



# **A MIRROR OF COMPETITIVE ENGLISH**

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NIFT & OTHER EXAMINATIONS**

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Practice Sets**



**Dr Ashok Kumar Singh**

**Author** **A MIRROR OF  
COMMON ERRORS**

# A MIRROR OF COMPETITIVE ENGLISH

FOR BANK CLERK/PO, SSC, CDS, NDA, RAILWAY, AIR FORCE,  
NIFT & OTHER EXAMINATIONS

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विभूति’, ‘बिहार रत्न’, ‘लाइफटाइम अचीवमेंट केसरी’, ‘बिहार कला रत्न’, ‘दैनिक जागरण  
आइकॉन ऑफ बिहार’, ‘आर्यभट्ट शिक्षा गौरव’ सम्मान से सम्मानित।

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*Dedicated to*

*Neha*

*&*

*Nisha*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

इस पुस्तक के प्रकाशन के लिए श्री एन.एन.ओझा, संपादक व प्रबंध निदेशक; श्री अमरेन्द्र कुमार, प्रबंध संपादक तथा श्री अमित कुमार सिंह, प्रतिनिधि, क्रॉनिकल पब्लिकेशन लिमिटेड, नई दिल्ली के प्रति मैं अपनी कृतज्ञता प्रकट करता हूँ। इन महानुभावों के अलावा पब्लिकेशन परिवार के ऐसे सदस्यों के प्रति मैं अपनी कृतज्ञता प्रकट करता हूँ जिन्होंने प्रत्यक्ष या अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से इस पुस्तक को छात्रों के लिए बाजार में लाने के लिए अपना बहुमूल्य योगदान दिया है। अंत में मैं अपनी कृतज्ञता अपनी धर्मपत्नी श्रीमती रंजना सिंह के प्रति भी व्यक्त करता हूँ जिनके सृजनात्मक सहयोग के बिना मेरी पुस्तक लिखने की निरंतरता संभव नहीं है।

