

A good fix: On the IRCTC and ticket booking

The **measures** to **curb** agent and **bot** booking on IRCTC **will** benefit passengers

The e-ticketing **system** of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC) **is** one of India's most widely used e-commerce platforms. **Crores** of Indian rail **commuters** and passengers **use** it to book their tickets, which makes it **imperative** that the system is run **robustly**. The scale of the operation is **revealing** — on May 22, 2025, the IRCTC processed a **staggering** 31,814 tickets in 60 seconds to set a new record. Yet, the popular e-ticketing **system**, especially the Tatkal booking part, **is plagued** by issues. Extremely high demand during peak hours, particularly during the designated Tatkal booking window period, **often leads to** crashes and slow performance. A major concern is that the system is **exploited** by ticketing agents who use unfair automated tools (or bots), leading to rapidly **dwindling** ticket availability for passengers. These issues are what **prompted** the IRCTC to announce two major steps. The first was a major digital **overhaul** of the ticketing **infrastructure** using anti-bot systems to prevent **unauthorised** automated bookings — a measure that led to the deactivation of a **whopping** 2.5 crore **suspect** user IDs. Implementation of a content delivery network also helped improve website performance. **In addition**, Aadhaar verification is necessary immediately after a ticket is booked. The IRCTC has also **mandated** Aadhaar authentication for all Tatkal bookings, from July 1, along with OTP-based authentication. Authorised agents have been restricted from booking Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window period.

The **idea** behind an e-ticketing platform and the **provision** of Tatkal booking of tickets **are** to provide **equitable** chances for passengers to travel. Despite more train services having been introduced over the years by the Indian Railways, which is a state **monopoly**, demand far **outstrips** supply, and passengers have to **rely on** advanced booking and Tatkal tickets for their travel. When agents use bots to game the system, it kills the purpose of **equity**. Therefore, the IRCTC's steps will bring relief to passengers. That said, the Indian Railways must focus not only on easing the process of ticketing but also on **elevating** the passenger experience **in terms of** increasing its train and track capacity to fulfil travel demand, ensuring safety and enhancing its facilities. **Seen in this context**, while these ticketing fixes are important, **the true test** for the Indian Railways **will** be its ability to move beyond just technical and administrative solutions and **undertake** a fundamental expansion of its services to serve India's large passenger **clientele**. In a way, meaningful **expansion** to **meet** the demand **will** also **obviate** the need for reworking technological solutions yet again in the future. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Curb** (verb) – restrain, limit, control, suppress, restrict रोकना / सीमित करना
2. **Bot** (noun) – an autonomous program on the internet or another network that can interact with systems or users. स्वचालित प्रोग्राम
3. **Commuter** (noun) – passenger, traveler, daily traveler, rider, regular user यात्री (विशेष रूप से रोज़ाना यात्रा करने वाला)
4. **Imperative** (noun) – necessity, requirement, priority, urgency, essential आवश्यकता / अनिवार्यता
5. **Robustly** (adverb) – strongly, firmly, soundly, solidly, sturdily मज़बूती से
6. **Revealing** (adjective) – informative, enlightening, exposing, significant, disclosing खुलासा करने वाला
7. **Staggering** (adjective) – astonishing, overwhelming, incredible, shocking, phenomenal चौंकाने वाला
8. **Plague** (verb) – trouble, afflict, torment, burden, haunt परेशान करना
9. **Often** (adverb) – frequently, regularly, repeatedly, usually, commonly अक्सर
10. **Lead** (to) (verb) – result in, cause, bring about, trigger, produce कारण बनना
11. **Exploit** (verb) – misuse, take advantage of, manipulate, abuse, capitalize on शोषण करना
12. **Dwindle** (verb) – shrink, decrease, reduce, decline, diminish घट जाना
13. **Prompt** (verb) – trigger, cause, provoke, incite, inspire प्रेरित करना / कारण बनना
14. **Overhaul** (noun) – renovation, revamp, restructuring, reform, upgrade सुधार
15. **Infrastructure** (noun) – framework, system, foundation, facilities, support structure ढांचा / बुनियादी ढांचा
16. **Unauthorised** (adjective) – illegal, unapproved, forbidden, prohibited, unpermitted अवैध / बिना अनुमति वाला
17. **Whopping** (adjective) – huge, massive, enormous, gigantic, tremendous भारी / बहुत अधिक
18. **Suspect** (adjective) – doubtful, questionable, dubious, suspicious, uncertain संदिग्ध
19. **In addition** (phrase) – furthermore, moreover, also, besides, as well साथ ही
20. **Mandate** (verb) – order, require, command, decree, impose आदेश देना / अनिवार्य करना
21. **Provision** (noun) – arrangement, service, facility, supply, offering प्रावधान
22. **Equitable** (adjective) – fair, just, impartial, unbiased, balanced न्यायसंगत / समान

