a) (b) (c) (d)

48. They had telecasted the match before it began to rain. No error
 (a) (b) (c) (d)
49. I am owning this book for two years. No error
 (a) (b) (c) (d)
50. When he entered the room he didn't see anyone at first but then he notice that I was sitting
 (a) (b)
in the corner with James and Rajnish. No error
 (c) (d)

Answer Key >

Tenses

1. (b)	2. (c)	3. (a)	4. (c)	5. (a)	6. (a)	7. (c)	8. (c)	9. (b)
10. (b)	11. (b)	12. (c)	13. (d)	14. (c)	15. (a)	16. (b)	17. (a)	18. (b)
19. (d)	20. (b)	21. (a)	22. (b)	23. (d)	24. (c)	25. (d)	26. (b)	27. (b)
28. (a)	29. (c)	30. (a)	31. (a)	32. (b)	33. (b)	34. (c)	35. (d)	36. (d)
37. (c)	38. (a)	39. (d)	40. (c)	41. (a)	42. (c)	43. (d)	44. (d)	45. (a)
46. (d)	47. (b)	48. (a)	49. (a)	50. (b)				

Explanations >

Tenses

1. (a)
 Replace *do you know* by have you known.
2. (c)
 Replace *becomes* by became because simple past tense is required.
3. (a)
 Replace *I played hockey* by I have been playing hockey.
4. (c)
 Replace *spends* by spent, because simple past tense is required.
5. (a)
 Replace *they have composed* by they composed.
 Use simple past tense if past time such as yesterday, last year etc. is given.
6. (a)
 Replace *'They are not understanding'* by They do not understand.
 'Understand' is a stative verb, so it cannot be used in progressive tense.
7. (c)
 Replace *'set'* by sets.
8. (c)
 Replace *'than the boss expect'* by than the boss expected.
9. (b)
 Replace *'has'* by has had, because has is a stative verb, present perfect tense is required.
10. (b)
 Replace *'we go to market'* by we went to market.
 [Rule: It is high time + Sub + V₂ + Ob]
11. (b)
 Replace *I found that it was* by It had been.
12. (c)
 Replace *'before she enter the room'* by before she enters the room.
13. (d)
 No error

Set-1
MPSC (Prelims Exam)

1. Match the following sentences with correct prepositions to fill in the blanks :

- | | |
|----------|--|
| a. to | I. The river flowed _____ a bridge, after |
| b. after | II. The repairs _____ the roof were completed quickly. |
| c. with | III. _____ the party we did a lot of washing-up. |
| d. under | IV. The bad-tempered man replied _____ a grunt. |

- | | a | b | c | d |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (1) | IV | I | III | II |
| (2) | I | III | IV | I |
| (3) | II | III | I | IV |
| (4) | I | IV | II | III |

2. Match the following:

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| a. Come again | I. to advance, develop or improve |
| b. Come about | II. to obtain or receive |
| c. Come by | III. to happen |
| d. Come along | IV. What did you say? |

- | | a | b | c | d |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (1) | I | II | III | IV |
| (2) | IV | III | II | I |
| (3) | III | IV | II | I |
| (4) | II | I | IV | III |

3. I met unexpectedly an old friend yesterday at the bus station. Select the correct alternative that could replace the underlined part meaningfully.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| (1) caught at | (2) came across |
| (3) waited on | (4) went by |

4. parents sat up half the night. Which one of the following correctly fills the blank in the above sentence ?

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| (1) Both of | (2) Both the |
| (3) The both | (4) Both |

5. a. The accident was put down to bad luck.
b. I really love being given presents.
c. Tom was liked to be there.
d. She is being treated in hospital.

Identify the correct passive sentences.

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| (1) Only a | (2) Only a, b and c |
| (3) Only b, c and a | (4) Only a, c and a |

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions from 6 to 10 :

A person who takes the trouble to form his own opinions and beliefs, will feel that he owes no responsibility to the majority for his conclusions. If he is a genuine lover of truth, if he is inspired by a passion for seeing things as they are and an adherence of holding ideas which do not conform to facts, he will be wholly independent of the assent of those around him. When he proceeds to apply his beliefs in the practical conduct of life, the position is different. There are then good reasons why his attitude should be less inflexible. The society in which he is placed is an ancient and composite growth. The people from whom he dissents have not come by their opinions, customs and by a process of mere haphazard. These opinions and customs, all had their origin in a certain real supposed fitness. They have certain depth of root in the lives of a proportion of the existing generation. Their congruity with one another may have come to an end. That is only one side of the truth.

