Children in peril

A country aspiring to become 'Viksit' (developed) by 2047 has a job to do right now — protect its children from traffickers and middlemen. Otherwise, these kids — the nation's future — would be left psychologically scarred for life. A horrifying case has been reported from Punjab's Kapurthala district. Eleven children, now rescued by the police, were made to work on a potato farm as enslaved labourers. Two agents who allegedly trafficked the children from Bihar are also accused of sexually abusing one of them and pushing her into prostitution.

The incident has **come to light** days after a **businessman** running a packaging company in Maharashtra's Thane district **was booked** for allegedly making children work as labourers. **Unfortunately**, kids remain **vulnerable to exploitation** even though there are **myriad** laws aimed at ensuring **deterrence**. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, **prohibits** the employment of children below 14 years in any occupation; **those** in the age group of 14 to 18 years **cannot** be forced to work in **hazardous occupations** where their health and safety are at risk. The **Juvenile** Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act have strict provisions as well, but **enforcement** leaves a lot to be desired.



Timely **response** to complaints about child labour <u>holds the key</u> to **curbing** this **scourge**. **Synergy** between Central and state governments — and among the states too — **is** another **prerequisite**. In many cases, it's poverty that **drives** parents to take **desperate** measures. They force their kids into labour to support the family; this not only **disrupts** the children's studies but also exposes them to the big, bad world. Targeted welfare schemes must **go hand in hand** with efforts to strengthen the justice delivery system. Let no one's childhood be **ruined**, for that would be a great loss to the entire nation.

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

Vocabulary

- 1. In peril (phrase) In danger, at risk, in jeopardy, unsafe, exposed खतरे में
- 2. **Aspire** (verb) Aim, strive, hope, desire, pursue आकांक्षा करना
- Trafficker (noun) Smuggler, dealer, peddler, exploiter, trader तस्कर
- Psychologically (adverb) Mentally, emotionally, cognitively, internally मानसिक रूप से
- 5. **Scarred** (adjective) Damaged, marked, wounded, traumatized, hurt आहत
- 6. Horrifying (adjective) Shocking, terrifying, dreadful, appalling, ghastly भयानक
- Enslaved (adjective) Forced, bound, oppressed, subjugated, exploited दास बनाया ह्आ
- 8. Allegedly (adverb) Supposedly, reportedly, presumably, ostensibly कथित तौर पर
- 9. Traffick (verb) Smuggle, trade, deal, peddle, exploit तस्करी करना
- 10. Accuse (of) (verb) Charge, blame, indict, allege, implicate आरोप लगाना
- 11. **Prostitution** (noun) Sex work, exploitation, commercial sex trade वेश्यावृत्ति

- 12. **Come to light** (phrase) Be revealed, become known, emerge, surface उजागर होना
- 13. **Book** (for) (verb) Charge, file a case against, accuse, prosecute मामला दर्ज करना
- 14. **Unfortunately** (adverb) Regrettably, sadly, unluckily, unhappily, lamentably दूर्भाग्यवश
- 15. **Vulnerable** (to) (adjective) Susceptible, defenseless, exposed, prone, weak अस्रक्षित
- 16. **Exploitation** (noun) Abuse, mistreatment, oppression, misuse, manipulation शोषण
- 17. **Myriad** (adjective) Numerous, countless, many, multiple, varied अनेक
- 18. **Deterrence** (noun) Prevention, discouragement, inhibition, restraint अवरोध
- 19. **Prohibit** (verb) Ban, forbid, disallow, prevent, restrict रोकना
- 20. Hazardous (adjective) Dangerous, risky, unsafe, perilous, harmful खतरनाक
- 21. **Occupation** (noun) Job, profession, trade, employment, work व्यवसाय
- 22. **Juvenile** (noun) Youth, adolescent, minor, young person किशोर

