

Careless threats: On the Ukraine war and the dirty bomb talk

The war in Ukraine is **threatening** to **escalate** beyond anyone's control

Russia's **allegation** that Ukraine was planning to launch a **so-called** dirty bomb **shows** how dramatically the Ukraine conflict has escalated. Russia's Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu **held talks** with many of his global **counterparts**, including Rajnath Singh, **accusing** Ukraine of **potential** "nuclear terrorism". A dirty bomb is not a nuclear bomb but a **conventional** explosive device with **radioactive** materials, the explosion of which could turn **swathes** of land **uninhabitable** for **decades**. Ukraine and its western **backers** have rejected the Russian allegations, saying the **Russians**, who have suffered **setbacks**, **are** making **unfounded** claims for a **false flag** attack. It is difficult to **ascertain** what is going on behind the **fog** of a full-scale war, but **the talk** of dirty bombs and nuclear terrorism **does** not **bode well**. Ever since the U.S.'s nuclear bombing of Japan in 1945, the world has largely treated the nuclear option as **taboo**. Even in 1962, when the Soviet Union and the U.S. were **on the brink of** conflict, their leaders **managed** to end the crisis **amicably** through **dialogue**. But unfortunately, Vladimir Putin's **threat** of using all **means** available to him to protect his country and Joe Biden's **warning** of a "**nuclear Armageddon**" **are tantamount to normalising** the nuclear option in the middle of a conflict that is in an **escalatory spiral**.

What is more surprising is that even as the war is **steadily deteriorating**, there is no **conscious** effort by any side to start a dialogue. Russia says it is ready for talks but has not given any **concrete** proposals, and its offer for talks cannot be trusted, especially after it announced the **annexation** of four partially controlled Ukrainian regions. Ukraine says it will not hold talks with Russia as long as Mr. Putin is in power and that it **intends** to fight till all Ukrainian regions are **liberated**, including Crimea. Ukraine's western backers say they would continue to support Ukraine's **resistance** "as long as it takes". As all sides take **maximalist** positions, **escalation** is creating its own **dynamic**, **taking the whole world hostage**. Eight months of war have already created economic and **humanitarian** disasters. And there are greater fears of a direct conflict between Russia and **NATO**, two nuclear forces. What more do the **stakeholders** of this war want before they actually begin serious talks? They should realise that **unchecked escalation** with an open possibility of a Russia-NATO war **would** be **catastrophic** for the whole world. The **stakes** are higher than their geopolitical goals. The **rhetoric** on nuclear attacks and **retaliation should** stop immediately and Russia, Ukraine and **the West** should begin talks to end the conflict. The alternative would be **cataclysmic**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Dirty bomb** (noun) – a conventional bomb that contains radioactive material.
2. **Threaten** (verb) – Pose a threat to; present a danger to खतरा पैदा करना
3. **Escalate** (verb) – Intensify, worsen, heighten, deteriorate, spiral, increase, accelerate आगे बढ़ना
4. **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion आरोप
5. **So-called** (adjective) – supposed, alleged, presumed, ostensible तथाकथित
6. **Hold talk** (phrase) – to have formal or official discussions about an issue or a situation.
7. **Counterpart** (noun) – equivalent, opposite number, peer, समकक्ष
8. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – charge with, indict for, arraign for, take to court for आरोप लगाना
9. **Potential** (adjective) – possible, likely, prospective, latent, probable, budding संभावित
10. **Conventional** (adjective) – usual, normal, regular, ordinary, traditional, common सामान्य/ पारंपरिक
11. **Radioactive** (adjective) – sending out powerful and very dangerous rays that are produced when atoms are broken up. These rays cannot be seen or felt but can cause serious illness or death रेडियो-सक्रिय या विकिरणशील
12. **Swathe** (noun) – a broad strip or area of something. विशाल क्षेत्र
13. **Uninhabitable** (adjective) – not possible to live in जहाँ रहना संभव न हो
14. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
15. **Backer** (noun) – sponsor, investor, subsidizer, supporter समर्थक
16. **Setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue, hitch, complication, upset, नाकामयाबी, झटका
17. **Unfounded** (adjective) – not based on or supported by facts निराधार, बेबुनियाद
18. **False flag** (noun) – a political or military action that is made to appear to have been carried out by a group that is not actually responsible:
19. **Ascertain** (verb) – Determine, establish, discover, find out पता लगाना

