

Hill race: On Himachal Pradesh Assembly election

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress face different challenges in Himachal Pradesh

As Himachal Pradesh prepares for the Assembly election on November 12, the **stage looks set for** yet another **bipolar contest** between the Bharatiya Janata Party and the Congress. The **initial euphoria** in the hill State after the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), **following** its **emphatic** win in neighbouring Punjab, **is fizzling out**. In the past three **decades**, Himachal has seen a bipolar electoral system, with the Congress and the BJP alternately forming the government every five years. The upcoming battle does not **seem** any different, though the entry of AAP has added a **tinge** of a new flavour to the election **fare**. While the **ruling** BJP is **harping on** its 'development' works in the past four years to **retain** power, rising corruption, inflation, unemployment, demand for an old pension scheme for government employees, and poor facilities in the health and education sectors **are** key issues being raised by the Opposition, including the Congress and AAP. The BJP is focusing on 'mission repeat' and **steering** its campaign on a '**double engine**' **plank** around the 'development' works done by the Centre and the State government. The BJP's **blistering** campaign is being led by the central leadership. In the past few months, its **prominent leaders** including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Home Minister Amit Shah, and party president J.P. Nadda, who **hails from** Himachal Pradesh, **have addressed** several rallies.

The **electioneering** for the Congress party, which is fighting to **wrest** power from the BJP, **has** been largely steered by the State leadership, though last week, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra addressed the first election rally. The Congress is harping on the '**anti-incumbency**' factor against the BJP, but the **going** is not smooth. In the absence of its tallest leader and six-time Chief Minister, the late Virbhadra Singh, there seems to be a '**vacuum**' in the State leadership, even though his wife Pratibha Singh was given the **reins** of the party; the **appeal** and political **acumen** of the former Chief Minister seem difficult to replace. In the absence of a strong State leadership, **factionalism** has been **coming to the fore time and again**. This has **led to** several senior leaders including **sitting** MLAs quitting party posts. The **problem** of there being several **claimants** for the post of Chief Minister **is** another concern. While the BJP appears **geared** to tackle the **headwinds**, the Congress seems **ill-prepared** to convert the **resentment** against the ruling party into a **sentiment** in its favour.

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'. [Practice Exercise]
- **Claimant** (noun) – applicant, plaintiff, supplicant दावेदार
- **Gear** (to) (verb) – make something ready or suitable for तैयार
- **Headwind** (noun) – A source of resistance, as to progress or success

Vocabulary

1. **Set the stage for** (phrase) – prepare the conditions for (the occurrence or beginning of something). की स्थिति पैदा करना
2. **Bipolar** (adjective) – consisting of two things/parts, especially when these are opposites द्विध्रुवी
3. **Contest** (noun) – A competition for a political position. प्रतियोगिता
4. **Initial** (adjective) – first, primary, original, early, opening शुरुआती
5. **Euphoria** (noun) – elation, happiness, joy, joyousness, delight, glee उत्साह
6. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
7. **Emphatic** (adjective) – vigorous, energetic, vehement, positive जबरदस्त
8. **Fizzle out** (phrasal verb) – to gradually end, often in a disappointing or weak way फीका पड़ना, निराशाजनक ढंग से समाप्त होना
9. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
10. **Seem** (verb) – Appear, look, appear to be लगना/प्रतीत होना
11. **Tinge** (noun) – A slight but appreciable amount
12. **Fare** (noun) – the state/condition of things स्थिति
13. **Ruling** (adjective) – governing, in charge, leading, dominant, controlling, सत्तारूढ़
14. **Harp on** (phrasal verb) – to talk or complain about something many times तंग करके कहना
15. **Retain** (verb) – keep, hold, maintain, preserve बनाए रखना
16. **Steer** (verb) – Guide, direct, lead, manage
17. **Double engine** (noun) – a party having power in state as well in center. For example;- BJP is also in UP as well as In Centre in power.
18. **Plank** (noun) – a main point in the policy of an organization, especially a political party
19. **Blistering** (adjective) – done very fast or with great energy
20. **Prominent** (adjective) – Noticeable, conspicuous, obvious, blatant प्रमुख
21. **Hail from** (phrasal verb) – to have come from there originally से आना
22. **Address** (verb) – talk to, give a talk to, give an address to, speak to संबोधित करना
23. **Electioneering** (noun) – Campaigning चुनाव अभियान
24. **Wrest** (verb) – grab, extract, snatch, obtain, gain हथियाना

