

ENGLISH Mastery for ECAT

Complete Chapter-wise Guide

Chapters (as per PTB & ECAT syllabus):

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1. Introduction to ECAT English

The English section in ECAT tests **basic grammar knowledge, comprehension, and vocabulary usage**.

It carries **10–15 MCQs**, and strong English skills can provide a **competitive advantage** in scoring.

Focus Areas:

- Grammar Rules (Tenses, Articles, Prepositions, Voice)
- Sentence Structure and Correction
- Synonyms/Antonyms
- Vocabulary usage
- Idiomatic expressions

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2. Grammar Mastery

2.1 Parts of Speech (8 Core Types):

Type	Description	Examples
Noun	Names a person, place, thing, or idea	<i>Ali, Lahore, book, honesty</i>
Pronoun	Replaces a noun	<i>He, she, it, they, someone</i>
Verb	Expresses action or state	<i>Run, jump, is, was</i>
Adjective	Describes a noun	<i>Beautiful, tall, fast</i>
Adverb	Modifies verb/adjective/adverb	<i>Quickly, very, extremely</i>
Preposition	Shows relation in time/place/direction	<i>In, on, under, to, by</i>
Conjunction	Connects words/phrases/sentences	<i>And, but, because, although</i>
Interjection	Shows emotion or sudden reaction	<i>Wow!, Alas!, Oh!, Hey!</i>

Note: A word's part of speech can change with use:

- *Run* (verb): *I run every day.*
 - *Run* (noun): *He had a long run.*
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2.2 Tenses (Basic Time Frames):

A. Tense Classification:

Tense Category	Subtypes
Present	Simple, Continuous, Perfect, Perfect Continuous
Past	Simple, Continuous, Perfect, Perfect Continuous
Future	Simple, Continuous, Perfect, Perfect Continuous

B. Present Tenses:

1. Present Simple Tense

Structure:

→ Subject + 1st form of verb (+ s/es with he, she, it)+object

Use:

- Habits and routines
- General truths
- Scheduled events

Examples:

- *He goes to school every day.*
- *Water boils at 100°C.*
- *The train leaves at 6 PM.*

Common MCQ trap:

✗ *She go to school.*

✓ *She **goes** to school.*

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2. Present Continuous Tense

Structure:

→ Subject + is/am/are + verb + ing+object

Use:

- Actions happening now
- Temporary actions
- Near future plans

Examples:

- *I am writing a letter.*
- *They are playing cricket.*
- *She is going to the market tomorrow.*

Time Indicators: now, at the moment, currently

3. Present Perfect Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + has/have + 3rd form of verb+object

Use:

- Actions completed recently
- Experiences
- Actions relevant to the present

Examples:

- *I have eaten dinner.*
- *She has visited Paris.*
- *They have completed the work.*

Time Indicators: just, already, yet, since, for

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4. Present Perfect Continuous Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + has/have been + verb + ing+object

Use:

- Actions that started in the past and are **still continuing**
- Duration-based activities

Examples:

- *She has been reading for two hours.*
- *They have been living here since 2010.*

Time Indicators: for, since, all day, the whole week

C. Past Tenses:

5. Past Simple Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + 2nd form of verb+object

Use:

- Completed actions in the past
- Time is clearly mentioned

Examples:

- *I visited Lahore yesterday.*
- *He went to the market.*

Time Indicators: yesterday, last week, in 2020, two days ago

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6. Past Continuous Tense;

Structure:

→ Subject + was/were + verb + ing+object

Use:

- Ongoing past actions
- Interrupted actions

Examples:

- *I was watching TV when he called.*
- *They were studying all night.*

Time Indicators: while, when, at that time

7. Past Perfect Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + had + 3rd form of verb+object

Use:

- To show **earlier** of two past actions
- To describe cause of a past event

Examples:

- *He had left before I arrived.*
 - *She had finished her work before sunset.*
-

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8. Past Perfect Continuous Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + had been + verb + ing

Use:

- Action that started in past and continued until another past event

Examples:

- *They had been living there for 10 years.*
 - *He had been working hard before his promotion.*
-

D. Future Tenses:

9. Future Simple Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + will + base verb+object

Use:

- Promises, decisions, predictions

Examples:

- *I will call you later.*
- *They will go to the party.*

Time Indicators: tomorrow, soon, next week

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10. Future Continuous Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + will be + verb + ing+object

Use:

- Ongoing future actions
- Expected actions

Examples:

- *I will be waiting for you at 5 PM.*
 - *She will be working on the project.*
-

11. Future Perfect Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + will have + 3rd form of verb+object

Use:

- Action that will be completed before a certain future time

Examples:

- *She will have submitted the assignment by Monday.*
 - *They will have finished the project by next week.*
-

12. Future Perfect Continuous Tense:

Structure:

→ Subject + will have been + verb + ing

Use:

- Duration of an action that will be in progress before a future event

Examples:

- *By next month, I will have been working here for 2 years.*
- *They will have been traveling for 10 hours by noon.*

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Summary Table of All 12 Tenses:

Tense Type	Structure Example	Usage
Present Simple	She reads books.	Daily routines, facts
Present Continuous	He is eating.	Ongoing actions
Present Perfect	I have arrived.	Recent/past action with result now
Present Perfect Continuous	They have been studying.	Started earlier, still continuing
Past Simple	He ate mangoes.	Finished past actions
Past Continuous	She was singing.	Ongoing past actions
Past Perfect	They had gone.	Action before another past action
Past Perfect Continuous	He had been waiting.	Duration before a past action
Future Simple	I will write.	Intentions, promises, predictions
Future Continuous	She will be dancing.	Ongoing future actions
Future Perfect	We will have reached.	Completed before future point
Future Perfect Continuous	He will have been working.	Duration before a future event

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Tenses Quick MCQs (Practice):

Q1: She ___ to school every day.

