

TIPS AND TECHNIQUES FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING VERBAL ANALOGY

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ABSTRACT

English vocabulary plays a vital role in succeeding in any competitive and entrance examinations. These examinations are mostly intended to scrutinize candidates and provide jobs in both government and private organizations and higher education facilities in national and international educational institutions. Whatever the purpose behind taking any competitive or entrance examination, it is very conspicuous that command over English vocabulary is very must. Keeping this fact in my mind, I start writing this paper focusing on one of the prominent vocabulary topics- analogy in which a learner can get a scope to touch all fields and sciences of animate and inanimate things in the universe. The topic- analogy touches all walks of human life, science and technology, religion and philosophy, history and literature, art and architecture, sociology and psychology. A learner has to learn about things from terrestrial to celestial to extraterrestrial worlds. A learner should have a thorough knowledge of all issues and things in the world as to solve analogy problems. In this paper I try to give maximum possible number of types of analogies.

KEYWORDS: Analogy, Purpose of Analogy, Kinds of Analogy, Solving Methods, Classification of Analogy

INTRODUCTION

Teaching or learning English vocabulary is very essential aspect for either teacher or learner. Since no competitive/ entrance examination is held without testing English vocabulary, aspirants of jobs or higher education in any premier institutions have to develop their vocabulary. One of the most reliable ways to teach or learn vocabulary is to learn analogies and practice them. The topic analogy helps both teacher and learner a lot to improve their vocabulary as it covers most of the areas viz. synonyms, antonyms, vocabulary related to persons, animals, birds, games and sports, institutions, professions, functions, countries, materials, substances and vocabulary of all sciences and technologies.

What is Analogy?

Analogy is comparison. OALD defines: Analogy is a comparison of one thing with another thing that has similar features; a feature that is similar. Analogies are of two types: 1) verbal analogy 2) nonverbal analogy. This paper focuses on verbal analogy. In this verbal analogy, the comparison of relation(s) is done as one thing (word) in the first pair is compared to another thing (word) in the second pair which has a similar quality or characteristic. The two things (words) may not belong to the same category or class or field or family. Since analogy is a comparison of quality or characteristic of things, *the comparing* and *the to be compared things* need not to be of same category. In standard exams, the test on analogy is done in pairs of words rather than between single words. Thus, one pair of words which is used to compare must be a familiar one so that the relation between the words in the second pair can be easily identified, understood and remembered.

Purpose of Analogy

Analogy is not only an instrument of learning vocabulary but it has a specific purpose. Analogy is used to introduce or explain the abstract and/or the remote meanings of words. It makes the process of teaching or learning meanings of words easier. Through analogy learners come to know the meaning of difficult or unknown words without referring to dictionaries or consulting teachers.

Kinds of Analogy Tests

Analogy test is not a mere test of vocabulary skills; it tests the ability to identify the relationship between words. The pairs of words have a certain logical relationship to each other. This relationship is of many types. To understand the relationship, the learner must have a vast knowledge of all sorts of issues and things. Command over mere English language vocabulary is not enough to solve analogy test, it requires a wide range of knowledge of all things and capability of analytical and logical thinking.

How to Solve an Analogy

In analogy test, generally two pairs of words will be given and out of the pairs; one pair misses one word. The missing word is to be picked up from the options (A, B, C, D or A, B, C, D, E). If the candidate has to find third term, he has to see that the third term must have the same kind of relation with the fourth term as the first term in the first pair has with the second term. For example:

Asia: largest: Mercury: _____

A) Brightest B) smallest C) deepest D) newest E) widest

Answer is option B

Understanding: Asia is the largest continent in the world and so Mercury is smallest planet in the solar system. The analogy is about the sizes of the two objects namely Asia and Mercury.

Classification of Analogies

The process of teaching and learning verbal analogy can be easier and more effective if we practice it in a systematic way. Classification of verbal analogy can be the first step in this process. The classification will be done basing on the function of the words. English words that are tested in analogy test can be divided into Vocabulary; Common and Collective nouns; Country related issues; Animal related issues; Professions or occupations; Cause and effects; Diseases related issues; Stones and Substance related issues; Games and Sports; Institutions or Organizations; Tools and Instruments, economical, political, geographical, space related issues etc.

