

Neighbours first: On India-Nepal ties

India must invite the new Prime Minister of Nepal, Balen Shah, to revive ties

In an exchange of early messages, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Nepal's newly- **sworn-in** Prime Minister Balendra "Balen" Shah said they **look forward to** "working closely" to take forward **bilateral** ties. Delhi and Kathmandu are prepared to begin a new chapter in relations, united by familial bonds, a shared culture, open borders, and **intertwined** politics. **Land-locked** Nepal has **depended** on trade and **transit** through India, with India's plans for an energy **grid** in the region an important channel for Nepal's hydropower exports and revenues. Like many former leaders of Nepal, Mr. Shah studied in India. **Familiarity aside**, it would be a mistake to **assume** that his **ascension** will **chart** a **well-worn** and **predictable course** between the two countries. At 35, he is Nepal's first Madhesi leader, and **upturns** the old **dominance** of the Brahmin-Chettri Pahadi elite. New Delhi must have a greater understanding of the priorities of this new Gen-Z movement that brought down the K.P. Sharma Oli government in 2025. This is a new leadership that has not **inherited** the old foreign policy understandings of the past generations of leaders that came through the panchayati movement, Congress and Communist parties, or the Maoist movement that **overthrew** the **monarchy**. In that sense, the Shah government's foreign **policy**, including its ties with China and the U.S., as well as the **overarching** relationship with India, **is** yet to be **formalised**. In the past **decade**, India has increased its development assistance to Nepal, but it also **strained** its ties over the constitution, the long blockade on border trade, and territorial issues. As Mayor of Kathmandu, Mr. Shah was known for his **overt nationalism**, and rejection of the "**hegemony**" of India and other powers, while his use of a map of "Greater Nepal" had been read with some concern in New Delhi.

The Modi government should **tread** lightly, and positively, as the Shah government **finds its feet**, but offer India's full support in **dealing with** Nepal's immediate challenges. Among those are the impacts of the war in West Asia where Nepal will need help with fuel and fertilizer imports. Approximately 14% of Nepal's population (about 3.5 million) work abroad, and the country is dependent on **remittances** and tourism revenues. New Delhi could also reconsider requests from previous Nepali governments to allow overflight for new Nepali airports, reduce restrictions on purchasing Nepali power produced with third-country assistance and to update the bilateral friendship **treaty**. Differences delayed New Delhi's invitation in 2024 to Mr. Oli, upon his election — he **eventually** visited Beijing first. It is time to quickly invite Mr. Shah to visit Delhi **at the earliest**, and for Delhi and Kathmandu to move forward, putting "Neighbours first" in South Asia. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Sworn-in** (adjective) - inaugurated, inducted, installed, commissioned, enrolled शपथ ग्रहण किया हुआ
2. **Look forward to** (phrasal verb) - to anticipate something with pleasure or excitement उत्सुकता से प्रतीक्षा करना
3. **Bilateral** (adjective) - mutual, reciprocal, two-sided, joint, bipartite द्विपक्षीय
4. **Intertwined** (adjective) - interconnected, entangled, woven, interlaced, twisted आपस में जुड़ा हुआ
5. **Land-locked** (adjective) - land-bound, enclosed, hemmed in, surrounded by land चारों ओर जमीन से घिरा
6. **Depend** (verb) - rely, hinge, bank, lean, count on निर्भर होना
7. **Transit** (noun) - transport, passage, movement, conveyance, shipment पारगमन
8. **Grid** (noun) - network, matrix, system, lattice, framework जाल या तंत्र
9. **Familiarity** (noun) - acquaintance, intimacy, awareness, closeness, experience परिचय या मेल-जोल
10. **Aside** (adverb) - apart, away, separately, notwithstanding, besides अलग या हटकर
11. **Assume** (verb) - presume, suppose, surmise, deduce, speculate मान लेना
12. **Ascension** (noun) - rise, elevation, promotion, advancement, ascent आरोहण या पद-प्राप्ति
13. **Chart** (verb) - map, outline, plot, delineate, draft योजना बनाना या रूपरेखा तैयार करना
14. **Well-worn** (adjective) - trite, hackneyed, commonplace, stale, platitudinous घिसा-पिटा
15. **Predictable** (adjective) - foreseeable, expected, anticipated, certain, probable पूर्वानुमेय
16. **Course** (noun) - path, route, direction, trajectory, way मार्ग या दिशा
17. **Upturn** (verb) - overturn, upend, subvert, reverse, capsize उलट देना
18. **Dominance** (noun) - supremacy, hegemony, authority, control, mastery प्रभुत्व या वर्चस्व
19. **Inherit** (verb) - acquire, succeed to, obtain, receive, derive विरासत में पाना
20. **Overthrow** (verb) - topple, oust, unseat, depose, subvert तख्तापलट करना
21. **Monarchy** (noun) - the system of government or rule by a king or queen राजतंत्र
22. **Overarching** (adjective) - comprehensive, all-embracing, predominant, central, principal सर्वोपरि या व्यापक
23. **Formalise** (verb) - validate, legalize, ratify, sanction, standardize औपचारिक रूप देना
24. **Decade** (noun) - ten-year period दशक
25. **Strain** (verb) - tax, pressure, burden, stretch, stress तनावपूर्ण बनाना
26. **Overt** (adjective) - manifest, explicit, apparent, blatant, conspicuous प्रत्यक्ष या खुल्लम-खुल्ला

