Where do you go?

Pushback against 'over-tourism' is **gathering pace**. **Maui**, Hawaiian **archipelago's** second-largest island, **is set to can** vacation rentals to **meet** a housing shortage **made worse** after a wildfire destroyed **neighbourhoods**. **Reportedly**, over a fifth of Maui's housing is built for tourists. Last month, **Spaniards** turned water guns on **unsuspecting vacationers** in Barcelona and Mallorca. They were protesting mass tourism that's '**fuelling** a housing **crunch** and **erasing** their hometowns' character.' **Protests** in Italy, Greece, Belgium and Bhutan **have** forced authorities to **tweak** policies that promote tourism **unchecked** at the cost of **upending** a destination's living costs, draining its water, **altering** its character and **degrading** the environment. World's most-sought spots are in **ecologically fragile** areas – or have turned **vulnerable** after tourism's push. Think: **75%** of solid waste in J&K's Pahalgam **is courtesy visitors**.

India's **groaning** with car-choked roads, dry water sources and **shaky** mountains across Himalaya's favourite spots. Landour's population is less than 4,000. Mussoorie's is 30k-35k. In 2024, the two had about 20L holiday-makers. A growing pain for locals are off-season crowds – post-Covid, tourism's a year-round affair. Climate change meets OTT-tourist **infra** to deal **a double whammy**: a **landslide** in Sikkim **stranded** 1,600 tourists this June. Who's thinking solutions? Limiting numbers was attempted in some hill stations. But little has moved on **dispersing** the travelling **hordes** to new cool-climate spots, or building satellite destinations around **hotspots**. Tourist **masses** need new destinations.

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

Vocabulary

1. **Pushback** (noun) – resistance, opposition, backlash, defiance, protest विरोध

2. **Gather** (verb) – collect, accumulate, assemble, amass, convene इकट्ठा करना

3. **Pace** (noun) – speed, rate, tempo, momentum, stride गति

4. **Archipelago** (noun) – island chain, island group, atoll, isles, cluster द्वीप समूह

5. **Set** (to) (verb) – prepare, arrange, plan, intend, aim तैयार होना

6. **Can** (verb) – to stop doing something रोकना

7. **Meet** (verb) – fulfill, satisfy, achieve, encounter, match पूरा करना

8. **Make worse** (phrase) – aggravate, worsen, compound, intensify, escalate बिगाड़ना

9. **Neighbourhood** (noun) – locality, area, district, vicinity, community पड़ोस

10. **Reportedly** (adverb) – allegedly, supposedly, apparently, said to be, seemingly कथित तौर पर

11. **Spaniard** (noun) – Spanish person, Iberian, European, native of Spain, Castilian स्पेनवासी

12. **Unsuspecting** (adjective) – unaware, naive, oblivious, trusting, innocent अनभिज्ञ

13. **Vacationer** (noun) – tourist, traveler, visitor, holidaymaker, excursionist पर्यटक

14. **Fuel** (verb) – intensify, provoke, ignite, boost, incite बढ़ावा देना

15. **Crunch** (noun) – crisis, shortage, squeeze, scarcity, pinch संकट

16. **Erase** (verb) – remove, delete, wipe out, obliterate, eliminate मिटाना

17. **Tweak** (verb) – adjust, modify, fine-tune, change, amend सुधारना

18. **Unchecked** (adjective) – unrestrained, uncontrolled, rampant, unregulated, unbridled बेकाबू

19. **Upend** (verb) – overturn, disrupt, destabilize, unsettle, topple उलट देना

20. **Alter** (verb) – change, modify, shift, transform, adjust बदलना

21. **Degrade** (verb) – pollute, spoil, deteriorate, ruin, erode बिगाड़ना

22. **Ecologically** (adverb) – environmentally, sustainably, greenly, naturally, biologically पारिस्थितिक रूप से

23. **Fragile** (adjective) – delicate, weak, brittle, frail, sensitive नाज़ुक

24. **Vulnerable** (adjective) – exposed, at risk, endangered, unsafe, defenseless असुरक्षित

