

Why modern life forgets the art of rest and stability

Most of us would agree that we are living life at a **dizzying** speed. There is a mad rush everywhere, from **dawn to dusk** — in public places, at home, and in our daily lives. People hurry to **grab** seats in public transport, **jostle** through crowds, and break queues to claim **what** they believe **is** rightfully theirs. This **pervasive** 'me first' **approach**, born out of a near-total absence of patience, **lies** at the root of many social problems, including the **alarming** rise in **stampede**-related deaths across the country.

The youth today wish to taste everything too soon and **chase** success at any cost. Working overtime, sacrificing sleep, and **stretching** themselves beyond healthy limits do not trouble them, as long as the rewards seem immediate. Health is willingly **put at stake** in the belief that one must **make hay** while the sun of youth shines. Stability no longer appeals; instead, there is a **craving** for bigger, faster **leaps**. This high-speed lifestyle provides a certain thrill. Loud music, spicy food, fast cars and **extroverted** personalities dominate their preferences. The powerful virtual **universe** of showbiz, media and the cosmetic industry further **reinforces** the idea that youth and speed are the ultimate **currencies**.

Children now behave like **wannabe** youths, while the elderly struggle to appear young. Society has little patience for the slow, the tired or the old, **rendering** them increasingly invisible. There is a widespread **perception** that one cannot be noticed unless one is constantly running.

Walking, both literally and **metaphorically**, **has** gone out of fashion, and those who choose it risk being **labelled** outdated or unenthusiastic. Most people today **manipulate** their lifestyles to **cope with** this universal **time deficit**. The working class, neck-deep in professional commitments, find little time to cook or spend with family. **Eating** out, relying on ready-to-eat food, or hurriedly **gulping** meals **has** become routine. Even **nourishment** is **sacrificed at the altar of** speed.

This 'hurry up' mindset has **seeped** so deeply into society that consistency itself has suffered. Politicians **abandon ideologies** with ease, and **defections** have become commonplace. Employees change loyalties without **hesitation**. Relationships are entered and exited **in haste**, contributing to rising divorce rates, broken families and the growing number of old-age homes — all symptoms of a use-and-throw culture.

Ironically, even **attempts** to **escape** this **frenzy** **are** noisy. Breaks are filled with screens, loud entertainment and **relentless** socialising. Silence is almost absent, leaving the mind and body little opportunity to heal. Emotional **breakdowns**, lifestyle diseases and mental **fatigue** are the **inevitable** consequences of living perpetually in the fast lane.

The greatest **tragedy** of such a life **is** that it **robs** us **of** our ability to turn inward and make peace with ourselves. There is no time to pause, **reflect** or **reassess** direction. We run simply because others are running. By constantly gulping instant coffee, we forget the joy of slowly **savouring** a home-brewed cup.

True **growth** - spiritual and emotional — **begins** when we slow down. Rest is not weakness; it is **wisdom**. It is the **courage** to stop, to say 'no', and to recognise that we are not **indispensable**. Only then can we reconnect with our inner selves and choose a life that values depth over speed. So what are we waiting for? It is time to begin the process of change — now. [\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

