

Messaging power: on a healthy digital marketplace

The data sharing **policies** of WhatsApp must **be scrutinised** thoroughly

The **Supreme Court of India**, last week, sharply **questioned** Meta Platforms LLC and its messaging platform WhatsApp, in an appeal **rooted in** updates it made in 2021 around user data sharing with other Meta services such as Instagram and Facebook. The Court **underscored** the power that WhatsApp holds in India's messaging **ecosystem**: it is practically impossible to reach everyone with a smartphone, **coordinate** groups, and **undertake** business communications without being on WhatsApp. The app's "network effect" has captured nearly every smartphone in the country. The **precise background** of the **litigation** that reached the Court **is** an appeal against a ₹213.14 crore penalty issued by the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for **abruptly amending** its privacy policy, allowing the firm to share user data across its sister concerns, Facebook and Instagram. Users were **prompted** at that time to accept the terms or **cease** using the service. This **ultimatum** was **problematic**, and understandably **drew pushback** from civil society, the government, and the CCI.

Nobody **argues** that WhatsApp must not earn money for a service that has been transformative for communications in India. **Owing to** its parent's massive **scale** of operations, WhatsApp has been able to offer messaging, multimedia sharing, telephony — services that were until 2016 prohibitively priced by telecom operators — for free, with only an Internet connection and a phone number as a **pre-requisite**. WhatsApp's enthusiastic **adoption** of end-to-end encryption also **furthered** a societal expectation for secure communications as a norm, in a country where telecommunications has always been subjected to excessive executive-led **surveillance**. What is equally true is that WhatsApp is so deeply **embedded in** Indian society that its **transition** to an advertising model, where it would start making money here, deserves the highest scrutiny. Competition **regulators**, including in India, **have frowned upon** **ubiquitous** platforms that present users with ultimatums that they can **scarcely** refuse. There are free alternatives to WhatsApp that work just as well — Signal, Telegram and even Arattai from Zoho are serviceable — but they lack what makes the Meta product so valuable: the **guarantee** that virtually everyone one knows **is** on it. **Allowing** users to "opt out" of data sharing **is** an inappropriate remedy for services at WhatsApp's scale, because the **power** of the default option at that scale **leaves** far too many with no real, informed choice in the matter. The Court's **thoughts** on this matter **are** correct, but they need to be supported by a digital competition law, a draft of which was released in 2024, but has seen little progress since. As India approaches a billion Internet users, that law is needed to protect and **foster** a healthy digital marketplace.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Scrutinise** (verb) – examine, inspect, survey, study, scan जांच करना
2. **Question** (verb) – query, dispute, challenge, interrogate, examine सवाल उठाना
3. **Root in** (phrasal verb) – based on or caused by something strongly fixed in a particular origins or source किसी चीज़ में निहित होना
4. **Underscore** (verb) – underline, emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate जोर देना
5. **Ecosystem** (noun) – a community of living organisms interacting with each other and their physical environment पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र
6. **Coordinate** (verb) – organize, harmonize, synchronize, integrate, systematize तालमेल बिठाना
7. **Undertake** (verb) – engage, execute, perform, shoulder, assume उत्तरदायित्व लेना
8. **Precise** (adjective) – exact, accurate, specific, meticulous, punctilious सटीक
9. **Litigation** (noun) – lawsuit, prosecution, action, dispute, case मुकदमेबाजी
10. **Abruptly** (adverb) – suddenly, unexpectedly, precipitously, sharply, bluntly अचानक
11. **Amend** (verb) – modify, alter, revise, rectify, refine संशोधन करना
12. **Prompt** (verb) – incite, induce, provoke, stimulate, impel प्रेरित करना
13. **Cease** (verb) – stop, halt, terminate, desist, discontinue बंद करना
14. **Ultimatum** (noun) – demand, warning, final notice, condition, caveat अंतिम चेतावनी
15. **Problematic** (adjective) – questionable, doubtful, tricky, debatable, enigmatic विवादास्पद
16. **Draw** (verb) – attract, elicit, evoke, induce, extract आकर्षित करना
17. **Pushback** (noun) – resistance, opposition, rejection, defiance, rebuttal कड़ा विरोध
18. **Argue** (verb) – contend, assert, maintain, claim, debate तक़ देना
19. **Owing to** (preposition) – because of or on account of something के कारण
20. **Scale** (noun) – magnitude, extent, scope, range, proportion पैमाना