25. **Courtesy visitor** (noun) – tourist waste, visitor-generated garbage, guest-caused debris, traveller litter, non-local refuse पर्यटक जनित कचरा

26. **Groan** (verb) – moan, complain, lament, grumble, protest कराहना

27. **Shaky** (adjective) – unstable, wobbly, weak, insecure, trembling अस्थिर

28. **Infra** (noun) – infrastructure, facilities, systems, amenities, framework अवसंरचना

29. **A double-whammy** (phrase) – twofold blow, dual setback, twin strike, double trouble, compound effect दोहरी मार

30. **Landslide** (noun) – avalanche, collapse, slide, mudslide, rockfall भूस्खलन

31. **Stranded** (adjective) – stuck, marooned, abandoned, trapped, immobilized फंसा हुआ

32. **Disperse** (verb) – scatter, spread, distribute, diffuse, dissipate फैलाना

33. **Horde** (noun) – crowd, swarm, throng, mob, multitude भीड़

34. **Hotspot** (noun) – tourist center, focal point, attraction, nucleus, magnet प्रमुख स्थल

35. **Masses** (noun) – crowds, multitude, throngs, populace, congregation जनसमूह

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Over-tourism backlash** is growing globally, with local communities resisting the negative impacts of unchecked tourist influx.

2. **Maui (Hawaii)** plans to ban vacation rentals due to a worsening housing crisis, worsened by wildfires, with over 20% of housing reserved for tourists.

3. **Barcelona and Mallorca (Spain)** witnessed protests where locals used water guns on tourists, opposing the erasure of local identity and housing affordability.

4. **Countries like Italy, Greece, Belgium, and Bhutan** have seen similar anti-tourism movements, pushing governments to review tourism policies.

5. Protests target how mass tourism **drives up living costs**, **alters local cultures**, **exhausts natural resources**, and **damages the environment**.

6. Many tourist hotspots are located in **ecologically sensitive areas**, which are increasingly vulnerable due to tourism pressure.

7. In **Pahalgam (J&K, India)**, tourists contribute to 75% of the region's solid waste, showing the unsustainable burden tourism places on nature.

8. Indian hill stations are suffering too: **Landour** (population <4,000) and **Mussoorie** (30k–35k) saw **20 lakh tourists in 2024**.

9. The emergence of **off-season tourism** post-COVID has transformed tourism into a **year-round burden** for local infrastructure.

10. **Climate change and fragile infrastructure** are worsening the impact: a June 2024 landslide in Sikkim stranded 1,600 tourists.

11. Authorities have **attempted to limit tourist numbers**, but results remain minimal and ineffective.

12. There has been **no serious effort** to divert tourists to new or lesser-known destinations.

13. Lack of planning for **satellite destinations** around popular hotspots adds to congestion and environmental strain.

14. **Infrastructure development** has not kept pace with the **rising tourist numbers**, leading to overstretched services and local dissatisfaction.

15. The editorial calls for **urgent and balanced tourism planning** to protect fragile ecosystems, preserve local culture, and promote sustainable travel alternatives.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What is the tone of the passage?**   [Editorial Page]
   A. Critical and concerned
   B. Optimistic and encouraging
   C. Humorous and satirical
   D. Neutral and indifferent

2. **Why are local populations in tourist destinations like Barcelona and Maui protesting against tourism?**
   A. They believe tourists are disrespecting cultural traditions.
   B. Tourism has led to housing shortages and loss of local character.
   C. Tourists contribute to declining local birth rates.
   D. Local governments are replacing citizens with tourists for economic gain.

