



TNPSC

Group - 4

Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission

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பொது ஆங்கிலம் (General English)



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# 1

## CHAPTER

# Figures of Speech, Poetry Appreciation & Important Lines

### 1. Introduction to Poetry

Poetry is a form of literature that expresses ideas, emotions, imagination, and experiences through **rhythm, sound, imagery, and figurative language**.

### 2. Figures of Speech

Figures of speech are **special literary devices** used by poets to make language more expressive, imaginative, and meaningful.

#### 2.1 Alliteration

##### Definition

Alliteration is the **repetition of the same consonant sound** at the beginning of nearby words.

##### Purpose

- ✓ Creates **musical effect**
- ✓ Emphasizes important words
- ✓ Enhances memorability

##### Examples

- ✓ "Silver sand shining softly" - repetition of **s**
- ✓ "Wild winds were whispering" - repetition of **w**

##### Exam Tip

If the **initial consonant sound repeats**, it is alliteration.

#### 2.2 Simile

##### Definition

A simile is a comparison between two unlike things using **"like" or "as."**

##### Purpose

- ✓ Makes description **clear and vivid**
- ✓ Helps readers **visualize imagery**

##### Examples

- ✓ "As brave as a lion"
- ✓ "Her face shone like the moon"

##### Exam Tip

Presence of **like/as** usually indicates simile.

#### 2.3 METAPHOR

##### Definition

A metaphor is a **direct comparison** between two unlike things **without using like or as**.

##### Purpose

- ✓ Gives **strong imagery**
- ✓ Adds **depth of meaning**

##### Examples

- ✓ "Time is a thief."
- ✓ "The classroom was a zoo."

##### Key Difference from Simile

- ✓ **Simile** → **like/as**
- ✓ **Metaphor** → **direct statement**

---

## 2.4 Personification

### Definition

Giving **human qualities** to animals, objects, or abstract ideas.

### Examples

- ✓ "The wind whispered."
- ✓ "The sun smiled."

### Purpose

- ✓ Makes imagery **lively and emotional**

## 2.5 HYPERBOLE

### Definition

A **deliberate exaggeration** used for emphasis or humor.

### Examples

- ✓ "I waited for ages."
- ✓ "He runs faster than the wind."

## 2.6 OXYMORON

### Definition

Two **contradictory words** placed together.

### Examples

- ✓ "Sweet sorrow"
- ✓ "Deafening silence"

## 2.7 ONOMATOPOEIA

### Definition

Words that **imitate natural sounds**.

### Examples

- ✓ buzz, hiss, bang, murmur

## 2.8 ANAPHORA

### Definition

Repetition of the **same word/phrase at the beginning of successive lines**.

### Example

- ✓ "We shall fight...
- ✓ We shall defend...
- ✓ We shall overcome..."

## 2.9 RHYME & RHYTHM

### Rhyme

Repetition of **similar ending sounds**.

Example: sky - high

### Rhythm

The **pattern of stressed and unstressed syllables** that creates musical flow.

## 2.10 IMAGERY

### Definition

Language that appeals to the **five senses**:

- ✓ Sight
- ✓ Sound
- ✓ Smell
- ✓ Taste
- ✓ Touch

Imagery helps readers **visualize the poem**.

---

### 3. Poetry Appreciation

Poetry appreciation means **understanding and explaining**:

- ✓ **Theme** – central idea/message
- ✓ **Tone** – poet's attitude (happy, sad, serious, patriotic, etc.)
- ✓ **Mood** – feeling created in the reader
- ✓ **Imagery & figures of speech**
- ✓ **Moral or life lesson**

#### 3.1 STEPS TO APPRECIATE A POEM

1. **Read the poem carefully.**
2. Identify the **speaker and situation.**
3. Find the **central theme.**
4. Note **figures of speech.**
5. Understand **tone and mood.**
6. Conclude the **message or moral.**

#### 3.2 COMMON THEMES IN POEMS

- ✓ **Nature and beauty**
- ✓ **Patriotism**
- ✓ **Hard work and perseverance**
- ✓ **Kindness and humanity**
- ✓ **Time and life**
- ✓ **Education and wisdom**

