

End the war: On the Russia-Ukraine conflict

As the war in Ukraine seems **endless**, talks are the only **way out**

As Russia's war in Ukraine enters its second year, there are no signs of any side **relenting**. Moscow has **mobilised** some 5,00,000 **troops**, more than twice the size of the forces it **deployed** to launch the **invasion** last February, for a widely expected **spring offensive**. **The West**, Kyiv's main financial and military **backer**, **is** sending **armoured vehicles**, **precision** bombs, battle tanks and missile defence systems to Ukraine to **bolster** its defensive and offensive capabilities. In his surprise visit to Kyiv on Monday, U.S. President Joe Biden **pledged** America's **lasting** support to the **war-battered** nation. The next day, Russian President Vladimir **Putin**, in his State of the Nation **address**, **signalled** his country's **readiness** for a long war, and **suspended** its participation in the New START treaty, which **marked** a **breakdown** of **ties** with the West and could also **trigger** a **nuclear arms race**. The past year has been **disastrous** for all parties. **Mr. Putin**, who wanted a quick victory, **miscalculated** Kyiv's response and **the West's resolve** to **back** it. Ukraine **inflicted** huge human and material costs on Russia, but still lost **swathes** of its territories. The West stays united, despite **differences** over its approach towards Russia, but has also been **reeling under** the economic costs of the war.

However, despite the **setbacks**, no side is ready for talks. Mr. Putin is ready to fight as long as it takes and the West is ready to **arm** Ukraine as long as it takes. A long war would be **catastrophic** for Ukraine as the entire fighting is **taking place** within its borders. The country has lost land, weapons and tens of thousands of lives. Its infrastructure is under attack and the economy has been **battered**. Without the **steady** supply of arms from the West, it is **unlikely** to survive the Russian **onslaught**. Further, if the war **prolongs**, the **risks** of a Russia-NATO direct conflict **would** be higher. The rapid **destruction** of security in Europe and the **deepening mistrust** between major powers **are** comparable with the pre-First World War situation in the continent. An open **confrontation** between the great powers today **would** be **cataclysmic** because of the threat of nuclear weapons. The possibility of such a conflict would mean that the war is not just a European problem. Bringing the war to an end is **imperative** for global security and safety. Wars typically **come to an end** either through **outright victories** or talks. The first year of the war suggests that the first option is **unrealistic** for either side, which means Russia, Ukraine and the West should prepare for an **eventual settlement**. The earlier they begin talking to each other the better it would be for the whole world. [Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.
- **Kyiv** (noun) – Capital of Ukraine

Vocabulary

1. **Conflict** (noun) – Battle, fight, war, struggle, skirmish, clash, encounter संघर्ष
2. **Endless** (adjective) – having or seeming to have no end or limit. अनंत
3. **Way out** (phrasal verb) – Solution समाधान
4. **Relent** (verb) – Concede, Yield, Surrender नरम पड़ना
5. **Mobilise** (verb) – Assemble, marshal, organize, summon, gather together जुटाना
6. **Troop** (noun) – A group of soldiers सेना
7. **Deploy** (verb) – Place troops or weapons in battle formation तैनात करना
8. **Invasion** (noun) – attack, incursion, offensive, assailing आक्रमण
9. **Spring offensive** (noun) – The consecutive attacks of Germans on the Western Front during the First World War are collectively called Spring Offensive. Here, “offensive” means a “military attack”.
10. **Backer** (noun) – sponsor, investor, subsidizer, supporter समर्थक
11. **Armoured vehicle** (noun) – tanks, armoured cars, assault guns, self-propelled guns, infantry fighting vehicles (IFV), and armoured personnel carriers (APC). बख्तरबंद वाहन
12. **Bolster** (verb) – strengthen, reinforce, encourage, support, augment, sustain मजबूत करना
13. **Pledge** (verb) – Promise solemnly and formally; vow, plight, undertake संकल्प/प्रतिज्ञा करना
14. **Lasting** (adjective) – continuing to exist for a long time or for ever स्थायी, टिकाऊ
15. **War-battered** (adjective) – Suffered by war युद्धग्रस्त
16. **Address** (noun) – a formal speech that is given to an audience भाषण, संबोधन
17. **Signal** (verb) – sign, indicate, suggest, show संकेत करना
18. **Readiness** (noun) – Promptness, speediness, quickness, alacrity तत्परता
19. **Suspend** (verb) – discontinue, interrupt, delay, hang, stop निलंबित करना, लटकाना
20. **Mark** (verb) – Indicate, Denote, Show, Demonstrate, Exhibit चिह्नित करना
21. **Breakdown** (noun) – Failure, collapse, cessation, halt, interruption, break भंग, टूटना
22. **Ties** (noun) – connection, relations, link, bond, association संबंध

