

No family man

The Congress is **on the right track**, but the Gandhis must not **play favourites** in the **contest**

A **contest** for its top post, a rare event for any political party in India, **has turned the spotlight on** the Congress. Around 8,000 **delegates** will vote on October 17 to elect a new chief for the party. It was the **refusal** of Rahul Gandhi to return to **hold** the formal **reins of** the party that **set the ball rolling** in this direction. Mr. Gandhi also **made it clear** that his mother Sonia Gandhi could not continue as president, and his sister Priyanka Gandhi Vadra cannot contest. Leaving the road clear for a relatively open contest for the top post which is reserved for a member of the Nehru-Gandhi family whenever one of them claimed it, Mr. Gandhi **set out** on a walk from the southern tip of the country towards the north. His Bharat Jodo Yatra has also **struck a chord** with people in the areas it has touched **so far**. Mrs. Gandhi had wanted Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot to contest, and he appeared to be agreeable, initially. But the **efforts** to **effect** a **transition** in the State **ended** in **chaos**, **grounding** the plans for his **candidacy**. **MLAs** in Rajasthan **want** Mr. Gehlot to continue **in office**. The Rajasthan **episode** was badly managed by the party, showing itself and a loyal **veteran in a bad light**. It was avoidable.

The contest is actually for the second most important position in the Congress. It is clear that Mr. Gandhi will remain the final authority in the party, while the elected president will be **tasked** with the **running** of the organisation. The BJP has had supreme leaders above party presidents — A.B. Vajpayee and L.K. Advani at one point and Narendra Modi and Amit Shah now. There is a **valid perception** that the family is **tilting the scales** in favour of one contestant — Mallikarjun Kharge — against Shashi Tharoor, which needs to be **dispelled**. The Nehru-Gandhi family's moral authority over the party **stems** from its **neutrality** and **fairness** in internal **tussles**. That authority is often **exercised** through representatives who **at times** fail to maintain neutrality. Recent **episodes** in Punjab and Rajasthan — the promotion of Navjot Singh Sidhu and the pressure on Mr. Gehlot, respectively — **have weakened** the authority of the family. Being a neutral **arbiter** is the right thing to do, and apart from that, **self-preservation** demands that Mr. Gandhi enables popular leaders to emerge stronger in the party. Mr. Kharge or Mr. Tharoor, the truly popular should be able to win. Mr. Gandhi will only **reinforce** his authority by **making it public** that the family has no candidate. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **On the right track** (phrase) – following a course that is likely to result in success. सही रास्ते पर
2. **Play favorites** (phrase) – show favouritism towards someone or something.
3. **Contest** (noun) – competition, challenge, match, game, fight प्रतियोगिता
4. **Turn the spotlight on** (phrase) – To focus on or bring attention to someone or something. पर ध्यान केंद्रित करना
5. **Delegate** (noun) – representative, envoy, ambassador, deputy, emissary प्रतिनिधि
6. **Refusal** (noun) – denial, rejection, rebuff, repudiation, negation इनकार
7. **hold the reins** (phrase) – to be in control बागडोर संभालना
8. **Set the ball rolling** (phrase) – begin/continue an activity, discussion, etc आरंभ करना
9. **Make clear** (phrase) – clarify, explain, elucidate, spell out स्पष्ट करना
10. **Set out** (phrase) – Leave, depart, go, move off, start out, head off प्रस्थान करना
11. **Strike a chord** (phrase) – Create an emotional response के साथ जुड़ाव होना
12. **So far** (phrase) – hitherto, as yet, heretofore, previously, thus far अब तक
13. **Effect** (verb) – Implement, make happen, bring about, create कार्यान्वित करना
14. **Transition** (noun) – Change, evolution, conversion, shift, move, switch, alteration, modification परिवर्तन
15. **Chaos** (noun) – Disorder, confusion, bedlam, anarchy, pandemonium, commotion, disarray, turmoil अव्यवस्था
16. **Ground** (verb) – to have a reason, cause, or argument for your actions or beliefs कारण होना
17. **Candidacy** (noun) – Application, candidature उम्मीदवारी
18. **In office** (phrase) – (of a government) in power
19. **Episode** (noun) – incident, event, happening, occurrence, affair घटना
20. **Veteran** (noun) – Expert, old-time, past master, Experienced person अनुभवी
21. **In a bad light** (phrase) – to make someone seem to be a bad person गलत तरीके से दिखाना
22. **Task** (with) (verb) – to give someone a task विशेष कार्य देना/ सौंपना
23. **Running** (noun) – Management, administration, operation, controlling, overseeing जिम्मा