25. **Anti-incumbency** (noun) – sentiment in favor of voting out incumbent politicians
सत्ता विरोधी लहर
26. **Going** (noun) – progress; advancement:
प्रगति
27. **Vacuum** (noun) – a situation from which something is missing or lacking; void, space
खालीपन
28. **Rein** (noun) – The power to direct and control. बागडोर
29. **Appeal** (noun) – Charm, attractiveness, attraction, influence आकर्षण
30. **Acumen** (noun) – intelligence, good judgment, discernment, astuteness,
सूझबूझ/ चतुराई
31. **Factionalism** (noun) – sectarianism, faction, strife, dissension, friction गुटबाजी
32. **Come to the fore** (phrase) – to become prominent; to become important सामने आना
33. **Time and again** (phrase) – Frequently, often, repeatedly, many times बार-बार
34. **Lead** (to) (verb) – cause, give rise to, result in, bring about वजह बनना
35. **Sitting** (adjective) – in a seated position.
मौजूदा
36. **Ill-prepared** (adjective) – not ready or prepared for something. खराब तैयारी
37. **Resentment** (noun) – Anger, bitterness, animosity, pique, indignation, rancor
नाराजगी
38. **Sentiment** (noun) –opinion, view, attitude, emotion भावना

Practice Exercise

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

- The Congress seems ill-prepared to convert the resentment against the ruling party into a sentiment in its favour.
 - Apocryphal
 - Curtail
 - Destitute
 - Anger
- The electioneering for the Congress party, which is fighting to wrest power from the BJP
 - Cognizant
 - Snatch
 - Insidious
 - Infamous
- The initial euphoria in the hill State after the entry of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP), following its emphatic win in neighbouring Punjab, is fizzling out.
 - Cursory
 - Vapid
 - Ecstasy
 - Inept

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

If the tax systems are different in each European country, how can industries start on a level playing field?

- If a situation descends into a particular state, it becomes worse
 - A situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding.
 - To compare something with a similar thing to give a clearer, more accurate idea
 - To return quickly to a normal condition after a difficult situation or event
5. **Direction: Five 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.**
- The Government on Wednesday announced the appointment of former Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan, 61, as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), nine months after the untimely death of India's first CDS, Gen. Bipin Rawat in December 2021.**
- P. That ambition was disrupted by the death of Gen. Rawat, and then the delay in the appointment of his successor.
- Q. He could be in office for almost four years.
- R. His appointment is until further orders, or when he turns 65.
- S. Lt. Gen. Chauhan will pick up the stalled process of transformation and reorganisation of the armed forces and bring in synergy that was envisaged along with the creation of the post.

T. An ambitious component of the new vision is the proposed reorganisation of the armed forces into integrated theatre commands, which is yet to get the required consensus among military leaders.

U. When the office of the CDS was created in 2019, its mandate was to ensure “jointness” of the three services in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, within three years of the first CDS assuming office. Which among the following will be the **Third** sentence of the paragraph after the rearrangement?

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

Direction (Q6 – Q7): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them

6. I was previously posted (A)/ in Singapore and it (B)/ took me a long time (C)/ to accustom to the food. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. He was afraid that his parents (A)/ would not allow him to (B)/ make the flim, so he did(C)/ not tell them about it. (D)/ No Error. (E)

Directions (8-9): 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. Our Chairman is deeply concerned about the environment and	D. motivating them to work in rural areas.
B. Since this foreign bank has not performed very well this year,	E. it will not be setting up any new branches
C. After retiring she spent most of her time teaching young doctors and	F. plans to take some steps to reduce the pollution caused by our factories.

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

9.

Column (1)	Column (2)
A. In the present guidelines, the bank is required to obtain a photograph	D. from any person who wishes to open an account.

B. Suman new office is close to her residence,	E. is recovering and that is it the right time to buy shares
C. The majority of the population believes that the stock market	F. so she will not longer have to travel by train.

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

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Optimisation
- B. Resilient
- C. Prudence
- D. Accelarate

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Trade tactics – Sep 22, 2022)

The Government will release a new foreign **(A)**/ trade policy in the coming week, **(B)**/ that could include measures to help to push up **(C)**/ goods and services exports as well as rein in the runaway import bill. **(D)**

The current trade policy was introduced in 2015. When its five-year term ended a week after the national lockdown to curb the pandemic, it was extended for a year considering the _____ **11** _____ circumstances. However, the old policy's extensions beyond March 2021, especially the current six-month _____ **12** _____ that drags its end-date to September 30, are not as understandable. Beginning the new policy in the middle of a financial year, unlike the traditional clean slate in a new fiscal year, is not ideal. Moreover, exports have been one of the few growth engines firing up the post-COVID recovery, so putting off a policy to bolster outbound shipments was _____ **13** _____. _____ **14** _____ India's strategy to cash in on a world seeking to become less dependent on China would also enable exporters (and importers) to plan their investments ahead. Last January, a WTO-compliant export incentive scheme was kicked off to refund domestic taxes to exporters, but the rates were only notified months later with a few sectors left out. Despite this completely avoidable uncertainty, goods exports touched a record \$422 billion in 2021-22.

