

Not neutral: On India's stand on Ukraine at the U.N.

India cannot be seen as **dithering** on issues of any nation's **sovereignty**

Nearly one year to the date of Russian President Vladimir Putin's launch of attacks on Ukraine (February 24, 2022), the UN General Assembly's **vote** on the latest **resolution** to **criticise** Russia **resulted in** 141 votes in favour, seven against (it includes Russia) and 32 **abstentions** (it includes India and China). The **resolution**, or a **call** for a "just and lasting peace", that was **eventually sponsored** by more than 70 countries, **demanding** an immediate **cessation** of **hostilities**, and **appealed** for **accountability** at international courts for rights **violations** and war crimes. **Significantly**, the **sponsors**, led by the U.S., its **allies**, and European Union countries, **did not call for** peace talks — **something** Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy **does not favour** at present, **given** the **status quo** advantage that **lies** with Russian forces having **laid claim to** about one-fifth of Ukrainian territory. Two **amendments** suggested by Russia's ally Belarus, to replace the term "invasion" with what Russia calls "Special Military Operations", and to call for **dialogue** immediately, **were** rejected. As a result, although there is a military **stalemate** in Ukraine, **casualties** continue to rise, and **western sanctions** have not found favour with much of the world, Ukraine and **NATO** countries called the vote a major victory — much like they had in a similar vote, on March 2, 2022.

In spite of several attempts by the U.S. and the European countries, India **abstained**, which it has **consistently** done since last year on any resolution at key UN bodies that has been **critical of** Russia. In explanations by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at international **fora** — some of which were **reiterated** by India's UN **envoy** on Thursday — the Modi government has **asserted** its **strategic autonomy**, **citing** its traditional relationship with Moscow, its initial **concerns** of becoming a party to the **conflict** while Indian students were caught in the middle, **stressing** that "diplomacy and dialogue" are the only **way forward**, and claiming that it is required to maintain a "neutrality" of sorts to leave **space** for **mediation**. While **its decision** to reject **unilateral** western sanctions on Russia and increase trade in fuel and fertilizers with Moscow **can** be explained by its desire for independent decision making, it is becoming increasingly hard for New Delhi to **hold** that **abstaining** from voting at the **multilateral** stage **is** a **principled stand**. It has become very clear that this is **indeed** a Russian invasion of its smaller, **sovereign neighbour**, one that has not been **halted** despite Russia gaining its initially announced **strategic** goals. Prime Minister Modi's **celebrated statement** that "this era is not of war" **has** not been **heeded** by President Putin, and it is unclear if Ukraine sees India as an **unbiased mediator**. India has proven over **decades** that it will not vote under **duress**, yet the global and regional **leadership** that New Delhi claims **cannot** come from appearing **diffident** over basic principles of sovereignty and territorial **integrity**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Neutral** (adjective) – not supporting or helping either side in a conflict, disagreement, etc: Unbiased, impartial, nonaligned, unprejudiced तटस्थ
2. **Stand** (noun) – opinion, stance, viewpoint, standpoint, view, outlook रुख
3. **Dithering** (adjective) – indecisive, hesitant, irresolute, of two minds हिचकिचाते हुए/दुविधा में पड़ा हुआ
4. **Sovereignty** (noun) – autonomy, independence, self-government, self-rule, home rule संप्रभुता
5. **Resolution** (noun) – a formal decision that is taken after a vote by a group of people प्रस्ताव
6. **Criticise** (verb) – Censure, condemn, carp, slate, roast, slam, disapprove of आलोचना करना
7. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – cause, bring on, call forth, be the cause of (something) to happen के परिणामस्वरूप
8. **Abstention** (noun) – an act of choosing not to vote either for or against something: Non-voting, Nonparticipation, refraining मतदान में भाग न लेना
9. **Call** (noun) – demand, Request, plea, appeal मांग
10. **Just** (adjective) – equitable, even-handed, impartial, unbiased न्यायोचित, निष्पक्ष
11. **Lasting** (adjective) – permanent, enduring, persistent, durable, stable स्थायी/टिकाऊ
12. **Peace** (noun) – calm, peacefulness, serenity, tranquility, ceasefire शांति
13. **Eventually** (adverb) – in the end, in due course, by and by, in time अंततः/आखिरकार
14. **Sponsor** (verb) – introduce and support (a proposal) in a legislative assembly.
15. **Cessation** (noun) – The fact or process of ending or being brought to an end. समापन
16. **Hostility** (noun) – antagonism, unfriendliness, bitterness, malevolence, malice शत्रुता
17. **Appeal** (verb) – Request, ask, plead, demand, urge, petition अपील करना
18. **Accountability** (noun) – responsibility, liability, answerability जवाबदेही
19. **Violation** (noun) – breach, infringement, infraction, contravention उल्लंघन
20. **Significantly** (adverb) – Considerably, notably, substantially, importantly महत्व के साथ/ गौरतलब है कि