27. **Nationalism** (noun) - a feeling of love or pride for your own country; a feeling that your country is better than any other राष्ट्रवाद
28. **Hegemony** (noun) - control by one country, organization, etc. over other countries, etc. within a particular group आधिपत्य
29. **Tread** (verb) - walk, step, pace, stride, advance सावधानी से कदम रखना
30. **Find someone's feet** (idiom) - to become confident and comfortable in a new situation नए माहौल में ढलना
31. **Deal with** (phrasal verb) - to handle, address or cope with something निपटना या सामना करना
32. **Remittance** (noun) - payment, transfer, allowance, money sent, dispatch बाहर से भेजा गया धन
33. **Treaty** (noun) - pact, accord, convention, agreement, covenant संधि या समझौता
34. **Eventually** (adverb) - ultimately, finally, yet, in the end, at last अंततः
35. **At the earliest** (phrase) - as soon as possible जल्द से जल्द

Summary of the Editorial

1. Narendra Modi and Balendra Balen Shah exchanged early messages expressing willingness to strengthen bilateral ties.
2. Both India and Nepal are ready to begin a **new phase of relations** based on shared culture, open borders, and historical connections.
3. Nepal, being landlocked, is **economically dependent on India** for trade and transit routes.
4. India's regional **energy grid plans** can significantly help Nepal export hydropower and boost revenue.
5. Balen Shah represents a **new generation (Gen-Z leadership)**, unlike traditional Nepali political elites.
6. He is Nepal's **first Madhesi Prime Minister**, breaking dominance of the Brahmin-Chettri Pahadi elite.
7. His rise reflects a **political shift after the fall of K. P. Sharma Oli's government in 2025**.
8. The new leadership does not follow **traditional foreign policy frameworks** shaped by older political movements.
9. Nepal's future foreign policy, including ties with **China, the U.S., and India**, is still evolving.
10. India-Nepal relations have faced tensions in the past over **constitutional issues, border blockade, and territorial disputes**.
11. As Kathmandu mayor, Balen Shah showed **strong nationalist tendencies** and resistance to Indian influence.
12. His use of the **"Greater Nepal" map** raised concerns in New Delhi.
13. India should adopt a **careful, supportive, and non-intrusive approach** toward the new Nepali government.
14. Nepal currently faces challenges such as **fuel, fertilizer shortages, and reliance on remittances (14% population working abroad)**.
15. India should **invite Balen Shah to Delhi quickly** and resolve pending issues (airspace access, power trade, treaty updates) to strengthen ties under the "Neighbourhood First" policy.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following statements is CORRECT according to the passage?** [Editorial page]
 1. Prime Minister Balendra Shah is the first Madhesi leader of Nepal, breaking the long-standing dominance of the Pahadi elite.
 2. The K.P. Sharma Oli government was brought down in 2025 by a Gen-Z movement led by traditional Communist parties.
 3. Approximately 14% of Nepal's population works abroad, making the country heavily dependent on remittances.
 4. India has consistently reduced its development assistance to Nepal over the past decade due to territorial disputes.
 - A. Only 1 and 2
 - B. Only 2 and 4
 - C. Only 1, 3, and 4
 - D. Only 1 and 3
2. **Which of the following statements is INCORRECT according to the passage?**
 1. Balendra Shah previously served as the Mayor of Kathmandu and was known for his overt nationalism.
 2. Nepal is a land-locked country that depends significantly on trade and transit through India.
 3. In 2024, New Delhi immediately invited K.P. Sharma Oli to India following his election victory.
 4. The "Greater Nepal" map used by Mr. Shah has been a source of concern for the Indian government.
 - A. Only 1 and 2
 - B. Only 2 and 3
 - C. Only 3
 - D. Only 3 and 4
3. **Evaluate the following statements as True or False based on the passage:**
 1. Balendra Shah studied in India, a background common to many former leaders of Nepal.
 2. The current Shah government has already fully formalized its foreign policy ties with China and the U.S.
 - A. 1-True, 2-True
 - B. 1-False, 2-True
 - C. 1-False, 2-False
 - D. 1-True, 2-False
4. **Based on your understanding of the passage, what specific assistance does Nepal require from India due to the war in West Asia?**
 - A. Assistance in overthrowing the remaining Maoist movements and the old Pahadi elite.
 - B. Help with fuel and fertilizer imports to mitigate the impacts of the conflict.
 - C. Immediate overflight rights for new airports to increase tourism revenues from China
 - D. A total blockade on border trade to protect the domestic Gen-Z energy grid.
5. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage?**
 - A. Aggressive and Hegemonic
 - B. Descriptive and Neutral

