

From Italy to Japan, tourists are the new pests of summer

Tourists, it would appear, **have** become the leading **pests** of the season. In Mallorca, **fed up with sunbathing** visitors **crowding** them **off** their own **shores**, protesting residents are planning to “occupy the beaches” on June 16, having **staged** a massive **demonstration** at the beginning of the month. While nearby Milan **mulls** banning ice cream and pizza sales after 12:30 am **in order to curb** late-night activity, on the other side of the **globe** in Kyoto, signs politely **list** dos and don’ts for foreign visitors, with many offering free wi-fi in exchange for **compliance**.

Popular destinations, whose **economies** are heavily dependent on tourist dollars, **are** caught in the **cleft stick** of not wanting local businesses to suffer and ensuring that the incoming **hordes** do not **disrupt** the rhythms of local life or damage cultural and environmental heritage. This **dilemma** has **sharpened** since the pandemic. But even before 2020, the **devastation** that tourism brings was causing a rethink of policies in places like Barcelona where it was found that **38 per cent of** the fishing boats’ catch **was** plastic waste.



Part of the problem is the **sheer** number of people now — more than ever in history — with the money to travel. What was once the **preserve** of the **privileged** First World citizen, has now been **democratised**. The ordinary person’s **growing interest** in **far-flung** places — and her ability to **pursue** it — **is** welcome. Travel is not just a **pleasure** — it can also be a learning experience. Yet, with the road less travelled now filled with bumper-to-bumper traffic, the cost for others may prove too high to pay. Tourist destinations must do what they can; for example, in September 2023, Venice became the first city to **impose** a tourist tax. Travellers must also accept the responsibility of caring for what is the shared **heritage** of **humanity**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Pest** (noun) – nuisance, annoyance, irritant, plague, troublemaker कष्टदायक
2. **Fed up with** (phrase) – tired of, weary of, disillusioned with, annoyed by, sick of थक जाना
3. **Sunbathing** (adjective) – basking, tanning, lying in the sun, sunning, sunbaked धूप सेंकना
4. **Crowd someone off** (phrasal verb) – push out, displace, shove aside, squeeze out, elbow out हटाना
5. **Shore** (noun) – coast, beach, coastline, seashore, waterfront तट
6. **Stage** (verb) – organize, arrange, perform, present, execute आयोजित करना
7. **Demonstration** (noun) – protest, rally, march, display, presentation प्रदर्शन
8. **Mull** (verb) – consider, contemplate, ponder, deliberate, reflect विचार करना
9. **In order to do something** (phrase) – to achieve, for the purpose of, so as to, with the aim of, with the intention of ताकि
10. **Curb** (verb) – restrain, limit, control, restrict, check रोकना
11. **Globe** (noun) – world, planet, earth, sphere, terrestrial globe पृथ्वी
12. **List** (verb) – enumerate, catalog, record, register, detail सूची बनाना
13. **Compliance** (noun) – adherence, conformity, obedience, observance, acquiescence अनुपालन
14. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाएँ
15. **Cleft stick** (phrase) – difficult situation, dilemma, predicament, quandary, tight spot कठिन परिस्थिति
16. **Horde** (noun) – crowd, multitude, swarm, throng, mass भीड़
17. **Disrupt** (verb) – disturb, interrupt, interfere with, unsettle, upset बाधित करना
18. **Dilemma** (noun) – predicament, quandary, conundrum, problem, impasse दुविधा
19. **Sharpen** (verb) – intensify, heighten, exacerbate, amplify, increase तेज करना
20. **Devastation** (noun) – destruction, ruin, havoc, desolation, wreckage विनाश
21. **Sheer** (adjective) – absolute, complete, utter, total, pure पूर्ण
22. **Preserve** (verb) – protect, maintain, conserve, safeguard, uphold संरक्षित करना

23. **Privileged** (adjective) – advantaged, entitled, favored, elite, special विशेषाधिकार प्राप्त
24. **Democratise** (verb) – liberalize, equalize, make accessible, universalize, open up लोकतांत्रिक बनाना
25. **Far-flung** (adjective) – remote, distant, faraway, outlying, secluded दूरस्थ
26. **Pursue** (verb) – follow, chase, seek, strive for, endeavor पीछा करना
27. **Pleasure** (noun) – enjoyment, delight, happiness, gratification, satisfaction आनंद
28. **Impose** (verb) – enforce, implement, levy, mandate, dictate थोपना
29. **Heritage** (noun) – legacy, tradition, inheritance, patrimony, cultural wealth विरासत
30. **Humanity** (noun) – mankind, humankind, people, human race, society मानवता

