

## Going downhill: On the Iran war, U.S. strategy

A ground **invasion** of Iran will only **make** matters **worse** for the United States

President Donald Trump has made several **self-contradictory** statements ever since the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, making it increasingly difficult to take anything that he says about the war seriously. In the early days, he **insisted** that the conflict would end soon, but it has now entered its second month. On March 21, he **threatened** to strike Iran's power plants in 48 hours unless Tehran reopened the Strait of Hormuz. The waterway remains under Iranian control, and Mr. Trump has extended his deadline twice. Despite his repeated claims that U.S. forces destroyed Iran's military capabilities, Tehran continues to attack U.S. bases in the Persian Gulf and Israel. Last week, U.S. media reported that an Iranian **strike** at the Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia **damaged** an elite E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft and several KC-135 **aerial** refuelling tankers. Mr. Trump now says that his administration is in talks with Iran and a deal is possible. But Iran says that it has got a U.S. proposal to end the war and has made its **counter-proposal**. The U.S. wants Iran to **abandon** its nuclear programme, **limit** its missile programme and reopen the Strait; Tehran demands war **reparations**, guarantees against future attacks and an end to fighting on "all fronts". **Amid disputed** claims about the talks, the U.S. is also sending more combat **troops** to West Asia in preparation for a possible ground attack.

Mr. Trump appears to have no easy exit. The Strait of Hormuz was open before he launched the war. Ending the conflict now while the waterway remains under Iranian control would seem like a defeat. The U.S. had a **robust** military **footprint** in the region. Today, most American **bases** in the Gulf **have** been **battered**. In Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's **assassination voided** his **fatwa** against the nuclear bomb, and its parliament is considering **withdrawing** from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. **Crude prices**, under \$80 a barrel before the war, **are** now **hovering around** \$114 a barrel. **Iran**, which was under heavy **sanctions**, **is** making more money now because of the wartime sanctions relief. This war is already a **disaster** for the U.S., and Mr. Trump would worsen it by sending ground troops. The U.S. has not **mobilised** enough combat troops to launch a **large-scale** ground invasion. Many argue that the U.S. could try to **seize** some islands in the Gulf for **leverage**, but any attack would be extremely risky for both troops and the global economy. Mr. Trump's **escalatory rhetoric**, including threats to strike Iran's civilian infrastructure only **underscores** his **desperation**. Instead of **digging deeper into the hole** he has put himself in, he must start looking for a **way out**. A ground attack would close even the few remaining **off-ramps** he has. [Practice Exercise]

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Go downhill** (phrase) - to deteriorate or worsen in quality, health, or status स्थिति खराब होना
2. **Invasion** (noun) - incursion, onslaught, foray, raid, intrusion आक्रमण
3. **Make worse** (phrase) - to aggravate or exacerbate a situation or condition बिगाड़ देना
4. **Self-contradictory** (adjective) - inconsistent, incongruous, discrepant, paradoxical, clashing आत्म-विरोधी
5. **Insist** (verb) - assert, maintain, contend, aver, proclaim जोर देना
6. **Threaten** (verb) - intimidate, menace, browbeat, cow, bully धमकाना
7. **Strike** (verb) - attack, assault, bombard, blitz, smite हमला करना
8. **Aerial** (adjective) - atmospheric, ethereal, aloft, soaring, flying हवाई
9. **Counter-proposal** (noun) - alternative, comeback, response, counter-offer, rejoinder जवाबी प्रस्ताव
10. **Abandon** (verb) - relinquish, renounce, forsake, discard, jettison त्याग देना
11. **Limit** (verb) - restrict, curb, check, restrain, circumscribe सीमित करना
12. **Reparation** (noun) - compensation, restitution, indemnity, redress, atonement हर्जाना
13. **Front** (noun) - sectors, zones, areas, spheres, fields मोर्चे
14. **Amid** (preposition) - among, amidst, during, throughout, involving के बीच में
15. **Disputed** (adjective) - contested, debated, moot, controversial, arguable विवादित
16. **Troop** (noun) - soldier, force, personnel, infantry, legion सैन्य दल
17. **Robust** (adjective) - vigorous, resilient, sturdy, tough, brawny मजबूत
18. **Footprint** (noun) - presence, impact, trace, mark, vestige पदचिह्न/उपस्थिति
19. **Batter** (verb) - pelt, pound, pummel, buffet, thrash चकनाचूर करना
20. **Assassination** (noun) - murder, execution, slaying, liquidating, homicide हत्या
21. **Void** (verb) - nullify, invalidate, annul, rescind, abrogate अमान्य करना
22. **Fatwa** (noun) - decree, edict, ruling, command, pronouncement धार्मिक आदेश
23. **Withdraw** (verb) - retract, recede, pull out, depart, secede पीछे हटना
24. **Hover around** (verb) - linger, drift, fluctuate, flutter, hang मंडराना
25. **Sanction** (noun) - penalty, deterrent, embargo, restriction, punishment प्रतिबंध
26. **Disaster** (noun) - catastrophe, calamity, debacle, fiasco, tragedy आपदा
27. **Mobilise** (verb) - assemble, marshal, rally, deploy, muster संगठित करना
28. **Large-scale** (adjective) - extensive, massive, sweeping, vast, monumental बड़े पैमाने पर

