

Spot of Gur

One day, the Devil was sitting on a **log** of wood just outside the forest, **blinking lazily** in the pleasant winter sunlight, when Chinnu, the local woodcutter's son, **passed by**.

"**Howdy**," said the Devil, as he was in a **pleasant** mood.

"Howdy," said Chinnu, for he was a pleasant boy. But then, as he turned to look at the Devil, he saw the Devil's horns and tail, and stopped.

"You are the Devil," he said, **wonderingly**.

"What of it?" said the Devil, a little **miffed**.

"You're bad," said Chinnu. "I should run."

"Who says I'm bad?" said the Devil, **indignantly**.

"People," said Chinnu.

"People!" **snorted** the Devil. "People don't know anything. They have to blame somebody for things that go wrong, so they've chosen me. Shall I prove it to you?"

"Okay," said Chinnu, as it was a Sunday and he didn't have to go to school.

"See here," said the Devil, **unwrapping** a small scrap of **plantain** leaf. "There is some delicious gur inside. Now watch." The Devil dipped his little finger into the sticky gur and then **trotted up to** a broken wall a little way away. Then he placed his little finger on the wall and drew a little bindi of gur on it.

"Did I do anything wrong?" He asked Chinnu after **settling** himself **down** on the log of wood again.

"No," said Chinnu.

"Now sit here and watch," said the Devil, **patting** the log on his right.

So Chinnu sat and watched.



A little ant who was scouting around for food smelt the delicious gur on the wall and **scurried off** to tell his family about it. Slowly, millions of little ants began **pouring out** of their **anthill** and made their way to the gur.

The lizards, **basking** in the sun, **flicked** open their sleepy eyes and began creeping towards the ants.

The cats smelt the lizards and came out of the **barns**.

The dogs smelt the cats... the leopard smelt the dogs... the tiger smelt the leopard... and then came the hunters **in droves**. The animals **snapped** and **sarled**, **growled** and **barked**, and bit and scratched while the hunters **cursed** and shouted and **banged away** with their guns. What a **ruckus** it was!

"Let's go from here," sighed the Devil, "this place is too noisy." When they reached the **outskirts** of the village, the Devil said goodbye to Chinnu.

"See how they all blame me?" he said. "All I did was put a little spot of gur on a wall. They did the rest themselves."

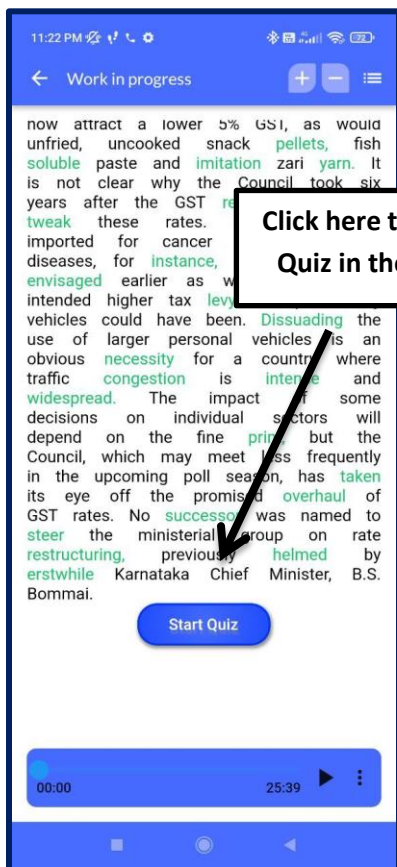
And the Devil smiled his **wicked** smile.

