

## Family matters: On the Congress and the Gandhis

The Congress is looking at a new leadership, but the Gandhis must be neither **aloof** nor **meddling**

The Congress is all **set** to be led by someone who is not from the Nehru-Gandhi family, with Rahul Gandhi **making it clear** that he is in no mood to return as party president. The party will finalise the schedule for organisational elections at a meeting of the Congress Working Committee on Sunday. The family itself is leading the search for the replacement. Mr. Gandhi had resigned as president **following** the **drubbing** of the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha election. He had led the campaign, and he took responsibility for the failure; but also felt **let down** by party **seniors** who he thought **did** not fight the election with their mind and soul in it. By **turning down** the **pleas** of his **ardent** followers to return to the **helm**, he has challenged Congress leaders to adopt a new culture, moving away from the familiar habit of **relying** on the family as the **lifeblood** and a **façade** simultaneously. For the Congress party, this challenge is no less than the external challenge of **extinction** that it faces from the Bharatiya Janata Party. His **discomfort** with formal power **might** make him seem a **reluctant** politician, but he has expressed a desire to be in public life as **a matter of** his democratic duty.

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has **emerged** as the **front runner** for the post, for various reasons. Mr. Gehlot is an **astute** politician, a manager of conflicting interests, and deeply **embedded** in the Congress structure from the **grassroots** to the **pinnacle**. His **charm**, **accessibility**, clean image and **expertise** in **heartland** politics make him a **good fit**. He **wears** his loyalty to the Gandhi family **on his sleeve**, but remains acceptable to multiple groups within the Congress. If at all there is a **contest** for the post of party president, that will only enhance the **legitimacy** of the winner. However, with the Gandhi **siblings** in active politics, **the authority** that Mr. Gehlot or anyone else can **exercise** within the party as president **will** remain a complicated question. If Mr. Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra continue to remain active decision makers, as they have been in the recent past, the situation could **turn out** to be **chaotic**. Mr. Gandhi has done the honourable thing by refusing to **buckle under** pressure and return as president. But he, his sister, and their mother Mrs. Gandhi, should all have very clearly defined **contours** of involvement in the functioning of the party. A non-Gandhi at the helm can be a good attempt at **rebooting** the Congress, but **that** by itself **is** no guarantee of its **revival**. The new president should have the authority, legitimacy and vision to **infuse** new energy in the party. **Ironically**, the burden of ensuring that is upon none other than the Gandhi family, who will have to be supportive without being seen as interfering.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

1. **Aloof** (adjective) – distant, detached, unresponsive, remote, unapproachable  
अलग
2. **Meddling** (adjective) – Interfering  
हस्तक्षेपी
3. **Set** (adjective) – Be prepared or ready to do something तैयार
4. **Make clear** (phrase) – explain, elucidate, spell out, clarify स्पष्ट करना
5. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
6. **Drubbing** (noun) – defeat, beating, trouncing, rout, loss शिकस्त, हार
7. **Let down** (phrasal verb) – to cause someone to be disappointed, often because you have failed to do what you promised निराश करना
8. **Turn down** (phrasal verb) – reject, spurn, rebuff, refuse, decline अस्वीकार कर देना
9. **Plea** (noun) – appeal, entreaty, supplication, petition, prayer दलील
10. **Ardent** (adjective) – passionate, avid, impassioned, fervent, fervid, zealous, उत्साही
11. **Helm** (noun) – A position of leadership.
12. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend, count, bank, place reliance निर्भर होना
13. **Lifeblood** (noun) – the thing that is most important to the continuing success and existence of something else जीवनदान
14. **Façade** (noun) – a false appearance that makes someone or something seem more pleasant or better than they really are  
मुखौटा
15. **Extinction** (noun) – extermination, destruction, elimination, eradication, annihilation विलुप्त
16. **Discomfort** (noun) – inconvenience, difficulty, bother, nuisance, vexation असहजता
17. **Reluctant** (adjective) – unwilling, disinclined, unenthusiastic, grudging, resistant, अनिच्छुक
18. **A matter of** (phrase) – No more than की बात है
19. **Emerge** (verb) – come out, appear, come into view, become visible, उभरना
20. **Front runner** (noun) – The contestant that is leading in a race or other competition. सबसे आगे
21. **Astute** (adjective) – shrewd, sharp, sharp-witted, razor-sharp, acute चतुर, दक्ष
22. **Embedded in** (adjective) – firmly attached within something निहित