### 4. Important Lines From Various Poems

#### 4.1 "Where the mind is without fear..." – Rabindranath Tagore

##### Meaning

- ✓ Freedom from **fear, ignorance, and narrow thinking.**
- ✓ Desire for a **truthful and progressive nation.**

##### Theme

Patriotism and **ideal society.**

#### 4.2 "The woods are lovely, dark and deep..." – Robert Frost

##### Meaning

- ✓ Life has **duties to fulfill** before rest.
- ✓ Symbol of **responsibility and perseverance.**

#### 4.3 "All the world's a stage..." – William Shakespeare

##### Meaning

- ✓ Human life is like a **drama with different roles.**
- ✓ Shows **stages of life.**

#### 4.4 "A thing of beauty is a joy forever..." – John Keats

##### Meaning

- ✓ Beauty gives **permanent happiness.**
- ✓ Nature provides **peace and inspiration.**

#### 4.5 "Little drops of water..." – Julia A. Carney

##### Meaning

- ✓ **Small efforts lead to great achievements.**
- ✓ Importance of **discipline and consistency.**

## 5. Exam-Oriented Quick Revision Table

Figure of Speech	Key Feature	Example
Alliteration	Same starting sound	wild winds
Simile	like/as comparison	as brave as lion
Metaphor	direct comparison	time is thief
Personification	human quality to object	sun smiled
Hyperbole	exaggeration	waited ages
Oxymoron	opposite words	sweet sorrow
Onomatopoeia	sound words	buzz

## 6. Previous Year Questions

### 1. Identify the figure of speech:

"Her smile is like a rose."

- a) Metaphor
- b) Simile
- c) Personification
- d) Hyperbole

**Answer:** b) Simile

### 2. "Time is a thief" is an example of:

- a) Simile
- b) Metaphor
- c) Alliteration
- d) Oxymoron

**Answer:** b) Metaphor

### 3. Repetition of initial consonant sound is called:

- a) Rhyme
- b) Rhythm
- c) Alliteration
- d) Imagery

**Answer:** c) Alliteration

### 4. "The sun smiled down" contains:

- a) Hyperbole
- b) Personification
- c) Simile
- d) Metaphor

**Answer:** b) Personification

### 5. "Sweet sorrow" is:

- a) Simile
- b) Metaphor
- c) Oxymoron
- d) Alliteration

**Answer:** c) Oxymoron

# 2

## CHAPTER

# Match the Following Words and Phrases

### 1. Introduction

In General English, “Match the Following Words and Phrases” is an important **grammar area**. Questions generally test:

- ✓ **Vocabulary knowledge**
- ✓ **Correct meaning of words**
- ✓ **Usage of phrases and idioms**
- ✓ **Synonyms and functional equivalents**
- ✓ **Contextual understanding**

### 2. Types of Matching Questions

Matching questions usually appear in the following formats:

#### 2.1 Word → Meaning

Example:

**Abandon** → Leave completely

#### 2.2 Word → Synonym

Example:

**Rapid** → Fast

#### 2.3 Word → Phrase Meaning

Example:

**Look after** → Take care of

#### 2.4 Idiom → Meaning

Example:

**Break the ice** → Start a conversation

#### 2.5 Phrasal Verb → Meaning

Example:

**Give up** → Stop doing

### 3. Important Vocabulary Matchings

#### 3.1 Frequently Asked Word Meanings

Word	Meaning
Abolish	Put an end to
Abundant	Plentiful
Accurate	Correct
Acquire	Gain
Admire	Respect
Adversity	Hardship
Aid	Help
Ancient	Very old
Approve	Agree
Arrogant	Proud

### 3.2 Common Synonym Matchings

Word	Synonym
Brave	Courageous
Calm	Quiet
Clever	Intelligent
Danger	Risk
Easy	Simple
Famous	Well-known
Honest	Truthful
Huge	Enormous
Quick	Swift
Rich	Wealthy

