

From the margins: On the success of women candidates in 2022 Civil Services Examination

Women in civil service have a challenging and exciting task before them

For the second year **in a row**, **the top three ranks** of the Civil Services Examination, 2022, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission **have** been **secured** by women. In a **spectacular** achievement, **results** announced on Tuesday **show** that 12 women are in the top 20. **The 26-year-old topper**, Ishita Kishore, who graduated from Delhi University's Sri Ram College of Commerce and is a resident of Greater Noida, **reached** the **pinnacle** in her third attempt. Thanking her family for their support, Ms. Kishore said she **read up on** current affairs and practised writing **at length** because the examination process can be **draining**. **The second-rank holder**, Garima Lohia, 24, from Buxar and is also a Delhi University graduate, **cleared** the examination in her second attempt; and Uma Harathi N., 28, who stood third, is an engineering graduate from Telangana and cleared it in her fifth attempt. The young women's **reflections** on success and failure, the need to **persevere against all odds** and the importance of an **empathetic ecosystem** are significant **pointers** for future students, teachers and parents. For students, especially girls, the **courage** and **commitment** of these women is **inspiring**. One can only hope that teachers and parents will create the right environment for girls to fulfil their dreams; too many girls have had to **give up** half way in a largely **patriarchal** society.

This year, **933 candidates**, of an approximate 11.5 lakh who took the examination, **have** been recommended by the UPSC for appointment to the Indian Administrative Service, Indian Foreign Service, Indian Police Service and Central Services, Group A and B; 63% (588 candidates) are from the economically weaker sections, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste categories. This should help fill the gaps in policy in key sectors such as education and health for the **needy**. For all the success in the classroom, the students will now have to test their **strength** on the field. In a country as **diverse** as India, the challenges are different every few kilometres; they may have to **contend** with hate, violence, **prejudice**, **discrimination** and other **adverse** circumstances. The **trail-blazers** in the IAS, many of them women, **had** their first postings, as is the **norm**, in rural or semi-urban areas, and by **keeping their ear to the ground**, picked the issues they would **campaign** for, like the right to education for children, to give just one example. As women civil servants forming the **steel framework** of the **administrative** system, they may have to work under pressure, but their service will be **vital** for the **well-being** of a young India, especially women who **often** find themselves **on the margins**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **In a row** (phrase) – one after another; without a break लगातार
2. **Secure** (verb) – Obtain, acquire, get, capture, procure, प्राप्त करना
3. **Spectacular** (adjective) – Outstanding, remarkable, impressive, dramatic, sensational, शानदार
4. **Pinnacle** (noun) – Peak, apex, zenith, acme, summit, शिखर
5. **Read up** (on/about) (phrasal verb) – Study, research, explore, investigate, delve into; to learn about something by reading जानकारी हासिल करना
6. **At length** (phrase) – In detail, extensively, thoroughly, fully, comprehensively, विस्तार से
7. **Drain** (verb) – Exhaust, deplete, wear out, sap, tire, थका देना
8. **Reflection** (noun) – Consideration, thought, deliberation, contemplation, विचार
9. **Persevere** (verb) – Persist, continue, keep on, press on, दृढ़ता से अग्रसर होना
10. **Against all odds** (phrase) – Despite difficulties, in spite of everything, no matter what, हर कठिनाई के बावजूद
11. **Empathetic** (adjective) – Understanding, sympathetic, compassionate, sensitive, सहानुभूति से
12. **Ecosystem** (noun) – Environment, habitat, biosphere, पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
13. **Pointer** (noun) – Indicator, sign, signal, hint, सूचक
14. **Courage** (noun) – Bravery, valor, fearlessness, boldness, साहस
15. **Commitment** (noun) – Dedication, devotion, allegiance, loyalty, समर्पण
16. **Inspiring** (adjective) – Motivating, stimulating, encouraging, uplifting, प्रेरणादायक
17. **Give up** (phrasal verb) – Quit, surrender, abandon, त्यागना
18. **Patriarchal** (adjective) – Male-dominated, androcentric, patrilineal, पितृसत्तात्मक
19. **Needy** (noun) – Poor, impoverished, deprived, गरीब/ज़रूरतमंद
20. **Strength** (noun) – Power, might, force, robustness, मजबूती
21. **Diverse** (adjective) – Varied, different, dissimilar, diverse, विविध
22. **Contend** (with) (verb) – Deal with, cope with, face, confront, सामना करना