- 23. Enforcement (noun) Implementation, application, execution, imposition प्रवर्तन
- 24. Hold the key (phrase) Be crucial, be essential, be important, play a vital role मुख्य भूमिका निभाना
- 25. **Curb** (verb) Restrain, control, limit, suppress, reduce रोक लगाना
- 26. **Scourge** (noun) Plague, menace, curse, problem, affliction संकट
- 27. **Synergy** (noun) Cooperation, collaboration, partnership, interaction, teamwork तालमेल
- 28. **Prerequisite** (noun) Requirement, condition, necessity, obligation पूर्वापेक्षा

- 29. **Drive** (verb) Motivate, propel, push, compel, force प्रेरित करना
- 30. **Desperate** (adjective) Hopeless, extreme, urgent, frantic, reckless निराशाजनक
- 31. **Disrupt** (verb) Disturb, interrupt, interfere, upset, break बाधा डालना
- 32. **Go hand in hand** (phrase) Be associated, coexist, be linked, accompany साथ-साथ चलना
- 33. **Ruined** (adjective) Destroyed, wrecked, damaged, spoiled, devastated नष्ट किया ह्आ

Summary of the Editorial

- 1. **Critical Issue**: India's aspiration to become a developed nation by 2047 requires immediate action to protect children from traffickers and exploiters.
- 2. **Recent Incident**: In Punjab's Kapurthala district, 11 children were rescued from forced labor on a potato farm, with allegations of sexual abuse and trafficking by agents.
- 3. **Other Case**: A businessman in Maharashtra's Thane district was accused of employing child laborers in a packaging company, highlighting the prevalence of the issue.
- 4. Vulnerability: Despite numerous laws, children remain at high risk of exploitation and abuse.
- 5. Key Laws:
 - a. **Child and Adolescent Labour Act, 1986**: Prohibits employment of children below 14 and regulates work conditions for those aged 14-18 in hazardous jobs.
 - b. Juvenile Justice Act: Aims to protect children and ensure justice.
 - c. POCSO Act: Focuses on preventing sexual offenses against children.
- 6. **Weak Enforcement**: Existing laws lack effective implementation and enforcement, reducing their deterrent effect.
- 7. Complaint Response: Timely action on child labor complaints is essential to curb exploitation.
- 8. **Government Synergy**: Collaboration between the Central and state governments, and among states, is critical for effective action.
- 9. **Role of Poverty**: Economic hardship drives many families to force their children into labor to support the household.
- 10. Educational Disruption: Child labor not only robs children of their education but also exposes them to dangers and exploitation.
- 11. Welfare Schemes: Targeted initiatives are needed to provide financial and social support to vulnerable families.
- 12. Justice System: Strengthening the justice delivery mechanism is vital to protect children and ensure accountability.
- 13. **Nation's Future**: The exploitation of children harms not only individuals but the future of the nation as a whole.
- 14. **Psychological Impact**: Victims of child labor and trafficking often face lifelong psychological scars.
- 15. **Call to Action**: A collective effort is needed to safeguard childhood and ensure every child's right to safety, education, and dignity.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- 1. Based on the passage, which underlying factor most commonly drives parents to push their children into labour? [Editorial page]
 - A. Strict government regulations
 - B. Pressure from local middlemen
 - C. Poverty and financial constraints
 - D. Lack of educational institutions
- 2. According to the passage, what is crucial for effectively curbing child labour besides timely response to complaints?
 - A. Implementing stricter migration checks at borders
 - B. Ensuring synergy between Central and state governments
 - C. Privatizing the education system nationwide
 - D. Building more factories to employ adults only
- 3. Which set of laws are highlighted in the passage as protecting children from labour and abuse?
 - A. The Motor Vehicles Act and the Companies Act
 - B. The Environment Protection Act and the Consumer Protection Act
 - C. The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and POCSO
 - D. The Food Safety and Standards Act and the Income Tax Act
- 4. Fill in the blank with the phrase that best completes this statement from the passage: "Targeted welfare schemes must go with efforts to strengthen the justice delivery

system."