A. go B. goes C. went D. going

☒ Answer: B

Q2: I ___ a letter when he came.

A. wrote B. had written C. was writing D. write

☒ Answer: C

Q3: By next year, he ___ in this city for 10 years.

A. will live B. will be living C. will have lived D. has lived

☒ Answer: C

Q4: They ___ football since morning.

A. have played B. had played C. have been playing D. were playing

☒ Answer: C

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2.3 Subject-Verb Agreement:

The **verb** must match the **subject** in number and person.

Subject Type	Rule	Example
Singular	Verb + s/es	<i>He walks to school.</i>
Plural	Base verb	<i>They walk every day.</i>
I/You	Use base verb	<i>I go, You go.</i>

Common Mistake:

✗ *They goes to school.*

✓ *They **go** to school.*

2.4 Articles:

Articles are used before nouns to show whether something is **specific** or **general**.

Article	Rule	Example
a	Before a singular noun starting with consonant sound	<i>a cat, a balloon</i>
an	Before vowel sound	<i>an apple, an honest man</i>
the	Before specific/known items or unique things	<i>the sun, the Quran, the school</i>

◆ Common MCQ Trap:

✗ *He is a honest man.*

✓ *He is **an** honest man.*

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2.5 Prepositions:

Prepositions show **relationship** between a noun/pronoun and other parts of the sentence.

Type	Examples
Time	at, on, in (e.g., at 5 PM, in July)
Place	under, beside, over, inside
Direction	to, into, onto, towards
Cause/Reason	because of, due to

Example Sentences:

- The cat is **under** the table.
- We met **at** 7 PM.
- He walked **into** the room.

2.6 Conjunctions:

Conjunctions connect **words, clauses, or sentences**.

Type	Example Words	Example Sentence
Coordinating	and, but, or, so	<i>Ali came and sat down.</i>
Subordinating	because, although, if	<i>She slept because she was tired.</i>
Correlative	either...or, not only...but also	<i>He is not only smart but also kind.</i>

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2.7 Active and Passive Voice:

What is Voice?

Voice in English grammar shows whether the **subject** is doing the action (*Active Voice*) or **receiving** the action (*Passive Voice*).

A. Active Voice:

The subject **performs** the action.

Structure:

→ Subject + Verb + Object

Example:

- *Ali wrote a letter.*
👉 (Ali = doer of action)
-

B. Passive Voice

The subject **receives** the action.

Structure:

→ Object + Auxiliary Verb (form of “be”) + Past Participle (3rd form of verb) + by + Subject

Example:

- *A letter was written by Ali.*
👉 (Letter = receiver of action)
-

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C. When to Use Passive Voice?

✓ When **doer is unknown/unimportant**

→ *The window was broken.*

✓ When **emphasis is on the object**

→ *The cake was baked by the chef.*

✓ In **scientific reports, instructions, or formal writing**

→ *The experiment was conducted in three stages.*

D. Key Rules for Conversion (Active ↔ Passive):

Active Element	Passive Conversion
Verb → 3rd form	Use appropriate form of "be"
Tense is preserved	Change verb structure only
Subject becomes object	vice versa
Add "by" before subject	(if needed)

Example:

- *He writes a letter. → A letter is written by him.*

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E. Passive Voice in All Tenses:

Tense	Active Voice Example	Passive Voice Example
Present Simple	She writes a letter.	A letter is written by her.
Present Continuous	She is writing a letter.	A letter is being written by her.
Present Perfect	She has written a letter.	A letter has been written by her.
Past Simple	She wrote a letter.	A letter was written by her.
Past Continuous	She was writing a letter.	A letter was being written by her.
Past Perfect	She had written a letter.	A letter had been written by her.
Future Simple	She will write a letter.	A letter will be written by her.
Future Perfect	She will have written a letter.	A letter will have been written by her.
Modal (can, must, etc.)	She can write a letter.	A letter can be written by her.

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F. Auxiliary Verb Rules in Passive Voice:

Tense/Form	Passive Auxiliary Verb
Simple Present	is / am / are
Simple Past	was / were
Future	will be
Present Perfect	has been / have been
Past Perfect	had been
Future Perfect	will have been
Continuous Tenses	is/was + being
Modal Verbs	can/may/must + be

G. Conversion Steps: Active → Passive:

1. **Identify the subject, verb, and object**
➤ *Ali wrote a story.*
2. **Move the object to the start**
➤ *A story...*
3. **Change the verb into passive form**
➤ *was written*
4. **Place “by + subject” at the end**
➤ *A story was written by Ali.*

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H. Passive Voice of Imperatives & Questions:

1. Commands / Imperatives

Active	Passive
Close the door.	Let the door be closed.
Help the poor.	Let the poor be helped.