21. **Sponsor** (noun) – backer, patron, promoter, supporter, friend प्रायोजक, तरफदार
22. **Ally** (noun) – associate, colleague, friend, confederate, partner सहयोगी
23. **Call for** (phrasal verb) – demand, require, request, ask for मांग करना
24. **Given** (preposition) – considering, taking into account, bearing in mind देखते हुए
25. **Status quo** (phrase) – the present situation or condition यथास्थिति
26. **Lie** (verb) – be, remain, or be kept in a specified state. होना
27. **Lay claim to** (phrase) – to assert one's possession of or right to अधिकार का दावा करना
28. **Amendment** (noun) – change, modification, revision, alteration, improvement संशोधन
29. **Invasion** (noun) – attack, incursion, offensive, assailing आक्रमण
30. **Dialogue** (noun) – conversation, talk, communication, interchange, discourse बातचीत, संवाद
31. **Stalemate** (noun) – impasse, standoff, standstill. गतिरोध
32. **Causality** (noun) – A person hurt or killed in a war or other destructive event हताहत
33. **Western** (adjective) – from or connected with the western part of the world, especially Europe or North America पश्चिमी (देश)
34. **Sanction** (noun) – Restriction, ban, penalty, punishment, injunction प्रतिबंध
35. **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.
36. **Abstain** (verb) – not vote, decline to vote, refuse to vote भाग नहीं लेना (मतदान में)
37. **Consistently** (adverb) – Constantly, always, time after time, time and again लगातार
38. **Critical of** (adjective) – in opposition to, Anti, hostile to, censorious, not in favour of विरोध में
39. **Fora** (plural noun) – meeting, forum, assembly, gathering मंच
40. **Reiterate** (verb) – repeat, say again, restate, retell, recapitulate दोहराना
41. **Envoy** (noun) – a person who is sent by a government with a message to another country राजदूत
42. **Assert** (verb) – declare, affirm, state, claim, aver दृढ़ता से कहना

43. **Strategic** (adjective) – connected with a country's plans to achieve success in a war or in its defence system रणनीतिक, सामरिक महत्व का
44. **Autonomy** (noun) – Freedom from external control or influence; independence. स्वायत्तता
45. **Strategic autonomy** (noun) – the ability of a state to pursue its national interests and adopt its preferred foreign policy without depending heavily on other foreign states सामरिक स्वायत्तता
46. **Cite** (verb) – refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to हवाला देना
47. **Concern** (noun) – Anxiety, worry, apprehension fear चिंता
48. **Conflict** (noun) – Battle, fight, war, struggle, skirmish, clash, encounter संघर्ष
49. **Stress** (verb) – emphasize, strain, pressure, highlight, underline ज़ोर देना
50. **Diplomacy** (noun) – Negotiation between nations कूटनीति
51. **Way forward** (phrase) – the best option or solution because it is likely to lead to success सर्वोत्तम विकल्प
52. **Neutrality** (noun) – non-involvement, a neutral stance तटस्थता
53. **of sorts** (phrase) – something of the kind just mentioned एक तरह की
54. **Space** (noun) – room, freedom, liberty, leeway गुंजाइश
55. **Mediation** (noun) – arbitration, intercession, conciliation, reconciliation मध्यस्थता
56. **Unilateral** (adjective) – Involving only one part or side एकपक्षीय
57. **Hold** (verb) – to have an opinion, etc. कोई राय आदि रखना
58. **Multilateral** (adjective) – Agreed upon or participated in by three or more parties, especially the governments of different countries. बहुपक्षीय
59. **Principled** (adjective) – Moral, ethical, good, virtuous, righteous, upright; (of a system or method) based on a given set of rules. सैद्धांतिक
60. **Indeed** (adverb) – as expected, to be sure, in fact, in point of fact वास्तव में
61. **Sovereign** (adjective) – Independent, autonomous, self-governing, free संप्रभु
62. **Neighbour** (noun) – adjacent, nearby, bordering पड़ोसी
63. **Halt** (verb) – stop, come to a halt, come to a stop, come to a standstill रोकना