### 3.3 Common Antonym-Based Matching (Sometimes Indirect)

Word	Opposite Meaning
Accept	Reject
Ancient	Modern
Begin	End
Bold	Timid
Expand	Contract
Freedom	Slavery
Include	Exclude
Joy	Sorrow
Victory	Defeat
Wise	Foolish

## 4. Matching of Phrases and Phrasal Verbs

### 4.1 Frequently Used Phrasal Verbs

Phrasal Verb	Meaning
Bring up	Raise a child / mention
Call off	Cancel
Carry on	Continue
Come across	Find by chance
Find out	Discover
Give up	Stop
Look after	Take care of
Look for	Search
Put off	Postpone
Take off	Remove / plane departure
Turn down	Reject
Turn up	Appear

### 4.2 Verb + Preposition Phrase Matchings

Phrase	Meaning
Afraid of	Fearful
Fond of	Liking
Interested in	Showing curiosity
Proud of	Feeling honour

Famous for	Well known for
Capable of	Having ability
Full of	Containing
Different from	Not same
Similar to	Nearly same
Depend on	Rely upon

### 5. Important Idioms and Their Meanings

Idioms are **fixed expressions** whose meanings are **different from literal meanings**.

Idiom	Meaning
A blessing in disguise	Something good in bad situation
A piece of cake	Very easy
Beat around the bush	Avoid main topic
Break the ice	Start conversation
Burn midnight oil	Study/work late night
Hit the nail on the head	Say exactly right
In hot water	In trouble
Once in a blue moon	Very rarely
Spill the beans	Reveal secret
Under the weather	Feeling ill

### 6. One-Word Substitution Matching

Phrase	One Word
Lover of books	Bibliophile
One who hates mankind	Misanthrope
One who knows many languages	Polyglot
Fear of water	Hydrophobia
Study of animals	Zoology
Study of plants	Botany
Government by the people	Democracy
One who writes poems	Poet
One who cannot read/write	Illiterate
Place for dead bodies	Mortuary

### 7. Confusing Word Matchings

Word	Correct Meaning
Affect	Influence
Effect	Result
Advice	Suggestion (noun)
Advise	Suggest (verb)
Loose	Not tight
Lose	Miss
Quiet	Silent
Quite	Very
Stationary	Not moving
Stationery	Writing materials

## 8. Strategies to Answer Matching Questions

### 8.1 Quick Elimination Method

- ✓ First match **easy known pairs**.
- ✓ Remove them from options.
- ✓ Solve remaining quickly.

### 8.2 Root-Word Understanding

Example:

**Bio** → **Life**

So **Biology** → **Study of life**

### 8.3 Context Guessing

Even if meaning unknown:

- ✓ Observe **prefix/suffix**
- ✓ Compare **similar sounding words**
- ✓ Use **general sense**

## 9. Model Practice Matching Set

### Set - 1

Column A	Column B
Abundant	Plenty
Rapid	Fast
Ancient	Old
Honest	Truthful

**Answer:**

Abundant-Plenty, Rapid-Fast, Ancient-Old, Honest-Truthful

### Set - 2

Column A	Column B
Look after	Take care
Give up	Stop
Put off	Postpone
Find out	Discover

### Set - 3 (Idioms)

Column A	Column B
Piece of cake	Easy
Break the ice	Start talk
In hot water	Trouble
Spill the beans	Reveal secret

## 10. Previous Year Questions

### Objective Type

#### 1. Match "Rapid" with correct meaning:

- a) Slow
  - b) Fast
  - c) Weak
  - d) Late
- Answer:** b) Fast

#### 2. "Look after" means:

- a) Search
- b) Take care
- c) Postpone
- d) Remove

**Answer:** b) Take care

---

**3. "A piece of cake" means:**

- a) Difficult task
- b) Sweet food
- c) Easy task
- d) Hard work

**Answer:** c) Easy task

**4. One word for "lover of books":**

- a) Author
- b) Librarian
- c) Bibliophile
- d) Scholar

**Answer:** c) Bibliophile

**5. Correct meaning of "Abandon":**

- a) Continue
- b) Leave
- c) Accept
- d) Build

**Answer:** b) Leave



# 3

## CHAPTER

# Choose Synonyms and Antonyms

### 1. Introduction

In **General English examinations**, questions on **Synonyms and Antonyms** are **highly important and scoring**. These questions test:

