

In the name of God

Select Readings

(General English)

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Tehran

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«مسئولیت مطالب کتاب به عهده مؤلف و حقوق مادی و معنوی این اثر متعلق به انتشارات ساکو است.»

اخطار! هرگونه کپی و تکثیر از نظر شرعی و قانونی مجاز نمی‌باشد و پیگرد قانونی دارد.

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Preface

This book intended for university students who have passed the prerequisite English course. The purpose of this book is to help students improve their English language skills through readings with interesting topics and practicing English grammar which is necessary for them to know, especially.

This book has three parts. The first part belongs to vocabularies which have been extracted through the reading. These help students for better understanding of the passage and increase their academic vocabulary that will prepare the ground for digesting academic or college texts. The second part belongs to reading. The reading passages have interesting topics which can improve the comprehension skill of students. It is better if teachers want students to discuss about the topic of the passage before they begin to read it. The third part belongs to grammar which mentions essential points in English grammar. These points help students who are going to pass through the academic tests. These are crucial and necessary grammar points to know.

Following the first and second sections, there are some questions to evaluate students' comprehension and understanding. At the end of the book, there are appendixes which can help students to get and use the grammar points and structures better.

This book intends to indicate necessary points of English course and help students to improve the required skills of English language course.

Majid Karimi

Unit One

▣ Part A: Vocabulary

1. attraction (N.)

Something interesting or enjoyable to see or do

❖ *The beautiful beaches are the island's main **attraction**.*

2. border (N.)

The official line that separates two countries, states, or areas

❖ *They'll ask for your passport at the **border**.*

3. civilization (N.)

A society that is well organized and developed

❖ *The book explores the relationship between religion and **civilization**.*

4. collectively (Adv.)

As a group

❖ *All members of the cabinet are **collectively** responsible for decisions taken.*

5. commercially (Adv.)

Considering whether a business or product is making a profit

❖ ***Commercially**, the movie was successful.*

6. cultivate (V.)

To prepare and use land for growing crops and plants

❖ *The land was too rocky to **cultivate**.*

**7. extend (V.)**

To continue for a longer period of time

- ❖ *Management have agreed to **extend** the deadline.*

8. include (V.)

To make someone or something part of a larger group

- ❖ *Does the price **include** postage?*

9. locate (V.)

To find the exact position of something

- ❖ *We couldn't **locate** the source of the radio signal.*

10. nearly (Adv.)

Almost, but not completely

- ❖ *Is the job **nearly** finished?*

11. numerous (Adj.)

Many

- ❖ *The two leaders have worked together on **numerous** fields.*

12. official (Adj.)

Approved of or done by someone in authority, especially the government

- ❖ *You will have to get **official** permission first.*

13. recommend (V.)

To advise someone to do something

- ❖ *I **recommend** that you get some professional advice.*

14. share (V.)

To have or use something with other people

- ❖ *We don't have enough books. So, you'll have to **share**.*

15. species (N.)

A group of animals or plants whose members are similar

- ❖ *So many **species** of birds have been observed.*



Part B: Reading



Iran

With an area of 1,648,000 square kilometers, Iran is among twenty biggest countries in the world. Iran is *located* in southwestern Asia, and *shares* its entire northern *border* with the former Soviet Union states. This border *extends* for more than 2,000 kilometers, including *nearly* 650 kilometers of water along the southern shore of the Caspian Sea. Iran's western borders are with Turkey in the north and Iraq in the south. In the east lies Afghanistan on the north and Pakistan on the south. To the south, a long coastline borders the Persian Gulf and Oman Sea.



Tehran, the capital, is the country's largest and most populated city. Iran's other major cities **include** Mashhad, Esfahan, Tabriz, and Shiraz. The **official** language of Iran is Persian. The name of the modern Persian language is sometimes mentioned as Farsi in English texts. However, it is **recommended** to use to Persian instead of Farsi because the term has a history of use in Western languages and highlights connection with Persian **Civilization** and Cultural Heritage.

