Malware malice: On the Apple cyberattack alert

The repeated **allegations** of **spyware** use requires a **thorough**, independent investigation

In a **thriving** democracy, the Opposition and the press are **vital** components of a structure controlled by a **ruling establishment** that requires **accountability** for it to be effective. **That** over a dozen Opposition leaders and journalists received email alerts from Apple that their devices were targeted by "state-sponsored attackers" **suggests** that this could be a repeat of what these members of the first and **fourth estate went through** in the **Pegasus episode** recently. In early 2022, **an article** in The New York Times **detailed** how **Pegasus**, a spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO Group, **was** used as a tool to **advance** Israeli interests, as Tel Aviv offered it to other countries which used it against Opposition leaders, journalists and **dissidents**. In July 2021, a reporters' **consortium**, the Pegasus Project, found that at least 40 journalists, cabinet Ministers and other officials in India were possibly subject to **surveillance** using Pegasus software. A Supreme Court of India panel, however, found no **conclusive** evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones that it had **examined**; but **the apex court** also noted, **tellingly**, that the Union government was not cooperating with the panel. **Unlike** the Indian government's **lackadaisical** and **dismissive** approach towards the NSO group and its products — which The NYT reported as **allegedly** bought by the Indian government from Israel as part of a $2 billion package including **sophisticated** weapons and intelligence **gear** in 2017 — other governments in the West implemented **stringent** steps **following** the disclosures on spyware use.

Apple's iPhones are used by nearly 20% of smartphone users worldwide, and by nearly 7% of such users in India, largely for their **diverse** facilities and **robust** security provisions. Researchers had found that spyware software such as Pegasus had targeted iPhones and the operating system iOS as early as 2016, and Apple had come up with updates to fix Pegasus **exploits**, besides going on to **sue** NSO. The company clarified that the alerts sent now did not **accuse** a "specific state actor"; it also said that it would not be able to disclose how the targets were discovered, but **reiterated** that the alerts had to be taken seriously. Yet, with the specific targets being Opposition leaders and journalists, the **question** whether it is the ruling establishment that is subjecting them to surveillance **is** important. This can only be verified by an independent and **empowered** investigation, involving the apex court again, which should, this time around, **compel** the Union government to cooperate. More immediately, the government must **come clean** on its dealings with NSO and its use of software provided by such agencies and also **emulate** steps taken by other governments in **proscribing** such entities.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Malware** (noun) – any program or file that is intentionally harmful to a computer, network or server.

2. **Malice** (noun) – Animosity, Hatred, Ill will, Spite, Malevolence द्वेष

3. **Cyberattack** (noun) – Hacking, Phishing, Denial of Service (DoS), Malware Attack, Exploit Attack साइबर हमला

4. **Allegation** (noun) – Accusation, Charge, Claim, Assertion, Imputation आरोप

5. **Spyware** (noun) – Software that enables a user to obtain covert information about another's computer activities by transmitting data covertly from their hard drive. जासूसी सॉफ्टवेयर

6. **Thorough** (adjective) – Comprehensive, Exhaustive, Meticulous, Detailed, In-depth पूरी तरह से

7. **Thriving** (adjective) – Flourishing, Prosperous, Booming, Successful, Blooming समृद्ध

8. **Vital** (adjective) – Essential, Crucial, Key, Indispensable, Fundamental महत्वपूर्ण

9. **Ruling** (adjective) – Governing, Dominant, Predominant, Prevalent, Authoritative सत्तारूढ़

10. **Establishment** (noun) – Authorities, Powers that be, the ruling class, government

11. **Accountability** (noun) – Responsibility, Liability, Answerability, Obligation, Duty जवाबदेही

12. **Fourth estate** (noun) – Press, Journalism, Media, News Media, Reporters मीडिया

13. **Go through** (phrasal verb) – Undergo, Experience, Endure, Suffer, Face से गुज़रना

14. **Pegasus** (noun) – A spyware tool developed by NSO Group used for surveillance purposes.