29. **Seize** (verb) - capture, confiscate, annex, usurp, commandeer कब्जा करना
30. **Leverage** (noun) - influence, advantage, clout, sway, authority लाभ/प्रभाव
31. **Escalatory** (adjective) - intensifying, increasing, surging, mounting, heightening तनाव बढ़ाने वाला
32. **Rhetoric** (noun) - oratory, eloquence, hyperbole, bombast, discourse वाकपटुता
33. **Underscore** (verb) - emphasize, highlight, stress, accentuate, feature रेखांकित करना
34. **Desperation** (noun) - hopelessness, distress, anguish, despair, agony हताशा
35. **Dig deep into the hole** (phrase) - to make a difficult or bad situation even worse for oneself अपनी स्थिति और बिगाड़ लेना
36. **A way out** (phrase) - a method or opportunity for escaping a problematic situation बाहर निकलने का रास्ता
37. **Off-ramps** (noun) - an opportunity to withdraw from a conflict or difficult situation without loss of face सम्मानजनक निकास का मार्ग

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The U.S. strategy in the Iran war is becoming **increasingly unstable and ineffective**.
2. Donald Trump has made **contradictory statements**, reducing credibility.
3. Initially, he claimed the war would end quickly, but it has now **prolonged into a second month**.
4. The U.S. threatened Iran over the **Strait of Hormuz**, but failed to enforce deadlines.
5. Iran continues to **retain control of the Strait**, showing U.S. limitations.
6. Despite U.S. claims of weakening Iran, Tehran is still **launching attacks on U.S. and Israeli targets**.
7. Iranian strikes have reportedly **damaged key U.S. military assets** in the Gulf region.
8. The U.S. claims negotiations are ongoing, but both sides have **conflicting demands**.
9. The U.S. demands Iran halt its **nuclear and missile programs**, while Iran seeks **reparations and security guarantees**.
10. Meanwhile, the U.S. is **deploying more troops**, signaling possible escalation.
11. The U.S. now faces **no easy exit**, as ending the war may appear as a defeat.
12. The conflict has **weakened U.S. military positions**, with bases under attack.
13. The assassination of Ali Khamenei has escalated tensions, including nuclear risks.
14. The war has caused **global economic impact**, including a sharp rise in crude oil prices.
15. A U.S. ground invasion would be **highly risky and worsen the situation**, so diplomatic exit is necessary.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following is a primary demand made by Tehran in their counter-proposal to end the war?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The immediate abandonment of Iran's nuclear and missile programmes.
  - B. An end to fighting on "all fronts" and the provision of war reparations.
  - C. The permanent transfer of the Strait of Hormuz to U.S. military control.
  - D. A large-scale ground invasion by U.S. combat troops to provide leverage.
2. **How has the economic situation for Iran changed since the start of the war, according to the passage?**
  - A. Iran is making less money now because crude prices have dropped below \$80 a barrel.
  - B. The country has faced total bankruptcy due to the destruction of its military capabilities.
  - C. Iran is making more money now due to high crude prices and wartime sanctions relief.
  - D. Tehran has been forced to pay heavy war reparations to Saudi Arabia for the air base strike.
3. **Why does the author suggest that a ground attack by the U.S. would be extremely risky?**
  - A. Because the U.S. has already destroyed all Iranian nuclear facilities, leaving no targets for a ground force.
  - B. Because the U.S. has successfully mobilized an overwhelming number of troops for a large-scale invasion.
  - C. Because Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's fatwa forbids any ground-based combat within the Gulf region.
  - D. Because it would close the remaining diplomatic "off-ramps" and threaten the global economy.
4. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage?**
  - A. Supportive and Patriotic
  - B. Critical and Warning
  - C. Indifferent and Statistical
  - D. Celebratory and Optimistic
5. **Consider the following statements based on the passage:**
  1. The conflict between the U.S. and Iran began on February 28 and has currently entered its second month.
  2. President Trump has consistently maintained that the Strait of Hormuz was closed before he launched the war.
  3. According to U.S. media, an Iranian strike at a Saudi Arabian air base damaged an E-3 Sentry AWACS and KC-135 tankers.
  4. The assassination of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has led the Iranian parliament to consider withdrawing from the NPT.

