

## A bully blinks: On the U.S. and Cuba

Russian ship breaks U.S. **blockade** to help **fuel-starved** Cuba

Ever since U.S. President Donald Trump began his second term in office, his administration's **conduct** of foreign policy **has** been that of a **schoolyard bully**. This is particularly true in 2026, when the U.S. launched attacks on two oil-rich countries, Venezuela and Iran. The first was on the **blatantly false pretext** of **terming** President Nicolás Maduro the head of a drug **cartel**, and the second was **at the instance of** Israel. As with schoolyard bullies everywhere, the Trump administration **recognises** no rules and mistakes the absence of violent resistance for proof of its strength. The **strangling** of Cuba **is a case in point**. After **seizing** Venezuela's energy **assets**, **abducting** its President, and **cutting off** Venezuelan oil supply to Havana, the U.S. threatened countries such as Mexico that **sought to step into** the breach, and **imposed a de facto** naval blockade on Cuba, **leading to** a severe fuel **crunch** and **acute** distress for ordinary Cubans. This **behaviour**, justified by Mr. Trump as an attempt to **take over** Cuba and remove its decades-long communist government, **is** part of a strategy so **nakedly imperial** that it has been termed the "**Donroe Doctrine**", a **crude** play on the original instrument of U.S. **hemispheric dominance** for over two centuries. Yet, the bully's power is **often brittle** and holds only until someone **calls the bluff**. When **Russia**, Cuba's **ally** since the Soviet era, **dispatched** a tanker, Anatoly Kolodkin, as **humanitarian aid** to **fuel-starved** Cuba, it also tested the **will** of the Trump administration to **interdict** a ship owned by another nuclear power. The tanker reached without incident.

**The U.S.**, it turns out, **did** not **push back** and the **bluff** now stands **exposed**, even if by a country that has itself displayed similar behaviour in neighbouring Ukraine. Cuba's fuel crisis has not ended and the threat of American attacks still **hangs over** the socialist government led by President Miguel Díaz-Canel. But Russia's timely help reveals that the rest of the world need not simply **endure** the Trump **era** as this administration **goes about** breaking every accepted **tenet** of the international order. For all its **flaws** as a one-party state, **Cuba has** been an **avowed** member of the **Non-Aligned Movement**, **has** shown **solidarity** with the **Global South** by deploying well-trained doctors for medical programmes across poor countries, and **has** contributed materially to anti-colonial struggles for **decades**. It is time other countries repaid the Cubans by showing the will to break the American blockade and continue **sovereign** trade and commerce with Cuba, **asserting** their right to do so. After all, the international order holds only when its **constituents** accept that **might** does not always **make right**. **[Practice Ex.]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Bully** (noun) - persecutor, oppressor, tyrant, intimidator, tormentor दबंग / डराने वाला
2. **Blink** (verb) - yield, acquiesce, flinch, recoil, surrender पीछे हट जाना (दबाव में)
3. **Blockade** (noun) - siege, obstruction, barrier, restriction, encirclement नाकाबंदी
4. **Fuel-starved** (adjective) - lacking enough fuel to function or survive ईंधन की कमी से जूझ रहा
5. **Schoolyard bully** (noun) - a person who uses strength or power to harm or intimidate those who are weaker (typically in a childish or crude way) छोटी मानसिकता वाला दबंग
6. **Blatantly** (adverb) - flagrantly, shamelessly, glaringly, overtly, conspicuously बेशर्मी से / खुल्लम-खुल्ला
7. **Pretext** (noun) - guise, ploy, ruse, pretense, alibi बहाना
8. **Term** (verb) - designate, label, entitle, dub, nominate नाम देना / कहना
9. **Cartel** (noun) - syndicate, association, union, federation, coalition उत्पादक संघ / गिरोह
10. **At the instance of** (phrase) - at the suggestion or request of के कहने पर / के अनुरोध पर
11. **Recognise** (verb) - acknowledge, concede, accept, realize, admit स्वीकार करना / मान्यता देना
12. **Strangle** (verb) - throttle, stifle, suffocate, suppress, choke गला घोटना (दम घोटना)
13. **A case in point** (phrase) - a specific example of the issue currently being discussed एक सटीक उदाहरण
14. **Seize** (verb) - confiscate, usurp, annex, commandeer, grab ज़ब्त करना
15. **Asset** (noun) - property, resource, possession, holding, capital संपत्ति
16. **Abduct** (verb) - kidnap, capture, seize, snatch, waylay अपहरण करना
17. **Cut off** (phrasal verb) - to stop or interrupt the supply of something रोक देना / आपूर्ति काटना
18. **Seek** (verb) - endeavor, strive, aspire, attempt, aim कोशिश करना
19. **Step into the breach** (idiom) - to do a job or task that someone else was supposed to do but could not के स्थान पर मदद के लिए आगे आना
20. **Impose** (verb) - inflict, enforce, foist, dictate, levy थोपना
21. **A de facto** (adjective) - in fact, whether by right or not; existing in practice वास्तव में (चाहे कानूनी न हो)
22. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to result in a particular situation or event का कारण बनना
23. **Crunch** (noun) - shortage, crisis, deficiency, scarcity, stringency संकट / कमी
24. **Acute** (adjective) - severe, critical, drastic, dire, intense गंभीर / तीव्र