24. **Valid** (adjective) – Logical, suitable, rational, sound, compelling जायज़, वैध
25. **Perception** (noun) – View, opinion, picture, assessment, insight धारणा
26. **Tilt the scales** (phrase) – To change the balance of a situation, such that one side or element is favored or gains advantage. के पक्ष में झुकाव होना
27. **Dispel** (verb) – Dismiss, disperse; to cause to disappear दूर करना
28. **Stem from** (phrasal verb) – derive from, come from, spring from, proceed from, emanate from, originate from से उत्पन्न होना
29. **Neutrality** (noun) – Impartiality, detachment, non-involvement, a neutral stance तटस्थता
30. **Fairness** (noun) – Equality, impartiality, even-handedness निष्पक्षता
31. **Tussle** (noun) – struggle, fight, scuffle, brawl, battle खींचतान
32. **Exercise** (verb) – use, implement, apply, employ, effect, exert, put into effect प्रयोग करना
33. **At times** (phrase) – Sometimes, once in a while, every so often कभी कभी
34. **Weaken** (verb) – undermine, diminish, lessen, reduce, impair कमजोर करना
35. **Arbiter** (noun) – umpire, judge, arbitrator, adjudicator, referee मध्यस्थ
36. **Self-preservation** (noun) – the act of protecting yourself in a dangerous or difficult situation, usually as a basic instinct कठिन परिस्थितियों में स्वयं की रक्षा या चोट से खुद को बचाना
37. **Reinforce** (verb) – strengthen, enhance, fortify, increase, bolster मजबूत करना
38. **Make public** (phrase) – Make known, publicize, reveal, announce, put out सार्वजनिक करना

Practice Exercise

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

1. The Nehru-Gandhi family's moral authority over the party stems from its neutrality and fairness in internal tussles
 - A. Pervade
 - B. Inveterate
 - C. Originate
 - D. Chasm
2. But the efforts to effect a transition in the State ended in chaos, grounding the plans for his candidacy
 - A. Disorder
 - B. Esoteric
 - C. Parody
 - D. Culinary
3. Mr. Kharge or Mr. Tharoor, the truly popular should be able to win. Mr. Gandhi will only reinforce his authority by making it public that the family has no candidate.
 - A. Cognitive
 - B. Coherent
 - C. Peruse
 - D.
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

I know learning to drive can be daunting, but if you can hold your nerve out on the road, you'll do just fine.

 - A. Surrender to the pressure of a difficult situation.
 - B. If you are at/on the receiving end of something unpleasant that someone does, you suffer because of it
 - C. To remain calm and determined in a difficult situation
 - D. To take and keep something in your hand
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.**

In line with expectations, retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, dipped marginally to 7.01 per cent in June, down from 7.04 per cent the month before, as per data from the National Statistical Office released on Tuesday.

 - P. This latest data implies that inflation has averaged 7.3 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the ongoing financial year,
 - Q. marginally lower than the Reserve Bank of India's June forecast of 7.5 per cent.
 - R. However, this is the sixth straight month in which inflation has come in above the upper threshold of the central bank's inflation targeting framework.

S. The disaggregated data shows that the consumer food price index fell to 7.75 per cent, down from 7.97 per cent in the previous month.

