

Winning and losing

Winning and losing are a part of life. They are **two sides of the same coin**. Winning and losing come in cycles; neither is permanent. Today's **victor** is tomorrow's or yesterday's loser. And today's loser might well be the champion next year or the next. While we are fully aware of this, we continue to **crave for** victory and live in **dread** of losing, although we know in our heart of hearts that one is **invariably** followed, with **the passage of time**, by the other. The **feeling** of happiness and joy any victory brings **is** felt and enjoyed by our **ego**.

Our true Self knows neither victory nor loss. The **atman** is beyond the **duality** of good and bad, right and wrong, winning and losing. But the human mind and ego **exult** when it can do something better than the other person or other team. And sometimes it becomes difficult to **conclude** whether our win or their loss causes greater satisfaction. Just as victory brings **extreme** emotions, so does defeat. How **often** we have seen that today's heroes become tomorrow's non-heroes or villains?



Such is the price of celebrity status; such is the price of victory. What about the loser? We **owe** a great deal to the loser, for without a loser, there cannot be a winner. Swami Vivekananda used to say, 'Let not the giver feel proud, for he can give only when there is someone to receive. Let the giver **kneel down** and let the receiver stand **erect**, during the act of giving and receiving. For the giver is blessed to find a receiver.'

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Two sides of the same coin** (phrase) – Inseparable parts of a situation, two aspects of the same thing, interconnected facets, complementary sides, related elements एक ही सिक्के के दो पहलू
2. **Victor** (noun) – Winner, champion, conqueror, triumphant one, achiever विजेता
3. **Crave** (for) (verb) – Desire, yearn, long for, seek, covet लालसा करना
4. **Dread** (noun) – Fear, apprehension, anxiety, terror, trepidation भय
5. **Invariably** (adverb) – Always, without fail, consistently, inevitably, constantly हमेशा
6. **The passage of time** (phrase) – The progression of time, the advance of time, as time goes by, over time समय का बीतना
7. **Ego** (noun) – Self-esteem, self-importance, pride, self-worth, self-image अहंकार
8. **Atman** (noun) – Soul, spirit, true self, inner self, essence आत्मा
9. **Duality** (noun) – Twofold nature, dichotomy, opposition, contrast, dual nature द्वैत
10. **Exult** (verb) – Rejoice, celebrate, be jubilant, be elated, be overjoyed आनंदित / उल्लासित होना
11. **Conclude** (verb) – Decide, determine, deduce, infer, come to a decision निष्कर्ष निकालना
12. **Extreme** (adjective) – Intense, severe, excessive, utmost, high degree अत्यधिक
13. **Often** (adverb) – Frequently, regularly, repeatedly, commonly, habitually अक्सर
14. **Owe** (verb) – Be indebted, be obliged, have an obligation, be beholden, be in debt ऋणी होना
15. **Kneel down** (phrasal verb) – Get down on one's knees, bow, genuflect, stoop, prostrate घुटने टेकना
16. **Erect** (adjective) – Upright, standing, vertical, straight, perpendicular सीधा

