

Democratic deficit: On the attempt on Imran Khan's life

Early election is the only **prudent way forward** for Pakistan

The **habitual turbulence** of Pakistani politics **took** a **decidedly** dangerous **turn** last week, with an **assassination** attempt on its **former** Prime Minister Imran Khan, who was **ousted** seven months ago. Mr. Khan **escaped** with leg injuries after a gunman opened fire. In a press conference a day later, Mr. Khan **blamed** the government and the military **for plotting** to kill him. **Mr. Khan**, who had earlier **invoked** comparisons between himself and former PM Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, **hanged** in 1979 — of a popular leader whose **mandate** is being **thwarted** by the **establishment** — even **brought** in the example of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the founder of Bangladesh. Both PM Sharif and the Army have denied Mr. Khan's **allegations** but it is harder to deny the growing problem that he now **poses**. Since April, when he was forced to **step down following** a **confidence vote** in parliament, and losing all court appeals, he has **taken to the streets**, demanding a general election immediately. He has grown **vocal** about the political role of the military, **accusing** "Dirty Harrys" of **imprisoning** and **torturing** his supporters in the Pakistan Tehreek e Insaf (PTI) Party, and **mocking** Army Chief General Bajwa, whose **tenure** ends this month, for suggesting that the military would maintain a "**neutral**" role. There have been **repercussions**. In September, he was **indicted** in a **contempt** of court case for **impugning** the High Court judiciary, and although terror charges were dropped against him, he faces criminal charges for threatening to **sue** government officials. In October, the Election Commission held him **guilty** in a case involving undeclared official gifts and disqualified him from **holding** public **office**; he could face a legal challenge to his seat in Parliament for **defaming** the judiciary and armed forces.

For the Sharif government that is already **beleaguered** by the **devastating** floods, a security crisis **emanating** from Afghanistan, the **burgeoning** economic crisis, and continued bad relations with India which has stopped **much-needed** trade revenues, Mr. Khan's challenge could not have come at a worse time. **Mr. Sharif**, who has been making many foreign visits, **must** focus on the domestic situation, and investigate the attack on Mr. Khan in a **convincing** way if he intends to **shore up** his **credibility**. Despite the many **setbacks**, Mr. Khan's popularity remains strong; he won six out of eight **by-elections** last month. In the **aftermath** of the assassination attempt, PTI protesters have held **marches** in Rawalpindi, Peshawar, Quetta, and Karachi. The biggest **worry** for the government **is** maintaining **law and order** if the **impasse** continues. In that case, **elections** at an early date **may** prove the only prudent way to move forward, in a country that has always suffered from a **deficit** in democracy.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Dirty Harrys** (noun) – A police officer who is reckless, disregards practices and policies, or who practices vigilantism, or has a questionable use of force and officer involved shooting incidents.

Vocabulary

1. **Democratic deficit** (noun) – A democratic deficit occurs when supposedly democratic organisations or institutions, such as governments, do not fulfil the principles of democracy in how they operate.
2. **Prudent** (adjective) – careful, judicious, wise, cautious, sensible विवेकी, समझदारी
3. **The way forward** (phrase) – the best option or solution because it is likely to lead to success आगे बढ़ने का रास्ता
4. **Habitual** (adjective) – addicted, persistent, chronic; done constantly or as a habit अभ्यस्त, आदतन
5. **Turbulence** (noun) – turmoil, instability, conflict, upheaval, tumult उथल-पुथल
6. **Take a turn** (phrase) – To change in condition especially quickly or suddenly. मोड़ लेना
7. **Decidedly** (adverb) – Definitely, absolutely, distinctly, particularly, categorically, unquestionably निश्चित रूप से
8. **Assassination** (noun) – murder, killing, homicide, slaughter, execution हत्या
9. **Former** (adjective) – previous, earlier, prior, ex पूर्व
10. **Oust** (verb) – expel, remove, eject, kick out, dismiss निकाल देना, हटा देना
11. **Escape** (verb) – succeed in avoiding something dangerous; elude, evade, dodge, बचना
12. **Blame** (for) (verb) – be responsible for a fault or wrong. जिम्मेदार ठहराना
13. **Plot** (verb) – Plan, strategize, conspire, contrive, intrigue साजिश रचना
14. **Invoke** (verb) – cite, refer to, bring up, adduce आह्वान करना; इस्तेमाल करना
15. **Hang** (verb) – Be suspended or hanging लटकना/ फाँसी देना
16. **Mandate** (noun) – the power that is officially given to a group of people to do something, especially after they have won an election जनादेश
17. **Thwart** (verb) – prevent, stop, foil (from accomplishing something) विफल करना
18. **Establishment** (noun) – the powers that be, the authorities, the system, the regime शासक-वर्ग
19. **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion, declaration आरोप
20. **Pose** (verb) – Present, cause, create खड़ा करना (संकट)
21. **Step down** (phrasal verb) – withdraw, resign (from a position or office) पद छोड़ना

