

UPSC CDS 1 2026 English Practice: Parts of Speech (60 MCQs)

Instructions: Select the most appropriate option for each question.

Section 1: Nouns (10 Questions)

1. **Identify the collective noun in the sentence:** "The jury delivered a unanimous verdict after three days of deliberation."
(a) jury
(b) verdict
(c) days
(d) deliberation
2. **Which of the following is a material noun?**
(a) loyalty
(b) cement
(c) committee
(d) honesty
3. **In the sentence "Switzerland's neutrality has been its policy for centuries," what type of noun is "Switzerland's"?**
(a) Common noun
(b) Proper noun
(c) Possessive noun
(d) Abstract noun
4. **"The poverty in the region is alarming." In this sentence, "poverty" is:**
(a) A proper noun
(b) An abstract noun
(c) A collective noun
(d) A countable noun
5. **Which word functions as both a countable and uncountable noun?**
(a) furniture
(b) information
(c) time
(d) luggage
6. **Identify the compound noun in the following options:**
(a) swimming pool
(b) extremely fast
(c) under the bridge
(d) ran quickly
7. **The noun in the sentence "His refusal to cooperate complicated matters" is an example of:**
(a) A gerund
(b) Verbal noun
(c) Infinitive noun
(d) Both (a) and (b)
8. **Which of the following sentences correctly uses the plural form of the noun?**
(a) The datas are inconclusive.
(b) The crisis are deepening.
(c) The analyses were thorough.
(d) The sheeps are grazing.
9. **"The children's toys were scattered everywhere." The apostrophe indicates:**
(a) Joint possession
(b) Separate possession
(c) Plurality
(d) Contraction
10. **Which sentence contains an appositive noun?**
(a) My brother, a doctor, lives in Delhi.
(b) My brother lives in Delhi as a doctor.
(c) My brother who is a doctor lives in Delhi.
(d) My brother became a doctor in Delhi.

Section 2: Pronouns (10 Questions)

11. **Identify the interrogative pronoun:**
(a) himself
(b) whom
(c) someone
(d) which
12. **"One must be prepared to face the consequences of one's actions." This is an example of:**
(a) Reflexive pronoun
(b) Emphatic pronoun
(c) Indefinite pronoun
(d) Distributive pronoun
13. **In the sentence "This is the book that I was referring to," "that" functions as:**

- (a) Demonstrative pronoun
(b) Relative pronoun
(c) Interrogative pronoun
(d) Personal pronoun
14. **Which sentence uses a distributive pronoun correctly?**
(a) Each of the students have submitted their assignments.
(b) Each of the students has submitted his or her assignment.
(c) Each students have submitted their assignments.
(d) Each of the students have submitted his assignment.
15. **Identify the antecedent of the pronoun in: "Ravi and Mohan said they would complete the project themselves."**
(a) Ravi
(b) Mohan
(c) project
(d) Ravi and Mohan
16. **"Such was his determination that nothing could deter him." Here "such" is:**
(a) An adjective
(b) A pronoun
(c) An adverb
(d) A conjunction
17. **Which of these is NOT a personal pronoun?**
(a) We
(b) You
(c) Theirs
(d) Who
18. **The sentence "It is I who am responsible" demonstrates:**
(a) Common usage
(b) Formal agreement
(c) Informal speech
(d) Grammatical error
19. **Identify the reflexive pronoun used emphatically:**
(a) He hurt himself.
(b) She herself wrote the letter.
(c) They blamed themselves.
(d) I myself am uncertain.
20. **"What did you say?" In this interrogative sentence, "what" is:**
(a) An interrogative adjective
(b) An interrogative pronoun
(c) A relative pronoun
(d) An indefinite pronoun

Section 3: Verbs (10 Questions)

