

Prepvivo.com PSLE English Ultimate Cheat Sheet

✏ Grammar • 100 Phrases • 100 Idioms • 100 Proverbs • 20 Model Paragraphs

Grammar Cheat Sheet (Elaborated)

1. Subject-Verb Agreement

Rule	Example
Interrupting phrases (with, together with, along with) do <i>not</i> affect the verb.	"The <u>captain</u> , along with his players, is excited."
" And " joins two subjects → plural.	"Tom <u>and</u> Jerry are fighting."
Either/Or, Neither/Nor — verb agrees with the subject <i>closest</i> to it.	"Neither the teacher <u>nor</u> the students are here."
Indefinite pronouns (everyone, somebody, no one, each) → singular.	" <u>Everybody</u> knows the answer."
Collective nouns (team, family, class) → singular when acting as one unit.	"The <u>team</u> plays well together."
Measurements / Time / Money → singular (one unit).	" <u>Fifty dollars</u> is too much."
There / Here — the true subject follows the verb.	" <u>There</u> are many books."

💡 **Pro Tip:** "The box of chocolates" — subject is "box" (singular), so verb = "is", not "are".

2. Verb Tenses & Signal Words

Tense	Usage & Signal Words	Example
Simple Present	Habits, truths. <i>Always, every day</i>	She reads every night.
Present Continuous	Happening now. <i>Now, at the moment</i>	She is reading now.
Simple Past	Completed past. <i>Yesterday, ago, in 2020</i>	She read yesterday.
Past Continuous	Ongoing past (interrupted). <i>While, when</i>	She was reading when I called.
Present Perfect	Past with present relevance. <i>Since, for, yet, just</i>	She has read three books.
Past Perfect	Completed before another past action. <i>By the time, after</i>	She had read before the movie started.
Simple Future	Will happen. <i>Tomorrow, next week</i>	She will read tomorrow.

⚠ **Critical:** Maintain tense consistency – if you start in past tense, stay in past tense!

3. Conditional Sentences

Type	Structure	Example
Type 0 (Truths)	If + Present, Present	"If you <u>heat</u> ice, it <u>melts</u> ."
Type 1 (Likely)	If + Present, <u>will</u> + Verb	"If it <u>rains</u> , I will stay home."
Type 2 (Unlikely)	If + Past, <u>would</u> + Verb	"If I <u>won</u> a million, I would travel ."

4. Gerunds (-ing) vs Infinitives (to + verb)

Verb + Gerund (enjoy, avoid, finish, mind)	Verb + Infinitive (want, hope, plan, decide)
"She enjoys <u>swimming</u> ."	"She <u>wants to swim</u> ."
"He avoids <u>eating</u> junk."	"He hopes <u>to pass</u> ."

📌 **Watch meaning shifts:** "I forgot to lock" (didn't lock) vs "I forgot locking" (don't remember doing it).

5. Prepositions: Time & Place

Prep	Time	Place
AT	specific time: <i>at 5 pm</i>	specific point: <i>at the bus stop</i>
IN	months/years: <i>in June</i>	enclosed: <i>in the room</i>
ON	days/dates: <i>on Monday</i>	surface: <i>on the table</i>

6. Active vs Passive Voice

- **Active:** Subject performs action. "*The cat chased the mouse.*"
- **Passive:** Subject receives action. "*The mouse was chased by the cat.*" (Form: **be + past participle**)

7. Direct ↔ Indirect Speech

Direct	Indirect (changes)
"I am <u>happy</u> ," she said.	She said that she was happy. (tense shifts back)
"I will <u>come</u> tomorrow," he said.	He said he would go the following day .
"Do you like pizza?" she asked.	She asked <u>if</u> I liked pizza.

8. Question Tags

- Positive statement → negative tag: "*He is coming, **isn't** he?*"
- Negative statement → positive tag: "*She doesn't like coffee, **does** she?*"

9. Quick-Fire Confusions

Its = possessive (*The dog wagged its tail*)
It's = it is / it has

To = direction
Too = also / excessive

Fewer = countable (*fewer apples*)
Less = uncountable (*less sugar*)

Your = your book
You're = you are

Since = specific point (*since 2020*)
For = duration (*for 3 years*)

Affect = verb (to influence)
Effect = noun (a result)