

Ending dominance: On Competition Commission of India's ruling against Google

Mobile users of digital **powerhouses** such as India **need** an environment of real choice

The recent order of India's competition **regulator** against Google for **abusing** its **dominant** position in the Android mobile device **ecosystem is** significant not just for the amount of penalty **imposed** but also for the **drastic** changes in business **practices** that it requires the IT giant to **undertake**. On Thursday, the Competition Commission of India imposed a penalty of about ₹1,337 crore, said to be a **provisional** amount, on Google, while **coming down heavily on** it for having such **restrictive clauses** in its agreements with original equipment manufacturers (who use its Android platform) that it can **keep** competition **at bay**. And because of such agreements, the order said, "Google **ensured** that users continue to use its search services on mobile devices which **facilitated** un-interrupted growth of advertisement revenue for Google." It, therefore, **concluded** that **the whole idea** of Google imposing such restrictions on its device partners **was** to "protect and **strengthen** its dominant position in general search services and thus, its revenues via search advertisements". **This decision**, both the penalty and the regulator's direction to Google "to modify its **conduct**", **will** be welcomed by anyone who realises the power of the big IT platforms to **shut out** competition and, therefore, choice for the users.

Significantly, it will not be **business-as-usual** for Google, as the regulator has issued a **cease and desist** order against it, according to which it will have to drastically change the terms of the deals it enters into with original equipment manufacturers. **For instance**, as per the Competition Commission order, Google should not **henceforth** force original equipment manufacturers to choose from its **bouquet** of apps to pre-install on the device. Nor should it, the order says, require device makers to pre-install its apps such as Google search, Chrome, YouTube, Maps, among others, as a **precondition** for licensing of its Play Store. It also has been **directed** against restricting users from uninstalling its pre-installed apps. One of the requirements, in fact, targets Google's primary revenue generator. It says, "Google shall allow the users, during the **initial** device setup, to choose their default search engine for all **search entry points**." **These**, among a **slew** of such requirements, **could** well mean that Google will have to **tweak** its business model in India. Google has **termed** the order a "major **setback**" for Indian businesses and consumers, saying it opens up security risks while also possibly raising the cost of mobile devices. While the option of legal review is open, it is to the regulator's **credit** that Google's anti-competitive practices have been **called out**. **What** the mobile users of a **potential** digital powerhouse such as India need **is** an environment of real choice. [Practice Exercise]

- What (pronoun) – The thing or things that
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

Vocabulary

1. **Dominance** (noun) – Power, control, supremacy, influence, leverage दबदबा/बोलबाला
2. **Competition Commission of India** (CCI) (noun) – The Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established in March 2009 by Government of India under the Competition Act, 2002 for the administration, implementation, and enforcement of the Act. Eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition. Promote and sustain competition. Protect the interests of consumers.
3. **Ruling** (noun) – decision, judgment, decree फैसला
4. **Powerhouse** (noun) – a person, organization, or country with a lot of energy, power, or influence
5. **Regulator** (noun) – a person or body that supervises a particular industry or business activity. नियामक
6. **Abuse** (verb) – misuse, mistreat, maltreat, ill-treat दुरुपयोग करना
7. **Dominant** (adjective) – predominant, chief, principal, leading, foremost प्रमुख
8. **Ecosystem** (noun) – (in general use) a complex network or interconnected system. पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
9. **Practice** (noun) – Habit, custom, tradition प्रथा, कार्य
10. **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, embark on, venture on आरंभ करना
11. **Provisional** (adjective) – for the present time but likely to change; temporary, interim, tentative अस्थायी
12. **Come down on** (phrase) – to punish or criticize a person or activity very strongly फटकारना, सज़ा देना
13. **Restrictive** (adjective) – exclusive, limiting, prohibitive, restricting, confining प्रतिबंधक
14. **Clause** (noun) – an article, stipulation or proviso, in a legal document. धारा
15. **Keep something at bay** (phrase) – to prevent someone or something unpleasant from harming you दूर रखना
16. **Ensure** (verb) – make sure, make certain, see to it सुनिश्चित करना
17. **Facilitate** (verb) – assist, help, ease, promote, further सरल बनाना
18. **Conclude** (verb) – Decide by reasoning; draw or come to a conclusion परिणाम निकालना
19. **Strengthen** (verb) – reinforce, enhance, increase, intensify, fortify मजबूत करना