23. **Trigger** (verb) – Initiate, start, prompt, activate, cause, spark off, set off शुरू करना
24. **Nuclear arms race** (noun) – an arms race competition for supremacy in nuclear warfare between the United States, the Soviet Union, and their respective allies during the Cold War.
25. **Disastrous** (adjective) – calamitous, catastrophic, ruinous, fatal, destructive विनाशकारी
26. **Miscalculate** (verb) – assess (a situation) wrongly. गलत हिसाब लगाना
27. **The West** (noun) – It include U.S and other European countries.
28. **Resolve** (noun) – Determination, resolution, purpose, दृढ़ निश्चय, संकल्प
29. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, sanction, approve of समर्थन करना
30. **Inflict** (verb) – to cause someone to experience or be affected by (चोट या कष्ट) पहुंचाना
31. **Swathe** (noun) – a broad strip or area of something विशाल क्षेत्र
32. **Difference** (noun) – a disagreement, quarrel, or dispute. मतभेद
33. **Reel under** (phrasal verb) – struggle or deal with something से जूझना
34. **Setback** (noun) – problem, difficulty, issue, hitch, complication, upset, नाकामयाबी, झटका
35. **Arm** (verb) – to prepare somebody/yourself to fight by supplying or getting weapons शस्त्रों से सज्जित करना
36. **Catastrophic** (adjective) – Disastrous, shattering, calamitous, appalling, terrible, ruinous, tragic, cataclysmic, devastating प्रलयंकर/ विनाशकारी
37. **Take place** (phrase) – Happen, occur, come about, come off, transpire होना
38. **Battered** (adjective) – Damaged, suffered, decrepit, scruffy क्षतिग्रस्त
39. **Steady** (adjective) – constant, unchanging, changeless, unvarying, invariable स्थिर, लगातार
40. **Unlikely** (adjective) – Improbable, Doubtful, Dubious असम्भव
41. **Onslaught** (noun) –Attack, assault, ambush, offensive, blitz हमले
42. **Prolong** (verb) – Extend, delay, lengthen, protract, stretch, elongate, persist लम्बा करना
43. **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.

44. **Destruction** (noun) – ruin, annihilation, devastation, demolition, damage विनाश
45. **Deepening** (adjective) – Intensifying, extending, increasing, growing, heightening बढ़ती
46. **Mistrust** (noun) – lack of trust; suspicion, distrust, doubt, caution संदेह/ अविश्वास
47. **Confrontation** (noun) – discord, dissension, clash, conflict, disagreement, altercation टकराव
48. **Cataclysmic** (adjective) – Catastrophic, disastrous, calamitous, dreadful, tragic, devastating, shattering प्रलयकारी
49. **Imperative** (adjective) – essential, necessary, vital, indispensable, crucial आत्यावश्यक, लाज़िमी
50. **Come to an end** (phrase) – to reach an end खत्म हो जाना
51. **Outright** (adjective) – Absolute, complete, utter, total, entire संपूर्ण
52. **Victory** (noun) – triumph, success, conquest, win, achievement जीत
53. **Unrealistic** (adjective) – Impractical, idealistic, improbable, unlikely, अवास्तविक
54. **Eventual** (adjective) – ultimate, final, concluding, prospective, last अंतिम
55. **Settlement** (noun) – Resolution, setline, solution, reconciliation समाधान

