

# General English

27 September 2023 14:50

Homework.

Q1) Use the following verbs in appropriate tense to fill in the blanks

let, make, have, get

A) Debby's husband hates the Opera but after days of nagging, she finally got him to go see the new production of La Bohème.

B) Sally made me take off my shoes before I went into her house. She said she wanted to keep the carpet clean.

C) Rebecca Smith requested a copy of that expense report, so I had the courier take one over to her last week.

D) Diane thinks television is a waste of time, so she won't let her children watch TV.

E) had her son take out the trash before he went to the park to play soccer.

F) Marcus let me drive his new BMW. I couldn't believe how quickly it picked up speed.

G) How did you get the doctor to make a house call? I haven't heard of a doctor actually going to a patient's house in years.

H) My boss made me get him coffee, pick up his dry cleaning and buy presents for his wife. He can't do anything by himself!

I) Tommy didn't want to go to his cousin's birthday party but his mom made him go.

J) I can't believe the zoo keeper let you feed the snake. That was so cool!

K) The contract was very detailed, and it was essential that the wordings be absolutely correct. Therefore, I had the translator recheck his work several times to make sure there would be no misunderstandings.

L) Cheryl didn't want to wash her car, so with a little smooth talk she got her brother to wash it for her.

M) If you ask me nicely I'll let you lick the bowl after I make the cookies.

N) Jack found a fly floating in his coffee, so he had the waiter bring him a new cup.

O) The news coverage of the recent tornado was incredibly moving. The interview with the little boy who lost his family in the tragedy made everyone cry.

Q2). Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verbs given in the brackets.

A) She is ashamed of herself. (ashamed)

B) Ravi Shankar was honoured by the Music Society. (honour)

C) Do you like playing cricket? (like)

D) Did the doctor come to see you yesterday? (come)

E) Does it rain all the year round here? (rain)

let  
make  
have  
get



## How To Use Intransitive Verbs in a Sentence

Subject +  
Intransitive  
Verb

With  
Adverb

With  
Prepositional  
Phrase

She ran.

She ran  
quickly.

She ran  
across the  
street.

It rained.

It rained a  
lot.

It rained in  
Florida.

The car  
arrived.

The car  
arrived  
late.

The car  
arrived at  
3:00.

Joshua lied.

Joshua  
lied again.

Joshua  
lied to me.

Verbs that Show the State of Being	Verbs that Describe the Five Senses	Verbs that Portray Change, Growth and Inactivity
Am	Appear	Grow
Is/Are	Look	Remain
Was/Were	Smell	Prove
Been	Feel	Turn
Being	Sound	Stay
Seem	Taste	Act
Become	-	Get

1. She wrote letters yesterday. (write)  
 on the . . .

2. The construction of <sup>the</sup> new hotel was stopped. (be)
3. I have been <sup>studying</sup> English for three years now. (study)
4. I have known her for a very long time. (know)
5. He went away last week. (go).
6. We played tennis together last June. (play).
7. I enjoy watching a good social film. (watch).
8. The little boy admitted that he had broken the glass. (break)
9. She forgot to lock the door when



9. She forgot to lock the door when she went to the market. (lock).
10. As she was waiting there, someone bumped into her. (wait)
11. He will unlock the doors when he gets here. (get).
12. He would have done it if you had told him to so. (tell)
13. He is used to sleeping on a hard bed so he does not mind. (sleep).
14. He managed to avoid being hit by the bat. (be)
15. She called me yesterday for a party. (call)
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I was sleeping (sleep) soundly and dreaming (dream) that a dog entered (enter) the room. I sprang (spring) off the bed.

The shot wounded (wound) the elephant. It rushed (rush) back into the forest.

We are planning (plan) to go to a hill station. Last year we went (go) to Shimla. We have decided (decide) to go somewhere else this time.