◆ 2. Questions

Active	Passive
Did he complete the report?	Was the report completed by him?
Is she writing a letter?	Is a letter being written by her?
Will he buy the car?	Will the car be bought by him?

I. Special Passive Cases

1. Without “by” phrase

Sometimes “by + subject” is omitted:

- *The thief was caught.*
- *The song was sung well.*

2. Verbs without passive forms

Intransitive verbs **cannot** be changed into passive voice (no object):

- come, go, arrive, die, sleep, cry
- ✗ *He sleeps.* → cannot be passive

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J. Practice MCQs on Active & Passive Voice:

Q1: Change into passive:

The teacher teaches grammar.

- A. Grammar is taught by the teacher.
- B. Grammar was taught by the teacher.
- C. Grammar has been taught.

☒ Answer: A

Q2: Identify passive voice sentence:

- A. He writes a book.
- B. He wrote a book.
- C. A book was written by him.

☒ Answer: C

Q3: Passive of: *She is baking a cake.*

- A. A cake was baked.
- B. A cake is being baked.
- C. A cake will be baked.

☒ Answer: B

Q4: Passive of *They have completed the task.*

- A. The task is completed.
- B. The task was being completed.
- C. The task has been completed.

☒ Answer: C

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Q5: Which sentence cannot be made passive?

A. He eats rice.

B. She sings a song.

C. She goes to school.

☒ Answer: C (no object → cannot be passive)

Final Tips for Mastering Voice:

- Always **identify the object** — without it, voice change isn't possible.
 - Know your **verb forms and auxiliary verbs** for each tense.
 - Passive voice is common in **news, reports, and science** writing.
 - **Practice** transforming both directions (Active ↔ Passive) regularly.
-

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2.8 Direct & Indirect Narration:

A. What is Narration?

In English grammar, **narration** is how we report **what someone said**.

There are two ways:

1. **Direct Speech:** Quoting exact words (inside quotation marks).
2. **Indirect Speech (Reported):** Reporting the meaning in your own words (no quotation marks).

B. Structure Difference:

Type	Structure Example
Direct Speech	He said, "I am tired."
Indirect Speech	He said that he was tired.

C. Rules for Changing Direct → Indirect:

1. Remove Quotation Marks

Use connectors like:

→ that, if, whether, how, why, what, when, etc.

2. Change Pronouns

- *I* → *he/she*,
- *my* → *his/her*,
- *you* → *I/we* (or as per context)

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3. Change Tense (Only if the Reporting Verb is in Past Tense)

Direct Tense	Indirect Tense
Present Simple	Past Simple
Present Continuous	Past Continuous
Present Perfect	Past Perfect
Past Simple	Past Perfect
Future Simple (will)	would
can/may/must	could/might/had to (context)

4. Change Time Words

Direct Speech	Indirect Speech
now	then
today	that day
tomorrow	the next day
yesterday	the day before
next week	the following week
last night	the night before
here	there
this	that

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D. Examples of Conversion:

1. Statements

Direct	Indirect
He said, "I am happy."	He said that he was happy.
She said, "I have eaten."	She said that she had eaten.
They said, "We went there."	They said that they had gone there.

2. Yes/No Questions

Use **"if"** or **"whether"** in place of "that".

Direct

Indirect

He asked, "Do you play cricket?" He asked if I played cricket.

She said, "Will it rain tomorrow?" She asked whether it would rain the next day.

3. Wh-Questions

Keep the **question word** (what, why, when, etc.), change the word order to **statement format**.

Direct	Indirect
She asked, "What are you doing?"	She asked what I was doing.
He asked, "Why did you leave early?"	He asked why I had left early.

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4. Commands and Requests

Use **to + base verb**

Use **told/ordered/asked** etc.

Direct	Indirect
He said, "Open the door."	He told me to open the door.
She said, "Don't shout."	She told me not to shout.
He said, "Please help me."	He requested me to help him.

5. Exclamations and Wishes

Use words like **exclaimed, wished, prayed, shouted, etc.**

Direct	Indirect
He said, "Hurrah! We won!"	He exclaimed with joy that they had won.
She said, "Alas! He failed the test."	She exclaimed with sorrow that he had failed.
He said, "May God help you."	He prayed that God might help me.

E. Summary Conversion Chart:

Direct Speech Example	Indirect Speech Version
"I am tired," he said.	He said that he was tired.
"Where do you live?" she asked.	She asked where I lived.
"Don't waste time," he said.	He advised me not to waste time.
"Will you help me?" she said.	She asked if I would help her.
"I have done it," he said.	He said that he had done it.

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F. Tips to Master Reported Speech:

- Change **tense only** if reporting verb is past.
 - Practice pronoun and time word shifts carefully.
 - In **questions**, don't use question format in indirect speech.
 - **Never use quotation marks** in indirect speech.
-

G. Common MCQs on Narration:

Q1: He said, "I am ready."