Summary of the Editorial

1. Winning and losing are inevitable aspects of life.
2. They are cyclical and not permanent.
3. Today's winner can be tomorrow's loser and vice versa.
4. Despite knowing this, people crave victory and fear defeat.
5. Victory brings joy and happiness to the ego.
6. The true self, or atman, is beyond dualities like winning and losing.
7. The human mind and ego find satisfaction in outperforming others.
8. Winning and losing both evoke strong emotions.
9. Today's heroes can become tomorrow's non-heroes or villains.
10. Celebrity status and victory come with their own costs.
11. Losers play a crucial role in defining winners.
12. Swami Vivekananda emphasized humility in giving and receiving.
13. The act of winning and losing should be seen with humility and respect.
14. Without a loser, a winner cannot exist.
15. The giver should feel blessed to have someone to receive.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Celebratory
 - B. Critical
 - C. Humorous
 - D. Reflective
2. **Based on the passage, which of the following statements best reflects the author's perspective on the nature of winning and losing?**
 - A. Winning and losing are permanent states, and once a winner, always a winner.
 - B. Winning and losing are cyclical and temporary, with each state eventually giving way to the other.
 - C. The pursuit of winning should be avoided entirely, as it brings more dread than joy.
 - D. Winning and losing are irrelevant because the atman does not recognize such dualities.
3. **What does the passage suggest is the role of the 'true Self' (atman) in relation to winning and losing?**
 - A. The true Self (atman) actively participates in the joy and sorrow of winning and losing.
 - B. The true Self (atman) is indifferent to winning and losing, which are seen as ego-driven experiences.
 - C. The true Self (atman) strives to win in all situations to transcend duality.
 - D. The true Self (atman) enjoys victory but remains unaffected by loss.
4. **Which of the following statements is TRUE based on the passage?**
 - A. The passage suggests that both victory and loss are permanent states in life.
 - B. The passage emphasizes that the ego finds joy in both winning and losing, regardless of circumstances.
 - C. The passage states that the true Self, or atman, transcends the duality of winning and losing.
 - D. The passage claims that Swami Vivekananda believed the receiver should always be humble.
5. **Which of the following statements is FALSE according to the passage?**
 - A. The ego derives satisfaction from doing better than others.
 - B. The passage implies that winning and losing are essential for the existence of each other.
 - C. The atman is concerned with victory and loss.
 - D. The passage acknowledges the role of the loser in the cycle of victory and defeat.
6. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
An animal with a spinal cord
 - A. Amphibian
 - B. Mammal
 - C. Invertebrate
 - D. Vertebrate
7. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Feeble

- A. Wild
B. Fast
C. Strong
D. Fickle
8. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in direct speech.**
The guard told the children to stay away from the flower beds.
A. The guard says to the children, " Stay away from the flower beds."
B. The guard told to the children, " Stay away from the flower beds."
C. The guard said, "Children, should you stay away from the flower beds."
D. The guard said, "Children, stay away from the flower beds."
9. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.
Famished
A. Hesitant
B. Volatile
C. Starved
D. Satiated
10. **The following sentence has been split into segments. One of them may contain an error. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
A shop nearby / sell all the goods / of daily use.
A. No error
B. A shop nearby
C. sell all the goods
D. of daily use
11. **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'.**
I can't make out my mind about taking a vacation in winter.
A. make up
B. made out
C. No substitution required
D. make on
12. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given **idiom**.
Blow your own trumpet
A. Boast about one's own qualities
B. Keep away the dust from your instruments
C. Practise playing music
D. Play on your instrument
13. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words.
Able to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened
A. Reluctant
B. Remnant
C. Resilient

- D. Resistant
14. **The following sentence has been split into segments. One of them may contain an error. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.**
He was formerly / a doctor of / the corporate hospital
- A. No error
B. He was formerly
C. the corporate hospital
D. a doctor of
15. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
A snake in the grass
- A. A sudden death
B. A good fortune
C. A hidden enemy
D. An unfortunate accident
16. **Identify the segment in the sentence which contains the grammatical error.**
Our team have won the match.
- A. the match
B. won
C. Our team
D. Have
17. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
They called Mohan a _____ because he did not want to go into the dark lane.
- A. coward
B. hero
C. brave
D. Valiant
18. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
- A. They always shared machinery and goods as needed without a hitch.
B. Then they had the first serious quarrel in 40 years of farming side by side.
C. And unfortunately, the long collaboration fell apart.
D. Two brothers lived on adjoining farms in a small village
- A. DBCA
B. DABC
C. CADB
D. BCAD
19. **Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**
Hardly had we get in but the train started
- A. we get in than
B. No substitution required

- C. we got in before
- D. we got in when

20. **Select the correct active voice of the given sentence.**

The watchman has been bitten by a stray dog

- A. A watchman has bitten the stray dog.
- B. A stray dog has bitten the watchman.
- C. A stray dog bit the watchman.
- D. A stray dog is biting the watchman.