Railways connect (connect) almost all the big cities and towns. In older days, people used (use) to travel on horse-back or bullock carts. Travelling has become (become)

bullock carts. Travelling has become (become)  
easy now. We can imagine the difficulty  
people faced (face) in the past.

Yesterday I went (go) to the market  
to buy a pen. I ought to have purchased  
(purchase) a good one but I chose (choose)  
a cheap one with the result that it does  
(do) not write smoothly now.

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33%

215 - 0

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Women's  
Reservatio...

## Women's Reservation

Women's Reservation Bill has been passed in the Lok Sabha.

The 128<sup>th</sup> Constitutional Amendment Bill was recently passed in both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha .with the help of which, women will get 33% reservation in the Lok Sabha and in all the State Legislative Assemblies of the country. In the Rajya Sabha, this bill was passed by a majority of 215-0. That means no member of the Rajya Sabha opposed this bill. And in the Lok Sabha , this voting was 454-2. That means only two MPs of the Lok Sabha were against it. Who were those MPs and why were they against it? That is what we are going to discuss over here. But first, two controversial points related to this bill. First , this reservation will not be applicable to the upcoming 2024 Lok Sabha elections. This reservation can be implemented only after the delimitation exercise.

Delimitation means to redraw the constituencies of the Lok Sabha and Assembly, this means to change their boundaries according to the latest census. Our census was supposed to be done in 2021.but the government couldn't do it. So it is estimated that the implementation of this bill can only be done by 2029 or 2031. Many opposition parties have raised questions about the need to wait for the census and delimitation . Why is the reservation of women not being implemented right now ? How many years ? 2 years? 4 years ? 6 years ? 8 years ?

And the second point of controversy is that why is there no reservation for OBC women in this bill? There is Reservation for SC/ ST but not for OBC. What is the reason behind this? What is the implication of this bill? What is its history? And is it right or wrong?

Let's start from December 1946. A constituent assembly was formed to write the constitution of the country. The Drafting Committee Chairman was Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. Out of the 299 members of this Constituent Assembly, only 15 were women. Including some famous names, such as Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, Vijayalakshmi Pandit, Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, Ammu Swaminathan. There was a debate on women's reservation and these women opposed it .It wasn't that these women believed that women weren't fit to be politicians, in fact , their argument was that women didn't need any special consideration. In December 1946, while discussing another matter, Hansa Mehta said , " The women's organisation has never asked for reserved seats , for quotas , or for separate electorates . What we have asked for is social justice, economic justice and political justice . we have asked for Equality. " The only Dalit woman member of this Constituent Assembly was Dakshayani Velayudhan. She said that she was not in favour of reservation. Later, in July 1947, Renuka Roy also said that women will get better chances when they are elected on the basis of ability and not reservation . The arguments of the respected members of the Constituent Assembly so many years ago, looking at the present situation, they seem very idealistic and impractical. By writing about equality in the Constitution , equality does not prevail on the ground automatically. Today, even in 2023, there are millions of such people in the country who feel that women's 'job' is to stay at home. RSS Chief Mohan Bhagwat says that woman should be just housewives and husbands should be the breadwinners. Their thoughts might have changed till now. But misogyny is still everywhere, from entertainment to politics. Cheap songs like Honey Singh's Makhana which objectify women have more than 350 million views on Youtube . So many politicians have given sexist remarks like Congress politician Sanjay Nirupam's remark on Smriti Rani or BJP's Narendra Modi's remark on a " 50-crore