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

Vocabulary

1. **Dizzying** (adjective) – bewildering, staggering, breath-taking, overwhelming, confounding
चकरा देने वाला
2. **Dawn to dusk** (phrase) – from sunrise to sunset or from the very beginning of the day until the very end दिनभर
3. **Grab** (verb) – seize, snatch, clutch, grasp, capture झपट लेना
4. **Jostle** (verb) – elbow, push, shove, scramble, hustle धक्का-मुक्की करना
5. **Pervasive** (adjective) – prevalent, ubiquitous, widespread, omnipresent, rife व्यापक
6. **Lie** (verb) – exist, reside, dwell, occupy, remain स्थित होना
7. **Alarming** (adjective) – frightening, disturbing, worrying, daunting, shocking चिंताजनक
8. **Stampede** (noun) – rush, charge, flight, panic, rout भगदड़
9. **Chase** (verb) – pursue, hunt, follow, track, tail पीछा करना
10. **Stretch** (verb) – extend, strain, expand, reach, distend विस्तार करना
11. **Put at stake** (phrase) – to risk losing something important or to place something in a position of danger दांव पर लगाना
12. **Make hay** (idiom) – to take advantage of a good situation or opportunity while it lasts
बहती गंगा में हाथ धोना
13. **Craving** (noun) – longing, yearning, desire, hunger, urge तीव्र इच्छा
14. **Leaps** (noun) – jumps, bounds, vaults, hops, springs उछाल
15. **Extroverted** (adjective) – outgoing, sociable, gregarious, unreserved, expressive बहिर्मुखी
16. **Reinforce** (verb) – strengthen, bolster, fortify, support, underpin सुदृढ़ करना
17. **Currency** (noun) – medium, asset, value, standard, measure मुद्रा
18. **Wannabe** (noun) – aspirant, pretender, imitator, hopeful, seeker नकलची
19. **Render** (verb) – make, leave, cause to be, turn, represent बना देना
20. **Perception** (noun) – impression, insight, awareness, view, observation धारणा
21. **Metaphorically** (adverb) – figuratively, symbolically, allegorically, imaginatively, emblematically लाक्षणिक रूप से
22. **Label** (verb) – categorize, classify, tag, term, brand चिह्नित करना
23. **Manipulate** (verb) – influence, exploit, maneuver, control, rig हेरफेर करना

24. **Cope with** (phrasal verb) – to deal effectively with something difficult or to manage a stressful situation सामंजस्य बिठाना
25. **Time deficit** (noun) – a situation where there is not enough time to complete necessary tasks or activities समय की कमी
26. **Gulp** (verb) – swallow, devour, bolt, guzzle, quaff जल्दी से निगलना
27. **Nourishment** (noun) – nutrition, sustenance, food, nutriment, subsistence पोषण
28. **Sacrifice at the altar of** (idiom) – to give up something valuable for the sake of something else considered more important की बलि चढ़ा देना
29. **Seep** (verb) – permeate, leak, flow, ooze, drain रिसना
30. **Abandon** (verb) – desert, forsake, discard, renounce, relinquish त्याग देना
31. **Ideologies** (noun) – beliefs, doctrines, creeds, principles, philosophies विचारधाराएं
32. **Defection** (noun) – desertion, absconding, decamping, betrayal, revolt दलबदल
33. **Hesitation** (noun) – reluctance, doubt, uncertainty, vacillation, indecision हिचकिचाहट
34. **In haste** (phrase) – doing something very quickly or in a hurried manner often leading to mistakes जल्दबाजी में
35. **Ironically** (adverb) – paradoxically, incongruously, strangely, unexpectedly, sarcastically विडंबना यह है कि
36. **Escape** (verb) – flee, evade, elude, avoid, dodge बच निकलना
37. **Frenzy** (noun) – madness, hysteria, delirium, agitation, turmoil उन्माद
38. **Relentless** (adjective) – persistent, ceaseless, unabating, incessant, harsh निरंतर
39. **Breakdown** (noun) – failure, collapse, malfunction, disruption, crash पतन
40. **Fatigue** (noun) – exhaustion, tiredness, weariness, lethargy, lassitude थकान
41. **Inevitable** (adjective) – unavoidable, certain, inescapable, fated, sure अपरिहार्य
42. **Rob of** (phrasal verb) – to take away something valuable or important from someone unfairly वंचित करना
43. **Reflect** (verb) – ponder, contemplate, deliberate, meditate, muse विचार करना
44. **Reassess** (verb) – re-evaluate, review, reconsider, reappraise, amend पुनर्मूल्यांकन करना
45. **Savour** (verb) – relish, enjoy, appreciate, delight in, taste स्वाद लेना
46. **Wisdom** (noun) – sagacity, prudence, insight, intelligence, judgment बुद्धिमत्ता

47. **Courage** (noun) – bravery, valour, fortitude, guts, boldness साहस

48. **Indispensable** (adjective) – essential, crucial, vital, fundamental, requisite अपरिहार्य