**Which of the statements given above are CORRECT?**

  - A. Only 1 and 3
  - B. Only 2 and 4
  - C. Only 1, 3, and 4
  - D. All are correct
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentence parts (P, Q, R, S) between the fixed sentences S1 and S6 to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph.**

S1: Pakistan's role as an intermediary in the conflict between the US and Iran took many by surprise.

P. Furthermore, it shares a 900km border with Iran and maintains deep cultural ties, while crucially hosting no US air bases.

Q. But perhaps it shouldn't, considering the head of its armed forces is highly favored by the US President.

R. Specifically, it is currently engaged in conflict with Afghanistan, and recent tensions with India led to fears of a nuclear escalation.

S. Still, there have been valid questions about how a country embroiled in its own regional disputes has positioned itself as a bringer of peace.

S6: Despite these contradictions, the nation has so far successfully walked the diplomatic tightrope between the two opposing sides.

A. P, Q, R, S

B. Q, P, S, R

C. S, R, Q, P

D. Q, S, P, R

7. **Identify the incorrect sentence.**

A. All of the cities in California is being affected by the rain yesterday.

B. Seven people were rescued from the fire.

C. Half of the boxes are empty.

D. Some of the TV programs are very interesting.

8. **Which of the following is free from grammatical error?**

A. She is senior than me by two years.

B. He was prevented to go out by the guard.

C. I look forward to meet you soon.

D. The manager, as well as his assistants, was late.

9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate preposition:**

The witness was reluctant to testify \_\_\_\_ fear of retaliation.

A. from

B. of

C. for

D. in

10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate conjunction:**

\_\_\_\_ the forecast warned of heavy rain, the outdoor ceremony proceeded as planned.

A. Even though

B. Because

C. Unless

D. Since

11. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**

A. Humonirous

B. Humorous

C. Humorous

D. Hummorious

12. **Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'**  
This paper is made up of wood
- A. made of wood
  - B. made up from wood
  - C. made from wood
  - D. No substitution
13. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**  
The hunters waited patiently for the duck to land.
- A. The mother duck led her ducklings to the water.
  - B. The children loved to feed the ducks at the park.
  - C. He had to duck to avoid the low-hanging branch.
  - D. The artist painted a beautiful picture of a duck.
14. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**  
Showing deep respect.
- A. Reverent
  - B. Polite
  - C. Courteous
  - D. Deferential
15. **Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Deleterious**
- A. Harmless
  - B. Dangerous
  - C. Toxic
  - D. Poisonous
16. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**  
He said that the machine operates automatically but had malfunctioned that morning.
- A. He said, "The machine operated automatically but had malfunctioned that morning."
  - B. He said, "The machine operated automatically but had malfunctioned this morning."
  - C. He said, "The machine operates automatically, but malfunctioned this morning."
  - D. He said, "The machine is operating automatically, but malfunctioned this morning."
17. **Which sentence contains a misspelled word?**
- A. The teacher asked the students to annotate the text.
  - B. Please annotate any important points in the article.
  - C. He forgot to anotate the key sections before submitting the paper.
  - D. Use a pencil to annotate your notes neatly.
18. **What is the antonym of "Sanguine"?**
- A. Cheerful
  - B. Melancholic
  - C. Confident
  - D. Buoyant
19. **Which word is nearest in meaning to shamefacedly? The father laughed shamefacedly at the son's outburst.**
- A. Boldly