- C. Analytical and Cautionary
D. Celebratory and Optimistic
6. **Directions: Rearrange the following four sentences (A, B, C, and D) in the proper sequence to form a meaningful paragraph.**
- A. Around 20% of the world's oil and gas supply usually passes through the narrow waterway, but shipments have largely come to a standstill, pushing up prices.
B. Consequently, the price of Brent crude rose by more than 3% to above \$115 a barrel, putting it on track for its biggest monthly gain on record.
C. Furthermore, energy markets expert Sean Foley warned that oil prices could rise even further, as Houthi strikes could stop shipments passing through the Bab al-Mandeb strait.
D. Global energy markets have been hugely volatile after Tehran retaliated to US and Israeli strikes by threatening to attack ships that try to cross the Strait of Hormuz.
- A. DBAC
B. ADBC
C. DABC
D. CBDA
7. **Identify the error in the given sentence:**
"Despite of being intelligent, he failed to qualify the exam."
A. Despite of
B. being intelligent
C. he failed
D. to qualify the exam
8. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**
The judge ruled ___ favor of the plaintiff after reviewing all the evidence.
A. in
B. with
C. for
D. to
9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrasal verb:**
The spokesperson tried to _____ the media frenzy by issuing a calm, factual statement.
A. tone down
B. carry out
C. take off
D. crack down
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: DISPARATE**
A. Similar
B. Identical
C. Different
D. Uniform
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: RETICENT**
A. Talkative
B. Reserved
C. Loud
D. Open

12. Fill in the blank with the most appropriate idiomatic expression:

During the debate, he was clearly uncomfortable and kept trying to _____.

- A. bite the bullet
- B. face the music
- C. beat around the bush
- D. let the cat out of the bag

13. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Candid

- A. Sincere
- B. Honest
- C. Evasive
- D. Frank

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

Which student scored the first highest marks in the class?

- A. the first highest
- B. the highest first
- C. the highest marks
- D. the first marks

15. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:

A person who lives in a foreign country

- A. Expatriate
- B. Immigrant
- C. Refugee
- D. Tourist

16. Choose the correct indirect narration of the following statement from the given alternatives:

King Midas said, "Daughter, take your breakfast and bring a few roses from the garden."

- A. King Midas asked his daughter to take his breakfast and bring a few roses from the garden.
- B. King Midas asked his daughter to take her breakfast and take a few roses from the garden.
- C. King Midas asked his daughter to take her breakfast and bring a few roses from the garden.
- D. King Midas asked his daughter to take her breakfast and brought a few roses from the garden.

17. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Celerity

- A. Slowness
- B. Speed
- C. Rapid
- D. Quick

18. Which sentence contains a misspelled word?

- A. The weather was awful all weekend.
- B. She had an awfull headache that wouldn't go away.
- C. That movie was just awful, I don't recommend it.
- D. He felt awful about what happened.

19. Fill in the blank with the correctly spelled word:

"The student received a _____ for her excellent research paper."