Summary of the Editorial

1. Modern life is characterized by constant speed and a 'me first' mentality.
2. This impatience contributes to social problems, including fatal stampedes.
3. Young people chase quick success, sacrificing rest, sleep and health.
4. Stability appears dull compared to the thrill of fast-paced achievement.
5. Media and consumer culture glorify youth, speed and external stimulation.
6. Children try to appear older, and the elderly struggle to appear young.
7. Society marginalizes those who are slow, tired or aging.
8. Walking, or taking life slowly, is seen as outdated or unambitious.
9. Busy schedules push people to skip cooking and family time, relying on fast or processed food.
10. The rush culture has eroded consistency and loyalty in politics, workplaces and relationships.
11. Quick breakups and rising divorce rates reflect a "use-and-throw" mindset.
12. Even leisure is noisy and overstimulating, providing no true rest.
13. Lack of silence and reflection results in mental fatigue, emotional breakdowns and lifestyle diseases.
14. Constant rushing prevents self-awareness and inner peace.
15. Real growth requires slowing down, resting, saying no, and valuing depth over speed.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based**[Editorial Page]**

1. **What is the main theme of the passage?**
 - A. Harmful effects of relentless fast living
 - B. Benefits of ambition and modern lifestyle
 - C. Growing popularity of instant entertainment
 - D. Increasing invisibility of elderly in society
2. **What deeper social implication can be inferred from the author's description of society's obsession with speed?**
 - A. Society increasingly values rapid accomplishments
 - B. Society gradually neglects emotional well being
 - C. Society mostly encourages disciplined time management
 - D. Society significantly improves economic productivity
3. **Direction: Choose the most suitable word to fill the blank logically.**

According to the passage, the modern lifestyle treats consistency as disposable, leading to a _____ in long-term commitments.

 - A. noticeable decline in seriousness
 - B. significant reduction in loyalty
 - C. gradual disappearance of stability
 - D. widespread weakening of dedication
4. **In the sentence "The youth today wish to taste everything too soon and chase success at any cost," what is the grammatical function of the clause "to taste everything too soon and chase success at any cost"?**
 - A. It functions as an adverbial complement of purpose
 - B. It functions as a nominal infinitive phrase complement
 - C. It functions as a subordinate conditional clause
 - D. It functions as a subordinate concessive clause
5. **Identify the sentence with correct subject-verb agreement.**
 - A. The working class find little time to cook or bond
 - B. The powerful virtual universe reinforce the idea
 - C. This high-speed lifestyle provide a certain thrill
 - D. Silence and healing is almost absent here
6. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

The decision to delay the launch (1)/ was made so quickly that (2)/ it surprised not only the staff (3)/ but also to the stakeholders. (4)/

 - A. (1)
 - B. (2)
 - C. (3)
 - D. (4)
7. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**

The abbey walls displayed an ancient **paten** of silver.

 - A. The monk placed the Eucharist on the paten.
 - B. The art historian dated the paten to the 9th century.
 - C. The tailor cut a circular paten from wool fabric.
 - D. The relic was enclosed beneath the gold paten.

8. **Select the correct spelling of a word meaning 'cell division of cytoplasm'**
A. Cytokeness
B. Cytokynesis
C. Cytokinesis
D. Cytokiness
9. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**
Impecunious
A. Insolvent
B. Wealthy
C. Indigent
D. Penniless
10. **Rearrange the following sentences to form a meaningful passage:**
1. Carbon nanotubes exhibit exceptional strength and conductivity.
2. Their nanoscale diameter allows structural flexibility.
3. Applications span electronics, medicine, and materials.
4. They're synthesized using chemical vapor deposition.
A. 4-1-2-3
B. 1-4-2-3
C. 1-2-4-3
D. 4-1-3-2
11. **Choose the correct meaning of idiom:**
Hobson's choice
A. A dilemma between two evils
B. A free and fair decision
C. No real choice at all
D. A selection made under duress
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:**
PERFIDIOUS
A. Honest
B. Faithful
C. Treacherous
D. loyal
13. **Identify the misspelt word**
A. Vicereine
B. Floccinaucinihilipilification
C. Defenestrate
D. Quintessance
14. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
The choir began the **introit** at the priest's signal.
A. The child sang the introit during the intermission.
B. The introit was replaced by an organ improvisation.
C. The missal included Latin text for the introit.
D. The cantor rehearsed the Sunday introit.
15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word.**