23. **Monopoly** (noun) – exclusivity, domination, control, cartel, single ownership एकाधिकार
24. **Outstrip** (verb) – surpass, exceed, overtake, outdo, outpace आगे निकल जाना
25. **Rely** (on) (verb) – depend on, trust, count on, bank on, lean on निर्भर करना
26. **Equity** (noun) – fairness, justice, impartiality, balance, equality समानता
27. **Elevate** (verb) – improve, raise, enhance, uplift, boost सुधारना / ऊँचा करना
28. **In terms of** (phrase) – regarding, concerning, with respect to, related to, in the context of के संदर्भ में
29. **Seen in this context** (phrase) – from this perspective, considering this, in light of this, viewed this way इस संदर्भ में देखा जाए तो
30. **Undertake** (verb) – begin, start, initiate, carry out, embark on शुरू करना / करना
31. **Clientele** (noun) – customers, clients, users, patrons, audience ग्राहक समूह
32. **Meet** (verb) – fulfill, satisfy, achieve, reach, match पूरा करना
33. **Obviate** (verb) – eliminate, remove, prevent, avoid, do away with हटाना / अनावश्यक बना देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. IRCTC's e-ticketing system is one of India's largest e-commerce platforms, widely used by crores of train passengers.
2. On May 22, 2025, IRCTC set a record by processing 31,814 tickets in 60 seconds, demonstrating the platform's huge scale.
3. Despite its popularity, the system faces persistent problems, especially during Tatkal bookings, such as slowdowns and crashes.
4. A major issue is the misuse of bots by ticketing agents, which leads to unfair advantage and reduced availability for genuine passengers.
5. To curb this, IRCTC has undertaken a digital overhaul with anti-bot systems that blocked 2.5 crore suspicious user IDs.
6. The platform has also integrated a Content Delivery Network (CDN) to improve website performance.
7. Aadhaar verification is now required right after booking, and from July 1, Aadhaar + OTP authentication is mandatory for all Tatkal bookings.
8. Authorised agents are now banned from booking Tatkal tickets during the first 30 minutes of the booking window.
9. These steps aim to ensure equitable access to tickets, especially under high-demand Tatkal booking conditions.
10. The misuse of bots undermines fairness, and the new measures are expected to benefit regular passengers.
11. Despite more trains being introduced, passenger demand far exceeds supply, making fair ticket access a crucial concern.
12. While tech reforms are vital, the core issue remains the limited capacity of trains and railway infrastructure.
13. The Indian Railways needs to focus on expanding train and track capacity to meet growing passenger needs.
14. Attention must also be given to safety, passenger facilities, and service quality, not just booking efficiency.
15. In the long term, expanding railway capacity will reduce the overdependence on short-term tech fixes and make the system more resilient.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**
 - A. Sarcastic
 - B. Analytical
 - C. Indifferent
 - D. Humorous
2. **What can be inferred as the main reason behind the misuse of the Tatkal booking system?**
 - A. The IRCTC lacks proper payment gateways
 - B. There is extremely high demand and limited ticket availability
 - C. The system doesn't allow ticket cancellations
 - D. Train services are too frequent for Tatkal to be useful
3. **According to the passage, how many suspect user IDs were deactivated due to the new anti-bot system?**
 - A. 2.5 lakh
 - B. 31,814
 - C. 2.5 crore
 - D. 30 crore
4. **Why did the IRCTC introduce Aadhaar-based verification for Tatkal bookings?**
 - A. To reduce the price of Tatkal tickets
 - B. To eliminate human error in bookings
 - C. To ensure authenticity and prevent misuse through bots
 - D. To promote online ticketing
5. **What is suggested as the long-term solution to ticketing problems in Indian Railways?**
 - A. Reducing train frequency
 - B. Privatizing the IRCTC
 - C. Expanding train and track capacity
 - D. Banning Tatkal bookings entirely
6. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

Despite his initial _____, he eventually agreed to join the team

 - A. enthusiasm
 - B. determination
 - C. reluctance
 - D. compassion
7. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the highlighted word(s) in the given sentence.**

Mr. Wilson is elder than he looks.