- A. through thick and thin
- B. quietly
- C. hand in hand
- D. forcefully
- 5. What is the overall tone of the passage?
 - A. Calm and detached
 - B. Urgent and concerned
 - C. Humorous and lighthearted
 - D. Indifferent and dismissive
- 6. 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) Benefits of reading have been underlined since ages together.

B) Once they understand the sensibleness behind reading, they would pass it on to others as well.

C) It brings knowledge and wisdom both to the readers.

D) By virtue of a practice at home, this can be suggested to the young ones.

- A. ABCD
- B. CDBA
- C. CDAB
- D. ACDB
- 7. Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.

The flames caught so **<u>quick</u>** that I had no time to think.

- A. quickly
- B. quickest
- C. as quick as
- D. Quicker

8. Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.

We will go to Spain this summer, will we?

- A. should we?
- B. won't we?
- C. can't we?
- D. don't we?

9. Select the most appropriate idiom for the following sentence.

The government arrested the opposition leader, making the situation worse.

- A. To cast pearls before swine
- B. To be on the last leg
- C. To add fuel to the fire
- D. To bite the dust
- 10. Select the most appropriate synonym for the given word.

Compel

- A. Allow
- B. Stop
- C. Give
- D. Obligate

11. Select the most appropriate option that expresses the given sentence in passive voice.

The chef prepares the food in the kitchen.

- A. The food will be prepared by the chef in the kitchen.
- B. The food prepares by the chef in the kitchen.
- C. The food is preparing by the chef in the kitchen.
- D. The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.

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

Bharath is a skilful achiever, so he hits the nail on the leg.

- A. hits the nail on the head
- B. hits the nail on the shoulder
- C. put the nail in the hole
- D. hits the screw on the top
- 13. Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence. Although the new fashion trend was quite popular, some critics were quick to <u>deride</u> it as a passing fad.
 - A. Ridicule
 - B. Hail
 - C. Detest
 - D. Applaud

14. Parts of a sentence are given below in jumbled order. Arrange the parts in the correct order to form a meaningful sentence.

- P. the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished
- Q. in the minds of the Tamils
- R. under the patronage of successive Pandian kings
- S. The name 'Madurai' evokes
- A. SPQR
- B. SQPR
- C. SRPQ
- D. SQRP
- 15. Select the option that can be used as a **one-word substitute** for the given group of words. A book where names and addresses of people living in an area is kept
 - A. Diary
 - B. Encyclopaedia
 - C. Directory
 - D. Library
- 16. Select the correct spelling from the given options to fill in the blank.

Jaysmita is one of the most ______ persons I have ever met as she has many talents.

- A. versataile
- B. versatele
- C. versateile
- D. Versatile
- 17. 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 have been in Chennai **<u>since</u>** a week, but I am planning to return now.

- A. for
- B. from
- C. in

- D. No substitution required
- 18. Select the most appropriate **synonym** for the underlined word in the given sentence.

A <u>colossal</u> amount of money has been wasted on the construction of a new administrative building.

- A. huge
- B. miniature
- C. small
- D. Micro

19. Select the correct spelling from the given options to replace the underlined word in the following sentence.

The new policy will **supplant** the old one and introduce stricter measures for workplace safety.

- A. overide
- B. supersede
- C. suceed
- D. superseede
- 20. Select the most appropriate **ANTONYM** of the given word.

Penury

- A. Emergency
- B. Opulence
- C. Regression
- D. Euphemism

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.