- A. sitation
- B. citation

- C. citattion
- D. citation

20. **Change the following sentence into the Active form:**

Has the groundbreaking research been funded by a private consortium for the past two years?

- A. Has a private consortium funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
- B. The private consortium has funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
- C. Did a private consortium fund the groundbreaking research for the past two years?
- D. A private consortium has been funding the groundbreaking research for the past two years?

Comprehension

A new (1) ___ has just entered the villa. He's 24-years-old from Barcelona, and he's a (2) ___. That's not a figure of speech. He's a plum - like the fruit. And that's just one piece of TikTok's newest (3) ___, an AI-generated series called Fruit Love Island. Launched less than a month ago, Fruit Love Island is perhaps the first super viral show created entirely by generative AI. It's designed to (4) ___ the hit ITV reality dating show "Love Island", but (5) ___ people on the island, the characters are talking fruit. The plum from Barcelona is named Plumero. There's also Watermelina, a watermelon, a banana named Bananito, and Cherrita, who is a cherry. Posted daily on TikTok, the nonsensical one minute-long episodes featuring this juicy cast have attracted hundreds of millions of viewers in a matter of weeks. They've also brought 3.3 million followers to the anonymous account that posts them: ai.cinema021.

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

- A. bombshell
- B. shrapnel
- C. arsenal
- D. detonation

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

- A. botanical
- B. vegetation
- C. peach
- D. plum

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

- A. fixate
- B. monopoly
- C. obsession
- D. commodity

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

- A. sympathize
- B. resonate
- C. intercept
- D. mirror

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

- A. regardless
- B. instead of

- C. whereas
- D. but for

Answers

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

[Practice exercise]

Explanations

1. C) Only 1 and 3.

Statement 1 is Correct: The passage states, "At 35, he is Nepal's first Madhesi leader, and upturns the old dominance of the Brahmin-Chettri Pahadi elite."

Statement 3 is Correct: The passage confirms, "Approximately 14% of Nepal's population... work abroad, and the country is dependent on remittances..."

Statement 2 is Incorrect: While the movement brought down Oli, the passage says this leadership has not inherited the understandings of the "Communist parties."

Statement 4 is Incorrect: The author says, "In the past decade, India has increased its development assistance to Nepal," even though ties were strained.

2. C) Only 3.

Statement 3 is Incorrect: The passage says, "Differences delayed New Delhi's invitation in 2024 to Mr. Oli... he eventually visited Beijing first."

Statement 1 is Correct: The passage mentions his tenure as Mayor and his "rejection of the 'hegemony' of India."

Statement 2 is Correct: The passage explicitly describes Nepal as "Land-locked" and dependent on Indian transit.

Statement 4 is Correct: The use of the map had been "read with some concern in New Delhi."

3. C) . 1-True, 2-False.

- Statement 1 is True: The passage confirms, "Like many former leaders of Nepal, Mr. Shah studied in India."
- Statement 2 is False: The author explicitly states the government's foreign policy is "yet to be formalised."

4. B) Help with fuel and fertilizer imports to mitigate the impacts of the conflict.

The author suggests India should offer support for immediate challenges: "Among those are the impacts of the war in West Asia where Nepal will need help with fuel and fertilizer imports."

others are wrong: (A) describes historical/political shifts, not war-related aid. (C) is a request for airports, not a war-related necessity. (D) and (E) are not suggested in the passage

5. C) Analytical and Cautionary.

Analytical: The author examines the demographic shift (Madhesi vs. Pahadi), the impact of Gen-Z politics, and the historical friction in bilateral ties.

Cautionary: The author warns that it would be a "mistake" to assume a predictable course and advises that the Modi government should "tread lightly."

6. C) Correct Sequence: D - A - B - C

Sentence D सबसे पहले आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरी कहानी का base या introduction है। इसमें "volatile energy markets" (अस्थिर ऊर्जा बाज़ार) और ईरान द्वारा "Strait of Hormuz" पर हमले की धमकी का ज़िक्र करके मेन टॉपिक को introduce किया गया है।

Sentence A, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि Sentence D में Strait of Hormuz की बात हुई है। Sentence A में "the narrow waterway" का इस्तेमाल किया गया है जो सीधे तौर पर D में बताए गए उसी Strait of Hormuz से जुड़ता है। यह बताता है कि वहाँ जहाज़ों के रुकने से कीमतें बढ़ रही हैं ("pushing up prices")।