64. **strategic** (adjective) – tactical, strategical, politic, diplomatic, planned रणनीतिक
65. **Celebrated** (adjective) – Famous, greatly admired, renowned, notable प्रसिद्ध
66. **Era** (noun) – Period, age, time युग
67. **Heed** (verb) – Pay close attention to; give heed to ध्यान देना
68. **Unbiased** (adjective) – impartial, balanced, neutral, unprejudiced निष्पक्ष
69. **Mediator** (noun) – Go-between, Intermediary, Arbitrator, Negotiator, Moderator मध्यस्थ
70. **Decade** (noun) – A period of 10 years दशक
71. **Duress** (noun) – Coercion, pressure, threat, constraint, compulsion दबाव
72. **Diffident** (noun) – lacking self-confidence; shy, hesitant संकोची
73. **Integrity** (noun) – morality, virtue, probity, uprightness अखंडता

Practice Exercise

Direction: In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number. [Editorial Page]

After years of being in limbo, there is a surge of _____1_____ around DMH-11, or Dhara Mustard Hybrid-11, a variety developed using genetic engineering techniques by Indian scientists and public funds. The Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC), the apex regulator and an arm of the Environment Ministry, last week cleared the variety for environmental release. The seed can be grown in fields for producing more of its kind and is a _____2_____ to it being approved for commercial release. DMH-11 employs genes from soil bacterium that makes mustard, a self-pollinating plant, amenable to being crossed with other varieties and producing hybrid varieties. Hybrid varieties are generally more _____3_____ and, in the case of mustard, an oil seed, will produce more oil. Despite having varieties of mustard, India continues to be a net oil importer due to poor yields. The food crisis due to the Ukraine war has only _____4_____ the problem. _____5_____ decades-long trials, mustard hybrids have not made it to Indian farmers because of activists opposed to genetic modification technology in principle and some farmer groups that believe them to be dangerous

1. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. Chunk
 - B. Turbulence
 - C. Allegation
 - D. Optimism
2. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. Contempt
 - B. Credibility
 - C. Setback
 - D. Precursor
3. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. Vigorous
 - B. Questionable
 - C. Valid
 - D. Reasonable
4. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4.**
 - A. Exacerbated
 - B. Emancipate
 - C. Acknowledge
 - D. Endorse
5. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
 - A. In spite
 - B. Despite
 - C. When
 - D. Similar to

Directions: In this section each item consists of six sentences of a passage. The first and the sixth sentences are given in the beginning as S1 and S6. The middle four sentences in each have been jumbled up and labelled as P, Q, R and S. You are required to find the proper sequence of the four sentences and mark your response accordingly on the Answer Sheet.

6. **S1.** Let us posit two questions: one, what ails our parliamentary system?
S6. Given the current political scenario, it appears that India has yet to develop a strong parliamentary culture.
P. To search for an answer, we begin with Rudolf's observation that the parliamentary life has deteriorated in India.
Q. Two, how democratic is our democracy?
R. For a system to survive, grow and prosper, it needs to be supported by a democratic political culture.
S. There is an organic connectivity between a parliamentary system and parliamentary democracy.
- A. QRPS B. SPRQ C. PQRS D. QPRS
7. **S1.** People of every country think very highly of themselves and consider their country the best or the greatest
S6. We should accept whatever good we may find in other countries.
P. And discard what is bad.
Q. No country can be absolutely good, just as no man can be thoroughly good.
R. One must cultivate the ability to discern the good from the bad.
S. We have to keep what is good.
- A. QPRS B. SPQR C. QRSP D. PQRS

Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Active/Passive Voice. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Passive/Active Voice.

