

## Separately together

Opposition parties are too divided on several issues to form a national **alternative** to the Bharatiya Janata Party

With the 2024 Lok Sabha election 19 months away, the **chorus** on Opposition **unity is** getting louder once more. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the last one month has already been to Delhi twice, **crooning** the **anthem** to bring everyone together. He is not the only one singing this song. Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao has travelled to Delhi, Patna and Bengaluru to **explore** an **anti-Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) front**. The **Left parties** routinely **call for** uniting all “**secular** democratic forces” without really **spelling out** who will come within this **bracket**. But despite these **parleys**, the **possibility** of a 1977-type Opposition **alliance is** unlikely to **materialise**. At an event organised by the Indian National Lok Dal in Haryana recently, several parties came together, but the Congress was **pointedly** excluded, **prompting** Mr. Kumar to publicly **state** that no Opposition alliance can be meaningful without it. Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav is never **found wanting** in **taking on** the BJP, but is now **sceptical** about **tying up** with the Bahujan Samaj Party and the Congress and is very **hostile** to the idea of Mr. Kumar trying to **expand** his **footprint** into Uttar Pradesh. The Congress is critical for any Opposition unity and its former President Rahul Gandhi is walking from Kanyakumari to Kashmir with the slogan of ‘unite India’. But the party is also **caught up in a storm** of internal politics at the moment.

The Aam Aadmi Party’s National **Convenor** Arvind Kejriwal is **fancying** his **prospects** of emerging as the alternative to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and does not want to **dilute** his **stakes** in a larger formation. **The Trinamool Congress (TMC)**, which is the second largest Opposition party in Parliament, **has** been **eerily** silent on ‘opposition unity’. West Bengal Chief Minister and TMC chief Mamata Banerjee is no longer **exhibiting** the **enthusiasm** she showed ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election. The TMC chose to **abstain** rather than side with the Opposition in the Vice-Presidential election. It is not as if Opposition unity alone can defeat the BJP. In 2019 in Uttar Pradesh, the SP and the BSP came together but failed to **push back** the BJP in the State. Still, **State-level partnerships** of anti-BJP parties **can** be more **viable** than national-level attempts. The more these parties try to show unity at the national or multi-State level, the more their **contradictions show up**. **Focusing** on each State separately, **attending to** the local **particularities**, **might** be more useful for these parties.

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Vocabulary

1. **Alternative** (noun) – substitute, alternate, option, choice, replacement वैकल्पिक
2. **Chorus** (noun) – many people speaking together or saying a similar thing at the same time सहगान
3. **Unity** (noun) – union, accord, solidarity, integrity एकता
4. **Croon** (verb) – Chant, sing, utter, say गुनगुनाना
5. **Anthem** (noun) – hymn, song, paeon, psalm, chorale गान/ स्तुति
6. **Explore** (verb) – investigate, examine, study, probe, search पता लगाना
7. **Anti-** (prefix) – against, opposed to विरोधी
8. **Front** (noun) – a group of people sharing a political belief who perform actions in public to achieve their aims मोर्चा
9. **Left party** (noun) – the members of a political party, group, etc. that want more social change than the others in their party वामपंथी
10. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – demand, require, request, ask for, मांग करना
11. **Secular** (adjective) – not concerned with religion धर्मनिरपेक्ष
12. **Spell out** (phrasal verb) – Make explicit; specify in detail बताना, समझाना
13. **Bracket** (noun) – group, class, category
14. **Parley** (noun) – Conference, meeting, discussion, consultation, negotiation, deliberation बातचीत, संवाद
15. **Alliance** (noun) – union, association, league, coalition, federation संधि, संबंध
16. **Materialise** (verb) – happen, materialize, emerge, appear, occur अमल में लाना
17. **Pointedly** (adverb) – in an obvious and intentional way स्पष्ट रूप से
18. **Prompt** (verb) – induce, provoke, motivate, inspire, stimulate प्रोत्साहित करना
19. **State** (verb) – declare, utter, affirm, assert, aver, avow, express, say कहना
20. **Be found wanting** (phrase) – be discovered or found not good enough नाकाम पाया जाना
21. **Take on** (phrasal verb) – Face, confront, oppose, fight, vie with, stand up to को टक्कर देना
22. **Sceptical** (adjective) – doubting, disbelieving, unbelieving, questioning, suspicious उलझन में
23. **Tie up** (phrasal verb) – to form a relationship with someone के साथ गठबंधन करना
24. **Hostile** (adjective) – not agreeing with something; opposed to, against, disinclined to, विरोधी

