

World on edge as US launches strikes on Iran

The US direct **involvement** in West Asia **could** disrupt the fragile world order

The Israel–Iran conflict has **taken a grim turn** as the US has directly involved itself **in the fray** by **breaching** Iranian airspace and **hitting** its three nuclear sites. The United States’ **unprecedented strikes** on three Iranian nuclear facilities — Natanz, Fordo, and Isfahan — **have** raised the chances of other powers like Russia and China joining it **covertly**. What began as a **shadow conflict** between Israel and Iran has now **erupted** into a wider **confrontation** with global **stakes**, as Washington’s **intervention risks** **igniting** a regional **conflagration** with **cascading** consequences for energy security, international **diplomacy**, and global peace. In a moment of **grave** international concern, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emerged as a voice of **restraint** and reason. He spoke directly with Iran’s newly elected President, Masoud Pezeshkian, and **urged** immediate **de-escalation**, **emphasising** dialogue and diplomacy as the only **viable** path forward. The **entry** of the US into the fray dramatically **raises** the stakes. With multiple US military bases spread across the Gulf and Iran’s **bid** to block the Strait of Hormuz — a **vital chokepoint** through which over 20 per cent of the world’s oil passes — the **risk** of a broader regional war **is** real and immediate, **resulting in hardships** for many nations dependent upon Gulf oil, including India. **India**, with its deep energy dependence on Gulf states and close ties to both Iran and the US, **is vulnerable** to the **ripple effects** of the conflict. A disrupted oil supply could cause domestic inflation to spike, **derail** economic **forecasts**, and strain foreign exchange reserves. **Moreover**, India’s strategic **investment** in Iran’s Chabahar Port — a crucial component of its connectivity to Afghanistan and Central Asia — **could** be **imperilled** by continued **instability**. India’s diplomatic **tightrope walk** is therefore not just about foreign policy symbolism; it is about national interest and regional **stability**. PM Modi’s appeal **reflects** not only India’s strategic **calculus** but also its **potential** to play the role of a **mediator** in a time of **intensifying hostilities**.

Beyond regional tensions, the current **escalation** has **shaken** global oil markets. Prices have **surged** **amidst** fears of supply **disruption**. This is not **merely** an Israel–Iran war anymore. It has the **contours** of a conflict that could **draw in** global powers, **unsettle economies**, and **rupture** the fragile world order. With tensions at an all-time high, the **window** for diplomacy is **narrowing**. Yet, it is **precisely** at this point that the world needs more **statesmanship** and less **brinkmanship**. Iran must be given diplomatic **avenues** to avoid **escalation** without losing face.

The US must show strategic restraint and allow **space** for **mediation**. Israel must realise that regional peace cannot be achieved through **unilateral** military campaigns. In this fragile moment, countries like India can serve as **credible** voices for peace. By engaging all sides through backchannels and **multilateral** forums like the UN, BRICS, and the Non-Aligned Movement, India could help **forge** a **ceasefire** framework — or at least open lines of dialogue. In this **fraught** hour, the world must **heed** calls like that of Prime Minister Modi — calls for de-escalation, dialogue, and a return to diplomacy.

- **A shadow conflict** (noun) – when a greater force oversees a smaller dispute between nations, where it influences it but does little combat.

[Practice Exercise]