T. While in the weeks thereafter, the fall in edible oil prices will impart a moderating influence, a lot depends on how the monsoon plays out.

U. This decline in food inflation was driven by eggs, pulses, and moderation in prices of other items.

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

A. T

B.U

C.P

D.S

E.Q

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

6. A. Many a man has come to India from Bangladesh to live here permanently.
B. Our football team comprises eleven skilled players.
C. Initially, shop owners tried to offer some resistance to the demolition but seeing the heavy presence of the police force, their resistance faded off.
D. Knowledge and wisdom make an Individual truly complete and self-assured.
E. All are correct
7. A. One of the boys who always gives the correct answer is Samuel.
B. Cleanliness drives will be conducted in various localities to opening the drains blocked with polythene bags.
C. It is high time we renovated our old house.
D. the Headmaster has instructed the teachers to follow the rules of the school.
E. All are correct
8. The results of the study showed that (A)/ if the partners were willing to talk to each other (B)/ and arrive at a mutually agreeable decision, (C)/ the joint decisions were more better than one person's judgement. (D)/ No error(E)
9. A year after the global financial crisis saw (A)/ students from the best B-schools across the world struggling for a job, (B)/ a survey on management education this year thrown (C)/ up some rather interesting findings. (D)/ No error (E)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Illustarious
B. Stalemate
C. Annulment
D. Reinforce

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

(The Hindu Editorial: AIADMK's troubles – Sep 09, 2022)

By **overruling** a single judge's impractical prescription for a working relationship between _____ **11** _____ leaders Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam, a Division Bench of the Madras High Court has momentarily removed the "functional deadlock" in the AIADMK. Justices M. Duraiswamy and Sunder Mohan, allowing an appeal from Mr. Palaniswami, set aside the verdict

ordering status quo ante as of June 23, when dual leadership prevailed. The judges have rightly elucidated that with the impossibility of a truce, a situation has arisen where the party, as a whole, will undergo _____**12**_____ hardship if the two leaders are mandated to jointly manage the party affairs.

The court has justifiably underscored **(A)**/ the supremacy of the general council, whom members are elected by the primary members, **(B)**/ in determining the party leadership structure and ratifying any changes **(C)**/ made to it by the executive council. **(D)**

This effectively validates Mr. Palaniswami's election as interim general secretary at the July 11 special general council meeting, convened on the request of most of its members. The judges, interestingly, have drawn parallels with the developments in the AIADMK five years ago when its jailed interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala was replaced by the Panneerselvam-Palaniswami duo, to validate the current abolition of the dual leadership structure. It has held that the convening of the special general council by the presidium chairman cannot be termed illegal since the coordinator and joint coordinator are at _____**13**_____. **Bye-laws (A)** in the party's **loopholes (B)**, which do not **contemplate(C)** written notice for convening general council meetings or mandate notice for holding special general council meetings **requisitioned(D)** by at least one-fifth of its members, too worked in favour of Mr. Palaniswami.

The court, curiously, has left open the question of whether the dual posts lapsed due to non-ratification by the general council. With Mr. Panneerselvam determined to challenge the order in the Supreme Court, the legal _____**14**_____ battle is not over. It is beyond doubt the internal political balance of convenience is with Mr. Palaniswami. There is no doubt that the ongoing battle has disrupted the party's focus and functioning. **(1)**/ Whereas, Mr. Panneerselvam has been repeatedly relying on the legal fine print to restore his position as a partner with shared managing powers in the AIADMK. **(2)**/ Except for one legislator, none of the 2,539 of the 2,665 members of the party general council, who filed affidavits before the Election Commission of India in his support, has switched loyalties since accepting his leadership. **(3)**/ Instead of fortifying his base and providing the necessary political challenge to Mr. Palaniswami, he has had no qualms in soliciting those sidelined or expelled from the AIADMK, decisions to which he was a signatory. **(4)**/ It is critical for the party, which will complete its 50th year next month, that the leadership question is settled quickly. **(5)**

