A game for all ages: On the 2026 Indian Premier League 19th season

The IPL is benefiting from both youth and experience

Less than three weeks after India won the ICC T20 World Cup at Ahmedabad, another T20 **caravan rolls** into view. **The Indian Premier League** (IPL) commencing at Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on Saturday, **will traverse** the country and **conclude** on May 31. **Featuring** 10 teams and 74 matches, the IPL has grown in **stature** and gained commercial **heft** since its **inaugural** edition in 2008. **That** just a few days ago **defending champion** Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Rajasthan Royalsfound fresh owners spending **astronomical** rates **is** a **reflection** of the league's high return on investment. Originally started as a **counter** to the **rebel** Indian Cricket League, the IPL remains the best among cricketing leagues **across the globe**. There is sadness too as the last edition, which **crowned** RCB, **witnessed** a **terrible stampede** outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium leaving 11 fans dead. When the IPL happened in 2011, shortly after India had won the 50-over World Cup, Virat Kohli had **confessed** that he, and many others from the champion side, took time to adjust to the league. **Cut to the present**, Suryakumar Yadav's **men**, spread across various IPL teams, **will** have the same **predicament**. **Perhaps** within a week, they should find their **rhythm**, especially Sanju Samson, who moved from Rajasthan Royals to the Chennai Super Kings (CSK).

Kohli, M.S. Dhoni and Rohit Sharma, constitute a **troika** that has been **intrinsic** to the IPL since 2008. At 44, Dhoni still remains relevant to CSK's plans. The three stars may no longer lead their respective units as the next generation has **staked** claim, but all three are **vital** to their **franchises**. The age-**spectrum** in the IPL **ranges** from **veteran** Dhoni to 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi. **The youngster**, **turning out** for Rajasthan Royals, **slammed** a **ton** in the last edition. This second season would be **vital** for him as he races towards an Indian cap. Be it RCB or Mumbai Indians, which last claimed the trophy in 2020, or even an outfit such as Delhi Capitals that has never won the **silverware**, the IPL presents an opportunity to **further** their **legacies**. Among overseas stars, England's **Jacob Bethell**, who nearly **ruined** India's championship dreams in the recent T20 World Cup, **would** be an added **attraction**. Turning out for RCB, he would be Kohli's **ally**. While most injured Australian seamers are recovering, it is expected that Pat Cummins will **gradually** turn up for Sunrisers Hyderabad. **Even Prithvi Shaw**, on a comeback **trail**, **would lean on** this IPL to catch the selectors' attention again. The league's 19th edition is a reflection of its strong roots while **ushering in** fresh talent.   **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Caravan** (noun) - group, convoy, procession, train, troop काफिला

2. **Roll** (verb) - move, proceed, advance, flow, pass आगे बढ़ना

3. **Traverse** (verb) - cross, travel, span, wander, intersect पार करना

4. **Conclude** (verb) - end, finish, terminate, close, cease समाप्त होना

5. **Feature** (verb) - display, exhibit, present, showcase, star प्रमुखता से दिखाना

6. **Stature** (noun) - reputation, standing, prestige, status, position कद/प्रतिष्ठा

7. **Heft** (noun) - influence, weight, power, importance, force प्रभाव/बल

8. **Inaugural** (adjective) - first, initial, opening, introductory, maiden प्रथम

9. **Defending champion** (noun) - a winner from the previous year who is competing to keep the title वर्तमान विजेता

10. **Astronomical** (adjective) - massive, huge, colossal, vast, immense बहुत बड़ा

11. **Reflect** (verb) - indicate, manifest, show, display, demonstrate दर्शाना

12. **Counter** (noun) - opposition, retaliation, response, resistance, hit-back विरोध

13. **Rebel** (adjective) - defiant, disobedient, insurgent, mutinous, wayward विद्रोही

14. **Across the globe** (phrase) - throughout the world or in all parts of the world दुनिया भर में

