

A gamble: On the IPL mini auction in Abu Dhabi

Uncapped Indians competed with big names from abroad for IPL money

At the recent Indian Premier League's (IPL) auction, classified as 'mini', there was big money **on offer** as always. With most **squads** having their **nucleus in place**, **the mini auction** at Abu Dhabi on Tuesday **was** all about picking 77 players from a registered **pool** of 369. Australian all-rounder Cameron Green was the most expensive buy at ₹25.20 crore with Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) offering the winning **bid**. Green also became the costliest **overseas** star in IPL history, **going past fellow** Aussie Mitchell Starc's ₹24.75 crore deal, again with KKR, in 2024. Having **plied his wares** previously for Mumbai Indians and Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Green was much in demand for his all-round skills of **brisk pace** and big hits. **The variance** between brand valuation and sporting **unpredictability was driven home** the very next day when Green was **dismissed for a duck** in the current Ashes Test at Adelaide. That **the IPL auction** is a **ruthless place devoid of** sentiments **was** also driven home when **stars** such as New Zealander Devon Conway and England's Jonny Bairstow **found** no takers. **Utility** in T20s, current form and fitness, and the individual as a marketable brand, **have** always influenced these choices since 2008 when the league was launched. In 2011, Brian Lara was unsold and never played the league.

The auction also helped many uncapped players, yet to **turn up** for India, **laugh all the way to the bank**. Chennai Super Kings (CSK) **led the charge** and **bagged** Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma at ₹14.20 crore each. **Veer**, the Uttar Pradesh all-rounder bowling left-arm spin, and **Kartik**, the Rajasthan wicket keeper, **are** 20 and 19 years old, respectively. They are a pointer to CSK's **quest for fresh legs** while **veteran** M.S. Dhoni remains the **pivot** and Ruturaj Gaikwad leads the unit. Kashmir's Auqib Nabi was another uncapped player, who went for ₹8.40 crore to Delhi Capitals. The **speedster caught the eye** when former India **seamer** Irfan Pathan **backed** him, and Auqib has been **consistent** in the domestic **circuit**. Besides the **overseas** icons and local players, a few comeback stories emerged as Sarfaraz Khan got a buyer in CSK at ₹75 lakh. **The Mumbaiakar**, who has been dropped from the Indian squad after playing six Tests, **gets** a chance to **reiterate** his **credentials**. The auction went on with **clockwork precision**, and the BCCI would do well to show the same intelligence in scheduling international **fixtures**. **The latest T20I jousts** involving South Africa, being **staged** at venues affected by winter could **have been** avoided, while the IPL **marches** on as a sporting **behemoth**. [Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Uncapped** (adjective) – inexperienced, unsigned, untested, debutant, rookie बिना अंतरराष्ट्रीय अनुभव वाला
2. **On offer** (phrase) – available for sale or selection उपलब्ध
3. **Squad** (noun) – teams, units, groups, line-ups, contingents टीम
4. **Nucleus in place** (phrase) – core structure already established मूल ढांचा पहले से तय
5. **Pool** (noun) – group, collection, reserve, batch, stock समूह
6. **Bid** (noun) – offer, proposal, quotation, tender, claim बोली
7. **Overseas** (adjective) – foreign, international, external, non-domestic, abroad विदेशी
8. **Going past fellow** (phrase) – exceeding or surpassing someone किसी को पीछे छोड़ना
9. **Ply one's wares** (phrase) – display or use skills professionally अपनी कला या कौशल दिखाना
10. **Brisk** (adjective) – quick, lively, energetic, swift, active तेज़
11. **Pace** (noun) – speed, momentum, rate, tempo, quickness गति
12. **Variance** (noun) – difference, deviation, disparity, fluctuation, contrast अंतर
13. **Unpredictability** (noun) – uncertainty, instability, randomness, volatility, inconsistency अनिश्चितता
14. **Drive home** (phrase) – emphasize strongly जोर देकर समझाना
15. **Dismiss for a duck** (phrase) – get out without scoring शून्य पर आउट होना
16. **Ruthless** (adjective) – merciless, harsh, cruel, relentless, pitiless निर्दयी
17. **Devoid of** (phrase) – completely lacking से रहित
18. **Utility** (noun) – usefulness, practicality, value, functionality, serviceability उपयोगिता
19. **Turn up** (phrasal verb) – appear or arrive आना / उपस्थित होना
20. **Laugh all the way to the bank** (phrase) – earn a lot of money easily आसानी से बहुत पैसा कमाना
21. **Lead the charge** (phrase) – take initiative or responsibility नेतृत्व करना
22. **Bag** (verb) – secure, obtain, acquire, clinch, win हासिल करना

