



ATI TEAS[®] 7

ENGLISH AND LANGUAGE ARTS

Tips, strategies, and practice to ace the TEAS English test



As a nurse, it's crucial that you're able to communicate clearly and accurately. Even small mistakes can lead to big misunderstandings.

Here are some of the most common grammar mistakes to avoid:

Subject-Verb Agreement

Make sure the subject of the sentence matches the verb in number (singular or plural).

Incorrect

We is walking to Mrs. Garcia's class.

Subject (plural) Verb (singular)

Correct

We are walking to Mrs. Garcia's class.

Sentence Fragments

A sentence should be a complete thought that contains a subject and a predicate.

Incorrect

My aunts, uncles, and cousins

(There is no predicate.)

Correct

My aunts, uncles, and cousins are coming over!

Run-On Sentences

Two or more independent clauses should be joined with proper punctuation and/or conjunctions.

Incorrect

I went to the store, I forgot to buy milk.

(Two independent clauses cannot be joined by a comma.)

Correct

I went to the store, but I forgot to buy milk.

Misplaced Modifiers

When a modifier is too far away from the word it's describing, it leads to confusion.

Incorrect

She ate a cold bowl of cereal for breakfast.

(The modifier "cold" is describing "bowl.")

Correct

She ate a bowl of cold cereal for breakfast.

Incorrect Use of Adjectives and Adverbs

Don't use adjectives to modify verbs, and don't use adverbs to modify nouns.

Incorrect

She sings beautiful!

(“Beautiful” is an adjective, so it cannot describe the verb “sings.”)

Correct

She sings beautifully!

Though it may not seem like a big deal, spelling errors can quickly undermine your communication, making it seem unprofessional and inaccurate.

Here are the most common spelling mistakes to avoid:

Spelling Mistakes (*incorrect* → *correct*)

- absense → absence
- acheive → achieve
- accomodate → accommodate
- adress → address
- agressive → aggressive
- aknowledge → acknowledge
- alot → a lot
- arguement → argument
- assistence → assistance
- aquire → acquire
- basicly → basically
- benifit → benefit
- beleive → believe
- cemetary → cemetery
- changable → changeable
- cheif → chief
- comitee → committee
- concensus → consensus
- definately → definitely
- dependant → dependent
- dilema → dilemma
- dissapoint → disappoint
- embarass → embarrass
- equiptment → equipment
- firey → fiery
- fourty → forty
- fulfil → fulfill
- greatful → grateful
- heighth → height
- hygene → hygiene
- imediately → immediately
- innoculate → inoculate
- intelgence → intelligence
- judgement → judgment
- knowlege → knowledge
- liesure → leisure
- lisence → license
- loose → lose
- maintainence → maintenance
- miniture → miniature
- misspelled → misspelled
- neccesary → necessary
- noticable → noticeable
- occassion → occasion
- occurence → occurrence
- occured → occurred
- ommision → omission
- perscription → prescription
- personel → personnel
- principal → principle
- publically → publicly
- quarentine → quarantine
- readable → readable
- reccommend → recommend
- reciept → receipt
- recieve → receive
- religous → religious
- repitition → repetition
- rythym → rhythm
- secratary → secretary
- seperate → separate
- sieze → seize
- supercede → supersede
- suprise → surprise
- then → than
- tommorrow → tomorrow
- twelth → twelfth
- unecessary → unnecessary
- untill → until
- vaccum → vacuum
- welfair → welfare
- withhold → withhold

Commonly Confused Words

- there/their/they're
- your/you're
- its/it's
- affect/effect
- then/than
- complement/compliment
- principal/principle
- accept/except
- advice/advise
- lose/loose
- farther/further
- desert/dessert
- cite/sight/site
- weather/whether
- lead/led
- bear/bare
- brake/break
- past/passed
- plane/plain
- pore/pour/poor
- precede/proceed
- capital/capitol
- peak/peek/pique
- by/buy/bye

English is a complicated language, and it can be difficult to remember all of the spelling "rules" you learned in school. While there are always exceptions to these rules, they can usually help you determine how a word is likely to be spelled.

Here are the main spelling rules you need to know for the TEAS:

"I" Before "E"

This rule should be familiar; it's usually one of the first ones you learn!

While "i before e, except after c" is true in a lot of cases, there are also plenty of exceptions.

"I" Before "E" Except After "C"	Exceptions
bel <u>ie</u> ve, ach <u>ie</u> ve, hy <u>gi</u> e <u>n</u> e de <u>ce</u> ive, <u>ce</u> iling	<u>ve</u> in, <u>we</u> ird, se <u>iz</u> e, prote <u>in</u> <u>sci</u> ence, spec <u>ie</u> s

Drop the Final "E"

When you add a suffix to the end of a word that ends with "e," you'll need to drop the "e" from the word if the suffix starts with a vowel.