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

11. By overruling a single judge's impractical prescription for a working relationship between _____**11**_____ leaders Edappadi K. Palaniswami and O. Panneerselvam, a Division Bench of the Madras High Court has momentarily removed the "functional deadlock" in the AIADMK.
- A. Contentious
 - B. Estranged
 - C. Amenity
 - D. Cajoled

12. The judges have rightly elucidated that with the impossibility of a truce, a situation has arisen where the party, as a whole, will undergo _____12_____ hardship if the two leaders are mandated to jointly manage the party affairs.
- Irreparable
 - Apocryphal
 - Exulting
 - Uniform
13. It has held that the convening of the special general council by the presidium chairman cannot be termed illegal since the coordinator and joint coordinator are at _____13_____.
- Pejorative
 - Egocentric
 - Loggerheads
 - Wanton
14. With Mr. Panneerselvam determined to challenge the order in the Supreme Court, the legal _____14_____ battle is not over.
- See-saw
 - Chastising
 - Disparaging
 - Renaissance
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.**
- The court has justifiably underscored **(A)**/ the supremacy of the general council, whom members are elected by the primary members, **(B)**/ in determining the party leadership structure and ratifying any changes **(C)**/ made to it by the executive council. **(D)**
- (A)
 - (B)
 - (C)
 - (D)
 - No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
- There is no doubt that the ongoing battle has disrupted the party's focus and functioning. **(1)**/ Whereas, Mr. Panneerselvam has been repeatedly relying on the legal fine print to restore his position as a partner with shared managing powers in the AIADMK. **(2)**/ Except for one legislator, none of the 2,539 of the 2,665 members of the party general council, who filed affidavits before the Election Commission of India in his support, has switched loyalties since accepting his leadership. **(3)**/ Instead of fortifying his base and providing the necessary political challenge to Mr. Palaniswami, he has had no qualms in soliciting those sidelined or expelled from the AIADMK, decisions to which he was a signatory. **(4)**/ It is critical for the party, which will complete its 50th year next month, that the leadership question is settled quickly. **(5)**
- 12345
 - 23415

- C. 34125
D. 32415
E. 24315
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
- OVERRULE**
- (i) They would work on a problem, come up with a good solution, and then watch in surprise as their bosses **overruled** them.
(ii) The defense attorney's objection was **overruled** by the judge.
(iii) In tennis, the umpire can **overrule** the line judge.
- A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (ii), (iii)
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.
Bye-laws (A) in the party's **loopholes (B)**, which do not **contemplate(C)** written notice for convening general council meetings or mandate notice for holding special general council meetings **requisitioned(D)** by at least one-fifth of its members, too worked in favour of Mr. Palaniswami.
- A. C – A
B. A – B
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) We're going to experience some meteor showers in the next few days.
(ii) The number of miraculous self-healings will rise.
- A. Therefore
B. Although
C. Except
D. Unless
E. If not
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks
He did not dare to venture _____ new enterprise.

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

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

4. **Hold one's nerve** (phrase) – remain calm and determined in a difficult situation

5. **PQRSUT**

In line with expectations, retail inflation, as measured by the consumer price index, dipped marginally to 7.01 per cent in June, down from 7.04 per cent the month before, as per data from the National Statistical Office released on Tuesday. This latest data implies that inflation has averaged 7.3 per cent in the first quarter (April-June) of the ongoing financial year, marginally lower than the Reserve Bank of India's June forecast of 7.5 per cent. However, this is the sixth straight month in which inflation has come in above the upper threshold of the central bank's inflation targeting framework.

The disaggregated data shows that the consumer food price index fell to 7.75 per cent, down from 7.97 per cent in the previous month. This decline in food inflation was driven by eggs, pulses, and moderation in prices of other items. While in the weeks thereafter, the fall in edible oil prices will impart a moderating influence, a lot depends on how the monsoon plays out.