Vocabulary

Under the vocabulary category analogy test is usually conducted on synonyms, antonyms, degree of intensity, part and whole, science, order/ stages of a process, fraction/ multiple, lists, act of killing, leftovers, types of invitations etc.

- **Synonym or Definition**

One term has similar meaning of the other.

For example gap: hiatus: evict: eject.

Understanding: In this analogy one term gives similar meaning or definition of the other.

- **Antonym or Contrast**

One term is opposite to another.

For example: separate: unite:: push pull

Understanding: In this analogy one term gives opposite meaning of the other or one term contrasts the other in each pair.

- **Degree of Intensity**

One term tells greater degree of the other.

For example: good: best:: noise: din

Understanding: The first term in each pair is beginning stage of a quality or state and the second term is the highest quality or state of the same thing.

- **Part-Whole / Whole-Part**

One term is part of the other.

For example: branch: tree:: soldier: army

Understanding: In this category, a word in a pair is a unit/ part of an organization/ institute/ body.

- **Object and the Science**

One term is the science of the other.

For example: earth: geology:: birds ornithology

Understanding: In this comparison, we can understand the first term in a pair is studied by the second term.

- **Order: Word Order or Order of Things or Process**

One term is a step before the other in process.

For example:

- Animal: boy man: caterpillar butterfly
- Things: dough: bread: decoction: tea

Understanding: The two terms in a pair are two stages in a process. The first term in a pair is the previous step or position of the second. One term in a pair comes before the other in a process or development of something.

- **Fraction or Multiple of Another**

One term is a division or multiple of the other.

For example: half: full:: fortnight: month

Understanding: One term is either half or double or triple of the other.

- **Things and Their Lists**

One term is the list of the other.

For example: glossary: words:: inventory goods

Understanding: In this analogy the comparison is done between the various lists and their contents.

- **Games and Sports Related Terminology**

One term belongs to the field of the other.

For example: silly point: cricket:: goal: hockey

Understanding: In this analogy the comparison is made between the various games and sports and their aspects.

- **Games and Sports and Titles of International Events**

One term is associated with other

For example: Wimbledon: Tennis:: Walker's cup: golf

Understanding: The first in a pair is the title of one of the major tournaments of the second one.

- **Word Tells the Act of Killing**

One term is the act of killing of the other.

For example: homicide: human:: ecocide: environment

Understanding: The first term in a pair implies the killing of the second one.

- **Remainders/Residues**

One term is a small piece of the other.

For example: lees: wine:: crumb: food

Understanding: The first in a pair is the leftover of the second one.

- **Halting Places of Vehicles**

One term is temporary staying place of the other.

For example: airport: aero plane:: harbor: ship

Understanding: The first term in a pair is the halting place of the second.

- **Important Unit/ Organ/ Part**

One term is an important unit of the other.

For example: vestry: church:: darkroom: studio

Understanding: The term is an important place in the second one.

- **Types of Invitations**

One term is a call for other.

For example: call letter: candidate:: subpoena: witness

Understanding: One term in a pair is a calling somebody to attend or not to attend

People/ Professionals

In this kind of analogy, we learn specific people/ professionals and what they do (name of profession); what they use; where they work; what they invent/ discover; what they prevent; their service in-charges, head of institutes etc.

- **Creator and The Name of His Creation**

One term is creator of another.

For example: explorer: discovery:: poet: verse

Understanding: One term in a pair is the common name of the creator and the other is also the common name for his creation.

- **Driver and His Vehicle/ Animal**

One term is the driver of the other.

For example:

- Vehicles: pilot: flight:: coxswain: lifeboat
- Animals: mahout: elephant:: jockey: horse

Understanding: One term in a pair is driver of the other with specific name.

- **Writer: Genre**

One term tells the writing fort of the other.

For example: Keats: ode:: Milton: epic

Understanding: One term is author and other is his writing.

- **Person / Material He Deals With**

One term is used by the other.

For example:

- People with people: doctor patient: coach sportsmen
- People with material: butcher meat: cobbler leather
- Things: tectonic earth's surface (building): lactometer milk

Understanding: The second term is the people/ raw material operated or used by a specific person to do specific job/ create something.