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Tourists as Seasonal Pests:** Tourists have become a significant nuisance in popular destinations during the summer.
2. **Mallorca Protests:** Residents in Mallorca are planning to "occupy the beaches" on June 16 to protest against overcrowding by sunbathing tourists.
3. **Milan's Measures:** Milan is considering banning late-night sales of ice cream and pizza to reduce nighttime activity.
4. **Kyoto's Guidelines:** In Kyoto, signs listing dos and don'ts for foreign visitors are being used to manage tourist behavior, with free Wi-Fi as an incentive for compliance.
5. **Economic Dependence:** Popular tourist destinations are economically dependent on tourism but struggle to balance this with preserving local life and heritage.
6. **Pandemic Impact:** The dilemma of managing tourism has intensified since the pandemic, but issues were present even before 2020.
7. **Environmental Damage:** Tourism has caused significant environmental damage, such as the 38% of plastic waste found in fishing boats' catch in Barcelona.
8. **Increased Travel Access:** More people than ever have the means to travel, democratizing what was once a privilege of the First World.
9. **Learning through Travel:** Travel is seen as a valuable learning experience, not just a pleasure.
10. **Overcrowded Destinations:** The increase in travel has led to overcrowded tourist destinations, creating problems for local residents and environments.
11. **Venice's Tourist Tax:** Venice imposed a tourist tax in September 2023 as a measure to manage the influx of visitors.
12. **Shared Responsibility:** Tourists must take responsibility for caring for the cultural and environmental heritage of the destinations they visit.
13. **Policy Reevaluation:** Popular destinations are rethinking their tourism policies to mitigate negative impacts.
14. **Local Business vs. Preservation:** There's a need to balance supporting local businesses with protecting local life and heritage.
15. **Global Tourism Trends:** The rise in global tourism requires sustainable practices and responsible travel behavior from tourists.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Enthusiastic
 - B. Neutral
 - C. Nostalgic
 - D. Critical
2. **What is the primary reason behind the residents of Mallorca planning to "occupy the beaches" on June 16?**
 - A. To attract more tourists to the area
 - B. To protest against the local government's policies
 - C. To reclaim their shores from overcrowding tourists
 - D. To support the local economy through increased tourism
3. **Which action is mentioned in the passage as a measure taken in Milan to curb late-night activity?**
 - A. Imposing fines on late-night travelers
 - B. Banning ice cream and pizza sales after 12:30 am
 - C. Restricting the number of tourists allowed
 - D. Increasing the number of police patrols
4. **According to the passage, what is one of the main reasons for the increase in the number of tourists?**
 - A. The introduction of tourist taxes in cities like Venice.
 - B. The democratization of travel, making it accessible to more people.
 - C. The decline in the cost of living in popular tourist destinations.
 - D. The improvement in the quality of tourist facilities globally.
5. **What does the passage suggest as a solution for managing the high number of tourists?**
 - A. Imposing taxes on tourists, as seen in Venice.
 - B. Increasing the cost of airfare to far-flung places.
 - C. Reducing the number of travel permits issued annually
 - D. Limiting access to popular tourist destinations.

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

Jhoom farming is very interesting. After cutting one crop, the land is left as it is for some years. Nothing is grown there. The bamboo or weeds which grow on that land are not pulled out. ____1____ are cut and burnt. The ____2____ makes the land fertile. While burning, care is taken so that the fire does not spread to the other parts of the forest. When the land is ready for farming it is lightly ____3____, not ploughed. Seeds are dropped on it. In one farm different types of crops like maize, vegetables, chillies, rice can be grown. Weeds and other unwanted plants are also not ____4____, they are just cut. So that they get mixed with the soil. This also helps in making the soil ____5____. If some family is not able to do farming on time, others help them and are given food.