 - A. elder for
 - B. older than
 - C. older then

- D. elder to
8. The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical/spelling error.
They decided to /start their journey / towards the hills / in midnight
- A. They decided to
B. in midnight
C. start their journey
D. towards the hills
9. Select the most appropriate present tense form of the verb to fill in the blank.
_____ they like sweets?
- A. Does
B. Do
C. Had
D. Has
10. Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.
Gloomy
- A. Sticky
B. Vain
C. Dismal
D. Buoyant
11. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.
Industrialisation gives even the least talented person a chance to _____ his livelihood.
- A. Live
B. Give
C. Break
D. Earn
12. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined word.
The sink is clogged due to solid materials
- A. To drown in water
B. A large fixed container to wash hands or utensils
C. A pipeline for water supply
D. A container which holds water
13. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.
Predicament
- A. Solution
B. Mess
C. Redeem
D. Docile
14. Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.

Before the internet was available on mobile, I read often books for entertainment and information

- A. was available on mobile
- B. Before the internet
- C. for entertainment and information.
- D. I read often books

15. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**

A good lawyer / always looks in the / case before he / attends court.

- A. attends court
- B. always looks in the
- C. case before he
- D. A good lawyer

16. **Select the most appropriate superlative adjective form to fill in the blanks.**

What's ___ book you've ever read?

- A. more interesting
- B. the most interesting
- C. interesting
- D. the interesting

17. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Inadvertant
- B. Blatant
- C. Effeminate
- D. Synchronous

18. **Select the correctly spelt word to fill in the blank.**

We _____ to follow the traffic rules

- A. oght
- B. aught
- C. aut
- D. Ought

19. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**

- A. Awful
- B. Barren
- C. Bitter
- D. Awsome

20. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The investigating team smelled a _____ in the suspect's defence

- A. bat
- B. cat
- C. dog
- D. rat

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.

Opera refers (1) _____ a dramatic art form, originating in Europe, in which the emotional content (2) _____ conveyed to the audience as much through music, both vocal and instrumental, as it is through the lyrics. (3) _____ contrast, in musical theatre an actor's dramatic performance is primary, and the music (4) _____ a lesser role. The drama in opera is (5) _____ using the primary elements of theatre such as scenery, costumes and acting

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

- A. on
- B. with
- C. to
- D. For

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

- A. are being
- B. were
- C. are
- D. Is

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

- A. In
- B. Under
- C. Beside
- D. For

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

- A. play
- B. played
- C. playing
- D. Plays

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

- A. present
- B. presenting
- C. being present
- D. presented

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) Analytical

The passage takes a measured, detailed, and objective tone to evaluate the current condition of the IRCTC ticketing system, its recent reforms, and their implications. The writer analyzes the challenges (e.g., bots, agent misuse) and also the measures (Aadhaar authentication, anti-bot systems), without emotional overtones.

A. Sarcastic – Incorrect because sarcasm implies a mocking or ironic tone, which is not used here. The passage is sincere in its assessment.

C. Indifferent – Incorrect because the author clearly cares about the issue and calls for further reform. Indifference means lack of concern.

D. Humorous – Incorrect since the passage is entirely serious and lacks jokes, irony, or any comic element.

2. B) There is extremely high demand and limited ticket availability

The passage clearly states that the high demand during the Tatkal window and limited supply of tickets lead agents to misuse bots for quicker access, thereby exploiting the system.

A is incorrect because payment gateways are not mentioned as a concern.

C is incorrect because ticket cancellation is not discussed at all.

D is wrong — the issue is not about too many trains but too few, despite increasing services.

3. C) 2.5 crore

The passage mentions that the new anti-bot system led to the deactivation of 2.5 crore suspect user IDs — a significant move to combat automated booking.

A is incorrect — 2.5 lakh is much smaller.

B is incorrect — 31,814 is the number of tickets booked in 60 seconds, not deactivations.

D is wrong — 30 crore is not mentioned anywhere.

4. C) To ensure authenticity and prevent misuse through bots

Aadhaar verification, including OTP authentication, was introduced specifically to combat misuse by unauthorised agents using bots during Tatkal bookings.

A is incorrect — price reduction is not the focus.

B is wrong — bots, not human error, were the main concern.

D is incorrect — online ticketing already exists; Aadhaar isn't to promote it.