21. **Pre-requisite** (noun) – condition, requirement, qualification, necessity, essential पूर्व-अपेक्षा
22. **Adoption** (noun) – acceptance, embracement, approval, endorsement, ratification अपनाना
23. **Surveillance** (noun) – monitoring, observation, supervision, vigilance, scrutiny निगरानी
24. **Embed** (in) (verb) – fixed firmly and deeply in a surrounding mass or society गहराई से समाया हुआ
25. **Transition** (noun) – change, shift, conversion, transformation, passage परिवर्तन
26. **Frown upon** (phrasal verb) – to disapprove of something or view it with disfavor नापसंदगी जताना
27. **Ubiquitous** (adjective) – omnipresent, pervasive, universal, rife, widespread सर्वव्यापी
28. **Scarcely** (adverb) – hardly, barely, seldom, rarely, infrequently मुश्किल से
29. **Foster** (verb) – encourage, promote, nurture, cultivate, bolster बढ़ावा देना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **Supreme Court of India** has raised serious concerns over WhatsApp's data-sharing policies.
2. The case relates to changes made by **WhatsApp** in its 2021 privacy policy.
3. These changes allowed user data sharing with other Meta platforms like **Facebook** and **Instagram**.
4. WhatsApp holds enormous power in India due to its strong **network effect**.
5. It is almost impossible in India to communicate, organise groups, or conduct business without WhatsApp.
6. The litigation stems from a ₹213.14 crore penalty imposed by the **Competition Commission of India**.
7. The CCI penalised WhatsApp for abruptly forcing users to accept new data-sharing terms or exit the service.
8. This "take-it-or-leave-it" ultimatum drew criticism from civil society, regulators, and the government.
9. WhatsApp has undeniably transformed communication in India by offering free messaging and calling services.
10. Its adoption of end-to-end encryption strengthened expectations of secure communication in a surveillance-prone environment.
11. However, WhatsApp's deep social penetration makes any shift to an advertising-based revenue model risky.
12. Regulators globally are wary of dominant digital platforms offering choices users cannot realistically refuse.
13. Alternative apps such as **Signal**, **Telegram**, and **Arattai** exist but lack WhatsApp's reach.
14. Allowing users to "opt out" of data sharing is inadequate when default choices dominate at WhatsApp's scale.
15. A strong digital competition law, drafted in 2024 but yet to progress, is essential to ensure a healthy digital marketplace as India nears one billion internet users.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

- According to the passage, which authority imposed the ₹213.14 crore penalty related to WhatsApp's 2021 data-sharing policy update? [Editorial Page]
 - Competition Commission imposed ₹213.14 crore penalty earlier
 - Supreme Court imposed ₹213.14 crore penalty earlier
 - Meta voluntarily paid ₹213.14 crore settlement earlier
 - Telecom regulators imposed ₹213.14 crore penalty earlier
- From the passage, which inference best explains why allowing users to "opt out" of data sharing is considered an inadequate remedy for WhatsApp?
 - Courts oppose profits from communication services entirely
 - Encryption practices legally require mandatory advertising monetisation
 - Default dominance nullifies consent despite nominal opt-out
 - Alternative apps technically outperform WhatsApp across demographics
- What type of pronoun is the word "which" in the sentence:
"The Court's thoughts on this matter are correct, but they need to be supported by a digital competition law, a draft of which was released in 2024."
 - Demonstrative pronoun indicating specific noun
 - Relative pronoun introducing adjectival clause
 - Reflexive pronoun referring back subject
 - Interrogative pronoun asking direct question
- Identify the sentence from the passage that shows correct subject–verb agreement.
 - The data sharing policies of WhatsApp must be scrutinised thoroughly.
 - The Supreme Court of India sharply question Meta Platforms LLC.
 - Competition regulators including in India frowns upon platforms.
 - There is free alternatives to WhatsApp that work well.
- What is the tone of the passage?
 - Critical yet balanced
 - Celebratory and promotional
 - Detached and purely descriptive
 - Alarmist and sensational
- Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word:
GARRULOUS
 - Talkative
 - Reserved
 - Silent
 - Listen
- Choose the correct meaning of idiom:
Toe the line
 - Follow the leader physically
 - Join the military
 - Obey rules or authority exactly
 - Oppose popular opinion
- Which is the correct spelling of a word meaning 'self-rule'?
 - Autonomy