SSC Pattern - Practice Exercise

1. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
 - A. Retort
 - B. Retrieve
 - C. Revange
 - D. Return
2. Select the correct indirect speech form of the given sentence
Mother said, "I'm worried about your safety."
 - A. Mother told me that she was worried about my safety.
 - B. Mother said she is worried about your safety.
 - C. Mother told me that she had been worried about my safety.
 - D. Mother said that I was worrying about your safety.
3. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

Of the two plans submitted by the architect, this is the one more likely to be accepted.

 - A. much likely
 - B. No substitution required
 - C. most likelihood
 - D. most likely
4. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

The first meeting of the Standing Committee will be hold next week

 - A. No substitution required
 - B. will be holding next week
 - C. will be held next week
 - D. will held next week
5. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - A. They can help you to decide the right products for you.
 - B. Advertisements can be extremely useful if they are honest.
 - C. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to such advertisements.
 - D. However, some advertisements may be harmful as they try to befool you

A. CDAB B. BADC C. BCAD D. CADB
6. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.
One who supervises students in an examination hall
 - A. Invigilator
 - B. Inspector
 - C. Examinee
 - D. Teacher
7. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Taciturn
 - A. Verbose

- B. Noisy
C. Lively
D. Reserved
8. Select the most appropriate **synonym** of the given word.
Vertical
A. Upright
B. Equal
C. Parallel
D. Shaky
9. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.
Cake walk
A. Something tasty
B. Something easy
C. Something sweet
D. Something enjoyable
10. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
Give the child a nourishing diet.
A. The child is given a nourishing diet.
B. The child was given a nourishing diet.
C. The child should be given a nourishing diet.
D. The child must have given a nourishing diet
11. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Tenacious
A. Steadfast
B. Relentless
C. Persistent
D. Yielding
12. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
We stayed / in Jim's flat / during he was / on holiday.
A. on holiday
B. during he was
C. in Jim's flat
D. We stayed
13. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
He allowed / his son to drive / but he warn him / of the danger.
A. but he warn him
B. of the danger
C. He allowed
D. his son to drive
14. **Select the option that gives the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.**

- The Chairman of our company takes care of the rank and file in the company.
- A. Ordinary people
 - B. Documents and files
 - C. Only the top rank people
 - D. Officers
15. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
- Did you baked / the chocolate cake / yourself this time?
- A. Did you baked
 - B. No error
 - C. yourself this time
 - D. the chocolate cake
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- Global warming or climate change has today become a major _____ to mankind.
- A. penalty
 - B. punishment
 - C. threat
 - D. endanger
17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
- ROUGH**
- A. Coarse
 - B. Crude
 - C. Smooth
 - D. Thick
18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
- Do you / recall to meet / her at the party / last night?
- A. last night
 - B. her at the party
 - C. Do you
 - D. recall to meet
19. Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.
- Walk or move at a slow, relaxed pace**
- A. Amble
 - B. Strut
 - C. Romp
 - D. Prance
20. Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.
- She gifted me a beautiful handbag.**
- A. I am gifted a beautiful handbag by her.
 - B. I am being gifted a beautiful handbag by her.

- C. I was gifted a beautiful handbag by her.
- D. I have been gifted a beautiful handbag by her.

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each blank.