23. **Prejudice** (noun) – Bias, partiality, inequality, discrimination, पक्षपात
24. **Discrimination** (noun) – Prejudice, bias, bigotry, intolerance, भेदभाव
25. **Adverse** (adjective) – Unfavorable, negative, detrimental, harmful, विपरीत
26. **Trail-blazer** (noun) – Pioneer, innovator, groundbreaker, trendsetter, pathfinder, अग्रणी
27. **Norm** (noun) – Standard, convention, rule, principle, criterion, मानदंड
28. **Keep your ear to the ground** (phrase) – to pay attention to everything that is happening around you and to what people are saying सतर्क रहना
29. **Campaign** (verb) – Advocate, promote, push, lobby for, champion, अभियान चलाना
30. **Framework** (noun) – Structure, system, organization, arrangement, scheme, ढांचा
31. **Administrative** (adjective) – Managerial, supervisory, directive, executive, organizational, प्रशासनिक
32. **Vital** (adjective) – Crucial, essential, important, critical, indispensable, महत्वपूर्ण
33. **Well-being** (noun) – Health, welfare, good health, happiness, comfort, स्वास्थ्य
34. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, commonly, habitually, repeatedly, अक्सर
35. **On the margins** (phrase) – If someone is on the margins of a group of people, they are part of that group, but different in important ways, and if someone is on the margins of an activity, they are only slightly involved

Summary of the Editorial

1. The top three ranks of the Civil Services Examination, 2022, conducted by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), were secured by women for the second consecutive year.
2. Twelve out of the top twenty rank holders in the 2022 Civil Services Examination were women.
3. The top scorer, Ishita Kishore, is a 26-year-old Delhi University graduate who secured the position in her third attempt.
4. Garima Lohia, the second-rank holder, also a Delhi University graduate, cleared the exam on her second attempt.
5. The third rank was held by Uma Harathi N., an engineering graduate from Telangana, who passed the examination on her fifth attempt.
6. The achievers underscored the importance of persistence, resilience, and supportive environments in their journey to success.
7. Their achievements serve as an inspiration for future students, particularly girls in a society that is predominantly patriarchal.
8. Of the 933 candidates recommended by the UPSC for various services, 63% are from economically weaker sections, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribe, and Scheduled Caste categories.
9. The inclusion of candidates from diverse socio-economic backgrounds can aid in developing more inclusive policies in key sectors like education and health.
10. Despite their success in examinations, these candidates will face real-world challenges in diverse areas of India, contending with issues like hate, violence, prejudice, and discrimination.
11. Many women civil servants start their careers in rural or semi-urban areas, working on the ground to address important issues like children's right to education.
12. Women civil servants form a crucial part of the administrative system and often have to work under considerable pressure.
13. Their service is crucial for the well-being of a young India, especially for women who often find themselves marginalized.
14. This examination cycle continues to show the increasing representation and success of women in Indian civil services.
15. The editorial concludes by emphasizing the significance of creating an empathetic and supportive environment for girls to fulfill their dreams.