This year, the Government expects goods exports to hit at least \$450 billion, but growth has slipped to the low single digits over July and August, while imports have been over \$60 billion each month since March. **(1)**/ A global growth slowdown and recession fears in Europe and the U.S. do not augur well; and though order books are still full, many buyers are seeking to defer deliveries. **(2)**/ The new policy will have to find ways to provide a leg-up to exports and address some of industry's key concerns, including a buffer against rising interest rates. **(3)**/ With revenues buoyant, it is also time to reconsider the stance to exclude key growth sectors such as pharma, chemicals, and iron and steel from the duty remission scheme. **(4)**/ Having decided to keep away from the trade track of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for now, assertions that the Government has 'no bandwidth' left for new free trade pact negotiations though more countries are **wooing** it, and is seeking to slow talks with the Gulf Cooperation Council, are unnecessary. If there is a genuine **constraint (A)**, a solution must be sought, perhaps, by **driving (B)** in economic policy makers with **residual (C)** bandwidth. But surely, there are

better ways to drive home India's rising clout than by **roping (D)** away potential partner countries, however small

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

11. When its five-year term ended a week after the national lockdown to curb the pandemic, it was extended for a year considering the _____ circumstances.
 - A. Extenuating
 - B. Dilettante
 - C. Hackneyed
 - D. Bureaucracy
12. However, the old policy's extensions beyond March 2021, especially the current six-month _____ that drags its end-date to September 30, are not as understandable.
 - A. Paradigm
 - B. Animosity
 - C. Curtailing
 - D. Stretch
13. Moreover, exports have been one of the few growth engines firing up the post-COVID recovery, so putting off a policy to bolster outbound shipments was _____.
 - A. Faction
 - B. Baffling
 - C. Wanton
 - D. Mentor
14. _____ India's strategy to cash in on a world seeking to become less dependent on China would also enable exporters (and importers) to plan their investments ahead.
 - A. Facile
 - B. Disparaging
 - C. Enunciating
 - D. Mercenary
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 Government will release a new foreign **(A)**/ trade policy in the coming week, **(B)**/ that could include measures to help to push up **(C)**/ goods and services exports as well as rein in the runaway import bill. **(D)**

 - A. (A)
 - B. (B)
 - C. (C)
 - D. (D)
 - E. No Error

16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

This year, the Government expects goods exports to hit at least \$450 billion, but growth has slipped to the low single digits over July and August, while imports have been over \$60 billion each month since March. **(1)**/ A global growth slowdown and recession fears in Europe and the

U.S. do not augur well; and though order books are still full, many buyers are seeking to defer deliveries. **(2)**/ The new policy will have to find ways to provide a leg-up to exports and address some of industry's key concerns, including a buffer against rising interest rates. **(3)**/ With revenues buoyant, it is also time to reconsider the stance to exclude key growth sectors such as pharma, chemicals, and iron and steel from the duty remission scheme.**(4)**/

- A. 1234
- B. 2341
- C. 1243
- D. 2143
- E. 3214

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

WOO

- (i) So there is no escaping from it: scientific language has to be **wooded** and mastered if scientific thought is to be followed.
- (ii) And populist rhetoric was borne in an endeavour to **woo** the people.
- (iii) Today the graduate in science and mathematics is **wooded** by almost every profession, except one.

- 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.

If there is a genuine **constraint (A)**, a solution must be sought, perhaps, by **driving (B)** in economic policy makers with **residual (C)** bandwidth. But surely, there are better ways to drive home India's rising clout than by **roping (D)** away potential partner countries, however small.

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. B – D
- 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) You can't give your phone number to every man who asks for it.
- (ii) You can't go out with everyone who fancies you

- A. Due to
- B. Unless
- C. However
- D. Likewise
- E. None of these

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

I am greatly concerned _____ the safety of his money.