15. **Episode** (noun) – Incident, Event, Occurrence, Happening, Instance घटना

16. **Advance** (verb) – Promote, Further, Propel, Progress, Cultivate बढ़ावा देना

17. **Dissident** (noun) – Protester, Objector, Nonconformist, Rebel, Dissenter मतभेद करनेवाला

18. **Consortium** (noun) – Alliance, Coalition, Association, Group, Syndicate संघ

19. **Surveillance** (noun) – Observation, Monitoring, Vigilance, Watch, Oversight निगरानी

20. **Conclusive** (adjective) – Definitive, Decisive, Determinative, Final, Convincing निर्णायक

21. **Examine** (verb) – Inspect, Investigate, Analyze, Scrutinize, Review जांचना

22. **The Apex court** (noun) – Supreme Court सर्वोच्च न्यायालय

23. **Tellingly** (adverb) – Significantly, Meaningfully, Expressively, Indicatively, Revealingly प्रभावशाली ढंग से

24. **Unlike** (preposition) – Contrary to, Different from, As opposed to, Unalike, Dissimilar to के भिन्न

25. **Lackadaisical** (adjective) – Uninterested, Indifferent, Lethargic, Lax, Apathetic उदासीन

26. **Dismissive** (adjective) – Belittling, disdainful, scornful, contemptuous, slighting खारिज करने वाला

27. **Allegedly** (adverb) – Reportedly, purportedly, supposedly, ostensively, assumably कथित रूप से

28. **Sophisticated** (adjective) – Advanced, complex, intricate, refined, cultivated अत्याधुनिक

29. **Gear** (noun) – Equipment, apparatus, tackle, paraphernalia, accoutrements साज़-सामान

30. **Stringent** (adjective) – Strict, rigorous, tight, severe, exacting कठोर

31. **Following** (preposition) – After, subsequent to, succeeding, post, in the wake of के बाद

32. **Diverse** (adjective) – Varied, assorted, multifaceted, heterogeneous, different विविध

33. **Robust** (adjective) – Strong, durable, sturdy, tough, hardy मजबूत

34. **Exploit** (noun) – a software tool designed to take advantage of a flaw in a computer system, typically for malicious purposes such as installing malware.

35. **Sue** (verb) – Litigate, prosecute, take to court, file a suit, take legal action मुकदमा करना

36. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Charge with, indict for, arraign for, impeach for, implicate in आरोप लगाना

37. **Reiterate** (verb) – Repeat, restate, recapitulate, reemphasize, echo दोहराना

38. **Empower** (verb) – Authorize, enable, permit, license, entitle सशक्त बनाना

39. **Compel** (verb) – Force, coerce, oblige, necessitate, constrain विवश करना

40. **Come clean** (phrase) – Confess, admit, reveal, disclose, make a clean breast of सच बताना

41. **Emulate** (verb) – Imitate, copy, mirror, echo, follow the example of अनुकरण करना

42. **Proscribe** (verb) – Ban, forbid, outlaw, disallow, prohibit निषेध करना

Summary of the editorial

1. Apple has issued alerts about state-sponsored cyberattacks to several Opposition leaders and journalists.

2. This situation is reminiscent of the recent Pegasus spyware scandal involving the NSO Group.

3. The New York Times reported Pegasus was used to further Israeli interests and was employed by various countries against their own Opposition and journalists.

4. In India, the Pegasus Project revealed potential surveillance of over 40 individuals, including journalists and officials.

5. The Supreme Court of India's investigation found no conclusive spyware evidence but highlighted the government's lack of cooperation.

6. Reports suggest the Indian government purchased Pegasus as part of a larger defense deal with Israel in 2017.

7. Western governments have taken strict measures against spyware following these disclosures, unlike the Indian government.

8. Apple's iPhones, known for their security, are widely used worldwide and have been targeted by spyware like Pegasus since 2016.