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.

A banker taped a picture, drawn by one of his small children, to his office wall. When he 1. _____ at work the next morning, he found the 2. _____ was covered by a 3. _____ notice, saying he was in 4. _____ of company policy which required personal items to be put away at night. 5. _____ a reaction was not just petty, it risked demotivating the banker completely. In short, it defied common sense

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

- A. turned
- B. achieved
- C. reached
- D. Arrived

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

- A. tape
- B. office
- C. child
- D. Picture

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

- A. substantial
- B. large
- C. generous
- D. Considerable

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

- A. violation
- B. damage
- C. interruption
- D. Disruption

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

- A. That
- B. Such
- C. This
- D. Which

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. D) Reflective

Correct. The passage reflects on the nature of winning and losing, discussing their transient nature and the underlying spiritual perspective.

A. Incorrect. The passage does not celebrate winning or losing but rather presents them as natural parts of life.

C. Incorrect. There is no humor or light-heartedness in the passage; it maintains a serious and contemplative tone.

B. Incorrect. The passage does not criticize winning or losing; it explains and reflects upon them.

2. B) The passage clearly states that "Winning and losing come in cycles; neither is permanent," indicating that the author believes in the temporary and cyclical nature of these states.

A. This option is incorrect because the passage explicitly states that winning and losing are not permanent.

C. The author acknowledges the joy that winning brings to the ego, suggesting that the pursuit of winning, despite its temporary nature, is a common human experience.

D. While the passage does mention that the atman is beyond such dualities, it does not claim that winning and losing are entirely irrelevant in the context of human experience.

3. B) The passage states, "Our true Self knows neither victory nor loss. The atman is beyond the duality of good and bad, right and wrong, winning and losing," indicating that the true Self is indifferent to these experiences.

A. This option is incorrect because the passage describes the true Self as being beyond the duality of winning and losing, not actively participating in them.

C. The true Self (atman) does not strive to win; it transcends the duality altogether.

D. This option is incorrect because the true Self is described as knowing neither victory nor loss, implying it remains unaffected by both, not just loss.

4. C) The passage states that the true Self, or atman, transcends the duality of winning and losing.

A: Incorrect. The passage explicitly states that winning and losing are cycles and neither is permanent.

B: Incorrect. The passage mentions that the ego finds joy in winning, but it does not say that the ego finds joy in losing.

D: Incorrect. Swami Vivekananda's quote in the passage suggests that the giver should be humble, not the receiver.

5. C) The atman is concerned with victory and loss.

A: Incorrect. The passage mentions that the human mind and ego exult when it can do something better than others.

B: Incorrect. The passage implies that without a loser, there cannot be a winner, indicating that winning and losing are interdependent.

D: Incorrect. The passage states that we owe a great deal to the loser, recognizing their role in the cycle of victory and defeat.