- A. By
- B. For
- C. With
- D. To

Answers

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

Explanations

4. **Level playing field** (phrase) – a situation in which everyone has a fair and equal chance of succeeding.
5. **QRSTUP**
 The Government on Wednesday announced the appointment of former Eastern Army Commander Lt. Gen. Anil Chauhan, 61, as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), nine months after the untimely death of India's first CDS, Gen. Bipin Rawat in December 2021. He could be in office for almost four years. His appointment is until further orders, or when he turns 65. Lt. Gen. Chauhan will pick up the stalled process of transformation and reorganisation of the armed forces and bring in synergy that was envisaged along with the creation of the post. An ambitious component of the new vision is the proposed reorganisation of the armed forces into integrated theatre commands, which is yet to get the required consensus among military leaders. When the office of the CDS was created in 2019, its mandate was to ensure "jointness" of the three services in operations, logistics, transport, training, support services, communications, repairs and maintenance, within three years of the first CDS assuming office. That ambition was disrupted by the death of Gen. Rawat, and then the delay in the appointment of his successor.
6. (D) 'accustom' के बाद 'myself' का प्रयोग होगा या 'get accustomed/become accustomed/grow accustomed' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'accustom' का प्रयोग यदि Verb के रूप में होता है तो इसके साथ Reflexive Pronoun का प्रयोग होता है या 'get/become/grow' के साथ इसका V³ रूप प्रयोग में आता है; जैसे-
- He took a lot of time to accustom himself in America.
 - He took a lot of time to get accustomed in America.
- 'accustom' will be followed by 'myself' or 'get accustomed/become accustomed/grow accustomed' because 'accustom' is used as a Verb then it is used with Reflexive Pronoun or its V3 version with 'get/become/grow'; like-
- He took a lot of time to accustom himself in America.
 - He took a lot of time to get accustomed in America.
7. No error
8. **Correct Option: A**
Our Chairman is deeply concerned about the environment and plans to take some steps to reduce the pollution caused by our factories.
 Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

Since this foreign bank has not performed very well this year, it will not be setting up any new branches.

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

After retiring she spent most of her time teaching young doctors and motivating them to work in rural areas.

Fragment C of column 1 is not matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Correct is: After retirement she spent most of her time teaching young doctors and motivating them to work in rural areas.

- 'retiring' के बदले 'retirement' (अवकाश प्राप्ति) प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'अवकाश प्राप्त करने के कार्य' को 'retirement' कहा जाता है, न कि 'retiring'

9. **Correct Option: B**

In the present guidelines, the bank is required to obtain a photograph from any person who wishes to open an account.

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

Suman new office is close to her residence, so she will not longer have to travel by train.

Fragment B of column 1 is not matched with fragment F of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct

Correct is: Suman new office is close to her residence, so she will no longer have to travel by train.

- 'not longer' के बदले 'no longer' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'fewer, longer, sooner, less' कुछ ऐसे Comparatives हैं जिनके पहले केवल 'No' का प्रयोग होता है, न कि 'Not' का। ('no longer' will be used instead of 'not longer' because 'fewer, longer, sooner, less' are some such comparatives before which only 'No' is used and not 'Not')

The majority of the population believes that the stock market is recovering and that is it the right time to buy shares

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

10. **Accelerate** (verb) – expedite, speed up, hasten, quicken तेज करना

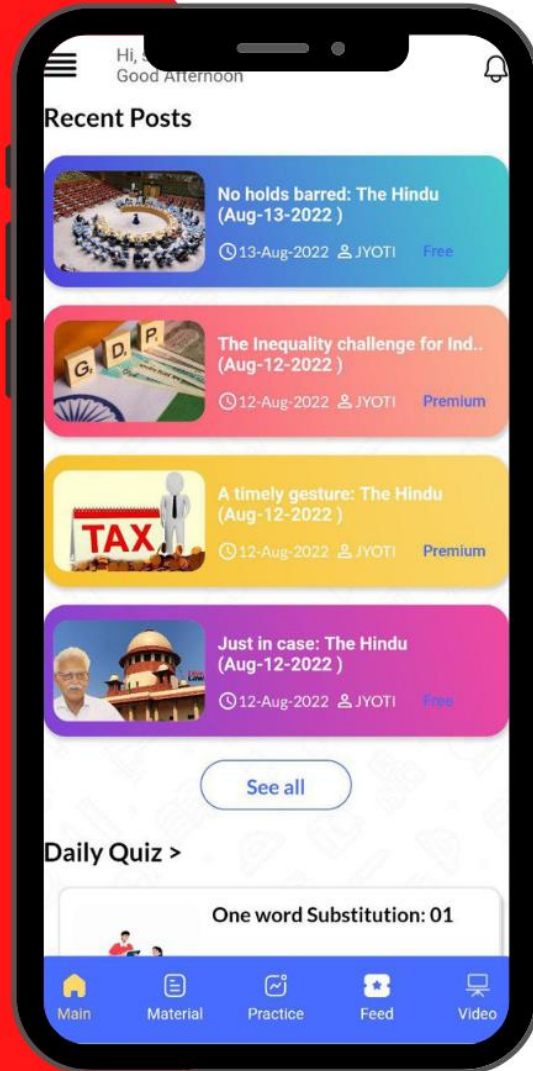
11. **Extenuating** circumstances (noun) – conditions that make something bad less serious. हल्का करने वाली परिस्थितियाँ