21. **Identify the transitive verb:**
(a) The child slept peacefully.
(b) Birds fly in the sky.
(c) She reads novels every day.
(d) It rained heavily yesterday.
22. **Which sentence contains a linking verb?**
(a) The soup tastes delicious.
(b) She tasted the soup carefully.
(c) He became a doctor.
(d) Both (a) and (c)
23. **"I have been waiting for two hours." The verb phrase is in:**
(a) Present perfect continuous tense
(b) Past perfect continuous tense
(c) Present continuous tense
(d) Past perfect tense
24. **Identify the modal auxiliary in: "You must complete this by tomorrow."**
(a) You
(b) must
(c) complete
(d) by
25. **Which sentence uses a phrasal verb?**
(a) He looked at the painting.
(b) She looked after her younger sister.
(c) They looked through the window.
(d) We looked for the missing keys.
26. **The subjunctive mood is correctly used in:**
(a) I wish I was taller.
(b) If I were you, I would accept the offer.
(c) He acts as if he is the boss.
(d) She talks as though she knows everything.
27. **Identify the finite verb:**
(a) Running fast, he caught the bus.

- (b) To err is human.
(c) Having finished his work, he went home.
(d) She writes beautifully.
28. **"Let the games begin!" The verb "let" here is:**
(a) An auxiliary verb
(b) A transitive verb
(c) A causative verb
(d) An intransitive verb
29. **Which sentence contains a non-finite verb (gerund)?**
(a) Swimming is good exercise.
(b) He is swimming in the pool.
(c) She wants to swim.
(d) They watched him swim.
30. **"The proposal was rejected by the committee." The voice of the verb is:**
(a) Active voice
(b) Passive voice
(c) Middle voice
(d) Reflexive voice

Section 4: Adjectives (10 Questions)

31. **"Few people understand the complexity of the issue." In this sentence, "few" is:**
(a) An adjective of quantity
(b) A numeral adjective
(c) An adjective of number
(d) A demonstrative adjective
32. **Which is the correct order of adjectives?**
(a) A beautiful small old French wooden box
(b) A small beautiful old French wooden box
(c) A beautiful old small French wooden box
(d) A small old beautiful French wooden box
33. **"The former President visited the campus." Here "former" is:**
(a) A descriptive adjective
(b) A demonstrative adjective
(c) A proper adjective
(d) A numeral adjective
34. **Identify the possessive adjective:**
(a) mine
(b) their
(c) theirs
(d) ours
35. **"He is the tallest boy in the class." The adjective is in the:**
(a) Positive degree
(b) Comparative degree
(c) Superlative degree
(d) Equative degree
36. **Which sentence uses an interrogative adjective?**
(a) What time is it?
(b) Whose book is this?
(c) Which way should we go?
(d) All of the above
37. **"A live broadcast" vs "He lives in Delhi." The word "live" is:**
(a) An adjective in both cases
(b) A verb in both cases
(c) An adjective in first, verb in second
(d) A verb in first, adjective in second
38. **"The injured were taken to hospital." Here "injured" functions as:**
(a) A verb
(b) An adjective
(c) A noun
(d) An adverb
39. **Identify the distributive adjective:**
(a) Every student must attend.
(b) Several students protested.
(c) Many students participated.
(d) Few students understood.
40. **"She seems happy." The word "happy" is:**
(a) A predicate adjective
(b) An attributive adjective
(c) An adverb
(d) A complement

Section 5: Adverbs (10 Questions)

41. **Identify the adverb of frequency:**
(a) here
(b) never
(c) very
(d) quickly
42. **"He runs extremely fast." The word "extremely" modifies:**
(a) He
(b) runs
(c) fast
(d) the entire sentence
43. **Which adverb indicates purpose?**
(a) therefore
(b) however
(c) moreover
(d) nevertheless
44. **"I have seen this somewhere." The adverb "somewhere" indicates:**
(a) Time
(b) Place
(c) Manner
(d) Degree
45. **"Fortunately, everyone escaped unhurt." The adverb "fortunately" modifies:**
(a) Everyone
(b) Escaped
(c) Unhurt
(d) The entire sentence
46. **Identify the interrogative adverb:**
(a) When will you return?
(b) Which book do you want?
(c) Whose pen is this?
(d) What are you doing?
47. **"He is old enough to vote." The adverb "enough" modifies:**
(a) He
(b) is
(c) old
(d) to vote
48. **Which sentence contains a relative adverb?**
(a) This is the place where we met.
(b) When will you come?
(c) How did you do it?
(d) Why are you crying?
49. **"She speaks quite fluently." The word "quite" is:**
(a) An adverb of degree
(b) An adverb of manner
(c) An adverb of frequency
(d) An adverb of place
50. **"The then Prime Minister announced the policy." Here "then" functions as:**
(a) An adverb
(b) An adjective
(c) A conjunction
(d) A preposition

