

Useful advice for Standardized Test

Tick the points you are confident with

- **Irregular verbs and regular verbs, gerunds and participle present**

- **Capital letter**

- Remember I is always spelled with a capital i.
- Weekdays, months, holidays, planets, titles, nationalities, languages, religions and ethnic groups, the bearing words in titles of books, magazines films and songs are written with a *capital letter*.

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/cgi-shl/par_numberless_quiz.pl/caps_quiz.htm

(quiz for capital letter)

- **Contractions** (stytt með úrfellingu)

<http://www.english-zone.com/spelling/cont-01.html> (quiz for contractions)

<http://english-zone.com/index.php?ID=60> (more on contractions)

- **It's and its:** What is the difference between the two? (do the exercise provided by your teacher):

1st contraction for of: it is

2nd its is the genitive (eignarfall) of it: e.g. *The child lost its*

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/cgi-shl/quiz.pl/its_there_quiz.htm

(do the quiz on-line)

- **They're, there and their.** What is the difference between the three?

<http://www.better-english.com/easier/theyre.htm>

(do these on-line!)

1st is contraction form of they are: *Are you sure **they're** brothers?*

2nd is genitive of they: *This is **their** car*

Not to be confused with **there:** *Is **there** anyone here.*

- Didn't – is the contraction of did not
- Note the difference between the two ways of saying this (when to use the definite article): *I'm **a** 15 year old girl/boy*
I'm 15 years old

○ **The indefinite article a and an**

- A is used with a consonant, note that it's the pronunciation that determines (samhljóði) : *a friend, a building, a united country, a big car*
- An is used with a vowel (sérhljóði) (or an unsounded h): *an hour ago, an apple, an unforgettable event, an event.*
- Some nouns usually don't take the article unless to specify. These are words like: hospital, prison and school. *He went to hospital.*

<http://english-zone.com/grammar/a-an.html>

○ **Relative pronoun : Tilvísunarfornaföfn (who, which and that)**

- **Who** always refers to a person. *This is the girl **who** went to Egilsstaðir last summer.*
- **Which** always refers to things or animals. *These are the books **which** I read last year. That's the horse **which** won the race.*
- **That** can both refer to persons, things and animals. *He's the man **that** I saw on TV last night. This is the jacket **that** was left at school yesterday.*

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/quizzes/which_quiz.htm

○ **Adjectives (lýsingarorð) and how you form the comparative and superlative (stigbreyting)**

There are three ways in which the comparative and superlative are formed

1. With endings **-er**, and **-est** e.g.

happy – happier – happiest
young - younger - youngest
tall - taller - tallest
great – greater - greatest

2. With the words **more** and **most** this applies to long adjectives (two or more syllables –atkvæði) e.g.

popular	more popular	most popular
famous	more famous	most famous

memorable more memorable most memorable

3. **Irregular comparatives** and superlatives e.g. good - better - best
little - less - least

The following adjectives are irregular:

Bad, ill, much, many, late (two versions) late - later (latter) - latest (last)
Seinni (síðastnefndi) seinasti (síðsti)
old (two versions) old - older (elder) - oldest (eldest)
Far (two versions) far - farther (further) – farthest (furthest) (í
(í óeiginl. merkingu e.g. futher information)

<http://a4esl.org/q/h/vm/compsup.html>

(a quiz for comparative and superlative)

○ **Plural of Nouns – Regular and Irregular**

The general rule is that plural is formed **by adding an –s** to the word e.g. hat, book, song.

Nouns ending in –y form the plural with –ies, e.g. Fly- flies, baby - babies

Nouns ending in –s, x, -sh, ch form the plural with –es, e.g.: bus – buses, box- boxes

Nouns ending in –f or –fe form the plural with –ves, e.g.: calf-calves, wife-wives

Nouns ending in –o form the plural with –es, e.g. potato-potatoes, hero – heroes

Exceptions are: kilo – kilos, radio – radios, piano – pianos

The following words have an **irregular plural**: man – men, woman – women, person – people, child – children, foot – feet, tooth – teeth, mouse – mice.

Nouns that **don't change** in the plural: sheep, fish, aircraft.

http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/GRAMMAR/cgi-shl/par_numberless_quiz.pl/plurals_quiz.htm

(quiz in plural and possessive

/eignarfalli, þið eigið að leiðrétta æfinguna þar sem við á)

○ **The genitive (eignarfall) of nouns**

There are two ways of expressing the genitive:

1. With a genitive –s and a contraction: The girl's doll (sing). The girls' dolls (plural).
2. With an **of**: The book **of** the year. This form is more often used when referring to things, places feelings etc. (e.g.: the top of the hill, the windows of the hotel, note fixed expressions like this one : the chair leg)

<http://www.smic.be/smic5022/genitive.htm>

- **Spelling of some difficult words**
http://www.pdictionary.com/english/stinky_spelling.php
 (Spelling quizzes)
- **Punctuation rules**
<http://www.kimskorner4teachertalk.com/writing/sixtrait/conventions/punctuation.html#PERIOD>
 (Read the rules for period (punktur) and comma)
- **Remember to use versatile conjunctions in your essays.** Here are some of them:
 1. because, then, therefore, since, hence, consequently (**cause effect conjunctions**)
 2. also, like, too, as well as, both, and, compared to, likewise, neither...nor. (**comparison**)
 3. but, however, instead, nevertheless, on the one hand, on the other hand, yet, although (**contrast**)
 4. also, first, second, additionally, besides, further, furthermore, in addition to, last but not least, next, not only...but, too (**addition**),
 5. after a while, after that, at last, eventually, finally, first, second etc, in the future, in the past, last, next now, yet, afterwards, meanwhile, in the meantime, later, previously, simultaneously (**time**)
 6. for example, for instance, (**example**)
 7. finally, therefore, after all, at last, briefly, thus, accordingly, in brief, in conclusion, in short in summary, to conclude (**summary** –)

<http://grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar/conjunctions.htm> (on conclusion)

(For those who want more detail – an interesting distinction is made between Coordinating Conjunctions –(aðaltengingar) and F-A-N-B-O-Y-S (for and nor but or yet and so) and Subordinating Conjunctions –(aukatengingar).

- **American and British English**

Be aware of some differences in vocabulary and pronunciation (and even in spelling).

- **Formal and informal English and Slang**

Be aware of the different levels of language and **avoid inappropriate language.**

- **Gerunds**

Verbs ending in –ing which play the role of a noun in the sentence.

e.g. Travelling might satisfy your desire for new experiences