- **Person and Profession**

One term is the profession of the other.

For example: jockey: riding:: sculptor: carving

Understanding: A word in a pair is the action of the other.

- **Person and His Hobby**

One term is the hobby of the other.

For example: thrift: saving:: philatelist: collecting stamps

Understanding: In the analogy one term in a pair shows the hobby of the other.

- **Person and Where He Performs**

One term is platform on which the other performs.

For example: dancer: stage:: priest: pulpit

Understanding: The second term in a pair is particular place where the first term performs a specific performance.

- **Person and What He Requires**

One term requires the other.

For example:

- Atmosphere/ climate: hermit: solitude: intruder: secrecy
- Places: scientist laboratory: doctor clinic

Understanding: The first term in a pair requires the other (a specific atmosphere/circumstances or place) to do their job without being disturbed.

- **Person What He Prevents**

One word is the preventer of the other.

For example: police: crime:: sentry: encroachment

Understanding: A term (person) in a term prevents the other (action).

- **Player and His Instrument**

One term is the tool or instrument of the other.

For example: magician: wand:: guitarist: plectrum

Understanding: One term in a pair is a specific instrument used by the other.

- **Place and Its Head**

One term governs the other.

For example: conference: chairman:: company: CEO

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the head or representative of the first one.

- **People and Their Places**

One term indicates the working place of the other.

For example: hostess: aircraft:: clergy: church

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the place where the first one performs his duty.

- **People Work For Other**

One term works for the other.

For example: doctor: patient:: teacher: student

Understanding: The first deals with the other.

- **Person as In-Charge**

One person takes responsibility of an institution.

For example: museum: curator:: prison: jailor

Understanding: The first is supervised/ maintained by the second.

- **Creator and His Discovery/ Invention**

One term is the discovery of the other.

For example: Darwin: evolution:: Carl Wilhelm Scheele: Oxygen

Understanding: One term in a pair is the name of the creator and the second term is the name of his invention or discovery.

Common and Collective Nouns

In this category common nouns and collective nouns of various groups of things will be tested.

- **Object and Its Common Name**

One Term tells what other is.

For example: malaria: disease:: tomato: vegetable

Understanding: The second denotes the class to which the first belongs.

- **Thing and Its Kind**

One term tells about the kind or type of the other.

For example: man: animate:: rock: inanimate

Understanding: The first denotes the class to which the second belongs.

- **Thing and Its Collection**

One term is the collection of the other.

For example: flower: bunch:: stick: bundle

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the collective noun of the first term.

Beginning or Ending or Various Stages of a Process

In this kind of analogy a test will be on the beginning or the ending or a stage/ step of a process and sometimes the material and the end product.

- **The Beginning and The Ending**

One term is the starting or ending point of another.

For example: birth: death:: prologue: epilogue

Understanding: In this analogy if one term is the beginning of a process or a thing, the other is the ending.

- **Substance Related to End Product**

One term is ingredient for the other.

For example: wood: furniture:: ivory: tusks

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the end product of the first term.

Cause and Effect

In this analogy test the candidates may be asked questions how an emotion/ action/ position leads to a consequence or result.

Action/ Emotion/ Position and Its Consequence

One term is an attribute of the other or responsible for another.

For example:

- Emotions: laziness failure: angry enmity
- Action: cyclone disaster: malpractice debar
- Position: greenhouse pollution: power nepotism

Understanding: One word in a pair is responsible for happening the other or the resultant of the (action/practice of) other term.

Animals/ Birds: Their Food; Sounds, Meat; Significant Part – Animal-Baby-Male-Female

This type analogy test on animals and birds is a common one in the competitive and entrance examinations; aspirant should concentrate on these aspects such as classification of animals and birds basing on their living places, food and food habits, cries, etc. It is also very important that the learners should know about the particular names of baby-male-female of birds and animals.

- **Animal and Its Food Habit**

One term is the food habit of the other.

For example: tiger: carnivore:: elephant: herbivore

Understanding: Here in this analogy the division of animals has been done. The first term is determined as one sort basing on its food habit. The classification of animals/ birds is done basing food habits.

- **Animal/Bird and Its Natural Food**

One term is the food of the other.

For example: horse: mash:: cow grass

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the natural food of the first.