Perfidious

A. Betraying

B. Faithless

C. loyal

D. Treacherous

16. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

That the report failed to address the root causes (1)/ of the community unrest were surprising (2)/ given the exhaustive data (3)/ compiled over several months. (4)

A. (1)

B. (2)

C. (3)

D. (4)

17. Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:

She has the reputation **to be a kind woman**.

A. to have kindness

B. of being a kind woman

C. of being the kind woman

D. to be kind-hearted

18. Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:

What renders the draft legislation particularly contentious is not its proposed realignment of fiscal powers per se, (1)/ but that it presumes, without empirical substantiation, (2)/ a fiscal equivalence among states whose developmental baselines are (3)/ incommensurable by any normative metric. (4)

A. (1)

B. (2)

C. (3)

D. (4)

19. A sentence is provided in indirect speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding direct speech.

He said that he would join the meeting after lunch.

A. "I will join the meeting after lunch," he said.

B. "I would join the meeting after lunch," he said.

C. "I shall join the meeting after lunch," he said.

D. "I can join the meeting after lunch," he said.

20. Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Retaliatory."

A. Vindictive

B. Punitive

C. Preemptive

D. Conciliatory

Comprehension:

In the following passage some words have been deleted. Fill in the blanks with the help of the alternatives given. Select the most appropriate option for each number.

This year's Nobel Prize for economics was awarded to Claudia Goldin for ____1____ gender gaps in economic activity. These gaps are more ____2____ in fewer developing country

regions than in South Asia. In the past two decades, South Asian women have continued to ____3____ men in educational ____4____. They are having fewer children, which has freed them up to work outside the home. South Asian countries have also passed laws aimed at improving employment opportunities for women.

And yet, their participation in labour markets has remained low. Just 25% of South Asia's working-age women were in the labour force in 2021—about half the average among emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). About 40% of young women in South Asia are not employed, in school, or receiving professional training—about three times the corresponding share among young men.

Women's low labour market participation risks wasting the demographic dividend from South Asia's still growing working-age population. By one estimate, South Asia's long-term sustainable growth in the rest of this decade could be boosted by as much as one percentage point a year if female labour force participation ____5____ raised to the EMDE average. Another estimate suggests that South Asia's GDP per capita could rise 19-58% in the long-term if women's employment was equal to that of men.

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

- A. cramp into
- B. contrary to
- C. drawing attention to
- D. in order to

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

- A. prominent
- B. pronounced
- C. influenced
- D. accepted

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

- A. catch up with
- B. view with
- C. Point towards
- D. Deal with

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

- A. Attainment
- B. Environment
- C. Curtailment
- D. Enlargement

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

- A. Are
- B. Is
- C. Was
- D. Were

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

1. A) Harmful effects of relentless fast living

The passage consistently argues that society's obsession with speed — in work, relationships, health, and identity — creates chaos, stress, broken families, emotional disorders and prevents inner growth. The central idea is a critique of fast-paced living and a call to slow down.

B is incorrect because the passage discourages, not praises, the modern fast lifestyle.

C is incorrect because entertainment is mentioned but not the central focus.

D is incorrect because elderly invisibility is one subpoint, not the primary theme.

2. B) Society gradually neglects emotional well being

The passage highlights lifestyle diseases, emotional breakdowns, mental fatigue, broken families and old-age homes — all pointing toward emotional erosion as a byproduct of high-speed living.

A. Society valuing rapid accomplishments is stated, but the deeper implication demanded here concerns emotional cost, not speed admiration.

C. The passage implies the opposite — lack of moderation, not disciplined management.

D. Economic productivity is not the passage's focus and no evidence of significant improvement is given.

3. C) gradual disappearance of stability

The passage states that politicians defect, employees shift loyalties, and relationships dissolve quickly — all indicating that stability is fading from long-term commitments, which matches "gradual disappearance of stability."