20. **Fog** (noun) – thick white cloud that forms close to the land or sea. Fog makes it difficult for us to see कोहरा
21. **Bode** (well/ill) (phrase) – Be an omen of a particular outcome; augur, presage, portend, foretell संकेत देना (शुभ/ अशुभ)
22. **Taboo** (adjective) – Forbidden, unmentionable, unthinkable, banned, prohibited, proscribed, inviolable, barred निषिद्ध या वर्जित
23. **On the brink of** (phrase) – On the verge of doing something or of having some imminent event happen के कगार पर
24. **Manage** (to) (verb) – To succeed in accomplishing, achieving, or producing, especially with difficulty सफल होना
25. **Amicably** (adverb) – agreeably, genially, friendly, affably, kindly सौहार्दपूर्ण ढंग से
26. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse, बातचीत, संवाद
27. **Mean** (noun) – method, way, manner, mode, measure माध्यम
28. **Nuclear Armageddon** (noun) – a theoretical scenario where the mass detonation of nuclear weapons causes globally widespread destruction and radioactive fallout.
29. **Tantamount** (to) (adjective) – Equal, equivalent, identical, the same as समान, बराबर
30. **Normalise** (verb) – to become or make something become normal again or return to how it was before पुनः सामान्य हो जाना या कर देना
31. **Escalatory** (adjective) – tending to escalate/increase बढ़ते
32. **Spiral** (noun) – a situation gets worse and is difficult to control because one bad event causes another
33. **Steadily** (adverb) – constantly, consistently, regularly, continuously, continually लगातार
34. **Deteriorating** (adjective) – worsening, declining, disintegrating, worsen, decaying बिगड़ती
35. **Conscious** (adjective) – Deliberate, intentional, premeditated, willful, determined, considered, on purpose जान-बूझकर, सोदृश्य या सकारण
36. **Concrete** (adjective) – specific, distinct, particular, definite ठोस
37. **Annexation** (noun) – Capture, seizure, takeover, occupation, invasion, सम्मेलन
38. **Intend** (verb) – Mean, aim, propose, plan, anticipate, expect इरादा करना

39. **Liberate** (verb) – Release, free, unshackle, unfetter, set free स्वतंत्र करना
40. **Resistance** (noun) – opposition, fight, battle, stand, struggle, confrontation प्रतिरोध, विरोध
41. **Maximalist** (adjective) – of or denoting an extreme opinion अधिकतमवादी
42. **Escalation** (noun) – intensification, aggravation, exacerbation, compounding, increase वृद्धि
43. **Dynamic** (noun) – the forces that control the relationships people or things have with each other and how those relationships can change
44. **Take someone hostage** (phrase) – to take or keep (someone) as a hostage. बंधक बनाना
45. **Humanitarian** (adjective) – compassionate, humane मानवीय
46. **NATO** (noun) – The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was founded in 1949 and is a group of 30 countries from Europe and North America that exists to protect the people and territory of its members
47. **Stakeholder** (noun) – A person with an interest or concern in something हितधारक
48. **Unchecked** (adjective) – unimpeded, unrestrained, unhindered, unrestricted, unconstrained, unbridled, बेरोक
49. **Catastrophic** (adjective) – Disastrous, shattering, calamitous, appalling, terrible, ruinous, tragic, cataclysmic, devastating प्रलयंकर
50. **Stake** (noun) – the things that you might win or lose in a game or in a particular situation दाँव पर लगाया
51. **Rhetoric** (noun) – a way of speaking or writing that is intended to impress or influence people but is not always sincere लफ्फाजी, बयानबाजी
52. **Retaliation** (noun) – Reprisal, revenge, vengeance, retribution बदला
53. **The West** (noun) – It include U.S and other European countries.
54. **Cataclysmic** (adjective) – Catastrophic, disastrous, calamitous, dreadful, tragic, devastating, shattering प्रलयकारी