—डॉ. अशोक कुमार सिंह  
पटना

## PREFACE

1. 'A MIRROR OF COMPETITIVE ENGLISH' एक बेमिसाल पुस्तक है। इसकी परिकल्पना विशेष रूप से बैंक क्लर्क की परीक्षाओं की तैयारी कर रहे छात्रों को ध्यान में रखकर की गई है। इस पुस्तक में 2010 से विभिन्न बैंकों एवं आईबीपीएस द्वारा आयोजित बैंक क्लर्क की परीक्षाओं के 60 Sets का संकलन है। यह पुस्तक Bank PO, SSC, CDS, NDA, RAILWAY, AIRFORCE, NIIFT की तैयारी करने वाले छात्रों के लिए भी समान रूप से उपयोगी है क्योंकि भारत में आयोजित होने वाली लगभग सभी परीक्षाओं में Competitive English के Objective Type के प्रश्न-पत्रों में (i) Detection of Common Errors, (ii) Improvement of Sentences, (iii) Sentence Making (Arrangement of Words in a Sentence), (iv) Paragraph Making (Arrangement of Sentences in a Paragraph), (v) Fill up the Blanks, (vi) Cloze Test, (vii) Synonyms, (viii) Antonyms, (ix) Spelling Errors, (x) Comprehension, (xi) Missing Sentence in a Paragraph, (xii) Missing Sentence in a Passage, (xiii) Idioms & Phrases, (xiv) One-Word Substitution, (xv) Replacement or Interchange of Words, (xvi) Mis-spelt or Inappropriate Words, (xvii) Voice, (xviii) Narration, (xxiv) Stem Completion पर आधारित प्रश्न पूछे जाते हैं। इन सभी प्रकार के प्रश्नों का मूल उद्देश्य छात्रों के English Language की समझ का आकलन करना होता है।
2. इस पुस्तक में सभी प्रश्नों के उत्तरों को बॉक्स में रखा गया है तथा उसके नीचे EXPLANATIONS के अंतर्गत सभी प्रश्नों की विस्तृत व्याख्या कारण सहित की गई है।
3. Comprehension में पूछे गए सभी प्रश्नों के उत्तर को Passage में से lines के रूप में निकालकर तथा उनका 'हिंदी अर्थ' देकर समझाया गया है जो वर्तमान में बाजार में उपलब्ध किसी भी पुस्तक में नहीं है।
4. Synonyms, Antonyms, Phrasal Verbs या Idioms & Phrases पर आधारित प्रश्नों के केवल उत्तर ही नहीं दिए गए हैं बल्कि उनमें दिए गए सभी विकल्पों के English & Hindi Meanings भी दिए गए हैं।
5. हर Practice Set के अंत में पूरे Passage में प्रयुक्त ऐसे तमाम words के English & Hindi Meanings दिए गए हैं जो छात्रों को difficult प्रतीत हो सकते हैं।
6. बहुत सारे भ्रामक तथ्यों को स्पष्ट करने के लिए 50 प्रामाणिक English Grammar तथा English Dictionary की पुस्तकों को आधार बनाया गया है और इनमें से बहुत सारी पुस्तकों में दिए गए तथ्यों का उल्लेख भी प्रश्नों की व्याख्या की प्रामाणिकता के लिए किया गया है।
7. इस पुस्तक को प्रामाणिक एवं त्रुटिरहित बनाने का हर संभव प्रयास किया गया है, किंतु मानवीय भूलों को पूरी तरह से नकारा नहीं जा सकता है। अतः सुधि शिक्षकों एवं पाठकों से सादर अनुरोध है कि कहीं भी कोई त्रुटि दिखाई दे तो नीचे दिए Mobile Number के Whatsapp पर अवश्य भेजें। आपके ध्यानाकर्षण या सुझाव का सहृदय स्वागत रहेगा और यथासंभव इस पुस्तक को आपके लिए अधिक-से-अधिक उपयोगी बनाने का प्रयास किया जाएगा। उम्मीद है कि यह पुस्तक किसी भी Competition की तैयारी कर रहे छात्रों के लिए अप्रत्याशित रूप से लाभप्रद होगी।

बहुत-बहुत शुभकामनाएं!

डॉ. अशोक कुमार सिंह

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# CONTENTS

◆ Practice Set-1.....	1-8
◆ Practice Set-2.....	9-14
◆ Practice Set-3.....	15-22
◆ Practice Set-4.....	23-30
◆ Practice Set-5.....	31-37
◆ Practice Set-6.....	38-46
◆ Practice Set-7.....	47-55
◆ Practice Set-8.....	56-62
◆ Practice Set-9.....	63-68
◆ Practice Set-10.....	69-76
◆ Practice Set-11.....	77-83
◆ Practice Set-12.....	84-92
◆ Practice Set-13.....	93-100
◆ Practice Set-14.....	101-109
◆ Practice Set-15.....	110-116
◆ Practice Set-16.....	117-123
◆ Practice Set-17.....	124-128
◆ Practice Set-18.....	129-135
◆ Practice Set-19.....	136-143
◆ Practice Set-20.....	144-148
◆ Practice Set-21.....	149-153
◆ Practice Set-22.....	154-159
◆ Practice Set-23.....	160-167
◆ Practice Set-24.....	168-174
◆ Practice Set-25.....	175-181
◆ Practice Set-26.....	182-189
◆ Practice Set-27.....	190-197
◆ Practice Set-28.....	198-205
◆ Practice Set-29.....	206-213
◆ Practice Set-30.....	214-220