A. Focuses on seriousness, which the passage doesn't emphasize.

B. Loyalty reduction is mentioned but not the main conceptual outcome regarding commitments.

D. Weakening dedication is too vague and doesn't capture structural instability highlighted by the author.

4. B) It functions as a nominal infinitive phrase complement

The clause describes what the youth wish, making it function as a nominal infinitive phrase complement tied directly to the verb wish.

• A — Incorrect because it does not express purpose modifying the main clause.

• C — Incorrect because it lacks any conditional marker such as if.

• D — Incorrect because no concessive marker like though or although is present.

5. A) The working class find little time to cook or bond

The working class is treated as a plural collective noun here; therefore find is correct.

• B — Incorrect because universe is singular and requires reinforces, not reinforce.

• C — Incorrect because lifestyle is singular and requires provides, not provide.

• D — Incorrect because compound subjects (Silence and healing) are plural and require are, not is.

6. D) 'to' का प्रयोग गलत है; 'but also the stakeholders' होना चाहिए क्योंकि 'not only... but also' संरचना में दूसरे भाग से पहले preposition नहीं आता।

In English:

The sentence uses the correlative conjunction “not only ... but also.”

In such structures, parallelism is mandatory — both elements must follow the same grammatical pattern.

The first element is:

“not only the staff” (no preposition)

Therefore, the second element must match it:

“but also the stakeholders” (no preposition)

Adding “to” before the second noun breaks parallel structure.

Correct Sentence: The decision to delay the launch was made so quickly that it surprised not only the staff but also the stakeholders.

7. C) **The tailor cut a circular paten from wool fabric.**

वाक्य में 'paten' का अर्थ है — एक धार्मिक चाँदी/धातु की थाली जिस पर Eucharist रखा जाता है (a liturgical plate used during Mass)।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य चुनना है जिसमें 'paten' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन भिन्न अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो।

विकल्प C में 'paten' का अर्थ है — कपड़े से काटा गया गोल पैटर्न/टुकड़ा (a circular pattern or piece cut from fabric), जो धार्मिक थाली से बिल्कुल अलग अर्थ रखता है।

यह उच्चारण में समान, लेकिन अर्थ में भिन्न — इसलिए यह homonym है।

In the highlighted sentence, paten refers to a liturgical metal plate used to hold the Eucharist during Mass.

In option C, paten is used to mean a circular fabric pattern or cut-out, not a religious vessel.

Thus, the form is the same, but the meaning shifts completely, making it a homonym.

8. C) The correct spelling of the word meaning cell division of cytoplasm is Cytokinesis, which refers to the division of the cell's cytoplasm during cell division. हिंदी में इसका अर्थ है — साइटोप्लाज़्म का विभाजन।

9. B) **Impecunious** (adjective) – Poor, penniless, needy, destitute, indigent निर्धन, कंगाल

Antonym: **Wealthy** (adjective) – Rich, affluent, prosperous, well-off, moneyed धनी, संपन्न

- **Insolvent** (adjective) – Unable to pay debts, bankrupt दिवालिया
- **Indigent** (adjective) – Poor, needy, impoverished गरीब
- **Penniless** (adjective) – Having no money, broke निर्धन

10. C) **1-2-4-3**

1 starts the paragraph by stating that carbon nanotubes exhibit exceptional strength and conductivity.

2 follows by explaining that their nanoscale diameter allows structural flexibility.

4 comes next, describing the synthesis method using chemical vapor deposition.

3 concludes the paragraph by mentioning their applications across electronics, medicine, and materials.

