

FILL IN THE BLANKS

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SSC CGL English Preparation

Introduction to Fill in the Blanks

Fill in the Blanks questions test your vocabulary, grammar, and contextual understanding. These questions present sentences with one or more blanks, and you need to choose the most appropriate word(s) to complete them.

Typical SSC CGL Fill in the Blanks Pattern:

Format: A sentence with one or two blanks, followed by four options

Skills Tested: Vocabulary, grammar, prepositions, idioms, contextual understanding

Common Types: Single blank, double blank, multiple blanks, phrase-based

She was so _____ by the news that she couldn't speak for a few minutes.

(A) happy

(B) overwhelmed

(C) excited

(D) pleased

Approach to Fill in the Blanks:

- 1 Read the entire sentence carefully
- 2 Understand the context and tone of the sentence
- 3 Identify what type of word is needed (noun, verb, adjective, etc.)
- 4 Look for grammatical clues and collocations
- 5 Eliminate obviously wrong options
- 6 Choose the option that fits best contextually and grammatically

Types of Fill in the Blanks Questions

1. Vocabulary-based Questions

These test your knowledge of word meanings and usage in context.

His _____ remarks during the meeting offended many people.

(A) complimentary

(B) derogatory

(C) appreciative

(D) flattering

2. Grammar-based Questions

These test your understanding of grammatical rules and structures.

If I _____ about the problem earlier, I would have helped.

(A) knew

(B) had known

(C) would know

(D) know

3. Preposition-based Questions

These test your knowledge of correct preposition usage.

She is very good _____ solving complex problems.

(A) in

(B) at

(C) with

(D) for

4. Phrasal Verb/Idiom Questions

These test your knowledge of phrasal verbs and idiomatic expressions.

We need to _____ a solution to this problem quickly.

(A) work out

(B) work on

(C) work up

(D) work over

Question Type	Key Focus	Strategy
Vocabulary-based	Word meaning and usage	Understand context and connotations
Grammar-based	Tenses, articles, subject-verb agreement	Apply grammatical rules systematically

Preposition-based	Correct preposition usage	Memorize common preposition combinations
Phrasal Verbs/Idioms	Figurative language	Learn common phrasal verbs and idioms

Effective Strategies

Context Clues

Look for words in the sentence that provide hints about the missing word's meaning.

Grammar Analysis

Identify what part of speech is needed based on sentence structure.

Collocation Knowledge

Remember common word combinations that sound natural together.

Elimination Method

Eliminate options that are grammatically incorrect or contextually inappropriate.

Common Collocations:

Verb + Noun

- Make a decision
- Take responsibility
- Do homework
- Give advice

Adjective + Noun

- Strong coffee
- Heavy rain
- Bitter disappointment
- Great success

Adverb + Adjective

- Deeply concerned
- Highly unlikely
- Terribly sorry
- Absolutely certain

Commonly Confused Words:

Word Pair	Meaning/Usage	Example

Affect/Effect	Affect (verb), Effect (noun)	The news affected him deeply. The effect was immediate.
Complement/Compliment	Complement (complete), Compliment (praise)	The wine complements the cheese. She complimented his work.
Principal/Principle	Principal (main, head), Principle (rule)	The principal reason. Moral principles.
Stationary/Stationery	Stationary (fixed), Stationery (writing material)	The car was stationary. Office stationery.

Preposition Rules:

Time Prepositions

- At for specific times (at 5 PM)
- On for days/dates (on Monday)
- In for months/years (in July)

Place Prepositions

- At for specific points (at the station)
- On for surfaces (on the table)
- In for enclosed spaces (in the room)

Common Combinations

- Good at
- Interested in
- Afraid of
- Proud of

Practice Exercises

Exercise 1: Single Blank Questions

1. The manager was _____ with the employee's performance.

(A) delight

(B) delighted

(C) delighting

(D) delightful

Explanation: We need an adjective here. "Delighted" is the correct adjective form.

2. She _____ to the party if she had been invited.

(A) would come

(B) would have come

(C) will come

(D) comes

Explanation: This is a third conditional sentence (past unreal condition), so "would have come" is correct.

3. The company decided to _____ the project due to budget constraints.

(A) call on

(B) call at

(C) call off

(D) call for

Explanation: "Call off" means to cancel, which fits the context.

Exercise 2: Double Blank Questions

1. The _____ of the new policy was _____ by all employees.

(A) implementation, rejected

(B) implementation, welcomed

(C) implement, welcomed

(D) implementing, rejected

Explanation: We need a noun ("implementation") and a verb in past participle ("welcomed").

2. Despite his _____ appearance, he was _____ intelligent.

(A) ordinary, high

(B) ordinary, highly

(C) ordinarily, high

(D) ordinarily, highly

Explanation: We need an adjective ("ordinary") and an adverb ("highly") to modify the adjective "intelligent".

3. The scientist's _____ research _____ our understanding of the universe.

(A) pioneer, expanded

(B) pioneering, expanded

(C) pioneering, expansive

(D) pioneer, expansive

Explanation: We need an adjective ("pioneering") and a verb in past tense ("expanded").

Exercise 3: SSC CGL Pattern Questions

1. The government has _____ new measures to _____ inflation.

(A) taken, control

(B) introduced, control

(C) introduced, controlling

(D) taken, controlling

2. She was _____ tired that she _____ asleep immediately.

(A) so, fell

(B) so, felt

(C) too, felt

(D) very, felt

3. The committee will _____ your proposal and _____ a decision next week.

(A) consider, take

(B) consider, make

(C) think, take

(D) think, make

Exam Tips for Fill in the Blanks

Time Management

Spend 30-45 seconds per question. Don't overthink - often your first instinct is correct.

Elimination Strategy

Eliminate grammatically incorrect options first, then choose from remaining options.

Context is Key

Always read the entire sentence to understand the context before selecting an answer.

Grammar Check

Ensure the selected option is grammatically correct in the sentence structure.

Common Mistakes to Avoid:

- Choosing words based on sound rather than meaning
- Ignoring grammatical structure of the sentence
- Not considering the overall context and tone
- Forgetting common collocations and preposition combinations
- Rushing without reading the entire sentence carefully

Quick Revision - Common Prepositions:

Good at (skill)

Interested in

Afraid of

Proud of

Dependent on

Famous for

Responsible for

Similar to

Arrive at (place)

Arrive in (city/country)

Look at

Look for (search)

Final Strategy Summary:

- 1 Read the complete sentence
- 2 Identify the context and tone
- 3 Determine what type of word is needed
- 4 Eliminate grammatically incorrect options
- 5 Choose the most contextually appropriate option
- 6 Verify your answer by reading the complete sentence

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