22. **Following** (preposition) – After के बाद
23. **Confidence vote** (noun) – a formal process in which people (such as the members of a legislature) vote in order to indicate whether or not they support a leader, government, etc विश्वास प्रस्ताव
24. **Take to the streets** (phrase) – To gather together in the public streets of a town or city to show communal solidarity in opposition.
25. **Vocal** (adjective) – often expressing complaints and opinions in speech: मुखर
26. **Accuse** (verb) – charge with, indict for, blame, arraign for आरोप लगाना
27. **Imprison** (verb) – detain, incarcerate, put in prison कैद करना
28. **Torture** (verb) – ill-treat, abuse, mistreat, brutalize प्रताड़ित करना
29. **Mock** (verb) – deride, ridicule, taunt, fake, sham मज़ाक उड़ाना
30. **Tenure** (noun) – term of office, period कार्यकाल
31. **Neutral** (adjective) – Unbiased, impartial, nonaligned, unprejudiced निष्पक्ष
32. **Repercussion** (adjective) – consequence, result, effect, outcome (unwelcome one) दुष्परिणाम
33. **Indict** (verb) – charge with, accuse, blame, arraign for आरोप लगाना
34. **Contempt** (noun) – scorn, disdain, disrespect, shame, disregard अवमानना
35. **Impugn** (verb) – challenge, question, call into question चुनौती देना
36. **Sue** (verb) – take legal action against; charge, prosecute, indict मुकदमा चलाना
37. **Guilty** (noun) – Culpable, blameworthy, at fault, in the wrong दोषी
38. **Hold office** (phrase) – to occupy a powerful position or role, esp. in government
39. **Defame** (verb) – damage the good reputation of (someone); insult, vilify बदनाम करना
40. **Beleaguered** (adjective) – in a very difficult situation. से जूझना
41. **Devastating** (adjective) – destructive, ruinous, disastrous, withering, calamitous विनाशकारी/भयानक
42. **Emanate** (from) (verb) – originate from, have its origins in, derive from, arise from उत्पन्न होना
43. **Burgeoning** (adjective) – Beginning to grow or increase rapidly; increasing. तेजी से बढ़ते
44. **Much-needed** (adjective) – needed to a great extent. बेहद जरूरी

45. **Convincing** (adjective) – cogent, persuasive, powerful, potent, strong, forceful ठोस
46. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) – bolster, reinforce, hold up, support, buttress, मजबूत
47. **Credibility** (noun) – trustworthiness, reliability, Integrity, acceptability विश्वसनीयता
48. **Setback** (noun) – a reversal or check in progress. असफलता, झटका
49. **By-election** (noun) – an election to choose a new Member of Parliament for a particular town or area (a constituency). It is held when the former member has died or left suddenly उप-चुनाव
50. **Aftermath** (noun) – consequence, effect, outcome (of a significant unpleasant event) दुष्परिणाम
51. **March** (noun) – procession जुलूस
52. **Law and order** (noun) – a situation characterized by respect for and obedience to the rules of a society. कानून-व्यवस्था
53. **Impasse** (noun) – deadlock, dead end, stalemate, stand-off गतिरोध
54. **Deficit** (noun) – shortage, deficiency, shortfall, lack, inadequacy कमी