5. C) Expanding train and track capacity

The passage concludes that technical fixes alone are not enough — a fundamental expansion of infrastructure is required to meet the growing passenger demand and avoid repeated tech fixes.

A is incorrect — reducing train frequency would worsen the problem.

B is wrong — privatization is not discussed or implied.

D is incorrect — banning Tatkal contradicts the aim of equitable access.

6. C) '**Reluctance**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ को करने में अनिच्छा या हिचकिचाहट। Sentence में यह mention है कि उसने शुरुआत में किसी चीज़ के प्रति अनिच्छा दिखाई लेकिन बाद में टीम में शामिल होने के लिए सहमत हो गया। 'Enthusiasm' का अर्थ है उत्साह, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य में आरंभिक अनिच्छा की बात की जा रही है। 'Determination' का अर्थ है दृढ़ संकल्प, लेकिन यह उस भावना को नहीं दर्शाता जो अनिच्छा के विपरीत है। 'Compassion' का अर्थ है सहानुभूति, जो इस संदर्भ में irrelevant है।

Reluctance will be used because it means unwillingness or hesitation to do something. The sentence mentions that he initially showed hesitation but eventually agreed to join the team. 'Enthusiasm' means eagerness or excitement, which does not fit the context as the sentence discusses initial unwillingness. 'Determination' means resolve or firmness, but it doesn't convey the sense of hesitation mentioned in the sentence. 'Compassion' means sympathy, which is irrelevant in this context.

7. B) 'elder than' के बदले 'older than' का use होगा क्योंकि 'elder' केवल परिवार के सदस्यों (relatives) के लिए use किया जाता है, जैसे brother, sister, etc., जबकि 'older' किसी भी व्यक्ति या वस्तु की आयु की तुलना के लिए use किया जा सकता है। यहाँ 'Mr. Wilson' की आयु की तुलना उसकी दिखावट से की जा रही है, न कि किसी व्यक्ति से, इसलिए 'older than' सही है।

जैसे— ☐ Mr. Wilson is older than he looks.

☐ Mr. Wilson is elder than he looks. (wrong)

• 'older than' will be used instead of 'elder than' because 'elder' is used only for comparing age between family members, while 'older' is used more generally for age comparisons; Like — ☐ She is older than she appears. ☐ My elder brother lives in Delhi.

8. B) 'in midnight' के स्थान पर '**at midnight**' का use होगा क्योंकि 'midnight' (आधी रात) एक सटीक समय का संकेत करता है और ऐसे सटीक समय को व्यक्त करने के लिए 'at' का use किया जाता है। उदाहरण: 'at 10 o'clock,' 'at noon,' 'at midnight'।

The phrase "in midnight" is incorrect. The correct preposition with "midnight" is "at," as "at" is used for specific points of time (e.g., at noon, at 6 PM, at midnight).

9. B) '**Do**' का use यहाँ सही है क्योंकि वाक्य present tense में है और subject plural (वे) है। English grammar में, plural subjects के लिए वर्तमान काल में प्रश्नात्मक वाक्यों में helping verb 'do' का use किया जाता है। इसलिए, "Do they like sweets?" सही है। 'Does': इसका use plural subjects (he, she, it) के लिए किया जाता है। चूंकि यहाँ subject 'they' (बहुवचन) है, इसलिए 'does' गलत है। 'Had': इसका use past perfect tense में होता है, जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य वर्तमान काल में है। 'Has': इसका use वर्तमान पूर्ण काल (present

perfect tense) में या मुख्य क्रिया के रूप में किया जाता है। लेकिन यह helping verb के रूप में 'like' जैसे क्रिया शब्दों के साथ बहुवचन विषय के लिए use नहीं किया जाता है।

'Do' will be used here because the sentence is in the present tense and refers to a plural subject ('they'). In English grammar, for plural subjects, the auxiliary verb 'do' is used in interrogative sentences in the present tense. Hence, "Do they like sweets?" is correct. 'Does': It is used for singular subjects (e.g., he, she, it). Since the subject here is 'they' (plural), 'does' is incorrect. 'Had': It is used in the past perfect tense, which is not appropriate as the sentence is in the present tense. 'Has': It is used as a singular auxiliary verb in the present perfect tense or as the main verb. However, it is not used to form questions with action verbs like 'like' for plural subjects.