23. **Quest (for)** (noun) – search or pursuit की तलाश
24. **Fresh legs** (phrase) – young and energetic players नए और ऊर्जावान खिलाड़ी
25. **Veteran** (noun) – experienced player, stalwart, expert, seasoned performer, old hand अनुभवी
26. **Pivot** (noun) – centre, backbone, anchor, fulcrum, key point मुख्य आधार
27. **Speedster** (noun) – fast bowler, pacer, quick, sprinter, racer तेज़ खिलाड़ी
28. **Catch the eye** (phrase) – attract attention ध्यान आकर्षित करना
29. **Seamer** (noun) – pace bowler, fast bowler, paceman, quick bowler, fast-arm bowler तेज़ गेंदबाज़
30. **Back** (verb) – support, endorse, favour, trust, encourage समर्थन करना
31. **Consistent** (adjective) – steady, reliable, regular, stable, uniform लगातार
32. **Circuit** (noun) – league, system, network, series, domestic structure घरेलू क्रिकेट ढांचा
33. **Mumbaikar** (noun) – resident of Mumbai मुंबई का निवासी
34. **Reiterate** (verb) – repeat, restate, reaffirm, reassert, emphasize दोहराना
35. **Credentials** (noun) – qualifications, merit, achievements, credibility, record योग्यता
36. **Clockwork precision** (phrase) – perfectly timed and organised बिल्कुल सटीक ढंग से
37. **Fixtures** (noun) – schedules, matches, engagements, events, line-up मैचों का कार्यक्रम
38. **Jousts** (noun) – contests, clashes, encounters, battles, duels मुकाबले
39. **Stage** (verb) – organise, conduct, arrange, hold, mount आयोजित करना
40. **March** (verb) – advance, progress, proceed, move forward, stride आगे बढ़ना
41. **Behemoth** (noun) – giant, colossus, powerhouse, heavyweight, monster विशाल संस्था

Summary of the Editorial

1. **IPL mini auction** continued its tradition of attracting **huge money**, despite involving limited player slots.
2. **Team strategies** focused on fine-tuning squads rather than major rebuilding.
3. **Cameron Green** emerged as the **costliest overseas player** in IPL history at ₹25.20 crore.
4. **Market value** in IPL is driven as much by **branding** as by cricketing skill.
5. **Sporting unpredictability** was highlighted when Green failed immediately after the auction.
6. **Emotional detachment** defines IPL auctions, with reputation offering no guaranteed security.
7. **Established stars** like Devon Conway and Jonny Bairstow going unsold proved this harsh reality.
8. **T20 utility, fitness, and current form** remain decisive factors in auction outcomes.
9. **Historical precedence** shows this is not new, as even legends like Brian Lara went unsold earlier.
10. **Uncapped Indian players** benefitted massively, securing life-changing contracts.
11. **Chennai Super Kings (CSK)** showed confidence in youth by investing in teenage talents.
12. **Youthful energy** was prioritised even as veterans like M.S. Dhoni continue to anchor teams.
13. **Comeback opportunities** were visible, with Sarfaraz Khan getting another chance to prove himself.
14. **Domestic performance and mentorship** played a role in elevating lesser-known players.
15. **While IPL excels in execution**, the editorial criticises poor international scheduling, urging better planning by authorities.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following can be logically inferred from Cameron Green's record-breaking auction price and his immediate failure in the Ashes Test?** [Editorial page]
 - A. Auction prices are determined primarily by recent international Test performances
 - B. Overseas players consistently outperform domestic players after being bought at high prices
 - C. IPL franchises prioritise branding and perceived potential over immediate on-field certainty
 - D. IPL auctions aim to reward past loyalty to specific franchises
2. **What does the failure of star players like Devon Conway and Jonny Bairstow to find buyers most strongly suggest about IPL auction dynamics?**
 - A. IPL franchises prefer domestic players over all overseas stars
 - B. Senior international experience is actively discouraged in the IPL
 - C. Unsold players are generally past their professional peak
 - D. Reputation alone is insufficient without current form, fitness, and T20 suitability
3. **CSK's aggressive bidding for very young uncapped players, while retaining Dhoni as the pivot, implies which strategic vision?**
 - A. Balancing long-term squad regeneration with short-term leadership stability
 - B. A complete transition away from experienced international players
 - C. A financial strategy aimed at resale rather than performance
 - D. An experimental approach driven mainly by media hype
4. **What can be inferred from the fact that uncapped players like Prashant Veer, Kartik Sharma, and Auqib Nabi commanded high prices despite limited exposure?**
 - A. Domestic tournaments are valued more than international cricket
 - B. IPL franchises increasingly treat domestic potential as a high-return investment
 - C. Age is the primary determinant of auction value
 - D. Franchises prefer players endorsed by former cricketers alone
5. **The author's closing remark comparing the IPL auction's efficiency with the BCCI's international scheduling implies which criticism?**
 - A. The IPL negatively affects the popularity of international cricket
 - B. International cricket should be suspended during the IPL
 - C. Administrative precision is selectively applied by cricket authorities
 - D. The BCCI prioritises revenue over player welfare
6. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence. If there is no need to substitute it, select 'No substitution required'.**