6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.**
 - A. That
 - B. Which
 - C. Whose
 - D. They
7. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.**
 - A. Ash
 - B. Plants
 - C. Animals
 - D. Grass
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.**
 - A. dug up
 - B. hold up
 - C. keep up
 - D. dry up
9. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 4**
 - A. Stretched out
 - B. pulled out
 - C. sorted out
 - D. way out
10. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5**
 - A. Immobile
 - B. Worthwhile
 - C. Reconcile
 - D. Fertile
11. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph.**
 - P. We can't live away from the forests even for a day.
 - Q. A forest is everything for us adivasis.
 - R. Government has started many projects in the name of development – dams and factories are being built.
 - S. Forests, which are ours are being taken away from us.
 - A. RSPQ
 - B. QPRS
 - C. QRPS
 - D. RQPS
12. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below in jumbled order. Select the option that gives their correct logical sequence.**
 - A. They should not be removed from the forest
 - B. Have a right over the forest land and what is grown on it
 - C. People who have been living in the forests for at least 25 years,

- D. The work of protecting the forest should be done by their Gram Sabha
- A. DCAB
 - B. DACB
 - C. CABD
 - D. CBAD

13. Select the most appropriate option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence

The boys and the teacher wants to win

- A. wants to won
- B. want to won
- C. want win
- D. want to win

14. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word

He was compelled by everyone to join the group.

- A. Demur
- B. Obscured
- C. Confessed
- D. Induced

15. Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.

To kick the bucket

- A. To be ill
- B. Be sad
- C. Be happy
- D. To die

16. Identify and correct the **INCORRECTLY** spelt word in the given sentence

The Collector paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi after hosting the flag

- A. floaral
- B. stateu
- C. trebutes
- D. hoisting

17. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the underlined word.

Do you know the old adage 'the show must go on'?

- A. Misconstruction
- B. Rebuke
- C. Dare
- D. Addiction

18. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

She reminds me always that I _____ to be a little more careful

- A. had
- B. have
- C. must
- D. has

19. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.
Mr. Khanna is quite _____ (callous) towards the victims of earthquake
- rationalistic
 - unsympathetic
 - sympathetic
 - nondiplomatic
20. **Sentences of a paragraph are given below. While the first and the last sentences (S1 and S6) are in the correct order, the sentences in between are jumbled up and named P, Q, R, S. Arrange the sentences in the correct order to form a meaningful and coherent paragraph**
- (S1)** Newspapers, especially of the popular variety, aim to do two things: to inform and to entertain.
- (P)** Entertainment may be principally found in the centre pages of the newspaper in some of the feature articles and in some local news stories.
- (Q)** The principal aim of the short news report on the front pages is to inform.
- (R)** Most newspapers are published daily, and the news reporters must make sure that they have up-to-the minute news.
- (S)** In their news reports they will aim to create a sense of immediacy, to convey the impression that they have 'rushed' the news to the reader and 'that the information contained is the very latest.'
- (S6)** Reporters also wish to create a sense of authenticity, that is, that their news is accurate and genuine
- Q, S, R, P
 - R, P, S, Q
 - S, R, P, Q
 - P, Q, R, S
21. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word from the sentence**
- Ready**
She was preparing dinner in an organised manner using well-equipped tools while listening to the radio.
- Preparing
 - Listening
 - Organised
 - Equipped
22. **Identify how you will ask everyone if the children were not reading the books in passive voice**
- Were the books being read by the children?
 - Were the books not being read by the children?
 - Were the book not being read by the children?
 - Were the children reading the books?
23. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
- Hostile**
- Pleasant
 - Hospitable

- C. Empathetic
- D. Unfriendly

24. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

The fact that God created man in his personal view by giving him an intellectual spirit elevates him above the beasts of the field.

- A. own glory
- B. own capacity
- C. own image
- D. own idea

25. **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. During the summer, I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither.
- B. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches.
- C. The tree had grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house.
- D. Last summer, I spent many days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prize peach tree.

- A. DCBA
- B. ABCD
- C. CDBA
- D. BDAC

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. D) Critical

A: This option is incorrect because the passage does not express excitement or positive enthusiasm about tourism; rather, it highlights the negative impacts.

D: This option is correct because the passage critiques tourists for their disruptive behavior and the negative effects on local environments and communities.

C: This option is incorrect as the passage does not reflect a longing for the past but focuses on current issues related to tourism.

B: This option is incorrect because the tone of the passage is not impartial; it clearly expresses concerns and critiques about the consequences of mass tourism.

2. C) To reclaim their shores from overcrowding tourists

A: Incorrect. The residents are not trying to attract more tourists but are protesting against the overwhelming number of visitors.

B: Incorrect. The protest is not against local government policies but against the influx of tourists.

C: Correct. The residents are fed up with tourists crowding their shores and plan to occupy the beaches to reclaim their space.

D: Incorrect. The residents' actions are not aimed at supporting the local economy through tourism but at mitigating the adverse effects of too many tourists.

3. B.) Banning ice cream and pizza sales after 12:30 am

A: Incorrect. The passage does not mention any fines imposed on late-night travelers.