Practice Exercise

1. **Why Imran Khan brought in the example of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman?** [Editorial Page]
- A. Because the ideology of Mr. Khan is quite similar to the founding father of Bangladesh.
 - B. Because Bangladesh was facing same crisis during the initial stage of independence as like Pakistan now facing.
 - C. Because Sheikh Mujibur Rahman believed that credible democracy leads to the success of the country rather than military regime.
 - D. Because Mr. Khan believes that he will get assassinated by the establishment as like Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.
2. **According to the passage, what do you understand from the term 'Democratic Deficit'?**
- A. The difference between all receipts and expenses in both revenue and capital account of the government.
 - B. An insufficient level of democracy in political institutions and procedures in comparison with a theoretical ideal of a democratic government.
 - C. Lack of trust between people as well as lack of trust on authorities.
 - D. a symbol of declining faith in social contract that exist between a state and its citizen
3. **What shows that the popularity of Mr. Khan remains strong even after stepping down from the post of prime minister?**
- A. As PTI protestor came to street against the current regime to show solidarity with Mr. Khan
 - B. Mr. Sharif reluctant to conduct pre-date election as he knew that he would lose the election considering the growing popularity of Mr. Khan among the public.
 - C. The recent attack on Mr. Khan explicitly demonstrates that the establishment is having fear with the growing popularity of Mr. Khan.
 - D. As he won six out of eight by-elections last month.
4. **What would be the best possible way to deal with the impasse that the Pakistan regime is currently facing?**
- A. To cancel foreign visits of Mr. Sharif
 - B. To carry out election at an early date
 - C. To hold talks with Mr. Khan by the establishment
 - D. To provide high security to Mr. Khan so as to avoid further mishap.
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 rupee is yet again facing renewed pressure, along with major peers, as the dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest jumbo 75 basis points interest rate increase and the U.S. central bank's unequivocal message that it remains squarely focused on taming inflation.**
- P. The Indian currency weakened past the 81-mark against the dollar for the first time ever in Friday's intraday trade, before ending the week at a new record closing low.

Q. The rupee's slide was softened by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention to smoothen volatility; the cumulative impact of such interventions over the 12 months through September 16 has shrunk the RBI's war chest of foreign exchange reserves by almost \$94 billion to \$545.65 billion.

R. The fact that the rupee is not alone in depreciating against the dollar can be of little comfort to Indian companies reliant on imports of raw materials or services for the smooth functioning of their businesses.

S. They are struggling to contend with rising costs at a time when domestic demand is still to regain a durable post-pandemic footing.

T. The higher import bill is also bound to add inflationary pressures to

U. an economy already beset by persistently elevated inflation and further complicates monetary policymakers' efforts to rein in the price gains

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

A. P

B.S

C.T

D.Q

E.R

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

6. The door was (A)/ open but no one (B)/ were there at (C)/ home last night. (D)/ No Error. (E)
7. All those whom (A)/ were at the concert (B)/ could not stop (C)/ praising her performance. (D)/ No Error. (E)
8. You should (A)/ be always grateful (B)/ to your monitor. (C)/ No Error. (D)
9. Most of the people (A)/ are afraid of (B)/ swine flu these days. (C)/ No Error. (D)
10. **Find out the misspelt word**
 - A. Wariness
 - B. Insinuation
 - C. Preservation
 - D. Appeasement

