

Turning inward: On the rise of far-right parties in Europe

In Europe, the **far-right** is **tapping into** the public **disgruntlement** with the **establishment**

Sunday's parliamentary elections in Italy were seen as the first major test of Europe's **resolve** to keep the anti-establishment far-right away from power **amid** a **devastating** cost-of-living crisis and **rocketing** energy prices **aggravated** by Russia's **invasion** of Ukraine and the West's **retaliatory sanctions** on Moscow. However, **the results**, which saw Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy emerging as the biggest **vote getter**, **underscored** the trend in the continent where far-right parties are on the rise, **channelising** growing public disgruntlement with the establishment. In the French presidential election in April, Marine Le Pen **secured** some 41.5% vote, the far-right's best post-War performance in the country. In the Swedish general election earlier this month, the **government** of Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson **was voted out** and the far-right Sweden Democrats **emerged** as the second largest party. And in Italy, a **party** with **neo-fascist** origins **is** going to form the next government, which would be the country's farthest right administration since the **fall** of fascist **dictator** Benito Mussolini in 1945. When most of the votes were counted, the Brothers of Italy won some 26% vote in both Houses of Parliament. Ms. Meloni's **coalition**, which includes Matteo Salvini's League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, **has** secured some 44% of votes.

The Brothers of Italy has been known for its **anti-immigrant**, hard nationalist, **protectionist**, **Euro-sceptic** views. **Ms. Meloni**, who **took over the reins** in 2014, **toned down** its neo-fascist roots and **embraced** a more acceptable version of **populism** — a **cocktail** of social **conservatism** and economic **welfarism**. Her **decision** not to join Mario Draghi's outgoing **technocratic** government also **seemed** to have helped her **turn around** the party's **prospects**. While most key parties, from the Left to the Right, supported Mr. Draghi's **pro-business**, pro-Brussels government in the name of **stability**, the Brothers of Italy remained the only opposition party. And when the cost-of-living crisis and internal **divisions** hit the Draghi administration and the country **slid into** another election, she **stood to gain** the most. The road ahead is not going to be easy **given** Italy's economic problems, divisions within her coalition and foreign policy challenges, including Ukraine. But the rise of the Brothers should **set alarm bells ringing** across European capitals. More European countries could fall into **recession**. The energy crisis is expected to be worse during winter and there is **no end in sight** to the Ukraine war. If Europe's establishment parties and governments fail to **check** the **looming** economic troubles and **address** growing **discontent**, the far-right will continue to **exploit** the political **momentum**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Inward** (adjective) – Of, relating to, or existing in the thoughts or mind:
2. **On the rise of** (phrase) – becoming more successful.
3. **Far-right** (adjective) – belonging to or representing the views of the extreme right wing of a political party or group.
4. **Tap into** (phrasal verb) – capitalize on, use, utilize, exploit, take advantage लाभ उठाना
5. **Disgruntlement** (noun) – dissatisfaction, displeasure, discontent, resentment, indignation असंतोष
6. **Establishment** (noun) – Government, ruling class, system, authority शासक-वर्ग
7. **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, steadfastness, tenacity, doggedness, firmness संकल्प
8. **Amid** (preposition) – among, between, amidst, के बीच
9. **Devastating** (adjective) – destructive, ruinous, disastrous, withering, crushing भयानक
10. **Rocketing** (adjective) – Increasing rapidly, soaring, shooting up बढ़ते
11. **Aggravate** (verb) – Make worse बिगाड़ देना
12. **Invasion** (noun) – Attack, assault, incursion, raid, foray आक्रमण
13. **Retaliatory** (adjective) – retributive, vindictory, retributory, vengeful मुंहतोड़, प्रतिशोध का
14. **Sanction** (noun) – Restriction, penalty, ban, injunction प्रतिबंध
15. **Vote getter** (noun) – something that will win votes because it is popular with the voters वोट पाने वाले
16. **Underscore** (verb) – emphasize, underline, stress, highlight जोर देना
17. **Channelise** (verb) – send from one person or place to another
18. **Secure** (verb) – obtain, acquire, get, procure प्राप्त करना
19. **Vote out** (phrasal verb) – to dismiss somebody from a position by voting
20. **Emerge** (verb) – appear, arise, come out उभरना
21. **Neo-fascist** (adjective) – of, relating to, or characterized by neo-fascism
22. **Neo-fascism** (noun) – any of various political movements or beliefs inspired by or reminiscent of fascism or Nazism
23. **Fall** (noun) – a (political) defeat; a failure (राजनीतिक) पराजय; विफलता