- ✓ **Vocabulary strength**
- ✓ **Understanding of word meanings**
- ✓ **Ability to identify similar and opposite meanings**
- ✓ **Contextual language knowledge**

### 2. Synonyms - Meaning and Importance

#### 2.1 Definition

A **synonym** is a word that has **the same or nearly the same meaning** as another word.

**Example:**

Happy → Joyful

### 3. Commonly Asked Synonyms

#### 3.1 Basic Vocabulary Synonyms

Word	Synonym
Abandon	Leave
Ability	Skill
Accurate	Correct
Achieve	Attain
Admire	Respect
Allow	Permit
Ancient	Old
Angry	Furious
Answer	Reply
Brave	Courageous
Calm	Quiet
Careful	Cautious
Clever	Intelligent
Danger	Risk
Decide	Determine
Easy	Simple
Famous	Well-known
Fast	Rapid
Friendly	Amiable
Great	Grand

#### 3.2 Intermediate-Level Synonyms

Word	Synonym
Abundant	Plentiful
Accurate	Precise

Adequate	Sufficient
Artificial	Man-made
Assist	Help
Benefit	Advantage
Brief	Short
Capable	Able
Complex	Complicated
Confirm	Verify
Difficult	Hard
Essential	Necessary
Expand	Enlarge
Genuine	Real
Honest	Truthful
Huge	Enormous
Important	Significant
Improve	Enhance
Lazy	Idle
Rapid	Swift

### 3.3 Advanced Synonyms (Frequently Appearing in Exams)

Word	Synonym
Abolish	Eradicate
Acquire	Obtain
Adept	Skilled
Adversity	Misfortune
Alleviate	Relieve
Ambiguous	Unclear
Ancient	Primitive
Anxious	Eager
Apparent	Obvious
Appropriate	Suitable
Arrogant	Haughty
Ascend	Climb
Authentic	Genuine
Aware	Conscious
Benevolent	Kind
Candid	Frank
Cease	Stop
Diligent	Industrious
Eminent	Famous
Fragile	Delicate

## 4. Antonyms - Meaning and Importance

### 4.1 Definition

An **antonym** is a word that has the **opposite meaning** of another word.

**Example:**

Happy → Sad

## 5. Commonly Asked Antonyms

### 5.1 Basic Antonyms

Word	Antonym
Accept	Reject
Ancient	Modern
Begin	End
Big	Small
Brave	Cowardly
Bright	Dull
Buy	Sell
Clean	Dirty
Day	Night
Early	Late
Easy	Difficult
Fast	Slow
Full	Empty
Happy	Sad
Hard	Soft
High	Low
Hot	Cold
Kind	Cruel
New	Old
True	False

### 5.2 Intermediate Antonyms

Word	Antonym
Abundant	Scarce
Accurate	Inaccurate
Admit	Deny
Advance	Retreat
Artificial	Natural
Bold	Timid
Complex	Simple
Expand	Contract
Freedom	Slavery
Include	Exclude
Increase	Decrease
Knowledge	Ignorance
Major	Minor
Permanent	Temporary
Possible	Impossible
Private	Public
Success	Failure
Superior	Inferior
Victory	Defeat
Wise	Foolish

### 5.3 Advanced Antonyms

Word	Antonym
Abolish	Establish
Acquire	Lose
Ancient	Contemporary
Benevolent	Malevolent
Candid	Deceitful
Diligent	Lazy
Eminent	Unknown
Expand	Shrink
Genuine	Fake
Hostile	Friendly
Liberal	Conservative
Optimistic	Pessimistic
Permanent	Transient
Scarcity	Abundance
Transparent	Opaque
Unique	Common
Virtue	Vice
Voluntary	Compulsory
Withdraw	Advance
Zeal	Apathy