The importance of physical exercise in (1) _____ the incidence of heart attacks cannot be under estimated. The rise of heart attacks has been attaining (2) _____ proportion in recent times causing grave concern specially to the medical (3) _____. Walking is the best mode of physical exercise which (4) _____ no equipment, money, material or (5) _____ of a club

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

- A. increasing
- B. emphasising
- C. minimising
- D. maximizing

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

- A. low
- B. capacious
- C. soothing
- D. alarming

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

- A. creed
- B. class
- C. fraternity
- D. persons

24. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4

- A. loses
- B. gains
- C. requires
- D. finds

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.

- A. correlation
- B. membership
- C. exemption
- D. scholarship

Answers

1. C 2. A 3. B 4. C 5. B 6. A 7. D 8. A 9. B 10. C 11. D 12. B
 13. A 14. A 15. A 16. C 17. C 18. D 19. A 20. C 21. C 22. D 23. C 24. C
 25. B

Explanations

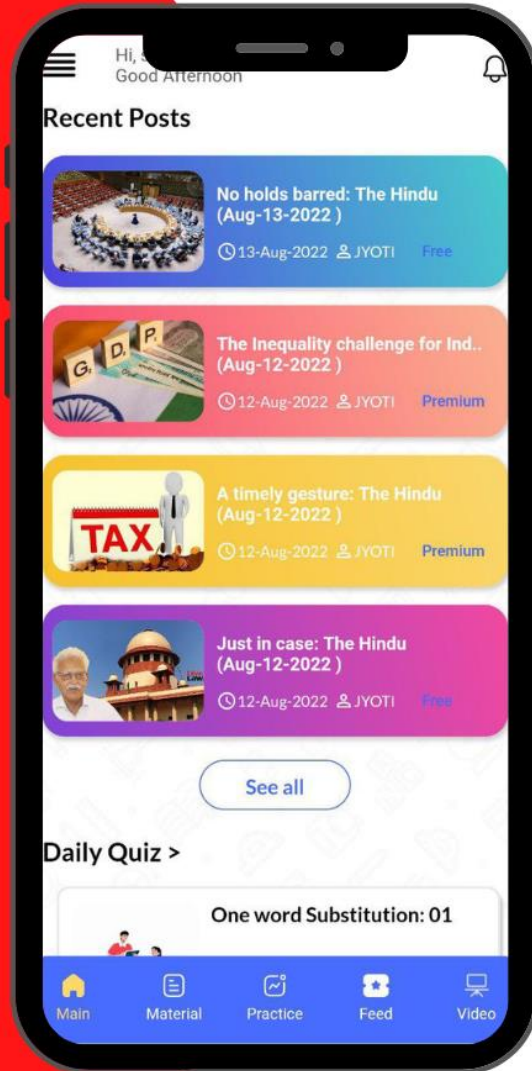
1. **Revenge** (verb) – Requite, avenge, retaliate, even the score बदला
 - **Retort** (verb) – Respond, re-join, snap, counter, come back प्रत्युत्तर
 - **Retrieve** (verb) – Save, recover, regain, repossess, salvage, rescue, reclaim फिर से प्राप्त करना, बचाना
 - **Return** (verb) – Resume, revert, revisit, go back लौटना
2. Mother told me that she was worried about my safety
3. No substitution required
4. 'will be hold next week' के बदले 'will be held next week' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि 'will + be' के बाद क्रिया के past participle रूप का प्रयोग किया जाता है।
5. **BADC**
 Advertisements can be extremely useful if they are honest. However, some advertisements may be harmful as they try to befool you. Teenagers are especially vulnerable to such advertisements.
6. **Invigilator** - One who supervises students in an examination hall निरीक्षक
7. **Taciturn** – Reticent, silent, reserved, aloof, cold, distant, quiet अल्पभाषी
 - **Verbose** – Wordy, long-winded, talkative, effusive, garrulous, loquacious शब्दाडंबरपूर्ण
 - **Noisy** – Loud, deafening, ear-splitting, piercing, raucous, strident कोलाहलपूर्ण
 - **Lively** – Energetic, sparkling, active, animated, dynamic, sprightly सक्रिय
8. **Vertical** – Perpendicular, upright, straight up खड़ा, सीधा
 - **Equal** – Equivalent, identical, like, different, the same समान
 - **Parallel** – Similar, equivalent, corresponding, analogous, matching समानांतर
 - **Shaky** – Wobbly, unstable, instable, unsteady, insecure अस्थिर
9. **Cake walk** – Something easy आसान काम, सरल कार्य
10. The child should be given a nourishing diet
11. **Tenacious** – Stubborn, obstinate, resolute, firm, persistent, insistent, dogged, determined दृढ़
Antonym – Yielding बात पर न अड़नेवाला नर्म
 - **Steadfast** – Unwavering, unflinching, resolute, persistent Committed, dedicated पक्का