10. C) **Gloomy** (adjective) – Dark, depressing, or causing sadness; cheerless, melancholy.

उदास, अंधकारमय, निराशाजनक

SYNONYM: **Dismal** (adjective) – Causing gloom or dejection; depressing, dreary, miserable.

उदास, निराशाजनक।

- **Sticky** (adjective) – Tending to stick to surfaces; adhesive, tacky. चिपचिपा।
- **Vain** (adjective) – Showing excessive pride; futile or unsuccessful. व्यर्थ, घमंडी।
- **Buoyant** (adjective) – Cheerful, optimistic, or able to float. उत्साही, तैरने में सक्षम।

11. 'D) **Earn**' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि 'earn' का अर्थ है "कमाना" और वाक्य का संदर्भ यह बताता है कि औद्योगिकीकरण कम से कम प्रतिभाशाली व्यक्ति को भी अपनी आजीविका कमाने का अवसर देता है। इसलिए, 'earn' इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त है। 'Live' का अर्थ है "जीना," लेकिन यह आजीविका कमाने के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Give' का अर्थ है "देना," जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में अनफ़िट है। 'Break' का अर्थ है "टूटना" या "विराम," जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में कोई अर्थ नहीं रखता

'Earn' is the correct option because it means "to make or receive as a return for one's effort or work." The sentence refers to industrialization providing even the least talented person with an opportunity to make a living, making 'earn' the most suitable option. 'Live' means "to exist or reside," which does not fit the context of earning a livelihood. 'Give' means "to provide," which is unrelated to the sentence's meaning. 'Break' means "to fracture" or "pause," which is irrelevant in this context.

12. B) **Sink** (noun)- A large fixed container to wash hands or utensils सिंक, हाथ धोने या बर्तन साफ करने के लिए एक बड़ा स्थिर पात्र।

13. A) **Predicament** (noun): A difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation; dilemma; plight. मुश्किल परिस्थिति

Antonym: **Solution** (noun): A means of solving a problem or dealing with a difficult situation; resolution, remedy. समाधान

- **Mess** (noun): A state of disorder or confusion; untidiness. अव्यवस्था

- **Redeem** (verb): To compensate for faults or bad aspects; restore, make amends. मुक्त करना/प्रायश्चित्त करना
- **Docile** (adjective): Ready to accept control or instruction; submissive. शांत/विनम्र

14. D) 'I read often books' के बदले 'I often read books' का use होगा क्योंकि Adverbs of frequency (जैसे often, always, never, usually) को main verb से पहले और helping verb के बाद रखा जाता है। यहाँ 'read' main verb है, इसलिए 'often' उससे पहले आना चाहिए।

जैसे— ☐ I often read books for entertainment and information. ☐ I read often books (गलत word order)

'I often read books' will be used instead of 'I read often books' because adverbs of frequency are placed before the main verb in the sentence structure; Like—

- ☐ She always drinks coffee in the morning.
- ☐ They usually go for a walk after dinner.

15. B) 'always looks in the' के बदले 'always looks into the' का use होगा क्योंकि 'look into' एक phrasal verb है जिसका अर्थ होता है "किसी मामले की जांच करना या गहराई से अध्ययन करना"।

'look in' का अर्थ होता है "किसी स्थान पर संक्षिप्त रूप से जाना या झाँकना", जो यहाँ संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। जैसे— ☐ A good lawyer always looks into the case before he attends court. ☐ looks in the case (गलत phrasal verb)

'looks into' will be used instead of 'looks in' because 'look into' means to investigate or examine carefully, which suits the context of a lawyer examining a case; Like—

- ☐ The police are looking into the matter seriously.

16. B) '**The most interesting**' का use होगा क्योंकि "the most interesting" एक superlative adjective है जो comparison में सबसे ऊँचे स्तर को व्यक्त करता है। वाक्य में पूछा जा रहा है कि "आपने अब तक कौन सी सबसे रोचक पुस्तक पढ़ी है?" इसका मतलब यह है कि यह सबसे ऊँचे स्तर के comparison को व्यक्त कर रहा है। 'more interesting' comparative degree है और केवल दो चीजों के बीच comparison के लिए use होता है, जो इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'interesting' एक simple adjective है और यह बिना comparison के इस्तेमाल होता है, जो यहां वाक्य की जरूरतों को पूरा नहीं करता। 'the interesting' grammatically incorrect है क्योंकि 'the' के साथ superlative adjective का use होना चाहिए, जो यहाँ नहीं है।

'**The most interesting**' will be used because it is the superlative form of the adjective, expressing the highest degree of comparison. The sentence asks for the most remarkable or engaging book the person has ever read, indicating a superlative degree. 'More interesting' is the comparative form and is used for comparing two things, which is not applicable here.