### 6. Methods to Learn Synonyms and Antonyms

#### 6.1 Root Word Method

Example:

“Bio” → Life

Biology → Study of life

Biography → Life history

#### 6.2 Prefix Method for Antonyms

Prefix	Meaning	Example
un-	not	unhappy
in-	not	incorrect
im-	not	impossible
dis-	opposite	dislike
non-	without	non-stop

### 7. Model Practice Questions

#### 7.1 Choose the Correct Synonym

##### 1. Abundant

- a) Rare
- b) Plenty
- c) Weak
- d) Small

**Answer:** b) Plenty

##### 2. Brave

- a) Coward
- b) Bold
- c) Fear
- d) Weak

**Answer:** b) Bold

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**3. Genuine**

- a) False
- b) Real
- c) Cheap
- d) Bad

**Answer:** b) Real

**7.2 Choose the Correct Antonym**

**4. Increase**

- a) Grow
- b) Rise
- c) Decrease
- d) Add

**Answer:** c) Decrease

**5. Victory**

- a) Success
- b) Defeat
- c) Win
- d) Prize

**Answer:** b) Defeat

**6. Permanent**

- a) Lasting
- b) Temporary
- c) Fixed
- d) Strong

**Answer:** b) Temporary

**8. PREVIOUS YEAR QUESTION PATTERN**

**Objective Examples**

**1. Synonym of "Candid":**

- a) Frank
- b) Angry
- c) Weak
- d) Proud

**Answer:** a) Frank

**2. Antonym of "Scarce":**

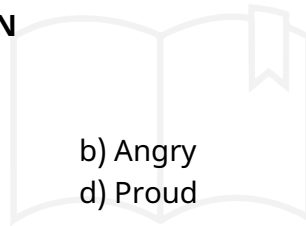
- a) Rare
- b) Plenty
- c) Empty
- d) Weak

**Answer:** b) Plenty

**3. Synonym of "Diligent":**

- a) Lazy
- b) Careless
- c) Industrious
- d) Weak

**Answer:** c) Industrious



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# 4

## CHAPTER

# Identify Prefixes and Suffixes

### 1. Introduction

In **General English examinations**, questions based on **Prefixes and Suffixes** are **frequently asked and highly scoring**. This topic tests:

- ✓ **Word formation skills**
- ✓ **Understanding of meanings through roots, prefixes, and suffixes**
- ✓ **Ability to identify correct grammatical forms**
- ✓ **Vocabulary development**

A clear knowledge of prefixes and suffixes helps students **guess meanings of unfamiliar words**, making this chapter extremely important.

### 2. Word Structure in English

Most English words consist of three parts:

1. **Root word** – the basic meaning
2. **Prefix** – added at the **beginning**
3. **Suffix** – added at the **end**

**Example:**

**Unhappiness**

- ✓ Prefix → **un-** (not)
  - ✓ Root → **happy**
  - ✓ Suffix → **-ness** (state/quality)
- Meaning → state of not being happy

### 3. Prefixes

#### 3.1 Definition

A **prefix** is a group of letters added to the **beginning of a word** to change its meaning.

#### 3.2 Common Prefixes and Meanings

##### 3.2.1 Negative Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example	Meaning of Word
un-	not	unhappy	not happy
in-	not	incorrect	not correct
im-	not	impossible	not possible
il-	not	illegal	not legal
ir-	not	irregular	not regular
non-	without	non-stop	without stopping
dis-	opposite	dislike	opposite of like
a-	without	amoral	without morals

##### 3.2.2 Prefixes of Time and Order

Prefix	Meaning	Example
pre-	before	preview
post-	after	postgraduate
re-	again	rewrite
fore-	before	forecast
ex-	former	ex-president

### 3.2.3 Prefixes of Number

Prefix	Meaning	Example
mono-	one	monologue
bi-	two	bicycle
tri-	three	triangle
multi-	many	multinational
poly-	many	polygon