- 1 paragraph की शुरुआत करता है यह बताकर कि कार्बन नैनोट्यूब्स असाधारण मजबूती और चालकता प्रदर्शित करते हैं।
- 2 इसके बाद आता है जो उनके नैनोस्केल व्यास के कारण संरचनात्मक लचीलापन बताता है।
- 4 फिर आता है जो उनके निर्माण केमिकल वेपर डिपोजीशन के बारे में बताता है।
- 3 end में आता है जो उनके इलेक्ट्रॉनिक्स, चिकित्सा और सामग्री विज्ञान में उपयोगों का वर्णन करता है।

11. C) **Hobson's choice** (idiom) – No real choice at all कोई वास्तविक विकल्प नहीं होना

12. C) **Perfidious** (adjective) – Deceitful, disloyal, untrustworthy, unfaithful, traitorous. विश्वासघाती / धोखेबाज़

Synonym: **Treacherous** (adjective) – Guilty of or involving betrayal or deception; faithless; disloyal. विश्वासघाती / कपटी

- **Honest** (adjective) – Truthful, sincere, and fair. ईमानदार / सच्चा
- **Faithful** (adjective) – Loyal, devoted, and trustworthy. वफ़ादार / निष्ठावान
- **Loyal** (adjective) – Showing firm and constant support or allegiance. वफ़ादार / अटल समर्थक

13. D) The correct spelling is Quintessence, which means “the most perfect or typical example of a quality or class” — सार, मूल तत्त्व, निचोड़.

14. **The child sang the introit during the intermission.**

यहाँ 'introit' शब्द का अर्थ है — एक धार्मिक गीत या भजन जो मिस्सा (mass) की शुरुआत में गाया जाता है।

अब हमें ऐसा वाक्य ढूँढ़ना है जिसमें 'introit' का समान उच्चारण वाला लेकिन अलग अर्थ वाला शब्द (homonym) प्रयोग हुआ हो। विकल्प A में 'introit' शब्द का प्रयोग किसी सामान्य संगीत प्रस्तुति (song/interlude) के रूप में किया गया है, न कि धार्मिक भजन के रूप में। दोनों शब्दों का उच्चारण समान है, पर अर्थ अलग हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

In the highlighted sentence, introit means a hymn or chant sung at the beginning of a church service (mass). In option A, introit is used in the sense of a musical introduction or piece performed during a break, not the liturgical hymn.

Thus, the word introit in option A is a homonym — same spelling and pronunciation but different meaning.

15. C) **Perfidious** (adjective) – Deceitful, treacherous, untrustworthy, faithless, disloyal. धोखेबाज़ / विश्वासघाती

Antonym: **Loyal** (adjective) – Faithful, trustworthy, devoted, reliable, true-hearted. वफ़ादार / निष्ठावान

- **Betraying** (verb/adjective) – Being disloyal or revealing secrets. विश्वासघात करना
- **Faithless** (adjective) – Disloyal, untrustworthy, perfidious. अविश्वासी / बेवफ़ा
- **Treacherous** (adjective) – Guilty of betrayal or deception, dangerous. धोखेबाज़ / कपटी