Practice Exercise

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

1. They should realise that **unchecked** escalation with an open possibility of a Russia-NATO war would be catastrophic for the whole world.
 - A. Assuage
 - B. Steadfast
 - C. Unimpeded
 - D. Replete
2. The explosion of which could turn **swathes** of land uninhabitable for decades.
 - A. Elicit
 - B. Bourgeois
 - C. Bane
 - D. Area
3. Ever since the U.S.'s nuclear bombing of Japan in 1945, the world has largely treated the nuclear option as **taboo**.
 - A. Forbidden
 - B. Superfluous
 - C. Perennial
 - D. Intransigent
4. **Idioms & Phrase**

Thanks to the economy doing so well lately, our business has been booming. I guess it's really true what they say, that **a rising tide lifts all boats**.

 - A. It describes the idea that when an economy is performing well, all people will benefit from it.
 - B. Taking the most pessimistic or unfavorable view
 - C. A proportionate saving in costs gained by an increased level of production.
 - D. A proportionate saving gained by producing two or more distinct goods, when the cost of doing so is less than that of producing each separately.
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.**

Though over two lakh Covid-19 cases are being reported every day in India, the third wave seems to be plateauing in large parts of the country — and so, reopening schools must now move to the top of the agenda of all governments.

 - P. Children in the national capital lost more school-days to pollution.
 - Q. Several states had reopened classrooms for a few months last year, but the Omicron-driven wave of infections led to another interruption.
 - R. "around 320 million children in India had not stepped into a classroom for more than a year".
 - S. According to a parliamentary standing committee report last year,

T. and the cost in terms of nutrition and equity have been underlined by various surveys.

U. The crisis in learning and education, the regression of children's foundational skills in reading, writing and arithmetic,

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

A. P

B.T

C.U

D.Q

E.R

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

6. A. What would you have done if you had been attacked by a bandit?
B. I know that if the animal was at home at that moment, it would probably be sound a sleep.
C. If you do not mend your behaviour, you will suffer
D. Akbar was one of the finest king that India ever had.
E. All are correct
7. A. She works so that she may not fail.
B. Looking out of the window, the little boy saw a kite entangled in the branches of the gulmohar tree.
C. The bunch of keys have been lost by my brother in the morning.
D. He would have succeeded if he had worked hard.
E. All are correct
8. A real brave man is not he (A)/ who does not feel (B)/ afraid but one who conquers that fear. (C)/ No Error(D)
9. It's not proper (A)/ to talk loudly (B)/ over the telephone. (C)/ No Error(D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
A. Stallwart
B. Asphodel
C. Risibility
D. Incarcerate

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Shared history – Aug 10, 2022)

The Commonwealth Games (CWG), alluding for **(A)**/ a happily ever-after between England **(B)**/ and its former colonies, **(C)**/ may have its legacy issues. **(D)**

And in terms of the competitive yardstick, with the obvious absence of the United States of America, Russia and China, the CWG is considered a notch below the Olympics and the Asian Games. Yet, the CWG has a certain value in being a multi-nation **quadrennial (A)** event that pits a **disparate (B)** group of countries split by continents and **linked (C)** by a shared past **fused (D)** to the British Empire. It offers athletes one more shot at glory besides inspiring their fans to pursue sport with added 11. In the latest edition that concluded at Birmingham on Monday, India with a medal haul of 61, inclusive of 22 golds, was placed fourth while Australia, host England and Canada led the charts. With shooting excluded from the CWG, India lost out on an additional yield. Most Indian

medals told a tale etched by hope, _____**12**_____ and hard work. If Sharath Kamal's table tennis exploits, even at 40, proved that sportspersons can fight the dimming light, weightlifter Sanket Sargar's silver in the men's 55kg segment, showed that financial difficulties cannot _____**13**_____ a focused athlete. Four years ago, Sanket used to sell paan from a tiny shop at Sangli in Maharashtra, and his is a story that needs to be _____**14**_____.