15. **Crown** (verb) - enthrone, honor, reward, adorn, dignify सम्मानित करना

16. **Witness** (verb) - observe, see, notice, behold, perceive देखना

17. **Terrible** (adjective) - horrific, dreadful, awful, ghastly, appalling भयानक

18. **Stampede** (noun) - rush, charge, panic, flight, rout भगदड़

19. **Confess** (verb) - admit, acknowledge, concede, reveal, own up स्वीकार करना

20. **Cut to the present** (phrase) - returning to the current time from a past event वर्तमान की बात करें तो

21. **Predicament** (noun) - dilemma, plight, quandary, crisis, difficulty कठिन परिस्थिति

22. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, conceivably, potentially, perchance शायद

23. **Rhythm** (noun) - tempo, pace, flow, beat, pattern लय/ताल

24. **Troika** (noun) - trio, threesome, triad, trinity, triplets तीन का समूह

25. **Intrinsic** (adjective) - inherent, innate, essential, fundamental, built-in स्वाभाविक

26. **Stake** (verb) - claim, venture, wager, risk, hazard दावा करना

27. **Vital** (adjective) - essential, crucial, critical, indispensable, key महत्वपूर्ण

28. **Franchise** (noun) - business, dealership, agency, license, permit व्यावसायिक इकाई

29. **Veteran** (noun) - expert, master, pro, old-timer, doyenne अनुभवी व्यक्ति

30. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) - to happen in a particular way or to have a particular result साबित होना

31. **Slam** (verb) - hit, strike, bash, thump, bang जोर से मारना

32. **Ton** (noun) - century, hundred, hundred runs, hundred points शतक

33. **Silverware** (noun) - trophies, cups, awards, prizes, medals ट्रॉफी

34. **Further** (verb) - advance, promote, forward, foster, cultivate आगे बढ़ाना

35. **Legacy** (noun) - heritage, inheritance, bequest, endowment, birthright विरासत

36. **Ruin** (verb) - destroy, spoil, wreck, devastate, mar बर्बाद करना

37. **Attraction** (noun) - appeal, lure, charm, fascination, magnet आकर्षण

38. **Ally** (noun) - partner, associate, colleague, confederate, supporter साथी

39. **Gradually** (adverb) - slowly, progressively, steadily, bit by bit, increasingly धीरे-धीरे

40. **Trail** (noun) - path, track, way, route, course रास्ता

41. **Lean on** (phrasal verb) - to depend on someone or something for help or support सहारा लेना

42. **Usher in** (phrasal verb) - to be the beginning of something new or to help something new to start आगाज़ करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. The **2026 Indian Premier League (IPL)** begins shortly after India's victory in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup, maintaining the momentum of T20 cricket excitement.

2. The tournament starts at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium and will conclude on May 31.

3. The league features **10 teams and 74 matches**, reflecting its scale and popularity.

4. Since its inception in 2008, the Indian Premier League has grown immensely in stature and commercial value.

5. The sale of franchises like Royal Challengers Bengaluru and Rajasthan Royals at high prices shows its strong return on investment.

6. Originally created to counter the Indian Cricket League, IPL has become the world's premier cricket league.

7. The previous season was overshadowed by a tragic stampede outside Chinnaswamy Stadium that resulted in **11 deaths**, reminding of safety concerns.

8. Players from India's T20 World Cup-winning squad may initially struggle to adjust back to franchise cricket.

9. However, players like Suryakumar Yadav and Sanju Samson are expected to regain form quickly.

10. Veteran stars like Virat Kohli, MS Dhoni, and Rohit Sharma remain crucial despite no longer leading teams.

11. At 44, Dhoni continues to play a significant role for Chennai Super Kings.

12. The IPL showcases a wide age range, from veterans to young talents like 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.

13. Teams like Mumbai Indians and Delhi Capitals aim to build or enhance their legacy.

14. International players such as Jacob Bethell and Pat Cummins add global appeal to the league.

15. Overall, the IPL's 19th season represents a **balance of youth and experience**, ensuring continuity, growth, and sustained excitement.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Consider the following statements regarding the 19th edition of the IPL:**
   1. The tournament is scheduled to conclude on May 31 after featuring a total of 74 matches.
   2. Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) entered the current season as the defending champions.
   3. The inaugural edition of the IPL was held in 2011 shortly after India won the 50-over World Cup.
   4. Rajasthan Royals and RCB both recently found new owners at astronomical rates.

