

Aptitude Advanced

Concepts of Analogies

eBook 01

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Chapter 1: Introduction to Analogy

An analogy is a comparison of two things that seem unrelated, but are actually related or similar to each other in some respect. This section is designed to test your ability to recognize these relationships between words and successfully identify parallel relationships.

What do they test?

Analogies are basically a test of vocabulary. The given pair of words has a certain relationship which needs to be identified and then you have to pick the correct alternative on the basis of the instructions given.

While it is essential that one's vocabulary be very good, it is more important to be able to spot the relationship between the given words. If you are in doubt about the basic relationship it is advisable to not waste any further time and progress to the next analogy. A good understanding of usage, knowledge of commonly used phrases and idioms go a long way in cracking analogies. These are the least time consuming questions in the English section and with practice you should be able to average 6-8 questions per minute.

Following is an example of an analogy question similar to those found on the Test, along with an explanation:

Apprentice Plumber ::

player : coach

child : parent

student : teacher

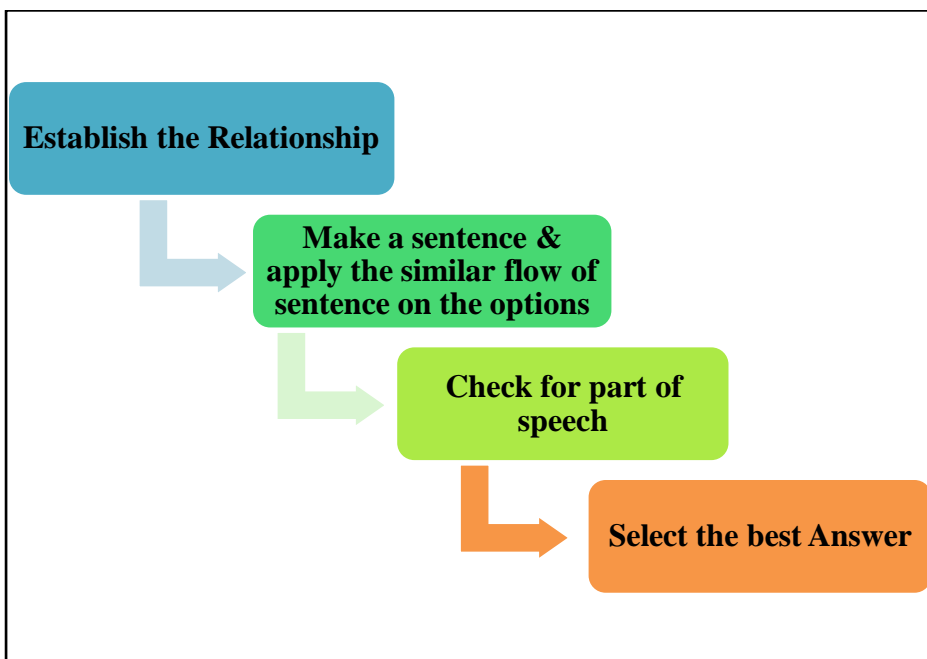
author : publisher

intern : doctor

The first step is to establish the relationship between the words in the original pair. An "apprentice" is typically someone who studies or trains to become a "plumber" or some other tradesperson or professional. Likewise, an "intern" trains to become a "doctor," so answer choice E is correct. Although a "player" could train to become a "coach" and a "student" could train to become a "teacher," other, more plausible relationships exist between those words. Therefore, answer choices A and C are not correct. A "child" could eventually become a "parent," but would not likely study or train to become a "parent," so answer choice B is incorrect. Likewise, an "author" could become a "publisher," but there is no direct, logical connection between first being an author, and then becoming a publisher.

Chapter 2: Strategy to Solve Analogies

Several strategies can help you to correctly answer analogy questions. Following is a description of those strategies we have found most helpful:



Step 1: Establish the Relationship

Before you look at any of the answer choices, attempt to express the relationship between the original pair in your own words. If you can establish a precise connection between the words, you will most likely select the best answer choice.

Step 2: Create a General Sentence

One successful technique is to create a sentence that expresses a specific relationship between the stem words, and then replace the original words from your sentence with the words in the answer choices. You should look for the most simple relationship first. If more than one answer choice expresses the same relationship, you might have to revise your original sentence to indicate a more explicit connection between the words.