Here are some examples and exceptions:

Drop the "E"	Keep the "E"	Exceptions
hope + <u>i</u> ng = hoping bel <u>ie</u> ve + <u>a</u> ble = believable ign <u>o</u> re + <u>a</u> nce = ignorance	care + <u>f</u> ul = careful eng <u>a</u> ge + <u>m</u> ent = engagement saf <u>e</u> + <u>l</u> y = safely	outrage + <u>o</u> us = outrageous notic <u>e</u> + <u>a</u> ble = noticeable arg <u>u</u> e + <u>m</u> ent = argument

(The suffixes start with a vowel) (The suffixes start with a consonant)

Change the Final "Y" to "I"

For words ending in a consonant + "y," you change the "y" to an "i" when you add a suffix to the end. If the suffix starts with an "i," you'll need to keep the "Y" unchanged.

Here are some examples and exceptions:

Change the "Y"	Keep the "Y"	Exceptions
rel <u>y</u> + ed = rel <u>i</u> ed mudd <u>y</u> + er = mudd <u>i</u> er merr <u>y</u> + ment = merr <u>i</u> ment	tr <u>y</u> + <u>i</u> ng = tr <u>y</u> ing suppl <u>y</u> + <u>i</u> ng = suppl <u>y</u> ing fl <u>y</u> + <u>i</u> ng = fl <u>y</u> ing	sh <u>y</u> + l <u>y</u> = sh <u>y</u> ly dr <u>y</u> + n <u>e</u> ss = dr <u>y</u> ness day + l <u>y</u> = da <u>y</u> ly

(The root words end with a consonant + "y") (The suffixes start with an "i")

Double the Final Consonant

This rule is a little more involved. For verbs that end with a consonant, you'll sometimes double that consonant when a suffix is added to the end.

For one-syllable verbs, you double the consonant when **both** of the following things are true:

1. The final consonant is preceded by a single vowel
2. The last syllable of the root word is stressed *after* the suffix is added

Double the Consonant (One Syllable)

plan + er = planner
blur + ing = blurring

For words with more than one syllable, you double the consonant when **both** of the following are true:

1. The final consonant is preceded by a single vowel
2. The last syllable of the root word is stressed *before* the suffix is added

Double the Consonant (Multiple Syllables)

begin + ing = beginning
admit + ed = admitted

For some words, it doesn't matter whether you double the consonant or not—both versions are correct!

Exceptions (Both Forms are Correct)

canceled, cancelled | labeled, labelled | traveling, travelling

Rules for Plurals

For many words, adding an "s" to the end is all you need to do to make it plural. However, there are a couple of other ways to pluralize words that you need to keep in mind:

Add "-es"

Add "-es" to the end of words ending with "-ch," "-s," "-sh," "-x," or "z."

Add "-es"

branch/branches, tax/taxes, boss/bosses, quiz/quizzes, bush/bushes

Add "-ves"

Add "-ves" to the end of some words ending with "-f," or "-fe."

Add "-ves"

knife/knives, life/lives, self/selves, hoof/hooves

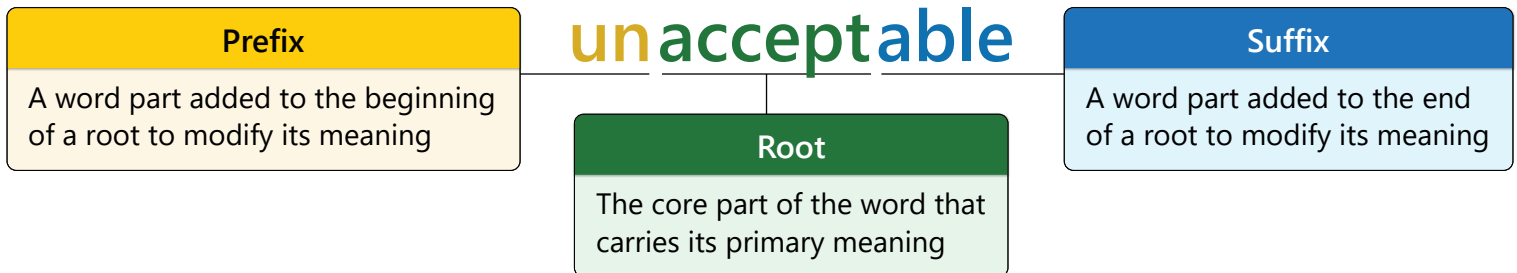
Exceptions

strife/strifes, chef/chefs, belief/beliefs, proof/proofs

Parts of a Word

Understanding the different parts of a word can help you determine what the word means, even if you've never seen the word before.

