



# ACHIEVEMENT OF SEVENTH STANDARD STUDENTS IN ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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## Abstract

To know English language one must know the basic rules in it. For that, a person should know the grammar. The current study is conducted to examine the knowledge in English Grammar of seventh standard students from various schools of Kanyakumari district. Normative survey method was adopted. Simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample. The size of sample was 100 school students. Grammar Test on Tenses was constructed and validated by the investigators was used to collect the data. t test was used for data analysis. The result of the study showed that most of the students have average level of knowledge on English Grammar.

**Key words:** English language, Grammar, Grammar Test.

## INTRODUCTION

Learning is the process of acquiring new understanding, knowledge, behavior, skills, values and attitudes. As learning is defined as “a process that leads to change, which occurs as a result of experience and increases the potential for improved performance and future learning” (Ambrose et al, 2010), the change in the learner may happen at the level of knowledge, attitude or behavior. The changes induced by learning often last a lifetime, and it is hard to distinguish learned material that seems to be ‘lost’ from that which cannot be retrieved.

Learning involves a behavioral change which can be better or not. This behavioral change should take place as a result of practice and experience. Changes resulting from maturity or growth cannot be considered as learning. According to E.A, Peel, learning can be described as a change in the individual which takes place as

a result of the environmental change. H.J. Klausmeier described learning as a process which leads to some behavioral change as a result of some experience, training, observation, and activity.

Language plays a vital role in the learning process. Language is a unique possession of human beings as it shows their superiority over others. It is one of the essential means of communication. According to Block and Trager, "Language is a set of arbitrary vocal symbols by means of which a social group communicates." English has emerged as a widely accepted language in almost all the countries of the world. Its significance can be judged from the words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who remarked, "English is our major window on the modern world."

English is studied as a second or even third language in India but it was originally the language of England. However, in recent years, the teaching of English has suffered a setback. Grammar is a key for students to gain mastery over English. Each language has its own set of rules. English grammar is the body of rules that describes the structure of expressions in the English language. Learning the correct usage of grammar is absolutely essential in today's world. According to the Dictionary, grammar is defined as: "the study of words and the rule for their formation and their relationships to each other in sentences; the rules themselves; speech or writing judged as good or bad according to these rules."

At a high level, the definition of grammar is a system of rules that allow us to structure sentences. It includes several aspects of the English language, like Parts of speech (verbs, adjectives, nouns, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, modifiers, etc.), Clauses (e.g. independent, dependent, compound) etc. There are two types of grammar namely, i) Prescriptive grammar and ii) Descriptive grammar. Prescriptive grammar is the old traditional type of grammar that prescribes rules for the use of the language and Descriptive grammar is used to describe the behavior of the language, i.e. the way the language is actually used by the native speaker.

### **NEED AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY**

English grammar is the body of rules that describe the structure of expressions in the English language. Learning a language is a complex, time-intensive task that requires dedication, persistence, and hard work. Language teachers and language learners are often frustrated by the disconnect between knowing the rules of grammar and being able to apply those rules automatically in the basic skills, such as listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students' learning will be effective only when the teacher use some different approaches and techniques apart from the traditional methods.

Active learning is only possible when the teacher teaches in active teaching. In today's world, active teaching is only possible through highly qualified and competent teachers who help the students to analyze what they learn and make it applicable for real life situations. If the students are taught through trained teachers, it results in better performance and it helps in bringing changes in students learning.

It is essential for researchers to know better about current situation of grammar teaching and learning. Grammar provides a pathway to learners how some lexical items should be combined into a good sentence so that meaningful and communicative statements or expressions can be formed.

It cannot be ignored that grammar plays a central role in the four language skills and vocabulary to establish communicative tasks. Brown states that the knowledge of a language system refers to our ability to make sentences and to understand it. It also includes our knowledge of what belongs to sentence and what does not in a language. For example, an English native speaker might know the concept and the meaning of sentence “I go to school every day”. But they would not accept if the sentence becomes “I go to school yesterday”. Even it is still wrongly followed in English sentences but is unacceptable.

The investigators feel it is very necessary to find out whether the school students have a sound knowledge about English grammar. So, the investigator took interest in conducting a study on “Achievement of Seventh Standard Students in English Grammar”.

## **OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY**

1. To study the knowledge of seventh school students about their English grammar level.
2. To compare the mean scores of achievement in English grammar of school students with respect to the background variables namely sex and locale.

## **METHODOLOGY IN BRIEF**

### **Method**

The investigator adopted normative survey method for conducting this study. The simple random sampling technique was used to select the sample

### **Sample**

The sample for the study consisted of seventh standard school students from various schools in Kanniya Kumari district. The size of the sample was 100.

### **Tool**

A Grammar Test on Tenses was constructed and validated by the investigator and guide which is used to test the knowledge and proficiency in English Grammar. The test was administered to the school students with proper instruction.

### **Statistical technique**

The scored data was subjected to analysis using SPSS package.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

**Table-1**

*Descriptive statistics for test scores of school students*

	N	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
<b>Tense Grammar test</b>	100	16.00	48.00	28.7900	6.60776

From table-1, it is clear that the arithmetic mean obtained for the total sample is 48. This indicates that the school students have average knowledge about English grammar.

**Table-2**

**Comparison of Achievement in English Grammar of school students based on Sex**

Sex	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T	P
<b>Male</b>	21	30.7143	4.00179		
<b>Female</b>	79	28.2785	7.07458	6.014	.016

From the above table it is clear that since  $p < 0.05$ , there exists significance difference between the mean scores of school students with respect to sex. Achievement in English Grammar of female students is found to be higher than male students.

**Table-3**

**Comparison of Achievement in English Grammar of school students based on Locality**

Locality	N	Mean	Std. Deviation	T	P
<b>Urban</b>	33	30.0606	6.49490		
<b>Rural</b>	67	28.1642	6.62090	.045	.832

From the above table it is clear that since  $p < 0.05$ , there exist significance difference between the mean scores of school students with respect to locality. Students from urban locale have more achievement in English Grammar than the students from rural locale.

## FINDINGS OF THE STUDY

1. Most of the school students have average knowledge about English grammar.
2. Male and female school students differ significantly in their achievement in English grammar.
3. School students from rural and urban locale differ significantly in their achievement in English grammar.

## EDUCATIONAL IMPLICATIONS

1. Workshops on English grammar and its importance in English language could be conducted and all the teachers should know the basic grammar rules.
2. School curriculum could be reconstructed so that the students could get a sound knowledge on grammar which leads to mastery over learning.
3. Teachers could be well trained about the rules of grammar in a simple and effective way so that, they can teach their students in a creative way which leads to active learning.

## CONCLUSION

Grammar is a law of a language that controls the sounds, words, sentences, and other parts as well as how they are combined and interpreted. Grammar gains its prominence in language teaching, particularly in English as a foreign language (EFL). Practically, in the teaching of grammar, learners are taught rules of language. Grammar is thought to furnish the basis for a set of language skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. In listening and speaking, grammar plays a crucial part in grasping and expressing spoken language. In reading, grammar enables learners to comprehend sentence interrelationship in a paragraph, a passage and a text. In the context of writing, grammar allows the learners to put their ideas into intelligible sentences so that they can successfully communicate in a written form. Only by mastering in grammar one can master in a language. Hence it is essential for the school students to gain mastery in English language by developing sound knowledge and proficiency in English Grammar.

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