6. D) **Vertebrate** (noun) – An animal with a spinal cord **सजीव**
- **Amphibian** (noun) – a type of cold-blooded vertebrate animal that is born in water and breathes with gills, and lives on land in adult form, breathing air with lungs. **उभयचर**
 - **Mammal** (noun) – a warm-blooded vertebrate animal that has hair or fur, the females of which secrete milk for the nourishment of the young. **स्तनपायी**
 - **Invertebrate** (noun) – an animal lacking a spinal column. **अकशेरुकी**
7. C) **Feeble** (adjective) – Lacking physical strength, especially as a result of age or illness, weak, frail, delicate. **कमज़ोर**
- Antonym: **Strong** (adjective) – Having the power to move heavy weights or perform other physically demanding tasks, powerful, robust, sturdy. **मजबूत**
- **Wild** (adjective) – (of an animal or plant) living or growing in the natural environment; not domesticated or cultivated, untamed, uncontrolled. **जंगली**
 - **Fast** (adjective) – Moving or capable of moving at high speed, quick, rapid. **तेज़**
 - **Fickle** (adjective) – Changing frequently, especially as regards one's loyalties or affections, capricious, changeable. **चंचल**
8. D) The guard said, "Children, stay away from the flower beds."
9. D) **Famished** (adjective) – This word describes an extreme state of hunger or the need for food. It conveys a sense of urgency and an intense craving to eat. **बहुत भूखा**
- Antonym: **Satiated** (adjective) – Satisfied to the full, having appetite or desire fully gratified, no longer feeling hunger. **तृप्त**
- **Hesitant** (adjective) – Tentative, unsure, or slow in acting or speaking. **संकोची**
 - **Volatile** (adjective) – Liable to change rapidly and unpredictably, especially for the worse. **अस्थिर**
 - **Starved** (adjective) – Suffering or dying from hunger, extremely hungry. **भूखा**
10. C) **sell** के बदले 'sells' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'A shop nearby' का मतलब है कि यहाँ Singular noun की बात हो रही है, और Singular Subject के साथ verb का Singular Form 'sells' आता है; जैसे— A shop nearby sells all the goods of daily use.

- 'sells' will be used instead of 'sell' because 'A shop nearby' indicates that the subject is singular, and with a Singular Subject, the verb should be in the Singular Form 'sells'; Like— A shop nearby sells all the goods of daily use.

11. A) 'make out' के बदले 'make up' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर 'make up my mind' का अर्थ होता है निर्णय लेना। अंग्रेजी में, जब हम किसी निर्णय पर पहुँचने की बात करते हैं, तो हम 'make up my mind' वाक्यांश का उपयोग करते हैं। 'Make out' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को समझना या पहचानना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है; जैसे— I finally made up my mind about where to go on holiday.

- 'make up' will be used instead of 'make out' because 'make up my mind' means to decide. In English, when we talk about reaching a decision, we use the phrase 'make up my mind'. 'Make out' means to discern or understand something, which is not appropriate in this context; Like— I finally made up my mind about where to go on holiday.

12. A) **Blow your own trumpet** (idiom) – Boast about one's own qualities **अपनी खुद की प्रशंसा करना**

13. C) **Resilient** (adjective) – Able to be happy, successful, etc. again after something difficult or bad has happened **संघर्ष के बाद फिर से सफल या प्रसन्न हो सकने की क्षमता**

- **Reluctant** (adjective) – Unwilling and hesitant; disinclined. **अनिच्छुक**
- **Remnant** (noun) – A small remaining quantity of something. **अवशेष**
- **Resistant** (adjective) – Not affected by something; capable of withstanding. **प्रतिरोधी**

14. D) **a doctor of** के बदले 'a doctor at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब हम किसी संस्था या संगठन में किसी व्यक्ति के पेशेवर पद की बात करते हैं, तो 'at' का प्रयोग करते हैं; जैसे— He was a teacher at the university.

- 'a doctor at' will be used instead of 'a doctor of' because when referring to someone's professional position within an organization or establishment, 'at' is used; Like— He was a teacher at the university.

15. C) **A snake in the grass** (idiom) – A hidden enemy **छिपा हुआ दुश्मन**

16. D) **have** के बदले 'has' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Our team' Subject Singular रूप में है, अतः Verb भी Singular में होनी चाहिए; जैसे— The team has won the match.

- 'has' will be used instead of 'have' because the subject 'Our team' is in Singular form, so the verb must also be in Singular form; Like— The team has won the match.