It is reported that she has win a prize money of ten lakhs at a reality show.

 - A. she will won
 - B. she had win
 - C. No substitution required
 - D. she has won
7. **Select the most appropriate option that can substitute the underlined segment in the given sentence.**

Natwar was a fraudster who always tried to fooling others.

 - A. betraying
 - B. deceive
 - C. cheating

- D. revealing
8. **Select the correctly spelt option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**
The goods were taken on a public career
A. carier
B. carryer
C. carrier
D. courier
9. **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.**
He promised them / that he would sure repay / the loan urgently.
A. No error
B. He promised them
C. the loan urgently
D. that he would sure repay
10. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the underlined idiom/phrase in the given sentence.**
Today, the country's nationalists rule the roost and hand out the jobs.
A. To be in charge
B. To be prejudiced
C. To save a criminal
D. To exploit someone
11. **Select the most appropriate homonym of the underlined word to fill in the blank.**
He was complimented for his appearance. His shirt _____ his trousers perfectly.
A. competed
B. complement
C. commented
D. complemented
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Gullible
A. Credulous
B. Pliant
C. Cynical
D. Simple
13. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**
Consent
A. Avert
B. Assent
C. Disturb
D. Dissent
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
Huge fire for celebration
A. Firepower
B. Festivity

- C. Firefight
D. Bonfire
15. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word.**
Is there any portal to redeem these coupons that I have collected from the store?
A. Use
B. deplore
C. forfeit
D. embezzle
16. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Keep someone at arm's length
A. Avoid becoming friendly with someone
B. Avoid playing with someone
C. Being someone's enemy
D. Avoid becoming bitter with someone
17. **Select the correctly spelt option that can substitute the underlined word in the given sentence.**
(Patrol) is very costly these days.
A. Petrole
B. Petrul
C. Patrole
D. Petrol
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
The patient looked _____ and tired.
A. pail
B. pale
C. Pall
D. Peel
19. **Select the most appropriate one-word substitution of the given group of words.**
Irreverent behaviour toward anything held sacred or concerning God.
A. Agnosticism
B. Pantheism
C. Theism
D. Blasphemy
20. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A place to play games and bet on them
A. Motel
B. Hotel
C. Casino
D. Pub

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.

We must understand that people can process very little information presented orally. So, it is (1) _____, particularly for a teacher, to realise that the students have sometimes

listened to three or four teachers (2) _____ you. So, the teacher must have props like notes, handouts and slides that will make the learning material (3) _____ alive for the students and stay that way with them. A visual aid, a little movement or colour will get the students' attention. Another important thing to (4) _____ is that long, complicated sentences spoken fast are simply too difficult for students to understand. It is, therefore, (5) _____ to use short sentences that make sense to them instantly.