   Which of the statements given above are CORRECT?
   A. Only 1 and 2
   B. Only 2 and 3
   C. Only 1, 2, and 4
   D. All are correct

2. **Why was the Indian Premier League (IPL) originally started, according to the passage?**
   A. To celebrate India's victory in the ICC T20 World Cup at Ahmedabad.
   B. As a strategic counter to the rebel league known as the Indian Cricket League.
   C. To provide a platform for 15-year-old youngsters like Vaibhav Sooryavanshi.-
   D. To ensure that veteran players like M.S. Dhoni could play until the age of 44.

3. **Which player has made a significant team switch in the current edition of the IPL?**
   A. Virat Kohli moved from Royal Challengers Bengaluru to the Chennai Super Kings.
   B. Rohit Sharma moved from Mumbai Indians to the Rajasthan Royals.
   C. Sanju Samson moved from Rajasthan Royals to the Chennai Super Kings.
   D. Pat Cummins moved from Sunrisers Hyderabad to the Delhi Capitals.

4. **Based on your understanding of the passage, what happened during the "last edition" that caused sadness?**
   A. Mumbai Indians failed to win the silverware for the fifth consecutive year since 2020.
   B. A terrible stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium resulted in the death of 11 fans.
   C. The 15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi failed to score a century despite his great talent.
   D. Most of the Australian seamers were injured and could not participate in the final matches.

5. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage?**
   A. Purely Statistical and Unemotional
   B. Highly Critical and Skeptical
   C. Aggressive and Jingoistic
   D. Informative and Reflective

6. **Directions: Given below are six sentences taken from an article. The first and the last sentences are numbered S1 and S6 and are placed in the first and last positions respectively. The other four sentences between them are jumbled up and are numbered A, B, C, and D. Rearrange the jumbled sentences in a logical sequence.**

   S1. Remember when the only choice for shopping was leaving the house, before online shopping brought deliveries straight to our doors?
   A. This revolutionary concept is driven by "agentic commerce," an AI technology that learns your exact sizes, favorite colors, and personal tastes.
   B. Now, the retail world is bracing for an even more fundamental shift where we actually trust artificial intelligence to make the purchase for us.

C. For example, instead of endlessly scrolling for a new outfit, you would simply ask this online agent for tailored recommendations within your budget.
D. Once it finds the perfect match, it handles every stage of the buying process behind the scenes, from using your payment details to arranging the delivery.
S6. Ultimately, you just confirm the choice, sit back, and wait for your new items to arrive in the post.
   A. BADC
   B. ACBD
   C. CABD
   D. BACD

7. **Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error.**
   A. Having been a part of the team for five years, B. the promotion to manager was C. unexpected but much appreciated D. by him.
   B. Having been a part of the team for five years
   C. the promotion to manager was
   D. unexpected but much appreciated by him

8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
   She is proficient _____ several programming languages, including Python and Java.
   A. at
   B. on
   C. in
   D. with

9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:**
   You can take the early train, _____ you'll have to wait for the afternoon one.
   A. and
   B. unless
   C. otherwise
   D. although

10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: QUIXOTIC**
    A. Practical
    B. Idealistic
    C. Realistic
    D. Sensible

11. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
    A. Colonel
    B. Collonel
    C. Colonal
    D. Cornel

12. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Trivial**
    A. Insignificant
    B. Minor
    C. Important
    D. Commonplace

13. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
   A person who writes dictionaries.
   A. Editor
   B. Novelist
   C. Lexicographer
   D. Author

14. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
   Paresh eats hardly only food.
   A. hardly any food
   B. any hardly food
   C. food hardly any
   D. food not hardly