The siblings also worked in the fields, fighting poverty and coping with the demise of their father. **(1)/** Like Sanket, Achinta's too is a story of hope and redemption. **(2)/** Achinta, his brother Alok and mother did embroidery. **(3)/** Similar is the personal history linked to weightlifter Achinta Sheuli, who won gold in the 73kg division. **(4)/** If fresh athletes caught the eye with their triumph over tough circumstances, the established ones reiterated their dominance too. P.V. Sindhu, who will now be counted among India's greatest ever athletes, won gold in the badminton women's singles while her male counterpart Lakshya Sen did an encore. Fresh territories were **annexed** too as in a field always dominated by the Africans, Avinash Sable won silver in the men's 3000m steeplechase. Boxer Nikhat Zareen again landed a solid punch for women-power while her colleague Lovlina Borgohain's failure and the issues surrounding her personal coach in the lead-up to the CWG, revealed faultlines. Medals were secured in hockey and women's cricket but they were not gold and the respective squads displayed fragility in crunch situations. That sport is not always war minus the shooting was evident when Neeraj Chopra effusively praised Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem, who won gold in the men's javelin. The latest success in the CWG, should hold the Indian athletes in good stead as they prepare for next year's Asian Games in China.

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

11. It offers athletes one more shot at glory besides inspiring their fans to pursue sport with added _____**11**_____.
- A. Laconic
 - B. Vitriolic
 - C. Vigour
 - D. Lugubrious
12. Most Indian medals told a tale etched by hope, _____**12**_____ and hard work.
- A. Approbation
 - B. Genre
 - C. Defaming
 - D. Diligence
13. If Sharath Kamal's table tennis exploits, even at 40, proved that sportspersons can fight the dimming light, weightlifter Sanket Sargar's silver in the men's 55kg segment, showed that financial difficulties cannot _____**13**_____ a focused athlete.
- A. Perturb
 - B. Derail
 - C. Predilection
 - D. Extraneous

14. Four years ago, Sanket used to sell paan from a tiny shop at Sangli in Maharashtra, and his is a story that needs to be _____14_____.
- A. Astute
B. Vacillated
C. Transgressed
D. Cherished
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 Commonwealth Games (CWG), alluding for **(A)**/ a happily ever-after between England **(B)**/ and its former colonies, **(C)**/ may have its legacy issues. **(D)**
- A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**
The siblings also worked in the fields, fighting poverty and coping with the demise of their father. **(1)**/ Like Sanket, Achinta's too is a story of hope and redemption. **(2)**/ Achinta, his brother Alok and mother did embroidery. **(3)**/ Similar is the personal history linked to weightlifter Achinta Sheuli, who won gold in the 73kg division. **(4)**
- A. 4312
B. 1234
C. 4321
D. 2143
E. 3241
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

ANNEX

- (i) They will now **annex** their grasp on the senate following the results of the election.
(ii) In order to make such drastic renovations to your home, you'll need to **annex** more land to your lot.
(iii) Well, if we **annexed** this lot to that lot, we would have much more room for our store—and a parking lot too.
- 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.

Yet, the CWG has a certain value in being a multi-nation **quadrennial (A)** event that pits a **disparate (B)** group of countries split by continents and **linked (C)** by a shared past **fused (D)** to the British Empire.

- 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) The floors had been waxed and the furniture got polished by afternoon.
- (ii) The house sparkled but in an empty kind of way.
 - A. When
 - B. Once
 - C. As
 - D. Until
 - E. Even though

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

You can't just go through life trifling _____ people and their affections without any regard for their well-being.