3. **What challenge is specifically highlighted in India's hill stations like Landour and Mussoorie due to unchecked tourism?**
   A. Sharp rise in road accidents caused by tourists
   B. Spread of infectious diseases through tourist influx
   C. Year-round tourist pressure leading to environmental stress
   D. Rise in communal tensions between tourists and locals

4. **Direction: Choose True if the statement is directly supported by the passage. Choose False if it is not explicitly supported or contradicted by the passage.**
   Statement: Authorities in Bhutan, Italy, Greece, and Belgium changed tourism policies due to environmental protection campaigns launched by global agencies.
   A. True
   B. False
   C. Cannot be determined
   D. True, but not significant

5. **Direction**: **Choose the best word or phrase to fill in the blank based on the tone and context of the passage.**
   The author implies that present tourism policies are _____, leading to social unrest and environmental degradation in popular destinations.
   A. visionary and forward-looking
   B. effective yet unpopular
   C. inclusive and sustainable
   D. poorly regulated and reactive

6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
   Futile
   A. Useless
   B. Vicious
   C. Thoughtful

D. Adequate

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

I have lived with my parents / in Mumbai / in a residential flat / yet two years.
   A. yet two years
   B. in Mumbai
   C. I have lived with my parents
   D. in a residential flat

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

A fox and an hyena were spotted in the animal reserve
   A. the animal reserve
   B. were spotted in
   C. and an hyena
   D. A fox

9. **In the following passage, some words have been deleted. Read the passage carefully and select the most appropriate option to fill in the blanks.**

Mosquito means small fly. It has a transmitter segmented body and a _____ of wings. Male mosquitoes mainly feed on plant _____.
   A. set; beverage
   B. couple; liquor
   C. pair; nectar
   D. kind; drink

10. **What is the correct substitution for the word 'screw' in the idiom 'Hit the screw on the head'?**
   A. Bolt
   B. Nail
   C. Crew
   D. Tack

11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

To his **surprise**, it swung back at his touch
   A. Regret
   B. Shock
   C. Boredom
   D. Anger

12. **Select the sentence that has a grammatical error.**
   A. The manager cuts the discussion to address an urgent matter.
   B. She always cuts out unhealthy snacks.
   C. Can you cut through the traffic to get here on time?
   D. They need to cut down the old tree in the garden

13. **Select the most appropriate degree of comparison to fill in the blank.**

Work in this office is done in the _____ way.

A. less efficient
B. little efficient
C. least efficient
D. lesser efficient way

14. **Select the option that rectifies the spelling of the underlined word in the given sentence.**

We have pledged our **allegance** to the nation

A. allegaince
B. alegiance
C. allegiance
D. ellegance

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

We have perhaps never seen an **ablest** series of advocates than these ten standing in a row.

A. abler
B. the ablest
C. most ablest
D. more able

16. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the following sentence.**

I **graciously** welcomed my boss at my birthday party.

A. Bravely
B. Cleverly
C. Courageously
D. Nicely

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

He had always wanted to work for himself; so, last year he _____ his job at the bank and is now running a tool business.

A. left
B. halted
C. bereft
D. cleft

18. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word from the given sentence.**

The chef's delicious recipies are a favourite among the restaurant's patrons

A. Recipies
B. Restaurant's
C. Delicious
D. Chef's

19. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word given in brackets to fill in the blank.**

Many fraud companies _____ (deceive) innocent customers and earn millions of dollars.

A. resolve
B. mislead

C. facilitate

D. hamper

20. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given proverb.**

Bite the bullet

A. To buy something with no prior inspection

B. To be the first to attack someone

C. To face up to trouble with fortitude

D. To take the blame for something one didn't do

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.

Are you familiar with the movie 'Jurassic Park'? Do you recall the enormous dinosaurs? Do you know that there is still a mammal that is as big and amazing as them? Blue whales are the world's largest living things and (1)_____ vast oceanic expanses. The adult is more than 100 feet long and (2)_____ more than 190 metric tons. According to scientists, a blue whale's heart weighs as much as a car while its tongue weighs as much as an elephant! They eat meat, but they don't have teeth. They gulp and swallow huge quantities of krill and shrimp for their diet. Their mouths have bristles that look like combs and remove water while keeping their food

(3)_____. Whales are social animals that live in 'pods', which are made up of more females than males. They take care of their children. Another female takes over and cares for the calf if one mother is unable to provide it with milk. Their bond is very strong, and they cry when another whale dies. The male makes sure that everyone in the pod gets their fair share of food.