20. **Conduct** (noun) – the act of controlling or organizing something प्रबंधन
21. **Shut out** (phrasal verb) – exclude, keep out, shut रोकना
22. **Business-as-usual** (phrase) – used to say that something is working or continuing in the normal or usual way हमेशा की तरह
23. **Cease-and-desist** (adjective) – used to describe an official order given by a court or government agency that demands that somebody must stop doing a particular activity
24. **For instance** (phrase) – For example, As, Such as उदाहरण के लिए
25. **Henceforth** (adverb) – henceforward, hereafter, from now on, as of now अब से
26. **Bouquet** (noun) – Bunch, group
27. **Precondition** (noun) – prerequisite, condition, sine qua non, stipulation, requirement पूर्व शर्त
28. **Direct** (verb) – to tell or order somebody to do something निर्देश या आदेश देना
29. **Initial** (adjective) – first, primary, original, early, opening शुरुआती
30. **Search entry point** (noun) – it means search entry points agreed by the parties that are eligible for End Users to initiate search query to Google, which only include WebSearch Boxes within the Site(s);
31. **Slew** (noun) – a large amount or number कई अन्य
32. **Tweak** (verb) – to make small changes to a machine, system, etc. in order to improve the way it works सुधार करना
33. **Term** (verb) – call, name, entitle, title, designate, describe as कहना
34. **Setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue, hitch, complication, upset, नाकामयाबी, झटका
35. **To someone's credit** (noun) – deserving praise and respect प्रशंसा और सम्मान के पात्र होना
36. **Call out** (phrasal verb) – to criticize someone or ask them to explain their actions आलोचना करना
37. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, likely, prospective, latent, probable, budding संभावित

Practice Exercise

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

1. These, among a slew of such requirements, could well mean that Google will have to tweak its business model in India
 - A. Arbiter
 - B. Adjust
 - C. Paradox
 - D. Urbane
2. Nor should it, the order says, require device makers to pre-install its apps such as Google search, Chrome, YouTube, Maps, among others, as a precondition for licensing of its Play Store
 - A. Paucity
 - B. Mellifluous
 - C. Mendicant
 - D. Requirement
3. On Thursday, the Competition Commission of India imposed a penalty of about ₹1,337 crore, said to be a provisional amount
 - A. Homogeneous
 - B. Plethora
 - C. Temporary
 - D. Inaugurate

4. **Idioms & Phrase**

The president's recent decision to back out of the trade agreement has queered the pitch for many companies seeking to enjoy lower export-import costs.

- A. To base an opinion, decision, or judgment on something
 - B. To become equal to someone in a competition when they had previously been winning
 - C. To be able to pass an obstacle.
 - D. To ruin, spoil, or undermine one's efforts, plans, or ideas.
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.**
- The economy grew 13.5% in Q1 2022-23, considerably slower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 16.2%.**
- P. Growth was driven by contact-intensive services, which faced Covid restrictions in the same quarter a year ago, and stepped-up government capex.
 - Q. Agriculture surprised on the upside, growing twice as fast as a year ago despite an intense summer that was expected to hurt yields.
 - R. Manufacturing snapped out of a contraction in the previous three months.
 - S. Demand revived in consumption, whose share climbed 5.9 percentage points to reach 59.9% of GDP, while investment demand rose by a more modest 1.9 percentage points to 34.7%.

T. Exports held their share, but elevated energy prices swelled imports, which gained 5.3 percentage points.

U. Government expenditure declined in terms of GDP share, which points to tighter control also reflecting in the fiscal deficit numbers.

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

- A. P B.S 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. If I would know (A)/ what you wanted (B)/ I would help you. (C)/ No error(D)

7. No source of energy is so cheap (A)/ as solar energy (B)/ in present age of energy crisis. (C)/ No error(D)

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. The student could not understand why | D. the teacher was angry with him. |
| B. Though the project is in its infancy | E. there were many old-timers who were shocked and frightened. |
| C. That day when they brought back for the last time | F. it is in progress day by day. |

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

9.

| Column (1) | Column (2) |
|---|---|
| A. Opportunities like these | D. are not offered every day |
| B. He is empowered to | E. act independently in routine matters |
| C. Unless you meet all the requirements | F. your application will be rejected. |

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

10. Find out the misspelt word

- A. Reccommend
- B. Seize
- C. Supersede
- D. Withhold

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Arbitrary and exclusionary – Sep 16, 2022)