- B. Autonomy
- C. Autonommy
- D. Autonautm

9. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:

"Something that is impossible to be read".

- A. Illegible
- B. Decipherable
- C. Invisible
- D. Unutterable

10. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:

PIQUANT

- A. Bland
- B. Spicy
- C. Zesty
- D. Tart

11. Choose the correct phrasal verb:

The scientist was unable to _____ a definitive conclusion from the data.

- A. draw out
- B. bring up
- C. make over
- D. arrive at

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

It was the misalignment between projected and actual data (1)/ that cast doubt not only on the calculations (2)/ but also on the assumptions that (3)/ underlied the funding strategy. (4)

- A. (1)
- B. (2)
- C. (3)
- D. (4)

13. Change the following from active to passive:

Someone must have tampered with the encryption keys

- A. The encryption keys must have been tampered with.
- B. The encryption keys must have tampered by someone.
- C. The encryption keys must be tampered with by someone.
- D. The encryption keys must had been tampered with.

14. Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:

The artisan engraved a **cartouche** around the royal name.

- A. The papyrus bore a golden cartouche of the pharaoh.
- B. The Egyptian cartouche encircled each hieroglyph name.
- C. The archaeologist uncovered a silver cartouche.
- D. The sculptor carved a cartouche of floral motifs for the ceiling.

15. Convert the sentence provided below from its passive voice structure to an active voice structure:

A solution has been suggested by the team to resolve the issue.

- A. The team had suggested a solution to resolve the issue.

- B. The team was suggesting a solution to resolve the issue.
- C. The team suggested a solution to resolve the issue.
- D. The team has suggested a solution to resolve the issue.

16. Select the correct option for the Direct Speech conversion of the sentence below.

He observed that, had market liquidity vanished entirely, the exchange would have suspended trading.

- A. He said, "If market liquidity vanishes entirely, the exchange suspends trading."
- B. He said, "had market liquidity vanished entirely, the exchange would have suspended trading."
- C. He said, "The exchange will suspend trading if market liquidity had vanished entirely."
- D. He said, "If the exchange suspended trading, it was because market liquidity vanished entirely."

17. Rearrange the following sentences in correct order to make a logical passage.

1. Therefore, emotional intelligence is highly valued in leadership.
 2. Emotional intelligence (EQ) is distinct from IQ.
 3. It involves understanding and managing one's own emotions.
 4. It also includes perceiving and influencing others' emotions.
- A. 2-1-3-4
 - B. 2-3-4-1
 - C. 2-4-1-3
 - D. 3-4-2-1

18. Select the correct option:

He spoke so _____ that even abstruse theories seemed digestible.

- A. lucid
- B. lucidly
- C. Lucidity
- D. Lucidness

19. Select the most appropriate antonym of the given word:

INCESSANT

- A. Constant
- B. Ceaseless
- C. Intermittent
- D. Perpetual

20. Choose the correct meaning of idiom:

Carry coals to Newcastle

- A. Provide something where it is already abundant
- B. Seek advice from experts
- C. Complain without cause
- D. Travel without direction

Comprehension

Three minor sisters ended their lives early on February 4, 2026 after jumping off the balcony of a ninth-floor flat in Ghaziabad, as their parents had restricted mobile phone usage, the police said. During their investigation, the police learnt that the children (1) _____ out of school in

2020. In the note that they left behind, they had written that they were not being allowed to watch Shinchan, Doraemon, TV serials, and felt very lonely.