23. **Grassroots** (noun) – The most basic level of an activity or organization. जमीनी स्तर पर
24. **Pinnacle** (noun) – highest level, peak, height, high point, high spot, शिखर
25. **Charm** (noun) – attractiveness, appeal, allure आकर्षण
26. **Accessibility** (noun) – ease of access, availability, approachability पहुँच
27. **Expertise** (noun) – skill, skilfulness, expertness, prowess, proficiency, विशेषज्ञता
28. **Heartland** (noun) – an area where a large number of people support a particular political party and vote for it in an election
29. **Good fit** (noun) – to be perfect or qualified (for the job)
30. **Wear something on one's sleeve** (phrase) – To openly display or make known one's belief, value, emotion, or sentiment. (निष्ठा) खुले तौर पर प्रकट करना
31. **Contest** (noun) – A competition for a political position. प्रतियोगिता
32. **Legitimacy** (noun) – soundness, well-foundedness, reasonableness औचित्यपूर्णता, वैधता
33. **Sibling** (noun) – brother or sister भाई, बहिन
34. **Exercise** (verb) – use, employ, make use of, utilize, प्रयोग करना
35. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) – transpire, prove to be the case, emerge निकलना, होना
36. **Chaotic** (adjective) – disorderly, disordered, in disorder, in chaos, in disarray अराजक, अस्तव्यस्त
37. **Buckle under something** (phrase) – to be defeated by a difficult situation झुकना
38. **Contour** (noun) – outline, shape, form रूपरेखा
39. **Reboot** (verb) – reintroduce, re-establish, restore, resurrect, relaunch पुनर्स्थापित करना
40. **Revival** (noun) – comeback, bringing back, re-establishment, reintroduction पुनर्स्थान
41. **Infuse** (verb) – instil, breathe, inject, impart, inculcate, introduce, implant, add डालना
42. **Ironically** (adverb) – In an ironic manner. विडम्बना से

## Practice Exercise

**Direction (Q1 – Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words** [Editorial page]

- The Congress is looking at a new leadership, but the Gandhis must be neither aloof nor meddling.  
A. Remote  
B. Rogue  
C. Insatiable  
D. Egalitarian
- Mr. Gandhi had resigned as president following the drubbing of the Congress in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.  
A. Rancor  
B. Utilitarian  
C. Preclude  
D. Defeat
- Mr. Gehlot is an astute politician, a manager of conflicting interests, and deeply embedded in the Congress structure from the grassroots to the pinnacle.  
A. Aphorism  
B. Acme  
C. Equitable  
D. Sordid
- Idioms & Phrase**  
He splashed mud all over his car and clothes to lend credence to his story about being in the mountains all weekend.  
A. In the actual doing of something  
B. Accept as true  
C. Sufficient reason  
D. Become less serious or severe
- Direction: Six statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.**  
**In addressing the residents of Jammu for the first time since the removal of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a rosy picture of increased connectivity of the Union Territory with the nation's capital, promised more investments, and hailed the boom in tourism as a harbinger of progress.**  
P. The UT, conflict-ridden for decades, had fared better on several development indicators compared to the rest of India, except in per capita net State GDP.  
Q. exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021.  
R. Data from FY2017 showed that J&K ranked 21st among States then.  
S. The investment proposals and development projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister,

T. in particular the connectivity projects between Jammu and Srinagar and Jammu and Delhi should help shore up the UT's economy.