- B. Embarrassedly
- C. Arrogantly
- D. Cheerfully

20. **Which of the following pairs of homonyms can be used to fill in the blanks most suitably?**

As the lonely \_\_\_\_\_ wailed over the lake, the pale \_\_\_\_\_ rose slowly, casting silver ripples on the water.

- A. lune, loon
- B. loon, loon
- C. lune, lune
- D. loon, lune

**Comprehension**

For years I walked the streets of London wearing noise-cancelling headphones, absorbed in playlists, politics podcasts or long voice notes from friends, and a million miles away from wherever I was. One (1) \_\_\_\_ January evening last year, I was walking home from my parents' house, headphones dead in my bag, when I noticed a small figure (2) \_\_\_\_ on the pavement with her eyes closed. I might not have noticed her had I been in my own world, fixated on what was playing in my ears. I asked for her name. "Can you hear me?" I tried several times, my voice tightening. She didn't respond, and worse, she didn't seem to be breathing. My mind raced back to the one first aid class I took in school, but drawing a blank and frantically tried to figure out if I could feel her pulse. The call handler talked me through what to do: lie her down, (3) \_\_\_\_ her chest in time to a count, and keep going. The stranger took a breath and I heard sirens. Once the (4) \_\_\_\_ arrived and she could say her name, it was my (5) \_\_\_\_ to leave. I raced to the station, full of adrenaline, and jumped on the wrong train.

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

- A. sweltering
- B. brittle
- C. damp
- D. soluble

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

- A. capsize
- B. looming
- C. levitating
- D. slumped

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

- A. evaporate
- B. calibrate
- C. confiscate
- D. compress

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

- A. paramedics
- B. optician
- C. plaintiff
- D. diplomats

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

- A. jurisdiction
- B. cue
- C. monopoly
- D. embargo

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

- B) An end to fighting on "all fronts" and the provision of war reparations.**  
 according to passage: The passage states, "Tehran demands war reparations, guarantees against future attacks and an end to fighting on 'all fronts'."  
 others are wrong: (A) and (C) are U.S. demands or goals, not Tehran's. (D) is an action the author describes as a "risky" escalation by the U.S., not a demand from Iran.
- C) Iran is making more money now due to high crude prices and wartime sanctions relief.**  
 according to passage: The author notes, "Iran... is making more money now because of the wartime sanctions relief" and crude prices hovering around \$114 a barrel.  
 others are wrong: (A) is factually incorrect as prices rose from under \$80 to \$114. (B) and (D) are not supported by the passage; the passage actually says Tehran continues to attack U.S. bases.
- D) Because it would close the remaining diplomatic "off-ramps" and threaten the global economy.**  
 The author states that a ground attack would be "extremely risky for both troops and the global economy" and would "close even the few remaining off-ramps."  
 others are wrong: (A) contradicts the passage which says Iran continues to attack. (C) is a misinterpretation; the fatwa was against the bomb, not ground combat. (D) is the opposite of the passage, which says the U.S. "has not mobilised enough combat troops."
- B) Critical and Warning.**  
 Critical: The author calls the war a "disaster" for the U.S. and labels Trump's statements as "self-contradictory."  
 Warning: The author cautions that sending ground troops would "worsen" the situation and urges the President to look for a way out instead of "digging deeper into the hole."  
 others are wrong: (A) and (D) are incorrect as the author views the war as a failure. (C) is incorrect because the author expresses strong qualitative judgments alongside the statistics.
- C) Only 1, 3, and 4.**  
 Statement 1 is Correct: The passage states the war started on Feb 28 and has "now entered its second month."  
 Statement 3 is Correct: The passage mentions strikes at Prince Sultan Air Base damaging an "E-3 Sentry AWACS aircraft and several KC-135 aerial refuelling tankers."  
 Statement 4 is Correct: The passage explicitly links the assassination to the voiding of the fatwa and the parliament considering "withdrawing from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty."  
 Statement 2 is Incorrect: The author clarifies that "The Strait of Hormuz was open before he launched the war."
- B) Correct Sequence: Option b (Q-P-S-R)**