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

(The Hindu Editorial: Turning inward – Sep 27, 2022)

rocketing energy prices aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the West's retaliatory sanctions on Moscow **(1)**/ Sunday's parliamentary elections in Italy were seen as the first major test of Europe's resolve to keep the anti-establishment far-right away from power amid a devastating cost-of-living crisis and **(2)**/. underscored the trend in the continent where far-right parties are on the rise, channelising growing public disgruntlement with the establishment. **(3)**/ However, the results, which saw Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy emerging as the biggest vote getter,**(4)**/ In the French presidential election in April, Marine Le Pen secured some 41.5% vote, the far-right's best post-War performance in the country. In the Swedish general election earlier this month, the government of Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson was voted out and the far-right Sweden Democrats **farthest(A)** as the second largest party. And in Italy, a party with **neo-fascist(B)** origins is going to form the next government, which would be the country's **emerged(C)** right administration

since the **fall(D)** of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in 1945. When most of the votes were counted, the Brothers of Italy won some 26% vote in both Houses of Parliament. Ms. Meloni's coalition, which includes Matteo Salvini's League and Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, has secured some 44% of votes.

The Brothers of Italy has been known for its anti-immigrant, hard nationalist, protectionist, Eurosceptic views. Ms. Meloni, who took over the reins in 2014, toned down its neo-fascist roots and embraced a more acceptable version of populism — a _____**11**_____ of social conservatism and economic welfarism. Her decision not to join Mario Draghi's outgoing technocratic government also seemed to have helped her turn _____**12**_____ the party's prospects. While most key parties, from the Left to the Right, supported Mr. Draghi's pro-business, pro-Brussels government in the name of _____**13**_____, the Brothers of Italy remained the only opposition party.

And when the cost-of-living crisis (A)/ and internal divisions hit the Draghi administration (B)/ and the country slid into another election, (C)/ she stood to gain the most.(D)

The road ahead is not going to be easy given Italy's economic problems, divisions within her coalition and foreign policy challenges, including Ukraine. But the rise of the Brothers should set alarm bells ringing across European capitals. More European countries could fall into recession. The energy crisis is expected to be worse during winter and there is no end in sight to the Ukraine war. If Europe's establishment parties and governments fail to check the _____**14**_____ economic troubles and address growing **discontent**, the far-right will continue to exploit the political momentum.

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

11. Ms. Meloni, who took over the reins in 2014, toned down its neo-fascist roots and embraced a more acceptable version of populism — a _____ of social conservatism and economic welfarism.
 - A. Comprising
 - B. Cocktail
 - C. Vilifying
 - D. Resolute
12. Her decision not to join Mario Draghi's outgoing technocratic government also seemed to have helped her turn _____ the party's prospects.
 - A. Down
 - B. Out
 - C. Around
 - D. On
13. While most key parties, from the Left to the Right, supported Mr. Draghi's pro-business, pro-Brussels government in the name of _____, the Brothers of Italy remained the only opposition party.
 - A. Complementing
 - B. Impotent
 - C. Bastion
 - D. Stability

14. If Europe's establishment parties and governments fail to check the _____ economic troubles and address growing discontent, the far-right will continue to exploit the political momentum.
- A. Covert
 - B. Insolent
 - C. Replete
 - D. Looming

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.**

And when the cost-of-living crisis **(A)**/ and internal divisions hit the Draghi administration **(B)**/ and the country slid into another election, **(C)**/ she stood to gain the most.**(D)**

- A. (A)
 - B. (B)
 - C. (C)
 - D. (D)
 - E. No Error
16. **Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.**

rocketing energy prices aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the West's retaliatory sanctions on Moscow **(1)**/ Sunday's parliamentary elections in Italy were seen as the first major test of Europe's resolve to keep the anti-establishment far-right away from power amid a devastating cost-of-living crisis and **(2)**/. underscored the trend in the continent where far-right parties are on the rise, channelising growing public disgruntlement with the establishment. **(3)**/ However, the results, which saw Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy emerging as the biggest vote getter,**(4)**

- A. 1234
 - B. 3214
 - C. 2413
 - D. 2143
 - E. 3412
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

DISCONTENT

- (i) Voters might also express their **discontent** simply by deciding not to vote
 - (ii) The growing **discontent** with scientific expert testimony provided ample ground for these anxieties.
 - (iii) The team's **discontent** was rewarded with a last-minute goal.
- 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.

Magdalena Andersson was voted out and the far-right Sweden Democrats **farthest(A)** as the second largest party. And in Italy, a party with **neo-fascist(B)** origins is going to form the next government, which would be the country's **emerged(C)** right administration since the **fall(D)** of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in 1945.