Friendship is one of the most significant aspects (1) human life. It is a relationship based on mutual trust, respect and support. True friendship is not just about spending time (2) but also about sharing each other's joys, sorrows and dreams. Good friends are those who stand by us in both good times and bad times, providing emotional and moral support. Having good friends can have a positive impact on one's mental health and wellbeing. Friends can be a source of happiness, laughter and comfort. They can also provide different perspectives and ideas that can help us grow as (3) . Moreover, friends can serve as a

support system during challenging times, offering words of encouragement and helping us navigate through difficult situations. (4)_____, building and maintaining friendships requires effort, patience and understanding. It is important to be there for each other, listen to one another and respect each other's boundaries. It is important to remember that friendships can evolve and change over time, and it is okay to let go of (5) _____ friendships.

21. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 1.

- A. on
- B. of

- C. for
- D. By

22. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 2.

- A. simultaneously
- B. together
- C. jointly
- D. Collectively

23. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 3.

- A. entities
- B. individuals
- C. groups
- D. Beings

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

- A. Similarly
- B. And
- C. Because
- D. However

25. Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank number 5.

- A. toxic
- B. unsafe
- C. happy
- D. safe

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) Poverty and financial constraints

The passage explicitly mentions that in many cases, poverty compels parents to take desperate measures, leading them to force their children into labour to support the family.

A: The passage talks about laws prohibiting child labour but does not mention these as the cause driving parents.

B: While traffickers and agents exploit the situation, the passage cites poverty as the primary driver.D: The passage does not claim that absence of schools is the main reason, but rather the economic desperation of families.

2. B) Ensuring synergy between Central and state governments

The passage clearly states that synergy between Central and state governments (and among states themselves) is a prerequisite for effectively tackling and preventing child labour.

A: The passage does not suggest that border checks are the key solution, but rather coordinated efforts.

C: There is no mention of privatization as a cure for child labour.

D: The passage emphasizes legal enforcement, synergy, and welfare schemes, not simply creating more jobs.

3. C) The Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Juvenile Justice Act, and POCSO

The passage specifically names the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act as the laws aimed at protecting children.

A: Irrelevant to child protection from labour or abuse.

B: These do not address child labour or abuse directly.

D: These laws are unrelated to safeguarding children from trafficking or labour.

4. C) hand in hand

The passage states that "Targeted welfare schemes must go hand in hand with efforts to strengthen the justice delivery system," meaning they must operate simultaneously and in coordination.

A: This is an idiom about staying together in all circumstances, but it does not convey the precise meaning of working concurrently.

B: Adds no relevant meaning to the context of collaboration.

D: The passage stresses coordinated, complementary efforts, not forcefulness.

5. B) Urgent and concerned

The passage urgently highlights the grim realities of child labour, trafficking, and abuse. It underscores the immediate need to protect vulnerable children and calls for strong enforcement of laws. The language conveys worry, seriousness, and a sense of moral responsibility.

A. Calm and detached: The passage is clearly not calm; it's alarmed by the severity of child exploitation.

C. Humorous and lighthearted: The passage discusses grave issues like trafficking and abuse; there is no humor or lightheartedness.

D. Indifferent and dismissive: The passage takes a strong stance on child protection; it's neither indifferent nor dismissive.

6. D) **ACDB**

Benefits of reading have been underlined since ages together. It brings knowledge and wisdom both to the readers. By virtue of a practice at home, this can be suggested to the young ones. Once they understand the sensibleness behind reading, they would pass it on to others as well.

- 7. A) '**quick**' के बदले 'quickly' का use होगा क्योंकि हमें यहाँ एक क्रिया (verb) की विशेषता adverb बताता है।
 - 'quickly' will be used instead of 'quick' because we need to describe a verb with an adverb here.
- 8. B) 'will we?' के बदले 'won't we?' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Positive Statement के लिए Negative

Question Tag प्रयुक्त होता है; जैसे— You are coming, aren't you?