The most zealous propagandism cannot penetrate to them. In common language, we speak of a generation as something possessed of a kind of exact unity, with all its parts and members homogeneous. Yet, plainly it is not this. It is a whole but a whole in a state of constant flux; its factors and elements are eternally shifting. It is not one but many generations. Each of the seven ages of man is neighbour to all the rest. The column of

the veterans is already sinking into the last abyss, while the column of the newest recruits is forming its tradition, its tendency and its possibilities. Only a proportion of each can have nerve enough to grasp the banner of a new truth and endurance to bear it along rugged and untrodden ways. Thus we must remember the stuff of which life is made. We must consider what an overwhelming preponderance of the most tenacious energies and most concentrated interests of a society must be absorbed between material cares and the solitude of the affections. It is obviously unreasonable to lose patience and quarrel with one's time because it is tardy in throwing off its institutions and beliefs and slow to achieve the transformation which is the problem in front of it. Men and women have to live. The task for most of us is arduous enough to make us well pleased with even such imperfect shelter as we find in daily use and wont. To insist on whole community being made at once to submit to the reign of new practices and ideas that have just begun to commend themselves to the most advanced speculative intelligence of the time, this even if it were a possible process, would do hurry on social dissolution.

6. Select the correct antonym from the passage to miscellaneous
- (1) whole
 - (2) homogeneous
 - (3) tenacious
 - (4) different
7. "rugged and untrodden ways" in the passage means
- (1) rough and outdated
 - (2) difficult and inexperienced
 - (3) hard and worn out
 - (4) strong and strange
8. What is the hard task the author refers to in the above passage ?
- a. To discard old beliefs for transformation.
 - b. To accept new practices and ideas.
 - c. To be absorbed between material cares and solitude of affection.
- Select the correct answer.
- (1) Only a
 - (2) Only b
 - (3) Only b and c
 - (4) All a, b and c
9. An overnight change in social setting is not desirable because

- a. The society in which the person lives is an ancient and of composite growth.
- b. The opinions and customs in the society are deep rooted.

Select the correct alternative to complete the sentence.

- (1) Only a is correct
- (2) Only b is correct
- (3) Both a and b are correct
- (4) Both a and b are incorrect

10. According to the passage, customs and traditions originate from
- (1) lives of ancient people in the society.
 - (2) the traditional society.
 - (3) largely in previous generations.
 - (4) real and flawless connectivity among the majority of the members of existing society.

Set-2

MPSC (Prelims Exam)

1. You could forgive all his asperities when he smiled. Identify the correct meaning of the word underlined.
- (1) cruelty
 - (2) malignity
 - (3) malice
 - (4) roughness
2. Choose the correct word which is the most opposite to the meaning of the underline word in the sentence.
- At night much of the activity comes to rest.
- (1) cessation
 - (2) tranquillity
 - (3) pause
 - (4) exertion
3. Match the synonyms:
- | | |
|--------------|---------------|
| a. agile | I. royal |
| b. human | II. permanent |
| c. majestic | III. active |
| d. perennial | IV. gentle |
- | | a | b | c | d |
|---------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| (1) IV | I | II | III | |
| (2) III | I | IV | II | |
| (3) III | IV | I | II | |
| (4) IV | III | II | I | |
4. All his efforts proved to be a mare's nest in the long run. Identify the correct meaning of the underlined.
- (1) irrelevant

- (2) unimportant
- (3) worthless
- (4) insincere

5. He is a man of the world. His honest advice will help us a lot. Identify the correct meaning of the underlined.
- (1) an important person
 - (2) an experienced person
 - (3) a social person
 - (4) a genius

Read the following passage carefully and choose the most correct option given below each question. (Q. No. 6 to 10):

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge, Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants, yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his masters, Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature, And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals. And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become more civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things, thinking freely, and living

rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

- CEM JOAD

6. The machines themselves and the powers they have given to us _____.
- a. are nothing but civilization.
 - b. are only the aids to civilization
 - c. are only to multiply the production.
 - d. are ways to make the people wealthy.

Answer options :

- (1) 'a' and 'c' are correct
- (2) 'a' and 'd' are correct
- (3) 'b' is correct
- (4) 'c' is correct

7. The passage is about
- a. civilization.
 - b. only the defects of civilization.
 - c. making the things more beautiful using the power given by machines.
 - d. removing the causes of quarrels between the nations and overcoming poverty.