For example:

Musician : Orchestra ::

mechanic : car

songwriter : lyrics

desk : office

player : team

actor : screen

Ask yourself what a musician has to do with an orchestra. A musician plays in an orchestra. Or more specifically, a musician plays an instrument as one part of an orchestra as a whole. Your general sentence becomes "A ____ does something as one part of a ____ as a whole." The correct answer is D: A player participates as one part of a team as a whole. Although answer choice B includes words related to music, the exact relationship is not the same as the relationship in the question stem; a "songwriter" does not participate as one part of "lyrics" as a whole. Likewise, the remaining answer choices do not fit logically into the general sentence that you created. A "mechanic" does not do something as one part of a "car" as a whole. Although a "desk" might be considered one part of an "office," a "desk" is an inanimate object, so it does not do something as one part of an "office" as a whole. An "actor" is portrayed on the "screen," but an "actor" does not do something as one part of a "screen" as a whole.

Step 3: Use the Correct Part of Speech

Don't forget about other possible, secondary meanings of words. If you are having trouble creating a sentence, you might be thinking of the wrong definition or part of speech. The questions will always ask you to compare

the same parts of speech. For example, if one of the words in the original pair can be used as either a noun or a verb, all of the corresponding words in the answer choices will be either nouns or verbs, but not both. You can let the answer choices guide you in this way. Consider the following example:

Corral : livestock ::

fence : posts

capture : thieves

nest : birds

devise : plans

fire : employees

At first glance, you might have created a general sentence such as "A corral is an enclosure for livestock." However, none of the answer choices fits logically into that sentence. Because "corral" is also a verb that means "to take control or possession of," you must now consider this secondary meaning. A closer look at the answer choices shows you that the first word in the pair is either a verb, or a word that can be used as a verb *or* a noun. Create another sentence using "corral" as a verb: "The rancher was unable to corral his livestock after they escaped." Manipulate the sentence slightly, as follows:

"The police officer was unable to capture the thieves after they escaped." The remaining answer choices do not fit logically into this general sentence.

Tip

A correct answer will never contain a relationship that has been reversed. For example, if the analogy given is TOUCH: TACTILE, the answer cannot be AUDIBLE: HEARING. Even though the relationship is the same, the order of the relationship is reversed.

Step 4: Select the Best Answer

Remember that the test experts create incorrect answers to distract you; if you establish a relationship beforehand, you will be less likely to get caught up in any confusing, incorrect answers the test writers have set up. If your relationship matches a relationship expressed in ONE of the answer choices, it is most likely correct.

It might be difficult to determine an answer choice without eliminating a few incorrect answers first. Beware of obvious answer choices. At first glance, several choices might appear to express a similar relationship to

the original pair. The correct relationship will be paralleled in only one of the answer choices; you might have to dig a little deeper to discover the true relationship. For example:

Passengers : airplane ::

audience : theatre

birds : nest

sailors : submarine

freight : warehouse

students : classroom

One possible relationship between "passengers" and "airplane" is that passengers are in an airplane. At first glance, several answer choices appear to have the same relationship as the words in the question stem: A "theatre" holds an "audience;" "freight" is in a "warehouse," and so on. There cannot be more than one correct answer, so you should look for a more specific relationship. Create a sentence using the words in the question stem: An "airplane" *transports* "passengers"

from one place to another. Only the words in answer choice C can be logically inserted into this sentence.

Be sure to consider all of the answer choices before you select a final answer, even if you think you have already found the correct one. If you are struggling to find just one correct answer, make your relationship statement more specific or, if you must, adjust the relationship entirely.

Common Relationship Types

Analogies questions require you to consider many different possible relationships. After you are able to determine a specific relationship for the original pair, select the answer choice that expresses a relationship in the same way. Most questions tend to fall into one of several common categories of relationships. The following list includes many of the common analogy relationships tested on the test.

Type 1: Definition/Evidence—One word in a pair helps to define the other word; or, one word in a pair is a defining characteristic of the other word.

Example:

Paragon : Excellence ::

A "paragon," by definition, is a "model or example of excellence."

Crater : Concave ::

A "crater" is "concave"; therefore, being "concave" is a defining characteristic of a "crater."

Type 2: Synonym/Antonym—One word in a pair is a *synonym* or *antonym* of the other word.

Fascination: Interest ::

The nouns "fascination" and "interest" have a similar meaning. They are synonyms.

Stingy : Generous ::

The adjective "stingy" is the opposite of the adjective "generous." They are antonyms.

Note that synonyms and antonyms do not have to come from the same parts of speech.

Contrary : Oppose ::

To be "contrary," which is an adjective, is to "oppose," which is a verb. These words have similar meanings, even though the parts of speech are not the same.

Skeptical : Believe ::

"Skeptical," an adjective, means that you "do not believe," which is the opposite of the verb "believe." These words are opposite in meaning, even though the parts of speech are not the same.

Type 3: Type/Kind—One word in a pair is a type or example of the other word.

French: Language ::

"French" is a type of "language."

Type 4: Degree/Intensity—Both words in a pair are similar in concept, but vary in intensity. In other words, one word in the pair is stronger, harsher, or more intense. Words can also vary spatially, by size, weight, and so on.