Practice Exercise: SSC Based

1. **What does the passage imply about the general societal expectations and challenges that face women, particularly those who aim to succeed in the Civil Services Examination?** [Ed.]
 - A. The society expects women to achieve top ranks in Civil Services Examination regularly.
 - B. Women who pursue the Civil Services Examination face societal obstacles, which may necessitate stronger support systems and greater personal perseverance.
 - C. The societal expectation for women is to make multiple attempts at the Civil Services Examination before achieving success.
 - D. Women are largely expected to give up halfway through the Civil Services Examination due to societal pressures.
2. **Based on the details in the passage, what can be inferred about the strategies and attributes that contributed to the success of the women who secured top ranks in the Civil Services Examination, 2022?**
 - A. They all are from Delhi University, and they succeeded due to the superior quality of education offered by this university.
 - B. Their success was solely due to the financial and emotional support they received from their families.
 - C. They dedicated themselves to extensive studying, and showed determination, resilience, and commitment despite numerous attempts and potential societal obstacles.
 - D. They relied on sheer luck and fortunate circumstances to secure their top ranks.
3. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements is true?**
 - A. The UPSC recommended all candidates who took the examination for appointment.
 - B. The economically weaker sections, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste categories made up less than half of the recommended candidates.
 - C. The IAS trail-blazers, many of them women, often chose their campaign issues by being closely connected to the rural or semi-urban areas they were first posted in.
 - D. The challenges faced by the candidates in a diverse country like India are uniform across all geographical locations.
4. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the role of women civil servants in the Indian Administrative Service?**
 - A. Women civil servants are not posted in rural or semi-urban areas as their first assignment.
 - B. Women civil servants play an important role in shaping the administrative system and their efforts are particularly crucial for the welfare of women who often find themselves marginalized.
 - C. Women civil servants only work under pressure in urban areas and their contribution is insignificant for the well-being of a young India.
 - D. Women civil servants are not needed in the Indian Administrative Service as they cannot work under pressure.

5. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the highlighted idiom.**

The trouble makers **took to their heels** when they saw the police coming.

- A. hid themselves
- B. ran away
- C. faced them boldly
- D. prepared to fight

6. **Select the correct homonym from the given options to fill in the blank.**

I saw a _____ in the sky.

- A. plane
- B. plain
- C. plan
- D. plant

7. **For the four-sentence (S1 to S4) paragraph below, sentences S1 and S4 are given. From the options P, Q, R and S select the appropriate sentences for S2 and S3, respectively.**

S1: A father wanted to inculcate a sense of responsibility in his careless son.

S4: He resolved to change his behaviour and soon the nails started coming out, till there were none left.

P. So he told his son that for every careless act of his he would hammer a nail into a wooden pillar in their house, and for every positive act he would pull out one nail.

Q. For many of the homebuyers, across locations the delay has extended to almost six years or more.

R. In the absence of a regulator and with no rules in place, the builder-buyer battle appeared one-sided.

S. The boy saw that the pillar was getting crowded with nails and realised his mistake.

- A. P and S
- B. Q and R
- C. Q and S
- D. P and Q

8. **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**

Fortunately, he passed the exams / with dint of / sheer hard work and diligence.

- A. No error
- B. with dint of
- C. Fortunately, he passed the exams
- D. sheer hard work and diligence

9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

All human beings must learn to live in _____ with nature.

- A. Kindness
- B. Pleasure
- C. Admiration

- D. Harmony
10. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error**
After / a long and fun-filled day, / the children / slept themselves peacefully.
- A. a long and fun-filled day
 - B. slept themselves peacefully
 - C. the children
 - D. After
11. Select the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word.
- A. Medieval
 - B. Measure
 - C. Magazine
 - D. Machenic
12. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
"Why is everybody leaving so early today?" said the manager.
- A. The manager asked why was everybody leaving so early that day.
 - B. The manager asked why everybody left so early that day.
 - C. The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early that day.
 - D. The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early today.
13. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active/passive voice.**
It is known by everyone that the tournament will be won by us.
- A. It is known to everyone that we are going to win the tournament.
 - B. It is known that the tournament is going to be won by us.
 - C. Everyone knows that we will win the tournament.
 - D. Everyone knows that the tournament was won by us.
14. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in passive/active voice.**
How were they managing the school for one year without a Principal?
- A. How was the Principal managed for one year without a School?
 - B. How was the school managed for one year without a Principal?
 - C. How was the Principal being managed for one year without a School?
 - D. How was the school being managed for one year without a Principal?
15. **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'.**
You must employ additional hands in complete the project in time.
- A. in completing the project in time
 - B. for completing the project of time
 - C. No substitution required
 - D. to complete the project on time
16. **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. And taking this village lad into their midst was terribly upsetting.
 - B. She was by no means pleased with this unnecessary addition to her family.