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

- A. urgent
- B. immaterial
- C. unnecessary
- D. important

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

- A. behind
- B. beside
- C. before
- D. after

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

- A. stay
- B. depart
- C. go
- D. come

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

- A. guess
- B. detect
- C. realise
- D. decide

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

- A. compulsory
- B. advisable
- C. mandatory
- D. prohibited

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. C) The passage highlights the contrast between Cameron Green's ₹25.20 crore valuation and his dismissal for a duck, underscoring how IPL auctions value brand appeal, all-round utility, and marketability more than guaranteed performance.
2. D) **Reputation alone is insufficient without current form, fitness, and T20 suitability**
 The passage explicitly states that utility in T20s, current form, fitness, and brand value govern auction outcomes, explaining why reputed stars went unsold.
3. A) **Balancing long-term squad regeneration with short-term leadership stability**
 By investing heavily in teenage uncapped talent while keeping Dhoni as the central figure, CSK signals a succession-focused strategy combining youth development with veteran guidance.
4. B) **IPL franchises increasingly treat domestic potential as a high-return investment**
 The passage suggests that youth, recent domestic consistency, and role-specific utility can outweigh lack of international experience. Heavy bidding for uncapped players reflects a future-oriented investment mindset.
5. C) **Administrative precision is selectively applied by cricket authorities**
 By praising the auction's "clockwork precision" and contrasting it with poorly timed international fixtures, the author implies that organisational efficiency exists but is inconsistently applied.
6. D) 'she has won' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'has' के साथ verb की तीसरी form का प्रयोग होता है, जैसे—
 She has won a prize.
 • 'shehaswon' will be used instead of 'she has win' because with 'has', the third form of the verb is used; Like— She has won a prize.
7. B) 'fooling' के बदले 'deceive' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'who' के बाद verb इस case में Infinitive Form (i.e. To + V1) में होगी;
 • 'deceive' will be used instead of 'fooling' because after 'who,' the verb in this case will be in the Infinitive Form
8. C)) The correct spelling of the underlined word in the sentence "The goods were taken on a public (career)" is 'carrier'.
 • "carrier" means "a person or company that undertakes the professional conveyance of goods or people." In Hindi, it can be translated as "वाहक" or "परिवहन करने वाला."
9. D) 'sure' के स्थान पर 'surely' का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि यहाँ 'surely' एक adverb है जो verb 'repay' को modify करता है; जैसे— He would surely repay the loan urgently.
 • 'surely' will be used instead of 'sure' because 'surely' is an adverb that modifies the verb 'repay'; Like— He would surely repay the loan urgently.
10. A) **Rule the roost** (idiom) – To be in charge शासन करना, राज्य करना
11. D) **complemented** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में, sentence व्यक्ति के वस्त्र की सहमति और मेल करने की चर्चा कर रहा है। यहाँ "His shirt _____ his trousers perfectly" के माध्यम से वह

संबंध दर्शाया जा रहा है जो व्यक्ति की शर्ट और पतलून के बीच है, और जो एक दूसरे को पूरी तरह से मेल करते हैं। इसलिए, "complemented" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

'complemented' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the harmony and match between the person's clothing. Here, through "His shirt _____ his trousers perfectly," it portrays the relationship between the person's shirt and trousers, and how they perfectly match each other. Thus, "complemented" would be the most appropriate choice.

12. C) **Gullible** (adjective) – Easily persuaded to believe something, naïve, trusting, credulous.

विश्वासप्रवण

Antonym: **Cynical** (adjective) – Doubtful as to whether something will happen or whether it is worthwhile, skeptical, doubtful, distrustful. संदेहपूर्ण

• **Credulous** (adjective) – Having or showing too great a readiness to believe things, gullible. विश्वासी

• **Pliant** (adjective) – Easily bent; flexible, supple, adaptable. लचीला

• **Simple** (adjective) – Easily understood or done, plain, unadorned. सरल

13. B) **Consent** (verb) – To agree to do or allow something, to give permission for something, to approve. सहमति

Synonym: **Assent** (verb) – To agree or express agreement, acceptance, approval. स्वीकृति

• **Avert** (verb) – To turn away or aside, to prevent or avoid. टालना

• **Disturb** (verb) – To interrupt, bother, upset, unsettle. परेशान करना

• **Dissent** (verb) – To disagree, differ in opinion, withhold assent. असहमति

14. D) **Bonfire** (noun) – A large open-air fire used for burning waste or as part of a celebration. जश्न के लिए विशाल आग