15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Ebullient**
   A. Depressed
   B. Cheerful
   C. Joyful
   D. Enthusiastic

16. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelled word:**
   "The scientist emphasized that the _____ effects of small daily habits can significantly influence long-term health outcomes."
   A. cumulattive
   B. cumalative
   C. cumulative
   D. cumulutive

17. **Choose the most suitable option to replace the highlighted part of the sentence:**
   The **dessert** is a dry piece of land.
   A. desert
   B. dissert
   C. daisert
   D. desertive

18. **Which word is nearest in meaning to client?**
   The astrologer knew that the man in front of him was no ordinary client.
   A. Leader
   B. Stranger
   C. Rival
   D. Customer

19. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Sobering."**
   A. Daunting
   B. Debauched
   C. Decorous
   D. Desultory

20. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Impunity."**
   A. Exordium
   B. Exemption

C. Euphemism
D. Execration

Comprehension

The (1)_____ to learn from the past means that Donald Trump now faces a (2) _____ choice. If he can not get a deal with Iran, he can either try to declare a victory that will fool no-one, or escalate the war. The oldest of the old truths comes from the Prussian military strategist Helmuth von Moltke the Elder: "no plan survives first contact with the enemy." He was writing in 1871, the year Germany was unified as an empire, a moment that was as (3) _____ for the security of Europe as this war might be for the security of the Middle East. Maybe Trump prefers the boxer Mike Tyson's modern version: "everyone has a plan until they get hit." Even more (4) _____ for Trump are the words of one of his (5) _____, Dwight DE .isenhow,er the American general who commanded the D-Day landings in 1944 and went on to serve two terms as a Republican president of the United States in the 1950s.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
    A. abstinence
    B. ignorance
    C. boycott
    D. failure

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
    A. stark
    B. ultimatum
    C. blunt
    D. desolate

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
    A. indicative
    B. contingent
    C. subsequent
    D. consequential

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
    A. pertaining
    B. akin
    C. relevant
    D. resonance

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
    A. descendant
    B. predecessors
    C. forerunner
    D. ancestors

Answers

1. C   2. B   3. C   4. B   5. D   6. D   7. B   8. C   9. C   10. B   11. A   12. C

13. C   14. A   15. A   16. C   17. A   18. D   19. A   20. B   21. D   22. A   23. D   24. C

25. B

Explanations

1. **C) Only 1, 2, and 4.**
   Statement 1 is Correct: The passage states the IPL will "conclude on May 31" and feature "74 matches."
   Statement 2 is Correct: The passage refers to "defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)."
   Statement 4 is Correct: The passage mentions that "defending champion Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Rajasthan Royals found fresh owners spending astronomical rates."
   Statement 3 is Incorrect: The passage states the "inaugural edition" was in 2008. 2011 was simply the year India won the 50-over World Cup.

2. **B) As a strategic counter to the rebel league known as the Indian Cricket League.**
   The passage explicitly states, "Originally started as a counter to the rebel Indian Cricket League..."
   others are incorrect: (A) describes a recent event, not the origin. (C) and (D) are features of the current league, not the reason for its creation.

3. **C) Sanju Samson moved from Rajasthan Royals to the Chennai Super Kings.**
   The passage mentions, "...especially Sanju Samson, who moved from Rajasthan Royals to the Chennai Super Kings (CSK)."
   others are incorrect: (A) describes Kohli as an "ally" to a player at RCB (implying he stayed). (B) is not mentioned. (D) states Cummins will "turn up for Sunrisers Hyderabad."

4. **B) A terrible stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium resulted in the death of 11 fans.**
   The passage states, "There is sadness too as the last edition... witnessed a terrible stampede outside the Chinnaswamy Stadium leaving 11 fans dead."
   others are incorrect: (A) is a historical fact about their last win (2020) but not the cause of "sadness" mentioned. (C) is the opposite of the passage (he slammed a ton). (D) refers to current injuries, not the tragedy of the last edition.