- **Animal and Type**

One term tells the active time of animal/ bird

For example: bat: nocturnal:: dog: diurnal

Understanding: In this type of analogy the comparison is done basing on the time of the animal/ creature when (night/day) it searches for food. The classification of animals/ birds is done basing on their treading time.

- **Animal and Its Life Style**

One term tells the living nature of the other.

For example: frog: amphibian:: crocodile: reptile

Understanding: Here the analogy is done with animal and their capacity of living in various places. The animals are identified with their natural living habits.

- **Animals And Their Living Places**

One term is the other's living place.

For example: horse stable: hare form

Understanding: One term in a pair is the name of the living place of the other.

- **Animal/ Plant and Its Artificial Place**

One term is used to keep and rise in the other.

For example: plants nursery: bird's aviary

Understanding: The second term is a temporary or artificial place where the first is preserved or reared for special purpose.

- **Animal and the Spheres it Lives in**

One term denotes the living place of the other.

For example: terrestrial man: celestial sun

Understanding: Here in this analogy the division of animals/things has been done. The first term determines the sort of animal/thing basing on its living sphere.

- **Animals and Their Sounds**

One term is the cry of another.

For example: dog bark: goat bleat

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the sound produced by the first one.

- **Animal and its Meat**

One term is the flesh of the other.

For example: beef cow: venison deer

Understanding: In this analogy one term is the flesh taken from the other.

- **Animal and with What it can be Recognized**

One term is description of the other.

For example:

- Animal: mustache man: hump camel
- Birds: capon cock: talon eagle

Understanding: One term is a significant part of the other by which the other can be identified.

- **Animal-Baby**

One term is the baby of the other.

For example: cow calf: ass/donkey: foal

Understanding: In this analogy the first term is parent and the second term is its baby.

- **Animal-Male**

One term is the male gender of the kind.

For example: bee drone: deer stag

Understanding: In this analogy the second term is a grown male being of the family.

- **Animal-Female**

One term is the female gender of the kind.

For example: tiger tigress: ass/donkey jenny

Understanding: In this analogy the second term is a grown female being of the family.

- **Animal-Collective Noun**

One term is collective name of the kind.

For example: sheep: fold: bee cast/ cluster/ colony/ drift

Understanding: In this analogy the second term is the class or family of the first one.

- **Familial Relations**

One term tells the familial relation of the other.

For example: wolf vulpine: monkey simian

Understanding: The second term indicates to which class/family the first term belongs to.

Diseases and Defects

Here the learner comes to know the analogy between disease and its factors like animals; bacteria, the organ effected by the disease.

- **Disease and Responsible Animal**

One term is responsible for the rise of another.

For example: mosquito malaria: dog rabies

Understanding: The first term (animal/ bird/ fly) is causes for the rise or spread of the second (disease).

- **Body Organ and its Disease/ Illness**

One term is the disease of the other.

For example: schizophrenia mind: eczema skin

Understanding: One term in a pair is an illness or disease of the other.

- **Organ and Its Defect**

One term is the absence of the faculty of the other.

For example: deaf ear: lame leg

Understanding: The first in a pair is the defect of the second one.

Highest, Longest, Biggest, Largest, Deepest, Smallest Of a Thing

In this analogy the highest, longest, biggest, largest, deepest, smallest of things, animals, birds, flies geographical monuments are discussed.

- **Highest, Longest, Biggest, Largest, Deepest, Smallest of the World**

One term tells the same measurement of the other.

For example: Mt. Everest Nile: Australia ameba

Understanding: The terms in a pair are longest/ tallest or shortest; largest/ biggest or smallest; highest, or deepest

of its kind.

- **Enormity in Size of Its Kind**

One term is the greatest like another in its own class.

For example: Giraffe whale, Nile ostrich

Understanding: Every term stands for its enormous size or length of its kind. The terms in each pair are of different family/ class/ field.

- **Thing and Its Minute Aspect**

One term is the smallest aspect of the other.

For example:

- Things: hill hillock: village hamlet
- Animal: man infant: horse pony
- Bird: bird nestling: eagle eaglet
- Tree: seed seedling: plant sampling

Understanding: One term is either the biggest or smallest version of the other.