• **Firepower** (noun) – The capability of a military force to deliver a volume of fire. शक्ति

• **Festivity** (noun) – The celebration of something in a joyful and exuberant way. उत्सव

• **Firefight** (noun) – A battle involving the exchange of gunfire. मुठभेड़

15. C) **Redeem** (verb) – To exchange, to recover, to cash in, to retrieve, to convert into something of value. पुनर्प्राप्ति करना

Antonym: **Forfeit** (verb) – To lose, to give up, to surrender, to be deprived of something because of a breach of obligation or penalty. अधिकारखो देना

• **Use** (verb) – To employ, to utilize, to consume, to make use of. उपयोग करना

• **Deplore** (verb) – To feel or express strong disapproval, to regret, to lament. खेद प्रकट करना

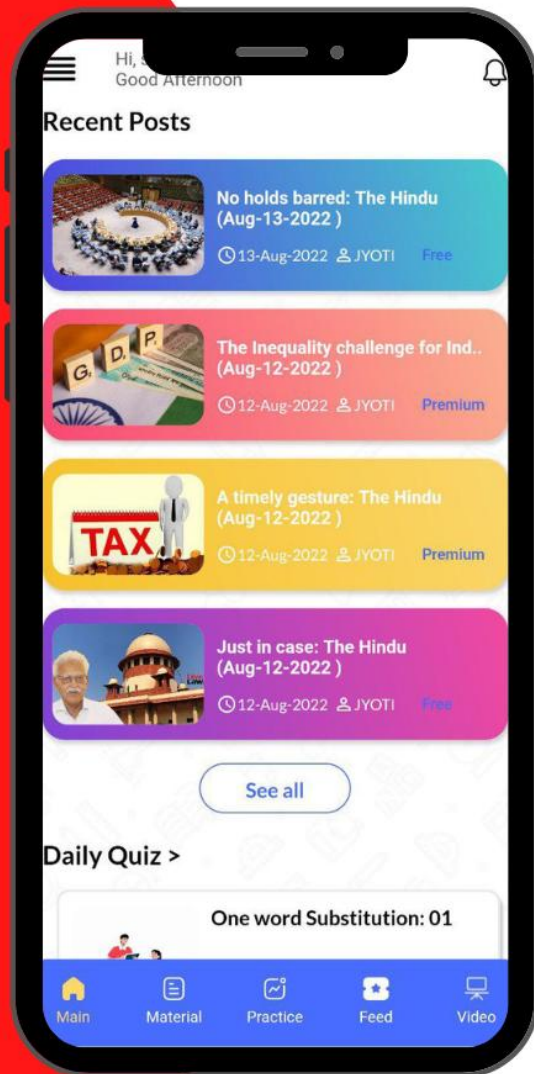
• **Embezzle** (verb) – To steal or misappropriate money, especially that which has been entrusted to one's care. गबन करना

16. A) **Keep someone at arm's length** (idiom) – Avoid becoming friendly with someone किसी से मित्रता न करना

17. D) The correct spelling of '(Patrol)' is '**Petrol**', which means "a light fuel oil that is obtained from crude petroleum and used especially in motor vehicle engines" or "जलवायु, मोटर वाहन इंजन में विशेष रूप से उपयोग किए जाने वाले कच्चे तेल से प्राप्त एक हल्का ईंधन तेल".

