

## Justified balance: On the ICC move against Israel, Hamas

The ICC has done well to move against Israel, Hamas leaders for Gaza crimes

In **seeking** arrest **warrants** against the leadership of Hamas as well as of Israel, the **Office** of the **Prosecutor** of the International Criminal Court (ICC) **has** taken a welcome first step towards **accountability** for the war crimes **committed** since October 7, 2023. It was the day Hamas launched its deadly attacks, killing over 1,200 Israelis and taking at least 245 **hostages**. The Israeli military **retaliation** on Gaza has been **brutal** and **relentless**, and the death count has crossed 35,000 people, most of them women and children. The **application** for warrants, which will be decided by a Pre-Trial Chamber of ICC judges, **will** naturally have a greater impact on Israel than on the non-state group. Israel's immediate concern is the **moral equivalence** the prosecutor has made in **levelling** charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity against both the national leadership of a democracy and an **armed** group that wants to destroy it. Save for Israel's **diehard** supporters, including the U.S. and some other governments, few would disagree with the **balance sought** to be **struck** by ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan. It may not be **flattering** for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant to be named for war crimes and crimes against **humanity alongside** Yahya Sinwar, head of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri **alias** Deif, commander-in-chief of the Al-Qassam Brigades, and Ismail Haniyeh, who **heads** the Hamas Political Bureau.

It would have been impossible, however, for the ICC prosecutor to ignore what the Israeli leadership has been **accused of** — **starvation** as a method of war and intentionally killing and **directing** attacks against **civilians**, among others. Hamas has been accused of **extermination**, murder, rape, torture and **taking hostages**. Israel has **predictably** questioned the application, repeating its position that it is engaged in **legitimate** self-defence. To many, the arrest warrants may appear **futile**. Those against whom warrants have been issued, but remain **unexecuted**, include Russian President Vladimir Putin and Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir. However, **regardless of** the **efficacy** of such measures in preventing or punishing war crimes, the step does **entail diplomatic** costs, as member-countries of the ICC are **obliged** to arrest and hand over those against whom warrants are pending under the Rome Statute, the **treaty** that created the ICC **mechanism**. It may increase Israel's **isolation** on the one hand, and **harden** the U.S.-Israeli position on the Palestinian question on the other. **Israel**, like the U.S., **is** not an ICC member-state; but as the Putin **precedent shows**, this may not be an **impediment** to the **issuance** of warrants against its leaders. **On the flip side**, Mr. Netanyahu will **likely** use this to **shore up** his position **at home**.

[Practice Exercise]

- **Alias** (adjective) – Code-named, dubbed, identified, named, called, उर्फ
- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. **Justified** (adjective) – Well-founded, legitimate, defensible, warranted, substantiated उचित
2. **Seek** (verb) – Search for, pursue, endeavor to find, strive for, request तलाश करना
3. **Warrant** (noun) – a document issued by a legal or government official authorizing the police or another body to make an arrest, search premises, or carry out some other action relating to the administration of justice
4. **Prosecutor** (noun) – Legal representative, public attorney, district attorney, advocate, legal counsel अभियोजक
5. **Accountability** (noun) – Responsibility, answerability, liability, obligation, transparency उत्तरदायित्व
6. **Commit** (verb) – Perpetrate, carry out, execute, perform, enact करना
7. **Hostage** (noun) – Captive, prisoner, detainee, abductee, victim बंधक
8. **Retaliation** (noun) – Revenge, reprisal, retribution, vengeance, counterattack प्रतिशोध
9. **Brutal** (adjective) – Savage, cruel, harsh, ruthless, merciless निर्दय
10. **Relentless** (adjective) – Unyielding, persistent, continuous, incessant, unremitting अथक
11. **Moral** (adjective) – Ethical, righteous, virtuous, principled, honorable नैतिक
12. **Equivalence** (noun) – Equality, parity, sameness, balance, uniformity समकक्षता
13. **Level** (verb) – Accuse, charge, allege, assert, claim आरोप लगाना
14. **Armed** (adjective) – Equipped, fortified, weaponized, prepared, combat-ready सशस्त्र
15. **Diehard** (adjective) – Stubborn, uncompromising, obstinate, unyielding, resolute कट्टर
16. **Strike a balance** (phrase) – Achieve equilibrium, find a middle ground, balance, harmonize, equalize संतुलन बनाना
17. **Flattering** (adjective) – Complimentary, admiring, laudatory, favorable, praising चापलूस
18. **Humanity** (noun) – Mankind, humankind, human race, people, society मानवता
19. **Alongside** (adverb) – Beside, next to, in parallel, together with, near साथ
20. **Head** (verb) – Lead, manage, direct, oversee, command नेतृत्व करना
21. **Accuse** (of) (verb) – Charge with, allege, indict, prosecute, blame आरोप लगाना