24. **Dictator** (noun) – tyrant, despot, autocrat, oppressor, authoritarian तानाशाह
25. **Coalition** (noun) – alliance, union, league, federation, association गठबंधन
26. **Anti-immigrant** (adjective) – nationalist, jingoist, chauvinistic; opposed to immigrants आप्रवासी विरोधी
27. **Protectionist** (adjective) – relating to actions by a government to help its country's trade or industry by taxing goods bought from other countries संरक्षणवादी
28. **Euroceptic** (adjective) – relating to something which opposes closer connections between Britain and the European Union
29. **Take over the reins** (noun) – to take control of something, especially an organization or a country: बागडोर संभालना
30. **Tone down** (phrasal verb) – to make something less forceful or offensive, मंद करना
31. **Embrace** (verb) – Accept, include, encompass, incorporate, contain अपनाना
32. **Populism** (noun) – political ideas and activities that are intended to get the support of ordinary people by giving them what they want लोकलुभावनवाद
33. **Cocktail** (noun) – a mixture of different things
34. **Conservatism** (noun) – a tendency to preserve traditional values and oppose change, esp. in politics रूढ़िवाद
35. **Welfarism** (noun) – the principles or policies associated with a welfare state. कल्याणवाद
36. **Technocratic** (adjective) – relating to or characterized by the government or control of society or industry by an elite of technical experts.
37. **Turn around** (phrasal verb) – Improve, boost, increase, bump up
38. **Prospect** (noun) – The possibility of future success संभावना
39. **Pro-** (prefix) – in support of, in favor of समर्थक-
40. **Stability** (noun) – Constancy, steadiness, firmness, solidity, permanence स्थिरता
41. **Division** (noun) – the separation of something into different parts; the sharing of something between different people, groups, places, etc. विभाजन; बँटवारा
42. **Slide into** (phrasal verb) – to gradually start to experience an unpleasant or difficult situation
43. **Stand to gain** (phrase) – to be in a situation where you can get an advantage:
44. **Given** (preposition) – Considering , bearing into mind, taking into consideration देखते हुए

45. **Set alarm bells ringing** (phrase) – to make someone feel worried or concerned about something
46. **Recession** (noun) – regression, depression, downturn, slump, decline मंदी
47. **No end in the sight** (phrase) – No foreseeable end or conclusion to something
48. **Check** (verb) – curb, control, stop, restrain, impede रोकना
49. **Looming** (adjective) – about to happen soon and causing worry मंडराता
50. **Address** (verb) – tackle, handle, deal with, attend to निपटना
51. **Discontent** (noun) – dissatisfaction, discontentment, discontented, displeasure, unhappy असंतोष
52. **Exploit** (verb) – Use or manipulate to one's advantage लाभ उठाना
53. **Momentum** (noun) – impetus, impulse, energy, force, push गति

Practice Exercise

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

1. In Europe, the far-right is tapping into the public disgruntlement with the establishment
 - A. Deference
 - B. Tangible
 - C. Dissatisfaction
 - D. Frenetic
2. Ms. Meloni, who took over the reins in 2014, toned down its neo-fascist roots and embraced a more acceptable version of populism
 - A. Precursor
 - B. Confluence
 - C. Consensus
 - D. Accept
3. The West's retaliatory sanctions on Moscow
 - A. Revengeful
 - B. Salutary
 - C. Verisimilitude
 - D. Pacify

4. Idioms & Phrase

The government's use of drone strikes and artillery bombing on the town to wipe out a tiny faction of rebels is totally unjustifiable—who breaks a butterfly upon a wheel?

- A. Compel someone to leave a job or position, especially by indirect means.
 - B. Adopt a fast pace in a race in order to tire out one's opponents quickly.
 - C. To apply an excessive amount of force to achieve something minor, unimportant, or insignificant.
 - D. To fall into difficulty
5. **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.**
- Despite concerns, the asset quality of the Indian banking system has continued to improve.**
- P.** while for the latter, the figure is lower at 3.7 per cent — the improvement is broadbased.
- Q.** While public sector banks continue to be more stressed than private banks — for the former, bad loans stood at 7.6 per cent of advances,
- R.** According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest financial stability report,
- S.** gross non-performing loans (GNPAs) of the banking system have declined from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022.
- T.** This is good news.
- U.** Alongside, banks have also witnessed an improvement in their capital position, with the capital to risk weighted assets ratio rising to 16.7 per cent at the end of March 2022.