◆ Practice Set-31.....	221-227
◆ Practice Set-32.....	228-236
◆ Practice Set-33.....	237-242
◆ Practice Set-34.....	243-250
◆ Practice Set-35.....	251-257
◆ Practice Set-36.....	258-266
◆ Practice Set-37.....	267-273
◆ Practice Set-38.....	274-280
◆ Practice Set-39.....	281-286
◆ Practice Set-40.....	287-293
◆ Practice Set-41.....	294-300
◆ Practice Set-42.....	301-309
◆ Practice Set-43.....	310-316
◆ Practice Set-44.....	317-325
◆ Practice Set-45.....	326-333
◆ Practice Set-46.....	334-341
◆ Practice Set-47.....	342-348
◆ Practice Set-48.....	349-356
◆ Practice Set-49.....	357-365
◆ Practice Set-50.....	366-371
◆ Practice Set-51.....	372-378
◆ Practice Set-52.....	379-385
◆ Practice Set-53.....	386-391
◆ Practice Set-54.....	392-398
◆ Practice Set-55.....	399-404
◆ Practice Set-56.....	405-412
◆ Practice Set-57.....	413-419
◆ Practice Set-58.....	420-426
◆ Practice Set-59.....	427-433
◆ Practice Set-60.....	434-440





# Competitive English - Practice Set

1

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

In the town of Agra there lived a rich businessman. But he was also quite a miser. Various people used to flock outside his house every day hoping for some kind of generosity, but they always had to return home disappointed. He used to ward them off with false promises and then never lived up to his word. Then one day, a poet named Raidas arrived at his house and said that he wanted to read out his poems to the rich man. As the rich man was very fond of poetry, he welcomed him in with open arms.

Raidas started to recite all his poems one by one. The rich man was very **pleased** and especially so when he heard the poem that Raidas had written on him. In those days it was a custom for rich men and kings to show their appreciation through a reward or a gift, as that was the only **means** of earning that a poor poet possessed. So the rich man promised Raidas some gifts and asked him to come and collect them the next day. Raidas was pleased.

The next morning when he arrived at the house, the rich man pretended that he had never laid eyes on him before. When Raidas reminded him of his promise, he said that although Raidas was a good poet he liked the poem which was written on him and the rest of the poems were very ordinary. He also said that he had earlier promised a reward to Raidas not because he was really pleased or impressed but to simply encourage him. Raidas was extremely upset, but as there was nothing that he could do, he quietly left the house. On his way home he saw his brother Kuber riding a horse. So he stopped him and asked for his help after **narrating** the whole incident. Kuber took him to his own house in order to come up with a plan. After giving it some thought he asked Raidas to go to a friend's house with five gold coins and request the friend to plan a dinner where the rich man would also be invited. He then narrated his plan to him.

Raidas had one **trustworthy** friend whose name was Mayadas. So he went up to him and told him the plan.

The next day, Mayadas went to the rich man's house and invited him for dinner. He said that he **intended** to serve his guests in vessels of gold, which the guests would get to take home after the meal. The rich man was thrilled to hear this and jumped at the offer. After the rich man arrived at Mayadas's house, he was surprised to see no other guests there but Raidas. Anyhow, they welcomed him in and started a polite conversation.

The rich man had come on an empty stomach and so was getting hungrier by the minute. Finally, at midnight the rich man could bear his hunger no longer and asked Mayadas to serve the food. Mayadas sounded extremely surprised when he asked him what food was he talking about. The rich man tried to remind him that he had been invited for dinner. At this point Raidas asked him for proof of the invitation. The rich man had no answer. At the point Raidas reminded the rich man of the same treatment that he had meted out to him. The rich man realised his mistake and begged for forgiveness. He said that Raidas was a good poet and had not asked him for any reward. He himself had promised to give him some gifts and then cheated him out of them. To make up for his mistake he took out the necklace that he was wearing and gifted it to Raidas. Then they all sat down to eat a happy meal.

1. Why was the rich businessman thrilled on being invited over to dinner by Mayadas?
  - (a) He was thrilled to have dinner for free.
  - (b) No one had ever invited him over for dinner since he was very miserly.
  - (c) Mayadas had promised to serve in gold dishes which the guests were allowed to take home with them.
  - (d) Mayadas had promised many delicacies in the dinner.
  - (e) None of these
2. Which of the following is **TRUE** in the context of the passage?
  - (a) It was Raidas's brother Kuber's plan to teach the rich businessman a lesson.
  - (b) The rich businessman had to return empty stomach from Mayadas's house.
  - (c) Mayadas was a trustworthy friend of the rich businessman.
  - (d) None is true.
  - (e) All (a), (b) and (c) are true.