Vocabulary

1. **On edge** (phrase) – anxious, tense, uneasy, nervous, jittery बेचैन
2. **Strike** (noun) – attack, assault, offensive, raid, bombardment हमला
3. **Disrupt** (verb) – disturb, interrupt, unsettle, derail, sabotage बाधित करना
4. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, weak, vulnerable, brittle, unstable नाजुक
5. **World order** (noun) – global system, international structure, geopolitical framework, balance of power, diplomatic setup वैश्विक व्यवस्था
6. **Take a turn** (phrase) – change, shift, evolve, transform, alter मोड़ लेना
7. **Grim** (adjective) – bleak, harsh, dire, serious, dreadful गंभीर
8. **In the fray** (phrase) – involved, in the fight, engaged, participating, part of conflict संघर्ष में
9. **Breach** (verb) – violate, break, infringe, penetrate, trespass उल्लंघन करना
10. **Hit** (verb) – strike, attack, target, assault, damage मारना / हमला करना
11. **Unprecedented** (adjective) – unparalleled, extraordinary, unmatched, novel, unheard of अभूतपूर्व
12. **Covertly** (adverb) – secretly, privately, discreetly, stealthily, surreptitiously गुप्त रूप से
13. **Erupt** (verb) – explode, break out, flare up, burst, escalate फूट पड़ना
14. **Confrontation** (noun) – clash, conflict, battle, face-off, encounter टकराव
15. **Stake** (noun) – interest, concern, share, involvement, risk दांव / हित
16. **Intervention** (noun) – involvement, interference, mediation, intrusion, action हस्तक्षेप
17. **Ignite** (verb) – trigger, spark, inflame, provoke, kindle भड़काना
18. **Conflagration** (noun) – war, firestorm, large conflict, blaze, upheaval भीषण युद्ध / आग
19. **Cascading** (adjective) – successive, domino-like, flowing, cumulative, ripple-like एक के बाद एक
20. **Diplomacy** (noun) – negotiation, tact, dialogue, foreign relations, mediation कूटनीति
21. **Grave** (adjective) – serious, severe, critical, urgent, somber गंभीर
22. **Restraint** (noun) – control, moderation, self-discipline, holding back, sobriety संयम

23. **Urge** (verb) – encourage, press, advise, appeal, recommend आग्रह करना
24. **De-escalation** (noun) – reduction, easing, calming, downscaling, cooling down तनाव कम करना
25. **Emphasise** (verb) – stress, highlight, underline, assert, point out ज़ोर देना
26. **Viable** (adjective) – feasible, workable, practical, achievable, sustainable व्यावहारिक
27. **Bid** (noun) – attempt, effort, endeavour, proposal, plan प्रयास
28. **Vital** (adjective) – crucial, essential, key, important, indispensable अत्यंत आवश्यक
29. **Chokepoint** (noun) – bottleneck, narrow passage, strategic point, key route संकीर्ण / रणनीतिक मार्ग
30. **Result in** (phrasal verb) – lead to, cause, bring about, produce, give rise to कारण बनना
31. **Hardship** (noun) – suffering, difficulty, adversity, distress, trouble कठिनाई
32. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – exposed, defenseless, susceptible, weak, open असुरक्षित
33. **Ripple effect** (noun) – the effect or influence of a situation, action, event, etc.
34. **Derail** (verb) – hinder, obstruct, upset, throw off track, disturb पटरी से उतरना
35. **Forecast** (noun) – prediction, projection, outlook, estimate, anticipation पूर्वानुमान
36. **Moreover** (adverb) – furthermore, in addition, also, besides, additionally इसके अतिरिक्त
37. **Imperil** (verb) – endanger, risk, threaten, jeopardize, expose खतरे में डालना
38. **Instability** (noun) – unpredictability, volatility, unrest, insecurity, turmoil अस्थिरता
39. **Tightrope walk** (phrase) – delicate situation, difficult balancing act, high-risk task, sensitive approach नाज़ुक संतुलन
40. **Stability** (noun) – firmness, steadiness, security, strength, resilience स्थिरता
41. **Reflect** (verb) – indicate, show, express, reveal, mirror प्रतिबिंबित करना
42. **Calculus** (noun) – strategy, logic, reasoning, analysis, plan रणनीतिक सोच
43. **Potential** (noun) – capability, capacity, possibility, promise, promise संभावना
44. **Mediator** (noun) – negotiator, peacemaker, go-between, arbitrator, facilitator मध्यस्थ