25. **Expand** (verb) – extend, increase, enlarge, grow, broaden बढ़ाना
26. **Footprint** (noun) – impression, mark, outline, footmark पदचिह्न
27. **Caught up in a storm** (phrase) – To be in, or to get into a difficult situation
28. **Convenor** (noun) – a person who arranges meetings for an official group of people संयोजक
29. **Fancy** (verb) – to imagine or think that something is so; imagine, think, believe, consider, assume कल्पना करना, अनुमान करना
30. **Prospect** (noun) – Hope, possibility, expectation, outlook, vision, likelihood, potential संभावना
31. **Dilute** (verb) – Reduce, attenuate, temper, mitigate, offset कम करना
32. **Stake** (noun) – Share, involvement, interest हिस्सा
33. **Eerily** (adverb) – weirdly, strangely विचित्र रूप से
34. **Exhibit** (verb) – Show, display, unveil, reveal, demonstrate, present दिखाना
35. **Enthusiasm** (noun) – Eagerness, interest, fervor, passion, gusto, zeal, zest, keenness, excitement उत्साह
36. **Abstain** (verb) – Not take sides, sit on the fence, decline to vote, stay neutral परहेज़ करना
37. **Push back** (phrasal verb) – To resist, oppose, or protest something. पीछे धकेलना
38. **Viable** (adjective) – Feasible, practical, worthwhile, practicable, workable, possible व्यवहार्य
39. **Contradiction** (noun) – Denial, disputation, negation, opposition, refutation विरोधाभास
40. **Show up** (phrasal verb) – become evident, come to light, be noticed, point up, make clear, reveal साफ नजर आना
41. **Attend to** (phrasal verb) – to manage or take care of something or someone पर ध्यान देना
42. **Particularities** (plural noun) – small details विशेषता

## Practice Exercise

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

1. Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in the last one month has already been to Delhi twice, crooning the anthem to bring everyone together.
  - A. Squalor
  - B. Aloof
  - C. Chant
  - D. Lampoon
2. The possibility of a 1977-type Opposition alliance is unlikely to materialise.
  - A. Occur
  - B. Orthodox
  - C. Comprise
  - D. Forbear
3. The TMC chose to abstain rather than side with the Opposition in the Vice-Presidential election.
  - A. Refrain
  - B. Solvent
  - C. Stymie
  - D. Discriminate
4. **Idioms & Phrase**  
 She put her singing career on the back burner to pursue her dream of being a movie star.
  - A. To change the balance of a situation, such that one side or element is favored or gains advantage
  - B. To decide not to do anything about a situation or project until a later date
  - C. To create a situation that allows something to happen
  - D. A situation in which an advantage that is won by one of two sides is lost by the other
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.**  
**After mooting the 'delicensing' of power distribution recently, the Centre appears to be having second thoughts on the idea after objections from some States.**
  - P. A move to open up the distribution sector in a big way must be preceded by more detailed consultation with stakeholders.
  - Q. There can be no denying that power sector reforms have made some progress in recent years, but the State-owned distribution sector,
  - R. which accounts for 90 per cent of power distributed, is still hobbled by dues of over Rs. 1 lakh crore.
  - S. The draft Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2022, marks an effort to clean up the distribution sector by enhancing open access provisions.
  - T. This might actually not be such a bad outcome.

U. This is not the least because of irrational tariffs and aggregate 'technical and commercial' losses of over 24 per cent.

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 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them**

6. One major reason (A)/ for the popularity of television is (B)/ that most people like to stay at home. (C)/ No error (D)
7. Our efforts are aimed (A)/to bring about (B)/ a reconciliation. (C)/ No error(D)

**Directions (Q8-Q9): In the following questions two columns are given containing three Sentences/phrases each. In first column, sentences/phrases are A, B and C and in the second column the sentences/phrases are D, E and F. A sentence/phrase from the first column may or may not connect with another sentence/phrase from the second column to make a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. Each question has five options, four of which display the sequence(s) in which the sentences/phrases can be joined to form a grammatically and contextually correct sentence. If none of the options given forms a correct sentence after combination, mark option (E), i.e. "None of these" as your answer.**

8.

	Column (1)		Column (2)
A.	The inaugural function was temporarily interrupted	D	Was able either to comprehend or to solve the problem.
B.	Thanks to medical research our lives	E	As the lights suddenly went out.
C.	None of the diplomats at the conference	F	Have become healthier and long.

- A. A-F                      B. B – F, A – E, C – D                      C. A-E, C-D                      D. B-F, A-E                      E. None of these

9.