A U.S. lawsuit accuses major social media platforms—including Snapchat, Meta, TikTok, and YouTube—of deliberately designing addictive features that harm young users. Snapchat confirmed it made a (2) ___ to avoid a U.S. civil trial accusing it, along with Meta, TikTok, and YouTube, of addicting young people (3) ___ social media. Lawsuits accusing social media platforms of practices (4) ___ young users are also making their (5) ___ through federal court in Northern California and state courts across the country.

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

- A. has dropped
- B. dropped
- C. are dropping
- D. had dropped

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

- A. deal
- B. request
- C. compensation
- D. trial

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

- A. with
- B. for
- C. into
- D. to

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

- A. endangered
- B. endangering
- C. endanger
- D. endangers

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

- A. entry
- B. movement
- C. way
- D. decision

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) Competition Commission imposed ₹213.14 crore penalty earlier

The passage clearly states that the penalty was issued by the Competition Commission of India (CCI).

B: The Supreme Court is reviewing the appeal, not imposing the penalty.

C: The amount was a penalty, not a voluntary settlement.

D: Telecom regulators are not mentioned as issuing this fine.

2. C) Default dominance nullifies consent despite nominal opt-out

The passage stresses WhatsApp's overwhelming network effect, where default choices at such scale leave users without a real, informed alternative.

A: The passage explicitly accepts that WhatsApp may earn profits.

B: Encryption is discussed as a privacy benefit, not as a legal driver of advertising.

D: Alternatives exist, but the text says they lack WhatsApp's universal reach.

3. B) Relative pronoun introducing adjectival clause

"Which" introduces a relative clause giving extra information about "digital competition law."

A (Incorrect): Demonstrative pronouns are this, that, these, those, not "which."

C (Incorrect): Reflexive pronouns end in -self / -selves.

D (Incorrect): Interrogative pronouns ask questions; this sentence is declarative.

4. A) The data sharing policies of WhatsApp must be scrutinised thoroughly.

Plural subject "policies" correctly agrees with plural verb phrase "must be scrutinised."

B (Incorrect): Singular subject "Court" requires "questions," not "question."

C (Incorrect): Plural subject "regulators" needs "frown," not "frowns."

D (Incorrect): Plural subject "alternatives" requires "are," not "is."

5. A) Critical yet balanced

The passage critically examines WhatsApp's data-sharing practices while also acknowledging its transformative role in India's digital communication ecosystem.

B. Celebratory and promotional – The passage does not praise WhatsApp unconditionally; it raises serious regulatory concerns.

C. Detached and purely descriptive – The author clearly expresses evaluative judgments and policy opinions.

D. Alarmist and sensational – The argument is reasoned and policy-focused, not exaggerated or fear-driven.

6. A) Garrulous (adjective) – Talkative, chatty, loquacious, verbose, prattling बातूनी

Synonym: **Talkative** (adjective) – Fond of talking, communicative, chatty, voluble. बातूनी

• **Reserved** (adjective) – Quiet, restrained, not inclined to talk freely. संकोची / कम बोलने वाला

• **Silent** (adjective) – Not speaking, mute, wordless. मौन

• **Listen** (verb) – To pay attention to sound or speech. सुनना

7. C) Toe the line (idiom) – Obey rules or authority exactly नियमों या अधिकार का ठीक-ठीक पालन करना

Other Idioms:

- **Play Copycat** - Follow the leader physically (किसी की नकल करना)
 - **Take up arms** - Join the military (हथियार उठाना)
 - **Go against the grain** - Oppose popular opinion (सामान्य राय के विपरीत जाना)
8. A) The correct spelling of 'self-rule' is '**Autonomy**', which means "the right or condition of self-government" स्वशासन, आत्मनिर्णय का अधिकार.
9. A) **Illegible** (adjective) – Something that is impossible to be read पढ़ने में असमर्थ / अस्पष्ट लेखन योग्य
 - **Decipherable** (adjective) – That can be decoded or made out समझ में आने योग्य / पढ़ने योग्य
 - **Invisible** (adjective) – Not visible to the eye अदृश्य
 - **Unutterable** (adjective) – Too great, extreme, or awful to describe अवर्णनीय / अकथनीय
10. A) **Piquant** (adjective) – Spicy, tangy, zesty, flavorful, sharp स्वादिष्ट, चटपटा
- Antonym: **Bland** (adjective) – Lacking strong flavor or taste, dull, insipid, tasteless, flat बेस्वाद, फीका
 - **Spicy** (adjective) – Flavored with or containing spice. मसालेदार
 - **Zesty** (adjective) – Having a strong, pleasant, and somewhat spicy flavor. तीखा, स्वादिष्ट
 - **Tart** (adjective) – Having a sharp or sour taste. खट्टा
11. D) 'arrive at' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह किसी निष्कर्ष या निर्णय तक पहुँचने को दर्शाता है। वाक्य में "The scientist was unable to _____ a definitive conclusion from the data." का अर्थ है कि वैज्ञानिक डेटा से कोई निश्चित निष्कर्ष नहीं निकाल सका। इसलिए "arrive at a conclusion" सही प्रयोग है।

In English

"Arrive at" is the correct phrasal verb because it means to reach or come to a decision, conclusion, or agreement.

Sentence meaning: The scientist could not reach a definitive conclusion from the data.

Other Option Analysis:

draw out → to prolong or extract something, not about reaching a conclusion.

bring up → to mention or introduce a topic, not suitable here.

make over → to renovate or transform something, irrelevant in this context.

12. D) 'underlined' के बदले '**underlay**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'underlie' का Past Tense 'underlay' होता है, 'underlined' नहीं। यहाँ वाक्य भूतकाल में है, अतः सही रूप 'underlay' होगा।
- 'underlay' will be used instead of 'underlined' because the past tense of 'underlie' is 'underlay', not 'underlined'.

The sentence is in past tense, so the correct form is 'underlay'.

13. A) **The encryption keys must have been tampered with.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। Active वाक्य में "Someone" Subject है, "must have tampered with" Verb (Modal + Perfect Infinitive) है, और "the encryption keys" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The encryption keys" Subject बन गया है, Verb को "must have been tampered with" (Modal + have + been + past participle) में बदला गया है और "by someone" को हटा दिया गया है क्योंकि यह सामान्य क्रिया को दर्शाता है।

In English

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice:

The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

The verb is changed from its active form to the passive form, while keeping the same tense and modal structure.

The original subject (agent) is optional and can be omitted if general.

In this sentence:

“Someone” → Subject (active)

“must have tampered with” → Verb (Modal + Perfect Infinitive)

“the encryption keys” → Object (active)

After conversion:

“The encryption keys” → Subject (passive)

“must have been tampered with” → Passive verb (Modal + Perfect Passive)

“by someone” → Agent (optional)

Hence, the correct passive sentence is:

“The encryption keys must have been tampered with.”

14. D) वाक्य में 'cartouche' का अर्थ है — प्राचीन मिस में किसी शासक या देवता के नाम को धेरे में दर्शने वाला अंडाकार चित्र (an oval enclosing hieroglyphs of a royal name in Egyptian art)।

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

विकल्प D में 'cartouche' का अर्थ है — सजावटी नक्काशीदार फ्रेम या उभरी हुई आकृति (an ornamental or decorative panel used in architecture or sculpture)।

दोनों का उच्चारण समान है, लेकिन अर्थ पूरी तरह भिन्न हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का उदाहरण है।

In English

In the highlighted sentence, cartouche refers to an oval figure enclosing hieroglyphs representing a royal or divine name in ancient Egypt.

In option D, cartouche means a decorative or ornamental design carved or engraved in architecture.

They have the same pronunciation and spelling, but different meanings, making them homonyms.