Person and Tool – Tool and Material

In this kind of analogy learner will come to know the specific professionals use specific tools and various tools and the material they deal with.

- **Person and His Tool**

One term is a tool of another.

For example: gardener trowel: butcher bone saw

Understanding: One term in a pair is a specific tool used by specific professional to do a specific job.

- **Tools and Material They Deal With**

One term is used on the other.

For example: scissors cloth: wrench bolt

Understanding: One term in a pair is a specific instrument or tool used to deal with the other.

Functioning

Certain professionals do specific jobs as well as certain animals are used to certain purpose and we do certain work with help of certain tools and vehicles.

- **Function of People or Animals or Tools or Vehicles**

One term tells the other's function/ profession.

For example:

- People: lawyer argue: doctor diagnosis
- Animals: horse pull: bull plough
- Tools: gun shoot: needle stitch
- Vehicles tractor plough: crane lift

Understanding: The second term in a pair is a specific practice/ job done by the first term.

- **Institute/Organization and What It Deals With**

One thing deals with the other.

For example: bank money: gym fitness

Understanding: The transaction/ activity of the second is done through the first one.

Vehicle and Its Path

One term tells the path of another.

For example: bicycle land: ship water

Understanding: In this analogy one term tells the travelling path of the other.

Action or Symbol and What It Stands for

- **Action What It Stands for**

One term is an action that stands for a quality.

For example: adventure valour: flee cowardice

Understanding: A term in a pair is a state or position which reveals the character or quality of its doer.

- **Symbol What It Stands for**

One term stands for a quality, quantity or emotion etc.

For example: swastika Nazism: Cross Christianity

Understanding: One term in a pair is a symbol that stands for another (ism/ quality/ position).

Origin and Source

- **Object and Its Source**

One term is source or birth place of the other.

For example:

- Source: heat sun: fossil rock
- Birth place: fish egg: cub womb

Understanding: In this category, one term in a pair tells the origin of another or from where it comes.

- **Object/ Animal and What We Get From It**

One term is the producer of the other.

For example: sheep fur: buffalo milk

Understanding: A term in a pair is taken from the other.

- **Thing and Where It Grows**

One term grows in another.

For example: tree forest: honey flower

Understanding: The first term (is an animal/ plant that) grows in specifically in the second term (place).

- **Thing What We Get From It**

One term is the origin of another.

For example: brick clay: plaster of Paris: gypsum

Understanding: One term in a pair is either producer or product of the other.

Measuring Instrument and Evaluator

- **Thing and Its Measurement**

One term is measurement of another.

For example: liter petrol: seismograph earth quake

Understanding: The first term in a pair is a measuring unit of the other.

- **Thing and Its Evaluator**

One term estimates the value of the other.

For example: appraiser building: critic book

Understanding: The first term in a pair is a specified one to rate or comment on the second.

Stone or Substance and Its Colour

- **Stone and Its Colour**

One term shows the colour of the other.

For example: ruby red: sapphire blue

Understanding: One term in a pair is the colour of the other (stone).

- **Substance and Its Colour**

One term shows the colour of the other.

For example: mercury silver: sulphur: pale yellow

Understanding: One term in a pair is the colour of the other (substance).

- **Metal and Its Colour**

One term shows the colour of the other.

For example: gold yellow: bronze dark reddish-brown

Understanding: One term in a pair is the colour of the other (material).

Object and Its Function

In this classification, generally the analogy questions will be on various things (objects like emotions, substances, metals, gases etc.) regarding their functions.

- **Object and It Preserves**

One term preserves the other.

For example: formaldehyde biological specimens: salt meat

Understanding: In this analogy, we observe the relation between the terms in a pair is that one term preserves another.

- **Object and It Protects**

One term protects the other.

For example: cranium brain: glove hand

Understanding: One word in a pair protects the other from being diluted or decayed or protects the other from being infected by a specific harmful thing.

- **Object and It Prevents**

One term prevents the other.

For example: penicillin bacteria: conscience wrong

Understanding: In this analogy one term guides or prevents something bad happening.

- **Object and It Removes**

One term removes the other.

For example: detergent dirt: razor hair

- **Object and Its Location**

One term is location of another.