'Interesting' is a positive degree and does not show any comparison, making it inappropriate for this context.

'The interesting' is grammatically incorrect because the article "the" should be used with a superlative adjective, not a positive one.

17. A) The incorrectly spelt word is A. **Inadvertant**. The correct spelling is **Inadvertent**, which means "not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning" (गलती से किया गया, बिना सोचे-समझे किया गया).

18. D) The correct word is "**Ought**", which means "used to indicate duty or correctness" ("कर्तव्य या उचित होने का संकेत देना")

19. D) The incorrectly spelt word is D. **Awsome**. The correct spelling is **Awesome**, which means "extremely good; inspiring awe" (अत्यंत अच्छा; विस्मय उत्पन्न करने वाला).

20. D) **Smell a rat** (idiom) - किसी चीज़ में गड़बड़ या धोखा महसूस करना।

यहाँ वाक्य में जाँच करने वाली टीम को suspect के बचाव में गड़बड़ी महसूस हुई, इसलिए 'rat' सही है। 'Bat' का अर्थ होता है चमगादड़, जो इस context में असंगत है। 'Cat' का अर्थ है बिल्ली, लेकिन यह idiom के रूप में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Dog' का अर्थ है कुत्ता, और यह भी यहाँ उपयुक्त नहीं है।

Rat will be used because "smell a rat" is an idiom meaning to sense something fishy or deceptive. In the sentence, the investigating team sensed a discrepancy in the suspect's defense, making 'rat' the correct choice. 'Bat' refers to a flying mammal, which doesn't fit the context. 'Cat' refers to a feline animal but is irrelevant in this idiomatic usage. 'Dog' means a canine, which also doesn't align with the idiomatic expression here.

21. C) **To** का use होगा क्योंकि "refer to" एक ऐसा phrase है जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ का जिक्र करना या संकेत देना। यह phrase सही grammatical structure को maintain करता है।

जबकि: 'On' का अर्थ है "किसी चीज़ के ऊपर," जो यहाँ contextually फिट नहीं बैठता। 'With' का use 'साथ में' या 'द्वारा' के अर्थ में होता है, जो यहाँ contextually गलत है। 'For' का अर्थ है "के लिए," लेकिन यह 'refer' के साथ use नहीं किया जाता है।

To will be used because the phrase "refer to" is correct in this context. It means to indicate or mention something, which fits the grammatical structure of the sentence. Whereas: 'On' implies "on top of" or "about," which is not contextually appropriate here. 'With' means "along with" or "by," which does not fit the meaning required. 'For' means "for the benefit of" or "intended for," which is not used with 'refer.'

22. D) **'Is'** का use होगा क्योंकि "is" वर्तमान समय में किसी singular subject को दर्शाने के लिए use होता है। यहाँ 'content' एक singular subject है, जो emotional conveyance की बात कर रहा है, इसलिए 'is' सही विकल्प है। 'Are' का use plural subjects के लिए किया जाता है, लेकिन यहाँ 'content' singular है। 'Are being' ongoing action को दर्शाता है, लेकिन इस संदर्भ में ऐसी कोई

प्रक्रिया का जिक्र नहीं है। 'Were' भूतकाल के लिए use होता है, जबकि यहाँ वाक्य वर्तमान समय में ओपेरा की विशेषताओं की बात कर रहा है।

Is will be used** because "is" is used to describe a singular subject in the present tense. Here, 'content' is a singular subject referring to the emotional conveyance, making 'is' the correct choice. 'Are' is for plural subjects, but 'content' is singular here. 'Are being' denotes an ongoing action, which is not implied in this context. 'Were' is for past tense, but the sentence is describing opera's characteristics in the present.