9. Apple has updated its software to counteract such threats and has sued the NSO Group.

10. The current alerts by Apple do not specify the attacker but emphasize the seriousness of the threats.

11. The targeting of Opposition and press raises concerns about possible surveillance by the ruling government.

12. Verification of such allegations requires an independent, empowered investigation, possibly involving the apex court.

13. The investigation should demand the Union government's cooperation, unlike in previous instances.

14. The Indian government must disclose its transactions with NSO and its usage of such surveillance software.

15. India is urged to follow the lead of other governments in taking strong action against spyware and companies like NSO.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What did the Supreme Court of India panel conclude about the spyware on the phones they examined?**   [Editorial Page]
   A. They found conclusive evidence of the spyware on all phones.
   B. They found the Union government was fully cooperative.
   C. They found no conclusive evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones.
   D. They confirmed the use of Pegasus software on every device.

2. **Which of the following statements is true based on the given passage?**
   A. The Pegasus software was developed by the Tel Aviv-based NSO Group.
   B. The New York Times reported that the Indian government never bought any products from the NSO group.
   C. The Opposition and journalists in India have never received alerts regarding "state-sponsored attackers."
   D. All governments, including the West, have been dismissive towards the NSO group and its products following the disclosures on spyware use.

3. **When did researchers find that spyware software such as Pegasus had targeted iPhones and iOS?**
   A. 2010
   B. 2014
   C. 2016
   D. 2018

4. **Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about Apple's recent alerts concerning cyberattacks?**
   A. Apple accused a specific state actor of the cyberattacks.
   B. Apple provided detailed methods on how they discovered the targets.
   C. Apple's primary concern is to seek revenge on NSO by suing them.
   D. Apple emphasized the importance and seriousness of the alerts despite not disclosing specific details.

5. **Based on the tone of the second paragraph, how does the author view the Indian government's approach to the NSO group and its products?**
   A. Appreciative
   B. Indifferent
   C. Critical
   D. Supportive

6. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
   A. The global popularity of Apple's iPhones.
   B. Israel's foreign policy and its use of Pegasus for international relations.
   C. The alleged use of spyware to target Opposition leaders, journalists, and the Indian government's response.
   D. The technical details of how Pegasus works on the iOS system.

7. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. Online settlement of claims by heirs of deceased account holders and flexibility for submission of life certificates by pensioners are among the slew of customer-centric initiatives listed in the report. Besides a centralised know-your-customer (KYC) database, it suggests that operations of accounts should not be stopped pending periodic KYC updates.

Q. Penal action has been proposed against entities failing to meet the standards, and rewards for those making systemic upgrades.

R. A time limit has been sought for the return of property documents after the closure of the loan account, failing which a penalty should be imposed on the lender.

S. The recommendations of an expert panel set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) are a much-needed booster dose to improve customer service in the banking sector, non-banking financial companies and other regulated institutions.

   A. SPQR   B.QRPS   C.SQPR   D.PRQS

8. **Arrange the following sentences to form a coherent paragraph.**

P. Even stray dogs rounded up by the MCs are let loose back into their streets after neutering, or rehabilitated in pounds

Q. The shocking incident is a blot on Indore that has been tagged the cleanest city in the country for the past four years

R. Thankfully, the inhuman attempt of some workers of the Indore Municipal Corporation to dump a truck full of homeless people,

S. Including the frail and elderly, whom they had gathered on the highway in the freezing cold was thwarted as villagers of the area protested after catching them red-handed

   A. RSQP   B.QPSR   C.RSPQ   D.SPRQ

9. Which word can replace **'ferocious'** as used in the passage?
    A. Aggressive
    B. Docile
    C. Friendly
    D. Submissive

10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word**.
    His **amazing** performance made him famous.
    A. Ordinary
    B. Colliery
    C. Adversary
    D. Binary

11. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
    The food was too salty **eat** this morning.
    A. eating
    B. ate
    C. to ate
    D. to eat

12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word**.