These are the three main parts of a word (some words only have one or two parts):



Determining a Word's Meaning

How do you use the different parts of a word to figure out what the word means?

There are a two main methods you can use:

1. Use Known Meanings of Word Parts

Break the word down into its different parts and see which parts you know the meaning of already.

Prefix: *un-* (not) → **unbelievable** ← Suffix: *-able* (capable of)
 Root: *believe* (to trust)

2. Look for Context Clues

Even if you're unsure about a part of the word, use surrounding information for hints.

Context: *The symptoms of hypoglycemia include low energy and dizziness.*

Prefix: *hypo-* (low) → **hypoglycemia** ← Suffix: *-emia* (blood condition)
 Root: *glyc* (sugar)

Word Analysis Practice

Try analyzing these words to see if you can determine their meaning! The answers are below:

hypokalemia

hypokalemia = low blood potassium
 • Prefix: *hypo-* (low)
 • Root: *kal* (potassium)
 • Suffix: *-emia* (blood condition)

pericarditis

pericarditis = pericardium inflammation
 • Prefix: *peri-* (around)
 • Root: *card* (heart)
 • Suffix: *-itis* (inflammation)

intravenous

intravenous = within or by way of the veins
 • Prefix: *intra-* (within)
 • Root: *ven* (vein)
 • Suffix: *-ous* (pertaining to)

exothermic

exothermic = related to releasing heat
 • Prefix: *exo-* (outside)
 • Root: *therm* (heat)
 • Suffix: *-ic* (related to)

Most Common Prefixes

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
anti-	against	antibiotic, antisocial, antiseptic, antifreeze
de-	off, from	deactivate, decrease, decode, deduct
dis-*	not, opposite of	disconnect, disapprove, dislocate, distrust
en-, em-	cause to	enable, encourage, empower, employ
fore-	before	forecast, foresee, forearm, foreclose
in-, im-	in	inside, inhale, implant, import
in-, im-, il-, ir-*	not	incorrect, impolite, illogical, irregular
inter-	between	interact, interrupt, intermission, intertwine
mid-	middle	midway, midpoint, midnight, midline
mis-	wrongly	misplace, misuse, mistreat, misspell
non-	not	nonstop, nonsense, nonexistent, nonessential
over-	over	overcook, overestimate, oversee, overweight
pre-	before	preview, preheat, prevent, precaution
re-*	again	reuse, recycle, refresh, restart
semi-	part	semicircle, semiannual, semicircle, semipermanent
sub-	under	submerge, subtract, subordinate, subtitle
super-	above	supernatural, superimpose, supersonic, superintendent
trans-	across	transport, translate, transform, transparent
un-*	not	unhappy, unsafe, unlock, unusual
under-	under	underground, underestimate, undercover, undermine

*Most frequent

Most Common Suffixes

Suffix	Meaning	Examples
-able, -ible	can be done	manageable, portable, flexible, edible
-en	made of, state of being	wooden, golden, woolen, frozen
-er	comparative	stronger, faster, lighter, kinder
-est	superlative ("most")	strongest, fastest, lightest, kindest
-ful	full of	hopeful, careful, beautiful, painful
-ic	having characteristics of	artistic, organic, scientific, electric
-ion	action, process	action, education, decision, exclusion
-ty	state of	royalty, clarity, unity, certainty
-ive	adjective	creative, aggressive, protective, negative
-less	without	restless, helpless, fearless, powerless
-ly*	characteristic of	quickly, neatly, angrily, brightly
-ment	action, process	argument, movement, judgment, punishment
-ness	state of, condition of	happiness, boldness, fitness, softness
-ous	having the quality of	courageous, fabulous, victorious, ambitious

*Most frequent

Mastering English and language usage is about more than just improving your grammar—it helps you communicate more effectively and reduce confusion, reducing the likelihood of fatal errors.

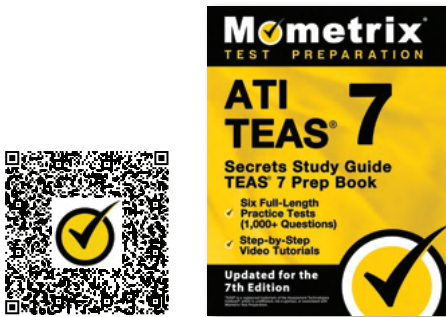
These strategies not only prepare you for the TEAS 7 exam but also equip you for lifelong learning.

Keep practicing, stay curious, and trust your ability to express yourself clearly and effectively. Success comes with persistence and the right tools.

You've got this!

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