# Competitive English - Practice Set

2

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Once upon a time there was an old man called Yugiyama in a small village in Japan. He lived alone as his only son had gone far away to study. Yugiyama was a nice and friendly man who was liked by all the people in the village. He had a very **positive** view of everything that happened around him. He never grumbled or complained about anything. The villagers would often come over to the old man's house to express their sympathy as his only son had gone far away and even at this old age he had no one to look after him and support him. They often wondered if his son would ever **return**. As a reply to all their concerns, Yugiyama would always thank them and say, "Whatever happens, happens for the good." No one ever understood why he was never sad about his son's absence.

One day, Yugiyama's son returned to the village after completing his education. His son had become a merchant and was earning very well. He took great care of his father. Everyone was not only amazed at Yugiyama's luck but they were also very happy for him. Streams of villagers came over to congratulate him and like always, the old man was **polite**. He thanked all of them for coming over and said, "Whatever happens, happens for the good."

Barely a few days had passed, when one day, Yugiyama's son fell off a horse's back and broke his leg. Once again the entire villagers came over to Yugiyama's house to express their concern and again the old man thanked them for their sympathy and said, "Whatever happens, happens for the good." Some of the villagers were surprised to hear this and wondered what good could there possibly be in this situation as his son had broken a leg and old Yugiyama would have to take care of him.

A month later, the kingdom to which Yugiyama belonged and the neighbouring kingdom had a war. The king announced that they needed more young men in the army. A small troupe of the army came to the village and recruited all **able-bodied** young men into the army. They did not give anyone a choice. Even those who were **reluctant** were forced to join the army. When they came

to Yugiyama's house they found his son with a broken leg. The army leader told Yugiyama, "Your son is injured and so he will not be of any help in the battlefield." Thus they left him behind. Once again, all the villagers came to the old man's house to congratulate him for his good luck. They said, "You are lucky that your son was not recruited. Otherwise who would have looked after you?" Like always, the old man thanked them and said, "Whatever happens, happens for the good." It was only then that the villagers understood the true meaning of Yugiyama's words.

1. Why did Yugiyama always say, "Whatever happens, happens for the good?"
  - (a) He had a positive view about everything.
  - (b) His teacher had asked him to say these words.
  - (c) His son liked to hear these words.
  - (d) He liked to puzzle the villagers by saying these words.
  - (e) This was his way of grumbling about everything.
2. Why was everyone amazed at Yugiyama's luck?
  - (a) His son had given him an expensive gift.
  - (b) His son was given a high post in the army after his return.
  - (c) His son had returned and was taking great care of him.
  - (d) His son had become one of the greatest warriors.
  - (e) His son received an award for being a successful merchant.
3. Why did Yugiyama live alone?
  - (a) He liked to live alone.
  - (b) His son abandoned him as he was very old.
  - (c) His son had gone away to study.
  - (d) His son had gone away to work in another village.
  - (e) He had no family at all.
4. Initially, the villagers sympathised with Yugiyama because
  - (a) He was old and there was no one to look after him.
  - (b) He never complained about anything.
  - (c) His house was robbed one night.
  - (d) He broke his leg while working in the field.
  - (e) He had no friends.

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Once upon a time, there lived a robber in a village. One day, he stole a temple bell and ran towards the forest. A tiger heard the jingle of the bell and became curious to locate the sound. As soon as he saw the robber, he jumped upon him and killed him at once. The bell fell on the ground. After a few days, a group of monkeys passed through that way. They **spotted** the bell and carried it to their home in the forest.

They found the jingle of the bell very interesting. Subsequently every one of them became very fond of the bell and started playing with it. After every tiring day, the monkeys would sit on the top of a hill in the forest in the night and enjoy the melodious sound of the bell. The people of the village were afraid of the noise. Soon afterwards, the people from the village found the body of the robber and proclaimed, "Certainly there is an evil spirit around here that kills human beings and then rings the bell to celebrate".