	Column (1)		Column (2)
A.	No sooner did he see the traffic policeman	D.	than he wore seat belt.
B.	The Judge in him prevailed upon the father and	E.	he sentenced his son to death.
C.	Nine-tenths of the pillar	F	has rotted away

- A. A-D, B-E, C-F                      B. B – F, A – E, C – D                      C. A-E, C-D                      D. B-F, A-E                      E. None of these

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Equipment
- B. Aggressive
- C. Wierd
- D. Bizarre

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

**(The Hindu Editorial: Trial by fire – Sep 07, 2022)**

The United Kingdom's Conservative Party has elected Liz Truss, earlier the country's Foreign Secretary, as its next Prime Minister, making her the third woman to hold the top role in the country's political executive.

She ascends from the post at a **(A)**/ difficult time for the U.K., economically and politically — the government **(B)**/ is challenged by soaring energy costs and **(C)**/ recessionary headwinds; **(D)**

and the war in Ukraine has left the country scrambling to find alternatives to Russian fuel while standing up to Moscow's **belligerence**. Making matters harder, her path to the top has not inspired confidence in terms of her standing within the party. **(1)**/ Truss won the support of less than 50% of Conservative Party members, as nearly 20% of them did not vote. **(2)** While she secured her victory with the backing of 81,326 of her party's members, her rival and former Chancellor, Rishi Sunak garnered 60,399 votes in the final contest, a much narrower margin than expected and the narrowest margin of any election for party leadership held in the past two decades. **(3)**/ It is also concerning that Ms. **(4)**/

In terms of policy **implications (A)** this poses a challenge: in the coming months Ms. Truss will have to win over a Conservative Party **cohort (B)** that prefers fundamentally different approaches to hers in tackling the most serious crises that the U.K. faces. For example, with her plan to introduce £30 billion in tax cuts including reversing the rise in National Insurance, temporarily dropping green **levies (C)** on energy bills, and **scrapping (D)** a planned rise in corporation tax, there are likely to be party members who will oppose her proposals. Nevertheless, if there is one strength that Ms. Truss has demonstrated in the past, it is her adaptable politics, especially at times when this trait could improve her prospects in the big picture. Indeed, she has moved far from her political origins as a Liberal Democrat and also from her former position on Brexit as a Remainer. It was considered a politically \_\_\_\_\_ **11** \_\_\_\_\_ move by her to steer clear of the Conservative coup that ended her predecessor Boris Johnson's tenure in office, yet she managed simultaneously to avoid being seen as a \_\_\_\_\_ **12** \_\_\_\_\_ insider of Mr. Johnson's political circle. She will need a strong measure of these skills to accomplish the mammoth tasks of lifting up the \_\_\_\_\_ **13** \_\_\_\_\_ reputation of the Conservative Party among the British public, carrying it past the sleaze scandals that plagued the Johnson government and, importantly, bringing down the soaring cost of living by tackling the energy crises and reinvigorating the \_\_\_\_\_ **14** \_\_\_\_\_ U.K. economy with the right macroeconomic policy mix. Towards achieving this, Ms. Truss may do well to tap into her recent experience crafting post-Brexit deals with the European Union — and even extending that model to trading partners across the world. One thing is clear: she will have to hit the ground running and deliver positive results soon, else face harsh judgement by her constituents.

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

11. It was considered a politically \_\_\_\_\_11\_\_\_\_\_ move by her to steer clear of the Conservative coup that ended her predecessor Boris Johnson's tenure in office
- A. Congenial  
B. Incisive  
C. Affable  
D. Astute
12. Yet she managed simultaneously to avoid being seen as a \_\_\_\_\_12\_\_\_\_\_ insider of Mr. Johnson's political circle.
- A. Emigrating  
B. Espousing  
C. Hermetic  
D. Staunch
13. She will need a strong measure of these skills to accomplish the mammoth tasks of lifting up the \_\_\_\_\_13\_\_\_\_\_ reputation of the Conservative Party among the British public
- A. Exhorted  
B. Enervated  
C. Sordid  
D. Complemented
14. Bringing down the soaring cost of living by tackling the energy crises and reinvigorating the \_\_\_\_\_14\_\_\_\_\_ U.K. economy with the right macroeconomic policy mix.
- A. Sluggish  
B. Parody  
C. Impervious  
D. Amenity
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.**  
She ascends from the post at a **(A)**/ difficult time for the U.K., economically and politically — the government **(B)**/ is challenged by soaring energy costs and **(C)**/ recessionary headwinds;  
**(D)**
- A. (A)  
B. (B)  
C. (C)  
D. (D)  
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**  
Making matters harder, her path to the top has not inspired confidence in terms of her standing within the party. **(1)**/ Truss won the support of less than 50% of Conservative Party members, as nearly 20% of them did not vote. **(2)** While she secured her victory with the backing of 81,326 of her party's members, her rival and former Chancellor, Rishi Sunak garnered 60,399 votes in the final contest, a much narrower margin than expected and the

narrowest margin of any election for party leadership held in the past two decades. **(3)**/ It is also concerning that Ms. **(4)**/