- A. A – C
- 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) It wasn't a piece of cake to learn English.
 - (ii) I couldn't pronounce all the words correctly
- A. In other words
 - B. Moreover
 - C. At first
 - D. Unless
 - E. Talking of

20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

Madho was sentence _____ death by the judge.

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

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

5. PQRSTU

The rupee is yet again facing renewed pressure, along with major peers, as the dollar continues to strengthen in the wake of the Federal Reserve's latest jumbo 75 basis points interest rate increase and the U.S. central bank's unequivocal message that it remains squarely focused on taming inflation. The Indian currency weakened past the 81-mark against the dollar for the first time ever in Friday's intraday trade, before ending the week at a new record closing low. The rupee's slide was softened by the Reserve Bank of India's intervention to smoothen volatility; the cumulative impact of such interventions over the 12 months through September 16 has shrunk the RBI's war chest of foreign exchange reserves by almost \$94 billion to \$545.65 billion. The fact that the rupee is not alone in depreciating against the dollar can be of little comfort to Indian companies reliant on imports of raw materials or services for the smooth functioning of their businesses. They are struggling to contend with rising costs at a time when domestic demand is still to regain a durable post-pandemic footing. The higher import bill is also bound to add inflationary pressures to an economy already beset by persistently elevated inflation and further complicates monetary policymakers' efforts to rein in the price gains.

6. (C) 'were' के बदले 'was' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि No one, Everyone, Someone, Anyone, Nobody, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nothing, Everything, Something, Anything का प्रयोग यदि वाक्य के Subject के रूप में हो तो Verb हमेशा Singular होता है।

➤ 'was' will be used instead of 'were' because No one, Everyone, Someone, Anyone, Nobody, Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, Nothing, Everything, Something, Anything is used as Subject of a sentence If yes, then Verb is always Singular.

7. (A) 'whom' के बदले 'who' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'whom' का प्रयोग Object के रूप में होता है जबकि 'who' का Subject के रूप में, और Part (B) में प्रयुक्त Verb 'were' के लिए Subject का काम 'who' करेगा, न कि 'whom'.

➤ 'who' will be used instead of 'whom' because 'whom' is used as Object while 'who' is used as Subject, and in Part (B) the Verb 'were' is used For the subject, 'who' will do the work, not 'whom'.

8. (B) 'greatful' के बदले 'grateful' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'great' खुद एक Adjective है जिसका अर्थ है 'महान, बड़ा' और 'greatful' जैसा कोई शब्द नहीं होता है, जबकि 'grateful' का अर्थ है 'आभारी, कृतज्ञ'।

➤ 'grateful' will be used instead of 'great' because 'great' itself is an Adjective which means 'great, big' and there is no such word as 'greatful', whereas 'grateful' means 'Thank you, Grateful'.

9. (D) No error.

10. **Insinuation** (noun) – implication, inference, suggestion, hint, intimation संकेत

11. **Cocktail** (noun) – a mixture of different things

12. **Turn around** (phrasal verb) – Improve, boost, increase, bump up

13. **Stability** (noun) – Constancy, steadiness, firmness, solidity, permanence स्थिरता

14. **Looming** (adjective) – about to happen soon and causing worry मंडराता

15. No Error

16. (D) **2143**

Sunday's parliamentary elections in Italy were seen as the first major test of Europe's resolve to keep the anti-establishment far-right away from power amid a devastating cost-of-living crisis and rocketing energy prices aggravated by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the West's retaliatory sanctions on Moscow. However, the results, which saw Giorgia Meloni's Brothers of Italy emerging as the biggest vote getter, underscored the trend in the continent where far-right parties are on the rise, channelising growing public disgruntlement with the establishment.

17. **Discontent** (noun) – dissatisfaction, discontentment, discontented, displeasure, unhappy असंतोष

According to the given options only (i) and (ii) are contextually correct.