When the people heard this, they thought that a demon was haunting their village. Without giving any second thought, people started leaving the village in terror and settling in a new place. However, there was an intelligent and bold woman in that village. She thought to herself, "I don't believe that a demon is haunting this village. I will find out who is ringing the bell." Late in the night, she went into the forest bravely and found that a group of monkeys was playing about and ringing the bell.

Now as the woman knew the secret of the bell, she went to the King and said, "Your Majesty! I'm sure there is no evil spirit in the village and the cause of all the trouble lies nowhere else. If you **grant** me some money, I will get rid of it and bring happiness to the village." The King, who was terrified of the hoax that prevailed in the village, granted request of the woman.

The woman bought as much peas, groundnuts and fruits with that money as she could. She went into the forest, made circle under a tree on the ground, placed all the eatables herself at some distance. She kept a **watch** on the monkeys from a distance.

As and when the monkeys saw the eatables, they **dropped** the bell just as the old woman had expected of them. They ran to pick the eatables. The woman picked up the bell quickly and rushed towards the village. She gave the bell in the court of the King. The King was happy with the brave woman and everyone in the village **admired** her bravery. The King rewarded the woman for her bravery. Since then there was no sound of the bell in the village. People returned to their village and lived happily ever after.

1. What did the group of monkeys do with the bell?
  - (a) They used it to scare away the villagers.
  - (b) They enjoyed its pleasant sound every night.
  - (c) They returned it to the temple.
  - (d) They gave it to the king as they were afraid of it.
  - (e) None of these.
2. Why did the villagers move out of the village in search of a new place?
  - (a) They were scared of frequent attacks of the man-eating tiger.
  - (b) They were terrified of the king as he was an evil person.
  - (c) The village was cursed by the gods as the villagers could not find the lost bell of the temple.
  - (d) They were fed up of frequent robberies in the village.
  - (e) None of these.
3. Why did the woman from the village go to the forest late in the night?
  - (a) To find out who was ringing the bell every night in the forest
  - (b) To request the demon to leave the village and live somewhere else
  - (c) In order to hide from the demon present in the village.
  - (d) To hunt down the evil monkeys who had been killing human beings.
  - (e) None of these.

# Competitive English - Practice Set

4

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

A sobbing little girl stood near a small school from which she had been turned away because it 'was too crowded'. "I can't go to school" she sobbed to a priest as he walked by. Seeing her shabby, **unkempt** appearance, the priest guessed the reason and, taking her by the hand, took her inside and found a place for her in the school class. The child was so **touched** that she went to bed that night thinking of the children who have no place to study.

Some two years later, this child lay dead in one of the poor tenement buildings and the parents called for the kindhearted priest, who had **befriended** their daughter, to handle the final arrangements. As her poor little body was being moved, a worn and crumpled purse was found which seemed to have been rummaged from some trash dump. Inside were found 57 cents and a note scribbled in childish handwriting which read, "This is to help make the little school bigger so that more children can go to school."

For two years she had saved for this offering of love. When the priest tearfully read that note, he knew instantly what he would do.

Carrying this note and the cracked, red pocketbook to the stage, he told the story of her unselfish love and devotion. He challenged his assistants to get busy and raise enough money for the larger building.

A newspaper learned of the story and published it. It was read by a realtor who offered them a parcel of land **worth** many thousands. When told that the school could not pay so much, he offered it for a 57 cent payment.

Religious members too made large subscriptions. Cheques came from far and wide. Within five years the little girl's gift had increased to \$250,000 a huge sum for that time. Her unselfish love had paid large dividends. The school building houses hundreds of scholars, so that no child in the area will ever need to be left outside at school time.

In one of the rooms of this building may be seen the picture of the sweet face of the little girl whose 57 cents, so sacrificially saved, made such remarkable history. Alongside of it is a portrait of her kind priest.