22. **Starvation** (noun) – Famine, hunger, malnutrition, food deprivation, famishment भुखमरी
23. **Direct** (verb) – Command, instruct, order, guide, control निर्देशित करना
24. **Civilian** (noun) – Non-combatant, citizen, non-military person, public, populace नागरिक
25. **Extermination** (noun) – Annihilation, eradication, destruction, genocide, mass killing संहार/ तबाही
26. **Take hostage** (phrase) – Abduct, capture, seize, kidnap, hold captive बंधक बनाना
27. **Predictably** (adverb) – Expectedly, understandably, unsurprisingly, typically, foreseeably अनुमानित रूप से
28. **Legitimate** (adjective) – Lawful, legal, valid, rightful, justifiable वैध
29. **Futile** (adjective) – Useless, pointless, ineffective, fruitless, vain व्यर्थ
30. **Unexecuted** (adjective) – Not carried out, not implemented, pending, incomplete, not enforced अवितरित
31. **Regardless of** (phrase) – Despite, irrespective of, notwithstanding, without consideration of, in spite of बावजूद
32. **Efficacy** (noun) – Effectiveness, efficiency, potency, success, capability प्रभावकारिता
33. **Entail** (verb) – Involve, require, necessitate, imply, encompass शामिल करना
34. **Diplomatic** (adjective) – Political, ambassadorial, tactful, negotiatory, international राजनयिक
35. **Cost** (noun) – Loss, damage, हानि
36. **Oblige** (to) (verb) – Compel, require, bind, force, obligate बाध्य करना
37. **Treaty** (noun) – agreement, pact, contract, accord, deal संधि
38. **Mechanism** (noun) – System, process, method, procedure, framework तंत्र
39. **Isolation** (noun) – Separation, seclusion, solitude, segregation, detachment अलगाव
40. **Harden** (verb) – Strengthen, solidify, reinforce, stiffen, fortify कठोर करना
41. **Precedent show** (noun) – Previous example, prior instance, earlier case, model, forerunner पूर्व उदाहरण
42. **Impediment** (noun) – Obstacle, hindrance, barrier, obstruction, deterrent बाधा
43. **Issuance** (noun) – Release, distribution, issuance, promulgation, dispatch जारी करना

44. **On the flip side** (phrase) – Conversely, alternatively, on the other hand, in contrast, on the reverse side दूसरी तरफ
45. **Likely** (adjective) – Probable, possible, expected, anticipated, foreseeable संभावित
46. **Shore up** (phrasal verb) – Support, reinforce, strengthen, bolster, stabilize समर्थन करना
47. **At home** (phrase) – Domestically, internally, within the country, locally, nationally अपना देश में