Elegant
A. Mighty
B. Graceful
C. Ugly
D. Tall

13. **Parts of the following sentence have been underlined and given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
   I <u>will going on an official tour next week.</u>
   A. on
   B. will going
   C. next week
   D. an official tour

14. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
   Shelley and Keats are great writers, but I prefer the last.
   A. the last
   B. are great writers
   C. but I prefer
   D. Shelley and Keats

15. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word**.
   Design
   A. Fabricate
   B. Destroy
   C. Inspect
   D. Copy

16. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase**.
   A person who is known for his hatred towards the entire mankind
   A. Insolvent
   B. Philogynist
   C. Mercenary
   D. Misanthrope

17. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**
   Jaya said that she will become topper in her class.
   A. in her class
   B. she will become topper
   C. that
   D. Jaya said

18. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
   Some / private banks / pay their employees / good.
   A. private banks

B. Some
C. pay their employees
D. Good

19. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom**.
Break the ice
A. To say something that makes strangers uncomfortable
B. To say something that makes people who are meeting for the first time more comfortable
C. To say something that makes people excited for a group project
D. To say something mean to people in a group

20. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase**.
A poem of lamentation on the death of someone loved and admired
A. Soliloquy
B. Elegy
C. Tragedy
D. Epitaph

Comprehension:

In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in each blank.

Language is _____1_____ of the most fundamental aspects of human communication and interaction. It allows people from different cultures to connect and _____2_____ ideas. While many individuals grow up learning just one language, there are a variety of reasons why learning a second language can be beneficial. _____3_____, it can improve cognitive abilities, enhance job prospects and facilitate travel and cultural immersion. _____4_____ proficiency in a second language is an invaluable asset for personal growth as well as professional development. Audio-video mediums such as _____5_____ are among the best ways to learn a second language as they allow learners to engage with cultural content.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
A. three
B. four
C. two
D. One

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
A. sharing
B. share
C. shares
D. Shared

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
A. Therefore
B. As it is
C. However
D. For example

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

A. Acquiring
B. Acquires
C. Acquire
D. Acquired

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.**
   A. podcasts
   B. images
   C. books
   D. films

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **C) They found no conclusive evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones.**
    The passage specifically states, "A Supreme Court of India panel, however, found no conclusive evidence of the spyware on the 29 phones that it had examined."

2. **A) The Pegasus software was developed by the Tel Aviv-based NSO Group.**
    The passage mentions, "In early 2022, an article in The New York Times detailed how Pegasus, a spyware developed by the Israel-based NSO Group...".

3. C)............ 2016
    The passage states, "Researchers had found that spyware software such as Pegasus had targeted iPhones and the operating system iOS as early as 2016."

4. **D) Apple emphasized the importance and seriousness of the alerts despite not disclosing specific details.**
    The passage mentions, "The company clarified that the alerts sent now did not accuse a "specific state actor"," indicating option A is incorrect. The passage also says, "it also said that it would not be able to disclose how the targets were discovered," making option B incorrect. While Apple did sue NSO, the primary concern about it is not explicitly stated in the passage, ruling out option C. Lastly, the statement "but reiterated that the alerts had to be taken seriously" supports option D.

5. C) **Critical**
    The author describes the Indian government's approach towards the NSO group as "lackadaisical and dismissive," indicating a critical view of the government's actions and attitudes.

6. **C) The alleged use of spyware to target Opposition leaders, journalists, and the Indian government's response.**
    The passage majorly revolves around the allegations of spyware use, particularly targeting Opposition leaders and journalists, and how the Indian government has been responding to these allegations. It refers to the Pegasus episode, discusses the findings of a reporters' consortium and the response of the Supreme Court of India. The main focus is on the alleged surveillance and the demand for thorough and cooperative investigations into the matter.