45. **Intensify** (verb) – escalate, heighten, strengthen, increase, amplify तेज़ करना
46. **Hostility** (noun) – animosity, conflict, aggression, enmity, bitterness शत्रुता
47. **Escalation** (noun) – intensification, rise, expansion, amplification, upsurge बढ़ाव
48. **Shake** (verb) – disturb, upset, shock, jolt, agitate हिला देना
49. **Surge** (verb) – rise suddenly, jump, spike, shoot up, increase उछाल आना
50. **Amidst** (preposition) – among, in the middle of, during, surrounded by के बीच
51. **Disruption** (noun) – disturbance, breakdown, interruption, interference, chaos विघटन
52. **Merely** (adverb) – only, simply, just, nothing more than केवल
53. **Contour** (noun) – outline, shape, structure, configuration, profile रूपरेखा
54. **Draw in** (phrasal verb) – involve, engage, attract, pull into शामिल करना
55. **Unsettle** (verb) – disturb, alarm, rattle, agitate, disorganize विचलित करना
56. **Economies** (noun) – Countries in terms of GDP आर्थिक व्यवस्थाएँ
57. **Rupture** (verb) – break, fracture, split, shatter, collapse टूटना / फटना
58. **Narrowing** (adjective) – shrinking, decreasing, limiting, tightening, reducing संकीर्ण होता हुआ
59. **Precisely** (adverb) – exactly, accurately, clearly, specifically, just ठीक उसी समय
60. **Statesmanship** (noun) – diplomacy, leadership, vision, political wisdom राजनैतिक सूझबूझ
61. **Brinkmanship** (noun) – risky diplomacy, edge-playing, provocation strategy, high-stakes tactics खतरे की कूटनीति
62. **Avenue** (noun) – option, path, way, route, channel मार्ग / विकल्प
63. **Space** (noun) – room, scope, leeway, opportunity, margin गुंजाइश
64. **Mediation** (noun) – negotiation, arbitration, conciliation, diplomacy, settlement मध्यस्थता
65. **Unilateral** (adjective) – one-sided, independent, single-handed, autocratic एकतरफा
66. **Credible** (adjective) – trustworthy, believable, reliable, dependable, convincing विश्वसनीय
67. **Multilateral** (adjective) – involving many parties, cooperative, collective, international बहुपक्षीय
68. **Forge** (verb) – build, develop, create, establish, frame गढ़ना / बनाना

69. **Ceasefire** (noun) – truce, armistice,
suspension of hostilities, peace agreement
युद्धविराम

71. **Heed** (verb) – listen to, pay attention,
follow, observe, take note ध्यान देना

70. **Fraught** (adjective) – filled, tense, anxious,
burdened, uneasy तनावपूर्ण

- **Window** (noun) – Opportunity for action.
अवसर

Summary of the Editorial

1. **US Strikes on Iran Escalate Conflict** – The US has bombed three key Iranian nuclear sites, intensifying the Israel–Iran conflict into a broader regional and potentially global crisis.
2. **Targets Included Nuclear Facilities** – The US targeted Natanz, Fordo, and Isfahan, raising fears of further military escalation and international fallout.
3. **Risk of Global Power Involvement** – The strikes could prompt covert or open involvement by major powers like Russia and China, further destabilising the region.
4. **Regional War Threat Looms** – With heightened tensions, there's a real threat of a full-blown regional war, particularly around the Strait of Hormuz — vital for global oil transport.
5. **Impact on Energy Security** – The conflict threatens to disrupt oil supplies from the Gulf, through which 20% of global oil passes, triggering global energy concerns.
6. **India's Strategic Dilemma** – India faces potential economic and strategic fallout due to its dependence on Gulf oil and its ties with both the US and Iran.
7. **Domestic Economic Risks for India** – Disruption in oil supply could lead to inflation, strain foreign reserves, and derail India's economic plans.
8. **Chabahar Port Investment at Risk** – India's investment in Iran's Chabahar Port, a key link to Central Asia, may be jeopardized by continued instability.
9. **PM Modi's Diplomatic Intervention** – Indian PM Modi urged Iran's new President to de-escalate, pushing for peace through dialogue and diplomacy.
10. **India's Role as Mediator** – India is positioned to act as a neutral peacemaker, balancing its diplomatic ties and regional influence to help prevent escalation.
11. **Global Oil Prices Surge** – Oil markets have reacted sharply, with prices rising due to fear of long-term supply disruptions.
12. **Wider Geopolitical Implications** – The conflict is no longer limited to Israel and Iran; it could destabilise international diplomacy and the fragile world order.
13. **Need for Statesmanship over Brinkmanship** – The editorial calls for calm leadership and diplomacy instead of aggressive military posturing.
14. **US, Iran, and Israel Must Reconsider** – The US is urged to show restraint, Iran to seek diplomatic solutions, and Israel to avoid unilateral aggression.
15. **Multilateral Mediation Crucial** – Forums like the UN, BRICS, and the Non-Aligned Movement could help foster ceasefire talks, with India playing a proactive peace-building role.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

[Editorial Page]