U. After a period of harsh lockdowns and communication restrictions, the UT went through a tough period,

Which among the following will be the **Fourth** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

- A. P                      B.T                      C.U                      D.Q                      E.R

**Direction (Q6 – Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6. A. The actor is out of jail, and not exactly a free man, since he will be under house arrest for an additional 90 days.  
B. Some players on the team suffer from chronic knee problems and will not play in the next playoff  
C. Sushma has wisdom, charm and a good sense of humour.  
D. They pulled down ten houses when they built the new road.  
E. All are correct
7. A. I request you to permit me to avoid the opportunity.  
B. If I were in your position, I would not have agreed to that.  
C. He needed several porters to carry all his luggage.  
D. Ravi told him that the Principal insisted on meet his son.  
E. All are correct
8. I went there (A)/ with a view to survey (B)/ the entire procedure(C)/ No error. (D)
9. He was present (A)/ in the court(B)/ to give witness (C)/ No Error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**  
A. Asphodel  
B. Jeopardize  
C. Incarserate  
D. Obsolescent

**Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.**

**(The Hindu Editorial: New hopes – Aug 09, 2022)**

Jagdeep Dhankhar will took oath **(A)**/ as the 14th Vice-President of the country **(B)**/ on Thursday, a day after the term **(C)**/ of the incumbent Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, ends. **(D)**

As the candidate of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA), he secured 528 votes of the 710 valid votes in the election held on Saturday. The Opposition candidate and Congress leader, Margaret Alva, got 182 votes, with the Trinamool Congress abstaining. Mr. Dhankhar's election was a foregone conclusion, as the NDA had a clear majority in the electoral college, which was further reinforced by the support of the Biju Janata Dal and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP). Mr. Dhankhar, a Jat leader from Rajasthan, has had stints in Delhi and the State, in the Janata Dal and the Congress, before he shifted to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in 2003. His appointment as the Governor of West Bengal

**pitched (A)** him into the national **limelight (B)** even as the BJP fought a **catapulted (C)** battle against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to take over the **reins (D)** of the State.

The TMC accused the Congress of not consulting it on Ms. Alva's nomination but that claim is unconvincing, and the entire episode has exposed the chinks in the Opposition armour. **(1)/** The help that he got from the TMC added a slice of intrigue to what was otherwise a predictable victory. **(2)/** A lawyer by training, he never pulled his punches, and combined political rhetoric and legal reasoning in frequent run-ins with the West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC. **(4)/** He faced charges of partisanship, but it all ended with the TMC mending fences with him ahead of his election as Vice-President; it obliquely supported him by abstaining from the polls. **(3)/** The Vice-President is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, a critical role anytime, and more so in the present situation of extreme hostility between the Government and the Opposition. Parliamentary proceedings have been continuously \_\_\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_\_, Members of Parliament have been suspended and there has been a complete breakdown of communication between the ruling BJP and the Opposition parties. The Government has repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_\_ the Rajya Sabha in the making of critical laws by **arbitrarily** classifying pieces of legislation as money Bills. The question is now before the Supreme Court. As Vice-President, Mr. Dhankhar will be expected to facilitate better relations between the ruling party and the Opposition parties and uphold the \_\_\_\_\_13\_\_\_\_\_ and the constitutional role of the House. It is not an easy task in the current scenario, but his initial moves will be eagerly awaited by everyone invested in parliamentary democracy. Mr. Dhankhar's \_\_\_\_\_14\_\_\_\_\_ as Vice-President will certainly help the BJP politically. His role as Chairman should be more to protect the Opposition's space, debates and ensure accountability of the executive. The inauguration of the new Vice-President should renew hopes for parliamentary democracy.