Sentence B, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि Sentence A के आखिर में कीमतों के बढ़ने (pushing up prices) की बात है। Sentence B में "Consequently" (नतीजतन / परिणामस्वरूप) वर्ड का इस्तेमाल करके उस बात को आगे बढ़ाया गया है और exact data दिया गया है कि कीमतें बढ़कर कितनी हो गई (Brent crude \$115 के पार चला गया)।

Sentence C आखिर में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें "Furthermore" (इसके अलावा) वर्ड का इस्तेमाल करके पैराग्राफ को एक final warning (चेतावनी) के साथ खत्म किया गया है। यह बताता है कि एक expert (Sean Foley) के अनुसार आगे कीमतें और भी बढ़ सकती हैं क्योंकि एक और रास्ते (Bab al-Mandeb strait) पर भी खतरा मंडरा रहा है।

Sentence D will come first because it serves as the base or introduction to the entire narrative. It introduces the main topic by mentioning the "volatile energy markets" and the specific threat of attacks on the "Strait of Hormuz."

Sentence A will come after Sentence D because Sentence D mentions the Strait of Hormuz. Sentence A uses the phrase "the narrow waterway," which connects directly back to the exact same strait mentioned in D. It explains that the halting of shipments there is "pushing up prices."

Sentence B will come after Sentence A because Sentence A ends by mentioning that prices are rising. Sentence B takes this forward by using the transition word "Consequently" (as a result) to provide the exact data of those price hikes (Brent crude crossing \$115 a barrel).

Sentence C will come at the end because it uses the transition word "Furthermore" to wrap up the paragraph with a final warning. It states an expert's opinion (Sean Foley) that prices could rise even further due to an additional threat at a completely different location (Bab al-Mandeb strait).

7. A) 'Despite of' के स्थान पर '**Despite**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'Despite' एक Preposition है और इसके बाद 'of' नहीं आता; जैसे— Despite being late, he completed the work.
 - 'Despite' will be used instead of 'Despite of' because 'Despite' is a preposition and it is never followed by 'of'; Like— Despite being late, he completed the work.
8. A) **in** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि context यह बताता है कि अदालत का निर्णय plaintiff के पक्ष में गया। English में किसी के पक्ष में निर्णय या समर्थन व्यक्त करने के लिए हमेशा in favor of प्रयोग होता है। इसलिए यहाँ in सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
 - **'in' should be used because the context indicates that the court's decision went in support of the plaintiff. In English, when expressing a decision or support in someone's favor, the correct expression is in favor of. Thus, in is the most appropriate choice.
9. A) **tone down** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में मीडिया की अत्यधिक प्रतिक्रियाओं और हंगामे को कम करने की बात की गई है। tone down का अर्थ होता है किसी चीज़ की तीव्रता, प्रभाव या उग्रता को कम करना, जो इस संदर्भ में बिल्कुल उपयुक्त है। इसलिए यहाँ tone down सही विकल्प है।
 - **'tone down' should be used because the sentence indicates an attempt to reduce the intensity of the media's overreaction. The phrasal verb tone down means to lessen

the force, impact, or intensity of something, which perfectly fits the context. Thus, tone down is the most appropriate choice.

