

Noun: Core Definition

Rule: A noun names a person, place, thing, animal, material, quality, action, or idea.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Ask “Who/what is being named?”

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Common Noun

Rule: A common noun names a general class rather than one particular individual.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: city, boy, river, teacher = common nouns.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Proper Noun

Rule: A proper noun names a particular person, place, institution, day, month, language, or other unique entity.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Specific name = proper noun; normally starts with a capital letter.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Collective Noun

Rule: A collective noun names a group considered as one unit.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: team, committee, army, jury, flock.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract Noun

Rule: An abstract noun names a quality, state, feeling, idea, or concept that cannot normally be touched.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: honesty, beauty, wisdom, childhood.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Material Noun

Rule: A material noun names a substance or material from which things are made.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: gold, iron, milk, cotton, wood.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Countable Noun

Rule: A countable noun can be counted and has singular/plural forms.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one book, two books.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Uncountable Noun

Rule: An uncountable noun is treated as a mass or whole and normally does not take a plural form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: advice, information, furniture, luggage.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Singular Noun

Rule: A singular noun refers to one person, place, animal, thing, or idea.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one + noun.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural Noun

Rule: A plural noun refers to more than one.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: check the noun ending and irregular form.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Regular Plural: -s

Rule: Most regular nouns form the plural by adding -s.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: book→books; pen→pens.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural: -es after sibilants

Rule: Nouns ending in s, ss, sh, ch, x, or z commonly take -es.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: bus→buses; box→boxes.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural ending in consonant + y

Rule: Change y to i and add -es when a consonant comes before y.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: city→cities; baby→babies.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural ending in vowel + y

Rule: Keep y and add -s when a vowel comes before y.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: boy→boys; key→keys.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural ending in f/fe

Rule: Some nouns change f/fe to ves, but many simply take -s.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: learn common exceptions individually.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural ending in o

Rule: Some nouns take -es and many take -s; usage is word-specific.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: potato→potatoes, photo→photos.

Examples

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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: man/woman

Rule: Man→men and woman→women.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: vowel changes inside the word.

Examples

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2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: child

Rule: Child→children.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: never write childs.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: tooth/foot

Rule: Tooth→teeth; foot→feet.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: oo→ee.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: mouse/goose

Rule: Mouse→mice; goose→geese.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: ou/oo changes to i/ee.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: ox

Rule: Ox→oxen.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: -en plural is exceptional.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: person

Rule: Person→people in ordinary general use; persons can occur in formal/legal contexts.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: person→people for normal competitive-exam usage.

Examples

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2. Example: The boys are ready.
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4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: criterion/phenomenon

Rule: Criterion→criteria; phenomenon→phenomena.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Greek-derived -on→-a.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: datum/medium

Rule: Datum→data; medium→media in formal traditional usage.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: -um→-a is a common Latin pattern.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: analysis

Rule: Analysis→analyses.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: -is→-es.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: basis

Rule: Basis→bases.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: basis/bases; pronunciation changes too.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
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7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: crisis

Rule: Crisis→crises.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: crisis/crises.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: thesis

Rule: Thesis→theses.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: thesis/theses.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
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7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: index

Rule: Index→indexes or indices, depending on meaning/context.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: general books often use indexes; technical contexts may use indices.

Examples

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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Irregular Plural: appendix

Rule: Appendix→appendixes or appendices.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: both forms occur; context decides.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Compound Noun Plural

Rule: In compound nouns, the principal word normally takes the plural.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: mother-in-law→mothers-in-law.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Compound with man/woman

Rule: When man/woman is part of a compound referring to people, both elements may change.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: man-servant→men-servants; woman doctor→women doctors.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural of abbreviations

Rule: Abbreviations usually form plurals with -s without an apostrophe.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: MPs, CDs, NGOs.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Possessive: singular noun

Rule: A singular noun normally takes 's to show possession.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: boy's bag.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Possessive: regular plural

Rule: A regular plural ending in s normally takes only an apostrophe.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: boys' hostel.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Possessive: irregular plural

Rule: An irregular plural not ending in s normally takes 's.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: children's books; men's shoes.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Possessive with names ending in s

Rule: Singular names ending in s may take 's or, in some styles, just an apostrophe.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: follow the style used by the question; common exam form is James's.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Joint possession