**Fill in the blank with the most appropriate word given in the option (From Q11 – Q14)**

11. Parliamentary proceedings have been continuously \_\_\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_\_, Members of Parliament have been suspended and there has been a complete breakdown of communication between the ruling BJP and the Opposition parties.
  - A. Exhaustive
  - B. Postulate
  - C. Stalled
  - D. Sedition
12. The Government has repeatedly \_\_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_\_ the Rajya Sabha in the making of critical laws by arbitrarily classifying pieces of legislation as money Bills.
  - A. Elusive
  - B. Bypassed
  - C. Circumlocution
  - D. Augmented
13. As Vice-President, Mr. Dhankhar will be expected to facilitate better relations between the ruling party and the Opposition parties and uphold the \_\_\_\_\_13\_\_\_\_\_ and the constitutional role of the House.

- A. Pragmatic  
B. Abnegating  
C. Cadence  
D. Majesty
14. Mr. Dhankhar's \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ as Vice-President will certainly help the BJP politically.  
A. Elevation  
B. Choleric  
C. Arcane  
D. Milieu
15. **The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.**  
Jagdeep Dhankhar will took oath (A)/ as the 14th Vice-President of the country (B)/ on Thursday, a day after the term (C)/ of the incumbent Vice-President, M. Venkaiah Naidu, ends. (D)  
A. (A)  
B. (B)  
C. (C)  
D. (D)  
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**  
The TMC accused the Congress of not consulting it on Ms. Alva's nomination but that claim is unconvincing, and the entire episode has exposed the chinks in the Opposition armour. (1)/ The help that he got from the TMC added a slice of intrigue to what was otherwise a predictable victory. (2)/ A lawyer by training, he never pulled his punches, and combined political rhetoric and legal reasoning in frequent run-ins with the West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC. (4)/ He faced charges of partisanship, but it all ended with the TMC mending fences with him ahead of his election as Vice-President; it obliquely supported him by abstaining from the polls. (3)/  
A. 1234  
B. 4312  
C. 3214  
D. 3241  
E. 2314
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence (S) that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence  
**ARBITRARILY**  
(i) The rules of due process were designed to ensure that the government cannot **arbitrarily** imprison innocent people.  
(ii) In particular, no one may be **arbitrarily** arrested and detained.  
(iii) The business is expanding **arbitrarily**.

- A. Only (i)
- B. Only (ii)
- C. Only (iii)
- D. (i), (ii)
- E. (ii), (iii)

18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.

His appointment as the Governor of West Bengal **pitched (A)** him into the national **limelight (B)** even as the BJP fought a **catapulted (C)** battle against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to take over the **reins (D)** of the State.

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – C
- D. D – C
- E. No arrangement

19. Select the connector from the given options which can be used to form a single sentence from the two sentences given below, implying the same as expressed in the statement sentence.

- (i) Thunderstorms brought the first significant rainfall in weeks to the UK
  - (ii) Belfast international airport received 88.2mm in a matter of hours, more than the region's monthly July average.
- A. Whereas
  - B. Although
  - C. As
  - D. Unless
  - E. Because

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I make it a point never to intrude myself \_\_\_\_\_ other people's personal affairs.

- A. Of
- B. Into
- C. On
- D. To
- E. None of the above



## Answers

1. A    2. D    3. B    4. B    5. B    6. A    7. E    8. B    9. B    10. C    11. C    12. B  
 13. D    14. A    15. A    16. B    17. D    18. A    19. C    20. B    **[Practice Exercise]**

## Explanations

4. **Give/lend credence to** (phrase) – Accept as true. विश्वास /यकीन करना.  
 5. **PRSTUQ**

In addressing the residents of Jammu for the first time since the removal of special status for Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid out a rosy picture of increased connectivity of the Union Territory with the nation's capital, promised more investments, and hailed the boom in tourism as a harbinger of progress. The UT, conflict-ridden for decades, had fared better on several development indicators compared to the rest of India, except in per capita net State GDP. Data from FY2017 showed that J&K ranked 21st among States then. The investment proposals and development projects inaugurated by the Prime Minister, in particular the connectivity projects between Jammu and Srinagar and Jammu and Delhi should help shore up the UT's economy. After a period of harsh lockdowns and communication restrictions, the UT went through a tough period, exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic between 2019 and 2021.