15. D) 'The team has suggested a solution to resolve the issue.' सही उत्तर है क्योंकि यह वाक्य Passive से Active Voice में सही रूप से परिवर्तित किया गया है। Passive वाक्य में "A solution" Subject है, "has been suggested" Verb (Present Perfect Passive) है, और "by the team" Agent है। Active Voice में बदलने पर Agent "the team" Subject बन जाता है, Verb "has suggested" (Present Perfect Active) में बदल जाती है, और "a solution" Object के रूप में प्रयोग होता है।

In English

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice:

The subject of the passive sentence becomes the object in the active sentence.

The agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject in the active sentence.

The verb is converted from passive to active form while keeping the tense and aspect intact.

In this sentence:

“A solution” → Subject (passive) → Object (active)

“has been suggested” → Verb (Present Perfect Passive) → “has suggested” (Present Perfect Active)

“by the team” → Agent (passive) → Subject (active)

Hence, the correct active sentence is:

“The team has suggested a solution to resolve the issue.”

16. B) He said, "had market liquidity vanished entirely, the exchange would have suspended trading."

Indirect (Reported) Speech को Direct Speech में बदलने के लिए, वाक्य से ‘that’ को हटा कर उद्धरण चिह्न (“ ”) में रखा जाता है। साथ ही, Verb Tense को उसकी मूल स्थिति (Original Form) में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Indirect form “He observed that, had market liquidity vanished entirely, the exchange would have suspended trading.” है, जिसमें Past Perfect Conditional (had + would have) का प्रयोग हुआ है। Direct Speech में इसे उसी conditional रूप में रखा जाता है — “Had market liquidity vanished entirely, the exchange would have suspended trading,” he said.

In English

To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice:

The object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence.

The verb is changed from its active form to the passive form, while keeping the same tense.

In this sentence:

“Someone” → Subject

“must have tampered with” → Verb (Modal + Perfect Infinitive)

“the encryption keys” → Object

After conversion:

“The encryption keys” → Subject

“must have been tampered with” → Passive Verb (Modal + have + been + past participle)

“by someone” → Agent (optional/general, often omitted)

Hence, the correct passive sentence is:

“The encryption keys must have been tampered with.”

17. B) 2-3-4-1

Emotional intelligence (EQ) is distinct from IQ. It involves understanding and managing one's own emotions. It also includes perceiving and influencing others' emotions. Therefore, emotional intelligence is highly valued in leadership.

The logical passage should begin by introducing the main concept, so sentence 2 comes first as it explains that emotional intelligence (EQ) is different from IQ. After introducing EQ, sentence 3 logically follows because it explains one key aspect of EQ, which is understanding and managing one's own emotions. Then sentence 4 adds another important component by stating that EQ also involves perceiving and influencing the emotions of others. Finally, sentence 1 concludes the passage by giving the result or importance of these abilities, stating that emotional intelligence is therefore highly valued in leadership. Hence, the correct order is 2-3-4-1.

Logical sequence बनाने के लिए सबसे पहले मुख्य विषय का परिचय होना चाहिए, इसलिए sentence 2 सही शुरुआत है क्योंकि इसमें बताया गया है कि भावनात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता (EQ), IQ से अलग होती है। इसके बाद sentence 3 आता है, जो EQ का एक मुख्य गुण बताता है—अपने भावों को समझना और नियंत्रित

करना। फिर sentence 4 EQ के दूसरे पक्ष को स्पष्ट करता है, जिसमें दूसरों की भावनाओं को समझना और प्रभावित करना शामिल है। अंत में sentence 1 निष्कर्ष के रूप में आता है, जो बताता है कि इन्हीं कारणों से नेतृत्व में भावनात्मक बुद्धिमत्ता को बहुत महत्व दिया जाता है। इसलिए सही क्रम 2-3-4-1 है।

18. B) 'Lucidly' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Adverb की आवश्यकता है जो Verb 'spoke' को वर्णित करे। वाक्य में यह बताया जा रहा है कि उसने इतनी स्पष्टता से बोला कि जटिल सिद्धांत भी समझ में आने लगे। इसलिए, "lucidly" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

In English

The sentence describes how he spoke, so an adverb is required to modify the verb "spoke."