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The International Criminal Court (ICC) has sought arrest warrants against leaders of both Israel and Hamas for war crimes committed since October 7, 2023.
2. On October 7, Hamas launched deadly attacks, killing over 1,200 Israelis and taking at least 245 hostages.
3. Israel's military retaliation has been severe, resulting in over 35,000 deaths in Gaza, mostly women and children.
4. The application for warrants will be decided by a Pre-Trial Chamber of ICC judges.
5. The warrants will likely impact Israel more significantly than the non-state group Hamas.
6. Israel is concerned about the moral equivalence drawn between its national leadership and an armed group that seeks its destruction.
7. Most of the international community, except Israel's staunch supporters like the U.S., supports the balance sought by ICC Prosecutor Karim A.A. Khan.
8. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant have been named for war crimes and crimes against humanity.
9. Hamas leaders Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri (Deif), and Ismail Haniyeh have also been charged.
10. The ICC prosecutor has cited accusations against Israeli leadership, including starvation as a method of war and attacks against civilians.
11. Hamas is accused of extermination, murder, rape, torture, and taking hostages.
12. Israel has questioned the application, asserting its actions are legitimate self-defence.
13. There is skepticism about the efficacy of arrest warrants, given past instances involving leaders like Russian President Vladimir Putin and Sudan's Omar al-Bashir.
14. Despite potential enforcement challenges, the warrants carry diplomatic consequences, obliging ICC member countries to arrest and hand over those charged.
15. The move could further isolate Israel internationally while possibly strengthening the U.S.-Israeli stance on the Palestinian issue.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Based on the passage, which of the following can be inferred about the International Criminal Court's (ICC) decision to seek arrest warrants against both Israeli and Hamas leaders?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The ICC's decision aims to establish moral equivalence between a sovereign state and a non-state armed group.
  - B. The ICC has faced universal approval for its balanced approach towards Israel and Hamas.
  - C. The ICC's action is expected to influence only the leaders of Hamas significantly.
  - D. The ICC's primary goal is to support the U.S. government's stance on the Israel-Hamas conflict.
2. **What can be inferred about the international reaction to the ICC's move from the passage?**
  - A. Most international entities are likely to support Israel's stance against the ICC's decision.
  - B. The ICC's balanced approach has garnered support mainly from Israel's diehard supporters.
  - C. The ICC Prosecutor's decision reflects a general international consensus on accountability.
  - D. The ICC's approach is expected to be controversial among different international actors.
3. **What is the tone of the passage?**
  - A. Sarcastic
  - B. Objective
  - C. Optimistic
  - D. Indifferent
4. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
  - A. The futility of international justice mechanisms
  - B. The impact of war crimes on civilians
  - C. The ICC's role in holding leaders accountable for war crimes
  - D. The political implications of the ICC's actions on Israel
5. **Why might the arrest warrants issued by the ICC appear futile to some, according to the passage?**
  - A. The ICC lacks the authority to issue such warrants
  - B. Arrest warrants have previously been issued against leaders like Vladimir Putin and Omar al-Bashir but remain unexecuted
  - C. The ICC is not recognized by Israel or the U.S.
  - D. The diplomatic costs are too high for member countries to enforce the warrants
6. **Fill in the blank with an appropriate option.**

Just one \_\_\_\_\_ of paper can lead to a whole lot of fun.

  - A. sheet
  - B. bunch
  - C. bulk
  - D. group
7. **Select the correct passive form of the given sentence.**

The cat ate all the pastries.

- A. All the pastries is eaten by the cat.
- B. All the pastries were eaten by the cat.
- C. All the pastries had been eaten by the cat.
- D. All the pastries are eaten by the cat.

8. **Find the part of the given sentence that has an error in it. If there is no error, choose 'No error'.**

A guru is someone who does not charge you a fee because someone who is tied in greed couldn't release you.

- A. Charge you a fee because someone
- B. Who is tied in greed couldn't release you.
- C. A guru is someone who does not
- D. No error

9. **Select the word that is closest in meaning (SYNONYM) to the word given below.**

Buddy

- A. Stylist
- B. Foe
- C. Associate
- D. Enemy

10. **Choose the word that means the same as the given word.**

Jejune

- A. Poignant
- B. Drab
- C. Unchildlike
- D. Cosmopolitan

11. **Given below are four jumbled sentences. Pick the option that gives their correct order.**

P. The average adult gets two to four colds a year, while the average child may get six to eight.

Q. It is the most frequent infectious disease in humans.

R. They occur more commonly during the winter.

S. The common cold, also known simply as the cold, is a viral infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract that primarily affects the nose.

- A. QSRP
- B. SQPR
- C. QPSR
- D. PQRS

12. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

New kid on the block

- A. Nonsense or meaningless speech.
- B. Savings set aside for future use.
- C. Don't hurt anyone that helps you.
- D. Someone new to the group or area.