12. **Stretch** (noun) – Spell, time, period, stint, term दौर

13. **Baffling** (adjective) – Confusing, perplexing, puzzling, flummoxing, stumping, nonplusing, mystifying, confounding, bewildering, bemusing चौंकाने वाला
14. **Enunciate** (verb) – Pronounce, articulate, express, detail, clarify, spell out स्पष्ट करना
15. 'To push' के बदले 'push' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Bare infinitive (i.e. without 'To') after 'Help' if the sentence is in active voice.
16. (A) **1234**
This year, the Government expects goods exports to hit at least \$450 billion, but growth has slipped to the low single digits over July and August, while imports have been over \$60 billion each month since March. A global growth slowdown and recession fears in Europe and the U.S. do not augur well; and though order books are still full, many buyers are seeking to defer deliveries. The new policy will have to find ways to provide a leg-up to exports and address some of industry's key concerns, including a buffer against rising interest rates. With revenues buoyant, it is also time to reconsider the stance to exclude key growth sectors such as pharma, chemicals, and iron and steel from the duty remission scheme.
17. **Woo** (verb) – Persuade, encourage, entice, pursue लुभाना
According to the given options only (ii) and (iii) are contextually correct.
Because the (i) sentence are not giving any meaning and correct sentence should be like
So there is no escaping from it: scientific language has to be tackled and mastered if scientific thought is to be followed.
18. If there is a genuine constraint, a solution must be sought, perhaps, by roping in economic policy makers with residual bandwidth. But surely, there are better ways to drive home India's rising clout than by driving away potential partner countries, however small.
19. You can't give your phone number to every man who asks for it. **Likewise**, you can't go out with everyone who fancies you.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Apocryphal	noun	Of dubious authenticity; fictitious spurious	शंकायुक्त, झूठा, असत्य
	Curtail	verb	To shorten; to cut short	घटाना, संक्षिप्त करना
	Destitute	adjective	Extremely poor; utterly lacking	बेसहारा, दीन
Q2	Cognizant	adjective	Aware; conscious	जानकार, परिचित
	Insidious	adjective	Treacherous; sneaky	कपटी
	Infamous	adjective	Shamefully wicked, having an extremely bad reputation; disgraceful	बदनाम
Q3	Cursory	adjective	Hasty; superficial	सतही; त्वरित
	Vapid	adjective	Without liveliness; dull; spiritless	नीरस
	Inept	adjective	Clumsy; incompetent; gauche.	अयोग्य
Q11	Dilettante	noun	Someone with superficial knowledge of the arts; an amateur; a dabbler	कला-प्रेमी, शौकीन
	Hackneyed	adjective	Overused; trite; stale	मामूली, घिसा-पिटा
	Bureaucracy	noun	A system of government administration consisting of numerous bureaus or offices, especially one run according to inflexible and inefficient rule.	नौकरशाही
Q12	Paradigm	noun	A model or example	उदाहरण
	Animosity	noun	Resentment; hostility; ill-will	दुश्मनी, द्वेष, शत्रुता
	Curtail	verb	To shorten; to cut short	घटाना, संक्षिप्त करना
Q13	Faction	noun	A group, usually a small part of larger group, united around some cause; disagreement within an organization.	गुट, दल
	Wanton	adjective	Malicious; unjustifiable; unprovoked; egregious	प्रचंड, अकारण; प्रबल
	Mentor	noun	A teacher, tutor, counselor or coach;	सिक्कक
Q14	Facile	adjective	Fluent; skillful in a superficial way; easy	सरल, सुगम, आसान
	Disparage	verb	To belittle; to say uncomplimentary things about, usually in a somewhat indirect way.	नीचा दिखाना, उपेक्षा करना
	Mercenary	noun	A hired soldier; someone who will do anything for money	किराये का सिपाही



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