- A. Of
- B. From
- C. With
- D. To
- E. None of the above

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

4. **A rising tide lifts all boats** (phrase) – it describes the idea that when an economy is performing well, all people will benefit from it.
5. **UTSRQP**
 Though over two lakh Covid-19 cases are being reported every day in India, the third wave seems to be plateauing in large parts of the country – and so, reopening schools must now move to the top of the agenda of all governments. The crisis in learning and education, the regression of children’s foundational skills in reading, writing and arithmetic, and the cost in terms of nutrition and equity have been underlined by various surveys. According to a parliamentary standing committee report last year, “around 320 million children in India had not stepped into a classroom for more than a year”. Several states had reopened classrooms for a few months last year, but the Omicron-driven wave of infections led to another interruption. Children in the national capital lost more school-days to pollution.
6. 'king' के बदले 'kings' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि 'one of / each of/ either of/ neither of/ every one of/ each one of any one of' के बाद आनेवाले Nouns हमेशा Plural होते हैं; जैसे-

- i. One of the boys.
- ii. Each of the girls.
- iii. Every one of the players.

➤ 'king' will be replaced with 'kings' because noun after 'one of / each of/ either of/ neither of/ every one of/ each one of any one of' are always plural; As-

- i. One of the boys.
- ii. Each of the girls.
- iii. Every one of the players.

7. 'have' के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject 'The bunch' Singular है जिसके लिए Singular Verb का प्रयोग होगा।

➤ 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject 'the bunch' of the sentence is singular for which Singular Verb will be used.

8. Part (A) में 'A real brave man' के बदले 'A really brave man' का प्रयोग होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'real' एक Adjective है और 'really' एक Adverb, और Adjective 'brave' की विशेषता Adverb 'really' बताएगा, न कि Adjective 'real' देखें-

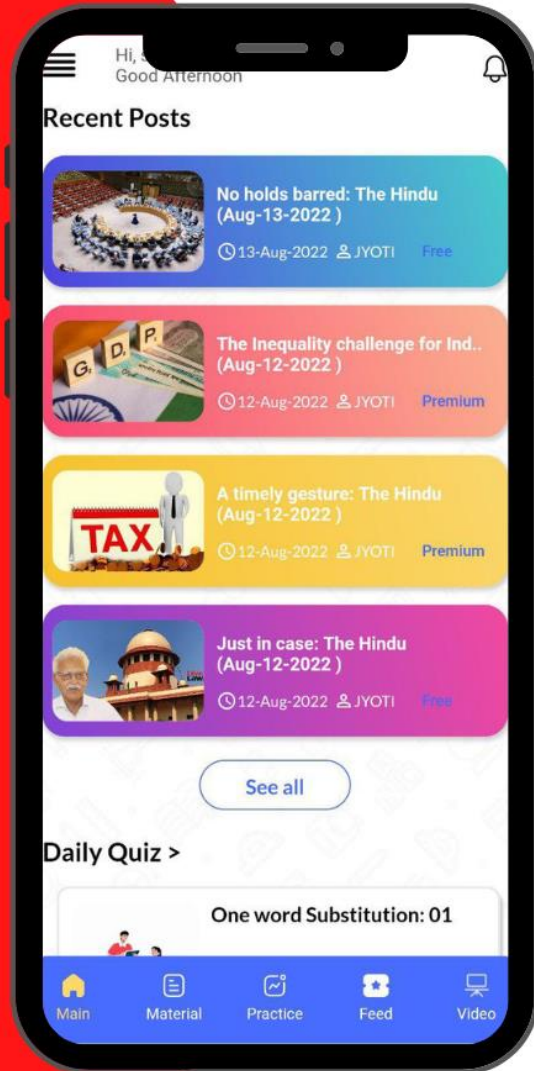
- i. A really hot fire.
- ii. A really dangerous activity.