Rule: If two nouns jointly own one thing, possessive marking normally appears on the last noun.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Ram and Shyam's shop = one jointly owned shop.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Separate possession

Rule: If two nouns own separate things, each noun takes its possessive marker.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Ram's and Shyam's shops = separate shops.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Double possessive

Rule: A noun can follow of + possessive form to show relationship or one member of a group.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: a friend of Ravi's.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun as adjective

Rule: A noun can modify another noun without becoming plural in many fixed combinations.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: shoe shop, school bus, car door.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Singular noun after numeral

Rule: After a number, ordinary countable nouns are usually plural.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: five books, ten students.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Unit expression

Rule: When a measurement acts adjectivally before a noun, the unit is commonly singular and hyphenated.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: a five-year-old boy; a ten-kilometre road.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Pair nouns

Rule: Some nouns occur naturally in pairs or plural form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: scissors, trousers, spectacles, binoculars.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Scissors and trousers

Rule: These are plural-form nouns and commonly take plural verbs.

SSC Shortcut: **Shortcut:** These scissors are sharp.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Plural-only nouns

Rule: Certain nouns are normally used only in plural form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: belongings, premises, surroundings, congratulations.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

News

Rule: News is singular in grammar despite ending in -s.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: The news is good.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
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8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Politics and economics

Rule: When referring to fields of study, politics/economics normally take singular verbs.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Politics is difficult.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Mathematics and physics

Rule: Names of academic subjects ending in -s normally take singular verbs.

SSC Shortcut: **Shortcut:** Mathematics is interesting.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
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5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Means

Rule: Means has the same form in singular and plural; the verb depends on meaning.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: **one means is; several means are.**

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Species

Rule: Species has the same singular and plural form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one species; many species.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Series

Rule: Series has the same singular and plural form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one series; two series.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Aircraft and spacecraft

Rule: Aircraft and spacecraft normally have unchanged plural forms.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one aircraft; several aircraft.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Deer and sheep

Rule: Deer and sheep usually have unchanged plural forms.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: one sheep; many sheep.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Fish and fishes

Rule: Fish is the normal plural; fishes can refer to different species in scientific contexts.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: many fish in ordinary usage.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Advice

Rule: Advice is uncountable in standard English.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not an advice; use a piece of advice.

Examples

1. The doctor said to him, "Take rest." → The doctor advised him to take rest.
2. Teacher said to me, "Work hard." → The teacher advised me to work hard.
3. Mother said, "Eat healthy food." → Mother advised me to eat healthy food.
4. He said to her, "Save money." → He advised her to save money.
5. She said to me, "Study regularly." → She advised me to study regularly.
6. Father said, "Drive carefully." → Father advised me to drive carefully.
7. The coach said to the players, "Practise daily." → The coach advised the players to practise daily.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Information

Rule: Information is uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not informations; use a piece of information.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Furniture

Rule: Furniture is uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not furnitures; use an item/piece of furniture.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Luggage and baggage

Rule: Luggage and baggage are uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not luggages/baggages.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Equipment

Rule: Equipment is uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not equipments; use pieces/items of equipment.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Scenery

Rule: Scenery is generally uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not sceneries for ordinary meaning.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Work

Rule: Work can be uncountable for activity and countable in specific meanings such as works of art.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: hard work; many works of Shakespeare.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Hair

Rule: Hair is usually uncountable for hair generally, but hairs can mean individual strands.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Her hair is long; I found two hairs.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Experience

Rule: Experience can be uncountable for knowledge/skill and countable for events.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: work experience; unusual experiences.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Paper

Rule: Paper can be uncountable as material and countable as a document/newspaper/article.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: paper material vs a paper/document.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Light

Rule: Light can be uncountable as illumination and countable for lamps/signals.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: sunlight/light vs lights in the street.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Room

Rule: Room can mean space, usually uncountable, or a separate chamber, countable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: make room vs three rooms.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Time

Rule: Time can be uncountable generally and countable for occasions.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: I have time; three times.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Kindness

Rule: Kindness is an abstract noun for a quality or act of being kind.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: quality nouns often end in -ness.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Honesty

Rule: Honesty names a quality and is normally uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Honesty is valued; not an honesty.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Childhood