Iran is divided into thirty-one provinces each with so many historical and natural **attractions**. **Collectively**, wide range of temperature in different parts of the country and the variety of climatic zones make it possible to **cultivate** different crops, including cereals (wheat, barley, rice, and corn), fruits (dates, figs, pomegranates, melons, and grapes), vegetables, cotton, sugar beets and sugarcane, nuts, olives, spices, tea, tobacco, and medicinal herbs. Iran's forests cover approximately the same amount of land as its agricultural crops—about one-tenth of its total surface area. The largest and most valuable woodland areas are in the Caspian region, where many of the forests are **commercially** usable.

More than 200 **species** of fish are found in the Persian Gulf. Of the country's livestock, sheep are by far the most **numerous**, followed by goats, cattle, horses, water buffalo, and mules. The raising of poultry for eggs and meat is common, and camels are still raised for use in transport. Agriculture has a long history and tradition in Iran.



A. Answer the following questions according to the passage.

1. Which countries are the neighbors of Iran?
2. Why is it better to mention Persian rather than Farsi in English texts?
3. What types of productions are produced in Iran?
4. What is the reason of different crops in Iran?

B. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

shared	collectively	located	numerous	commercially
recommend	included	cultivated	attractions	border
official	civilization	extend	nearly	species

1. The business is right in the center of town.
2. The three of us a taxi.
3. To cross the, you will need a valid passport.
4. Rain, snow and storm are known as precipitation.
5. Finally the letter of appointment came, making it all
6. There are so many tourists in this city.
7. The project is no longer logical.
8. attempts have been made to hide the truth.
9. After a week in the mountains all I wanted to do was get back to
10. We maize and watermelons.
11. Some of our courses over two years.
12. Are you in this team?
13. It took two hours to get here.
14. Pandas and other endangered.....
15. Doctors strongly those fathers should be present at their baby's birth.



Part C: Grammar

Word Order in English Sentences

In English language there are no different forms for subjects and objects. To keep subject and object apart, however, we have to stick to the word order.

Word Order in Positive Sentences

For the beginning, remember this simple rule:

subject	verb(s)	object
I	speaks	English
I	can speak	English

If you are a more advanced learner, remember the following rule:

subject	verb(s)	indirect object	direct object	place	time
I	will tell	you	the story	at school	tomorrow.

Word Order in Negative Sentences

In negative sentences we usually need an auxiliary verb:

subject	verbs	indirect object	direct object	place	time
I	will <i>not</i> tell	you	the story	at school	tomorrow.



Exercise

A: Arrange the words to make positive sentences.

1. like / I / you → *I like You.*
2. French / I / speak →
3. hates / pigeons / he →
4. they / song / a / sing →
5. sell / flowers / we →
6. you / see / me / can →
7. buy / milk / he / wants to →

B: Arrange the words to make positive sentences. Place time expressions at the end of the sentences.

1. go / now / home / will / I → *I Will go home now.*
2. give / the present / tomorrow / we / him / will →
.....
3. her / met / last night / at / we / the station →
.....
4. was / last week / he / in hospital →
.....
5. in Greece / spend / I / will / next year / my holiday →
.....
6. must / at five o'clock / leave / we / the house →
.....
7. the library / take / I / the book / will / today / to →
.....



Parts of Speech

A sentence involves several parts which are called Parts of Speech. Words form the sentence and in English the words are one of the items below:

1. Noun (N.)
2. Pronoun (Pron.)
3. Adjective (Adj.)
4. Adverb (Adv.)
5. Verb (V.)
6. Preposition (Prep.)
7. Conjunction (Conj.)
8. Interjection (Intj.)

Now we explain the importance of the role of these words in sentence briefly which are necessary to know.

Noun

Noun is a word which is used for the name of a person, place or thing.

There are many different kinds of nouns in English.

1. **Countable Nouns:** Nouns that can be counted, such as car-cars, child-children etc.
2. **Uncountable Nouns:** Nouns that can't be counted, such as water, fire, air etc.
3. **Collective Nouns:** Nouns that refer to a group of things or people such as family, police, workers union etc.
4. **Common Nouns:** General nouns such as cat, bowl, hand, tree, clock etc.
5. **Proper Nouns:** Nouns that refer to a specific name of a person, corporation, company, product, such as IBM, Microsoft, Mr. David, Mary, Dr. Jones.