7. C) **SQPR**
    S: This is the introductory sentence. It establishes the context by stating the general purpose of the expert panel's recommendations.
    Q: This sentence is a logical continuation from the first one, providing more details about the measures proposed by the expert panel, such as penal actions and rewards
    P: This sentence builds upon the previous sentence, providing specifics about some of the customer-centric initiatives the panel recommends.

R: Finally, this sentence adds another specific recommendation to the list, establishing a time limit for returning property documents. It is a logical conclusion because it keeps with the theme of proposed improvements and maintains the flow of the paragraph.

8. A) **RSQP**

R: This sentence sets up the context for the paragraph, explaining an inhuman act attempted by workers of the Indore Municipal Corporation

S: Sentence S continues the context established in R, providing more details about the people involved and the nature of the act. The phrase "including the frail and elderly" refers to the "homeless people" mentioned in R. This sentence also introduces the villagers who caught the workers in the act, providing a resolution to the incident mentioned in R

Q: This sentence provides some context and commentary on the incident, mentioning that it is a blot on the reputation of Indore, a city that has been praised for cleanliness. This sentence clearly refers to the "inhuman attempt" mentioned in sentences R and S

P: Finally, sentence P wraps up the paragraph by offering a comparison between the treatment of stray dogs and the attempted treatment of the homeless people mentioned in R and S, suggesting that the latter were treated worse.

9. A) **Aggressive**

The word 'ferocious' is to describe the violent and aggressive behavior. Therefore, 'aggressive' is the synonym that could replace 'ferocious'

Ferocious (adjective) – Savage, fierce, vicious, brutal, violent, उग्र

10. A) **Amazing** (adjective) – Causing great surprise or wonder, astonishing, incredible, phenomenal. आश्चर्यजनक

Antonym: **Ordinary** (adjective) – With no special or distinctive features, normal, common, usual. सामान्य

   - **Colliery** (noun) – A coal mine and the buildings and equipment associated with it. **कोयला खदान**

   - **Adversary** (noun) – One's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute. प्रतिद्वंद्वी/विरोधी

   - **Binary** (adjective) – Relating to, using, or expressed in a system of numerical notation that has 2 as its base. द्वि-अंगी

11. D) eat' के बदले **'to eat'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब वाक्य में 'too' का प्रयोग होता है तो उसके बाद 'to' + verb (infinitive form) का प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The soup was too hot to drink.

   - **'to eat'** will be used instead of 'eat' because when 'too' is used in a sentence, it is followed by 'to' + verb (in its infinitive form); Like— The soup was too hot to drink.

12. B) **Elegant** (adjective) – Stylish, sophisticated, graceful, refined, tasteful. सुरुचिपूर्ण, शिष्ट

Synonym: **Graceful** (adjective) – Having or showing grace or elegance, poised, elegant, stylish. सुंदर, मनोहारी

- **Mighty** (adjective) – Very strong, powerful, formidable, immense. **शक्तिशाली**

- **Ugly** (adjective) – Unpleasant, unattractive, unsightly, hideous. **भद्दा**

- **Tall** (adjective) – Having a greater than average height, high, lofty, towering. **लम्बा**

13. B) '**will going**' में error है। सही रूप 'will be going' या 'will go' होगा क्योंकि 'will' के बाद base form of verb का प्रयोग होता है।

- The error is in 'will going'. The correct form should be 'will be going' or 'will go' as 'will' is followed by the base form of the verb.

14. A) '**the last**' के बदले 'the latter' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि दो विकल्पों में से दूसरे को चुनने के लिए 'the latter' उपयुक्त शब्द है; जैसे— I like tea and coffee, but I prefer the latter.