1. How did the little girl die?
  - (a) She had died from suffocation in the tenement building.
  - (b) She had starved to death.
  - (c) She fell from a poor tenement building.
  - (d) Not mentioned in the passage.
  - (e) None of these.
2. What was found on the girl's body after her death?
  - (a) A purse containing the drawing of a school.
  - (b) Notes that she had taken during school.
  - (c) A note to the priest thanking him for his kindness.
  - (d) A purse containing the address to her new school.
  - (e) None of these.
3. In what manner did the realtor help in making the little girl's dream come true ?
  - (a) By buying a land for the building of the school for thousands of dollars.
  - (b) By building the school himself.
  - (c) By giving away land for building the school at a negligible price.
  - (d) By publishing the girl's story in the newspaper.
  - (e) None of these.
4. What was the real reason behind the girl not being allowed into the school ?
  - (a) The girl had a learning disability.
  - (b) She was poor and inappropriately dressed.
  - (c) The teachers were too busy to teach her.
  - (d) The school was full of students and did not need one more.
  - (e) The other kids in the school did not like her.
5. Which of the following can be the most appropriate title for the passage/story ?
  - (a) The Girl With the 57 Cents
  - (b) The Making of A School
  - (c) A Realtor's Sacrifice
  - (d) How Newspapers spread information
  - (e) A Priest and His Religion

# Competitive English - Practice Set

5

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are printed in **bold** to help you to locate them while answering some of the questions.

There once lived a rich businessman who had a lazy and fun loving son. The businessman wanted his son to be hardworking and responsible. He wanted him to realise the value of labour. One day he **summoned** his son and said: "Today, I want you to go out and earn something, failing which you won't have your meal tonight."

The boy was **casual** and not used to any kind of work. This demand by his father scared him and he went crying straight to his mother. Her heart melted at the sight of tears in her son's eyes. She grew **restless**. In a bid to help him she gave him a gold coin. In the evening when the father asked his son what he had earned, the son **promptly** presented him the gold coin. The father then asked him to throw it into the well. The son did as he was told.

The father was a man of wisdom and experience and guessed that the source of the gold coin was the boy's mother. The next day, he sent his wife to her parents' town and asked his son to go and earn something with the threat of being denied the night's meal if he failed. This time he went crying to his sister who sympathized with him and gave him a rupee coin out of her own savings. When his father asked him what he had earned, the boy tossed the rupee coin at him. The father again asked him to throw it into the well. The son did it quite readily. Again the father's wisdom told him that the rupee coin was not earned by his son. He then sent his daughter to her in-laws' house. He again asked his son to go out and earn with the threat that he shall not have anything for dinner that night.

This time since there was no one to help him out; the son was forced to go to the market in search of work. One of the shopkeepers there told him that he would pay him two rupees if he carried his trunk to his house. The rich man's son could not refuse and was **drenched** in sweat by the time he finished the job. His feet were trembling and his neck and back were aching. There were rashes on his back. When he returned home, he produced the two rupee note before his father. As usual the father asked him to throw it into the well. The horrified son almost cried out.

He could not imagine throwing his hard-earned money away. He said amid sobbing: "Father! My entire body is aching. My back has rashes and you are asking me to throw the money into the well." At this the businessman smiled. He told him that one feels pain only when the fruits of hard labour are wasted. On the earlier occasions he was helped by his mother and sister and therefore felt no pain in throwing the coins into the well. The son had now realised the value of hard work. He vowed never to be lazy and safety keep the father's wealth. The father handed over the keys of his shop to the son and promised to guide him through the rest of his life.