Whistles, clock-like sounds, and songs—frequent, high-pitched sounds—are the means by which the whales (4)_____ with one another. It assists them in locating one another, locating the position of the pod, searching for prey, and attracting mates. Every pod has a distinctive song that sets it apart from the others. These songs can be heard for not only hours, but also days (5)_____ miles of ocean.

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

A. depart

B. employ

C. inhabit

D. engage

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

A. counts

B. loads

C. lifts

D. weighs

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

    A. beckon

    B. brokerage

    C. fair

    D. intact

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

    A. meet

    B. horrid

    C. communicate

    D. catch

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

    A. off

    B. across

    C. although

    D. beside

Answers

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

Explanations

1. **A) Critical and concerned**

   The passage highlights the negative impacts of over-tourism, such as housing shortages, environmental degradation, and protests. The tone is critical of unchecked tourism and expresses concern for affected communities.

   B) Optimistic and encouraging is incorrect because the passage does not focus on positive solutions but rather on problems.

   C) Humorous and satirical is incorrect because the passage does not use irony or humor; it presents serious issues.

   D) Neutral and indifferent is incorrect because the author clearly takes a stance against over-tourism.

2. **B) Tourism has led to housing shortages and loss of local character.**

   The passage mentions how residents in Barcelona and Maui are protesting mass tourism due to housing shortages and how it is erasing their hometowns' character. These are the key reasons for the pushback.

   A) Not mentioned in the passage; there's no evidence tourists are disrespecting culture directly.

   C) No discussion of demographic or birth rate issues.

   D) While local policies may encourage tourism, there's no suggestion of deliberately replacing citizens with tourists.

3. **C) Year-round tourist pressure leading to environmental stress**

   The passage clearly states that post-Covid, tourism has become a year-round affair, leading to issues like car-choked roads, dry water sources, shaky mountains, and climate-linked disasters like landslides in Sikkim.

   A) Road congestion is mentioned, but not specifically as "accidents caused by tourists."

   B) No mention of disease spread in the passage.

   D) The passage does not mention communal tensions; it focuses on ecological and infrastructural pressure.

4. B) **False**

   A. True: Incorrect. The passage clearly attributes protests by locals (not global agencies) as the cause for policy change.

   B. False: Correct. The statement falsely links global agencies to the policy shifts, which the passage attributes to protests in respective countries.

   C. Cannot be determined: Incorrect. The passage does provide clear information about who caused the changes (locals).

D. True, but not significant: Incorrect. The fact is not true at all; it's not a matter of significance but accuracy.

5. **D) poorly regulated and reactive**

   The author mentions unchecked tourism, belated responses, and lack of proper planning, indicating poor regulation and reactive decision-making.

   A: Incorrect. The passage criticizes current tourism policies for being inadequate, not innovative.

   B: Incorrect. The policies are portrayed as ineffective and damaging, not just unpopular.

   C: Incorrect. The passage clearly argues that tourism is harming locals and the environment, which is the opposite of sustainability.

6. A) **Futile** (adjective) – Incapable of producing any useful result; pointless, worthless, vain. निरर्थक

   Synonym: **Useless** (adjective) – Of no use, not fulfilling or not expected to achieve the intended purpose, worthless. बेकार

   - **Vicious** (adjective) – Deliberately cruel or violent, malicious, savage. दुष्ट

   - **Thoughtful** (adjective) – Showing careful consideration or attention, reflective, considerate. विचारशील

   - **Adequate** (adjective) – Satisfactory or acceptable in quality or quantity, sufficient. पर्याप्त

7. A) 'yet two years' के स्थान पर **'for two years'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'yet' का प्रयोग सामान्यतः Negative या Interrogative Sentences में होता है। यहाँ Duration को दर्शाने के लिए 'for' का प्रयोग उचित है; जैसे— I have lived here for five years.

   'for two years' will be used instead of 'yet two years' because 'yet' is generally used in Negative or Interrogative Sentences. Here, 'for' is used to indicate Duration; Like— I have lived here for five years.