6. 'and not exactly a free man' के बदले 'but not exactly a free man' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'and' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः दो ideas को जोड़ने के लिए होता है जबकि 'but' का दो ideas के बीच विपरीत परिस्थितियों का बोध कराने के लिए; जैसे-

- i. He is intelligent and laborious.
- ii. He is rich but dishonest

➤ 'and not exactly a free man' will be replaced with 'but not exactly a free man' because 'and' is generally used to connect two ideas while 'but' is the opposite of two ideas to make sense of the circumstances; As-

- i. He is intelligent and laborious.
- ii. He is rich but dishonest.

8. 'with a view to survey' के बदले 'age with a view to surveying' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'with a view to / look forward to + V4' का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-

- i. She works very hard with a view to winning this prize.
- ii. I look forward to seeing you in Delhi.

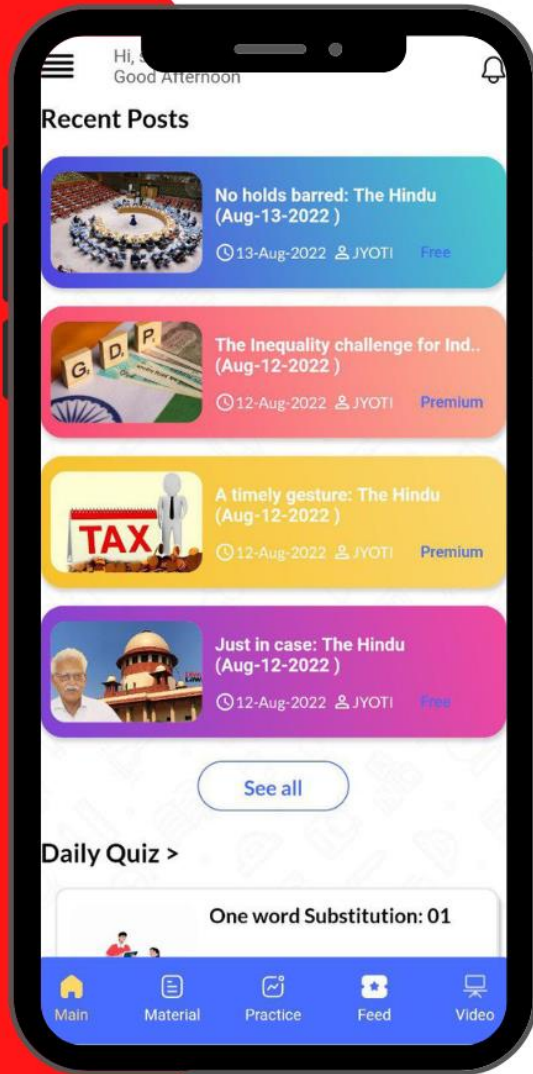
➤ 'age with a view to surveying' will be used instead of 'with a view to survey', because 'with a view to / look forward to + V4' is used; As-

- i. She works very hard with a view to winning this prize.
- ii. I look forward to seeing you in Delhi.