Sentence Q, S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में कहा गया है कि पाकिस्तान की भूमिका "आश्चर्यचकित (surprise)" करने वाली थी, और Q "But perhaps it shouldn't" (लेकिन शायद ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए) कहकर इसका सीधा जवाब देता है और पहला कारण (US के साथ अच्छे संबंध) बताता है।

- Sentence P, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह "Furthermore" (इसके अलावा) शब्द का उपयोग करके एक और महत्वपूर्ण कारण (ईरान के साथ संबंध और सीमा) जोड़ता है कि पाकिस्तान का मध्यस्थ होना आश्चर्यजनक क्यों नहीं है।
- Sentence S, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "Still" (फिर भी) शब्द कहानी को वापस शुरूआती संदेह की ओर मोड़ देता है। यह इस बात पर सवाल उठाता है कि "क्षेत्रीय विवादों (regional disputes)" में उलझा देश शांतिदूत कैसे बन सकता है।
- Sentence R, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "Specifically" (विशेष रूप से) शब्द S में बताए गए "क्षेत्रीय विवादों" का ठोस उदाहरण देता है, जिसमें अफगानिस्तान और भारत के साथ चल रहे गंभीर संघर्ष का विवरण है।

Sentence S6, Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह R में बताए गए संघर्षों को "these contradictions" (इन विरोधाभासों) के रूप में सटीक रूप से सारांशित करता है और यह बताते हुए पैराग्राफ को समाप्त करता है कि पाकिस्तान इस स्थिति को कैसे संभाल रहा है।

- Sentence Q comes immediately after S1 because S1 states that Pakistan's role was a "surprise", and Q counters this directly with the phrase "But perhaps it shouldn't," introducing the first reason (US relations) why it makes logical sense.
  - Sentence P follows Sentence Q because it uses the transitional word "Furthermore" to add a second, equally important reason (Iran relations and border) to support why Pakistan's role shouldn't be surprising.
  - Sentence S follows Sentence P because the word "Still" acts as a pivot, shifting the narrative back to the initial skepticism. It introduces the contradiction of a nation involved in its own "regional disputes" acting as a peacemaker.
  - Sentence R follows Sentence S because the word "Specifically" introduces concrete, real-world evidence for the "regional disputes" mentioned in S, detailing the ongoing conflicts with Afghanistan and India.
  - Sentence S6 follows Sentence R because it perfectly summarizes the active conflicts detailed in R as "these contradictions" and concludes the paragraph by showing how Pakistan balances this complex situation.
7. A) 'is being affected' के बदले '**were affected**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य में समय-सूचक शब्द 'yesterday' दिया गया है जो Past Tense की मांग करता है, इसलिए पूरे वाक्य की verb भी Past Tense में होगी।
- 'were affected' will be used instead of 'is being affected' because the time indicator 'yesterday' puts the sentence in Past Tense, so the verb must also be in Past Tense.
8. D) 'The manager, as well as his assistants, was late.' correct है क्योंकि as well as के बाद verb का agreement पहले subject (manager) के अनुसार होता है, इसलिए singular verb was का प्रयोग सही है।
- 'The manager, as well as his assistants, was late.' is correct because with as well as, the verb agrees with the first subject (manager), hence singular verb was is correctly used.
9. B) of' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे context में sentence यह बताता है कि witness retaliation के डर के कारण testify करने में hesitate कर रहा था। यहाँ "fear of something" एक standard structure है जो किसी डर के कारण या source को दिखाने के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है। जब हम किसी चीज़ से डर व्यक्त

करते हैं, तो हम कहते हैं “fear of retaliation”, “fear of failure”, “fear of punishment” आदि। इसलिए यहाँ “of” reason या cause को indicate करता है। अगर कोई दूसरा preposition जैसे “for” या “about” लगाया जाए, तो meaning गलत या awkward हो जाएगा।

- ‘of’ should be used because in the entire context, the sentence conveys that the witness hesitated to testify due to fear of retaliation. In English, the structure “fear of something” is commonly used to denote the cause or reason behind fear. Thus, “of” would be the most appropriate choice.