B: Correct. The passage states that Milan is considering banning ice cream and pizza sales after 12:30 am to curb late-night activity.

C: Incorrect. There is no mention of restricting the number of tourists in Milan.

D: Incorrect. The passage does not mention increasing police patrols as a measure in Milan.

4. B) The democratization of travel, making it accessible to more people.

Option B is correct because the passage explicitly states that travel has become democratized, allowing more people than ever before to have the money and interest to travel, which has led to an increase in the number of tourists.

Option A is incorrect because the introduction of tourist taxes is a measure taken by cities to manage the influx of tourists, not a reason for the increase in the number of tourists.

Option C is incorrect because the passage does not mention a decline in the cost of living in tourist destinations as a reason for increased tourism.

Option D is incorrect because while the quality of tourist facilities may have improved, the passage attributes the rise in tourism primarily to the democratization of travel.

5. A) Imposing taxes on tourists, as seen in Venice.

Option A is correct because the passage mentions that Venice has imposed a tourist tax as a measure to manage the influx of tourists, suggesting this as a solution for other tourist destinations.

Option C is incorrect because the passage does not mention reducing the number of travel permits as a solution.

Option B is incorrect because the passage does not suggest increasing the cost of airfare as a solution.

Option D is incorrect because the passage does not propose limiting access to popular tourist destinations; instead, it focuses on the responsibility of tourists and the implementation of measures like tourist taxes.

6. D) 'They' का use होगा क्योंकि "they" का अर्थ होता है वे (plural subject) जो 'bamboo or weeds' को refer कर रहा है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि जो bamboo या weeds उस जमीन पर उगते हैं, उन्हें नहीं उखाड़ा जाता, बल्कि वे काटे और जलाए जाते हैं, इसलिए 'they' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'That' का अर्थ है वह (singular subject), 'Whose' का अर्थ है जिसका, और 'Which' का अर्थ है जो (non-restrictive clause), जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

'They' will be used because it refers to the plural subject (bamboo or weeds) mentioned earlier. The sentence states that the bamboo or weeds growing on the land are not pulled out but are cut and burnt, making 'they' appropriate here. Whereas, 'That' refers to a singular subject, 'Whose' means belonging to whom, and 'Which' introduces a non-restrictive clause, which don't fit in this context.

7. A) 'Ash' का use होगा क्योंकि "ash" का अर्थ होता है जलने के बाद बचा हुआ पदार्थ। sentence में mention किया गया है कि आग से जलने पर जो पदार्थ बनता है वह भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाता है, इसलिए 'ash' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Plants' का अर्थ है पौधे, 'Animals' का अर्थ है जानवर, और 'Grass' का अर्थ है घास, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Ash' will be used because it means the residue left after the burning of a substance. The sentence mentions that the substance left after burning makes the land fertile, making 'ash' fitting here. Whereas, 'Plants' means vegetation, 'Animals' means creatures, and 'Grass' means a type of plant, which don't fit in this context.

8. A) 'dug up' का use होगा क्योंकि "dug up" का अर्थ होता है जमीन को हल्के से खोदना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि जमीन को हल्का खोदा जाता है, न कि पूरी तरह से जुताई की जाती है, इसलिए 'dug up' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'hold up' का अर्थ है रुकना या रुकावट डालना, 'keep up' का अर्थ है बनाए रखना, और 'dry up' का अर्थ है सूखना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'dug up' will be used because it means to lightly dig the soil. The sentence mentions that the land is lightly dug, not fully ploughed, making 'dug up' fitting here. Whereas, 'hold up' means to

stop or delay, 'keep up' means to maintain, and 'dry up' means to become dry, which don't fit in this context.

9. B) 'pulled out' का use होगा क्योंकि "pulled out" का अर्थ होता है निकालना। sentence में mention किया गया है कि अवांछित पौधों को नहीं निकाला जाता है, इसलिए 'pulled out' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Stretched out' का अर्थ है फैलाना, 'sorted out' का अर्थ है सुलझाना या क्रमबद्ध करना, और 'way out' का अर्थ है बाहर निकलने का रास्ता, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'pulled out' will be used because it means to remove something. The sentence mentions that unwanted plants are not removed, making 'pulled out' fitting here. Whereas, 'Stretched out' means to spread out, 'sorted out' means to resolve or arrange, and 'way out' means an exit, which don't fit in this context.