- **Relentless** – Persistent, unremitting, inexorable, insistent, harsh, unrelenting, ruthless सतत
 - **Persistent** – Tenacious, determined, obstinate, insistent, dogged, stubborn दृढ
12. 'During' के बदले 'when' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दो वाक्यों को जोड़ने के लिए Conjunction (i.e. When) का प्रयोग होता है ना की preposition !
13. 'but he warn him' के बदले 'but he warned him' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दिया गया वाक्य simple past tense में है।
14. **Rank and file** – Ordinary people सामान्य जन, जनसाधारण
15. 'Did you baked' के बदले 'did you bake' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि हम जानते हैं कि 'Do/does/did' के बाद V¹ का प्रयोग किया जाता है।
16. **Threat** (noun) – Danger, risk, hazard, menace, peril खतरा
- **Penalty** (noun) – Punishment, price, fine, sentence, consequence दण्ड
 - **Punishment** (noun) – Penalty, chastisement, castigation, reprimand, retribution सजा
 - **Endanger** (verb) – Imperil, jeopardize, threaten, expose, put in danger खतरे में डालना
17. **Rough** – Uneven, coarse, bumpy, irregular, lumpy, jagged खुरदुरा
- Antonym** – Smooth चिकना
- **Coarse** – Rough, bristly, uneven, abrasive, stiff, grainy, granular, harsh खुरदुरा
 - **Crude** – Unpolished, basic, simple, makeshift, rudimentary, rough अपरिष्कृत
 - **Thick** – Dense, profuse, bushy, impenetrable, copious, abundant मोटा, गाढ़ा, घना
18. 'recall to meet' के बदले 'recall meeting' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि कुछ verbs के बाद Gerund (i.e. Ving) का प्रयोग होता है
- Recall, avoid, celebrate, consider, dislike, enjoy, dread, forgive, involve, keep, postpone, prevent, resent etc.
19. **Amble** – Walk or move at a slow, relaxed pace टहलना
20. I was gifted a beautiful handbag by her.
21. **Minimise** (verb) – Reduce, diminish, lessen, curtail, decrease
22. **Alarming** (adjective) – Disturbing, upsetting, frightening, distressing, shocking, startling, worrying
23. **Fraternity** (noun) – a group of people who share the same work or interests एक ही काम से जुड़े या अभिरुचि वाले लोगों का समुदाय; भ्रातृसंघ, बिरादरी

- **Creed** (noun) – a set of beliefs or principles (especially religious ones) that strongly influence somebody's life धार्मिक मान्यताएँ और सिद्धांत जिनका किसी व्यक्ति पर विशेष प्रभाव होता है; मत, पथ, संप्रदाय

25. **Membership** (noun) – the state of being a member of a group, organization, etc. किसी वर्ग, संगठन आदि की सदस्यता

- **Correlation** (noun) – Association, connection, relationship, link, parallel सहसंबंध
- **Exemption** (noun) – the action of freeing or state of being free from an obligation or liability imposed on others. छूट
- **Scholarship** (noun) – a grant or payment made to support a student's education, awarded on the basis of academic or other achievement. छात्रवृत्ति



Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

English Madhyam