16. B) 'were surprising' के बदले **'was surprising'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य का Subject "That the report failed to address the root causes of the community unrest" एक Singular Clause है। 'That clause' पूरे वाक्य में एक इकाई (single idea) के रूप में काम कर रहा है, इसलिए उसके साथ Singular Verb 'was' का प्रयोग किया जाएगा, न कि plural 'were' का।
जैसे — That he spoke the truth was surprising.
'was surprising' will be used instead of 'were surprising' because the subject "That the report failed to address the root causes of the community unrest" is a singular clause. A "that-clause" functions as a single unit (idea) and therefore takes a singular verb.
Like — That he spoke the truth was surprising.
17. B) **'of being a kind woman'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "reputation" के बाद सही prepositional pattern 'of + being + adjective/noun' होता है। यहाँ "reputation" (noun) के बाद verb 'to be' का प्रयोग गलत है, क्योंकि अंग्रेजी में "have/has a reputation of being..." यह सही संरचना है।
उदाहरण — She has a reputation of being honest.
 - 'of being a kind woman' will be used because after the noun 'reputation', the correct prepositional structure is 'of being' (not 'to be').
Example — She has a reputation of being honest.
18. C) 'are' के बदले 'is' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Subject "a fiscal equivalence" Singular है, इसलिए Verb भी Singular होना चाहिए; जैसे— The beauty of the flowers is amazing.
 - 'is' will be used instead of 'are' because the subject "a fiscal equivalence" is singular, so the verb must also be singular; Like— The beauty of the flowers is amazing.
19. A) **"I will join the meeting after lunch," he said.**
Indirect से Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reported Speech के Verb के Tense को बदला जाता है और Connector "that" को हटा दिया जाता है। जब Reporting Verb "said" (Past) होता है और Reported Speech में "would" (Past form of will) आता है, तो Direct Speech में इसे वापस "will" में बदला जाता है।
यहाँ "He said that he would join the meeting after lunch." में — "He" Subject है, "said" Reporting Verb है, और "he would join the meeting after lunch" Reported Speech है। Direct Speech में "that" हटाकर और "would" को "will" में बदलने पर वाक्य बनेगा — "I will join the meeting after lunch," he said.
To change a sentence from Indirect to Direct Speech, the tense of the reported speech is adjusted, and the connector "that" is removed.
When the reporting verb "said" is in the past and the reported speech contains "would" (past form of will), it changes back to "will" in direct speech.
Here, in the sentence "He said that he would join the meeting after lunch." — "He" is the subject, "said" is the reporting verb, and "he would join the meeting after lunch" is the reported speech.
In Direct Speech, after removing "that" and changing "would" to "will," the sentence becomes — "I will join the meeting after lunch," he said.
20. D) **Retaliatory** (adjective) – Done as a response to harm or provocation; revengeful.
प्रतिशोधात्मक
Antonym: **Conciliatory** (adjective) – Intended to placate or make peace. सुलहकारी
 - Vindictive** (adjective) – Having a strong desire for revenge. प्रतिशोधी

- **Punitive** (adjective) – Intended as punishment. दंडात्मक
- **Preemptive** (adjective) – Taken to prevent an anticipated action. पूर्वनिवारक

21. C) **drawing attention to** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि "drawing attention to" का अर्थ होता है किसी विशेष मुद्दे पर ध्यान आकर्षित करना। sentence में mention है कि Claudia Goldin को अर्थशास्त्र में Nobel Prize इसलिए दिया गया क्योंकि उन्होंने लैंगिक असमानताओं पर ध्यान दिलाया, इसलिए 'drawing attention to' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Cramp into' का अर्थ होता है बहुत कम जगह में फिट होना, 'Contrary to' का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ के विपरीत, और 'In order to' का उपयोग किसी कारण को बताने के लिए होता है, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- "drawing attention to" will be used because it means to highlight or focus on a particular issue. The sentence mentions that Claudia Goldin was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics for bringing focus to gender disparities, making 'drawing attention to' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Cramp into' implies squeezing into a small space, 'Contrary to' means opposed to, and 'In order to' is used to explain the reason for something, which do not fit this context.

22. B) **'Pronounced'** का use होगा क्योंकि "pronounced" का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ का अधिक स्पष्ट या उल्लेखनीय होना। यहाँ sentence में बताया गया है कि gender gaps दक्षिण एशिया में अधिक उल्लेखनीय हैं, इसलिए 'pronounced' यहाँ उपयुक्त है। जबकि 'Prominent' का अर्थ है प्रमुख, 'Influenced' का अर्थ है प्रभावित किया गया, और 'Accepted' का अर्थ है स्वीकृत, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- 'Pronounced' will be used because it means to be distinctly noticeable or marked. The sentence indicates that gender gaps are more noticeable in South Asia, making 'pronounced' the correct choice. Whereas, 'Prominent' means important or famous, 'Influenced' means being affected, and 'Accepted' means generally agreed upon, which don't suitably fit in this context.