8. **Mary was cooking the meal.**
 A. The meal were being cooked by Mary.
 B. The meal was already being cooked by Mary.
 C. Mary was about to cook the meal.
 D. The meal was being cooked by Mary.
9. **Sanjay rolled the marble through a small plastic pipe.**
 A. A small plastic pipe was rolled through a marble by Sanjay.
 B. The marble was rolled through a small plastic pipe by Sanjay.
 C. The marble was rolled by Sanjay in a small plastic pipe.
 D. The marble through a small plastic pipe was rolled by Sanjay.

Directions: In the following questions, a sentence has been given in Direct/Indirect Speech. Out of the four alternatives suggested, select the one which best expresses the same sentence in Indirect/Direct Speech.

10. **Madhurima explained, "I am planning to quit my graduation."**

- A. Madhurima explained that she were planning to quit her graduation.
 - B. Madhurima explained that she planned to quit her graduation.
 - C. Madhurima explained that she was planning to quit her graduation.
 - D. Madhurima explained that she had been planning to quit her graduation.
11. **“We had opened the lock.” they told me.**
- A. They said that we had opened the lock.
 - B. They said to me that they have opened the lock.
 - C. They told me that they had opened the lock.
 - D. They says that we had opened the lock.

Directions: In the following questions, out of the four alternatives, choose the one which can be substituted for the given words/sentence.

12. **One who works without getting any salary**
- A. Honorary
 - B. Quest
 - C. Fanatic
 - D. Psychologist
13. **To go from bad to worse.**
- A. Deteriorate
 - B. Pilgrim
 - C. Boorish
 - D. Philomuse
14. **A person whose occupation is to survey lands or buildings**
- A. Prototype
 - B. Compatriot
 - C. Surgeon
 - D. Surveyor

Directions: Choose the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

15. After the government interventions, the enrolment and retention of female students have increased **by leaps and bounds**.
- A. Systematically
 - B. Swiftly
 - C. Intermittently
 - D. Gradually
16. **Red tape**
- A. Catch someone at the moment they are doing something wrong
 - B. Official rules and bureaucracy that make it difficult to do something
 - C. Have a negative amount in your bank balance
 - D. Something unimportant that takes attention away from the main subject
17. Let us know what you think **in black and white**.
- A. in darkness and light
 - B. verbally
 - C. in writing

- D. in black and white paint
18. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the word '**SINKS**' from the given sentence.
Groups work together to create Christmas parade themes, which are then carried out in floats, musical groups, and strolling figures.
- A. Floats
B. Create
C. Parade
D. Strolling
19. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Rebellion

- A. Uprising
B. Loyalty
C. Seditious
D. Allotment

Direction: Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.

20. Confusion

- A. Intrepidity
B. Stagnation
C. Perusal
D. Commotion

21. Competent

- A. Complex
B. Poor
C. Capable
D. Beginner

Directions : Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

22. It is very difficult for her to _____.
- A. keep a secret
B. touch a secret
C. make a secret
D. cry a secret

Directions : Find out the error, if any –

23. Literature remains the interest of a minority (A)/ and the majority has chosen to ignore those aspects of language (B)/which, at school, they were told to value highly. (C)/ no error(D)
24. I look (A)/ forward to meet you (B)/in future. (C)/ no error(D)
25. If I was the king, (A)/ I would change the face (B)/ of my country. (C)/ no error(D)

