

- **Lessons, tests by IIT/IIM toppers**
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Refresher Material

Analogies Analogies are the set of questions which ask you determine the relationship between a pair of stem words and find the same relationship in one of the answer pairs. The question of analogy is normally presented as abc:pqr::def:pqr. Here the colon (:) should mean “is to” and double colon (::) means “ as”.

- SKYSCRAPER:SHACK::
 - (A) elevator:escalator
 - (B) house:building
 - (C) village:town
 - (D) jetliner:biplane
 - (E) chimney:fireplace

Now we can see that relationship given is the set of words, skyscraper and shack. A skyscraper is large building which is tall and modern. A shack is a small structure. So the relationship is between large and small. Taking up the options we can see that elevator and escalator cannot be the relation large and small. So is the case with the house and building. Any house is building. Third option deals with village as a modern version of town. Now this is again wrong. Option four offers the relationship between jetliner and the biplane. Jetliner is a large and modern version of biplane so the relationship is established. Option five gives chimney and fireplace. Both of these are not bound by the relation of large and modern

So the key of any analogy question is to define the relationship that stem can offer. One has to first understand the relationship between the stem and try to reflect the same relationship in the answer.

Now when one is attempting the question of analogy, he /she should keep the following in mind.

- The correct answer pair must relate in the same order that the stem words relate.
- The stem words are either noun or verb.

Common relationships that are tested in the examinations are

- Type of. For example, Football: Sport. Here football is a type of sport.
- Definition. Hazard : Risk
- Opposites. Headstrong : Nimble feet
- Lack of. Pauper : Money
- Same idea. Persuasive : convincing
- Extremes. Drenched : Parched
- Subset to set. Fleet : Ship
- Job related pairs. Building : Mason, Surgery : Incision

These are some of the varieties of analogies that are tested. The best way to master these is to practice analogy while observing the relationship. Second thing that should be remembered is that noun and verb offer different relationships and one must understand the relationship on the basis of noun and verb as well.

Solved Examples

PRESERVE : MORATORIUM ::

1. tyrannize : revolt
2. shade : tree
3. solve : problem
4. accumulate : collection
5. cover : eclipse

A *moratorium* is an official halt or cessation of an activity. One possible purpose, or use, of a moratorium is to *preserve* (for instance, to preserve an endangered animal species). Similarly, one possible use of a *tree* is to *shade*. **The second answer choice is the best response.**

The first answer choice: Is one possible use of a *revolt* to *tyrannize*? No. The purpose of a revolt might be to stop tyranny (which means "oppressive rule").

The third answer choice: Is one possible use of a *problem* to *solve*? No.

The fourth answer choice: Is one possible use of a *collection* to *accumulate*? No. The relationship between these two words is just the opposite: One possible purpose of accumulating is to form a collection.

The fifth answer choice: Is one possible use of an *eclipse* to *cover*? No. Covering is part of the definition of eclipse.