For example:

- Purposeful Location: flag pole: sword sheath

- Original Location: Substance: calcium bones: saliva glands
- Animal: Kiwi New Zealand: kangaroo Australia
- Bird: mynah Asia: nightingale Europe
- People: clerk office: lawyer court
- Vehicle: ship harbor: plane airport

Understanding: in this category, one term is a temporarily and purposeful location or the permanent location.

- **Object and Whom Its Attracts**

One term attracts another.

For example: flower butterfly: magnet iron

Understanding: There are certain animate or inanimate objects that attract particular other objects or things. That is a natural phenomenon.

- **Object and For What It is Used**

One term is used to produce the other.

For example: canvas painting: screen showing

Understanding: There are certain things which are used to do certain things.

- **Object and Its Seat**

One term is the seat of the other.

For example: pedestal statue: altar god

Understanding: The first term in a pair is particular place where the second term is placed.

- **Object and Its Requirement**

One term is necessary thing for the other.

For example: needle thread: gun bullet

Understanding: One term is required for the working of the other.

Activity Place

One term is place for the other.

For example: drama stage: fencing foil

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the place where the first is performed.

Types of Vegetables

In this type of analogy question will be on type of vegetables.

One term tells the kind of vegetable.

For example: cucumber fruit: cabbage leaf, potato root: mushroom fungus

Understanding: A term in a pair tells about the other what sort of vegetable such as leaf, bulb, fruit, root, flower, fungus etc. is.

Contents and Components

- **Thing and What It Contains**

One term consists of the second.

For example: ocean water: wardrobe clothes

Understanding: One term in a pair contains a massive number of the other.

- **Thing and Its Components**

One term is a part of the other.

For example: stock exchange shares: court penal code

Understanding: One term in a pair the component of the other.

Thing and Its Barrier

One term stops the other.

For example: success laziness: education illiteracy

Understanding: The second term is an obstacle for the first one.

Characteristic/ Nature

In this sort of analogy animals/ things are identified by their activities which are done characteristically or instinctively or naturally.

One term is characteristic of the other.

For example:

- Things: petrol burn: oxygen burn
- Animals: fox: cunning: scorpion sting

Understanding: In this type of analogy, a word in pair reveals the instinctive habit or characteristic of the other.

Genetic Association and Integral Parts

In this analogy test the comparison is tested on the genetic relations/ associations/ integral parts of objects.

- **Category or Type or Class**

One term has some association with the other; the association may be genetic, professional etc.

For example: tiger cat: spiders scorpions, priest nun: uncle nephew

Understanding: In this category the two words in a pair have close/ professional/ social/ regional/ religious association, family relations, and genetic relations with the other.

- **Integral Parts**

One term is a member like the other in the same unit or thing.

For example: hand leg: fin gill, teacher professor: lawyer judge

Understanding: In this analogy, we have seen that one term in a pair is an integral part of the other.

Country-Capital-Currency-Language- Animal-Parliament

In this type of analogy test questions will be on countries and their capitals, currencies, languages, parliaments etc.

Country-Capital

One term is the capital of the other.

For example: Russia Moscow: Canada Ottawa

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the capital of the first.

- **Country-Currency**

One term is the currency of the other.

For example: Belize Belize Dollar: Iran Rial

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the currency of the first.

- **Country-Language**

One term is the language of the other.

For example: Austria German: Cuba Spanish

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the official or majority people speaking language of the first.

- **Country-National Animal**

One term is the animal of the other.

For example: China dragon: Sri Lanka lion

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the national animal of the first.

- **Country-Parliament**

One term is the parliament of the other.

For example: Germany Bundestag: Japan diet

Understanding: The second term in a pair is the name of the national assembly of the first.

If Condition

If conditional analogy is a little bit different from the other analogies since the comparison is done differently. In this analogy the comparison is to be done between the first terms of the two pairs and between the second terms of the two pairs.

One term replaces another.

For example: ocean forest: wave's trees, bench troop judge's soldiers

Understanding: In this analogy the comparison is done as one term can be replaced by another.

Note: some terms or combination of terms may appear in different types of analogies for example kiosk mall; wind gale may come under smallest to biggest category as well as degree of intensity category. The overlap of terms is common in verbal analogy and thus the learner must be vigilant in solving them.

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