Answers

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

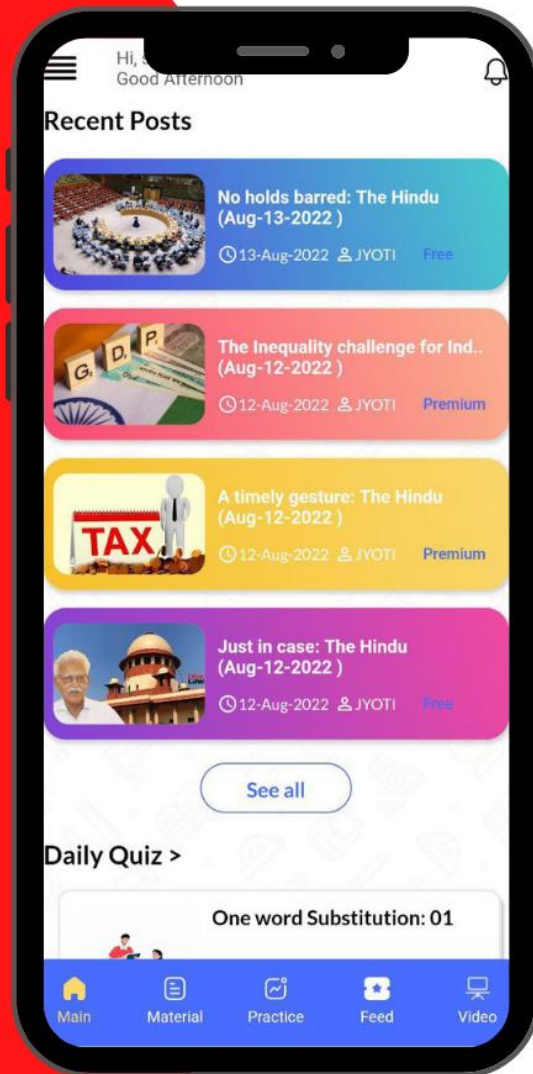
Explanation

1. **Optimism** (noun) – be optimistic; be full of hope आशावाद
 - **Chunk** (noun) – a significant amount of something. अंश, भाग, हिस्सा
 - **Turbulence** (noun) – turmoil, instability, conflict, upheaval, tumult उथल-पुथल
 - **Allegation** (noun) – charge, accusation, claim, assertion, declaration आरोप
2. **Precursor** (noun) – something that comes before another and may lead to it or influence its development अग्रगामी
 - **Contempt** (noun) – scorn, disdain, disrespect, shame, disregard अवमानना
 - **Credibility** (noun) – trustworthiness, reliability, Integrity, acceptability विश्वसनीयता
 - **Setback** (noun) – a reversal or check in progress. असफलता, झटका
3. **Vigorous** (adjective) – healthy and strong ज़ोरदार
 - **Questionable** (adjective) – controversial, contentious, open to question संदिग्ध
 - **Valid** (adjective) – legitimate, true, reasonable, authentic उचित, वैध
 - **Reasonable** (adjective) – sensible, acceptable, satisfactory, logical, within reason उचित
4. **Exacerbate** (verb) – aggravate, worsen, inflame, intensify, exasperate बढ़ाना / बिगाड़ देना
 - **Emancipate** (verb) – free, liberate, release, मुक्त करना
 - **Acknowledge** (verb) – recognize, admit, accept, concede, confess स्वीकार करना
 - **Endorse** (verb) – support, approve, sanction, back, ratify समर्थन करना
5. **Despite** is used to link two contrasting things or show that one fact makes the other fact surprising.
6. **QPRS**
Let us posit two questions: one, what ails our parliamentary system? Two, how democratic is our democracy? To search for an answer, we begin with Rudolf's observation that the parliamentary life has deteriorated in India. For a system to survive, grow and prosper, it needs to be supported by a democratic political culture. There is an organic connectivity between a parliamentary system and parliamentary democracy. Given the current political scenario, it appears that India has yet to develop a strong parliamentary culture.
7. **QRSP**
People of every country think very highly of themselves and consider their country the best or the greatest. No country can be absolutely good, just as no man can be thoroughly good. One

must cultivate the ability to discern the good from the bad. We have to keep what is good. And discard what is bad. We should accept whatever good we may find in other countries.