- 'the latter' will be used instead of 'the last' because when choosing between two options, 'the latter' is the appropriate term; Like— I like tea and coffee, but I prefer the latter

15. A) **Design** (verb) – Do or plan (something) with a specific purpose in mind योजना बनाना

Synonym: Fabricate (verb) – Construct, manufacture, create, make. निर्माण करना

- **Destroy** (verb) – Ruin, demolish, devastate, obliterate. **नष्ट**

- **Inspect** (verb) – Examine, look over, scrutinize, survey. **जाँच**

- **Copy** (verb) – Duplicate, reproduce, replicate. **प्रतिलिपि**

16. D) **Misanthrope** (noun) – A person who dislikes or distrusts other people and avoids social company; a person who hates or scorns mankind. **मानवता से घृणा करनेवाला**

- **Insolvent** (noun) – Unable to pay debts owed. **दिवालिया**

- **Philogynist** (noun) – A person who appreciates and admires women. **स्त्री प्रेमी**

- **Mercenary** (noun) – A professional soldier hired to serve in a foreign army. **किराये का सिपाही**

17. B) '**she will become**' के बदले **'she would become'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Direct Speech में Verb Future Tense में है और जब उसे Indirect Speech में बदला जाता है, तो Future Tense को 'would' में बदल दिया जाता है; जैसे— He said, "I will go" बदल जाएगा He said that he would go.

- **'she would become'** will be used instead of 'she will become' because in Direct Speech the verb is in Future Tense, and when it is changed to Indirect Speech, the Future Tense is changed to 'would'; Like— He said, "I will go" becomes He said that he would go.

18. D) **good'** के बदले 'well' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'pay' एक verb है और इसके लिए adverb की आवश्यकता है।

- 'well' will be used instead of 'good' because 'pay' is a verb and requires an adverb.

19. B) **Break the ice** (idiom) – To say something that makes people who are meeting for the first time more comfortable. **कुछ ऐसा कहना जिससे पहली बार मिल रहे लोगों को अधिक सहजता हो।**

20. B) **Elegy** (noun) – A poem of lamentation on the death of someone loved and admired. **शोक कविता**

- **Soliloquy** (noun) – An act of speaking one's thoughts aloud when by oneself or regardless of any hearers, especially in a play. **स्वगत**

- **Tragedy** (noun) – A play dealing with tragic events and having an unhappy ending, especially concerning the downfall of the main character. **त्रासदी**

- **Epitaph** (noun) – A phrase or statement written in memory of a person who has died, especially as an inscription on a tombstone. **समाधि-लेख**

21. D) **One'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence कह रहा है कि भाषा मानव संवाद और इंटरएक्शन का सबसे मूल तत्व है। यहाँ "one of the most" phrase का use होता है जिससे स्पष्ट होता है कि भाषा मूल तत्वों में से एक है, इसलिए 'One' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'three', 'four', और 'two' इस context में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि वे किसी समूह की संख्या को दर्शाते हैं जो यहाँ पर सही नहीं है।

- **'One'** should be used because the sentence is indicating that language is among the most basic elements of human communication and interaction. The phrase "one of the most" signifies that language is one of the primary aspects, making 'One' fitting here. Whereas, 'three', 'four', and 'two' indicate numbers in a set, which doesn't fit in this context

22. B) **Share'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में "It allows people from different cultures to" के बाद क्रिया (verb) की base form की आवश्यकता है। 'It allows' के साथ हमेशा verb की base form आती है, इसलिए 'share' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Sharing' इंग फॉर्म है, 'Shares' तीसरे व्यक्ति एकवचन के साथ आता है, और 'Shared' भूतकाल का रूप है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Share'** should be used because the sentence requires the base form of the verb after "It allows people from different cultures to." With 'it allows,' the base form of the verb is used, making 'share' the appropriate choice here. Whereas 'Sharing' is the -ing form, 'Shares' is used with third-person singular, and 'Shared' is the past tense, which don't fit in this context.