6. 'off' के बदले 'out' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'fade' के साथ 'off' का प्रयोग कभी नहीं होता है 'disappear slowly or become quieter'; (धीमी गति से विलुप्त होना या ज्यादा खामोश या शांत होना);जैसे-

i. The music faded out.

➤ 'out' will be used instead of 'off' because 'off' is never used with 'fade' 'disappear slowly or become quieter' ; (slow extinction or more silence or calm);like-

i. The music faded out.

7. 'opening' के बदले 'open' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि infinitive particle 'to' के साथ v1 का प्रयोग होता है जिसे हम full infinitive/to-infinitive या सामान्यतः Infinitive कहते हैं।

➤ 'open' will be used instead of 'opening' because v1 is used with the infinitive particle 'to', which we call full infinitive / to-infinitive or generally Infinitive.

8. 'more' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है क्योंकि 'better' एक comparative adjective है और किसी comparative के पहले 'more' या किसी superlative के पहले 'most' का प्रयोग कर उसका double comparative या double superlative नहीं बनाया जाता है। हाँ, comparative के पहले 'much, very, much, far' का प्रयोग होता है, अतः हम चाहें तो 'more' के बदले 'much, very, much, far' का प्रयोग कर सकते हैं; जैसे-

i. She is more better than you.[इस वाक्य में 'more' का प्रयोग अनावश्यक है।]

किन्तु,

ii. She is much/very much/far better than you.

➤ Use of 'more' is unnecessary because 'better' is a comparative adjective and using 'more' before a comparative or 'most' before a superlative does not make its double comparative or double superlative. Yes, 'much, very, much, far' is used before comparative, so if we want, we can use 'much, very, much, far' instead of 'more'; like-

i. She is more better than you. [Use of 'more' in this sentence is unnecessary.]

But,

ii. She is much/very much/far better than you.

9. 'thrown' के पहले 'has' का प्रयोग करना पड़ेगा क्योंकि part(a) की घटना past की है जबकि part(c) की घटना 'this year' अर्थात् present में पूरी हो चुकी है।

➤ 'has' has to be used before 'thrown' because the event of part(a) is past while the event of part(c) is completed in 'this year' i.e. present.

10. **Illustrious** (adjective) – eminent, distinguished, acclaimed, noted, notable शानदार

11. **Estranged** (adjective) – Alienated, separated, divided, apart अलग

12. **Irreparable** (adjective) – Impossible to repair, rectify, or amend अपूरणीय

13. **At loggerheads** (phrase) – In a dispute or confrontation झगड़े में

14. **See-saw** (adjective) – changing repeatedly from one situation, etc. to another and then back again उतार चढ़ाव

15. Replace 'Whom' with 'Whose' as 'Whom' is an object pronoun that is used to indicate the person who received an action. 'Whose' is a possessive pronoun that is used to refer to which person something belongs to.

16. (D) **32415**

Except for one legislator, none of the 2,539 of the 2,665 members of the party general council, who filed affidavits before the Election Commission of India in his support, has switched loyalties since accepting his leadership. Whereas, Mr. Panneerselvam has been repeatedly relying on the legal fine print to restore his position as a partner with shared managing powers in the AIADMK. Instead of fortifying his base and providing the necessary political challenge to Mr. Palaniswami, he has had no qualms in soliciting those sidelined or expelled from the AIADMK, decisions to which he was a signatory. There is no doubt that the ongoing battle has disrupted the party's focus and functioning. It is critical for the party, which will complete its 50th year next month, that the leadership question is settled quickly.