17. A) **'coward'** का use होगा क्योंकि "coward" का अर्थ होता है डरपोक या भीरु। sentence में mention किया गया है कि Mohan अंधेरी गली में जाने से डरता है, इसलिए 'coward' यहाँ सही फिट बैठता

है। 'Hero', 'Brave', और 'Valiant' का अर्थ क्रमशः नायक, साहसी, और वीर होता है, जो कि Mohan की स्थिति का वर्णन करने में सही नहीं होते।

- **Coward**' should be used because it refers to someone who is afraid or lacks courage. The sentence indicates that Mohan is afraid to go into the dark lane, making 'coward' the appropriate word. 'Hero', 'Brave', and 'Valiant' all suggest qualities of courage and fearlessness, which do not describe Mohan's behavior in the context provided.

18. B) **DABC**

Two brothers lived on adjoining farms in a small village They always shared machinery and goods as needed without a hitch. Then they had the first serious quarrel in 40 years of farming side by side. And unfortunately, the long collaboration fell apart.

19. D) **we got in when** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Hardly had' के साथ 'but' का प्रयोग सही नहीं है;

'Hardly had' के बाद 'when' का प्रयोग होता है और वाक्य में Past Perfect Tense होने के कारण 'get' के स्थान पर 'got' का प्रयोग होगा; जैसे— Hardly had I reached the station when the train arrived.

- 'we got in before' will be used because 'but' is not the correct conjunction to use with 'Hardly had'; after 'Hardly had', we use 'when' and 'got' will replace 'get' due to the Past Perfect Tense in the sentence; Like— Hardly had I reached the station when the train arrived.

20. B) A stray dog has bitten the watchman.

21. D) **Arrived**' का use होगा क्योंकि "arrived" का अर्थ होता है किसी जगह पर पहुँचना या आना।

sentence में यह कहा गया है कि बैंकर अपने office में अगली सुबह पहुँचा और उसने देखा कि उसके बच्चे का बनाया हुआ चित्र किसी चीज़ से covered था, इसलिए 'arrived' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'turned' का अर्थ होता है मुड़ना या बदलना, 'achieved' का अर्थ है हासिल करना, और 'reached' भी पहुँचने का भाव देता है, परन्तु office setting में आमतौर पर 'arrived' का प्रयोग होता है।

- **Arrived**' should be used because it refers to coming to a place. The sentence describes the banker coming to his office the next morning and noticing that the drawing was covered, thus 'arrived' is correct. While 'turned' can mean to rotate or change, 'achieved' means to successfully bring about or reach (a desired objective or result), and 'reached' also implies arriving, but 'arrived' is more commonly used in the context of reaching a workplace.

22. D) **Picture**' का use होगा क्योंकि पहले वाक्य में बताया गया है कि बैंकर ने अपने छोटे बच्चे द्वारा

बनाई गई एक तस्वीर को अपने कार्यालय की दीवार पर चिपकाया था। इसलिए दूसरे खाली स्थान के लिए 'Picture' सही विकल्प है। 'Tape' यहां असंगत है क्योंकि यह एक क्रिया है या संदर्भित वस्तु

नहीं है, 'Office' का संदर्भ पहले ही दिया जा चुका है, और 'Child' वस्तु के बजाय एक प्राणी को दर्शाता है।

- **'Picture'** should be used because in the first sentence, it is mentioned that the banker taped a drawing made by his child to his office wall. Hence, for the second blank, 'Picture' is the correct option. 'Tape' is not applicable here as it is an action or does not refer to the object in question, 'Office' is already referenced earlier, and 'Child' represents a being rather than the object.

23. B) **'Large'** का use होगा क्योंकि "large" का मतलब होता है बड़ा या विस्तृत। इस context में, notice के आकार की बात की जा रही है जिसे बच्चे के ड्राइंग को cover करने के लिए लगाया गया था, इसलिए 'large' यहां उपयुक्त है। 'Substantial' और 'Considerable' भी बड़े आकार की बात करते हैं, लेकिन ये शब्द अक्सर महत्व या मात्रा के संदर्भ में इस्तेमाल होते हैं, न कि सिर्फ आकार के लिए। 'Generous' का अर्थ आम तौर पर उदार होता है, जो कि इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता।

- **'Large'** should be used because it refers to the size of something. In this context, it is discussing the size of the notice that was big enough to cover the child's drawing, making 'large' the appropriate choice. While 'Substantial' and 'Considerable' also denote something significant in size or amount, they are often used to imply significance or quantity, not just size alone. 'Generous' typically means liberal in giving, which doesn't fit the context.