"Lucidly" means in a clear and easy-to-understand manner, perfectly fitting the context.

Other Option Analysis:

lucid → adjective; cannot modify the verb "spoke."

lucidity → noun; cannot modify the verb.

lucidness → noun; cannot modify the verb.

19. C) **Incessant** (adjective) – Continuous, unending, nonstop, ceaseless, perpetual. निरंतर

Antonym: **Intermittent** (adjective) – Occurring at irregular intervals, not continuous or steady, periodic. रुक-रुक कर होने वाला

- Constant (adjective) – Continuous, unchanging, steady. निरंतर
- Ceaseless (adjective) – Without stop or pause, unending. अनवरत
- Perpetual (adjective) – Never-ending or everlasting. शाश्वत

20. A) **Carry coals to Newcastle** (idiom) – Provide something where it is already abundant

जहाँ वस्तु पहले से ही प्रचुर मात्रा में हो, वहाँ वही वस्तु पहुँचाना या देना – यानी बेकार या निरर्थक काम करना।

21. D) 'Had dropped' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence में यह बताया गया है कि police ने investigation के दौरान यह जाना कि बच्चे 2020 में school छोड़ चुके थे। यहाँ school छोड़ने की घटना investigation से पहले हो चुकी थी। ऐसे cases में English grammar के अनुसार past perfect tense (had + V²) का प्रयोग किया जाता है, जिससे earlier past action clearly show होता है।

जबकि 'dropped' simple past है और sequence को clear नहीं करता, 'has dropped' present perfect है जो past time (2020) के साथ गलत है, और 'are dropping' present continuous है जो context से बिल्कुल match नहीं करता।

'Had dropped' is used because the sentence describes an action that was already completed before another past action. The police learnt something during the investigation, but the act of the children leaving school happened earlier, in 2020. To clearly show this sequence of past events, English grammar requires the past perfect tense (had + past participle).

The option 'dropped' (simple past) does not clearly establish that the action happened before the investigation. 'Has dropped' is present perfect and cannot be used with a specific past time like 2020. 'Are dropping' is present continuous and completely mismatches the context.

Hence, 'had dropped' is correct both grammatically and contextually.

22. A) **Deal**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि legal और journalistic context में trial से बचने के लिए agreement को express करने के लिए standard expression "make a deal" होता है। जबकि 'request' केवल मांग को

दर्शाता है, 'compensation' पैसे के भुगतान का sense देता है, और 'trial' sentence में already mentioned है — इसलिए ये options contextually fit नहीं होते।

'Deal' is correct because in legal and journalistic contexts, the standard expression used to indicate an agreement made to avoid legal proceedings is "make a deal". The sentence clearly refers to Snapchat reaching an agreement to avoid a civil trial. The other options do not fit the context: 'request' refers to asking, not agreeing; 'compensation' refers to payment for loss or damage; and 'trial' repeats an idea already present in the sentence. Therefore, 'deal' is the only option that correctly conveys the intended meaning.

23. D) **To'** का use होगा क्योंकि verb 'addicted' के साथ fixed preposition 'to' आती है — addicted to something. जबकि 'with', 'for', 'into' इस verb के साथ grammatical structure form नहीं करते और exam में directly eliminate हो जाते हैं।

'To' is used because the verb 'addict' follows a fixed grammatical pattern: addicted to something. This is a standard and universally accepted verb–preposition combination in English. The other prepositions — 'with', 'for', and 'into' — do not form a grammatically correct structure with the verb 'addict'. Hence, based on correct usage and grammar, 'to' is the only valid option.