23. A) **'In'** का use होगा क्योंकि "in contrast" एक phrase है जो किसी चीज़ की तुलना या विरोधाभास को दर्शाने के लिए use की जाती है। यहाँ sentence में "musical theatre" और "opera" के बीच के अंतर को व्यक्त किया गया है, इसलिए 'In' सबसे उपयुक्त है। 'Under' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के नीचे या प्रभाव में, जो इस context में सही नहीं है। 'Beside' का अर्थ है पास में या साथ में, लेकिन यहाँ कोई भौगोलिक या संदर्भित स्थिति नहीं है। 'For' का अर्थ है के लिए, जो यहां तुलना या विरोधाभास को व्यक्त करने के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

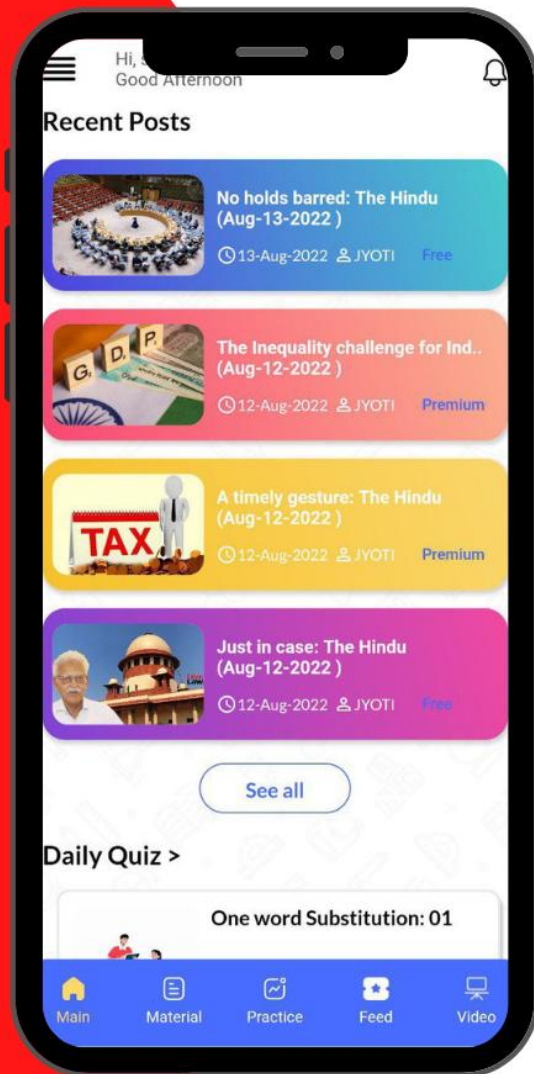
In will be used because "in contrast" is a standard phrase used to indicate a comparison or difference. Here, the sentence discusses the distinction between "musical theatre" and "opera," making 'In' the most appropriate choice. 'Under' means beneath or under the influence of something, which doesn't fit the context here. 'Beside' means near or alongside, but no geographical or positional reference is implied in this sentence. 'For' means for the sake of, which is not suitable to express a contrast or difference.

24. D) **"Plays"** का use होगा क्योंकि यह simple present tense में है। इस वाक्य में 'music' एक singular subject है, और singular subject के साथ present tense में verb के बाद 's' या 'es' जोड़ा जाता है। 'Play' simple present tense का plural रूप है, जो यहाँ fit नहीं होता। 'Played' past tense है, जबकि वाक्य वर्तमान काल में है। 'Playing' continuous tense है, जो यहाँ आवश्यक नहीं है।

"Plays" will be used because the sentence is in the simple present tense. The subject 'music' is singular, and in the present tense, a singular subject takes a verb with an 's' or 'es' at the end. 'Play' is the plural form of the verb in the simple present tense, which doesn't fit here. 'Played' is past tense, but the sentence is in the present tense. 'Playing' is continuous tense and is not required in this context.

25. D) **'Presented'** का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में passive voice का use किया गया है, जो स्पष्ट करता है कि ड्रामा को primary elements (scenery, costumes, and acting) के द्वारा प्रस्तुत किया गया है। यह past participle (presented) का सही use है। 'Present' का अर्थ है "वर्तमान में होना" या "उपस्थित करना," जो यहां contextually सही नहीं है। 'Presenting' का अर्थ है "प्रस्तुत करते हुए," लेकिन यह participle sentence की grammar structure से मेल नहीं खाता। 'Being present' का अर्थ है "मौजूद होना," जो यहां context में फिट नहीं होता।

'**Presented**' will be used because the sentence is in the passive voice, indicating that the drama is presented using the primary elements of theatre. The past participle 'presented' fits grammatically and contextually here. 'Present' means "to exist" or "to offer," which does not fit this context. 'Presenting' means "offering/presenting while," but this participle does not align with the sentence structure. 'Being present' means "existing/being there," which is irrelevant here.



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