25. **Take over** (phrasal verb) - to assume control or possession of something  
अधिकार कर लेना
26. **Nakedly** (adverb) - overtly, plainly, undisguisedly, openly, starkly स्पष्ट रूप से
27. **Imperial** (adjective) - majestic, dictatorial, overbearing, sovereign, hegemonic  
साम्राज्यवादी
28. **Donroe Doctrine** (noun) - a satirical term combining "Donald Trump" and the "Monroe Doctrine" relating to U.S. dominance over the Western Hemisphere  
डोनाल्ड ट्रंप की साम्राज्यवादी नीति
29. **Crude** (adjective) - rudimentary, unrefined, vulgar, coarse, primitive अपरिष्कृत / भद्दा
30. **Hemispheric dominance** (noun) - the state of having control or influence over a half of the earth (usually the Americas) गोलार्धीय प्रभुत्व
31. **Often** (adverb) - frequently, repeatedly, habitually, recurrently, oftentimes अक्सर
32. **Brittle** (adjective) - fragile, frail, breakable, delicate, tenuous नाज़ुक / भंगुर
33. **Call the bluff** (idiom) - to challenge someone to prove what they are saying is true, when you believe they are lying पोल खोलना / चुनौती देना
34. **Ally** (noun) - partner, confederate, associate, collaborator, accomplice मित्र राष्ट्र / साथी
35. **Dispatch** (verb) - consign, transmit, forward, remit, deploy भेजना / रवाना करना
36. **Humanitarian** (adjective) - philanthropic, charitable, benevolent, altruistic, humane  
मानवीय / परोपकारी
37. **Aid** (noun) - assistance, relief, succor, subsidy, support सहायता
38. **Will** (noun) - determination, resolution, resolve, volition, intent इच्छाशक्ति
39. **Interdict** (verb) - prohibit, forbid, ban, proscribe, veto पाबंदी लगाना / रोकना
40. **Turn out** (phrasal verb) - used to say that something is found to be true  
unexpectedly अंत में पता चलना / साबित होना
41. **Push back** (phrasal verb) - to resist or oppose an action or change विरोध करना / प्रतिक्रिया देना
42. **Bluff** (noun) - deception, pretense, charade, sham, hoax झांसा / धोखा
43. **Exposed** (adjective) - revealed, uncovered, disclosed, manifested, unmasked बेनकाब / उजागर
44. **Hang over** (phrasal verb) - to threaten or loom as an impending danger मँडराना (खतरा)
45. **Endure** (verb) - tolerate, undergo, withstand, sustain, brook सहन करना
46. **Era** (noun) - epoch, period, age, generation, eon युग / काल
47. **Go about** (phrasal verb) - to begin to do or deal with something (usually in a systematic way) किसी कार्य में लग जाना

48. **Tenet** (noun) - principle, doctrine, dogma, creed, precept सिद्धांत
49. **Flaw** (noun) - defect, blemish, shortcoming, glitch, foible दोष / त्रुटि
50. **Avowed** (adjective) - declared, sworn, confessed, proclaimed, professed घोषित / स्वीकृत
51. **Non-Aligned Movement** (noun) - a group of states that are not formally aligned with or against any major power bloc गुटनिरपेक्ष आंदोलन
52. **Solidarity** (noun) - unity, consensus, cohesion, harmony, unanimity एकजुटता
53. **Global South** (noun) - nations of the world which are regarded as having a relatively low level of economic and industrial development विकासशील देश
54. **Decade** (noun) - a period of ten years दशक
55. **Sovereign** (adjective) - independent, autonomous, self-governing, supreme, absolute संप्रभु / स्वतंत्र
56. **Assert** (verb) - affirm, declare, maintain, contend, proclaim दावा करना / ज़ोर देकर कहना
57. **Constituent** (noun) - component, element, segment, factor, ingredient घटक / सदस्य
58. **Might make right** (idiom) - the idea that those who are powerful can do what they want because no one can stop them जिसकी लाठी उसकी भैंस (शक्ति ही न्याय है)