What are countable nouns?

A countable noun is a type of noun that can be:

- presented in both the singular form and the plural form
- represented by a number, such as two cats, five books

Examples of Countable Nouns:

- There are six *dogs* in the room.
- Our *car* is green.

⊗ **Note:** we can use the following quantifiers for countable nouns:

A few, many, a lot of

What are Uncountable nouns?

Uncountable nouns have only one form, singular form. They are used in agreement with singular verbs. These nouns cannot be represented by a number. It is not possible to say I need 4 air, or 6 sugar. These are nouns that cannot be counted. Examples of uncountable nouns are: water, air, grass, paint, oil etc.

Rules for Using Uncountable Nouns:

- The word *the* does not precede them.
- *a* or *an* cannot be used with uncountable nouns. Certain quantifiers can be used with uncountable nouns, such as some, any, much, a lot are some examples of the quantifiers that can be used with uncountable nouns.
- Uncountable nouns only used in the singular tense.




Examples of Uncountable Nouns:

- Incorrect: The friendship is important

Correct: **Friendship** is important.

- Incorrect: Clothing are very expensive.

Correct: **Clothing** is expensive.

 **Note:** we can use the following quantifiers for uncountable nouns: a little, some, much, a lot of

What is a collective noun?

Collective nouns are nouns that refer to things or people as a unit. (see Appendix 2)

Examples:

family, police, army, council, navy, school, class, committee, group, society, company, team, etc.

Collective nouns can be used in both the singular form and the plural form.

Rules for Using Collective Nouns:

- Singular collective nouns refer to one unit of people or things. Plural collective nouns refer to two or more units of people or things.

What are common nouns?

A common noun is a noun that refers to a person, thing and place.



Examples:

dog, house, picture, computer.

- Common nouns are represented in the singular and plural form.
- Common nouns are represented by lower case letters.

Examples of the usage of common nouns:

- The red **book** is on the table.
- The **computers** are new.

What are proper nouns?

A proper noun is a specific name of a place, a person, or a thing. The first letter of a proper noun is always represented by a capital letter.

Proper Nouns	
1. Name of the Month and Day	January, February, April
2. Names of Companies	Microsoft, Amazon, Nike
3. Names of People	John, Mary, Bill, Mr. Brown, Mrs. Jason
4. Names of Places	Thomas Hospital, Hilton Hotel,
5. Titles of People	Dr. White, President Obama, Ms. Miri.
6. Names of Books, Newspapers, Plays etc.	The New York Times, War and Peace, Midnight Summer Dream



Exercise

A: Choose which sentences are correct. If not, correct it.

1. There were many dish on the table.
2. Jack went out to buy some bread.
3. John always travels to many country.
4. We have twenty dollar left.
5. Ten soldiers turned back for a little rest.

B: Which of the words below are belonged to countable or uncountable nouns.

1. friend, room, water. *Count noun, count noun, non-count noun.*
2. smoke, plan, idea.
3. sugar, house, meat.
4. rice, beauty, Arabic.
5. glass, flower, inch.

C: Select if the noun is proper noun or common one.

1. Let's have lunch at **McDonalds**.
2. There are 12 **months** in a year.
3. My favorite movie is **Greece**.
4. Lisa works as a programmer at **Microsoft**.
5. I live in a small **town** in England.
6. My cousin lives in **Canada**.
7. I want to visit **Asia** when I finish school.

Unit Two

▣ Part A: Vocabulary

1. comfortable (Adj.)

You feel physically relaxed

❖ *The bed wasn't **comfortable**.*

2. compile (V.)

Collect information in order to produce a list or book

❖ *The document was **compiled** by the Department of Health.*

3. confident (N.)

Sure that something will happen in the way that you want or expect

❖ *We are **confident** next year's profits will be higher.*

4. conquer (V.)

To get control of a country by fighting

❖ *The Normans **conquered** England in 1066.*

5. definite (Adj.)

Clearly known, seen, or stated

❖ *It's impossible for me to give you a **definite** answer.*

6. devote (V.)

To use all or most of your time, effort in order to do something or help someone

❖ *He **devoted** his energies to writing books.*

**7. glorious** (Adj.)

Having or deserving great fame, praise, and honor

❖ *We had a **glorious** afternoon.*

8. masterpiece (N.)