8. The meal was being cooked by Mary.
9. The marble was rolled through a small plastic pipe by Sanjay.
10. Madhurima explained that she was planning to quit her graduation.
11. They told me that they had opened the lock.
12. **Honorary** – One who works without getting any salary अवैतनिक, सम्मानार्थ
 - **Quest** – Try to search for something खोज
 - **Fanatic** – Marked by excessive enthusiasm for and intense devotion to a cause or idea कट्टर
 - **Psychologist** – One who studies the working of the human mind मनोवैज्ञानिक
13. **Deteriorate** – To go from bad to worse. बद से बदतर हो जाना
 - **Pilgrim** – One who travels to sacred place तीर्थयात्री
 - **Boorish** – A person having rough and ill manner उजड़पन
 - **Philomuse** – A person who loves art
14. **Surveyor** – A person whose occupation is to survey lands or buildings सर्वेक्षक
 - **Prototype** – The first model of a new device
 - **Compatriot** – A person from your own country हमवतन
 - **Surgeon** – One who treats disease by performing operation सर्जन
15. **By leaps and bounds** (Phrase) – Swiftly तेजी से
16. **Red tape** (phrase) – Official rules and bureaucracy that make it difficult to do something लालफीताशाही
17. **in black and white** (phrase) – in writing लिखित रूप में
18. **Sink** (verb) – become submerged. डूबना
 - **Float** (verb) – rest or move on or near the surface of a liquid without sinking. पानी पर तैरना
19. **Rebellion** (noun) – Revolt, uprising, insurgence, upheaval, mutiny, revolution
 - **Uprising** (noun) – Rebellion, revolution, revolt, rising, unrest
 - **Loyalty** (noun) – Faithfulness, devotion, allegiance, trustworthiness
 - **Sedition** (noun) – Agitation, treason, subversion
 - **Allotment** (noun) – Share, portion, part, allocation
20. **Confusion** (noun) – Disorder, chaos, turmoil, upheaval, muddle अव्यवस्था
 - **Intrepidity** (noun) – bravery वीरता
 - **Stagnation** (noun) – Inactivity, inaction, inertia, torpor, sluggishness स्थिरता

- **Perusal** (noun) – Examination, scrutiny, inspection, checking अध्ययन
 - **Commotion** (noun) – Tumult, uproar, turmoil, confusion हल्ला गुल्ला
21. **Competent** (adjective) – capable, able, knowledgeable, experienced, skilled, proficient सक्षम
22. **Keep a secret** (phrase) – to not tell anyone else information that is meant to be hidden from other people. गुप्त रखना
23. (B) 'has' के बदले 'have' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'the majority' का प्रयोग यहाँ noun of multitude के रूप में हुआ है और noun of multitude को plural माना जाता है जिसके लिए plural verb तथा plural pronoun का प्रयोग होता है। part(c) में 'the majority' के लिए plural pronoun 'they' का प्रयोग है, अतः 'the majority' के लिए verb भी plural होगा।
- 'has' will be replaced by 'have' as 'the majority' is used here as the noun of multitude and the noun of multitude is considered plural for which plural verb and plural pronoun are used. Part(c) uses plural pronoun 'they' for 'the majority', hence the verb for 'the majority' will also be plural.
24. (B) 'meet' के बदले 'meeting' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी भी preposition के बाद आनेवाला verb अपने v^4 (V+ing) रूप में होता है, और 'look forward to, with a view to' idioms (मुहावरे) हैं जिनमें 'to' preposition है; जैसे-(i) She did all this with a view to saving your life.
- 'meeting' shall be used instead of 'meet' because the verb that comes after any preposition is in its own form v^4 (v + ing), and 'look forward to, with a view to' is idioms (idioms) in which 'to' is a preposition; As in –
(i) She did all this with a view to saving your life.
25. (A) 'was' के बदले 'were' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि present के unreal situation को व्यक्त करने के लिए 'if, as if, as through, if only, I wish, we wish' के बाद आनेवाले Subject के साथ यदि 'be' क्रिया का प्रयोग करना हो तो इसका केवल 'were' रूप प्रयोग में आता है, चाहे subject किसी भी number या person का क्यों न हो; जैसे-
- (i) If I were a bird, I would fly.
 - (ii) I wish I were a king.
- 'was' shall be substituted for 'was' because if ,as if, as through, if only, I wish, we wish', if the verb 'be' is to be used with the subject that comes after 'if, I wish, we wish' to express the unreal situation of the present, then only the form 'were' is used, regardless of the number or person, the subject belongs to any number or person; Like
(i) If I were a bird, I would fly.
(ii) I wish I were a king.



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