- C. When he reached Calcutta, Phatik met his aunt for the first time.
D. She found her own three boys quite enough to manage without taking in anyone else.
A. CBDA
B. BCDA
C. BCAD
D. CADB
17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.
There was absolute pandemonium in the classroom
A. Turbulence
B. Harmony
C. Excitement
D. Uproar
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank**
If your actions are _____ what you say, no one is going to believe you.
A. Contrary for
B. Contrary with
C. Contrary to
D. Contrary at
19. **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. After around 20 minutes of the crash, the tanker caught fire and exploded.
B. On Saturday, an oil tanker in Tanzania lost control and overturned on a busy road.
C. Around 150 people gathered near the tanker and some of them tried to siphon away some fuel.
D. At least 61 people died and 70 more were injured.
A. DCAB
B. BCAD
C. DBAC
D. BACD
20. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in reported speech.**
The commander said, "Keep marching till you reach the border."
A. The commander ordered his men to keep marching till they reached the border.
B. The commander requested the men keep marching till they reach the border.
C. The commander said the men should keep marching till they reach the border.
D. The commander said to his men they should keep marching till you reach the border.
21. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words**
An office for which high salary is paid for little or no work or responsibility
A. Death rattle
B. Ostracize
C. Sinecure
D. Credential
22. Identify the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word in the given sentence.

Accidentally committing a chargeable offense, he definitely felt the weight of his conscience.

- A. Definitely
- B. Accidentally
- C. Conscience
- D. Chargeable

23. **Replace the underlined word with its synonym to make the sentence more meaningful.**

The professor provided ample evidence to support his argument.

- A. Insufficient
- B. Meager
- C. Abundant
- D. Scarce

24. **Select the appropriate idiom that can replace the underlined phrase in the following sentence**

In order to generate enough revenue, they needed to sell quickly before the market shifted.

- A. Sell like hot cakes
- B. Be In the same boat
- C. Be at their wits' end
- D. Be full of beans

25. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**

- A. Due to the movie, tourists started coming to the beach there.
 - B. Maya Bay in Thailand was in the media in 1999 when Hollywood arrived there to film 'The Beach'.
 - C. One of the film's actors was Leonardo Di Caprio.
 - D. As many as 4,000 visitors would arrive on boats every day.
- A. BCAD
 - B. CBDA
 - C. ABCD
 - D. CABD

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) The correct answer is B. The passage suggests that the women who have succeeded in the Civil Services Examination have done so despite societal challenges, highlighting the importance of perseverance and a supportive ecosystem. The passage doesn't mention society expecting women to top regularly (Option A), nor is it about the number of attempts (Option C). It also doesn't mention women being expected to give up halfway, rather it discusses the challenges that could lead them to do so (Option D).
2. C) The correct answer is C. The passage discusses how these women practiced writing at length, read up on current affairs, and thanked their families for their support. The passage also refers to their reflections on success and failure, and their determination to persevere against all odds, suggesting that their success came as a result of dedication and resilience. The passage does not state that all successful women came from Delhi University (Option A), nor does it suggest their success was solely due to family support (Option B), or to luck (Option D).
3. C) The passage suggests that many of the trail-blazing civil servants in the IAS, many of whom were women, had their first postings in rural or semi-urban areas. It further suggests that by being closely connected to these areas, they were able to identify key issues to campaign for. Option C correctly captures this information. Options A, B, and D contradict the information provided in the passage.
4. B) The passage indicates that women civil servants form a significant part of the administrative system, often working under pressure. Their service is said to be vital for the well-being of a young India, especially for women who often find themselves on the margins. Option B accurately represents this information, while the other options are contradicted by the passage.
5. B) **Take to one's heels** (phrase) – Ran away भाग जाना
6. A) The correct answer is A) plane. A plane refers to an aircraft or a flat surface, often associated with flying objects. In the given sentence, the speaker mentions seeing something in the sky, suggesting it is most likely an aircraft, making "plane" the appropriate choice.
7. A) P and S
 The reason why the answer is A. P and S is because the sentences P and S logically follow S1 and precede S4, creating a coherent narrative about the father's method of teaching his son responsibility and the son's reaction to this method.
8. B) 'with dint of' के बदले 'by dint of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'by dint of' का अर्थ होता है 'by means of' के सहारे से !
9. D) **Harmony** (noun) – Concord, unity, agreement, coherence सामंजस्य