A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit is **(A)**/ now examined the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, **(B)**/ which provides for 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), **(C)**/ excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who already have reservation in higher education institutions and government jobs. **(D)**

The Bench has finalised three issues for **amendment (A)** — whether the **hearing (B)** has breached the Constitution’s **basic(C)** structure by **permitting (D)** the state to make special provisions; whether it does so in relation to admissions to private **_____11_____** institutions and, lastly, if the exclusion of OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the quota **_____12_____** on the basic structure. These are valid questions and it could be argued that the legislation of the reservation in 2019 was done hastily without due diligence of the criteria adopted. For example, the setting of an annual family income of ₹8 lakh as a **_____13_____** to determine if someone belongs to the EWS is clearly problematic. If available consumer expenditure surveys such as the NSSO report, ‘Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12’, are relied on, a large **_____14_____** of the population will be eligible for reservations in the “below Rs. 8 lakh” EWS category and not just the truly deserving sections of the poor. A government-appointed committee submitted that this ceiling was reasonable, but it could not adequately explain how the income criterion was “more stringent” than the one for the OBC creamy layer. Also, the ₹8 lakh figure did not correspond to any data on the estimated number of EWS persons in the population with incomes related to it.

Even if the Court agrees to maintain that reservations can be provided on economic basis — something that has been explicitly denied so far with only social and educational backwardness being mentioned in the Constitution and reiterated in several judgments — excluding people of certain communities from this benefit despite their belonging to the EWS renders the legislation **discriminatory. (1)**/ This is a valid argument. **(2)**/ Petitioners have also argued that the net effect of the exclusion of Backward Classes and SC/ST aspirants from the EWS has been that they are now denied an opportunity to compete in the general category to the extent of 10%, in effect, limiting the quota to the “forward classes”. **(3)**/ In recent recruitment and entrance examinations such as the UPSC and JEE, marks cut-offs for admissions were lower for the EWS quota than that of the OBCs. **(4)**/ In essence, if an income criterion for identifying the economically weaker sections has to be the basis, it must arrive at a clearly determined figure for the limit unlike the ₹8 lakh figure, and all sections of society, irrespective of caste, should be eligible to avail of reservation under this category.

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

11. Whether it does so in relation to admissions to private _____ institutions

- A. Exigency
B. Unaided
C. Innocuous
D. Rustic
12. The exclusion of OBC/SC/ST communities from the scope of the quota _____ on the basic structure.
A. Subversive
B. Tramples
C. Obfuscate
D. Prodigy
13. For example, the setting of an annual family income of ₹8 lakh as a _____ to determine if someone belongs to the EWS is clearly problematic.
A. Proletariat
B. Ceiling
C. Nuance
D. Discriminate
14. If available consumer expenditure surveys such as the NSSO report, 'Key Indicators of Household Consumer Expenditure, 2011-12', are relied on, a large _____ of the population.
A. Arcane
B. Consonant
C. Noxious
D. Chunk
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.**
A Constitution Bench led by Chief Justice of India U.U. Lalit is **(A)/** now examined the validity of the 103rd Constitutional Amendment, **(B)/** which provides for 10% reservation to the economically weaker sections (EWS), **(C)/** excluding Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes who already have reservation in higher education institutions and government jobs. **(D)**
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
Even if the Court agrees to maintain that reservations can be provided on economic basis — something that has been explicitly denied so far with only social and educational backwardness being mentioned in the Constitution and reiterated in several judgments — excluding people of certain communities from this benefit despite their belonging to the EWS renders the legislation discriminatory. **(1)/** This is a valid argument. **(2)/** Petitioners have also

argued that the net effect of the exclusion of Backward Classes and SC/ST aspirants from the EWS has been that they are now denied an opportunity to compete in the general category to the extent of 10%, in effect, limiting the quota to the “forward classes”. **(3)/** In recent recruitment and entrance examinations such as the UPSC and JEE, marks cut-offs for admissions were lower for the EWS quota than that of the OBCs. **(4)/**

- A. 1234
- B. 3214
- C. 3241
- D. 2143
- E. 2134

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

DISCRIMINATORY

- (i) These reforms will abolish racially **discriminatory** laws.
- (ii) He lost his job when he was found to have **discriminatory** some of the company's money.
- (iii) The present study requires no prescribed entrance conditions, and permits solution for completely **discriminatory** shape.

- 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.