13. In the following question, out of the given four alternatives, select the alternative which best expresses the meaning of the Idiom/Phrase.

Cast someone adrift

- A. To leave someone without any support or purpose
- B. To change plan suddenly
- C. Call someone repeatedly
- D. To blame someone for one's mistakes

14. Fill in the blank with an appropriate option.

It was past the mid-hour of the night, and was quite \_\_\_\_\_ and dark.

- A. moonless
- B. glimmer
- C. flasher
- D. riding

15. Identify the segment in the sentence which contains a grammatical error. If there is no error, then select the option "No error".

I felt that / I was be groomed / for success in the world.

- A. No error
- B. I was be groomed
- C. I felt that
- D. for success in the world.

16. Choose the word that can substitute the given group of words.

A lover of good food

- A. Esoteric
- B. Chauvinist
- C. Gourmand
- D. Ergophile

17. Choose the option that is the correct indirect form of the sentence.

I said, 'I'm not very happy at work.'

- A. I told her that I was not very happy at work.
- B. I told her I would not be very happy at work.
- C. I told her that I had not been very happy at work.
- D. I told her I am not very happy at work.

18. Fill in the blank with the most suitable word.

The scientists \_\_\_\_\_ that the chefs relied on a specific motion.

- A. invented
- B. innovated
- C. planned
- D. found

19. Select the word segment that substitutes (replaces) the bracketed word segment correctly and completes the sentence meaningfully. In case no improvement is needed, select 'No improvement'.



Nonetheless, (many an old poets, such as Tennyson and Browning, has) kept their romances to the end.

- A. many old poets, such as Tennyson and Browning, have
- B. many old poets, such Tennyson and Browning, has
- C. No improvement
- D. many a old poets, such Tennyson and Browning, has

20. **Fill in the blank with an appropriate option.**

We are the creative force of our life, and through our own decisions rather than our conditions, if we carefully learn to do certain things, we can \_\_\_\_\_ those goals.

- A. expel
- B. accomplish
- C. torment
- D. reverberate

**Comprehension:**

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 blank.

Cristiano Ronaldo dos Santos Aveiro, born on February 5th, 1985 and commonly known

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Cristiano Ronaldo, is a Portuguese footballer who 2. \_\_\_\_\_ as a forward for Spanish club Real Madrid and serves as captain 3. \_\_\_\_\_ the Portuguese national team. Ronaldo currently holds the distinction of being the most expensive player in football history after 4. \_\_\_\_\_ transferred to Real Madrid from Manchester United in a deal worth £80 million (€94m, US\$132m). His contract with Real Madrid is believed to have made him the highest-paid 5. \_\_\_\_\_ player in the world.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank No.1.**

- A. at
- B. for
- C. in
- D. as

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank No.2.**

- A. plays
- B. played
- C. will play
- D. has played

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank No.3.**

- A. in
- B. with
- C. of
- D. at

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank No.4.**

- A. been
- B. is
- C. having

D. be

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank No.5.**

A. rugby

B. football

C. tennis

D. cricket

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

- A) A is correct because the passage mentions that Israel's immediate concern is the moral equivalence the prosecutor has made by leveling charges against both the national leadership of a democracy and an armed group. This indicates an attempt to establish a balanced view, which can be interpreted as aiming for moral equivalence.

B is incorrect because the passage states that few would disagree with the balance sought by the ICC, excluding Israel's diehard supporters, which implies that the approval is not universal.

C is incorrect because the passage suggests that the application for warrants will have a greater impact on Israel than on Hamas, contradicting the idea that only Hamas leaders would be significantly affected.

D is incorrect because there is no indication in the passage that the ICC's primary goal is to support the U.S. government's stance.
- D) D is correct because the passage indicates that while Israel's diehard supporters, including the U.S., may not support the ICC's decision, few others would disagree with the balance sought by the ICC Prosecutor. This suggests that the decision is likely to be controversial among various international actors.

A is incorrect because the passage suggests that only Israel's diehard supporters are likely to support Israel's stance, implying that most international entities may not support it.

B is incorrect because it misrepresents the passage, which states that Israel's diehard supporters are actually those who would not support the balance sought by the ICC, not those who do support it.