5. **D) Informative and Reflective.**
   Informative: The author provides a wealth of facts about the 19th edition, including team switches, player ages, and match counts.
   Reflective: The author looks back at the league's origins in 2008, the tragedy of the last edition, and the "predicament" players faced in 2011 compared to now.
   others are wrong: It is not (A) because the author mentions "sadness" and "return on investment." It is not (B) because the author calls the IPL the "best among cricketing leagues." It is not (C) as it acknowledges an overseas player (Jacob Bethell) as an "added attraction."

6. **D) Correct Sequence: S1 - B - A - C - D - S6**
   Sentence B, S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में shopping के पुराने तरीकों (दुकान जाना vs ऑनलाइन डिलीवरी) की बात की गई है। Sentence B में "an even more fundamental shift" का इस्तेमाल करके यह सीधे तौर पर S1 की बात को आगे बढ़ाता है और shopping में आने वाले अगले बड़े बदलाव (AI पर भरोसा करने) को introduce करता है।

Sentence A, Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि Sentence B में AI द्वारा खरीदारी करने (trusting artificial intelligence) की बात की गई है। Sentence A में "This revolutionary concept" का इस्तेमाल करके सीधे उस AI technology का नाम "agentic commerce" बताया गया है और यह कैसे आपकी पसंद (sizes, colors) सीखता है, यह स्पष्ट किया गया है।

Sentence C, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि Sentence A में technology के काम करने का तरीका बताया गया है। Sentence C में "For example" के ज़रिए एक सीधा उदाहरण (example) दिया गया है कि रियल लाइफ में आप नए कपड़े ढूँढने के लिए इस AI से कैसे बात करेंगे (asking for tailored recommendations)।

Sentence D, Sentence C के बाद आएगा और S6 से पहले एक मजबूत link बनाएगा। Sentence C में कपड़े ढूँढने की बात के बाद, "Once it finds the perfect match" का इस्तेमाल करके यह प्रोसेस को एक कदम आगे (forward) बढ़ाता है। यह बताता है कि AI सिर्फ कपड़े सिलेक्ट ही नहीं करता, बल्कि बैकग्राउंड में पेमेंट और डिलीवरी (payment and delivery) का काम भी खुद हैंडल कर लेता है।

S6 आखिर में आएगा क्योंकि "Ultimately, you just confirm... and wait" (अंततः, आपको बस कन्फर्म करके इंतज़ार करना है) सीधे तौर पर Sentence D में बताए गए AI के सारे बैकग्राउंड काम (पेमेंट और डिलीवरी अरेंज करने) के फाइनल नतीजे (final result) से जुड़ता है। यह पूरे पैराग्राफ को एक logical conclusion देता है।

- Sentence B will come immediately after S1 because S1 talks about the old methods of shopping (going to the store vs. online delivery). By using "an even more fundamental shift," it directly carries S1's point forward and introduces the next big change coming to shopping (trusting AI).
- Sentence A will come after Sentence B because Sentence B talks about making purchases through AI (trusting artificial intelligence). By using "This revolutionary concept," it directly names that AI technology as "agentic commerce" and clarifies how it learns your preferences (sizes, colors).
- Sentence C will come after Sentence A because Sentence A explains the working method of the technology. Through "For example," it gives a direct example of how you would actually interact with this AI to find new clothes in real life (asking for tailored recommendations).
- Sentence D will come after Sentence C and form a strong link before S6. After talking about finding clothes in Sentence C, it uses "Once it finds the perfect match" to take the process a step forward. It explains that the AI doesn't just select clothes, but also handles the background work of payment and delivery itself.
- S6 will come at the end because "Ultimately, you just confirm... and wait" directly connects to the final result of all the background work (arranging payment and delivery) done by the AI mentioned in Sentence D. It gives a logical conclusion to the entire paragraph.

