

# Chomsky Normal Form

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A context free grammar (CFG) is in Chomsky Normal Form (CNF) if all production rules satisfy one of the following conditions:

- A non-terminal generating a terminal (e.g.;  $X \rightarrow x$ )
- A non-terminal generating two non-terminals (e.g.;  $X \rightarrow YZ$ )
- Start symbol generating  $\epsilon$ . (e.g.;  $S \rightarrow \epsilon$ )

## Steps:

**Step 1.** Eliminate start symbol from RHS.

If start symbol  $S$  is at the RHS of any production in the grammar, create a new production as:

$S_0 \rightarrow S$  where  $S_0$  is the new start symbol.

**Step 2.** Eliminate null, unit and useless productions.

**Step 3.** Eliminate terminals from RHS if they exist with other terminals or non-terminals. e.g.; production rule  $X \rightarrow xY$  can be decomposed as:

$X \rightarrow ZY$

$Z \rightarrow x$

**Step 4.** Eliminate RHS with more than two non-terminals.

e.g.; production rule  $X \rightarrow XYZ$  can be decomposed as:

$X \rightarrow PZ$

$P \rightarrow XY$

## CFG to CNF

A website to convert Context Free Grammar(CFG) to equivalent Chomsky Normal Form(CNF)

 <https://devimam.github.io/cfgtocnf/>



## ▼ Past Paper Qs

Convert to CNF and you must show all the intermediary four steps in the order studied to score full marks:

$$S \rightarrow SS \mid AB \mid B$$

$$A \rightarrow aAAa$$

$$B \rightarrow bBb \mid bb \mid \Delta$$

$$C \rightarrow CC \mid a$$

$$D \rightarrow aC \mid bb$$

Convert the following grammar to Chomsky Normal Form Grammar. Show all the intermediary steps in the correct order clearly to score full marks.

$$S \rightarrow aAbB \mid ABC \mid a$$

$$A \rightarrow aA \mid a \mid CD$$

$$B \rightarrow CbC \mid b$$

$$C \rightarrow S \mid \Delta$$

$$D \rightarrow CC \mid Db$$

$$E \rightarrow S \mid \Delta$$

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$E \rightarrow EE \mid \Delta$

**CNF:** Convert the following CFG to CNF

$S \rightarrow ASA \mid aB$

$A \rightarrow B \mid S$

$B \rightarrow b \mid bD \mid \Delta$

$C \rightarrow CC \mid aa \mid AB$

$D \rightarrow DD$