10. A) ‘**Even though**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence “विपरीत स्थिति” या “contrast” को दर्शा रहा है। यहाँ forecast ने भारी बारिश की चेतावनी दी थी, फिर भी समारोह निर्धारित तरह से जारी रहा। ऐसे विपरीत संबंध को व्यक्त करने के लिए ‘even though’ सबसे उपयुक्त conjunction है।
- ‘Even though’ should be used because the entire context shows a contrast between the warning of heavy rain and the continuation of the outdoor ceremony as planned. To express such opposing conditions, ‘even though’ is the most appropriate conjunction.
11. C) The correctly spelt word is “Humorous”, which means funny or amusing हास्यपूर्ण / मज़ेदार।
12. C) ‘made up of wood’ के बदले ‘**made from wood**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि wood एक raw material है जिससे एक नया रूप (paper) तैयार होता है, अतः from का प्रयोग किया जाता है; जैसे— Paper is made from rags.
- ‘made from wood’ will be used instead of ‘made up of wood’ because wood is a raw material which changes its original form to produce something new (paper), therefore from is used; Like— Paper is made from rags.
13. C) Highlighted वाक्य में ‘duck’ का अर्थ है — एक पक्षी।  
विकल्प c में ‘duck’ का अर्थ है — अचानक झुकना या सिर/शरीर को नीचे करना ताकि किसी चीज़ से बचा जा सके।  
उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ भिन्न हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का सही उदाहरण है।  
In the highlighted sentence, ‘duck’ refers to a bird.  
In option C, ‘duck’ means to lower oneself quickly to avoid something.  
Same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings — therefore option C is correct.
14. A) **Reverent** (adj.) – Showing deep and solemn respect; expressing profound admiration or devotion गहरा और श्रद्धापूर्ण सम्मान प्रदर्शित करने वाला
- **Deferential** (adj.) – Showing respectful submission or yielding to someone’s authority आदरपूर्वक झुकाव दिखाने वाला
  - **Polite** (adj.) – Showing good manners and basic courtesy शिष्ट / विनम्र
  - **Courteous** (adj.) – Politely respectful and well-mannered सभ्य और आदरपूर्ण
15. A) **Deleterious** (adjective) – harmful, damaging, injurious हानिकारक / नुकसानदायक  
Antonym: **Harmless** (adjective) – not dangerous, causing no injury or damage अहानिकर / सुरक्षित
- a. **Dangerous** (adjective) – able to cause harm खतरनाक
  - b. **Toxic** (adjective) – poisonous, harmful to health विषैला
  - c. **Poisonous** (adjective) – containing poison, harmful जहरीला
16. C) **He said, "The machine operates automatically, but malfunctioned this morning."**  
Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Verb Passive रूप में बदलता है। यहाँ Voice परिवर्तन नहीं बल्कि Indirect → Direct

Speech परिवर्तन किया जा रहा है। Indirect वाक्य में operates (Simple Present — general fact) और had malfunctioned (Past Perfect — back-shift) प्रयुक्त है। Direct Speech में general fact वाला Verb Simple Present operates ही रहता है, जबकि Past Perfect का Back-shift हटाकर Simple Past malfunctioned बन जाता है क्योंकि वक्ता उसी सुबह हुई घटना को संदर्भित कर रहा है। that morning Direct Speech में this morning बनता है क्योंकि समय संदर्भ वक्ता की स्थिति से जुड़ता है। Reporting verb said यथावत रहता है और Reported Speech उद्धरण चिह्नों में लिखा जाता है।

- To change from Active to Passive Voice, the object becomes the subject and the verb changes accordingly. In this context, the transformation is from Indirect to Direct Speech. The general fact operates stays in Simple Present. The back-shifted had malfunctioned returns to Simple Past malfunctioned to reflect the original moment of speaking. The time expression that morning becomes this morning, restoring the speaker's temporal context. The reporting verb remains unchanged and quotation marks are added.