8. C) 'An hyena' के स्थान पर **'a hyena'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'hyena' का उच्चारण *'h'* ध्वनि के साथ होता है, जो एक consonant sound है। 'An' का use उन शब्दों से पहले होता है जो vowel ध्वनि से शुरू होते हैं। अतः सही वाक्य होगाः

   The phrase "an hyena" is incorrect and should be replaced with "**a hyena**" because the word "hyena" starts with the consonant sound 'h' and not a vowel sound. The article "an" is used before words that begin with a vowel sound, not just a vowel letter. Hence, the correct sentence is:

9. C) **Pair'** का use होगा क्योंकि "pair" का अर्थ है दो संबंधित चीजें, जैसे यहाँ मच्छर के दो पंख। sentence में मच्छर के पंखों का वर्णन किया गया है, इसलिए 'pair' यहाँ सही है। 'Set' का अर्थ है एक समूह, जो संदर्भ

में सही नहीं है क्योंकि मच्छर के पास केवल एक जोड़ी पंख होते हैं। 'Couple' का अर्थ है दो, लेकिन यह वैज्ञानिक संदर्भ में कम उपयुक्त है। 'Kind' का अर्थ है प्रकार, जो पंखों के संदर्भ में अप्रासंगिक है। second blank में Nectar' का use होगा क्योंकि "nectar" का अर्थ है पौधों से निकलने वाला मीठा तरल, जिसे नर मच्छर खाते हैं। 'Beverage' का अर्थ है पेय पदार्थ, जो मानव-निर्मित पेय के लिए उपयोग होता है। 'Liquor' का अर्थ है शराब, जो संदर्भ में गलत है। 'Drink' का अर्थ बहुत व्यापक है और यह यहाँ फिट नहीं होता।

'Pair' will be used because it means two related things, like the wings of a mosquito. The sentence describes the mosquito's wings, making 'pair' the correct choice.'Set' means a collection or group, which is incorrect here since mosquitoes only have one pair of wings. 'Couple' means two but is less appropriate in scientific contexts. 'Kind' means type, which is irrelevant in this context.

Nectar' will be used because it refers to the sweet liquid found in plants, which male mosquitoes feed on. 'Beverage' refers to drinks, typically human-made, and doesn't fit here. 'Liquor' means alcohol, which is irrelevant in this context. 'Drink' is too broad and nonspecific for the scientific description.

10. B) **Hit the nail on the head** (idiom) – To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem. सटीक बात कहना या समस्या की जड़ को पहचानना।

11. B) **Surprise** (noun) – The feeling caused by something unexpected, astonishment, wonder. आश्चर्य

    Synonym: **Shock** (noun) – A sudden upsetting or surprising event or experience (आश्चर्यजनक घटना)

    • **Regret** (noun) – Sadness associated with some wrong done or disappointment (खेद)

    • **Boredom** (noun) – The state of feeling bored, uninterested, dullness (उबाऊपन)

    • **Anger** (noun) – A strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure, or hostility (क्रोध)

12. A) 'cuts' के स्थान पर **'cut short'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'discussion' को रोकने या कम करने के अर्थ में 'cut short' का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे—The manager cut the discussion short to address an urgent matter.
    'cut short' will be used instead of 'cuts' because to mean 'to stop or reduce the discussion', the phrasal verb 'cut short' is appropriate; Like—The manager cut the discussion short to address an urgent matter.

