



PSLE English Mastery
Synthesis /
Transformation
The Write Tribe

ADDITION



except, except for, with the exception of

- You use **except** to talk about a person or thing (or a few people or things) in a group that is not the same as the others.
- You use **except** before a noun, noun phrase or gerund (**ing**-form of a verb).

Change "is the only one that does not subscribe" to "all houses ... subscribe" when you rewrite the sentence with "except".



- Our house is the only one that does not subscribe to the daily newspapers.
- All houses **except** ours subscribe to the daily newspapers.

Rewrite "our house" as "ours" to avoid repetition. The verb "subscribe" agrees with "houses".

- Anna is the only one absent.
- Everyone is present **except** Anna.

Change "absent" to its antonym "present" in the rewritten sentence.

Change "other drivers are not allowed" to "no one is allowed" when you combine the sentences with "except".



- This parking lot is for disabled drivers. Other drivers are not allowed to park here.
- No one is allowed to park in this lot **except** disabled drivers.

Change "the rest of us did not understand" to "no one ... understood" when you combine the sentences with "except".



- Only Jane understood the symbols on the ancient walls. The rest of us did not understand them.
- No one **except** Jane understood the symbols on the ancient walls.

- You can use **except for** in the same way as **except**.
 - No one is allowed to park in this lot **except** disabled drivers.
 - No one is allowed to park in this lot **except for** disabled drivers.
- However, you use **except for NOT except** at the beginning of a sentence, before a noun, noun phrase or gerund.
 - **Except for** Anna, everyone is present. [✓]
 - **Except** Anna, everyone is present. [X]

Do not include "other than" in the rewritten sentence.



- Everyone, other than Bob, attended the birthday party.
- **Except for** Bob, everyone attended the birthday party.

Change "most of the houses" to "all (of) the houses" when you combine the sentences with "except for".



- Most of the houses in this area have been rebuilt. Only a few have not.
- All (of) the houses in this area have been rebuilt **except for** a few.

- You can also use **with the exception of** to talk about someone or something in a group that is not the same as the rest.
 - Only two students failed the English test.
 - **With the exception of** two students, everyone passed the English test.

Do not include "the exception" when you combine the sentences using "with the exception of".



- I bought all the books. The exception is this one, which was given to me by my parents.
- I bought all the books **with the exception of** this one, which was given to me by my parents.
- Everyone in my family is very tall. I am the only exception.
- **With the exception of** me, everyone in my family is very tall.

When "with the exception of" is followed by a personal pronoun, use the object pronoun, not the subject pronoun.

Practice 4

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

- 1 Billy is the only student not taking outdoor activities.

except

- 2 Two of the club members are men. The rest are women.

With the

- 3 Only John and Mark are not going to the zoo.

Everyone except

- 4 Jill does not play any musical instruments. All the other students play at least one musical instrument.

Except for

- 5 There are only five free television channels. The rest require payment.

except for

- 6 No one wears glasses in the class except Bob.

Except

but, apart from

- You can also use **but** or **apart from** to talk about a person or thing (or a few people or things) in a group that is not the same as the others.
- You use **but** in the middle of a sentence. You use **apart from** in the middle or at the beginning of a sentence.
- Apart from** is followed by a noun, noun phrase or gerund.

Do not include "sat down" and "else" in the combined sentence.

- Janice sat down. Everyone else stood up.
- Everyone **but** Janice stood up.

Do not include "only" in the combined sentence.

Change "the others" to "everyone" in the combined sentence.

- Only Helen does not like to eat vegetables. The others like to eat vegetables.
- Everyone **but** Helen likes to eat vegetables.

The verb "likes" agrees with "everyone".

- The man did not say anything. He only gave a few grunts.
- The man did not say anything **apart from** giving a few grunts.

Change "gave" to the gerund "giving".

- Only the picture on that wall was painted by the famous artist.
- Apart from** the picture on that wall, all the pictures were not painted by the famous artist.

The verb "were" agrees with "pictures". Insert the negative word "not" in the rewritten sentence so that its meaning is the same as the meaning of the original sentence.

Practice 5

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

- 1 All the courses are free except for these two.

apart from

- 2 Everyone except the bride and groom has arrived at the wedding reception.

Apart from

- 3 Jane found the test easy. The rest of the students found it difficult.

but

- 4 You cannot borrow this book. You can borrow the rest of the books.

but

- 5 All the magazines except for those over there are mine.

Apart from

- 6 I did not know what to do. I could only ask for help.

but

Practice 6

Rewrite the given sentence(s) using the word(s) provided. Your answer must be in ONE sentence. The meaning of your sentence must be the same as the meaning of the given sentence(s).

- 1 The travellers explored almost the whole island. They did not explore the cave near the coast.

but

- 2 Mrs Green owns several diamond necklaces but she rarely wears them.

Although

- 3 Even though Uncle Peter is old, he can outrun many young people.

Despite

- 4 In spite of the fact that the man was a boxing champion, he was afraid of cockroaches.

yet

- 5 Ann's three older children are rather plump. The youngest one, however, is not.

except for

- 6 Kathy is the only girl who likes to eat spicy food.

No one apart