1. **What is the most appropriate tone of the passage?**
 - A. Urgent and cautionary
 - B. Optimistic and celebratory
 - C. Indifferent and neutral
 - D. Sarcastic and critical
2. **What is the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. The global oil market's vulnerability to regional events
 - B. India's diplomatic response to regional conflicts
 - C. The escalation of the Israel-Iran conflict into a global crisis
 - D. The failure of the United kingdom in crisis mediation
3. **What role is India attempting to play amid the escalating Israel-Iran-US conflict?**
 - A. A military ally of the United States
 - B. A neutral observer with no active involvement
 - C. A strategic mediator promoting dialogue and de-escalation
 - D. A regional oil supplier during crisis
4. **Based on the passage, what can be inferred about the potential global economic impact of the US-Iran conflict?**
 - A. It will mainly affect countries that are directly engaged in the war.
 - B. Only Iran's economy will collapse due to the strikes.
 - C. The conflict will have no effect on international markets because it is regional.
 - D. Global oil prices and economies of energy-dependent nations may be adversely affected.
5. **Complete the statement logically based on the passage:**

"India's concern in the current West Asian conflict is not only geopolitical but also economic because—"

 - A. It is a key arms supplier to Israel and Iran.
 - B. It has no other trading partners outside the Gulf region.
 - C. Disruption in Gulf oil supply could severely impact its inflation, reserves, and trade routes.
 - D. Its economy thrives on oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz.
6. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

My sister is allergic with peanuts, so be cautious when preparing her meal

 - A. My sister is
 - B. when preparing her meal.
 - C. allergic with peanuts
 - D. so be cautious
7. **Based on the context of the given sentence, select the most appropriate idiom to fill in the blank.**

- Siri was feeling _____ after receiving praise from her professor for completing the project ahead of schedule.
- A. on top of the world
 - B. under the weather
 - C. in the same boat
 - D. in the dark
8. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Regal
- A. Majestic
 - B. Modest
 - C. Ordinary
 - D. Humble
9. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given phrase.**
A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage
- A. Misogynist
 - B. Misogamist
 - C. Masochist
 - D. Nihilist
10. **In the following sentence the underlined part contains an error. Alternatives to the underlined part are given as options. Select the correct alternative.**
They had a least celebration on her birthday.
- A. little
 - B. less
 - C. most less
 - D. lesser
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word 'opacity' in the given sentence.**
The diminishing and deteriorating visibility in winter leads to the revival of accident cases on the highway.
- A. revival
 - B. diminishing
 - C. visibility
 - D. deteriorating
12. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
- A) Occasion
 - B) Privilege
 - C) Bizzare
 - D) Definitely
- A. B
 - B. A
 - C. C
 - D. D

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

Our team lost the game / only because of / a mistake / with one of our players

- A. a mistake
 - B. Our team lost the game
 - C. only because of
 - D. with one of our players
14. The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them may contain an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options. If you don't find any error, mark 'No error' as your answer.

My mother is 51 years old, / and my uncle is 48 years old. / So my mother is old than my uncle.

- A. and my uncle is 48 years old.
 - B. My mother is 51 years old,
 - C. No error
 - D. So my mother is old than my uncle.
15. Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.

Her presentation was both informative and _____.

- A. entertainer
 - B. entertaining
 - C. entertain
 - D. entertainingly
16. Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom.

The poet had to draw on his fancy to write all his sonnets.

- A. use his memory
 - B. use his money
 - C. use his imagination
 - D. use his clothes
17. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word in brackets to fill in the blank.

The mountain peak offers a breathtaking view, a striking contrast to the _____ (peculiar) scenery below.

- A. abnormal
 - B. beautiful
 - C. odd
 - D. ordinary
18. Select the option that rectifies the INCORRECTLY spelt word in the given sentence.
- She tried not to embarras her friend by bringing up the awkward incident at the party.
- A. embarrass
 - B. embarass
 - C. embarress
 - D. embarrass

19. Change the following sentence into positive degree.

The dog is the most faithful animal.

- A. The dog is the faithful animal.
- B. The dog is the only faithful animal.
- C. The dog is more useful than any other animal.
- D. No other animal is as faithful as the dog

20. **Parts of the following sentence have been given as options. Select the option that contains an error.**

Shyam approached an leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression.