→ Change to indirect.

- A. He said that he is ready.
- B. He said that I was ready.
- C. He said that he was ready.

☒ Answer: C

Q2: She said to me, "Do you know him?"

- A. She asked me if I knew him.
- B. She asked me if I know him.
- C. She asked me that I know him.

☒ Answer: A

Q3: Ali said, "I have finished my work."

- A. Ali said he has finished his work.
- B. Ali said that he had finished his work.
- C. Ali said that he finished his work.

☒ Answer: B

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Q4: They said, “We went there yesterday.”

A. They said they went there the day before.

B. They said that they had gone there the day before.

C. They said that they had go there the yesterday.

☒ Answer: **B**

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2.9 Sentence Correction:

Focus areas for correction:

- Tenses
- Prepositions
- Subject-verb agreement
- Articles

Incorrect	Correct
She go to college.	She goes to college.
They was waiting.	They were waiting.
He is good in math.	He is good at math.

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2.10 Types of Sentences:

A. Classification by Structure (Based on Number of Clauses)

Sentence Type	Definition	Example
Simple Sentence	Contains one independent clause	<i>He studies hard.</i>
Compound Sentence	Contains two independent clauses , joined by a coordinator	<i>She came and she smiled.</i>
Complex Sentence	Contains one independent + one or more dependent clauses	<i>I left because I was tired.</i>
Compound-Complex	Has two or more independent clauses + one or more dependent	<i>He came, and I stayed because I was free.</i>

1. Simple Sentence

- One complete idea
- One subject + one predicate
- No dependent clause

Examples:

- *Ali plays cricket.*
- *The sun is shining.*
- *She runs every morning.*

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2. Compound Sentence

- Two independent clauses
- Joined using **coordinating conjunctions** (FANBOYS: for, and, nor, but, or, yet, so)

Examples:

- *I tried hard, **but** I failed.*
- *He laughed, **and** she cried.*

Tip: Both clauses **can stand alone** as complete sentences.

3. Complex Sentence

- One **independent clause** + one or more **dependent clauses**
- Uses **subordinating conjunctions** (because, although, if, when, since, etc.)

Examples:

- *He left **because** he was upset.*
 - *If you try, you can succeed.*
 - *Although she was tired, she completed the work.*
-

4. Compound-Complex Sentence

- Combination of **compound** + **complex**
- Minimum **two independent clauses** and **one dependent clause**

Examples:

- *I wanted to stay, **but** I left because it was late.*
 - *Although it rained, we played, and we enjoyed it.*
-

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B. Classification by Function (Based on Purpose):

Type	Function / Use	Example
Declarative	States a fact or opinion	<i>He is a good student.</i>
Interrogative	Asks a question	<i>Are you coming?</i>
Imperative	Gives command/request/instruction	<i>Please sit down.</i>
Exclamatory	Expresses strong emotion or feeling	<i>What a beautiful day!</i>

1. Declarative Sentence

- Ends with a **full stop (.)**
- States something clearly

Examples:

- *She is studying for the test.*
- *The Earth orbits the sun.*

2. Interrogative Sentence

- **Asks a question**
- Ends with a **question mark (?)**

Examples:

- *Where do you live?*
 - *Is he coming today?*
-

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3. Imperative Sentence

- Gives command, advice, or instruction
- Ends with **full stop** (.) or sometimes **exclamation** (!)
- Subject is **usually "you"** (implied)

Examples:

- *Close the door.*
 - *Don't talk in class.*
 - *Please help me.*
-

4. Exclamatory Sentence

- Expresses emotions (surprise, joy, anger, etc.)
- Ends with **exclamation mark** (!)
- Often begins with *what* or *how*

Examples:

- *What a great match!*
 - *How beautiful this place is!*
-

C. Combined Comparison Table:

By Structure	By Function
Simple	Declarative
Compound	Interrogative
Complex	Imperative
Compound-Complex	Exclamatory

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D. ECAT Sentence-Type MCQs (Practice):

Q1: *She speaks French and she writes poems.*

What type of sentence is this?

- A. Simple
- B. Complex
- C. Compound

☒ **Answer:** C (Compound – 2 independent clauses joined by “and”)

Q2: *If you work hard, you will succeed.*

What type of sentence?

- A. Compound
- B. Complex
- C. Simple

☒ **Answer:** B (Complex – Dependent clause: "If you work hard")

Q3: *He is very talented.*

Which sentence type by function?

- A. Interrogative
- B. Declarative
- C. Imperative

☒ **Answer:** B

Q4: *What a terrible storm it was!*

This is a/an:

- A. Imperative sentence
- B. Declarative sentence
- C. Exclamatory sentence

☒ **Answer:** C

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Q5: *Please bring me a glass of water.*

What type of sentence?

- A. Interrogative
- B. Exclamatory
- C. Imperative

 **Answer:** C

E. Final Learning Tips

- ◆ A **simple sentence** has one independent idea – not just short!
- ◆ **Subordinating conjunctions** signal complex sentences.
- ◆ Every **interrogative** ends with a question mark, while **imperatives** may not.
- ◆ Combine **form and function** to identify the full nature of a sentence

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3.VOCABULARY:

3.1 Synonyms (Similar Meanings):

What Are Synonyms?