Which among the following will be the **Third** 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. Some of the richest business magnates live in Mumbai.
B. When I heard footsteps behind me, I was being scared that I would be attacked.
C. This is an urgent matter which may admit of no delays.
D. Outside, the rain beats down in floods and the sea gives forth a sound of alarm bells.
E. All are correct
7. A. Computers give us an easier access to information.
B. I don't have any money to spend on luxuries.
C. The youth did not dare to venture with the sea as it was a high tide.
D. I was the first to reach the school today.
E. All are correct
8. A young sales manager (A)/ who is about to resign his job (B)/ despite his success (C)/ in the organisation. (D)/ No error (E)
9. The difference between successful person (A)/ and others is not (B)/ a lack of knowledge (C)/ but a lack of will. (D)/ No error (E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Privilege
 - B. vanquishing
 - C. Enduarance
 - D. Confederate

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

(The Hindu Editorial: A matter of trust – Sep 06, 2022)

The Hemant Soren government in Jharkhand has proved its majority amid the continuing uncertainty over the Chief Minister's membership of the State Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Soren is accused to **(A)**/ allotting a mining lease to himself, **(B)**/ an act that can potentially cost **(C)**/ him his Assembly seat. **(D)**

In the 81-member strong Assembly, the ruling alliance of Mr. Soren's Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, the Congress, NCP, RJD and CPI (M-L) had 48 votes in Tuesday's vote of confidence, a comfortable majority. With 26 seats, the BJP has been left far behind but it has continued nurturing hope of seizing power that it had not won in the polls. The JMM-led alliance has been _____ **11** _____ despite its numerical dominance in the face of the BJP's constant threats of sabotage. _____ **12** _____ regarding an ongoing scheme to **upend** the State government, as in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, came to the _____ **13** _____ with the arrest of three Congress MLAs in neighbouring West Bengal on July 30 with cash that they allegedly received for defecting. With the sword of disqualification hanging over the head of the CM, the ruling alliance managed to keep it

MLAs together and initiated a confidence motion. The BJP appears to have developed second _____14_____, and is unsure of its strategy to deal with Mr. Soren. The last word has not been said, but for now, the Soren government — and the alliance — has survived. Governor Ramesh Bais's silence regarding Mr. Soren's disqualification as MLA is **confounding (A)** — or perhaps too transparent — for it mirrors the **ambiguity (B)** of the BJP. Mr. Bais is expected to announce whether Mr. Soren **stands (C)** disqualified, taking into consideration the **opinion (D)** of the Election Commission of India (ECI) that he had received in August. There is no official word from the Governor on the ECI's letter, but State BJP leaders are confident that the disqualification has been recommended. The process was triggered in February 2022 when the BJP complained to the Governor that Mr. Soren had got a mining lease from the State, and hence was in violation of Section 9(A) of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. There are several questions that will naturally follow if he were to be disqualified, the most important of them being whether he would be able to continue as Chief Minister.

A more immediate question of impropriety is the Governor's refusal to announce his decision and end the uncertainty, at least on one question. **(1)/** However, it would not be proper for a person who is disqualified as MLA for violating the law to continue as Chief Minister using a technical fig leaf. **(2)/** A Chief Minister can be in office without being a member of the legislature for up to six months. **(3)/** A Governor has no reason to try to tilt the scales in favour of or against any political party, through acts of omission or commission. **(4)/** Mr. Bais should take a decision and announce it at once. **(5)/**.

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

11. The JMM-led alliance has been _____11_____ despite its numerical dominance in the face of the BJP's constant threats of sabotage.
 - A. Cosmopolitan
 - B. Strife
 - C. Scintillating
 - D. Wobbly
12. _____12_____ regarding an ongoing scheme to upend the State government, as in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra
 - A. Precursors
 - B. Whispers
 - C. Sanguine
 - D. Salutory
13. Came to the _____13_____ with the arrest of three Congress MLAs in neighbouring West Bengal on July 30 with cash that they allegedly received for defecting
 - A. Patriarch
 - B. Benefactor
 - C. Fore
 - D. Heresy
14. The BJP appears to have developed second _____14_____, and is unsure of its strategy to deal with Mr. Soren.
 - A. Laconic

- B. Cognizant
C. Lugubrious
D. Thoughts
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.**
Mr. Soren is accused to **(A)**/ allotting a mining lease to himself, **(B)**/ an act that can potentially cost **(C)**/ him his Assembly seat. **(D)**
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
A more immediate question of impropriety is the Governor's refusal to announce his decision and end the uncertainty, at least on one question. **(1)**/ However, it would not be proper for a person who is disqualified as MLA for violating the law to continue as Chief Minister using a technical fig leaf. **(2)**/ A Chief Minister can be in office without being a member of the legislature for up to six months. **(3)**/ A Governor has no reason to try to tilt the scales in favour of or against any political party, through acts of omission or commission. **(4)**/ Mr. Bais should take a decision and announce it at once. **(5)**/
- A. 32145
B. 54123
C. 23415
D. 21435
E. 32541
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
- UPEND**
- (i) We have no intention of launching a pre-emptive strike, but we will retaliate if **upended**.
(ii) She **upended** the chessboard halfway through the game because she was losing.
(iii) Or should it be **upended**?
- 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.