- A. an leading psychologist
- B. Shyam approached
- C. of anxiety and depression.
- D. for his treatment

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.

Speaking is a powerful tool (1) _____ human communication. It allows us to convey thoughts, emotions and ideas to others.

Effective speaking (2) _____ not only the words we choose but also our tone, body language and overall presentation. Public speaking, in particular, can be (3) _____ a skill and an art, enabling individuals to inspire, educate and persuade audiences.

(4) _____ it is a casual conversation with a friend or a formal presentation to a large group, the ability to express (5) _____ clearly and confidently through speaking is a valuable skill that can greatly impact our personal and professional lives.

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

- A. on
- B. with
- C. at
- D. for

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

- A. involve
- B. involves
- C. involving
- D. involved

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

- A. both
- B. until
- C. though
- D. and

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

- A. Whether
- B. Whereas
- C. Neither
- D. Because

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

- A. ourselves
- B. itself
- C. themselves
- D. herself

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Urgent and cautionary

The passage highlights escalating tensions, global risks, and the need for immediate de-escalation, reflecting urgency. The passage presents a grave and urgent view of the unfolding conflict, emphasizing the risk of regional war, disrupted oil supplies, and global consequences. The language used — "grim turn", "grave international concern", "risk of a broader regional war", "fragile world order" — clearly points to an alarmist tone, where the writer is warning about serious implications.

B) Incorrect, as the passage discusses conflict risks, not positive developments.

C) Incorrect, as the author expresses concern and takes a clear stance on diplomacy.

D) Sarcastic and critical – Incorrect, as the tone is serious, not mocking or overly critical.

2. C) The escalation of the Israel-Iran conflict into a global crisis

The passage discusses how a bilateral shadow conflict has spiraled into a global threat due to US strikes, and how multiple nations including India, Russia, and China might be impacted or involved. It highlights international ramifications, especially on oil supply, diplomacy, and world peace, which makes escalation into a global crisis the best representation of the theme.

A. – Oil supply disruption is mentioned, but not the core focus.

B. – India's diplomatic efforts are important, but they serve as part of the response, not the central narrative.

D. – The United Kingdom is not mentioned.

3. C) A strategic mediator promoting dialogue and de-escalation

C is correct because the passage highlights India's diplomatic outreach, PM Modi's talks with Iran's President, and its advocacy for dialogue and restraint.

A is incorrect – India is not joining the US militarily.

B is incorrect – India is actively involved through diplomacy, not passive.

D is incorrect – India is an oil importer, not a supplier.

4. D) Global oil prices and economies of energy-dependent nations may be adversely affected

The passage specifically notes surging oil prices, risks to energy security, and economic instability for nations like India.

A is incorrect – The passage describes broader global effects, not just on warring states.

B is incorrect – It exaggerates; the passage doesn't suggest a total economic collapse of Iran.

C is incorrect – The conflict is described as having global stakes, especially in oil markets.

5. C) Disruption in Gulf oil supply could severely impact its inflation, reserves, and trade routes

The passage explicitly states that India's economy is vulnerable due to oil dependency and investment in Chabahar.

A is incorrect – India is not an arms supplier in the conflict.

B is incorrect – India has many global trade partners beyond the Gulf.

D is incorrect – India imports, not exports, oil through the Strait of Hormuz.

6. 'C) allergic with peanuts' के स्थान पर '**allergic to peanuts**' का use होगा क्योंकि adjective 'allergic' के साथ हमेशा preposition 'to' का use होता है, न कि 'with' का। जैसे— She is allergic to dust.

'allergic to peanuts' will be used instead of 'allergic with peanuts' because the adjective 'allergic' is always followed by the preposition 'to' and not 'with.' For example— Correct: She is allergic to dust.

7. A) 'on top of the world' का use होगा क्योंकि यहां, पूरे context में, Siri को उसके professor द्वारा प्रशंसा प्राप्त होने पर उसकी भावनाओं की व्याख्या की जा रही है, जो परियोजना को समय से पहले पूरा करने के लिए है। 'On top of the world' का अर्थ होता है बेहद खुश होना या बहुत अच्छा महसूस करना, जो कि Siri की स्थिति को सबसे अच्छा दर्शाता है।

'on top of the world' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is interpreting Siri's emotions upon receiving praise from her professor for completing the project ahead of schedule. 'On top of the world' means feeling extremely happy or very good, which best describes Siri's condition. The emotions associated with the other options do not fit in this context.

