





# English for Competitive Exams Module 14 – SSC & Bank Exams

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Read the short passage below of English for Competitive Exams Module 14. Pay special attention to the highlighted words and phrases. Then read the discussion below.

## **English for Competitive Exams Module 14 - PASSAGE**

In **economics**, an inferior good is a good that decreases in demand when consumer income rises (or rises in demand when consumer income decreases), **unlike** normal goods, for which the opposite is observed. Normal goods are those for which **consumers'** demand increases when their income increases. This would be the opposite of a superior good for which the proportional consumption increase exceeds the proportional income increase. Thus a superior good is often associated with wealth and the wealthy, whereas an inferior good is often associated with lower socio-economic groups.

Inferiority, in this sense, is an observable fact relating to affordability rather than a statement about the quality of the good. As a rule, these goods are affordable and **adequately** fulfil their purpose, but as more costly substitutes that offer more pleasure (or at least variety) become available, the use of the inferior goods **diminishes**.

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1 | Page













#### DISCUSSION

#### **Economics**

Don't let the 's' at the end fool you. This is a singular noun and will therefore take a singular verb.

*E.g.* Economics is a boring subject.

Most words ending in '-ics' is singular.

*E.g.* Indian politics **is** a dirty game filled with several venal players.

*E.g.* Physics **has been** my favourite subject since I was in school.

Some words ending in simply 's' are also taken as singular.

Some of th<mark>em are:</mark>

News, draughts, billiards, measles, etc.

There are some nouns that end in 's' that only exist in plural. Here are some of them:

Alms, amends, archives, arms (weapons), arrears, ashes, bowels, brains (meaning intelligence), contents, customs (the organization or duty), drawers, earnings, funds (money), goods, fireworks, guts, riches, nuptials, outskirts, odds, premises, stairs, surroundings, thanks, tidings, troops, tropics, valuables, wages, proceeds, etc.

#### <u>Unlike</u>

This can be both an adjective and a preposition. When they are used as either, they mean the same which is 'not similar to'.

**2 |** Page









*E.g.* It was a palace not unlike the one at Jaipur. (Preposition)

*E.g.* The sisters were completely unlike despite being raised up in the same house. (Adjective)

Can you tell how the word has been used here?

- 1. Adjective
- 2. Preposition

Leave your answer in the comments.

### Consumers'

Note the use of the apostrophe after the word. When we want to denote the possessive form in the plural word, we use the apostrophe after the word.

*E.g.* The girls' purses were stolen.

This means that there were more than one girl and all their purses were stolen.

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