7. B) 'the promotion to manager was' की जगह **'he was promoted to manager'** होगा क्योंकि असली doer (कर्ता) तो he है, पर वाक्य में कर्ता की जगह object (the promotion) को आगे रखा गया है, जिससे misplaced modifier बन गया। Modifier 'Having been a part of the team for five years' logically 'he' पर लगता है, न कि 'promotion' पर।

- 'he was promoted to manager' will be used instead of 'the promotion to manager was' because the modifier 'Having been a part of the team for five years' logically modifies

the subject (he), not the object (promotion); hence the original structure creates a misplaced modifier.

8. C) 'in' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि proficiency के साथ सामान्यतः preposition in प्रयोग होता है जब किसी कौशल, विषय या भाषा की बात हो रही हो। Sentence में कहा गया है कि वह कई programming languages में proficient है, इसलिए in सबसे सही और standard usage है।
    • 'in' should be used because the adjective proficient normally takes the preposition in when referring to a skill, subject, or language. Here, the sentence states she is skilled in multiple programming languages, making in the most appropriate choice.

9. C) 'otherwise' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में दो विकल्प दिए गए हैं — या तो तुम early ट्रेन ले लो, वरना afternoon वाली का इंतज़ार करना पड़ेगा। यहाँ परिणाम/परिणाम-स्वरूप वाला contrast दिखाया गया है, जिसके लिए otherwise सबसे उचित conjunction होता है।
    • 'otherwise' should be used because the sentence presents a conditional alternative — take the early train, or else you must wait for the afternoon one. This consequence-based contrast fits naturally with otherwise, making it the most appropriate choice.

10. B) **Quixotic** (adjective) – idealistic, unrealistic, guided by lofty but impractical ideas अव्यावहारिक रूप से आदर्शवादी
    Synonym: **Idealistic** (adjective) – guided by noble ideals rather than practicality आदर्शवादी
    • **Practical** (adjective) – realistic, workable व्यावहारिक
    • **Realistic** (adjective) – based on facts, sensible यथार्थवादी
    • **Sensible** (adjective) – showing good judgment समझदार

11. A) The correctly spelt word is "Colonel", which refers to a senior military rank सैन्य पद / कर्नल।

12. C) **Trivial** (adjective) – insignificant, unimportant, minor तुच्छ / मामूली
    Antonym: **Important** (adjective) – significant, of high value or relevance महत्वपूर्ण / अहम
    • **Insignificant** (adjective) – too small or unimportant नगण्य
    • **Minor** (adjective) – lesser in importance गौण
    • **Commonplace** (adjective) – ordinary, not unusual साधारण

13. C) **Lexicographer** (noun) – A person who writes or compiles dictionaries शब्दकोश बनाने या लिखने वाला व्यक्ति
    • **Editor** (noun) – One who prepares written material for publication संपादक
    • **Novelist** (noun) – One who writes novels उपन्यासकार
    • **Author** (noun) – One who writes books or other works लेखक

14. A) **hardly any food** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ 'hardly' का अर्थ 'बहुत कम' के रूप में प्रयुक्त है और इसके बाद 'any + noun' की संरचना आती है; जैसे— He ate hardly any rice.
    • hardly any food will be used because here 'hardly' means 'very little' and it follows the structure 'hardly + any + noun'; Like— He ate hardly any rice.

15. A) **Ebullient** (adjective) – full of energy, cheerful, enthusiastic, high-spirited उत्साही / जोशीला
    Antonym: **Depressed** (adjective) – sad, low-spirited, lacking energy उदास / निरुत्साहित
    • **Cheerful** (adjective) – happy and bright प्रसन्न
    • **Joyful** (adjective) – full of joy or delight आनंदित
    • **Enthusiastic** (adjective) – showing intense interest or excitement उत्साही

16. C) The correctly spelled word is "**cumulative**", which means increasing or growing by successive additions over time संचयी / क्रमिक रूप से बढ़ने वाला।

17. A) The correct replacement is "**desert**" which means a dry barren land with very little rainfall रेगिस्तान / मरुस्थल।

18. D) **Client** (noun) – a customer, someone who seeks or pays for services ग्राहक / मुवक्किल
Synonym: Cᴜstomer (noun) – one who buys goods or services ग्राहक
   - **Leader** (noun) – one who guides or commands others नेता
   - **Stranger** (noun) – an unknown person अजनबी
   - **Rival** (noun) – competitor or opponent प्रतिद्वंद्वी