13. C) **'Least efficient'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'least' का उपयोग superlative degree में होता है, जो यह दर्शाता है कि यह तरीका सभी की तुलना में सबसे कम प्रभावी है। Sentence में यह कहा गया है कि इस कार्यालय में काम सबसे कम प्रभावी तरीके से किया जाता है। 'Less efficient' comparative degree में है,

जो केवल दो चीजों की तुलना करता है, और यहाँ ऐसा संकेत नहीं है। 'Little efficient' grammatical रूप से गलत है क्योंकि 'efficient' एक adjective है और इसे 'little' के साथ नहीं जोड़ा जा सकता। 'Lesser efficient' भी गलत है क्योंकि 'lesser' का उपयोग 'efficient' जैसे comparative adjective के साथ नहीं होता है।

'Least efficient' is used because 'least' denotes the superlative degree, indicating that the way work is done in this office is the least effective of all.'Less efficient' is in the comparative degree, used to compare two things, but there is no indication of a comparison between two entities here. 'Little efficient' is grammatically incorrect as 'efficient' is an adjective and cannot be combined with 'little.' 'Lesser efficient' is also incorrect because 'lesser' cannot be paired with adjectives like 'efficient.'

14. C) The correct spelling of '**allegance**' is '**allegiance**' which means "loyalty or commitment to a superior or to a group or cause" निष्ठा, वफादारी.

15. A) **'Abler'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि यह comparative degree है और वाक्य implicitly तुलना कर रहा है। Sentence में mention है कि हमने पहले कभी इतनी सक्षम वकीलों की श्रृंखला नहीं देखी। इसलिए यहाँ comparative degree 'abler' सही है।

   Abler' will be used because it is the correct comparative degree form, and the sentence implicitly compares to previous experiences. The sentence indicates that such a capable series of advocates has not been seen before, making 'abler' appropriate.

16. D) **Graciously** (adverb) – In a kind, courteous, and pleasant manner (कृपापूर्वक)

   Synonym: **Nicely** (adverb) – In a pleasant, polite, or friendly way (अच्छे से)

   a. **Bravely** (adverb) – In a way that shows courage (साहसपूर्वक)

   b. **Cleverly** (adverb) – In a way that shows intelligence or ingenuity (चतुराई से)

   c. **Courageously** (adverb) – In a brave way; without being deterred by danger or pain (बहादुरी से)

17. A) '**Left**' का use सही होगा क्योंकि 'left' का अर्थ होता है छोड़ना या त्याग करना। इस sentence में संदर्भ यह है कि व्यक्ति ने अपने बैंक की नौकरी छोड़ी ताकि वह अपने लिए काम कर सके और अब वह एक टूल व्यवसाय चला रहा है। वाक्य का संदर्भ अतीत में नौकरी छोड़ने के कार्य को दर्शाता है, जो 'left' से सही ढंग से व्यक्त होता है। 'Halted' (रोकना) का उपयोग संदर्भ में गलत है क्योंकि यह अस्थायी रोक को दर्शाता है। 'Bereft' (वंचित) का उपयोग भी गलत है क्योंकि यह भावनात्मक या भौतिक हानि का संदर्भ देता है। Cleft' (विभाजित करना) का उपयोग भी गलत है क्योंकि यह संदर्भ में किसी नौकरी छोड़ने का तात्पर्य नहीं देता।

   'Left' is grammatically correct because it refers to leaving or resigning from a position.

The sentence context implies that the person quit their bank job to pursue their own business, which is correctly expressed by 'left.' 'Halted' (means to stop) is incorrect as it implies a temporary pause, not permanently leaving a job. 'Bereft' (means deprived) is also incorrect as it indicates a loss or deprivation, which doesn't fit the context of willingly resigning. 'Cleft' (means split) is incorrect as it doesn't convey the act of resigning.

18. A) The correct spelling of '**Recipies'** is '**Recipes'**, which means "a set of instructions for preparing a particular dish, including a list of the ingredients required" व्यंजन-विधि.

19. B) **Deceive** (verb) – To trick, misinform, or lead someone into believing something untrue. धोखा देना

    Synonym: **Mislead** (verb) – To cause someone to have a wrong idea or impression. गुमराह करना

    - "**Resolve**" means to find a solution (हल करना).
    - "**Facilitate**" means to make an action or process easier (सुगम बनाना).
    - "**Hamper**" means to hinder or impede progress (बाधा डालना).