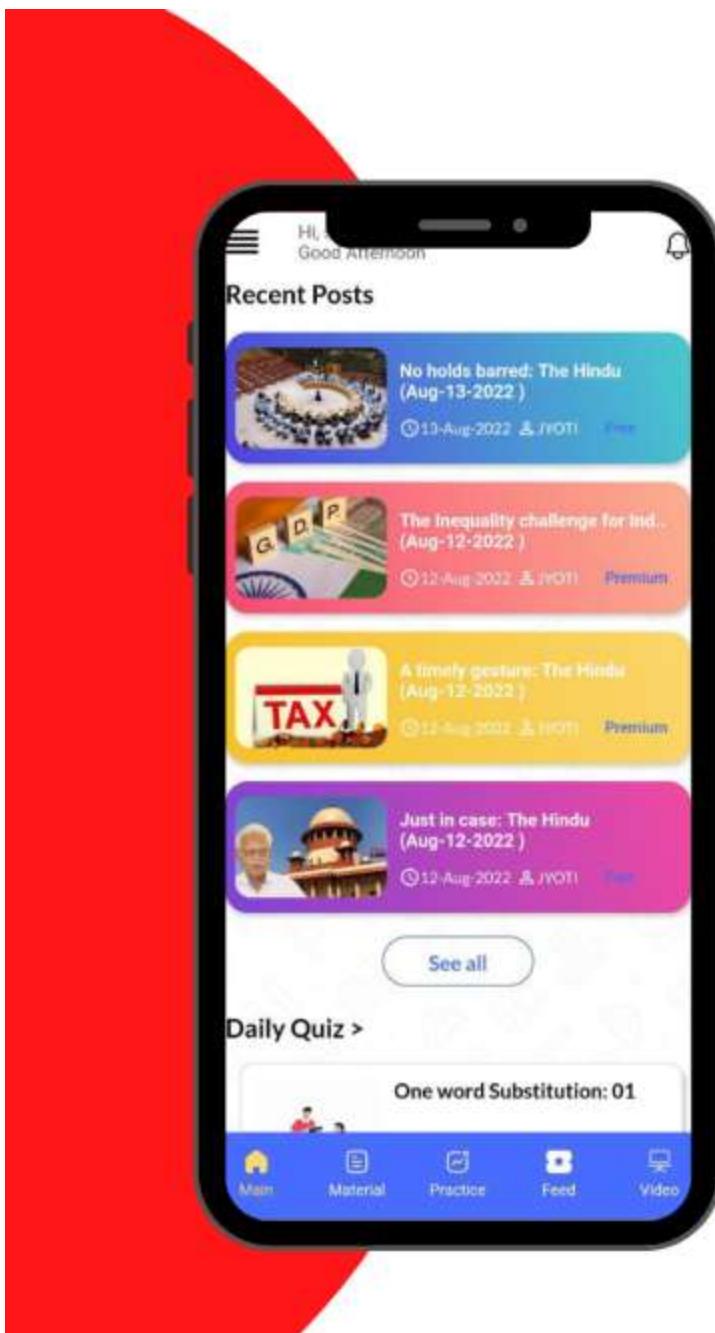
24. B) **Endangering'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में "practices" noun को describe किया जा रहा है। यहाँ present participle (-ing form) use किया गया है जो बताता है कि practices का nature क्या है। जबकि 'endangered' past tense है, 'endanger' base form है, और 'endangers' singular verb form है — ये तीनों sentence structure को grammatically incorrect बना देते हैं।

- 'Endangering' is correct because it functions as a present participle describing the noun "practices." The phrase "practices endangering young users" explains the nature of those practices. The other options fail grammatically: 'endangered' is past tense and does not fit the sentence structure; 'endanger' is the base form and would require a different construction; 'endangers' is a singular verb form and does not agree with the plural noun "practices." Therefore, 'endangering' is the grammatically and contextually correct choice.

25. C) **Way'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "make one's way through" एक standard and commonly used expression है, खासकर legal और news reporting में, जो progress या movement को show करता है। जबकि 'entry', 'movement', 'decision' इस structure के साथ idiomatically correct नहीं हैं।

- 'Way' is correct because "make one's way through" is a standard idiomatic expression in English, commonly used in legal and news writing to describe gradual progress through a process, such as court proceedings.

The options 'entry', 'movement', and 'decision' do not form a natural or accepted expression with the verb "making." Thus, only 'way' fits the established structure and meaning of the sentence.



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