girlfriend “ . The founder of the Samajwadi Party, late Mulayam Singh Yadav also said certain demeaning stuff regarding women. In 2010., a similar bill was introduced to the house and then BJP politician Adityanath protested against it and said, that if men develop feminine traits , they become God ,but if women develop masculine traits , they become demons. So in such a misogynist scenario, the equality which is promised by the Constitution to women to contest elections is just a theoretical equality. In reality, if a woman competes against a man in Elections, then many people’s sexist way of thinking will not be able to accept that a woman is eligible to be politician. They may never vote for a woman, thinking that a woman’s job is only to take care of the house. Maybe this is the reason, that even though the Indian Female population is 48.4% according to the 2022 estimates, but the current representation in the Lok Sabha ,the percentage of women is only around 15%. At state level it is even worse. Only 8- 9 % of the legislators are women. Now compare this number with the countries like Rwanda in Africa. In Rwanda , there are 61% women in their parliament . In countries like Cuba, 55% of the parliament members are women. If we make a list of 185 countries, India’s rank is at 141. This is why the government needs to push for equality at the ground level. This is called Positive Discrimination. It is also called Protective Discrimination or Affirmative Action in many countries. Many people raise the argument that under the Indian Constitution how is it possible to enact Positive Discrimination? Article 14 talks about equality before the law . Article 15 prohibits discrimination in India , based on religion, race, caste and sex. It is important to note that Positive Discrimination has also been mentioned in the Articles of the Constitution. Like Article 15(3), Article 15 (5) and Article 16 (4). According to Article 15 (3), the government has the right to make special provisions for women and children . So it is wrong to say that reservation is against equality.. When in fact, reservation aims at bringing social equality on ground. Equality can be brought by bridging the gaps. Where there is a big gap, it would require more efforts to bring equality. And in most cases, the best way to bridge these gaps is education. 1975 was celebrated as International Women’s Year. In 1971, the United Nations requested the governments all over the world, to make reports on the status of women. In India , the Union Ministry of Education and Social Welfare, established a committee on this issue. This Committee’s Report was published in December 1974, its title was “ Towards Equality” . This report showed how the gender ratio was declining in the country. Women were facing difficulties in accessing education, literacy, and livelihood . In chapter 7 of this report it was mentioned that in the Indian Parliament , from 1952 to that time , the average proportion of women was only 4%. Political parties often backed out from sponsoring women candidates . When this committee toured the country, many women’s groups and scholars demanded a 30% reservation for women. But when they went to the political parties with this suggestion, they faced a lot of opposition from the political parties , it was said that women cannot be compared to socially backward communities. Although women have their own problems, they share their problems with men, in their groups, locality and community. The committee concluded their report saying that there was no rational basis for women’s reservation. But still, this report had a big impact on the country’s politics. In 1983, the Janata Party formed the government in Karnataka which introduced the Nyaya Panchayats Act, and gave 23% reservation to women in local bodies . Mainly, two people are credited for this. First, Chief Minister Ramakrishna Hedge and Second , Minister for Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Abdul Nazir . Even though women got this reservation in the Panchayats of Karnataka so many years ago, in the state assemblies of Karnataka the representation of women is still quite poor . Out of 224 MLAs, only 10 are women, in the cabinet of 34 members , there is only one woman minister. But if we go back to the history, after Karnataka, we got to see positive developments in Andhra Pradesh where in 1987, 9% reservation was given to women in Gram Panchayats. After this, in Odisha , in 1991, 33% reservation was given to women in Panchayats. If we talk at the National level, in 1987 , Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi made a committee of 14 members , under Union Minister Margaret Alva. Next year, this committee presented a