10. D) 'Fertile' का use होगा क्योंकि "fertile" का अर्थ होता है उपजाऊ। sentence में mention किया गया है कि जमीन को उपजाऊ बनाने में मदद मिलती है, इसलिए 'fertile' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Immobile' का अर्थ है स्थिर या न चलने वाला, 'Worthwhile' का अर्थ है मूल्यवान या सार्थक, और 'Reconcile' का अर्थ है मेल मिलाप करना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Fertile' will be used because it means capable of producing abundant vegetation or crops. The sentence mentions that this process helps in making the soil fertile, making 'fertile' fitting here. Whereas, 'Immobile' means not moving, 'Worthwhile' means valuable or meaningful, and 'Reconcile' means to restore friendly relations, which don't fit in this context.

11. B) QPRS

Q: This sentence introduces the central theme, emphasizing the importance of the forest to the adivasis. It sets the context for the rest of the paragraph.

P: This sentence builds on the importance of forests introduced in Q by highlighting the dependency of the adivasis on the forests.

R: This sentence introduces the conflict, explaining why the forests are being taken away, as mentioned later.

S: This sentence directly addresses the consequence of the government projects mentioned in R, completing the cause-effect relationship.

12. D) CBAD

C: This introduces the subject, identifying who is being discussed.

B: This continues from C, stating the rights of these people.

A: This emphasizes that these people should not be displaced, building on the rights mentioned.

D: This provides a conclusion by assigning the responsibility of forest protection to their local governing body

13. D) यहाँ 'want to win' का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'boys and the teacher' एक plural noun है। इसलिए, हमें plural verb 'want' का प्रयोग करना होगा, न कि singular 'wants'। इसके अलावा, Infinitive (i.e. To + V1) form में 'To' के बाद V1 आता है!

- Here, 'want to win' should be used because 'boys and the teacher' is a plural noun. Therefore, we need to use the plural verb 'want', not the singular 'wants'. Additionally, in the infinitive form (i.e., To + V1), V1 follows 'To'!

14. A) In the sentence "He was compelled by everyone to join the group," the underlined word is "compelled." We need to find the most appropriate ANTONYM for this word from the given options.

Compel (verb) – force or oblige (someone) to do something. मजबूर करना

- **Demur** (verb) -to express disagreement or refuse to do something टाल-मटोल करना
- **Obscure** (verb) – keep from being seen; conceal. ढांकना
- **Confess** (verb) – admit that one has committed a crime or done something wrong मानना
- **Induce** (verb) – succeed in persuading or leading (someone) to do something. प्रेरित करना

The antonym of "compelled" would be a word that means the opposite of being forced or obligated. Among the given options, the word that best fits this definition is "Demur," which means to hesitate or object, the opposite of being forced.

15. D) **To kick the bucket** (idiom) – To die मर जाना

16. D) The correct spelling of 'Hosting' is 'Hoisting' which means "to raise a flag to the top of a pole using a rope" फहराना

17. A) **Adage** (noun) – A proverb or short statement expressing a general truth. उक्ति/ कहावत

Antonym: Misconstruction – A wrong or incorrect understanding or interpretation. गलत समझना, गलत अर्थ

- **Rebuke** – An expression of sharp disapproval or criticism. फटकारना
- **Dare** – A challenge to do something requiring boldness. साहस करना
- **Addiction** – A strong and harmful need to regularly have or do something. लत

Given the meaning of "adage," none of the provided options directly stands as a clear antonym. However, option A, "Misconstruction," can be seen as an antonym in the context that an adage is a well-understood truth, whereas misconstruction is a misunderstanding or incorrect interpretation of something.

18. B) Option 'B' 'have' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि वाक्य में mentioned व्यक्ति के लिए ध्यान दिलाने की जरूरत है कि वह थोड़ा और सावधान होना चाहिए। इसलिए, "have" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'Have' should be used because the sentence is reminding the person addressed that they need to be a little more careful. Thus, "have" would be the most appropriate choice.

19. C) The word "callous" (adjective) – it refers to being emotionally insensitive, hard-hearted, or unfeeling – कठोर, निर्दयी. Therefore, we need to find the antonym, which would be the opposite of this meaning.