Synonyms are words that have the **same or nearly the same meaning** as another word.

Example:

- *Happy* → glad, joyful, delighted
 - *Fast* → quick, rapid, speedy
-

Emotions & Feelings:

Word	Synonyms
Happy	Joyful, Glad, Cheerful, Elated
Sad	Unhappy, Mournful, Depressed, Gloomy
Angry	Mad, Furious, Enraged, Annoyed
Afraid	Scared, Fearful, Frightened, Terrified
Brave	Courageous, Fearless, Bold

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Intelligence & Thought:

Word	Synonyms
Smart	Clever, Intelligent, Sharp
Wise	Prudent, Sensible, Sage
Foolish	Silly, Stupid, Unwise
Idea	Concept, Thought, Notion
Understand	Comprehend, Grasp, Realize

Actions & Movement:

Word	Synonyms
Run	Sprint, Dash, Race
Walk	Stroll, March, Tread
Stop	Halt, Cease, End
Destroy	Demolish, Ruin, Wreck, Shatter
Build	Construct, Develop, Create

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Qualities & Descriptions:

Word	Synonyms
Big	Large, Huge, Enormous, Gigantic
Small	Tiny, Little, Miniature, Petite
Beautiful	Pretty, Attractive, Lovely, Gorgeous
Ugly	Unpleasant, Unattractive, Hideous
Easy	Simple, Effortless, Straightforward
Difficult	Hard, Challenging, Tough, Complicated

Miscellaneous

Word	Synonyms
Begin	Start, Initiate, Commence
End	Finish, Terminate, Conclude
Help	Assist, Aid, Support
Tell	Inform, Notify, Explain
Fast	Quick, Rapid, Speedy
Slow	Sluggish, Unhurried, Leisurely
Job	Work, Occupation, Profession
Rich	Wealthy, Affluent, Well-off
Poor	Needy, Destitute, Penniless
Famous	Renowned, Well-known, Celebrated

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B. ECAT Synonym Tips:

1. **Read daily:** News articles and editorials improve vocabulary naturally.
 2. **Use Flashcards:** Write word + 2–3 synonyms with usage.
 3. **Contextual learning:** Don't just memorize – read how it's used.
 4. **Group learning:** Group synonyms by themes (emotion, size, etc.)
 5. **Practice MCQs regularly.**
 6. **Identify parts of speech** — many synonyms change with usage.
 - *Beautiful (adj) ≠ Beauty (noun)*
-

C. Practice MCQs – Synonyms:

Q1: Synonym of **Brave**

A. Fearful B. Cautious C. Courageous D. Careless

 **Answer:** C

Q2: Synonym of **Begin**

A. Stop B. Close C. Start D. Shout

 **Answer:** C

Q3: Synonym of **Difficult**

A. Tough B. Light C. Easy D. Simple

 **Answer:** A

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Q4: Synonym of Beautiful

A. Plain B. Ugly C. Lovely D. Ordinary

☒ **Answer: C**

Q5: Synonym of Inform

A. Ignore B. Announce C. Advise D. Notify

☒ **Answer: D**

Q6: Synonym of Big

A. Large B. Little C. Slim D. Minor

☒ **Answer: A**

Q7: Synonym of Poor

A. Rich B. Wealthy C. Needy D. Generous

☒ **Answer: C**

Q8: Synonym of Happy

A. Joyful B. Angry C. Depressed D. Sad

☒ **Answer: A**

Q9: Synonym of Quick

A. Fast B. Lazy C. Late D. Soft

☒ **Answer: A**

Q10: Synonym of Tell

A. Sing B. Inform C. Walk D. Avoid

☒ **Answer: B**

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3.2 Antonyms:

What Are Antonyms?

Antonyms are words that have **opposite meanings**.

They are commonly tested in ECAT in the **vocabulary portion** of English MCQs.

A. Examples of Common Antonyms

Word	Antonym
Hot	Cold
Light	Dark
Rich	Poor
Strong	Weak
Fast	Slow
Begin	End
Win	Lose
Accept	Reject
Alive	Dead
Truth	Lie

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B. Categorized Antonym Lists:

1. Emotions & Feelings

Word	Antonym
Happy	Sad, Unhappy
Brave	Cowardly
Honest	Dishonest
Proud	Humble
Hope	Despair
Friendly	Hostile

2. Time & Action

Word	Antonym
Begin	End, Finish
Early	Late
Create	Destroy
Rise	Fall
Gain	Lose

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3. Intelligence & Behavior:

Word	Antonym
Smart	Dumb, Stupid
Active	Passive, Inactive
Careful	Careless
Wise	Foolish
Polite	Rude

4. Size, Amount & Degree

Word	Antonym
Big	Small, Tiny
Tall	Short
Full	Empty
Thick	Thin
Heavy	Light

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5. Position, Direction & Space