➤ In Part (A) 'A real brave man' should be replaced with 'A really brave man' because 'real' is an Adjective And 'really' is an Adverb, and Adjective 'brave' will characterize Adverb 'really', not Adjective 'real' See-

- i. A really hot fire.
ii. A really dangerous activity.
9. 'over' के बदले 'on' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'talk/speak' (to somebody) on the phone का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे-
- i. I often talk to him on the phone
ii. We talk on the phone every day.
- 'on' will be used instead of 'over' because 'talk/speak' (to somebody) on the phone is used; As-
- i. I often talk to him on the phone
ii. We talk on the phone every day.
10. **Stalwart** (adjective) – resolute, determined, courageous, daring निष्ठावान, साहसी
11. **Vigour** (noun) –energy, activity, liveliness, life, spryness जोश, बल
12. **Diligence** (noun) –conscientiousness, assiduousness, assiduity, attentiveness, heedfulness, earnestness, लगन
13. **Derail** (verb) – obstruct, impede, interfere with, hinder, बाधा डालना
14. **Cherished** (adjective) – appreciated, respected, esteemed, prized सराहना
15. Replace 'Allude to' with 'Allude for' as fixed preposition 'To' is used after 'Allude' but not 'For'.
16. (A) **4312**
Similar is the personal history linked to weightlifter Achinta Sheuli, who won gold in the 73kg division. Achinta, his brother Alok and mother did embroidery. The siblings also worked in the fields, fighting poverty and coping with the demise of their father. Like Sanket, Achinta's too is a story of hope and redemption.
17. **Annex** (verb) – add, append, attach, join जोड़ना
According to the given options only (ii) & (iii) are contextually correct
Because the (i) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentence should be like They will now **relinquish** their grasp on the senate following the results of the election.
18. Yet, the CWG has a certain value in being a multi-nation quadrennial event that pits a disparate group of countries split by continents and fused by a shared past linked to the British Empire.
19. **Once** the floors had been waxed and the furniture got polished by afternoon, the house sparkled but in an empty kind of way.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Assuage	verb	To soothe; to pacify; to ease the pain of; to relieve	शांत करना
	Steadfast	adjective	Loyal; faithful	दृढ़
	Replete	adjective	Completely filled; abounding	परिपूर्ण
Q2	Elicit	verb	To Bring out; to call forth	प्रकाश में लाना
	Bourgeois	adjective	Middle class, usually in a pejorative sense; Boringly conventional	रूढ़िवादी, संपत्तिजीवी
	Bane	noun	Poison; torment; cause of harm	फटकार, लानत, शाप
Q3	Superfluous	adjective	Extra; unnecessary; redundant	ज़रूरत से ज़्यादा
	Perennial	adjective	Continual; happening again and again or year after year	चिरस्थायी
	Intransigent	adjective	Uncompromising; stubborn	सैद्धांतिक
Q11	Laconic	adjective	Using few words, especially to the point of seeming rude.	संक्षिप्त
	Vitriolic	adjective	Caustic; full of bitterness	कटु
	Lugubrious	adjective	Exaggeratedly mournful	शोकाकुल
Q12	Approbation	noun	Approval; praise	प्रशंसा, समर्थन
	Genre	noun	Type or category, especially of art or writing	शैली, अंग
	Defame	verb	To libel or slander; to ruin the good name of	बदनाम करना
Q13	Perturb	verb	To disturb greatly	व्याकुल करना
	Predilection	noun	Natural preferences for something	झुकाव
	Extraneous	adjective	Unnecessary; irrelevant; extra	असंगत, बाह्य, अनावश्यक
Q14	Astute	adjective	Shrewd; keen in judgment	चतुर
	Vacillate	verb	to be indecisive; to waver	डगमगाना, हिचकना
	Transgress	verb	To violate (A law); to sin	उल्लंघन करना



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