C is incorrect because while the passage implies some level of international consensus on the need for accountability, it does not suggest a general international consensus on the specific decision by the ICC Prosecutor.
- B) **Objective**

A. Sarcastic: The passage does not use irony or sarcasm; it presents information and analysis in a straightforward manner.

B. Objective: The passage presents facts and analysis about the ICC's actions against Israel and Hamas without showing bias or personal emotion, making it objective.

C. Optimistic: The tone is not hopeful or positive; it discusses serious issues such as war crimes and their implications.

D. Indifferent: The passage does not show a lack of interest or concern; it addresses significant events and their consequences seriously.
- C) The ICC's role in holding leaders accountable for war crimes

- A. While the passage mentions the challenges of executing warrants, its main focus is on the ICC's actions rather than declaring the mechanisms futile.
- B. Although the impact on civilians is discussed, it is not the central theme. The main focus is on the ICC's pursuit of accountability.
- C. The passage primarily discusses the ICC's issuance of warrants and its implications, making this the main theme.
- D. This is a significant point in the passage but is part of the broader theme of the ICC's role.
5. **B) Arrest warrants have previously been issued against leaders like Vladimir Putin and Omar al-Bashir but remain unexecuted**
- A) The passage does not mention any lack of authority by the ICC.
- B) The passage highlights this point, indicating that similar warrants have not led to arrests.
- C) While true, the passage emphasizes the unexecuted warrants as the reason for the perceived futility.
- D) The passage mentions diplomatic costs but does not imply this is why the warrants appear futile.
6. A) The word "sheet" is commonly used to refer to a single piece of paper. Therefore, it is the most appropriate choice in the context of the sentence, which refers to the fun that can come from a single unit of paper.
7. B) All the pastries were eaten by the cat.
8. B) Incorrect usage of phrasal verb, "Tied up in" should be used instead of "Tied in".
- Tie up in** (phrasal verb) – To keep occupied; engage में लिप्त होना
- Tie in** (phrasal verb) – To bring into or have a harmonious or effective relation; connect or coordinate: जोड़ना
9. C) **Buddy** (noun) – Friend, playmate, companion, partner, associate यार
- **Foe** (noun) – Adversary, enemy, antagonist, rival, opponent शत्रु
  - **Enemy** (noun) – opponent, adversary, foe, rival, antagonist, शत्रु
10. B) **Jejune** (adjective) – boring and not interesting उबाऊ
- **Drab** (adjective) – Dull, dreary, uninteresting, monotonous नीरस
  - **Poignant** (adjective) – Sad, agonizing, nostalgic, emotional मार्मिक
  - **Unchildlike** (adjective) – not typical of a child, or not behaving like a child
  - **Cosmopolitan** (adjective) – International, multinational, mixed, broad-based सर्वदेशीय
11. B) **SQPR**
- The common cold, also known simply as the cold, is a viral infectious disease of the upper respiratory tract that primarily affects the nose. It is the most frequent infectious disease in humans. The average adult gets two to four colds a year, while the average child may get six to eight. They occur more commonly during the winter.

12. D) **New kid on the block** (phrase) – Someone new to the group or area. समूह या क्षेत्र में कोई नया व्यक्ति
13. A) **Cast someone adrift** (phrase) – To leave someone without any support or purpose किसी को भटका देना
14. A) **Moonless**  
The word "moonless" (option A), however, is an adjective that fits perfectly in this context to describe a dark night.  
The words "glimmer" (option B), "flasher" (option C), and "riding" (option D) cannot be used directly as adjectives, and do not contextually fit the sentence either.
15. B) Replace "I was groomed/ I was be groomed" with "I was be groomed" because the structure "was/were + being + past participle" is used for the past continuous passive voice. The correct verb form would be either "I was groomed" (past simple passive) or "I was being groomed" (past continuous passive).
16. C) **Gourmand** – A lover of good food पेटू
- **Esoteric** – very unusual and understood or liked by only a small number of people, especially those with special knowledge गूढ़
  - **Chauvinist** – the strong and unreasonable belief that your own country or race is the best or most important अंधराष्ट्रीवादी
  - **Ergophile** – A person who enjoys working
17. A) I told her that I was not very happy at work.
18. D) **Found**  
"Found" in this context means to discover something by chance or observation, which fits the context. The scientists are likely studying or observing the chefs and have discovered that the chefs use a specific motion.
19. A) **Many old poets, such as Tennyson and Browning, have**  
The phrase 'many an old poets' is incorrect because the phrase 'many a/an' is followed by a singular noun (e.g., 'many a poet'), not a plural one ('poets'). However, in this context, it's more standard to simply use 'many' with a plural noun, as in 'many poets.'
20. B) **Accomplish**  
When we refer to successfully achieving or completing tasks or goals, we use the verb 'accomplish'.
- **Expel** - To force out or eject, often used in contexts where someone is forced to leave a place. निकालना
  - **Accomplish** - To achieve or complete something successfully पूरा करना
  - **Torment** - To cause severe physical or mental suffering. सताना
  - **Reverberate** - To echo, be repeated, or have continuing effects. गूँजना
21. D) **As**