8. A) **Regal** (adjective) – Relating to royalty; grand, splendid, majestic. राजसी, शाही
SYNONYM: Majestic (adjective) – Having or showing impressive beauty or dignity; grand, noble. भव्य, शानदार

- **Modest** (adjective) – Humble, simple, unassuming; not grand or royal. विनम्र, साधारण
- **Ordinary** (adjective) – Common, normal, not special. साधारण, सामान्य
- **Humble** (adjective) – Having or showing modesty; not grand or regal. विनम्र, दीन

9. B) **Misogamist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage. विवाह संस्था में विश्वास न रखने वाला व्यक्ति

- **Misogynist** (noun) – A person who dislikes or is strongly prejudiced against women. महिलाओं से घृणा करने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Misogamist** (noun) – A person who does not believe in the institution of marriage. विवाह संस्था में विश्वास न रखने वाला व्यक्ति

- **Masochist** (noun) – A person who derives pleasure, especially sexual gratification, from their own pain or humiliation. दुख या अपमान से आनंद पाने वाला व्यक्ति

10. A) 'a least' के बदले 'little' का use होगा क्योंकि 'least' का use Superlative Degree में होता है और यहाँ Positive Degree की आवश्यकता है। 'little' का अर्थ है 'बहुत कम' जो वाक्य के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त है; जैसे— They had a little celebration on her birthday.

'Little' will be used instead of 'a least' because 'least' is used in the Superlative Degree, whereas here we need the Positive Degree. 'Little' means 'very less,' which fits the context of the sentence; Like— They had a little celebration on her birthday.

11. C) **Opacity** (noun) – The quality of not being transparent or clear, lack of transparency, obscurity. अस्पष्टता

Antonym: Visibility (noun) – The state of being able to see or be seen, clarity, transparency. दृश्यता, स्पष्टता

- **Diminishing** (adjective) – Becoming less, reducing, decreasing. कम हो रहा है
- **Visibility** (noun) – The ability to see or be seen; clarity or transparency. दृश्यता, स्पष्टता
- **Deteriorating** (adjective) – Becoming worse, declining, degrading. बिगड़ता हुआ

12. C) The incorrectly spelt word is C) **Bizzare**. The correct spelling is **Bizarre**, which means "very strange or unusual" (बहुत अजीब या असामान्य).

13. D) 'with' के बदले 'by' का use होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'mistake' का कारण 'one of our players' है, जो एक व्यक्ति है। 'by' का use कर्ता (agent) को दर्शाने के लिए होता है, जबकि 'with' का use साधन (instrument) को दर्शाने के लिए होता है; जैसे— The mistake was made by the player (not 'with').

'by' will be used instead of 'with' because here the cause of the 'mistake' is 'one of our players,' which is a person. 'By' is used to indicate the doer (agent), while 'with' is used to indicate the instrument; Like— The mistake was made by the player (not 'with').

14. D) 'old' के बदले 'older' का use होगा क्योंकि Comparative Degree में Adjective के साथ '-er' लगता है जब दो व्यक्तियों या वस्तुओं की तुलना की जाती है; जैसे— Ram is taller than Shyam.

'older' will be used instead of 'old' because in Comparative Degree, '-er' is added with the Adjective when comparing two persons or things; Like— Ram is taller than Shyam.

15. B) '**Entertaining**' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "informative and entertaining" के रूप में एक समानांतर संरचना प्रदान करता है। यहाँ दोनों adjectives (informative और entertaining) एक साथ use किए जा रहे हैं, जो उसके presentation की विशेषताएँ बता रहे हैं। 'Entertainer': यह एक noun है, जिसका अर्थ है एक व्यक्ति जो मनोरंजन करता है। यह यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि

वाक्य में विशेषण की आवश्यकता है। 'Entertain': यह verb है, और यहाँ वाक्य में एक विशेषण की आवश्यकता है, इसलिए यह गलत है। 'Entertainingly': यह adverb है और इसका use किसी क्रिया को modify करने के लिए होता है। चूँकि यहाँ adjective की आवश्यकता है, यह विकल्प भी सही नहीं है।

Entertaining' will be used because it creates a parallel structure with 'informative.' The sentence describes the qualities of her presentation, and both adjectives (informative and entertaining) complement each other. 'Entertainer': This is a noun, meaning someone who entertains, and it doesn't fit here because the sentence requires an adjective. 'Entertain': This is a verb, and the blank requires an adjective to describe the presentation, making this option incorrect.