Governor Ramesh Bais's silence regarding Mr. Soren's disqualification as MLA is **confounding (A)** — or perhaps too transparent — for it mirrors the **ambiguity (B)** of the BJP. Mr. Bais is expected to announce whether Mr. Soren **stands (C)** disqualified, taking into consideration the **opinion (D)** of the Election Commission of India (ECI) that he had received in August.

- 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) Akshit always studied for his English exams
 - (ii) He always scored full marks
- A. Whereas
 - B. Although
 - C. Further
 - D. Unless
 - E. Therefore

20. **Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks**

Keep aloof _____ bad boys.

- A. Of
- B. From
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Break a butterfly upon a wheel** (phrase) – To apply an excessive amount of force to achieve something minor, unimportant, or insignificant.
5. **RSQPUT**
 Despite concerns, the asset quality of the Indian banking system has continued to improve. According to the Reserve Bank of India's latest financial stability report, gross non-performing loans (GNPAs) of the banking system have declined from 7.4 per cent in March 2021 to a six-year low of 5.9 per cent in March 2022. While public sector banks continue to be more stressed than private banks — for the former, bad loans stood at 7.6 per cent of advances, while for the latter, the figure is lower at 3.7 per cent — the improvement is broadbased. Alongside, banks have also witnessed an improvement in their capital position, with the capital to risk weighted assets ratio rising to 16.7 per cent at the end of March 2022. This is good news.
6. 'me' के बदले 'myself' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि वाक्य का subject और किसी verb या किसी preposition का object एक ही व्यक्ति हो तो उस verb या preposition के बाद आने वाला pronoun अपने reflexive form में होता है; जैसे-
- She hurt herself.
 - She laughed at herself
- 'myself' will be used instead of 'me' because if the subject of a sentence and the object of a verb or a preposition are the same person, then the pronoun that comes after that verb or preposition is in its reflexive form; like-
- She hurt herself.
 - She laughed at herself.
7. 'with' के बदले 'into' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'venture' (जोखिम उठाना, साहस करना) के साथ 'with' का प्रयोग नहीं होता है, बल्कि, 'venture into something' का प्रयोग होता है।
- 'Into' will be used instead of 'with' because 'with' is not used with 'venture' (to take a risk, to dare), but 'venture into something'.
8. 'who' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है क्योंकि वाक्य में एक ही clause है जिसका subject 'A young sales manager' है तथा इसका verb 'is' है।
- The use of 'who' is unnecessary because there is only one clause in the sentence whose subject is 'A young sales manager' and its verb is 'is'.
9. 'successful' के पहले 'article 'A' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'successful' एक adjective है और इसके बाद 'person' एक singular countable noun है। अतः सही प्रयोग 'a successful person' होगा। noun

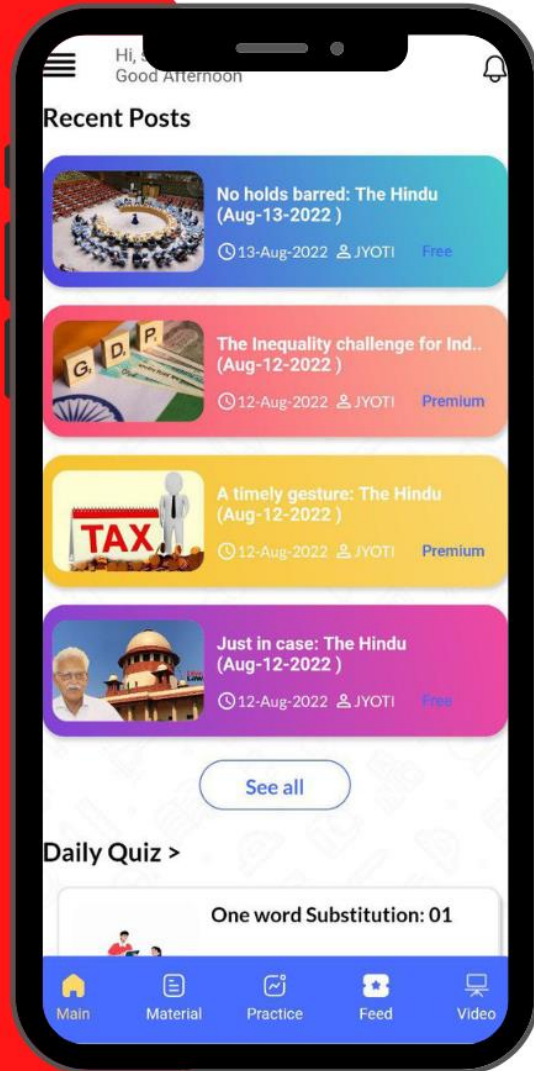
'person' को यदि plural बना दिया जाए तब भी वाक्य शुद्ध हो जाएगा। अर्थात् 'a successful person' के बदले 'successful persons' का प्रयोग भी किया जा सकता है।