- **Kindness** (noun) – Benevolence, generosity, compassion, goodwill दयामय कार्य
 - **Pleasure** (noun) – Delight, enjoyment, gratification, satisfaction प्रसन्नता
 - **Admiration** (noun) – Esteem, respect, veneration, reverence प्रशंसा
10. B) 'Themselves' को हटाना पड़ेगा क्योंकि 'themselves' का प्रयोग Superfluous (अनावश्यक) है! ध्यान रखे 'themselves' एक reflexive pronoun है जिसका अर्थ होता है "अपने आप को" या "खुद को" और य subject का ही बोध कराता है। अगर verb के बाद आनेवाला object जिसपर क्रिया का प्रभाव पड़ता है खुद subject ही है तो वहाँ पर reflexive का ही इस्तेमाल होना चाहिए। He cursed him for the failure. का अर्थ है कि subject (he) ने असफलता के लिए किसी और को कोसा। परंतु He cursed himself for the failure, का अर्थ है कि subject ने असफलता के लिए खुद को ही कोसा। The subject cursed the self for the failure
11. D) Machenic
The Correct spelling of 'Machenic' is 'Mechanic' which means 'a skilled worker who repairs and maintains vehicle engines and other machinery.' मैकेनिक
12. C) The manager asked why everybody was leaving so early that day.
13. C) Everyone knows that we will win the tournament.
14. D) How was the school being managed for one year without a Principal?
15. D) 'to complete the project on time' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'employ something to do something' का अर्थ होता है 'to use something'
16. A) **CBDA**
- Sentence C should be the first sentence because it sets the scene and provides context: "When he reached Calcutta, Phatik met his aunt for the first time."
 - Sentence B comes next as it introduces the aunt's displeasure at Phatik's arrival: "She was by no means pleased with this unnecessary addition to her family."
 - Sentence D elaborates on the aunt's feelings, explaining why she didn't want to take in Phatik: "She found her own three boys quite enough to manage without taking in anyone else."
 - Finally, sentence A describes the overall impact of Phatik's arrival on the family: "And taking this village lad into their midst was terribly upsetting."
17. B) **Pandemonium** (noun) – Chaos, tumult, uproar, commotion हंगामा
- **Turbulence** (noun) – Disturbance, unrest, disorder, agitation अशांति
 - **Harmony** (noun) – Accord, consonance, balance, serenity शांति, सामंजस्य
 - **Excitement** (noun) – Thrill, exhilaration, enthusiasm, fervor उत्तेजना
 - **Uproar** (noun) – Commotion, racket, tumult कोलाहल
18. C) Preposition 'To' is used after 'Contrary' i.e. 'Contrary to' which means 'In contradiction of, against, in contrast to' - के विपरीत

19. B) **BCAD**

- Sentence B sets the context by explaining the main event - an oil tanker in Tanzania lost control and overturned on a busy road. This sentence serves as an appropriate starting point for the paragraph.
- Sentence C follows by describing what happened next - around 150 people gathered near the tanker and some of them tried to siphon away some fuel. This sentence is a logical continuation of the story, as it explains the actions of people who were present at the scene.
- Sentence A comes after C, as it explains the consequence of the crash and people trying to siphon fuel - the tanker caught fire and exploded around 20 minutes after the crash. This event is the turning point of the story.
- Finally, sentence D wraps up the paragraph by providing the aftermath of the explosion - at least 61 people died and 70 more were injured.