The preposition 'as' is used when you are talking about somebody/something being known or regarded in a particular way. So, "commonly known as Cristiano Ronaldo" is the correct usage.

22. A) **Plays**

The present simple tense "plays" is used here because the text is describing an ongoing situation or fact about Cristiano Ronaldo's role as a footballer for Real Madrid. The rest of the passage uses the present tense, which suggests that the actions described are still true at the time of writing

23. C) **Of**

The preposition "of" is used because the noun phrase "the Portuguese national team" represents a group or organization, and Ronaldo holds a particular role or title within this group, namely that of captain. Therefore, "of" is the correct preposition to denote this relationship.

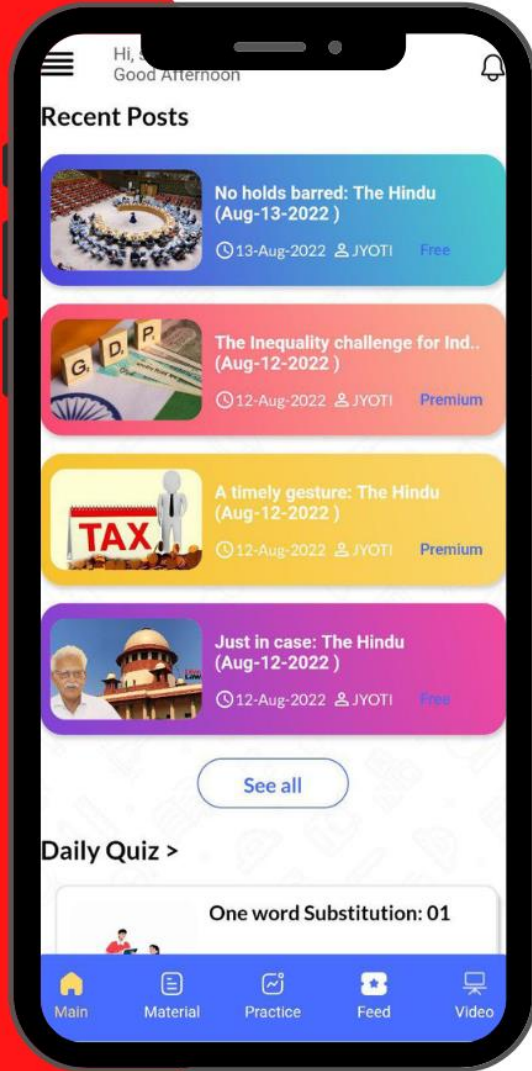
24. C) **Having**

The grammatical reason for this is that the sentence is written in the perfect gerund form. This form is used to emphasize the completion of an earlier action before another takes place. In this context, "having transferred" emphasizes that the transfer was completed before other events, such as him becoming the most expensive player, took place.

The structure is: [Subject] + [verb in the past participle] + [Object].

25. B) **Football**

The passage is talking about Cristiano Ronaldo, who is a famous Portuguese footballer. Therefore, it wouldn't make sense to fill in the blank with the names of other sports (rugby, tennis, cricket). Using "football" maintains the consistency of the topic throughout the passage.



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