17. C) **He forgot to anotate the key sections before submitting the paper.**

The sentence "He forgot to anotate the key sections before submitting the paper." contains a misspelled word.

The correct spelling is "annotate", which means to add notes or comments to a text टिप्पणी जोड़ना / समझाने हेतु नोट लिखना।

18. B) **Sanguine** (adjective) – optimistic, cheerful, hopeful, positive especially in difficult situations आशावादी / खुशमिज़ाज

Antonym: **Melancholic** (adjective) – sad, gloomy, depressed, pessimistic उदास / निराश

- **Cheerful** (adjective) – happy and bright प्रसन्न
- **Confident** (adjective) – sure of oneself, assured आत्मविश्वासी
- **Buoyant** (adjective) – cheerful, lively, optimistic उत्साही / आशावादी

19. B) **Shamefacedly** (adverb) – in an embarrassed, timid, or self-conscious manner शर्माते हुए / संकोच से

Synonym: **Embarrassedly** will be used because "shamefacedly" describes an action done with embarrassment or slight shame

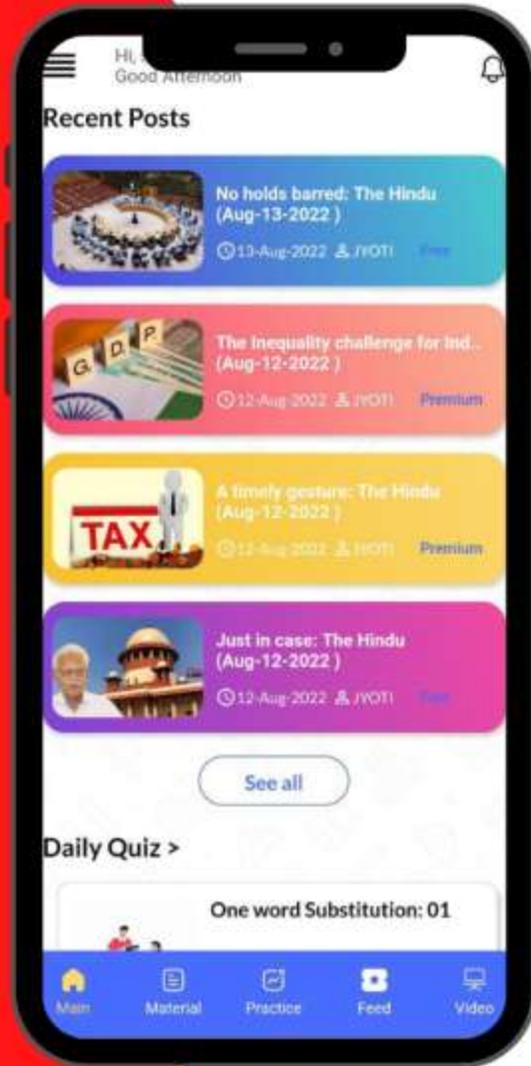
- **Boldly** (adverb) – with confidence and courage; साहसपूर्वक (opposite in tone because it shows confidence, not embarrassment)
- **Arrogantly** (adverb) – in a proud or superior manner; घमंड से (indicates pride or superiority, not shame)
- **Cheerfully** (adverb) – in a happy and joyful way; खुशी से (shows happiness, not self-consciousness)

20. D) **'loon, lune'** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में sentence पहले एक पक्षी की आवाज़ का वर्णन कर रहा है और फिर चंद्रमा के उदय का। "lonely loon wailed" में loon एक जलपक्षी होता है जो झीलों में पाया जाता है और उसकी आवाज़ को wail कहा जाता है। वहीं "pale lune rose" में lune का अर्थ moon यानी चंद्रमा होता है। इसलिए यह pair अर्थ और संदर्भ दोनों की दृष्टि से सबसे उपयुक्त है।

- 'Loon, lune' should be used because the sentence first describes the cry of a bird and then the rising of the moon. In "lonely loon wailed," loon refers to a water bird known for its wailing call. In "pale lune rose," lune means moon. Therefore, this pair fits both the meaning and context most appropriately.