- 'won't we?' will be used instead of 'will we?' because for a Positive Statement, a Negative Question Tag is used; Like— You are coming, aren't you?
- 9. C) To add fuel to the fire (idiom) Making a situation worse स्थिति को और ब्रा बनाना
 - To cast pearls before swine (idiom) To offer something valuable to someone who does not understand its value. भैंस के आगे बीन बजाना
 - To be on the last leg (idiom) To be near the end of life, usefulness, or existence. अन्तिम घड़ियाँ गिनना
 - To bite the dust (idiom) To fail or be defeated or to die. दम तोड़ देना
- 10. D) Compel (verb) Force or oblige (someone) to do something, necessitate, make mandatory. मजबूर

करना

Synonym: Obligate (verb) – Bind or compel (someone), especially legally or morally. बाध्य करना

- Allow (verb) Give (someone) permission to do something, permit, authorize. अन्मति देना
- Stop (verb) Come to an end, cease to happen, halt, terminate. रोकना
- Give (verb) Present or hand over to, grant, bestow, provide. देना
- 11. D) The food is prepared by the chef in the kitchen.
- 12. A) 'hits the nail on the leg' के बदले 'hits the nail on the head' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही मुहावरा
 - है जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी बात को बिल्कुल सही तरीके से कहना।
 - 'hits the nail on the head' will be used instead of 'hits the nail on the leg' because it is the correct idiom that means to describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
- 13. A) Deride (verb) Mock, ridicule, jeer at, scoff at. हंसी उड़ाना

Synonym: Ridicule (verb) – Mock, jeer at, scoff at, make fun of. हंसी उड़ाना

• Hail (verb) – Acclaim, commend, applaud, praise. स्त्ति करना

- Detest (verb) Dislike intensely, abhor, loathe, hate. घृणा करना
- Applaud (verb) Show approval or praise by clapping, commend, acclaim. सराहना

14. B) **SQPR**

The name 'Madurai' evokes. in the minds of the Tamils the golden era when their language, culture and arts flourished under the patronage of successive Pandian kings

- 15. C) **Directory** (noun) A book or electronic resource listing names, addresses, and other details of individuals or businesses in a particular district or area. नामावली
 - Diary (noun) A daily record, typically a book, in which one keeps a regular record of events, appointments, or observations. डायरी
 - Encyclopaedia (noun) A book or set of books containing information on many subjects or on many aspects of one subject, usually arranged alphabetically. विश्वकोश
 - Library (noun) A building or room containing collections of books, periodicals, and sometimes films and recorded music for use or borrowing by the public or the members of an institution.
 पुस्तकालय
- 16. D) **Versatile'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है। जब बात व्यक्ति की कई प्रकार की क्षमताओं और सामर्थ्यों की होती है, तो 'versatile' शब्द का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। इसलिए, विकल्प D "Versatile" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।
 - 'Versatile' should be used because it is the correct spelling. When referring to a person's ability to adapt to many different functions or activities, the word 'versatile' is used. Thus, option D "Versatile" would be the most appropriate choice.
- 17. A) **'since'** के बदले 'for' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'since' का प्रयोग किसी specific point in time से शुरू होकर अब तक के समय के लिए किया जाता है, जबकि 'for' का प्रयोग किसी period of time के लिए किया जाता है; जैसे— I have been waiting for two hours.
 - 'for' will be used instead of 'since' because 'since' is used for a specific point in time continuing up to the present, while 'for' is used for a certain duration of time; Like— I have been waiting for two hours.
- 18. A) Colossal (adjective) Extremely large in size, extent, or degree. विशाल

Synonym: Huge (adjective) – Very large, enormous, massive. बहुत बड़ा

- Miniature (adjective) Very small of its kind, diminutive. सूक्ष्म
- Small (adjective) Of a size that is less than normal or usual, little. छोटा
- Micro (adjective) Extremely small, minute, tiny. अत्यधिक सूक्ष्म
- 19. B) 'supplant' के बदले 'Supersede' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह सही spelling है और इसका अर्थ 'पुरानी चीज को नई चीज से बदल देना' है, जो कि दिए गए वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही है।