### 3.2.4 Prefixes of Degree or Size

Prefix	Meaning	Example
super-	above	superpower
sub-	under	submarine
over-	too much	overheat
under-	too little	underpaid
mini-	small	minibus

### 3.2.5 Other Important Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Example
anti-	against	antibiotic
auto-	self	autobiography
co-	together	cooperate
inter-	between	international
trans-	across	transport
mis-	wrongly	misunderstand
semi-	half	semicircle

## 4. Suffixes

### 4.1 Definition

A **suffix** is a group of letters added to the **end of a word** to:

- ✓ Change **meaning**
- ✓ Change **grammatical category** (noun, adjective, verb, adverb)

### 4.2 Common Noun Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example	Word Meaning
-ness	state	happiness	state of being happy
-ment	result/action	development	act of developing
-tion / -sion	action/process	education	act of educating
-er / -or	person who	teacher	one who teaches
-ist	person who practices	artist	one who creates art
-ship	state/quality	friendship	state of being friends
-hood	condition	childhood	state of being a child
-ity	quality	purity	state of being pure

### 4.3 Adjective Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ful	full of	joyful
-less	without	fearless
-ous	full of	dangerous
-able / -ible	capable of	readable

-al	related to	national
-ic	related to	poetic
-ive	having nature	active
-y	having quality	rainy

#### 4.4 Verb Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ize / -ise	make	modernize
-en	make	strengthen
-ify	make	beautify

#### 4.5 Adverb Suffix

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ly	in a manner	quickly

### 5. Change of Word Class Using Suffixes

Root	New Word	Word Class
happy	happiness	Noun
teach	teacher	Noun
care	careful	Adjective
quick	quickly	Adverb
beauty	beautify	Verb

### 6. Identification Methods

#### 6.1 Steps to Identify Prefix

1. Look at **beginning letters**.
2. Check if removing them gives a **meaningful root**.
3. Identify **prefix meaning**.

#### 6.2 Steps to Identify Suffix

1. Look at **ending letters**.
2. Identify **word class change**.
3. Determine **suffix meaning**.

### 7. Commonly Asked Word Analysis

Word	Prefix	Root	Suffix	Meaning
Unkindness	un	kind	ness	state of not kind
Rewrite	re	write	—	write again
Teacher	—	teach	er	one who teaches
Beautiful	—	beauty	ful	full of beauty
Slowly	—	slow	ly	in slow manner

### 8. Model Practice Questions

#### 8.1 Identify the Prefix

1. **Impossible**  
Prefix → **im-**
2. **Preview**  
Prefix → **pre-**

#### 8.2 Identify the Suffix

3. **Happiness**  
Suffix → **-ness**
4. **Teacher**  
Suffix → **-er**

---

### 8.3 Choose Correct Meaning

#### 5. "Rewrite" means:

- a) Write before
- b) Write again
- c) Write wrongly
- d) Write slowly

**Answer:** b) Write again

### 9. Previous Year Questions

#### Objective Type

#### 1. Prefix in "disagree":

- a) dis-
- b) agree
- c) -ee
- d) -re

**Answer:** a) dis-

#### 2. Suffix in "careful":

- a) care
- b) -ful
- c) -er
- d) -ness

**Answer:** b) -ful

#### 3. Meaning of prefix "pre-":

- a) After
- b) Before
- c) Against
- d) Without

**Answer:** b) Before

#### 4. "Teacher" contains which suffix?

- a) -ness
- b) -er
- c) -ly
- d) -ment

**Answer:** b) -er

#### 5. Word formed using suffix meaning "state":

- a) happy
- b) happiness
- c) happily
- d) happier

**Answer:** b) happiness

### 10. Quick Revision Summary

- ✓ **Prefix** → **beginning** → **changes meaning**
- ✓ **Suffix** → **ending** → **changes meaning or word class**
- ✓ **Learn:**
  - **Negative prefixes**
  - **Noun/adjective suffixes**
  - **Word formation patterns**