Word	Antonym
In	Out
Up	Down
Near	Far
Above	Below
Enter	Exit

C. Word Pairs with Meaning & Antonym

Word	Meaning	Antonym	Antonym Meaning
Accept	To agree or receive	Reject	To deny or refuse
Victory	Success in battle	Defeat	Loss in a conflict
Expand	To increase in size	Contract	To reduce in size
Approve	To agree or support	Disapprove	To not support
Permanent	Lasting forever	Temporary	Lasts for a short time
Include	To make part of a group	Exclude	To keep out
Encourage	To inspire or uplift	Discourage	To demotivate
Increase	To grow	Decrease	To reduce

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D. Tips to Master Antonyms for ECAT

1. **Learn in pairs** — e.g., rich–poor, fast–slow
 2. Focus on **prefixes** that change meaning:
 - **un-** (unhappy),
 - **dis-** (disagree),
 - **in-** (invisible),
 - **im-** (impossible)
 3. Practice in **sentence context** to understand usage
 4. Use **flashcards** and **quizzes** for repetition
 5. Learn antonyms from **past ECAT MCQs**
-

E. Practice MCQs – Antonyms

Q1: Antonym of Begin

A. Start B. Open C. Continue D. End

☒ **Answer: D**

Q2: Antonym of Polite

A. Kind B. Honest C. Rude D. Shy

☒ **Answer: C**

Q3: Antonym of Victory

A. Success B. Failure C. Win D. Result

☒ **Answer: B**

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Q4: Antonym of Encourage

A. Cheer B. Help C. Support D. Discourage

☒ **Answer: D**

Q5: Antonym of Generous

A. Rude B. Selfish C. Polite D. Kind

☒ **Answer: B**

Q6: Antonym of Permanent

A. Durable B. Strong C. Temporary D. Weak

☒ **Answer: C**

Q7: Antonym of Include

A. Invite B. Exclude C. Accept D. Permit

☒ **Answer: B**

Q8: Antonym of Alive

A. Born B. Active C. Dead D. Silent

☒ **Answer: C**

Q9: Antonym of Gain

A. Win B. Achieve C. Lose D. Rise

☒ **Answer: C**

Q10: Antonym of Expand

A. Enlarge B. Grow C. Contract D. Extend

☒ **Answer: C**

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3.3 One-Word Substitutions

What Is One-Word Substitution?

A **one-word substitution** replaces a **long phrase or sentence** with a **single word** without changing the meaning.

- It helps improve **conciseness**
 - Used in **formal writing, speaking**, and **MCQs**
 - ECAT tests them in **direct MCQs** or **sentence-based** form
-

Why It's Important in ECAT?

- Saves time and improves clarity
 - Often tested in **vocabulary MCQs**
 - Essential for **precise English**
-

A. Most Important One-Word Substitutions for ECAT

Grouped into common categories:

People and Professions

Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
A person who writes poems	Poet
A person who draws maps	Cartographer
A person who composes music	Composer
A person who can speak many languages	Multilingual / Polyglot

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Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
A person who studies planets and stars	Astronomer
A person who writes a book	Author
A person who loves books	Bibliophile
A person who does not believe in God	Atheist
A person who believes in God	Theist
A person who eats too much	Glutton

Places & Buildings

Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
A place where books are kept	Library
A place where weapons are stored	Arsenal
A place where animals are kept	Zoo
A place for the dead	Cemetery / Graveyard
A place where orphans live	Orphanage
A place where birds are kept	Aviary
A place where wine is stored	Cellar
A place where fish are kept	Aquarium
A place for worship of Muslims	Mosque

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Government and Society:

Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
Rule by the people	Democracy
Rule by a king or queen	Monarchy
Rule by a small group	Oligarchy
Rule by the wealthy	Plutocracy
Rule by religious leaders	Theocracy
Government without law and order	Anarchy

Science and Condition Terms:

Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
Study of the Earth	Geology
Study of life	Biology
Study of animals	Zoology
Study of weather	Meteorology
Fear of water	Hydrophobia
Fear of height	Acrophobia
One who studies the past (ancient things)	Archaeologist

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Miscellaneous:

Phrase / Definition	One-Word Substitution
A speech delivered without preparation	Extempore
Life story written by oneself	Autobiography
Life story written by another person	Biography
One who looks at the bright side of things	Optimist
One who looks at the dark side of things	Pessimist
Something that happens once in a year	Annual
A handwriting that is hard to read	Illegible
A thing that cannot be seen	Invisible
A speech in praise of someone (often dead)	Eulogy

Tips to Learn One-Word Substitutions

1. **Use Flashcards** — Phrase on one side, word on the other
 2. Learn in **categories** (Professions, Places, Fears, etc.)
 3. Practice **sentence-based MCQs**
 4. Create your own **dictionary notebook**
 5. Revise regularly for retention
-

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Practice MCQs – One-Word Substitution

Q1: A person who can speak several languages

A. Linguist B. Translator C. Polyglot D. Interpreter

☒ **Answer:** C

Q2: A person who does not believe in God

A. Heretic B. Atheist C. Optimist D. Critic

☒ **Answer:** B

Q3: Life story written by someone else

A. Autobiography B. Diary C. Biography D. Memo

☒ **Answer:** C

Q4: One who looks at the dark side of everything

A. Realist B. Idealist C. Optimist D. Pessimist

☒ **Answer:** D

Q5: A person who studies planets and stars

A. Geologist B. Astrologer C. Astronomer D. Meteorologist

☒ **Answer:** C

Q6: A place where dead bodies are kept

A. Orphanage B. Hostel C. Mortuary D. Library

☒ **Answer:** C

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Q7: A handwriting that cannot be read