19. A) **Sobering** (adjective) – Making you feel serious and sensible; serious, solemn, grave, thoughtful, or daunting. (गंभीर/विचारोत्तेजक)
Synonym: **Daunting** (adjective) – Seeming difficult to deal with in anticipation; intimidating or discouragingly serious. (गंभीर/चुनौतीपूर्ण)
   - **Debauched** (adjective): Indulging in or characterized by sensual pleasures to a degree perceived to be harmful. (भ्रष्ट)
   - **Decorous** (adjective): In keeping with good taste and propriety; polite and restrained. (शिष्ट)
   - **Desultory** (adjective): Lacking a plan, purpose, or enthusiasm; going from one subject to another. (अनियमित)

20. B) **Impunity** (noun) – Freedom from punishment or from the injurious consequences of an action. (दंडमुक्ति)
Synonym: **Exemption** (noun) – The process of freeing or state of being free from an obligation or liability imposed on others. (छूट/मुक्ति)
   - **Exordium** (noun): The beginning or introductory part of a speech or treatise. (प्रस्तावना)
   - **Euphemism** (noun): A mild word substituted for one considered to be too harsh. (वक्रोक्ति)
   - **Execration** (noun): The act of cursing or a feeling of intense loathing or detestation. (शाप/नफरत)

21. D) [**failure**] सही है क्योंकि "failure to learn" एक आम वाक्य है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ को सीखने में नाकाम रहना या असफल होना है। ट्रम्प अतीत से सीखने में नाकाम (fail) रहे हैं। ignorance का मतलब अज्ञानता होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ 'of' आता है (ignorance of)। abstinence का मतलब किसी सुख-सुविधा से परहेज़ करना होता है, जिसके साथ 'from' आता है। boycott का मतलब किसी चीज़ का बहिष्कार करना (विरोध करना) होता है।
   - [failure] is correct because "failure to learn" is a standard English collocation meaning an inability or lack of success in doing something. Donald Trump did not succeed in learning from the past. ignorance means lack of knowledge, but it requires the preposition "of" (ignorance of the past). abstinence means restraining oneself from doing something enjoyable, taking "from" (abstinence from alcohol). boycott is a noun or verb meaning to refuse to participate in or buy something as a protest.

22. A) [**stark**] सही है क्योंकि "stark choice" का मतलब दो बिल्कुल अलग और बहुत मुश्किल विकल्पों के बीच एक स्पष्ट और कड़ा फैसला (harsh decision) लेना होता है। desolate का मतलब कोई वीरान जगह

या बहुत दुखी इंसान होता है। blunt का मतलब बिना धार वाला (भोथरा) या मुंहफट इंसान होता है। ultimatum एक noun है जिसका मतलब अंतिम चेतावनी होता है, यह 'choice' की विशेषता बताने वाले adjective की तरह इस्तेमाल नहीं हो सकता।

- [stark] is correct because a "stark choice" is a common phrase describing a very clear, harsh, and difficult decision between two completely different options (here, fake victory vs. escalating war). desolate describes a place that is bleak and empty, or a person feeling profound misery. blunt describes an object that is not sharp, or a person who is brutally direct. ultimatum is a noun meaning a final demand, so it cannot be used as an adjective modifying "choice".