'Entertainingly': This is an adverb, which is used to modify a verb, adjective, or another adverb. Since the sentence needs an adjective, this option is also incorrect.

16. C) **Draw on his fancy** – Use his imagination (अपनी कल्पना का use करना)

17. D) **Peculiar** (adjective) – Strange, odd, unusual, distinctive. असामान्य

Antonym: Ordinary (adjective) – Normal, usual, common, not special. सामान्य

- **Abnormal** (adjective) – Not typical, unusual, deviating from what is normal. असामान्य
- **Beautiful** (adjective) – Pleasing the senses, attractive. सुंदर
- **Odd** (adjective) – Strange, unusual, or not usual. अजीब

18. A) The correct spelling of the incorrectly spelt word is '**embarrass**', which means "to cause someone to feel awkward, self-conscious, or ashamed." In Hindi, it means "शर्मिंदा करना".

19. D) No other animal is as faithful as the dog.

20. A) 'an leading psychologist' के बदले 'a leading psychologist' का use होगा क्योंकि "leading" का उच्चारण consonant sound 'L' से शुरू होता है। ऐसे में "an" का use गलत है, और इसके स्थान पर "a" का use होना चाहिए। सही होगा: "Shyam approached a leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression."

The phrase "**an leading psychologist**" is incorrect because the word "leading" begins with a consonant sound 'L'. The article "an" is used before words that begin with a vowel sound, not a consonant sound. Here, "a" should replace "an". The correct sentence will be: "Shyam approached a leading psychologist for his treatment of anxiety and depression."

21. D) **For** का use होगा क्योंकि "for" का अर्थ है किसी उद्देश्य या लाभ को दर्शाना। इस sentence में mention है कि "Speaking is a powerful tool for human communication," जिसका अर्थ है कि बोलना मानव संचार के लिए एक शक्तिशाली उपकरण है। जबकि 'on' विषय या आधार का

संकेत देता है, 'with' किसी चीज़ के साथ होने का सुझाव देता है, और 'at' स्थान या समय को संदर्भित करता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'For' will be used because it indicates purpose or benefit. The sentence states "Speaking is a powerful tool for human communication," meaning that speaking serves as a powerful medium for communication. Whereas 'on' refers to a topic, 'with' suggests being accompanied by something, and 'at' refers to location or time, which do not fit in this context.

22. B) '**Involves**' का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह present tense में singular subject "Effective speaking" के साथ सही तरीके से मेल खाता है। 'Effective speaking' एक singular subject है, और present indefinite tense में singular subject के साथ verb में 's/es' जोड़ना आवश्यक होता है। 'Involve' एक plural verb है, जो इस context में grammatically incorrect है। 'Involving' participle form है और यहाँ verb के रूप में फिट नहीं होता। 'Involved' past participle है, जो यहाँ tense और grammatical structure के अनुसार सही नहीं है।

'Involves' will be used because it correctly agrees with the singular subject "Effective speaking" in the present tense. 'Effective speaking' is a singular subject, and in the present simple tense, the verb must end in 's/es' to match a singular subject. 'Involve' is a plural verb, which is grammatically incorrect in this context. 'Involving' is a participle form and doesn't work as the main verb here. 'Involved' is the past participle form, which doesn't align with the tense or grammatical structure required in this context.

23. A) '**Both**' का use होगा क्योंकि "both" का अर्थ है दो चीज़ों को जोड़ना या इंगित करना। 'Both' का use होगा क्योंकि यह "both...and" structure में दो चीज़ों (skill और art) को एक साथ जोड़ने के लिए use होता है। "Until" एक time-related conjunction है (जैसे, Wait until 5 PM), लेकिन यहाँ समय का कोई reference नहीं है। "Though" एक contrast conjunction है (जैसे, Though it rained, we went out), लेकिन यहाँ कोई विरोधाभास नहीं दिखाना है। "And" अकेले redundant हो जाता है क्योंकि बाद में "and" पहले से ही use हुआ है।

Both will be used because it indicates the connection of two elements. The sentence mentions that public speaking is considered "a skill" and "an art," making 'both' the appropriate choice. 'Until' means "up to the time that," which suggests a time limit and does not fit the sentence's context. 'Though' means "however," which implies contrast, irrelevant in this context. 'And' merely connects words, but 'both' emphasizes the duality, making it more fitting.