A. Inaudible B. Illiterate C. Illegible D. Invisible

☒ **Answer: C**

Q8: Fear of height

A. Claustrophobia B. Hydrophobia C. Acrophobia D. Photophobia

☒ **Answer: C**

Q9: Government without laws or control

A. Democracy B. Monarchy C. Anarchy D. Plutocracy

☒ **Answer: C**

Q10: A building where weapons are stored

A. Arsenal B. Barrack C. Cellar D. Museum

☒ **Answer: A**

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3.4 Idioms and Phrases :

What Are Idioms and Phrases?

An **idiom** is a group of words with a **figurative meaning** different from the literal meaning of each word.

A **phrase** is a small group of words standing together as a meaningful unit.

Example:

- *Break the ice* → To start a conversation in a social setting
- *Once in a blue moon* → Very rarely

Why Are Idioms Important for ECAT?

- They are **frequently asked in vocabulary MCQs**.
- They test your **understanding of informal expressions**.
- Help in **spoken and written English** too.

A. Common ECAT-Level Idioms & Their Meanings:

Idiom / Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
Break the ice	Start a conversation	He told a joke to break the ice.
Hit the nail on the head	Say exactly the right thing	You hit the nail on the head in your answer.
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely	He visits his family once in a blue moon.
A piece of cake	Very easy	That math question was a piece of cake.

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Idiom / Phrase	Meaning	Example Sentence
Spill the beans	Reveal a secret	She accidentally spilled the beans.
Under the weather	Feeling sick	I'm feeling under the weather today.
Kill two birds with one stone	Achieve two goals at once	I submitted my form and paid the bill together.
Add fuel to the fire	Make a situation worse	His comment added fuel to the fire.
Cost an arm and a leg	Very expensive	That car cost me an arm and a leg!
Make a mountain out of a molehill	Overreact	Don't make a mountain out of a molehill.
Bite the bullet	Accept something difficult	I had to bite the bullet and face the truth.
Let the cat out of the bag	Reveal a surprise or secret	He let the cat out of the bag too early.
Barking up the wrong tree	Accusing the wrong person	You're barking up the wrong tree, it wasn't me.
The ball is in your court	It's your decision or responsibility	I made my offer, now the ball is in your court.
Hit the books	Start studying seriously	I need to hit the books before my ECAT exam.

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Tips to Learn Idioms for ECAT:

1. Learn **5 idioms per day**
 2. Make **visual connections** or stories
 3. Practice **MCQs from past papers**
 4. Use idioms in your own **spoken or written sentences**
 5. Learn idioms by **categories** – health, money, study, conversation
-

Practice MCQs – Idioms and Phrases:

Q1: “Break the ice” means:

- A. Start eating B. Start a conversation C. Destroy something D. Slip on ice

☒ **Answer: B**

Q2: “Once in a blue moon” refers to:

- A. Often B. Never C. Rarely D. Always

☒ **Answer: C**

Q3: If something “costs an arm and a leg”, it is:

- A. Cheap B. Difficult C. Expensive D. Free

☒ **Answer: C**

Q4: “Let the cat out of the bag” means:

- A. Release a pet B. Hide the truth C. Reveal a secret D. Speak loudly

☒ **Answer: C**

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Q5: “A piece of cake” means:

A. Something to eat B. Very simple C. Very hard D. Broken

☒ **Answer: B**

Q6: If you are “under the weather”, you are:

A. Out in the rain B. Sick C. Happy D. Sad

☒ **Answer: B**

Q7: “Hit the books” means:

A. Beat someone B. Study hard C. Go to library D. Tear books

☒ **Answer: B**

Q8: “The ball is in your court” means:

A. You are in a sports match B. You have control now C. Return the ball D. You’re outside

☒ **Answer: B**

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4. Reading Comprehension Tips:

What is Reading Comprehension?

Reading comprehension is the ability to **read a passage, understand its meaning, and answer related questions** accurately.

Types of Questions Asked in ECAT:

1. **Main idea / theme**
 2. **Synonyms / antonyms in context**
 3. **Specific detail**
 4. **Inference or tone**
 5. **Meaning of phrases**
-

Example Passage (Short):

"The invention of electricity revolutionized human life. It powers our homes, industries, and transport. Without it, modern civilization would collapse. Today, renewable energy is being explored to reduce the harmful effects of fossil fuels."

Q1: What is the main idea of this passage?

- A. How electricity works
- B. Invention of light bulbs
- C. Role of electricity in modern life
- D. Benefits of fossil fuels

 **Answer: C**

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Tips for Solving Reading Comprehension MCQs:

Tip #	Strategy
1	Skim the passage first for the theme
2	Read the questions before detailed reading
3	Underline keywords and dates/names
4	Be careful of " extreme " options (always, never)
5	Answers are mostly within the passage
6	For tone questions , ask: Is it positive, negative, neutral?
7	Read slowly if asked about inference

Pro Tip:

Practice 5–10 short passages weekly using ECAT-style MCQs. Build **speed + accuracy**.