18. B) **Pale** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में, sentence मरीज की थकान और बीमारी की चर्चा कर रहा है। "Pale" का तात्पर्य रंग से बहुत अधिक फीका हो जाना है, जो किसी की थकान या बीमारी को दर्शाने के लिए आम रूप से प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए, "pale" सबसे appropriate choice होगा।
- 'Pale' should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is discussing the patient's fatigue and illness. The term "pale" refers to being unusually light in color, often used to depict someone's exhaustion or sickness. Thus, "pale" would be the most appropriate choice.
19. D) **Blasphemy** (noun) – Irreverent behaviour toward anything held sacred or concerning God. ईश्वरनिन्दा
- **Agnosticism** (noun) – The view that the existence of God or the supernatural is unknown or unknowable. अज्ञेयवाद
 - **Pantheism** (noun) – A belief or doctrine that identifies God with the universe, or regards the universe as a manifestation of God. सर्ववाद
 - **Theism** (noun) – Belief in the existence of a god or gods, especially belief in a personal God as creator and ruler of the world. ईश्वरवाद
20. C) **Casino** (noun) – A place where people go to gamble, play various games, and bet on them. कैसीनो
- **Motel** (noun) – A roadside hotel designed primarily for motorists, typically having the rooms arranged in a low building with parking directly outside. मोटेल
 - **Hotel** (noun) – An establishment providing accommodation, meals, and other services for travelers and tourists. होटल
 - **Pub** (noun) – A place for drinking and socializing, often serving food; short for "public house." पब
21. D) The context of the passage is discussing the need for effective communication, especially in a teaching environment. It emphasizes the importance of visual aids and clear, concise language to help students understand the material. Given this context, the most appropriate word to fill in blank no. 1 is "important." It is vital for a teacher to recognize the need for engaging tools and simplicity in communication to facilitate student understanding.
- **urgent** (adjective) – Requiring immediate attention or action, अत्यावश्यक
 - **immaterial** (adjective) – Lacking importance or relevance, अमहत्वपूर्ण
 - **unnecessary** (adjective) – Not needed, अनावश्यक
 - **important** (adjective) – Of great significance or value, often in a particular context, महत्वपूर्ण
22. C) The context of the passage revolves around the challenges of oral communication in teaching. It emphasizes the limitations of auditory processing and the need for visual aids to enhance comprehension, particularly when considering that students might have been exposed to multiple teachers in a short period of time. The correct term to use in this context is one that indicates a sequence of teachers a student might encounter over a period of time.
- **Behind** (preposition) – At or to the rear of, पीछे
 - **Beside** (preposition) – Next to or at the side of, के बगल में
 - **Before** (preposition) – Earlier in time than, पहले
 - **After** (preposition) – Following in time, order, or place, बाद में

23. D) The context of the passage discusses the methods teachers should employ to make learning materials more engaging and memorable for students. The author emphasizes the use of props like notes, handouts, and slides to make the learning material more alive and emphasizes the importance of holding students' attention. In this context, the word "come" fits best in blank no. 3, as it indicates that the learning material should come alive for the students, meaning it should become engaging and relatable.
- **Stay** (verb) – To remain in place, to continue to be in a particular state, ठहरना
 - **Depart** (verb) – To leave, especially on a journey, रवाना होना
 - **Go** (verb) – To move or travel from one place to another, जाना
 - **Come** (verb) – To move or travel toward the speaker or toward a specified place; to arrive, आना
24. C) The context of the passage is discussing the methods and strategies a teacher can employ to enhance the students' understanding of the material being taught. When considering blank no. 4, the most fitting term would be "realise," as the teacher must become aware of or recognize the challenges that can arise when delivering complex information orally to students. The emphasis on understanding and being mindful of the students' needs aligns with the term "realise." The other options, "guess," "detect," and "decide," do not fit as seamlessly into the context of this passage.
- **Realise** (verb) – To understand or become aware of a particular fact or situation, समझना
 - **Guess** (verb) – To form an opinion or give an answer about something when you do not know much or anything about it, अनुमान लगाना
 - **Detect** (verb) – To discover or notice the existence of something, पता लगाना
 - **Decide** (verb) – To make a choice about something, especially after thinking about it carefully, तय करना
25. B) The context of the passage is discussing the ways to make teaching more effective and accessible for students. The passage emphasizes the need for teachers to use tools and methods that cater to the students' ability to process information. In this context, the use of short sentences that make sense to the students instantly is not described as something that is "compulsory" or "mandatory," nor is it described as "prohibited." Rather, it is something that would be wise or recommended, making the term "advisable" the most fitting choice for blank no. 5.
- **Compulsory** (adjective) – Required by law or rule; obligatory, अनिवार्य
 - **Advisable** (adjective) – Wise to do under the circumstances; recommended, समझदारी
 - **Mandatory** (adjective) – Required by laws or rules; obligatory, अनिवार्य
 - **Prohibited** (adjective) – Forbidden by law or rule, निषिद्ध



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