20. C) **Bite the bullet** (proverb) – To face up to trouble with fortitude (साहस के साथ मुसीबत का सामना करना)

21. C) **'Inhabit'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है "किसी स्थान में रहना या बसना।" sentence में ब्लू व्हेल्स के विशाल महासागरीय क्षेत्र में रहने की बात की गई है, इसलिए 'inhabit' सही answer है। 'Depart' का अर्थ है "प्रस्थान करना," लेकिन यहाँ whales के स्थान छोड़ने की बात नहीं हो रही है। 'Employ' का अर्थ है "प्रयोग करना," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं बैठता। 'Engage' का अर्थ है "सक्रिय रूप से भाग लेना," जो whales के निवास का वर्णन करने के लिए उपयुक्त नहीं है।

    Inhabit' will be used because it means "to live or dwell in a place." The sentence refers to blue whales living in vast oceanic expanses, making 'inhabit' the correct choice. 'Depart' means "to leave," which is not relevant here. 'Employ' means "to use," which does not fit the context. 'Engage' means "to actively participate," which does not describe their living situation.

22. D) **'Weighs'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है "किसी वस्तु का भार होना।" sentence में mention है कि वयस्क ब्लू व्हेल का वजन 190 मीट्रिक टन से अधिक है, इसलिए 'weighs' यहाँ सही है। 'Counts' का अर्थ है गिनती करना, जो यहाँ वजन के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Loads' का अर्थ है भार या लादना, जो यहाँ फिट नहीं होता क्योंकि वजन मापने की बात हो रही है। 'Lifts' का अर्थ है उठाना, जो वजन बताने के लिए सही नहीं है।

Weighs' will be used because it means "to have a certain weight." The sentence mentions that the adult blue whale weighs more than 190 metric tons, making 'weighs' the correct choice. 'Counts' means to calculate or tally, which doesn't fit the context of weight. 'Loads' means carrying or loading weight, which isn't suitable here. 'Lifts' refers to raising something, which is irrelevant to describing weight.

23. D) **'Intact'** का use होगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ है 'अक्षत' या 'संपूर्ण,' जो बताता है कि कोई चीज़ बिना किसी नुकसान के सुरक्षित है। sentence में mentions है कि व्हेल के मुँह की संरचना पानी को हटाते हुए उनके खाने को संपूर्ण रखती है। इसलिए 'intact' सही answer है। 'Beckon' का अर्थ है 'संकेत देना' या 'आमंत्रित करना,' जो इस संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है क्योंकि वाक्य खाने को संरक्षित रखने की बात कर रहा है। Brokerage' का अर्थ है 'दलाली' या 'मध्यस्थता शुल्क,' जो इस वाक्य के संदर्भ में बिल्कुल भी उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Fair' का अर्थ है 'उचित या 'निष्पक्ष,' लेकिन यह इस संदर्भ में अर्थ नहीं देता क्योंकि यह खाने को 'अक्षत' रखने की बात नहीं करता।