- A. 1342
- B. 1234
- C. 3214
- D. 2143
- E. 2431

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

**BELLIGERENCE**

- (i) She said, with a trace of **belligerence**, "I'm afraid you'll be wasting your time with me".
- (ii) I can't stand his **belligerence**.
- (iii) This is certainly a track record of brutal **belligerence**.

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

In terms of policy **scrapping (A)** this poses a challenge: in the coming months Ms. Truss will have to win over a Conservative Party **cohort (B)** that prefers fundamentally different approaches to hers in tackling the most serious crises that the U.K. faces. For example, with her plan to introduce £30 billion in tax cuts including reversing the rise in National Insurance, temporarily dropping green **levies (C)** on energy bills, and **implications (D)** a planned rise in corporation tax, there are likely to be party members who will oppose her proposals

- 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) Start your day with making the most important phone calls.
  - (ii) Emails, you might put them off until later.
- A. Whereas
  - B. Although



- C. Regarding
- D. Unless
- E. Besides

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

Those found remiss \_\_\_\_\_ duty will be punished.

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

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

4. **Put on the backburner** (phrase)– to decide not to do anything about a situation or project until a later date

5. **TPQRUS**

After mooting the 'delicensing' of power distribution recently, the Centre appears to be having second thoughts on the idea after objections from some States. This might actually not be such a bad outcome. A move to open up the distribution sector in a big way must be preceded by more detailed consultation with stakeholders. There can be no denying that power sector reforms have made some progress in recent years, but the State-owned distribution sector, which accounts for 90 per cent of power distributed, is still hobbled by dues of over Rs. 1 lakh crore. This is not the least because of irrational tariffs and aggregate 'technical and commercial' losses of over 24 per cent. The draft Electricity (Amendment) Act, 2022, marks an effort to clean up the distribution sector by enhancing open access provisions.

6. 'television' के पहले 'the' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी thing of invention के नाम के पहले सामान्यतः 'the' का प्रयोग होता है।

➤ 'the' will be used before 'television' because 'the' is normally used before the name of a thing of invention.

7. No Error

8. Correct Option: C

**The inaugural function was temporarily interrupted as the lights suddenly went out.**

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

**None of the diplomats at the conference was able either to comprehend or to solve the problem.**

Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

**Thanks to medical research our lives have become healthier and long.**

Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually correct but grammatically it wrong. The correct sentence would be: **Thanks to medical research our lives have become healthier and longer.**

'long' के बदले 'longer' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यदि दो adjectives को किसी conjunction से जोड़ना हो तो दोनों की degrees समान होनी चाहिए

➤ 'longer' will be used instead of 'long' because if two adjectives are to be joined by any conjunction, then the degrees of both should be equal

9. Correct Option: A

**No sooner did he see the traffic policeman, than he wore seat belt.**

Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

**The Judge in him prevailed upon the father and he sentenced his son to death.**

Fragment B of column 1 is matched with fragment E of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

**Nine-tenths of the pillar has rotted away**

Fragment C of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

10. **Weird** (adjective) – strange, bizarre, peculiar, unusual, funny अजीब

11. **Astute** (adjective) – clever, shrewd, sharp, intelligent, चतुर

12. **Staunch** (adjective) – steadfast, loyal, faithful, devoted, unswerving कट्टर

13. **Enervated** (adjective) – debilitated, weary, exhausted, fatigued, feeble कमज़ोर, दुर्बल

14. **Sluggish** (adjective) – slow, torpid, lethargic, listless, inactive सुस्त

15. 'Ascend from' के बदले 'Ascend to' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Ascend' take fixed preposition 'To' after it.

16. (A) **1342**

Making matters harder, her path to the top has not inspired confidence in terms of her standing within the party. While she secured her victory with the backing of 81,326 of her party's members, her rival and former Chancellor, Rishi Sunak garnered 60,399 votes in the final contest, a much narrower margin than expected and the narrowest margin of any election for party leadership held in the past two decades. It is also concerning that Ms. Truss won the support of less than 50% of Conservative Party members, as nearly 20% of them did not vote.