national perspective plan for women for the next 12 years . More than 350 recommendations were given , one of which was that seats be reserved for women. That is why in May 1989, Rajiv Gandhi's Government introduced a Constitution Amendment Bill, which gave a one – third reservation to women in all rural and urban local bodies in India . This bill was passed in Lok Sabha , but it could not be passed in Rajya Sabha . The next Prime Minister , PV Narasimha Rao tried to complete this task . In 1992 and 1993 , the 73<sup>rd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> Constitution amendments were introduced to provide this 33% reservations in Panchayats and Municipalities. And these bills were successfully passed. The law that was enforced only in Karnataka , Andhra Pradesh and Orissa at the time, was then implemented at the national level. In all the Panchayats and Municipalities of the country , women got 33% reservations. But the next questions was , should the same be done in the State Assemblies and the Parliament? In September 1996, when the Prime Minister was HD Deve Gowda , he introduced the 81<sup>st</sup> Amendment Bill. It provided for one – third reservation for women in the Parliament. In comparison to the previous two decades, things have changed a lot . Many politicians and political parties were supporting this bill. However, many members protested regarding the reservation for OBC women. Uma Bharti was an MP from Khajuraho at that time . She demanded that the reservation be given, to backward caste women as well. Prime Minister Deve Gowda called a meeting of the leaders of all the parties of the country. After that, the bill is sent to a Select Committee. Many big names were included in this committee including Sharad Pawar , Nitish Kumar, Mamta Banerjee , Uma Bharti, and the late Sushma Swaraj . This Committee was headed by CPI's leader, Geeta Mukherjee, that is why it is also called Geeta Mukherjee Report. This Committee claimed that under the SC/ST quota, seats have been reserved for women, but not for OBC women because there is no constitutional provision for OBC reservation . It recommends that the government extends the reservation for OBC women at an appropriate time, so that OBC women can also benefit from the reservation. December 1996, efforts were made to pass this bill, but it could not be passed. Even then , the majority members were against this,. In May 1997, Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral tried to introduce this bill again ,but once again this bill could not be passed due to the OBC issue. The majority of members still opposed it. The next Prime Minister was Atal Bihari Vajpayee and he too tried to pass this bill. July 1998, RJD, SP and BJP's OBC MPs opposed this bill and this attempt failed. Meanwhile, another objection arises regarding the bill. Iliyas Azmi from BSP, and GM Banatwala demanded that Muslim women be given representation too. PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee attempted to pass the bill twice more in 1999 and in 2004. But both attempts failed. But around this time, progress was being seen at the state level. In 2006, Bihar became the first state in the country under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, to give 50% reservation to women, in local bodies and panchayats . After that, other states started doing the same thing. Next year, Sikkim does the same and then one after another state starts following. Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, since then, legislation has been passed in 20 states to give 50% reservation to women in local bodies. This is the reason why today, in the panchayats and municipalities all over the country, there are more than almost 1.5 million elected women representatives. A 2004 paper from the London School of Economics has shown how with the help of this, we have seen a better focus on water, education, and road connectivity . But if we come back to the national level, then in 2005, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and Congress leader Sonia Gandhi met with leaders of different political parties regarding the issue of reservation for women. Here, not only did they talk about the 33 % reservation for women, but they also discussed the MS Gill formula proposed by the Election Commission. According to the formula, it should be made mandatory for political parties that among the candidates they are fielding for the election , there should be a minimum percentage of women. We can consider the March 2019 ADR report, only 9% women MLAs , MPs across India in 2019. In 2010, the bill for women's reservation was introduced under PM Manmohan Singh and finally , it was passed in the Rajya Sabha . For the OBC issue, the then Law Minister had said that who

is OBC and who is not, depends on the state. Since 1931, there has not been a caste census of the entire country. No census has been done at the national level for the caste and that is why it is very difficult to say. This was the reason why OBC was not included in this bill. NDTV asked Sonia Gandhi the same question back then and she replied that no political party is being stopped from giving a seat to a Muslim woman or an OBC woman out of the 33% reserved seats. But for the alliance partners of the UPA government , for SP and RJD the issue regarding OBC was still significant. And that is why bill was not brought to the Lok Sabha .In 2014, Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister. And if you see the BJP manifesto, whether 2014 manifesto or the 2019 manifesto, it is mentioned at both places that the BJP supports the women's reservation . But 9 years after being in power, this bill was brought in 2023 during a special session. The good news is that almost all political parties now support this bill. The OBC issue gets raised still it doesn't get stopped.