A work of art with very high quality that a particular artist has produced

❖ *The paint is a **masterpiece** of him.*

9. mythical *also* **mythic** (Adj.)

Existing only in an ancient story

❖ *He became a **mythic** figure in publishing.*

10. originally (Adv.)

In the beginning, before other things happened or changed

❖ *The family **originally** came from France.*

11. poem (N.)

A piece of writing with a regular rhythm

❖ *The moon is an important symbol in this **poem**.*

12. preserve (V.)

To make something continue without changing

❖ *The responsibility of the police to **preserve** the peace.*

13. revival (N.)

A process in which something becomes active or strong again

❖ *The US and the UK have expectations of economic **revival**.*

14. revive (V.)

To bring something back after it has not been used for a period of time

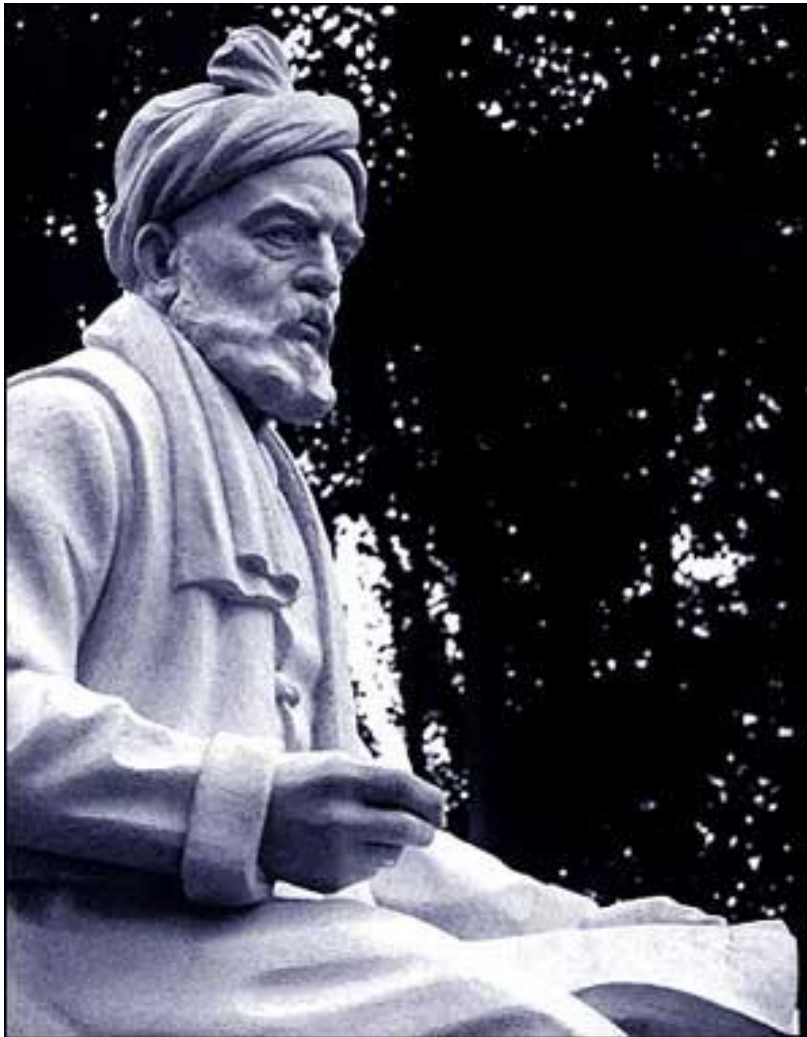
❖ *The economy is beginning to **revive**.*

15. various (Adj.)

different from one another

❖ *There are **various** kinds of evidence for this.*

▣ Part B: Reading



Hakim Abol Qasem Ferdowsi Tousei

Ferdowsi (940–1020) was born in Khorasan in a village near Tous. His great epic is the *Shahnameh* (The Epic of Kings), in which he *devoted* most of his adult life. It was *originally* composed for the Samanid princes of Khorasan, who were the main supporters of the *revival* of Persian cultural traditions