➤ The article 'A' will be used before 'successful' because 'successful' is an adjective and after 'person' is a singular countable noun. Hence the correct usage would be 'a successful person'. If the noun 'person' is made plural, then the sentence will be correct. That is, 'successful persons' can also be used instead of 'a successful person'.

10. **Endurance** (noun) – The power to withstand hardship or stress सहनशीलता
11. **Wobbly** (adjective) – shaky, unsteady, rickety, unstable लड़खड़ाहट
12. **Whisper** (noun) – Murmur, Rumor कानाफूसी
13. **Come to the fore** (phrase) – make oneself visible; take action सामने आ जाना
14. **Second thoughts** (noun) – a change of mind or opinion about something; doubts that you have when you are not sure if you have made the right decision किए गए निर्णय के सही होने में संदेह
15. 'to' के बदले 'of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Accuse + Of' is used.
16. (A) **32145**
A Chief Minister can be in office without being a member of the legislature for up to six months. However, it would not be proper for a person who is disqualified as MLA for violating the law to continue as Chief Minister using a technical fig leaf. A more immediate question of impropriety is the Governor's refusal to announce his decision and end the uncertainty, at least on one question. A Governor has no reason to try to tilt the scales in favour of or against any political party, through acts of omission or commission. Mr. Bais should take a decision and announce it at once.
17. **Upend** (verb) – to set on end; invert, overturn पलटना
According to the given options only (ii) and (iii) are contextually correct.
Because the (i) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentence should be like
We have no intention of launching a pre-emptive strike, but we will retaliate if provoked.
18. Governor Ramesh Bais's silence regarding Mr. Soren's disqualification as MLA is confounding – or perhaps too transparent – for it mirrors the ambiguity of the BJP. Mr. Bais is expected to announce whether Mr. Soren stands disqualified, taking into consideration the opinion of the Election Commission of India (ECI) that he had received in August.
19. Akshit always studied for his English exams, **therefore**, he always scored full marks

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Deference	noun	Submission to another's will; respect; courtesy	सम्मान, आदर
	Tangible	adjective	Touchable; palpable	मूर्त
	Frenetic	adjective	Frantic; frenzied	उत्तेजित, क्रोधित
Q2	Precursor	noun	Forerunner; something that goes before and anticipates or paves the way for whatever it is that follows.	अग्रगामी
	Confluence	noun	Flowing together, especially of rivers; the place where they begin to flow together.	संगम, मिलाप, संप्रवाह
	Consensus	noun	Unanimity or general argument	आम सहमति
Q3	Salutary	adjective	Healthful; remedial; curative	लाभदायक, स्वास्थ्यप्रद
	Verisimilitude	noun	Similarity to reality; the appearance of truth; looking the real thing.	संभाव्यता, मुमकिनि
	Pacify	verb	To calm someone down; to placate	शांत करना
Q11	Cosmopolitan	adjective	At home in many places or situations; internationally sophisticated	सर्वदेशीय, सार्वलौकिक
	Strife	noun	Bitter conflict; Discord; a struggle or clash	कलह
	Scintillate	verb	To sparkle, either literally or figuratively	चमकना
Q12	Precursor	noun	Forerunner; something that goes before and anticipates or paves the way for whatever it is that follows.	अग्रगामी
	Sanguine	adjective	Cheerful; optimistic; hopeful	आशावादी
	Salutary	adjective	Healthful; remedial; curative	लाभदायक,
Q13	Patriarch	noun	The male head of a family or tribe	कुलपति
	Benefactor	noun	On who provide help, especially in the form of a gift or donation	दान देनेवाला
	Heresy	noun	Any belief that is strongly opposed to established belief.	विरुद्ध मत, मतान्तर
Q14	Laconic	adjective	Using few words, especially to the point of seeming rude.	संक्षिप्त
	Cognizant	adjective	Aware; conscious	जानकार, परिचित
	Lugubrious	adjective	Exaggeratedly mournful	शोकाकुल



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