Rule: Childhood names a period/state and is abstract.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: many abstract nouns name stages of life.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Friendship

Rule: Friendship names a relationship or state.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: abstract noun from friend.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Freedom

Rule: Freedom names a state/idea.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: abstract concept, not normally countable.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Knowledge

Rule: Knowledge is generally uncountable.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: not knowledges; use knowledge of/about.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Laughter

Rule: Laughter is generally uncountable, while laugh can be countable in some contexts.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Her laughter was loud.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Death and life

Rule: Death/life are abstract nouns but may become countable in special contexts.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: life/death often take articles depending on meaning.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract noun formation: adjective + -ness

Rule: Many adjectives form abstract nouns with -ness.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: kind→kindness; happy→happiness.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract noun formation: adjective + -ity

Rule: Many adjectives form abstract nouns with -ity.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: honest→honesty; pure→purity.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract noun formation: verb + -tion

Rule: Many verbs form nouns ending in -tion.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: educate→education; inform→information.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract noun formation: verb + -ment

Rule: Many verbs form nouns ending in -ment.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: develop→development; achieve→achievement.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Abstract noun formation: verb + -ance/-ence

Rule: Many verbs/adjectives form nouns with -ance or -ence.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: perform→performance; exist→existence.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Gender nouns: masculine/feminine

Rule: Some nouns have distinct masculine and feminine forms.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: king/queen, nephew/niece, son/daughter.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Common gender nouns

Rule: Some nouns can refer to males or females without changing form.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: child, student, teacher, doctor.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Neuter nouns

Rule: Things without natural sex are generally treated as neuter in pronoun reference.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: use it/its for ordinary objects.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Masculine/feminine pairs

Rule: Competitive exams often test traditional pairs such as host/hostess and hero/heroine.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: memorize common pairs rather than inventing forms.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Agent nouns

Rule: Many nouns name a person who performs an action, often with -er/-or.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: **teach**→**teacher**; **act**→**actor**.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun after article

Rule: A/an/the can introduce nouns or noun phrases.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: article choice depends on sound and definiteness.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Article with singular countable noun

Rule: A singular countable common noun usually needs a determiner in ordinary complete sentences.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: **He is a teacher, not He is teacher.**

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Article with plural noun

Rule: Plural nouns can be used without an article for general meaning.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Books are useful.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Article with uncountable noun

Rule: Uncountable nouns often appear without an article for general meaning.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Water is essential.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun case: subject

Rule: A noun functioning as the subject performs or controls the verb.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: find who/what the verb agrees with.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun case: object

Rule: A noun functioning as object receives the action or follows a preposition.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: verb/preposition + noun often signals object.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun as complement

Rule: A noun can rename or identify the subject after a linking verb.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: He is a doctor; doctor = subject complement.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Appositive noun

Rule: A noun phrase can rename a nearby noun.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: Ravi, my friend, won the race.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun + of phrase

Rule: Of-phrases often show possession, relation, quantity, or composition.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: the roof of the house; a piece of advice.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun + preposition collocations

Rule: Certain nouns naturally pair with particular prepositions.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: reason for, need for, demand for, access to.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Common SSC noun errors

Rule: Typical errors involve plural forms, uncountable nouns, possessives, agreement, and articles.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: check the noun's number and countability before choosing an option.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Noun agreement with verb

Rule: A singular subject noun takes a singular verb; plural subjects take plural verbs, subject to special constructions.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: ignore intervening phrases and find the true subject.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Collective noun agreement

Rule: A collective noun may take singular agreement when the group acts as one unit; plural agreement can occur when individuals are emphasized in varieties of English.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: SSC generally expects singular for a unit.

Examples

1. Example: The boy is ready.
2. Example: The boys are ready.
3. Example: She bought a book.
4. Example: She bought two books.
5. Example: The information is useful.
6. Example: The children are playing.
7. Example: The teacher's book is new.
8. Example: These questions are difficult.

SSC Exam Focus: Check number, plural formation, countability, possessive, article, or agreement as relevant to this rule.

Final SSC noun checklist

Rule: Check type, number, plural spelling, countability, possessive, article, gender, agreement, and noun-preposition usage.

SSC Shortcut: Shortcut: N-P-C-A-A = Number, Plural, Countability, Agreement, Article.

Examples

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