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5. Common Error Spotting:

What is Error Spotting?

In this section, you're given a sentence with a **grammar or usage mistake**, and you must identify the incorrect part.

Common Error Types in ECAT:

Type	Example (❌ Incorrect / ✅ Correct)
Subject-Verb Agreement	❌ He <i>go</i> to school daily. ✅ He <i>goes</i> to school.
Tense Usage	❌ I <i>am study</i> now. ✅ I <i>am studying</i> now.
Article Usage	❌ He is <i>a</i> honest man. ✅ He is <i>an</i> honest man.
Preposition Errors	❌ She is good <i>in</i> English. ✅ She is good <i>at</i> English.
Pronoun Reference	❌ Every student should bring <i>their</i> book. ✅ Every student should bring <i>his/her</i> book.
Word Usage / Redundancy	❌ Return back my book. ✅ Return my book.
Comparative Errors	❌ She is more better than him. ✅ She is better than him.

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ECAT-Style Error Spotting MCQs:

Q1: She don't like watching television.

A. She B. don't C. like D. watching

☒ **Answer:** B → should be *doesn't*

Q2: He is senior than me in college.

A. He B. is C. senior D. than

☒ **Answer:** D → should be *to* (Senior **to**)

Q3: Neither of the students have completed the task.

A. Neither B. of the students C. have D. completed

☒ **Answer:** C → should be *has* (Neither = singular)

Q4: I am used to eat junk food daily.

A. I B. am used C. to eat D. junk food

☒ **Answer:** C → should be *to eating*

Q5: The news are spreading quickly.

A. The B. news C. are D. spreading

☒ **Answer:** C → should be *is* (News = uncountable singular)

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Error Spotting Tips for ECAT:

Tip #	Strategy
1	Always check subject-verb agreement
2	Know correct preposition usage
3	Watch for wrong tenses or redundant words
4	Double-check article (a/an/the) usage
5	Learn the rules for singular/plural nouns
6	Practice from ECAT past papers

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6. Final Exam Tips for ECAT English:

Whether you're strong in English or just brushing up before the test, these **smart strategies** will help you **maximize your ECAT English score**.

What is Tested in ECAT English?








- **Vocabulary (Synonyms, Antonyms, One-word substitutions)**
 - **Grammar & Tenses**
 - **Error Spotting**
 - **Idioms & Phrases**
 - **Reading Comprehension**
 - **Sentence Structure**
-

Before the Exam – Smart Preparation Tips:

Tip No.	Strategy
1	Focus on most tested areas: Grammar, Synonyms/Antonyms, Idioms
2	Create a revision list of rules for tenses, articles, prepositions
3	Memorize 25–30 key idioms & one-word substitutions
4	Learn 100+ common synonyms/antonyms using flashcards
5	Practice error spotting and sentence correction
6	Solve 5–10 ECAT-style MCQs daily from each section
7	Attempt at least 2 full-length ECAT English practice tests

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During the Exam – High-Yield Exam Hall Tips:

Tip No.	Strategy
 1	Manage time wisely: Don't get stuck on 1 MCQ
 2	Read every option carefully , even if you think A is correct
 3	Avoid wild guessing unless you can eliminate 2 wrong options
 4	For error spotting, read aloud in your mind – helps catch mistakes
 5	In idioms/sentences, apply real-life logic or phrases you've heard
 6	Always go back to the passage for reading comprehension questions
 7	Review marked answers only if time allows – don't second-guess too much

Pro Tips for Each Section:

Vocabulary

- **Don't confuse** similar-looking words (e.g., affect vs. effect)
 - Use **context clues** if unsure
 - Eliminate options that are **clearly wrong**
-

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Grammar & Error Spotting

- Watch for:
 - ✓ Subject-Verb Agreement
 - ✓ Tense shifts
 - ✓ Articles (a/an/the)
 - ✓ Prepositions (at, on, in)
 - ✓ Redundant expressions
-

Tenses

- Match tenses with **time expressions** in the sentence:
e.g., “Yesterday” → *past tense*
 - Use “**has/have**” for recent past events
-

Idioms & Phrases

- Remember idioms are **not literal**
 - Pick the **closest figurative meaning**
 - Watch for **distractor options** (sound correct but aren't idioms)
-

Reading Comprehension

- Don’t overthink – **answers come from the passage**
 - Eliminate extreme words (always, never, must)
 - Look for **tone words**: positive, negative, neutral
-

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Exam Mindset Tips

- Stay calm – tension leads to silly mistakes
- Trust your preparation
- Mark and move – don't waste more than 45–60 seconds per question
- Focus most on **accuracy**, then on **speed**

Summary Table – Final Tips:

Area	Focus
Vocabulary	Learn roots, synonyms, antonyms
Grammar	Tenses, articles, prepositions
Idioms	Memorize 20–30 common ones
Reading	Practice short passages
Time	Don't spend >1 min/question
Revision	Flashcards & rules list on exam eve

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