23. D) **For example'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है 'उदाहरण के लिए'. Sentence में उसके बाद विभिन्न कारण दिए गए हैं जिससे हमें यह पता चलता है कि दूसरी भाषा सीखने में क्या

फायदे होते हैं। इसलिए 'For example' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Therefore' का अर्थ होता है 'इसलिए', 'As it is' का अर्थ है 'जैसा कि यह है', और 'However' का अर्थ है 'हालांकि', जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
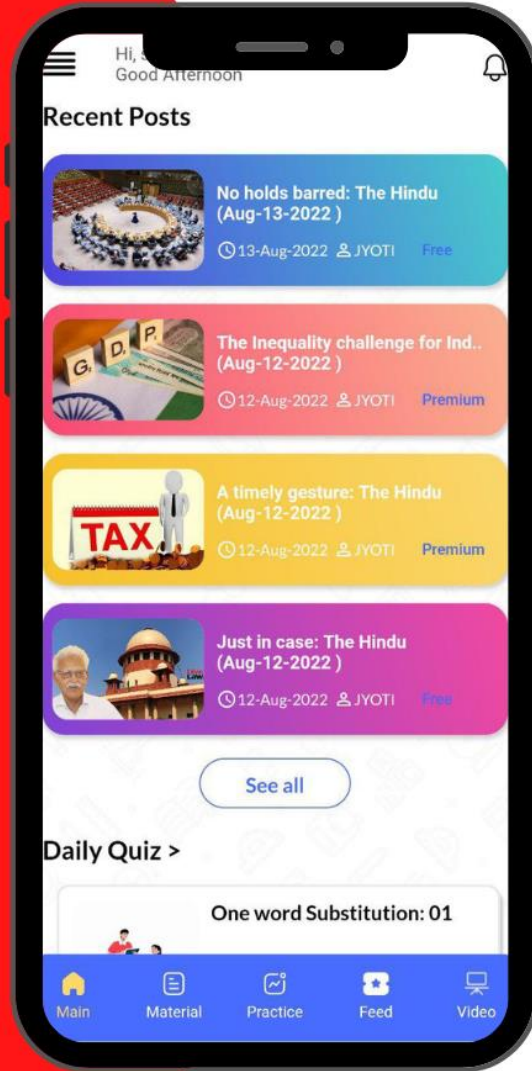
- **'For example'** should be used because it indicates that the subsequent information will provide specific instances or reasons. The sentence that follows lists various benefits of learning a second language, making 'For example' the most appropriate choice here. On the other hand, 'Therefore' implies a conclusion, 'As it is' suggests an existing state or condition, and 'However' indicates a contrast, none of which fit in this context.

24. 'A) **Acquiring'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में 'proficiency' को acquire करने के बारे में बात की गई है और यहाँ passive voice की जरूरत नहीं है। 'Acquiring' यहाँ present participle form में use हो रहा है, जो sentence के context में फिट होता है। 'Acquires' और 'Acquire' present tense के forms हैं और 'Acquired' past tense का form है, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- **Acquiring'** should be used because the sentence is talking about acquiring proficiency and there's no need for a passive voice here. 'Acquiring' is used in its present participle form which fits the context of the sentence. Whereas, 'Acquires' and 'Acquire' are in present tense and 'Acquired' is in past tense, which don't fit in this context.

25. D) **Films'** को use किया जाएगा क्योंकि 'films' में audio-visual content होता है जो learners को cultural content के साथ engage करने में मदद करता है। Sentence में "Audio-video mediums" के जिक्र किया गया है जिससे स्पष्ट है कि आवाज और वीडियो दोनों की जरूरत है, इसलिए 'films' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Podcasts' में केवल audio होता है, 'Images' में केवल visual content होता है, और 'Books' में textual content होता है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

- **Films'** should be used because they encompass both audio and visual content, allowing learners to engage with cultural content. The sentence mentions "Audio-video mediums", making it clear that both sound and visuals are required, hence 'films' is fitting here. Whereas, 'Podcasts' offer only audio, 'Images' provide only visual content, and 'Books' contain textual content, which don't fit in this context.

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