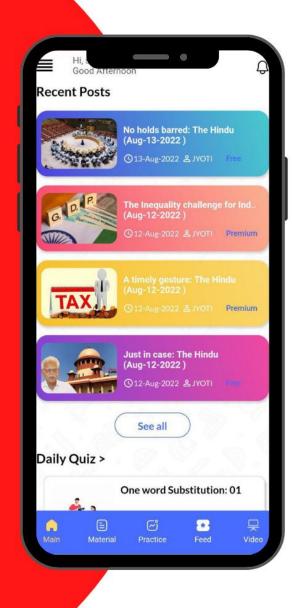
- **Supersede'** will be used instead of 'supplant' because it is the correct spelling and means 'to replace something old with something new', which is appropriate in the context of the given sentence.
- 20. B) Penury (noun) Extreme poverty; destitution, indigence, pauperism. दरिद्रता

Antonym: Opulence (noun) - Great wealth or luxuriousness, affluence, richness, luxury. संपन्नता

- Emergency (noun) A sudden, urgent, usually unexpected occurrence or occasion requiring immediate action. आपातकालीन स्थिति
- Regression (noun) A return to a former or less developed state. प्रतिगमन
- Euphemism (noun) A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. प्रियोक्ति
- 21. B) **of'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ पर "Friendship is one of the most significant aspects" इस वाक्य में "of" सही जोड़ देता है क्योंकि यह व्यक्त करता है कि मित्रता मानव जीवन के सबसे महत्वपूर्ण पहलुओं में से एक है। जबकि 'on', 'for', और 'By' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।
 - **'of'** should be used because it connects "Friendship" to "one of the most significant aspects". Whereas, 'on', 'for', and 'By' do not fit appropriately in this context.
- 22. B) Together' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "together" का अर्थ होता है साथ में या संग में बिताया जा रहा समय। 'Simultaneously' का अर्थ है एक समय में, 'Jointly' का अर्थ है संयुक्त रूप से, और 'Collectively' का अर्थ है समूह रूप से, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।
 - **Together'** should be used because it indicates spending time in each other's company. Whereas, 'Simultaneously' implies at the same time, 'Jointly' means in a combined manner, and 'Collectively' suggests as a group, which don't fit in this context.
- 23. B) 'Individuals' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "individuals" का अर्थ होता है व्यक्ति या लोग। पूरे संदर्भ में यह सुझाव दिया जा रहा है कि दोस्त हमें व्यक्तिगत रूप से विकसित होने में मदद कर सकते हैं। 'Houses', 'Buildings', और 'Objects' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं क्योंकि ये व्यक्तिगत विकास से संबंधित नहीं हैं।
 - Individuals' should be used because it refers to persons or people. The context suggests that friends can help in personal growth. 'Houses', 'Buildings', and 'Objects' are not apt in this context as they are not related to personal development.
- 24. D) 'However' का use होगा क्योंकि इस संदर्भ में passage में एक विपरीत धारा या विचार का परिवर्तन हो रहा है। पूरे passage में मित्रता के सकारात्मक पहलुओं की चर्चा हो रही है, जबकि इस विचार में उसकी बनाए रखने में आवश्यक प्रयास और समझदारी की चर्चा हो रही है।
 - **'However'** should be used because it indicates a contrast or a change in the direction of thought in the passage. The entirety of the passage discusses the positive aspects of friendship, while this statement discusses the effort and understanding required to sustain it.

25. A) 'Toxic' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि जब बात होती है दोस्ती को छोड़ देने की, तो वह उस समय होती है जब वह दोस्ती हानिकारक होती है या व्यक्ति के लिए हानिकारक सितुएशन में डालती है। 'Unsafe', 'Happy' और 'Safe' इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

'**Toxic'** should be used because when it comes to letting go of friendships, it's typically in reference to those that are harmful or put an individual in a detrimental situation. 'Unsafe', 'Happy', and 'Safe' don't fit in this context.



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