Vocabulary

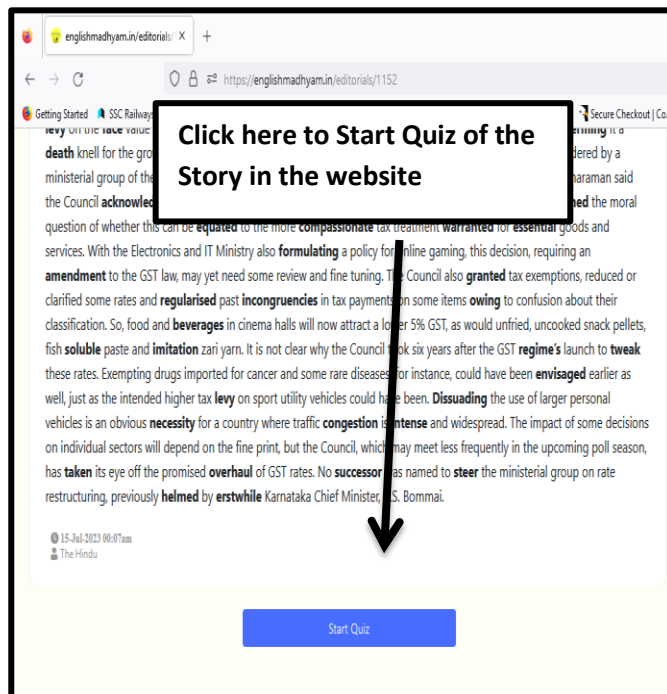
1. **Log** (noun) – timber, trunk, wood, branch, billet – लकड़ी का लट्ठा
2. **Blink** (verb) – wink, flutter, flicker, bat (the eyes), shut and open – पलक झपकाना
3. **Lazily** (adverb) – idly, sluggishly, slowly, languidly, unhurriedly – आलसी ढंग से
4. **Pass by** (phrasal verb) – go past, move along, walk past, cross, bypass – पास से गुजरना
5. **Howdy** (exclamation) – hello, hi, greetings, hey there, good day – नमस्ते / अभिवादन
6. **Pleasant** (adjective) – nice, agreeable, delightful, charming, enjoyable – सुखद / मनमोहक
7. **Wonderingly** (adverb) – curiously, amazedly, questioningly, in awe, inquisitively – आश्चर्य से
8. **Miffed** (adjective) – annoyed, irritated, offended, displeased, upset – नाराज़
9. **Indignantly** (adverb) – angrily, resentfully, furiously, bitterly, with outrage – रोषपूर्वक
10. **Snort** (verb) – exhale noisily, grunt, blow, scoff, puff – फुंकारना / नाक से जोर से हवा निकालना
11. **Unwrap** (verb) – open, uncover, peel, remove covering, unveil – खोलना / खोलकर दिखाना
12. **Plantain** (noun) – banana plant, cooking banana – कच्चा केला
13. **Trot up to** (phrase) – jog toward, move briskly, run lightly, approach quickly – तेज़ी से पास आना
14. **Settle down** (phrasal verb) – sit down, relax, get comfortable, become still, rest – आराम से बैठना
15. **Pat** (verb) – tap, touch lightly, caress, stroke, clap – थपथपाना
16. **Scurry off** (phrasal verb) – dash away, run quickly, scamper, rush off, hurry away – दौड़ पड़ना / तेज़ी से भागना
17. **Pour out** (phrasal verb) – emerge, stream out, gush, flow out, flood – निकल पड़ना / उमड़ना
18. **Anthill** (noun) – ant mound, ant colony, termite hill – चींटियों का ढेर
19. **Bask** (verb) – sunbathe, lounge, relax, enjoy warmth, lie in the sun – धूप सेंकना
20. **Flick** (verb) – snap, flip, jerk, swish, tap – झटके से हिलाना / चमकाना

21. **Barn** (noun) – shed, stable, storehouse, granary, cowshed – गोदाम / पशुशाला
22. **In droves** (phrase) – in large numbers, in crowds, in multitudes, in swarms, in flocks – झुंड में / भारी संख्या में
23. **Snap** (verb) – bite, snarl, crack, break suddenly, bark sharply – काट खाना / झपटना
24. **Snarl** (verb) – growl, roar, bark, snap, howl – गुराँना
25. **Growl** (verb) – snarl, grunt, grumble, bark, rumble – गड़गड़ाना / गुराँना
26. **Bark** (verb) – yelp, yap, growl, snarl, woof – भौंकना
27. **Curse** (verb) – swear, abuse, damn, blaspheme, cuss – गाली देना / शाप देना
28. **Bang away** (phrasal verb) – fire repeatedly, shoot continuously, pound, thump, blast – जोर-जोर से मारना
29. **Ruckus** (noun) – commotion, uproar, chaos, disturbance, fuss – शोरगुल / हंगामा
30. **Outskirt** (noun) – edge, boundary, periphery, suburb, fringe – बाहरी क्षेत्र / किनारा
31. **Wicked** (adjective) – evil, immoral, nasty, mean, mischievous – शरारती / दुष्ट

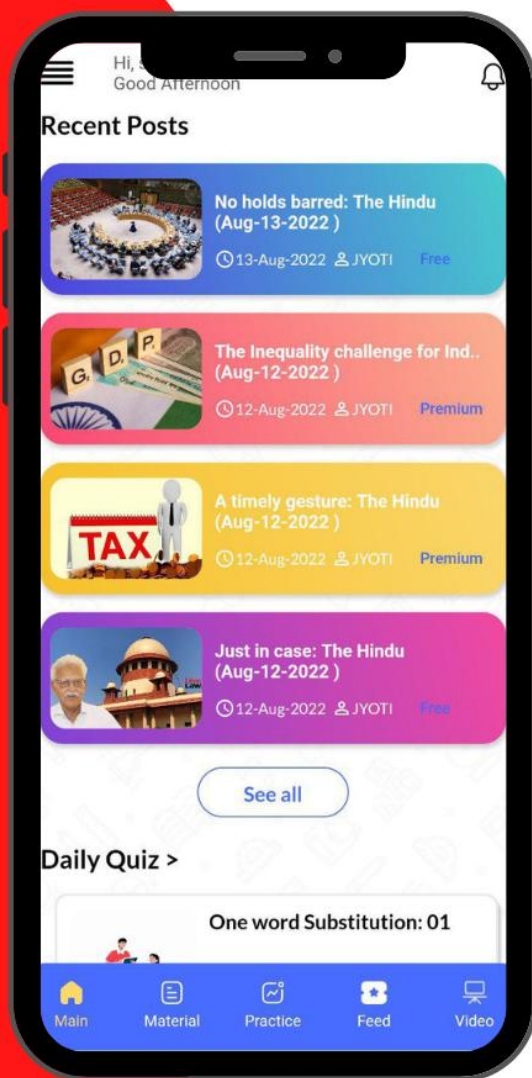
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