

## **SSC GD Constable Exam : Error Spotting (English) Syllabus Summary**

### **Overview**

The Error Spotting (English) section is a critical component of the English Language section in the SSC GD Constable Exam, designed to test candidates' ability to identify grammatical errors in sentences at a 10th-grade level. This section assesses proficiency in recognizing mistakes in grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure, typically through multiple-choice questions (MCQs) where candidates select the part of a sentence containing an error or confirm if the sentence is correct. Error Spotting questions evaluate attention to detail and grammatical accuracy in everyday sentence contexts.

### **Syllabus Details**

The Error Spotting section focuses on the following areas:

1. **\*\*Grammatical Errors\*\***: Identifying mistakes in parts of speech, tenses, subject-verb agreement, articles, prepositions, conjunctions, or voice.
2. **\*\*Sentence Structure Errors\*\***: Detecting errors in word order, clause usage, or misplaced modifiers.
3. **\*\*Vocabulary Errors\*\***: Spotting incorrect word choices or spellings (e.g., homophones like “their” vs. “there”).
4. **\*\*Punctuation Errors\*\***: Identifying missing or incorrect punctuation (e.g., commas, full stops).
5. **\*\*Contextual Accuracy\*\***: Ensuring the sentence is logically and grammatically coherent.

- **\*\*Question Types\*\***: Multiple-choice questions (MCQs) with four options, typically asking candidates to identify the part of a sentence with an error (e.g., “Find the error in the sentence”) or choose “No error” if the sentence is correct.

- **\*\*Weightage\*\***: Approximately 2–5 questions (4–10 marks) in the English/Hindi section, which includes 20 questions (40 marks) in the Computer-Based Examination (CBE).

- **\*\*Difficulty Level\*\***: 10th-grade standard, focusing on common grammatical errors and basic sentence structures.

- **Topics**: Questions cover everyday sentence constructions related to general topics like education, social issues, or daily life, avoiding complex or technical language.

### **Important Grammar Rules for Error Spotting**

To excel in the Error Spotting section, candidates must master the following key rules:

1. **Subject-Verb Agreement**:

- Singular subjects take singular verbs (e.g., “He runs”); plural subjects take plural verbs (e.g., “They run”).
- Error Example: “The boys plays” = incorrect; should be “play.”

2. **Tenses**:

- Ensure tense consistency (e.g., “She sings yesterday” = incorrect; should be “sang”).
- Check auxiliary verbs (e.g., “She has went” = incorrect; should be “has gone”).

3. **Articles**:

- Use “a” for consonant sounds, “an” for vowel sounds (e.g., “a apple” = incorrect; should be “an apple”).
- Use “the” for specific nouns (e.g., “Sun rises” = incorrect; should be “The sun rises”).

4. **Prepositions**:

- Use correct prepositions (e.g., “She is good in singing” = incorrect; should be “good at singing”).
- Avoid omitting prepositions (e.g., “She went school” = incorrect; should be “to school”).

5. **Pronouns**:

- Ensure pronoun-antecedent agreement (e.g., “The team lost their game” = incorrect if singular; should be “its”).
- Use correct pronoun case (e.g., “Me went to the store” = incorrect; should be “I”).

6. **Conjunctions**:

- Use logical conjunctions (e.g., “She studied, so she failed” = incorrect; should be “but”).

- Ensure proper punctuation (e.g., “She studied but he played” = incorrect; needs a comma: “She studied, but he played”).

7. **Modifiers**:

- Avoid misplaced modifiers (e.g., “Running fast, the finish line was crossed” = incorrect; should be “Running fast, she crossed the finish line”).

8. **Punctuation**:

- Check for missing or incorrect commas, full stops, or quotation marks (e.g., “She said I am tired” = incorrect; needs quotes: “She said, ‘I am tired’”).

9. **Spelling and Vocabulary**:

- Spot incorrect spellings (e.g., “recieve” = incorrect; should be “receive”).  
- Avoid homophone errors (e.g., “Their going to school” = incorrect; should be “They’re”).

### **Tips and Tricks for Preparation**

1. **Master Common Grammar Rules**:

- Review high-frequency error areas (e.g., subject-verb agreement, tenses, prepositions, articles).  
- Use grammar charts to memorize rules for quick recall.

2. **Practice Error Spotting**:

- Solve MCQs like “Find the error” to identify mistakes in sentences (e.g., “She go to school” = error in “go”).  
- Focus on one error per sentence to improve accuracy.

3. **Break Down Sentences**:

- Analyze sentences by identifying subject, verb, object, and modifiers to spot errors.  
- Check each part for grammatical accuracy (e.g., tense, agreement, preposition).

4. **Solve Past Papers**:

- Analyze SSC GD previous year papers (2021–2024) to identify common error types (e.g., article misuse, tense errors).  
- Practice both standalone and passage-based error spotting questions.

5. **Read Actively**:

- Read SSC-focused materials (e.g., The Hindu editorials, SSC magazines) to observe correct grammar and spot errors in practice sentences.
  - Identify common mistakes in articles to reinforce learning.
6. **\*\*Use Elimination Techniques\*\***:
- Rule out options with obvious grammar or spelling errors.
  - Check for logical coherence to eliminate incorrect parts.
7. **\*\*Time Management\*\***:
- Spend 20–30 seconds per error spotting question to balance time across the English section.
  - Answer straightforward errors (e.g., articles, prepositions) first, then tackle complex ones (e.g., modifiers).
8. **\*\*Practice Mock Tests\*\***:
- Take timed mock tests to simulate exam pressure and improve error detection accuracy.
  - Review incorrect answers to identify patterns in mistakes (e.g., tense or pronoun errors).
9. **\*\*Focus on Common Errors\*\***:
- Study frequent SSC GD errors (e.g., “He have gone” = incorrect; should be “has gone”).
  - Practice sentences with homophones (e.g., “their” vs. “there”) or misplaced modifiers.
10. **\*\*Use Mnemonics\*\***:
- Memorize rules like “Singular Subject, Singular Verb” (SSSV) for agreement.
  - Use “A for consonant, An for vowel” for articles.

### **Common Mistakes to Avoid**

- **\*\*Overlooking Minor Errors\*\***: Check for subtle errors like missing articles or wrong prepositions (e.g., “She lives at Delhi” = incorrect; should be “in”).
- **\*\*Ignoring Context\*\***: Ensure the sentence is logical (e.g., “She studied, so she failed” = incorrect conjunction; should be “but”).
- **\*\*Confusing Homophones\*\***: Avoid errors like “there” instead of “they’re” or “principal” instead of “principle.”

- **Missing Punctuation**: Look for incorrect or missing commas/quotation marks (e.g., “She said I am here” = needs quotes).
- **Relying on Guesswork**: Use grammar rules and context clues to identify the correct error.

### **Sample Question**

Question: Find the error in the sentence: “The boys plays football every day.”

- A) The boys
- B) plays
- C) football
- D) every day

Answer: B

Explanation: The error is in “plays”; it should be “play” to match the plural subject “The boys” (correct sentence: “The boys play football every day”).

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