17. **Belligerence** (noun) – pugnacity, aggressiveness, belligerency, aggression, hostility जुझारूपन

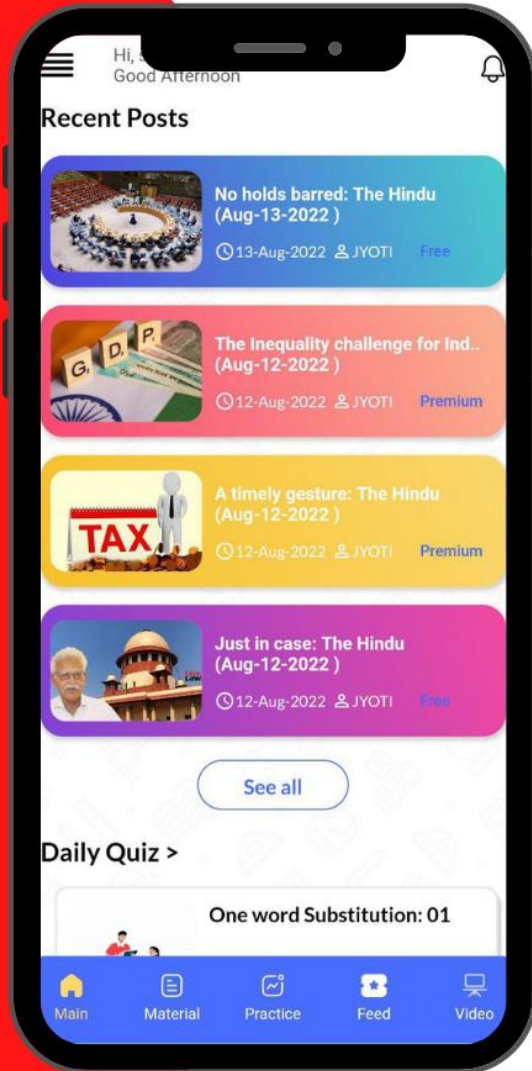
According to the given options all options are contextually correct.

18. In terms of policy implications this poses a challenge: in the coming months Ms. Truss will have to win over a Conservative Party cohort that prefers fundamentally different approaches to hers in tackling the most serious crises that the U.K. faces. For example, with her plan to introduce £30 billion in tax cuts including reversing the rise in National Insurance, temporarily dropping green levies on energy bills, and scrapping a planned rise in corporation tax, there are likely to be party members who will oppose her proposals.

19. Start your day with making the most important phone calls. **Regarding** emails, you might put them off until later.

## Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	<b>Squalor</b>	noun	Filth; wretched; degraded or repulsive living condition	घिनौनापन
	<b>Aloof</b>	adjective	Uninvolved; standing off; keeping one's distance	अलग, दूर, पृथक
	<b>Lampoon</b>	verb	To satirize; to mock; to parody	त्यंग्य करना
Q2	<b>Orthodox</b>	adjective	Conventional; adhering to established principles or doctrines, especially in religion; by the book	रूढ़िवादी
	<b>Comprise</b>	verb	To consist of	समावेश करना
	<b>Forbear</b>	verb	To refrain from; to abstain	रोकना, धैर्य रखना
Q3	<b>Solvent</b>	adjective	Not broke or bankrupt; able to pay one's bills	विलायक
	<b>Stymie</b>	verb	To thwart; to get in the way of; to hinder	गतिरोध
	<b>Discriminate</b>	verb	To notice or point out the difference between two or more things; to discern; to differentiate.	भेदभाव
Q11	<b>Congenial</b>	adjective	Agreeably suitable; pleasant	अनुकूल, सौहार्दपूर्ण
	<b>Incisive</b>	adjective	Cutting right to the heart of the matter	काटा हुआ
	<b>Affable</b>	adjective	Easy to talk to; friendly	मिलनसार, सुशील
Q12	<b>Emigrate</b>	verb	To move to new country; to move to a new place to live; to expatriate	स्वदेश त्यागना
	<b>Espouse</b>	verb	To support; to advocate	समर्थन करना, सहायता देना
	<b>Hermetic</b>	adjective	Impervious to external influence airtight	वायु-रोधी, भली भांति बंद किया हुआ
Q13	<b>Exhort</b>	verb	To urge strongly; to give a serious warning to	समझाना
	<b>Sordid</b>	adjective	Vile; filthy; squalid	घिनौना
	<b>Complement</b>	verb	To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart	जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना
Q14	<b>Parody</b>	noun	A satirical imitation	हास्यानुकृति
	<b>Impervious</b>	adjective	Not allowing anything to pass	अभेद्य, अप्रवेश्य
	<b>Amenity</b>	adjective	Pleasantness; attractive or comfortable feature	सुख सुविधा



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English Madhyam