10. C) **Disparate** (adjective) – distinct, different, dissimilar, not related in kind भिन्न / अलग
Synonym: **Different** (adjective) – not the same, unlike, varied अलग / भिन्न
- **Similar** (adjective) – resembling, alike समान
 - **Identical** (adjective) – exactly the same बिल्कुल समान
 - **Uniform** (adjective) – consistent, unvarying एकसमान
11. B) **Reticent** (adjective) – reserved, not inclined to speak, quiet, restrained in expression कम बोलने वाला / संकोची
Synonym: **Reserved** (adjective) – quiet, private, not openly expressive संयमी / मितभाषी
- **Talkative** (adjective) – fond of talking, chatty बातूनी
 - **Loud** (adjective) – noisy, outspoken शोरगुल वाला / तेज़
 - **Open** (adjective) – frank, candid, communicative खुला / स्पष्ट
12. C) **Beat around the bush** (idiom) – To avoid the main point; to speak indirectly when uncomfortable मुद्दे पर सीधे न आकर घुमा-फिराकर बात करना / असहज होने पर बहाने बनाना
- **Bite the bullet** – To face something difficult bravely. हिम्मत से कठिनाई का सामना करना
 - **Face the music** – To accept unpleasant consequences. परिणामों का सामना करना
 - **Let the cat out of the bag** – To reveal a secret unintentionally. राज़ खोल देना / भेद खुल जाना
13. C) **Candid** (adjective) – honest, frank, open, straightforward in speech स्पष्ट / साफ़गो
Antonym: **Evasive** (adjective) – not direct, avoiding clear answers, vague टालमटोल करने वाला / बचने वाला
- **Sincere** (adjective) – genuine, truthful ईमानदार
 - **Honest** (adjective) – truthful, upright सत्यनिष्ठ
 - **Frank** (adjective) – open, direct, candid स्पष्टवादी
14. C) **'the highest marks'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पहले से ही 'highest' superlative degree है जिसमें 'first' का प्रयोग नहीं किया जाता; जैसे— He got the highest marks in the test.
- 'the highest marks' will be used because 'highest' is already a superlative degree and we do not place 'first' before a superlative; Like— He got the highest marks in the test.
15. A) **Expatriate** (noun) – A person who lives in a foreign country विदेश में रहने वाला व्यक्ति
- **Immigrant** (noun) – A person who comes to live permanently in a foreign country. स्थायी रूप से बसने वाला प्रवासी
 - **Refugee** (noun) – A person forced to leave their country due to war, persecution or disaster. शरणार्थी / मजबूरन देश छोड़ने वाला
 - **Tourist** (noun) – A person who travels for pleasure. घूमने या आनंद के लिए यात्रा करने वाला
16. C) **King Midas asked his daughter to take her breakfast and bring a few roses from the garden.**
Direct से Indirect Narration में बदलने के लिए Reporting Verb के प्रकार के अनुसार Reported Speech को Imperative रूप में बदल दिया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में King Midas का कथन आदेश/अनुरोध के रूप में है, इसलिए Indirect में "asked" का प्रयोग किया गया है और मूल Verb "take"

तथा “bring” को Infinitive रूप “to take” और “to bring” में बदला गया है। Pronoun “your” को Indirect में Sense के अनुसार “her” में बदला गया है ताकि संदर्भ बेटी की ओर जाए।

- To convert from Direct to Indirect Narration, imperative statements are transformed by using “asked” or “told” and the main verbs are changed into the infinitive form. In this case, King Midas is giving commands, so “asked” is used, “take” and “bring” become “to take” and “to bring”, and the pronoun “your” changes to “her” to match the perspective in indirect speech.

17. A) **Celerity** (noun) – swiftness, speed, rapid motion तीव्रता / शीघ्रता

Antonym: **Slowness** (noun) – lack of speed, sluggishness, gradual pace मंदता / धीमापन

- **Speed** (noun) – rate of motion, quickness गति
- **Rapid** (adjective) – fast, quick तेज़
- **Quick** (adjective) – fast, prompt शीघ्र

18. B) **She had an awfull headache that wouldn't go away.**

B) The sentence “She had an awfull headache that wouldn't go away.” contains a misspelled word. The correct spelling is “awful” which means very bad, unpleasant, or painful भयानक / बहुत खराब।

19. D) The correctly spelled word is “citation” which means a formal reference or acknowledgement प्रशंसा / उद्धरण / उल्लेख।

20. A) **Has a private consortium funded the groundbreaking research for the past two years?**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए Passive वाक्य का Object हटकर Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है, और Passive Verb-form को उसी Tense के Active रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में “Has ... been funded” Present Perfect Passive interrogative संरचना है। Active में बदलते समय Verb “has funded” (Present Perfect Active) बन जाता है तथा Agent “a private consortium” Subject बन जाता है। बाकी जानकारी “for the past two years” यथावत रखी जाती है और Interrogative संरचना भी रहती है।

- To change from Passive to Active Voice, the passive verb structure “has ... been funded” (Present Perfect Passive interrogative) becomes “has funded” (Present Perfect Active), the agent “a private consortium” becomes the subject, and the object “the groundbreaking research” remains the object. The phrase “for the past two years” remains unchanged, and the question form is maintained.