The Bench has finalised three issues for **amendment (A)** — whether the **hearing (B)** has breached the Constitution’s **basic(C)** structure by **permitting (D)** the state to make special provisions;

- A. C – A
- B. A – D
- C. A – B
- 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) I’m going to Janet’s party at the weekend
 - (ii) Mary’s, I think I’ll pass.
- A. As for

- B. Although
- C. Due to
- D. Unless
- E. Actually

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He presided _____ the meeting in the absence of the chairman.

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

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

4. **Queer the pitch** (phrase) – To ruin, spoil, or undermine one's efforts, plans, or ideas. बिगाड़ देना
5. **PQRSTU**
 The economy grew 13.5% in Q1 2022-23, considerably slower than the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) forecast of 16.2%. Growth was driven by contact-intensive services, which faced Covid restrictions in the same quarter a year ago, and stepped-up government capex. Agriculture surprised on the upside, growing twice as fast as a year ago despite an intense summer that was expected to hurt yields. Manufacturing snapped out of a contraction in the previous three months. Demand revived in consumption, whose share climbed 5.9 percentage points to reach 59.9% of GDP, while investment demand rose by a more modest 1.9 percentage points to 34.7%. Exports held their share, but elevated energy prices swelled imports, which gained 5.3 percentage points. Government expenditure declined in terms of GDP share, which points to tighter control also reflecting in the fiscal deficit numbers.
6. 'would know' के बदले 'knew' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि present के unreal situation को व्यक्त करने के लिए if-clause में if+subject+v2 का प्रयोग होता है तथा main clause में subject + would/could/might/should + v1 का; जैसे-
- i. If you worked hard, you would passed.
- 'knew' will be used instead of 'would know' because if + subject + v2 is used in if-clause to express unreal situation of present and subject + would/could/might/ in main clause should + v1; like-
- i. If you worked hard, you would passed.
7. 'No source' के बदले 'No other source' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब दो से अधिक व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं की तुलना positive Degree में करनी हो तो वाक्य की बनावट- 'No other + singular countable noun....so/as+ positive degree+ as..... होती है; जैसे-
- i. No other boy in the class is so/as good as Raman.
- 'No other source' will be used instead of 'No source' because when more than two persons or things are to be compared in positive degree, then the structure of the sentence- 'No other + singular countable noun....so/as + positive' degree+ as..... is; like-
- i. No other boy in the class is so/as good as Raman.
8. **Correct Option: B**
- The student could not understand why the teacher was angry with him.**
 Fragment A of column 1 is matched with fragment D of column 2 to make the sentence contextually and grammatically correct.

Though the project is in its infancy, it is in progress day by day.

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

That day when they brought back for the last time there were many old-timers who were shocked and frightened

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

Correct is: That day when they were brought back for the last time there were many old-timers who were shocked and frightened.

- 'brought' के बदले 'were brought' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'brought' एक Transitive verb है जिसका subject 'they', 'doer' नहीं है बल्कि 'receiver' है, और यदि subject 'receiver' हो तो verb passive होता है।

9. **Correct Option: B**

Opportunities like these are not offered every day.

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

He is empowered to act independently in routine matters.

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

Unless you meet all the requirements your application will be rejected.

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

Correct is: Unless you meet all the requirements your application will be rejected.

10. **Recommend** (verb) – suggest, advise, advocate, urge, endorse अनुशंसा करना
11. **Unaided** (adjective) – solo, alone, independently, single-handed बिना सहायता के
12. **Trample** (verb) – crush, tread, squash, flatten, stamp रौंदना
13. **Ceiling** (noun) – limit, maximum, upper limit अधिकतम सीमा
14. **Chunk** (noun) – Portion, lump, piece, amount हिस्सा
15. 'examined' के बदले 'examining' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य active voice में है।
16. (B) **3214**

Petitioners have also argued that the net effect of the exclusion of Backward Classes and SC/ST aspirants from the EWS has been that they are now denied an opportunity to compete in the general category to the extent of 10%, in effect, limiting the quota to the "forward classes". This is a valid argument. Even if the Court agrees to maintain that reservations can be provided on economic basis – something that has been explicitly denied so far with only social and educational backwardness being mentioned in the Constitution and reiterated in several judgments – excluding people of certain communities from this benefit despite their

belonging to the EWS renders the legislation discriminatory. In recent recruitment and entrance examinations such as the UPSC and JEE, marks cut-offs for admissions were lower for the EWS quota than that of the OBCs.