Answer options :

- (1) Only 'a' is correct
- (2) Only 'b' is correct
- (3) 'a', 'c' and 'd' are correct
- (4) 'b', 'c' and 'a' are correct

8. We use, according to the writer, the powers that are given by science unlike
- a. God
 - b. small children
 - c. servants
 - d. masters

Answer options :

- (1) Only 'b' is correct
- (2) Only 'c' is correct
- (3) 'a' and 'b' are correct
- (4) 'c' and 'd' are correct

9. If the machines do not get their meal in time, they will
- grow sulky and refuse to work.
 - by obey their masters.
 - burst with rage and blow up.
 - not cause ruin and destruction,

Answer options:

- 'a' and 'b' are correct
- 'b' and 'c' are correct
- 'c' and 'd' are correct
- 'a' and 'c' are correct

10. We all agree that being civilized means
- earning more and more money.
 - making and linking beautiful things.
 - grabbing property of others.
 - maintaining justice equally between men and women.

Answer options:

- 'b' and 'd' are correct
- 'a' and 'b' are correct
- 'c' and 'd' are correct
- 'd' and 'a' are correct

3. Choose the appropriate pair to fill in the blanks in both the given sentences.

- Measles is highly ____.
 - England is the only country ____ to Wales.
- contagious, contagious
 - contiguous, contagious
 - contagious, contiguous
 - contiguous, contiguous

4. Complete the sentence with who, which, whom or what. ____ of them broke the window?

- Who
- Whom
- What
- Which

5. Choose the alternative containing the correct sequence of words to fill in the blanks in the given sentences.

- ____ was a big audience for the concert that night.
 - ____ is no answer.
 - ____ is a car outside.
- There, It, It
 - There, There, There
 - There, There, It
 - It, It, It

Set-3**MPSC (Prelims Exam)**

1. Identify the correct sentence.
- She got up when the alarm clock went off.
 - Erika had dropped her bag while she was getting into her car.
 - It was the first time I'd talked to Ela outside the office.
 - She will be taking up her place at University in October.

- a and c
- b and d
- a, c and d
- b, c and d

2. Match the following pairs of antonyms:

- | I | | II | |
|---------------|--|------------------|--|
| a. Colleague | | I. Indolence | |
| b. Promptness | | II. Honesty | |
| c. Duplicity | | III. Benevolence | |
| d. Objection | | IV. Opponent | |

- | a | b | c | d |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) II | III | IV | I |
| (2) III | II | IV | I |
| (3) I | IV | III | II |
| (4) IV | I | II | III |

Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions from 6 to 10 :

If from a hilltop you could watch a panther stalking his prey, he would offer a most interesting spectacle. You would see him taking advantage of every bush, of every tree trunk and of every stone behind which to take cover. He can flatten himself to the ground in an amazing fashion. His colouration renders him invisible, unless you have the keenest eyesight. I once watched one through a pair of binoculars and was amazed at the really wonderful sense of woodcraft the panther had. Then comes the final rush. In a couple of bounds and with lightning speed, he reaches his prey.

6. Give the meaning of the idiom 'to take advantage of'.

- Profit selfishly by exploiting
- Put to good use
- None of those
- All of these

7. What is the word for the phenomena 'his colouration renders him invisible'?
- (1) Concentration
 - (2) Camouflage
 - (3) Configuration
 - (4) Camouflage
8. What is the panther doing in the story?
- (1) Hiding
 - (2) Stalking
 - (3) Rushing
 - (4) Flattening
9. With the help of which instrument did the writer watch the panther?
- (1) Spectacle
 - (2) Binoculars
 - (3) Tree trunk
 - (4) None of these
10. How was the panther stalking his prey?
- (1) Hiding behind the tree trunk
 - (2) Taking advantage of every bush
 - (3) Flatten himself to the ground
 - (4) All of these

Answer Key: Set-1 MPSC (Prelims Exam)

1. (2) 2. (2) 3. (2) 4. (2) 5. (4) 6. (2) 7. (4) 8. (4) 9. (3)
10. (4)

Answer Key: Set-2 MPSC (Prelims Exam)

1. (4) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (3) 5. (2) 6. (3) 7. (3) 8. (3) 9. (4)
10. (1)

Answer Key: Set-3 MPSC (Prelims Exam)

1. (3) 2. (4) 3. (3) 4. (4) 5. (2) 6. (4) 7. (4) 8. (2) 9. (2)
10. (4)