Antonym: Sympathetic (adjective) – Feeling, showing, or expressing compassion, understanding, or empathy. संवेदनशील

- **Rationalistic** (adjective) – Based on reason or logic, not emotional or practical. तार्किक
- **Unsympathetic** (adjective) – Lacking in sympathy, uncompassionate, unfeeling. असंवेदनशील
- **Non-diplomatic** (adjective) – Not skilled in dealing with sensitive matters or people; tactless. अकूटनीतिपूर्ण

20. D) **P, Q, R, S**

Newspapers, especially of the popular variety, aim to do two things: to inform and to entertain. Entertainment may be principally found in the centre pages of the newspaper in some of the feature articles and in some local news stories. The principal aim of the short news report on the front pages is to inform. Most newspapers are published daily, and the news reporters must make sure that they have up-to-the minute news. In their news reports they will aim to create a sense of immediacy, to convey the impression that they have 'rushed' the news to the reader and 'that the information contained is the very latest.' Reporters also wish to create a sense of authenticity, that is, that their news is accurate and genuine.

21. A) **Prepare** (verb) – Making ready, setting up, arranging, organizing तैयार करना

The word "Ready" in the context of the sentence refers to getting something prepared or set up, hence the synonym that best fits is "Preparing." The other options are not related to the meaning of "Ready" as used in this context. Therefore, the correct answer is option A, "Preparing."

22. B) Were the books not being read by the children?

23. D) **Hostile** (adjective) – Unfriendly, unreceptive, unsympathetic, argumentative शत्रुतापूर्ण

Synonym: Unfriendly (adjective) – Inimical, antagonistic, opposed, unsympathetic, hostile अशिष्ट

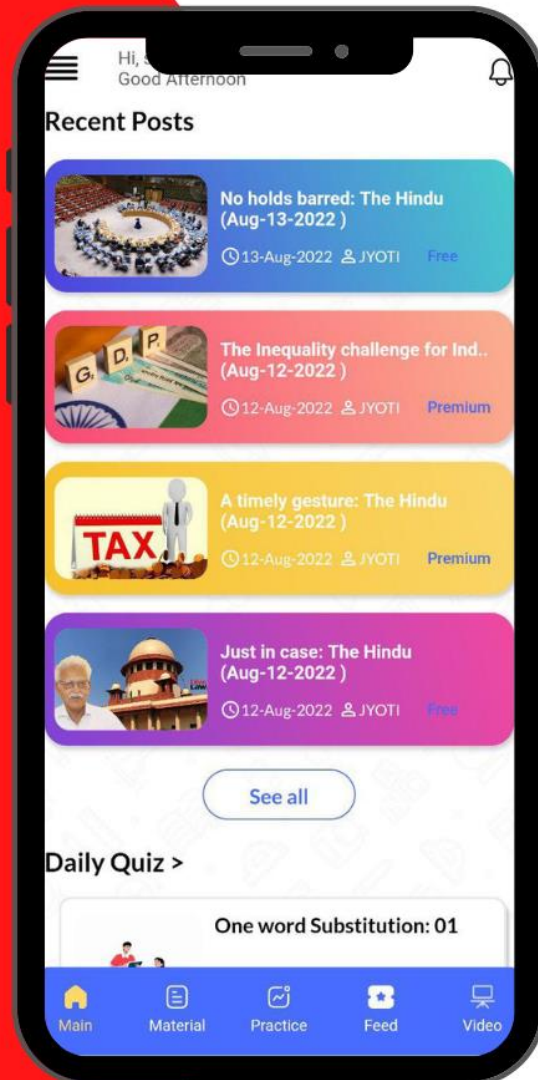
- **Pleasant** (adjective) – Agreeable, enjoyable, satisfying, charming, delightful सुखमय
- **Hospitable** (adjective) – Welcoming, warm-hearted, accommodating, gracious, friendly मेहमान नवाज
- **Empathetic** (adjective) – Compassionate, understanding, sympathetic, considerate सहानुभूतिपूर्ण

The most appropriate synonym for "Hostile" is "Unfriendly," as both words convey a sense of antagonism or opposition.

24. C) The correct option to substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence is C. 'own image'. यहाँ 'own image' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह बाइबल की शिक्षा के अनुसार एक प्रसिद्ध वाक्यांश है, जिसमें कहा गया है कि ईश्वर ने मानव को अपनी छवि में बनाया है। बाकी options इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही अर्थ नहीं देते हैं; जैसे— The fact that God created man in his own image elevates him above the beasts of the field.

25. A) **DCBA**

Last summer, I spent many days in the garden watching thousands of ants crawling up the trunk of my prize peach tree. The tree had grown against a warm wall on a sheltered side of the house. I am especially proud of it, not only because it has survived several winters, but because it occasionally produces luscious peaches. During the summer, I noticed that the leaves of the tree were beginning to wither.



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