- The boy felt no pain in throwing the coins into the well the first two times because –
  - His father asked him to do so.
  - He was curious to know what would happen.
  - He was helped by his mother and sister.
  - It was his earned money.
  - He trusted his father.
- What ultimatum did the father give to the son?
  - He would throw away all his money if he continued to be casual.
  - He would not be given his meal if he did not earn something.
  - He would have to earn one gold coin in order to stay in the house.
  - He would give him the keys to the shop if he studied well.
  - He would throw him into the well if he continued to be lazy.
- Why did the father want his son to earn something?
  - He wanted him to realise the value of labour.
  - The father did not wish to work anymore.
  - The father did not trust his son with money.
  - He wanted his son to add to the family income.
  - He was envious of his son.
- How did the son realise the value of hard work?
  - He was asked to throw his hard-earned money in the well.
  - He was paid only two rupees for all his manual labour.
  - He found it difficult to secure a job in the market.
  - Only (A)
  - Only (B)
  - Only (C)
  - Both (A) and (C)
  - All (A), (B) and (C)

# Competitive English - Practice Set

7

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words/phrases have been printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

Once upon a time, there lived a Lion in a forest. A Jackal, a Crow and a Wolf had developed friendship with him. However, all the three had a selfish motive behind this so-called friendship. They knew that the Lion was the King of the forest and friendship with such a fierce creature would always help them. To meet their selfish ends, they started obeying and were always at the service of the Lion.

They didn't have to make any efforts to search for their food, as the Lion gave his leftover meals to them. Moreover, they became powerful as they were next to the King of the forest. One day, a Camel, who came from some distant land, lost his way and entered the same forest where these friends lived. In the meantime, these three friends happened to pass the same way that the Camel was wandering. When they saw the Camel, they realized that he did not belong to their forest. The Jackal suggested to his other two friends, "Let's kill and eat him." The Wolf replied, "It is a big animal. We cannot kill him like this. I think we should first inform our King about this Camel." The Crow agreed with the Wolf's idea. All of them went to meet the Lion.

On reaching the Lion's den, the Jackal approached the Lion and said, "Your Majesty, an unknown Camel has dared to enter your kingdom without your consent. Let's kill him; he could make a nice meal." The Lion roared loudly on hearing this and said, "What are you saying? The Camel has come for refuge in my kingdom. It is unethical to kill him. We should provide him the best shelter. Go and bring him to me." All of them were dispirited to hear these words from the King. They unwillingly went to the Camel and told him about the Lion's desire to meet him. The Camel was scared about the strange offer. He thought that his end had come and in a little while he would become the Lion's meal. As he couldn't even escape, he decided to meet the Lion. The selfish friends escorted the Camel to the Lion's den. The Lion welcomed the Camel warmly and assured him of a safe stay in the forest. The Camel was totally **amazed** to hear the Lion's words. He happily started living with the Jackal, the Crow and the Wolf.

One day, when the Lion was hunting for food, he had a struggle with a mighty Elephant. The Lion was badly injured in the struggle and became incapable of hunting for his food. Thus the Lion had to sustain without food for days. Due to this, his friends too had to go hungry for days as they totally depended on the Lion's kill for their food. But the Camel was satisfied grazing around in the forest.

All the three friends were **worried** and discussed the matter among them. As the Jackal, the Crow and the Wolf had set their evil eyes on the Camel, they met once again and devised a plan to kill the Camel. They went to the Camel and said, "Dear Friend, you know our King has not eaten anything for many days now. He is unable to hunt due to his wounds and sickness. Under such circumstances, it becomes our duty to sacrifice ourselves to save the life of our king. Come with us, we will offer our bodies as food for him." The Camel didn't understand their plan, but **innocently** nodded in favour of it. All of them approached the Lion's den.

First of all, the Crow came forward and said, "Your Majesty, I can't see you like this. So please eat me." The Lion replied, "I would prefer to die than to perform such a sinful deed." Then the Jackal came forward and said, "Your Majesty, the Crow's body is too small for your appetite. I offer myself to you, as it is my duty to save your life." The Lion politely rejected the offer. As per the plan, now it was the Wolf's turn to offer himself to the King. So, the Wolf came forward and said, "Your Majesty, the Jackal is quite small to **gratify** your hunger. I offer myself for this kind job. Please kill me and appease your hunger." But the Lion didn't kill any of them. The Camel, who was watching the whole scene, felt reassured of his safety and also decided to go forward and complete the formality. He marched forward and said, "Your Majesty, why don't you kill me? You are my friend. Please allow me to offer you my body." The Lion found the offer quite **appropriate** as the Camel himself had offered his body for food. The Lion attacked the Camel at once, ripped open his body and tore him into pieces. The Lion and his friends feasted on the poor Camel for days together.