9. 'in the court' के बदले 'in court' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि 'न्यायिक प्रक्रिया' के लिए 'court' (न्यायालय) शब्द का प्रयोग हो तो 'in court, go to court, take some body to court, settle out of court' का प्रयोग होता है अर्थात् 'court' के पहले 'the' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है; देखें-
- Four people appear in court today, charged with fraud.
  - He was summoned to appear in court as a witness.
- 'in the court' shall be replaced with 'in court' because if the word 'court' is used for 'judicial process', then 'in court, go to court, take some body to court, settled out of court is used, ie, 'the' is not used before 'court'; see-
- Four people appear in court today, charged with fraud.
  - He was summoned to appear in court as a witness.
10. **Incarcerate** (verb) – imprison, put in prison, send to prison, jail, lock up, take into custody कैद करना
11. **Stall** (verb) – obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, रोकना
12. **Bypass** (verb) – avoid, evade, dodge, escape, elude, circumvent दरकिनार करना
13. **Majesty** (noun) – stateliness, dignity, magnificence, pomp, solemnity, महिमा
14. **Elevation** (noun) – promotion, upgrading, advancement, advance, उन्नति
15. (A) Replace 'Take' with 'Took' as V<sup>1</sup> is used after the Modal verbs (i.e. must, should, could, will, may, might, etc)
16. (B) **4312**  
A lawyer by training, he never pulled his punches, and combined political rhetoric and legal reasoning in frequent run-ins with the West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC. He faced charges of partisanship, but it all ended with the TMC mending fences with him ahead of his election as Vice-President; it obliquely supported him by abstaining from the polls. The TMC accused the Congress of not consulting it on Ms. Alva's nomination but that claim is unconvincing, and the entire episode has exposed the chinks in the Opposition armour. The help that he got from the TMC added a slice of intrigue to what was otherwise a predictable victory.
17. **Arbitrarily** (adverb) – Without restraint in the use of authority; autocratically. मनमाने ढंग से  
According to the given options only (i) & (ii) are contextually correct.
18. His appointment as the Governor of West Bengal catapulted him into the national limelight even as the BJP fought a pitched battle against the Trinamool Congress (TMC) to take over the reins of the State.
19. **As** thunderstorms brought the first significant rainfall in weeks to the UK, Belfast international airport received 88.2mm in a matter of hours, more than the region's monthly July average.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Rogue</b>	noun	Criminally dishonest person; a scoundrel	दुष्ट
	<b>Insatiable</b>	adjective	Hard or impossible to satisfy; greedy; avaricious	लालची
	<b>Egalitarian</b>	adjective	Believing in the social and economic equality of all people	समानाधिकारवादी
Q2	<b>Rancor</b>	noun	Bitter; long lasting ill will or resentment	मनमुटाव, द्वेष
	<b>Utilitarian</b>	adjective	stressing usefulness or utility above all other qualities; pragmatic	उपयोगी
	<b>Preclude</b>	verb	To prevent something from ever happening	रोकना
Q3	<b>Aphorism</b>	noun	A belief, often witty saying; a proverb	कहावत, वचन
	<b>Equitable</b>	adjective	Fair	समान
	<b>Sordid</b>	adjective	Vile; filthy; squalid	घिनौना
Q11	<b>Exhaustive</b>	adjective	Thorough; rigorous; complete; painstaking	संपूर्ण, विस्तृत, मेहनती
	<b>Postulate</b>	noun	Something accepted as true without proof an axiom	स्वयं सिद्ध मान लेना
	<b>Sedition</b>	noun	Treason; the incitement of public disorder or rebellion	देशद्रोह
Q12	<b>Elusive</b>	adjective	Hard to pin down; evasive	मायावी, कपटपूर्ण
	<b>Circumlocution</b>	noun	An indirect expression; use of wordy or evasive language	कपटपूर्ण बातें
	<b>Augment</b>	verb	To make bigger; to add to; to increase	बढ़ाना,
Q13	<b>Pragmatic</b>	adjective	Practical; down to earth; based on experience rather than theory	व्यावहारिक
	<b>Abnegate</b>	verb	To deny oneself things; to reject; to renounce	अस्वीकार करना
	<b>Cadence</b>	noun	Rhythm; the rise and fall of sounds	ताल, स्वर का घटाना
Q14	<b>Choleric</b>	adjective	Hot tempered; quick to anger	चिड़चिड़ा
	<b>Arcane</b>	adjective	Mysterious; known only to a select few	रहस्यमय
	<b>Milieu</b>	noun	Environment; surroundings	परिवेश



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