Homework

**Fill in the blanks with the correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets**

- 1.** I love nature. The spring season ..... (be) the best of all seasons. There ..... (be) freshness all around. Nature ..... (breathe) a new life and ..... (look) colourful like a bride. Beautiful flowers ..... (dance) merrily.
- 2.** The Taj Mahal ..... (be) a beautiful building. The Taj ..... (stand) on the bank of the river Yamuna. It is ..... (made) of white marble. It ..... (has) four marble minarets on which the great dome ..... (stands). Shah Jahan ..... (built) it in memory of his beloved queen, Mumtaz, and it ..... (cost) over three crore of rupees.
- 3.** Sound sleep ..... (be) necessary for good health. Every body ..... (dream) during sleep. Sometimes the dreams ..... (be) pleasant and at others, unpleasant. Last week, I ..... (had) a very bad dream. I ..... (dream) that my class, accompanied by our teachers, ..... (go) to Shimla for the weekend.
- 4.** Last Sunday ..... (be) a bad day for me as I ..... (spent) the whole of it in bed. When I ..... (got) up at 7 o'clock, I ..... (had) a severe headache and ..... (perspired). My mother ..... (took) my temperature. I ..... (consulted) a doctor. He ..... (checked) me thoroughly.
- 5.** A flock of sheep ..... grazing in the ground. (is/are)
- 6.** Time and tide ..... for none. (wait/waits)
- 7.** More than five persons ..... signed the complaint. (have/has)
- 8.** One third of the work ..... left incomplete. (was/were)
- 9.** Neither he nor his sister ..... invited. (was/were)
- 10.** Sachin is one of the players who ..... been selected for the match. (have/has)
- 11.** One of the students of our class ..... selected. (was/were)

- 12.** Age and experience ..... a man wise.(make/makes)
- 13.** Ten times fifty ..... five hundred. (is/are)
- 14.** It is I who ..... to answer him. (is/am)
- 15.** The sun ..... in the east. (rise)

*Fill in the blanks with correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets.*

1. What ..... the latest news. (is/are)
2. Fifty rupees ..... not a big amount. (is/are)
3. The United States ..... a powerful nation. (is/are)
4. Economics ..... an interesting subject. (is/are)
5. Cattle ..... grazing in the field. (is/are)
6. Neither of us ..... ready to go there. (is/are)
7. Billiards ..... my favourite game. (is/are)
8. What I say and what I think ..... my personal matters.  
(are/is)
9. Both of them ..... good friends. (is/are)
10. What ..... the news. (is/are)
11. Honesty ..... the best policy. (be)
12. She ..... a letter now . (write)
13. Half of the apples ..... ripe. (is/are)
14. Half of the land ..... uncultivated. (is /are)
15. Barking dogs never ..... . (bite/bites)
16. A lot of food ..... still lying on the table. (is/are)
17. Fifty rupees ..... a big sum for him. (is/are)
18. The Himalayas ..... a range of mountains. (is/are)
19. Neither she nor her son ..... arrived so far. (has/have)
20. It is I who ..... to bear the loss. (is/am)
21. I wish, I ..... a writer. (was/were)
22. Your trousers ..... very tight. (is/are)
23. She ..... a letter to me last month. (write)
24. I wish, I ..... a queen. (be)
25. I ..... her last week at her residence. (meet)

**Fill in the blanks with correct forms of the verbs given in the brackets.**

- 1. Suraj, rather than his friends. .... guilty. (is/are)**
- 2. Quarters of this type .... three bed rooms. (has/have)**
- 3. Oil and water .... not mix fully. (do/does)**
- 4. A bunch of keys .... found by her. (was/were)**
- 5. His trousers .... not clean. (is/are)**
- 6. A flock of sheep .... grazing in the field. (is/are)**
- 7. I .... for you for two hours. (wait)**
- 8. Everyone of the students .... present at function. (was/were)**

- 9. I wish, I .... a beautiful girl. (was/were)**
- 10. A set of combs .... been lost. (has/have)**