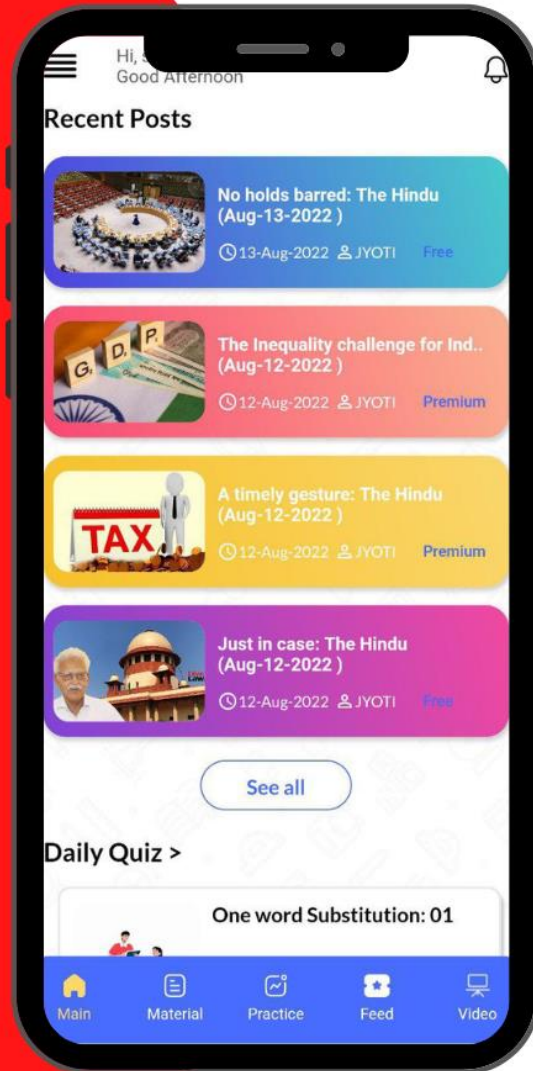
24. A) **'Violation'** का इस्तेमाल किया जाएगा क्योंकि यहाँ बात की जा रही है company policy के खिलाफ जाने की। Sentence के according, notice में कहा गया है कि personal items को रात को हटा देना चाहिए, जिसे ना करना policy का 'violation' होता है। 'Damage', 'Interruption', और 'Disruption' यहाँ मौजूद context में फिट नहीं बैठते।

- **'Violation'** should be used because the passage is referring to contravention of the company policy. The notice states that personal items should be put away at night, not doing so would constitute a 'violation' of that policy. 'Damage', 'Interruption', and 'Disruption' do not fit the context provided.

25. B) **'Such'** का use होगा क्योंकि "such" का प्रयोग उस reaction की तीव्रता या प्रकृति को दर्शाने के लिए होता है जो कुछ अनुचित या अप्रत्याशित हो। Sentence में दिया गया है कि यह क्रिया न केवल तुच्छ थी, बल्कि इससे बैंकर की पूर्ण निरुत्साहन का भी जोखिम था। इसलिए 'Such' यहाँ सही विकल्प है। 'That' और 'This' का प्रयोग विशेष संदर्भ के लिए होता है और 'Which' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः विकल्पों या चयन के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठते।

- **'Such'** should be used because it is used to indicate the intensity or nature of the reaction that is inappropriate or unexpected. The sentence implies that the reaction was not only

petty but also risked completely demotivating the banker, which is why 'Such' fits here. 'That' and 'This' are used for specific references, and 'Which' is generally used for options or choices, none of which are correct in this context.



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