21. C) [**damp**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब हल्का गीला या नम (slightly wet) होता है, जो लंदन की जनवरी की ठंड और शाम के लिए बिल्कुल सटीक है। sweltering का मतलब चिलचिलाती गर्मी होता है, जो जनवरी के लिए गलत है। soluble का मतलब तरल में घुलनशील (जो घुल सके) होता है, और brittle का मतलब सख्त लेकिन आसानी से टूटने वाला होता है, जिनका मौसम या शाम से कोई लेना-देना नहीं है।
- [damp] is correct because it describes a slightly wet and cold evening, which perfectly fits the gloomy context of a January night in London. sweltering means extremely hot, completely wrong for winter. soluble means able to be dissolved in liquid, and brittle means hard but liable to break easily, neither of which can logically describe weather or an evening.
22. D) [**slumped**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब निढाल होकर या भारीपन से गिरना या बैठना (limply fallen) होता है, जो फुटपाथ पर बेहोश पड़ी महिला का सही वर्णन है। capsize का मतलब पानी में नाव का उलटना होता है। looming का मतलब एक बड़ी, डरावनी छाया के रूप में उभरना होता है, और levitating का मतलब हवा में तैरना होता है, जो इस वास्तविक घटना के लिए बिल्कुल गलत शब्द हैं।
- [slumped] is correct because it means to sit, lean, or fall heavily and limply, exactly describing an unconscious person lying helplessly on the pavement. capsize means to overturn in the water like a boat. looming means appearing as a large, threatening shadowy form, and levitating means magically floating in the air, both of which are entirely absurd in this real-world medical emergency context.
23. D) [**compress**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब दबाव डालकर दबाना (press) होता है, जो CPR देते समय छाती को दबाने की सटीक मेडिकल प्रक्रिया है। evaporate का मतलब भाप बनकर उड़ जाना होता है। calibrate का मतलब किसी मशीन या वैज्ञानिक उपकरण की माप को सही करना होता है। confiscate का मतलब अधिकारपूर्वक किसी की संपत्ति को ज़ब्त कर लेना होता है।
- [compress] is correct because it means to flatten or press by applying pressure, fitting the exact medical action of pushing down on a person's chest during CPR. evaporate means to turn from liquid into vapor. calibrate means to carefully adjust or measure a scientific instrument. confiscate means to officially take or seize someone's property as a penalty.
24. A) [**paramedics**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब वे मेडिकल पेशेवर (medical responders) होता है जो आपात स्थिति (emergency) में एम्बुलेंस लेकर मदद के लिए आते हैं। optician का मतलब चश्मे बनाने और आँखों की जांच करने वाला डॉक्टर होता है। plaintiff का मतलब अदालत में मुक़दमा दायर करने वाला वादी होता है। diplomats का मतलब अपने देश का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले राजनयिक (कूटनीतिज्ञ) होता है।
- [paramedics] is correct because it refers to the trained medical professionals who respond to health emergencies and arrive in ambulances. optician is a professional who tests eyesight and sells glasses. plaintiff is a person who brings a legal case against someone else in a court of law. diplomats are government officials who represent their country's interests abroad.
25. B) [**cue**] सही है क्योंकि "my cue to leave" एक मुहावरा है जिसका मतलब किसी काम को करने का सही इशारा या संकेत (signal to act) मिलना होता है; यहाँ मेडिकल टीम के आने के बाद लेखक के जाने का सही समय आ गया था। jurisdiction का मतलब कानूनी अधिकार क्षेत्र होता है। monopoly का मतलब बाज़ार पर एकाधिकार (अकेले का कब्ज़ा) होता है। embargo का मतलब व्यापार पर लगने वाला सरकारी प्रतिबंध (रोक) होता है।

- [cue] is correct because "my cue to leave" is a standard English idiom meaning it was the right signal or perfect time for the author to exit the situation since professional help had arrived. jurisdiction refers to the official power or territory to make legal decisions. monopoly refers to the exclusive control over a supply or trade market. embargo is an official government ban on trade or commercial activity.



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