Because the (iii) sentence is not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like The team's doggedness was rewarded with a last-minute goal.

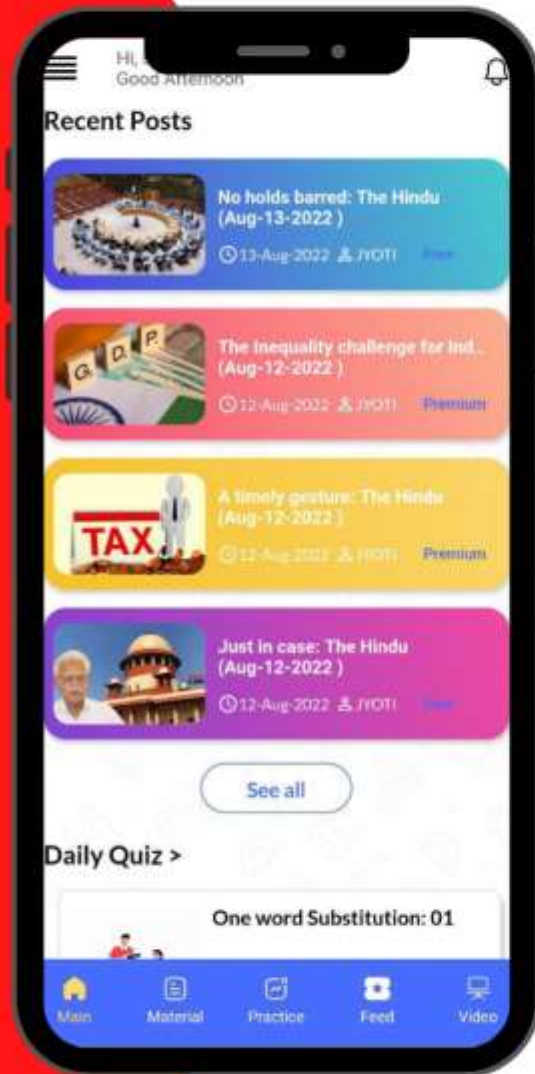
Doggedness (noun) – perseverance, persistence, determination जिद्दीपन

18. In the Swedish general election earlier this month, the government of Social Democratic Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson was voted out and the far-right Sweden Democrats emerged as the second largest party. And in Italy, a party with neo-fascist origins is going to form the next government, which would be the country's farthest right administration since the fall of fascist dictator Benito Mussolini in 1945.

19. It wasn't a piece of cake to learn English. **At first**, I couldn't pronounce all the words correctly.

Explanation of other important words

Sr.NO	Words		Meanings	
Q1	Guile	noun	Cunning, duplicity; artfulness	छल, माया, धोखा
	Extol	verb	To praise highly; to laud	सराहना, बड़ाई करना
	Specious	adjective	Deceptively plausible or attractive	दिखावटी
Q2	Astute	adjective	Shrewd; keen in judgment	चतुर
	Utopia	noun	an ideal society	आदर्शलोक
	Aphorism	noun	A belief, often witty saying; a proverb	कहावत, वचन
Q3	Chasm	noun	A deep, gaping hole; a gorge	खाई, दरार
	Indigent	adjective	Poor	दरिद्र
	Forbear	verb	To refrain from; to abstain	रोकना, धैर्य रखना
Q11	Comprise	verb	To consist of	समावेश करना
	Vilify	verb	To say vile thing about; to defame	गाली देना
	Resolute	adjective	Determined; firm; unwavering	निर्धारित; दृढ़;
Q12	Complement	verb	To complete or fill up; to be the perfect counterpart	जोड़ना, पूरक जोड़ना
	Impotent	adjective	Powerless; helpless; unable to perform sexual intercourse.	नपुंसक, शक्तिहीन
	Bastion	noun	Stronghold; fortress; fortified place	गढ़
Q14	Covert	adjective	Secret; hidden	गुप्त, गोपनीय
	Insolent	adjective	Arrogant; insulting	बदतमीज
	Replete	adjective	Completely filled; abounding	परिपूर्ण



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