17. **Discriminatory** (adjective) – prejudiced, biased, unfair, preferential, invidious भेदभावपूर्ण

According to the given options only (i) is contextually correct.

Because the (ii) and (iii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

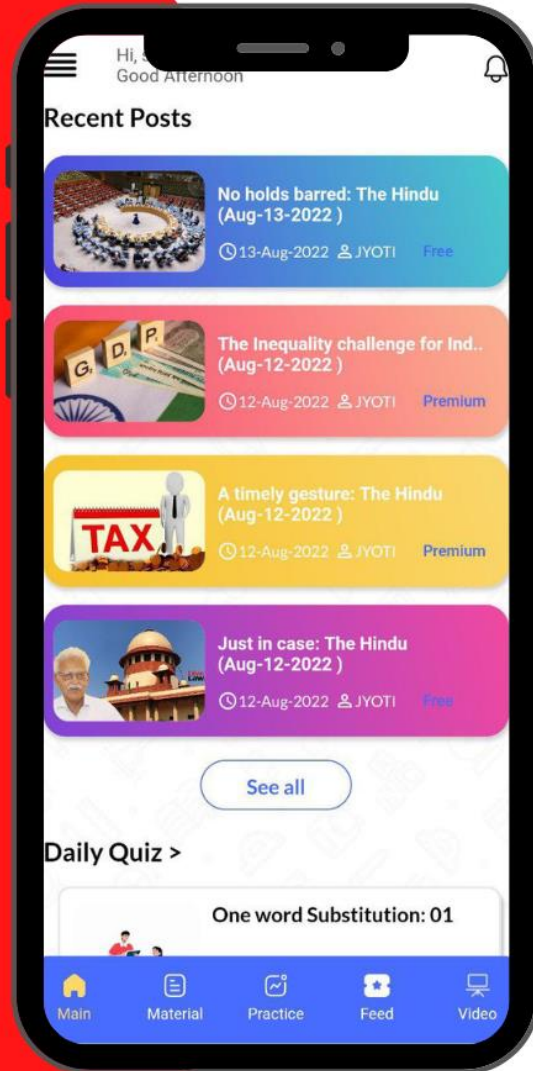
(ii) He lost his job when he was found to have appropriated some of the company's money.

(iii) The present study requires no prescribed entrance conditions, and permits solution for completely arbitrary shape.

19. I'm going to Janet's party at the weekend. **As for** Mary's, I think I'll pass.

Explanation of other important word

| Sr.NO | Words | | Meanings | |
|-------|---------------------|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| Q. 1 | Arbiter | noun | One who decides; a Judge | मध्यस्थ |
| | Paradox | noun | An untrue statement or phenomenon that nonetheless seem logical | विरोधाभास |
| | Urbane | adjective | Poised; sophisticated; refined | परिष्कृत |
| Q.2 | Paucity | noun | Scarcity | कमी |
| | Mellifluous | adjective | Sweetly flowing | मधुर |
| | Mendicant | noun | A beggar | भिक्षुक |
| Q.3 | Homogeneous | adjective | Uniform; made entirely of one thing | समरूप, समरस, |
| | Plethora | noun | An excess | बहुतायत |
| | Inaugurate | verb | To begin officially; to induct formally into office | अभिषेक करना |
| Q. 11 | Exigency | noun | An emergency; an urgency | अत्यावश्यकता |
| | Innocuous | adjective | Harmless; banal | अहानिकर |
| | Rustic | adjective | Rural; lacking urban comforts or sophistication; primitive | देहाती |
| Q.12 | Subversive | adjective | Corrupting; overthrowing; undermining; insurgent | विनाशक |
| | Obfuscate | verb | To darken; to confuse; to make confusing | अंधेरा करना |
| | Prodigy | noun | An extremely talented child; an extraordinary accomplishment | विलक्षण गुण-संपन्न मनुष्य |
| Q. 13 | Proletariat | noun | The industrial working class | सर्वहारा |
| | Nuance | noun | A subtle difference or distinction | सूक्ष्म अंतर |
| | Discriminate | verb | To discern; to differentiate. | भेदभाव |
| Q. 14 | Arcane | adjective | Mysterious; known only to a select few | रहस्य का, भेद का |
| | Consonant | adjective | Harmonious; in agreement | अनुरूप, अनुकूल |
| | Noxious | adjective | Harmful; offensive | हानिकारक |



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