

Contents

Unit 1

1	Composition	1
2	Grammar and usage	4
3	Vocabulary	10
4	Progress Test (1)	13

Unit 2

1	Composition	17
2	Grammar and Usage	22
3	Vocabulary	30
4	Progress Test (2)	34

Unit 3

1	Composition	40
2	Comprehension & Summary	41
3	Grammar and Usage	48
4	Vocabulary	53
5	Progress Test (3)	55

Unit 4

1	Composition	57
2	Grammar and Usage	60
3	Vocabulary	66
4	Progress Test (4)	68

Unit 5

1	Composition	75
2	Responding to Views	78
3	Grammar and Usage	80
4	Vocabulary	87
5	Progress Test (5)	90

Unit 6

1	Picture-Based Compositions	97
2	The Report	98

Unit

1

- 1 Composition
- 2 Grammar and Usage
 - (i) Subject-Verb Agreement
- 3 Vocabulary
- 4 Progress Test 1

1 Composition

Let us start this course by writing a composition entitled “Myself” and in the process learn subject-verb agreement. If you can make sure that in the sentences that you write, there is subject-verb agreement, there will be fewer red marks in your composition. You would also have learnt to avoid a common mistake. The simple present tense is used in the Model Compositions in this unit. As you read them, note the subject-verb agreement.

If you are asked to write a composition about you, you may wonder what is there to write about, but if you think, many ideas about you will come to your mind.

These can be some of the ideas to write a composition entitled “Myself”:

Name	Hobbies
Age	Appearance
Country	Character
Place of residence	Ambition
What you do	Habits
Family	Likes and dislikes
School	Your memories
Friends	

We shall put some of these ideas in the proper order and write a composition.

savour:

appreciate the taste of

presents for my two grandmothers, my father, my mother and sister and for a few aunts and cousins. I help Mum put up the decorations around the house. Dad always has the honour of decorating the tree though.

The next excitement is the Christmas Eve party. We go to my aunt's house for dinner and at twelve, Santa Claus appears with our presents. I always get an enormous number of presents so I need two paper bags to take them home. I open some straightaway and keep some to *savour* on Christmas Day.

Christmas Day means church and greeting friends and the Christmas lunch. Christmas Day is really on the 25th of December, but we celebrate the season. We make up quarrels, as it is the season of goodwill. There is a whole string of parties, and in our large family, we have to fight for the day we give dinner in our house. It also means carols, and we know all the old carols by heart — “Silent Night, “O Come All Ye Faithful”, “The First Noel” and “Good King Wenceslas”. We get party frocks, jewellery and perfume. But the feeling of Christmas is really indescribable. It is a mixture of memories of past Christmases, Church and school pageants, carols, parties, food, and the wonderful feeling of goodwill towards all men.

2 Grammar and usage

(i) Subject-Verb Agreement

★ Let us take three sentences from the composition above to examine subject-verb agreement.

(i) While Jane *likes* Mathematics, Nazlin likes Literature.

(ii) We, all three of us, *like* English.

(iii) *We play* badminton and *are* members of the school badminton team.

★ A singular subject (Jane) or (Nazlin) must have a singular verb (likes) and a plural noun (we) must have a plural verb (like).

- ★ By now, it should be clear that singular nouns take singular verbs and plural nouns take plural verbs. Here are more examples:

Examples:

- (i) *Adults need* about eight hours of sleep.
- (ii) *Sleep follows* a regular pattern.
- (iii) *He comes* out of deep sleep too early.
- (iv) *Our eyes blink* if the *light is* too bright.
- (v) *We fall* asleep gradually.

- ★ Let us now examine some confusing singulars and plurals.

- (1) *Each, everyone, neither* and *either* are treated as singulars.

Example:

Everyone is entitled to his share. *Either* of the suggestions *is* acceptable.

- (2) If two singular nouns refer to the same person, the verb must be singular.

Examples:

The famous *poet* and *dramatist* *has* won the Nobel Prize.
My *friend* and *badminton* partner *is* absent today.

- (3) When two subjects refer to the same idea, the verb may be singular.

Examples:

Bread and *butter* *is* his daily breakfast. *Slow* and *steady* *wins* the race.

- (xv) His grasp of knowledge about the Internet and computers _____ it easy for him to do the project. (make)
- (xvi) Each person _____ carefully before casting the vote. (consider)
- (xvii) The jury _____ on the verdict. (agree)
- (xviii) There _____ at least ten foreigners caught smoking on the bus yesterday. (be)
- (xix) The jury _____ on the verdict. (disagree)
- (xx) In the forest _____ many beasts of prey. (live)

(c) Fill in each blank with either 'has' or 'have'.

- (i) The loss of his wife _____ devastated him.
- (ii) They _____ been asking for help for some time.
- (iii) She _____ decided to join the choir.
- (iv) _____ they decided to join the excursion?
- (v) The responsibilities that were entrusted to me _____ helped my character formation.
- (vi) The father with his sons _____ arrived.
- (vii) You with your wife _____ been invited.
- (viii) He, in spite of difficulties, _____ succeeded.
- (ix) The basic plans of the different buildings _____ already been drawn up.
- (x) Everything else, including agriculture, _____ been abandoned in the country.