23. A) **'catch up with'** का उपयोग होगा क्योंकि 'catch up with' का अर्थ होता है किसी के बराबर आना या उसे पकड़ना। sentence में बताया गया है कि दक्षिण एशियाई महिलाएं शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में पुरुषों के समान स्तर पर आ रही हैं, इसलिए 'catch up with' यहाँ सही फिट बैठता है। जबकि 'view with' का अर्थ है किसी चीज़ को देखना या समझना, 'Point towards' का अर्थ है किसी दिशा में इशारा करना, और 'Deal with' का अर्थ है किसी समस्या से निपटना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

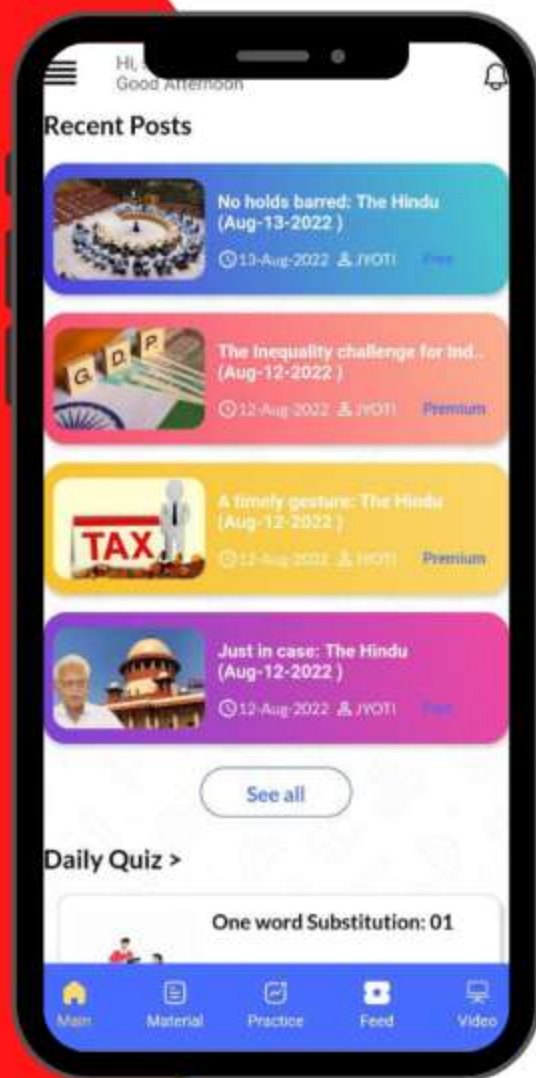
- 'catch up with' will be used because it means to reach the same level or meet. The sentence indicates that South Asian women are reaching parity with men in educational achievements, making 'catch up with' the correct choice. Whereas 'view with' implies looking or understanding, 'Point towards' means indicating a direction, and 'Deal with' implies handling an issue, none of which fit in this context.

24. A) **'Attainment'** का उपयोग किया जाएगा क्योंकि 'attainment' का अर्थ होता है किसी शैक्षिक या व्यावसायिक लक्ष्य को प्राप्त करना। sentence में mention है कि दक्षिण एशियाई महिलाएं शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में पुरुषों से आगे बढ़ रही हैं, इसलिए 'attainment' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Environment' का अर्थ होता है परिवेश, 'Curtailement' का अर्थ होता है कमी करना, और 'Enlargement' का अर्थ होता है बढ़ाना, जो इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं हैं।

- **'Attainment'** will be used because it means achieving an educational or professional goal. The sentence indicates that South Asian women are surpassing men in educational achievements, making 'attainment' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Environment' means surroundings, 'Curtalement' means reduction, and 'Enlargement' means increase, which don't fit in this context.

25. D) **'Were'** का use होगा क्योंकि 'were' एक subjunctive mood verb है जिसका प्रयोग hypothetical या conditional situations में किया जाता है। Sentence में कहा गया है कि अगर female labour force participation को EMDE average के बराबर उठाया जाए, तो इस स्थिति के लिए 'were' सही है। जबकि 'Are' और 'Is' present indicative के लिए प्रयोग होते हैं, और 'Was' past indicative के लिए, जो इस context में सही नहीं हैं।

- **'Were'** will be used because it is a subjunctive mood verb used in hypothetical or conditional situations. The sentence implies that if female labour force participation were raised to the EMDE average, it could boost growth, making 'were' appropriate here. In contrast, 'Are' and 'Is' are used for present indicative, and 'Was' for past indicative, which do not fit this context.



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