21. A) [**bombshell**] सही है क्योंकि लव आइलैंड जैसे रियलिटी शो में इस शब्द का इस्तेमाल एक बहुत ही आकर्षक और सुंदर नए प्रतियोगी (attractive contestant) के लिए किया जाता है जो अचानक एंट्री लेता है। detonation का मतलब बम का धमाका या विस्फोट होता है। arsenal का मतलब हथियारों का भारी भंडार होता है। shrapnel का मतलब बम फटने पर हवा में उड़ने वाले नुकीले लोहे के टुकड़े होता है।

- [**bombshell**] is correct because in the context of reality dating shows like Love Island, it is a popular slang term for a highly attractive new contestant who arrives suddenly to surprise the cast. detonation means an explosion or the act of exploding a bomb. arsenal is a collection of weapons or military equipment. shrapnel refers to the flying metal fragments scattered from an exploding shell or bomb.

22. D) [**plum**] सही है क्योंकि इसके तुरंत बाद वाले वाक्य में लेखक ने साफ़-साफ़ स्पष्ट कर दिया है: “He's a plum - like the fruit” (वह एक प्लम यानी आलूबुखारा है)। botanical (वनस्पति विज्ञान से जुड़ा) और

vegetation (पेड़-पौधे) बहुत सामान्य शब्द हैं जो किसी एक फल की पहचान नहीं बताते। peach (आड़ू) एक अलग फल है, जिसे चुनने से अगला ही वाक्य गलत साबित हो जाएगा।

- [plum] is correct because the very next sentence explicitly confirms his identity, stating: "He's a plum - like the fruit." botanical and vegetation refer to plant biology and plant life in general, which doesn't fit the specific character description. peach is a completely different fruit, which would immediately contradict the writer's clarification in the following sentence.

23. C) [**obsession**] सही है क्योंकि यह एक noun है जिसका मतलब कोई ऐसी चीज़ होता है जिस पर लोग लगातार ध्यान दें या जिसके दीवाने हो जाएं (viral trend)। टिकटॉक के नए वायरल शो के लिए यह बिल्कुल सटीक शब्द है। fixate एक verb (क्रिया) है, इसलिए यह यहाँ ग़रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। monopoly का मतलब किसी बाज़ार पर पूरा एकाधिकार (एकछत्र राज) होता है। commodity का मतलब व्यापार में खरीदा या बेचा जाने वाला कच्चा माल होता है।

- [obsession] is correct because it is a noun meaning something that people focus on constantly with great interest. "TikTok's newest obsession" is the perfect phrase to describe a highly viral, addictive internet trend. fixate is a verb, making it grammatically incorrect here after an adjective. monopoly means exclusive control over a trade or market. commodity means a raw material or basic agricultural product that is bought and sold.

24. D) [**mirror**] सही है क्योंकि यहाँ यह एक verb (क्रिया) के रूप में काम कर रहा है जिसका मतलब किसी चीज़ की हबहू नकल करना या उसे दर्शाना (imitate) होता है। यह AI शो असली रियलिटी शो की नकल करने के लिए ही बनाया गया है। sympathize का मतलब किसी से हमदर्दी जताना होता है। resonate का मतलब भावनाओं का मेल खाना होता है, और इसके साथ हमेशा 'with' आता है। intercept का मतलब रास्ते में ही किसी चीज़ को रोक लेना होता है।

- [mirror] is correct because it acts as a verb here, meaning to closely imitate, reflect, or copy something else. The AI show is designed to perfectly imitate (mirror) the format of the real Love Island. sympathize means to feel sorry for someone's misfortune. resonate means to evoke shared emotions, but it strictly requires the preposition "with". intercept means to stop or catch something before it reaches its destination.

25. B) [**instead of**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी चीज़ के 'बजाय' या 'स्थान पर' (in place of) होता है। इस शो में असली इंसानों की जगह पर या उनके बजाय (instead of) बात करने वाले फल दिखाए गए हैं। whereas का मतलब 'जबकि' होता है, जो वाक्यों की तुलना के लिए आता है और यहाँ ग़रामर के हिसाब से गलत है। but for का मतलब 'के बिना' (except for) होता है। regardless का मतलब परवाह किए बिना होता है, और इसके साथ 'of' आता है।

- [instead of] is correct because it is a prepositional phrase meaning "in place of" someone or something else. The show features talking fruits in place of (instead of) real human beings. whereas is a conjunction meaning "in contrast to the fact that," which doesn't fit the grammatical structure of the sentence. but for means "except for" or "if it were not for." regardless means without paying attention to the situation, taking "of" (regardless of).



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