23. D) [**consequential**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब बहुत महत्वपूर्ण होना या जिसके भविष्य में बड़े परिणाम (consequences) हों, ऐसा होता है। जर्मनी का एक होना यूरोप की सुरक्षा के लिए बहुत बड़े परिणामों वाला (consequential) पल था। indicative का मतलब संकेत देने वाला होता है, और इसके साथ 'of' आता है। contingent का मतलब किसी शर्त पर निर्भर होना है, इसके साथ 'on' आता है। subsequent का मतलब किसी घटना के बाद होने वाला होता है।
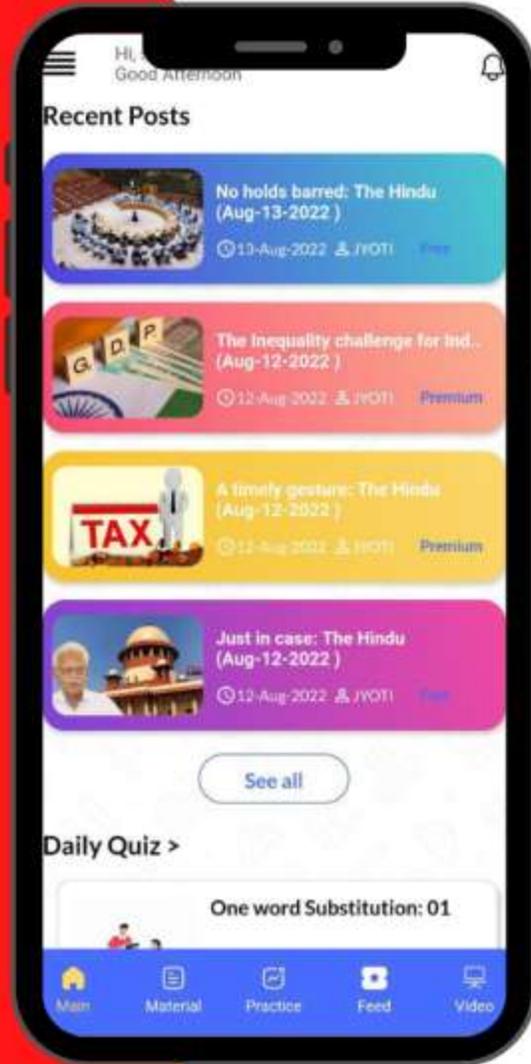
- [consequential] is correct because it is an adjective meaning highly important or having significant consequences for the future. The unification of Germany had massive consequences for Europe's security. indicative means serving as a sign, but it strictly requires "of" (indicative of). contingent means dependent on certain circumstances, taking "on" (contingent on). subsequent means happening after something else in time.

24. C) [**relevant**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब मौजूदा स्थिति से बहुत करीब से जुड़ा हुआ या प्रासंगिक (appropriate) होना है। आइजनहावर के शब्द ट्रम्प की स्थिति के लिए बहुत प्रासंगिक (relevant) हैं। pertaining का मतलब 'से संबंधित' होता है, लेकिन इसके साथ 'to' आता है। akin का मतलब एक जैसा होता है, इसके साथ भी 'to' आता है। resonance एक noun है (गूंज), जो ग्रामर के हिसाब से यहाँ गलत है क्योंकि यहाँ adjective चाहिए।

- [relevant] is correct because it means closely connected or highly appropriate to the current situation. Eisenhower's words are very applicable (relevant) to Trump's current war strategy. pertaining means related to, but it strictly requires the preposition "to" (pertaining to). akin means similar, also requiring "to" (akin to). resonance is a noun, which makes it grammatically incorrect here where an adjective is needed to describe the words.

25. B) [**predecessors**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब वह इंसान होता है जो किसी पद (office/job) पर आपसे पहले रहा हो (पूर्ववर्ती)। आइजनहावर ट्रम्प से पहले राष्ट्रपति थे, इसलिए वे predecessor हुए। descendant का मतलब वंशज (जैसे पोता या परपोता) होता है। ancestors का मतलब खून के रिश्ते वाले पूर्वज (दादा-परदादा) होता है। forerunner का मतलब किसी आने वाली चीज़ का संकेत या किसी मशीन का शुरुआती रूप होता है।

- [predecessors] is correct because it is a noun referring specifically to people who held a job, office, or title before the current person. Since Eisenhower was a US President before Trump, he is his predecessor. descendant means a person who is related to someone from the past (like a great-grandchild). ancestors refers to family or blood relatives from a long time ago. forerunner is usually singular and refers to a sign of something to come or an early version of a machine/idea.

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