'Intact' will be used because it means 'undamaged' or 'whole,' indicating that something is preserved without any harm. The sentence describes how the bristles in the whale's mouth remove water while keeping their food intact, making it the appropriate choice here. 'Beckon' means 'to signal or invite,' which is irrelevant as the sentence is about preserving food, not signaling or inviting. Brokerage' refers to 'fee or commission,' which does not fit the context of food preservation in the sentence. 'Fair' means 'just' or 'appropriate,' but it doesn't align with the context of keeping the food whole and undamaged.
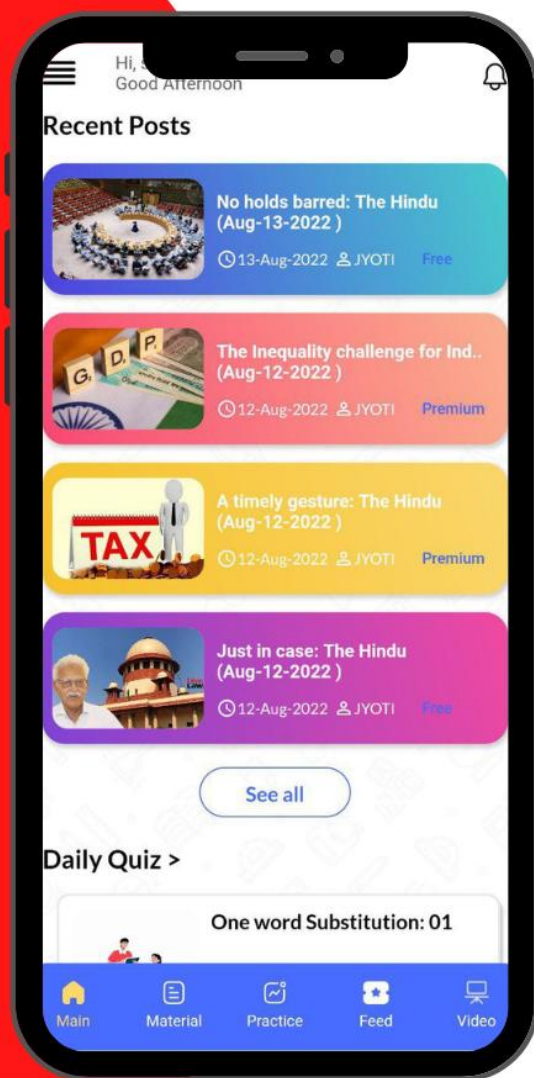
24. 'C) **Communicate'** का use होगा क्योंकि "communicate" का अर्थ है "सूचना का आदान-प्रदान करना या विचारों और भावनाओं को व्यक्त करना।" वाक्य में बताया गया है कि व्हेल एक-दूसरे से बातचीत करने के लिए आवाजों का उपयोग करती हैं। इस संदर्भ में 'communicate' सही विकल्प है। जबकि: 'Meet' का अर्थ है "मिलना," लेकिन यहाँ सूचना के आदान-प्रदान की बात है, इसलिए यह सही नहीं है। 'Horrid' का अर्थ है "बहुत अप्रिय," जो एक adjective है और sentence में सही नहीं है। 'Catch' का अर्थ है "पकड़ना," जो इस संदर्भ में फिट नहीं होता।

'Communicate' will be used because it means "to exchange information or express thoughts or feelings." The sentence mentions that whales use sounds to interact with one another, making 'communicate' the appropriate choice. Whereas: 'Meet' means "to come into contact or company," which doesn't fit the context of exchanging information. 'Horrid' means "very unpleasant," and as an adjective, it is irrelevant here. 'Catch' means "to seize or grab," which does not align with the context.

25. B) **Across'** का अर्थ है एक तरफ से दूसरी तरफ तक फैलना या बढ़ना, विशेष रूप से जब बड़े क्षेत्र की बात हो जैसे समुद्र। यहाँ वाक्य "These songs can be heard for not only hours, but also days across miles

of ocean" यह दर्शाता है कि गाने समुद्र के मीलों तक सुनाई देते हैं, इसलिए 'across' यहाँ सही option है। 'Off' गलत है क्योंकि इसका मतलब होता है किसी चीज़ से अलग होना या दूरी पर होना (जैसे "off the coast"), जो यहाँ गानों के समुद्र में फैलने के संदर्भ में उपयुक्त नहीं है। 'Although' एक conjunction है जो विरोधाभास दर्शाता है और यहाँ व्याकरण या संदर्भ में सही नहीं है। 'Beside' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ के पास या बगल में, जो गानों के बड़े क्षेत्र में फैलने के संदर्भ में सही नहीं है।

'Across' is used to indicate movement or extension from one side to another, especially when referring to a large area or surface like the ocean. In the given context, "These songs can be heard for not only hours, but also days across miles of ocean" implies that the songs travel from one side of the ocean to the other, making "across" the correct fit. 'Off' is incorrect because it implies separation or distance from something (e.g., "off the coast"), which doesn't fit the idea of songs spreading throughout the ocean. 'Although' is a conjunction that introduces contrast and doesn't make sense grammatically or contextually here. 'Beside' means next to or by the side of something, which doesn't fit the context of songs traveling across vast distances.