20. A) The commander ordered his men to keep marching till they reached the border.

21. C) **Sinecure** – An office for which high salary is paid for little or no work or responsibility

- **Death rattle** – A gurgling sound that comes from the back of the throat of a dying person मृत्युपूर्व भरी गले से निकली आवाज़
- **Ostracize** – To turn out of society बहिष्कृत करना
- **Credential** – A document attesting to the truth of certain stated facts प्रत्यक्ष पत्र

22. D) The spelling of Chargable is incorrect. The correct spelling is 'Chargeable' which means 'Punishable, criminal, serious, indictable' - दोषारोप्य

23. C) **Ample** (adjective) – Abundant, plentiful, generous, plentiful प्रचुर

- **Meager** (adjective) – Scant, sparse, inadequate, insufficient अल्प
- **Abundant** (adjective) – Plentiful, copious, ample, bountiful भरपूर
- **Scarce** (adjective) – Rare, limited, deficient, दुर्लभ, अपूर्ण

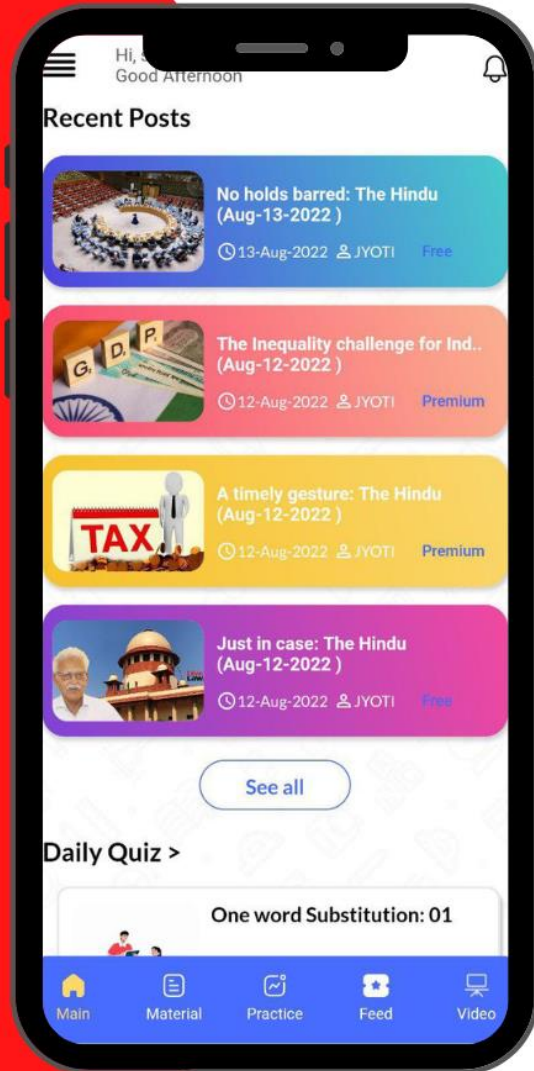
24. A) **Sell like hot cakes** (phrase) – to sell quickly जल्दी से बेचना

- **Be In the same boat** (phrase) – be in the same situation or facing the same difficulties as someone else एक ही जैसी मुशीबत में होना
- **Be at their wits' end** (phrase) – a state of extreme frustration or confusion अत्यधिक हताशा की स्थिति
- **Be full of beans** (phrase) – someone who is energetic, enthusiastic, and full of vitality. जीवन शक्ति से भरा हुआ।

25. A) **BCAD**

B. Maya Bay in Thailand was in the media in 1999 when Hollywood arrived there to film 'The Beach'.

- This sentence introduces the topic, discussing the arrival of Hollywood in Maya Bay, Thailand, to film the movie "The Beach." This sets the context for the rest of the sentences.
- C. One of the film's actors was Leonardo Di Caprio.
- This sentence provides information about one of the main actors in the movie. Although it does not directly connect to the other sentences, it is still relevant to the movie and helps to establish the connection between the movie and the increase in tourism.
- A. Due to the movie, tourists started coming to the beach there.
- After learning about the movie and its actors, this sentence explains the impact of the film on tourism in the area. The movie's popularity led to an increase in the number of tourists visiting Maya Bay.
- D. As many as 4,000 visitors would arrive on boats every day.
- This sentence provides evidence of the significant increase in tourist arrivals, further illustrating the movie's impact on tourism in the area



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