Phobia : Fear ::

A "phobia" is a "disabling, exaggerated fear," which is far more extreme than a typical "fear."

Type 5: Purpose/Function—One word in a pair describes the purpose or function of the other word.

Needle : Stitch ::

The purpose or function of a "needle" is to "stitch."

Note that "stitch" can be used as either a noun or a verb. You could also say that a "needle" is used to create a "stitch."

Type 6: Component/Part—One word in a pair represents one part of the other word, which represents a whole; or, one word is simply a component of the other.

Actor : Cast ::

An "actor" is one member of an entire "cast" of actors.

Flour : Bread ::

"Flour" is a component of "bread."

Type 7: Cause and Effect—One word leads to or results in the other word.

Preparation : Success ::

"Preparation" will most likely lead to "success."

Antibodies : Protection ::

The presence of "antibodies" results in "protection" against infection.

Type 8: Tools- Some analogies are based upon the connection between a person and the tool that person uses or upon a tool and the result that it achieves.

Scalpel : Surgeon A SCALPEL is the tool of a SURGEON.

Pen : Writer A PEN is the tool of a WRITER.

Painting : Brush A PAINTING is the result of a BRUSH.

Type 9:is a sign of. . . .In this sort of analogy, one word refers to something that is a sign of something

Trembling : Fear

TREMBLING is a sign of FEAR.

Sigh : Relief

A SIGH is a sign of RELIEF.

Type 10: Sequence -In this type of connection, one event follows another, either as a matter of logic or sequence, or as an effect follows its cause. We also include in this category analogies in which one event prevents or interrupts another.

Engagement : Marriage

An ENGAGEMENT comes before a MARRIAGE.

Explosion : Destruction

An EXPLOSION causes DESTRUCTION.

Type 11: Spurious form of. . . .In this type of analogy, one idea is a spurious or defective form of the other.

Bravado : Bravery

BRAVADO is spurious (or false) BRAVERY.

Babble : Speak

To BABBLE is a defective way of SPEAKING.

Practice Exercise

Directions for questions 1 to 5: For the pair of words in the first part of the question, choose a word that expresses a similar relationship with the word in the second part of the question.

1. Scribble : Write :: Stammer : ?

1. Walk 2. Play 3. Speak 4. Dance

2. Flower : Bud :: Plant : ?

1. Seed 2. Taste 3. Flower 4. Twig

3. Errata : Books :: Flaws : ?

1. Manuscripts 2. Metals
3. Speech 4. Charter

4. Gun : Bullet :: Chimney : ?

1. Ground 2. House 3. Roof 4. Smoke

5. Breeze : Cyclone :: Drizzle : ?

1. Earthquake
3. Flood

2. Storm
4. Downpour

Directions for the questions 6 to 8: Each question has a pair of CAPITALIZED words followed by four pairs of words. Illustrate the relationship between the CAPITALIZED words by writing a sentence using both the words in the space provided. Choose the pair of words which best expresses the relationship similar to that expressed in the capitalized pair.

6. CAR : ROAD

1. electricity : cable
3. bomb : missile

2. ink : pen
4. fly : bird

7. FLEET : NAVY

1. chapter : book
3. letter : word

2. seats : auditorium
4. drop : ocean

8. CRIME : ACCOMPLICE

1. legislation : parliament
3. journey : train

2. repair : mechanic
4. text book : co-author

Directions for questions 9 to 10: Each question has a pair of CAPITALIZED words followed by four pairs of words. Choose the pair of words which best expresses the relationship similar to that expressed in the capitalized pair.

9. IMMACULATE : CLEAN :: ? : SMALL

1. major

2. inordinate

3. gross

4. minute

10. WHEAT : FLOUR :: HIDE : ?

1. leather

2. fur

3. skin

4. Pelt

Answer Key

Q. No	Key	Explanation
1	3	to scribble is to write indistinctly similarly stammer is to walk indistinctly.
2	1	a flower grows from a bud similarly plant grows from seed.
3	2	errata are mistakes made in printing a book. Flaws refer to defects in metals after they are purified.
4	4	a gun spews out bullets, as a chimney spews out smoke
5	4	A cyclone is very heavy wind, a breeze is gentle similarly 'drizzle' is light rain and 'downpour' is heavy rain.
6	1	A car runs, using road as the medium, so does electricity through the cable.
7	3	Fleets are integral to a navy. So is the relationship between letters and word. We can have a book without any chapters at all.
8	4	An accomplice is a person who is not the

main accused in a crime but a helper. So is true of book and co-author.

9 4 Immaculate is extraordinarily clean, while minute is extraordinarily small

10 1 Wheat, upon processing, gives rise to flour, while animal hide, upon processing, produces leather.