

English (FCHS0105)

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Chapter 1

Vocabulary Enhancement

1.1 Dictionary

A dictionary includes:

- Entry word - The word we are looking for
- Guide Words - The words at the top of the page. Indicate the first and last word on any page
- Syllables - The number of "sounds" a word is divided into
- Part of speech - If the word is a noun, adjective, etc.
- Pronunciation - By Phonetic symbols
- Meaning
- Inflected forms- Other forms like degree
- Synonyms/Antonyms
- Homophones¹/Homonyms²

1.2 Collocations

These are sets of words commonly used together. These are of the following types:

- Adverb & Adjective
- Adjective & Noun
- Verb & Noun
- Verb & Preposition
- Adjective & Preposition
- Noun & Verb
- Verb & Noun & Preposition

Question (19/08/2023). Take up any monophthong or diphthong or consonant sound. Think of at least 10 words with that sound apart from the examples given in the app. Write a story putting best of your imagination skills using the 10 words you've found.

The consonant sound: /k/. Ten words are:

- cat
- kite
- cookie
- kayak

¹Similar sounding

²Similar spelling

- camera
- kangaroo
- curious
- captured
- snacks
- picnic

Answer. On a sunny day, I packed my backpack with cookies, a kite, and my camera for a lakeside picnic. As I set up my blanket, a curious cat approached, lured by the treats' aroma.

After enjoying my snacks, I rented a kayak to explore the calm lake waters. The gentle breeze and serene surroundings made for a perfect escape. I even spotted a kangaroo hopping along the shoreline, a charming surprise.

As the sun dipped, I packed up, grateful for the memorable day. Captured moments and tranquil kayak rides made it an adventure to cherish.

1.3 Subject Verb Agreement

It refers to the form of the verb used with noun/pronoun.

- With a 3rd person subject, we place 's' at the end of the verb.
- Error of Proximity- If in a sentence, we have more than one subject then the verb is made to agree with the subject placed nearer to it in the sentence.
- If in a sentence we have two subjects joined with 'and', then a plural verb is required. E.g. Gold and silver are precious metals. **Exception-** If subject pronouns/nouns suggest a single idea or refer to a single person/thing, the verb will be singular. E.g. Time and tide waits for none.
- If two nouns are qualified with 'each'/'every' even though they are connected by 'and' require a singular verb.
- If the two subjects are joined by 'with', 'as well as', etc. then the verb is singular. E.g. The ship, with the crew, was lost. Here, "with the crew" is a parenthetical phrase.
- If the two subjects are joined by 'either/or', 'neither/nor', the verb is singular.
- The words 'pain' and 'means' may take either singular or plural forms in a sentence but the sentence should be consistent in construction.
- The word 'none' is singular but takes plural verbs.
- A collective noun will always take a singular verb. **Exception-** If in the sentence, we refer to the individuals composing the noun, the verb used is plural.
- If in a sentence, we have a plural noun which is a proper name for some single object/collective unit, singular verb will be used.
- When the plural noun denoted some specific quantity/ amount considered as a whole, the verb used is singular, i.e. all units of measurement are accompanied with singular verbs.

1.4 Redundancy

The following are the ways to reduce redundancy-

- Eliminate unnecessary adverbs.
- Eliminate/replace meaningless adjectives.
- Trimming long phrases.

1.5 Question Tags

- If the main clause is affirmative, the question is negative and vice-versa.
- If the main clause has an auxiliary verb, the question tag will also carry the auxiliary verb.
- If there is no auxiliary verb in the main clause, then we use 'do', 'does', 'did' in the question tag.
- Negatives are usually contracted in the question tags, but this is not the case in formal speech.
- After imperative sentences, 'won't you' is used. E.g. Shut up, can you?
- Main clauses containing negative adverbs (never, seldom, hardly), carry a positive question tag.
- If the main clause contains a modal verb (should, could, can), the question tag will carry the same modal verb.

1.6 Reported Speech

- When the reporting/principal verb is in the past tense, all the present tenses of the direct speech are changed into the corresponding past tenses.
- The tense may not change if the statement is still relevant in the indirect speech or is a universal truth.
- The pronouns of the direct speech are changed so that their relation with the reporter and the listener, rather than the original speaker is indicated.
- Words expressing proximity, in time or place are generally changed into the words expressing distance. **Exception-** The changes do not occur if the speech is reported during the same period or at the same place.
- In case of questioning in direct speech, we use words like 'inquired', 'asked', etc. while reporting it.
- In case of commands and requests in direct speech, we use words like 'ordered', 'requested', etc. while reporting it.
- In case of exclamations and wishes in direct speech, we use words like 'exclaimed', 'wished', etc. while reporting it.