24. A) '**Whether**' का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "चाहे यह हो या वह हो।" यहाँ वाक्य में दो स्थितियों का उल्लेख किया गया है—एक "casual conversation" और दूसरा "formal presentation," और यह दिखाने के लिए कि दोनों स्थितियाँ सही हैं, 'Whether' का use किया

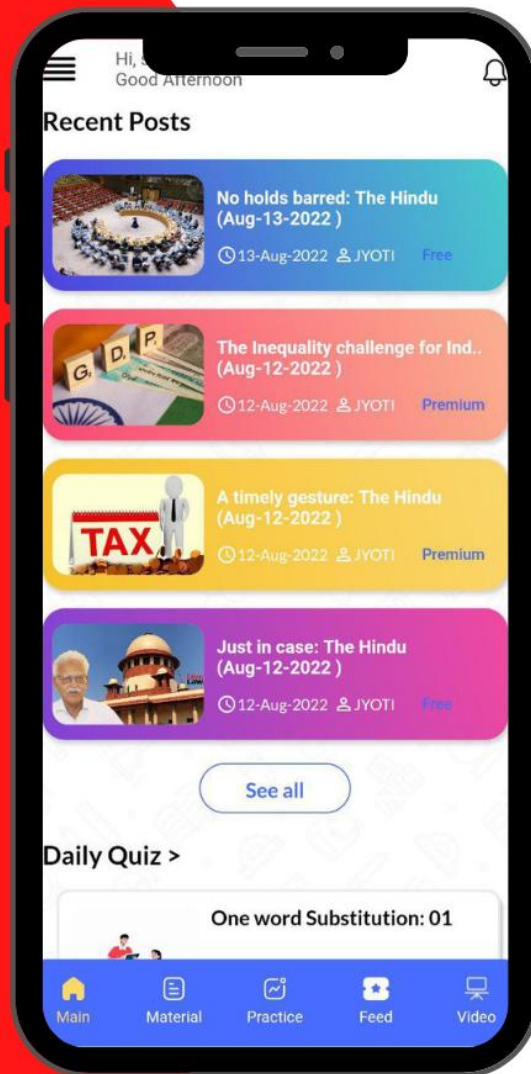
जाएगा। 'Whereas' का अर्थ होता है "जबकि," जो तुलना या विरोधाभास दिखाने के लिए use किया जाता है, लेकिन यहाँ ऐसा कोई विरोधाभास नहीं है। 'Neither' का अर्थ है "न तो," जो इस वाक्य के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Because' का अर्थ है "क्योंकि," जो किसी कारण को व्यक्त करता है, लेकिन यहाँ कारण व्यक्त नहीं किया जा रहा है।

Whether will be used because it means "in case either of the two." In the sentence, two situations are mentioned—one being a casual conversation and the other a formal presentation. To indicate that both are being considered, 'Whether' fits appropriately.

'Whereas' means "while on the contrary," which is used for comparisons or contrasts, but no such contrast exists here. 'Neither' means "not either," which doesn't suit the context of this sentence. 'Because' expresses a reason, but no reason is being conveyed here.

25. A) **'ourselves'** का use सही है क्योंकि यहाँ sentence में 'हमारी' ability का ज़िक्र हो रहा है। Sentence का अर्थ है कि हम अपनी बात को स्पष्ट और आत्मविश्वास के साथ व्यक्त कर सकते हैं। 'itself' का अर्थ 'वह स्वयं' है, 'themselves' का अर्थ 'वे स्वयं' है, और 'herself' का अर्थ 'वह (स्त्री) स्वयं' है, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।

'Ourselves' is the correct answer because the sentence refers to "our" ability to express "ourselves" clearly and confidently. 'Itself' refers to "itself," 'themselves' refers to "they themselves," and 'herself' refers to "she herself," which do not fit the context here. Hence, 'ourselves' is the appropriate choice.



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