17. **Overrule** (verb) – reverse, overturn, override, nullify, cancel रद्द करना

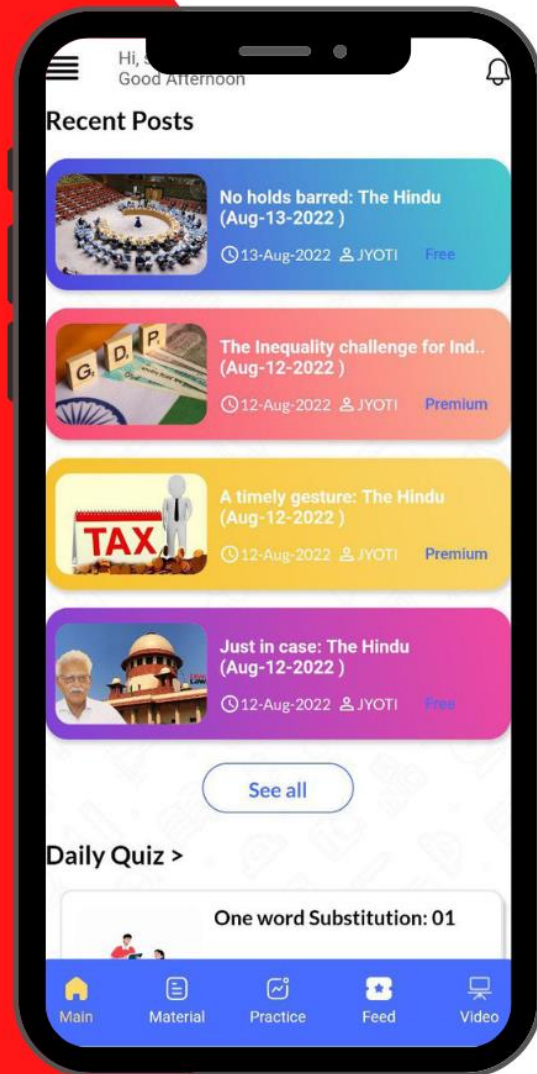
According to the given options all options are contextually correct.

18. Loopholes in the party's bye-laws, which do not contemplate written notice for convening general council meetings or mandate notice for holding special general council meetings requisitioned by at least one-fifth of its members, too worked in favour of Mr. Palaniswami.

19. We're going to experience some meteor showers in the next few days. **Therefore**, the number of miraculous self-healings will rise.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Pervade	verb	To spread throughout	व्याप्त होना
	Inveterate	adjective	Habitual; firm in habit; deeply rooted.	कट्टर, आदत में दृढ़
	Chasm	noun	A deep, gaping hole; a gorge	खाई, दरार
Q2	Esoteric	adjective	Hard to understand; understood by only a selected few; peculiar	गुप्त, अजीब, गूढ़
	Parody	noun	A satirical imitation	हास्यानुकृति
	Culinary	adjective	Relating to cooking or the kitchen	पाक शाला संबंधी, रसोई का
Q3	Cognitive	adjective	Dealing with how we know the world around us through our sense; mental	संज्ञानात्मक
	Coherent	adjective	Holding together; making sense	सुसंगत, संसक्त, स्पष्ट
	Peruse	verb	To read carefully	चित लगाकर पढ़ना
Q11	Contentious	adjective	Argumentative; Quarrelsome	विवादास्पद
	Amenity	adjective	Pleasantness; attractive or comfortable feature	सुख सुविधा
	Cajole	verb	To persuade someone to do something which he or she doesn't want to do	फुसलाना, बहलाना
Q12	Apocryphal	noun	Of dubious authenticity; fictitious spurious	शंकायुक्त, झूठा, असत्य
	Exult	verb	To Rejoice; to celebrate	बहुत प्रसन्न होना, हर्षित होना
	Uniform	adjective	Consistent; unchanging; the same for everyone	संगत
Q13	Pejorative	adjective	Negative; disparaging	उपेक्षा करनेवाला
	Egocentric	adjective	Selfish; believing that one is the center of everything	अहंकारपूर्ण
	Wanton	adjective	Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious	प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल
Q14	Chastise	verb	To inflict punishment on; to discipline	दंड देना
	Disparage	verb	To belittle; to say uncomplimentary things about, usually in a somewhat indirect way.	नीचा दिखाना, उपेक्षा करना
	Renaissance	noun	A rebirth or revival	पुनर्जागरण काल



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