Section 6: Prepositions, Conjunctions, Interjections (10 Questions)

51. **Identify the compound preposition:**
(a) across
(b) because of
(c) through
(d) between
52. **"The book is on the table." The preposition shows:**
(a) Time
(b) Place
(c) Manner
(d) Reason
53. **Which sentence uses a preposition correctly?**
(a) He is angry at me.
(b) She is good in mathematics.
(c) They have affection for their children.
(d) We arrived to the station.
54. **Identify the coordinating conjunction:**
(a) because
(b) although
(c) but
(d) since

55. **"Not only did he win the race but also broke the record." This is an example of:**
 (a) Correlative conjunction
 (b) Subordinating conjunction
 (c) Coordinating conjunction
 (d) Adverbial conjunction
56. **"I will call you when I reach home." Here "when" is:**
 (a) A relative adverb
 (b) An interrogative adverb
 (c) A subordinating conjunction
 (d) A preposition
57. **"Alas! We have lost the match." The word "Alas!" is:**
 (a) A conjunction
 (b) An interjection
 (c) An adverb
 (d) A noun
58. **Identify the phrasal preposition:**
 (a) in front of
 (b) into
 (c) upon
 (d) within
59. **Which conjunction joins words or groups of words of equal grammatical status?**
 (a) Subordinating conjunction
 (b) Coordinating conjunction
 (c) Correlative conjunction
 (d) Adverbial conjunction
60. **"Hurray! We have won." The interjection expresses:**
 (a) Grief
 (b) Surprise
 (c) Joy
 (d) Attention
41. (b) never
 42. (c) fast
 43. (a) therefore
 44. (b) Place
 45. (d) The entire sentence
 46. (a) When will you return?
 47. (c) old
 48. (a) This is the place where we met.
 49. (a) An adverb of degree
 50. (b) An adjective
 51. (b) because of
 52. (b) Place
 53. (c) They have affection for their children.
 54. (c) but
 55. (a) Correlative conjunction
 56. (c) A subordinating conjunction
 57. (b) An interjection
 58. (a) in front of
 59. (b) Coordinating conjunction
 60. (c) Joy

END OF TEST

Answer Key:

1. (a) jury
2. (b) cement
3. (c) Possessive noun
4. (b) An abstract noun
5. (c) time
6. (a) swimming pool
7. (d) Both (a) and (b)
8. (c) The analyses were thorough.
9. (a) Joint possession
10. (a) My brother, a doctor, lives in Delhi.
11. (b) whom
12. (c) Indefinite pronoun
13. (b) Relative pronoun
14. (b) Each of the students has submitted his or her assignment.
15. (d) Ravi and Mohan
16. (b) A pronoun
17. (d) Who
18. (b) Formal agreement
19. (d) I myself am uncertain.
20. (b) An interrogative pronoun
21. (c) She reads novels every day.
22. (d) Both (a) and (c)
23. (a) Present perfect continuous tense
24. (b) must
25. (b) She looked after her younger sister.
26. (b) If I were you, I would accept the offer.
27. (d) She writes beautifully.
28. (c) A causative verb
29. (a) Swimming is good exercise.
30. (b) Passive voice
31. (c) An adjective of number
32. (c) A beautiful old small French wooden box
33. (a) A descriptive adjective
34. (b) their
35. (c) Superlative degree
36. (d) All of the above
37. (c) An adjective in first, verb in second
38. (c) A noun
39. (a) Every student must attend.
40. (a) A predicate adjective