**Directions (Q. 1-10):** Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below it. Certain words are printed in **bold** to help you locate them while answering some of the questions.

There was once a Jackal that lived in a forest by the village along with all the other animals. Now, this particular Jackal was adventurous and often strayed into the village in search of cooked food. It was not a particularly easy thing to do as he knew that the villagers would capture him if he were caught. Besides, the village was full of dogs and the jackal was afraid of them. They were sure to kill him or hurt him badly if they ever managed to catch him. But the **lure** of food proved too strong for him and so the Jackal used to visit the village frequently.

One day, just as he was about to enter a big house he heard the sound of barking. To his horror he saw a group of dogs running towards the house. They looked **fierce** and the Jackal was soon trembling with fear. He ran haphazardly and tumbled right inside a tub of blue dye. The dogs didn't see him and ran the other way. By the time the jackal climbed out of the tub, he was dyed blue from head to foot. He looked strange and totally unlike any other animal.

The Jackal was very happy. "No one will be able to recognise me now," he said to himself, "I can easily fool everyone in the forest." When he entered the forest once again, everyone was surprised to see such a strange animal. They had never seen any animal of that colour before. "Who are you?" the smaller animals asked him. "Where have you come from?" asked the mighty lion with a frown. "Lord Indra, king of heaven, has sent me to look after you" said the blue Jackal in a grand voice, "I'll be your king from now on." "But I have always been the king of the forest" **protested** the mighty lion. "All that must change now as I am the king," said the blue Jackal enjoying himself, "all of you must serve me and do exactly as I tell you." "What if we don't?", asked the tiger. "Then Lord Indra will destroy the entire forest and all of you along with it," said the blue Jackal. The animals did not dare to say anything more. "What would you like us to do?" they asked the blue Jackal. "Bring me lots of food, to start with," said the blue jackal promptly, "I am hungry and can't take care of you unless I am properly looked after."

The animals rushed off in search of food. They took care to bring whatever they could find and offered the best of everything to the blue Jackal. The Jackal was happy and had his fill. The animals promised to serve him faithfully. He assigned special duties to all the animals but **banished** the pack of Jackals from the forest because he was afraid they might recognise him some day. The blue jackal had a wonderful time after that.

One day something **unexpected** happened. The banished pack of jackals was roaming just outside the forest and howled together loudly. The blue Jackal forgot himself and joined in the howling just as he used to do before. The other animals were present when it happened and stared at him incredulously. Here was their mighty blue king howling just like a jackal! So he was a Jackal after all and not a strange creature sent from heaven! He had merely been fooling them all these days! Well, they were not going to be befooled any longer. They fell upon the blue Jackal and killed him before he could explain or protest, and that was the end of the blue Jackal's reign as king!

- Why did the jackal keep going to the village?
  - Because he had many friends in the village.
  - Because he loved the food the humans prepared.
  - Because he wanted to get away from the pack of jackals.
  - Because he was not allowed in the forest.
  - Because he wanted to become the king.
- When the jackal returned to the forest
  - He was greeted warmly by the other animals.
  - The pack of jackals immediately recognised him.
  - The other animals were surprised to see him.
  - Only (A)
  - Only (B)
  - Only (C)
  - Only (B) and (C)
  - None of these
- How did the jackal change his colour?
  - He got himself a skin treatment.
  - He prayed to Lord Indra to change his colour.
  - He wore a set of blue clothes.
  - He tumbled inside a tub containing blue dye.
  - None of these.
- What could be an appropriate title for the story?
  - The foolish animals
  - The pack of jackals
  - Lord Indra, king of heavens
  - The blue jackal
  - Power of blue