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial criticises the foreign policy of the United States under Donald Trump, describing it as aggressive and bullying.
2. It highlights U.S. military actions against countries like Venezuela and Iran as examples of this approach.
3. The U.S. justified its actions in Venezuela on questionable grounds, including allegations against Nicolás Maduro.
4. The editorial argues that the U.S. acts without regard for international rules and interprets lack of resistance as strength.
5. A major example is the economic and fuel blockade imposed on Cuba.
6. The blockade intensified after the U.S. cut off Venezuelan oil supplies, worsening Cuba's energy crisis.
7. The U.S. also pressured other countries like Mexico to stop supplying fuel to Cuba.
8. This strategy is described as imperialistic, compared to a modern version of the Monroe Doctrine (called "Donroe Doctrine").
9. Cuba faced severe shortages, leading to blackouts and hardship for ordinary citizens.
10. The situation changed when Russia sent a tanker, *Anatoly Kolodkin*, with oil as humanitarian aid.
11. The U.S. did not stop the Russian tanker, exposing limits to its power and willingness to escalate.
12. This event shows that U.S. dominance can be challenged when other powerful nations resist.
13. Despite this, Cuba's crisis continues and the threat of U.S. pressure remains.
14. The editorial highlights Cuba's contributions to the Global South, especially through medical aid and anti-colonial support.
15. It concludes that other nations should resist unjust blockades and uphold international law, proving that power alone should not determine global order.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which term is used by the author to describe the current U.S. strategy?** [Editorial Page]
  - A. The Marxist Manifesto
  - B. The Monroe Manifesto
  - C. The Donroe Doctrine
  - D. The Soviet Doctrine
2. **What was the outcome when the Russian tanker reached the Cuban coast?**
  - A. The U.S. seized the ship
  - B. The ship was destroyed
  - C. The U.S. did not act
  - D. The ship was diverted
3. **Identify whether the following statements are True or False based on the passage:**
  - A. The U.S. imposed a de facto naval blockade on Cuba after cutting off its oil supply from Venezuela.
  - B. The author believes that the international order is strengthened when "might makes right."
  - C. 1-True, 2-True
  - D. 1-False, 2-True
  - E. 1-False, 2-False
  - F. 1-True, 2-False
4. **Fill in the blanks based on the understanding of the passage:**

The author describes the Trump administration's power as " \_\_\_\_\_ " because it supposedly only lasts until someone calls the " \_\_\_\_\_."

  - A. Absolute, blockade
  - B. Brittle, bluff
  - C. Imperial, doctrine
  - D. Socialist, pretext
5. **Why does the author describe Cuba as a country that has shown "solidarity with the Global South"?**
  - A. Because it allowed the U.S. to take over its energy assets to stabilize global oil prices.
  - B. Because of its history of deploying well-trained doctors for medical programmes in poor countries.
  - C. Because it successfully mediated the conflict between Russia and Ukraine in 2026.
  - D. Because it is the only country in the Non-Aligned Movement that supports the "Donroe Doctrine."
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph.**
  - A. Following the incident, the Iraqi interior ministry reported that security forces chased the abductors' car, resulting in the arrest of one suspect.
  - B. It is understood that US officials had contacted her a number of times prior to this event to warn of threats against her safety.
  - C. A US freelance journalist has been kidnapped in the Iraqi capital Baghdad, and one of the suspects is linked to an Iran-backed militia.
  - D. The reporter, identified as Shelly Kittleson, was abducted on Tuesday evening, according to a news outlet she contributes to.

- A. C, D, A, B  
B. D, C, A, B  
C. A, D, B, C  
D. C, A, B, D
7. **Choose the one word substitute for the below sentence.**  
Despite numerous warnings and opportunities to improve her attendance, Sneha consistently failed to appear at school or work, embodying the very definition of habitual absenteeism.  
A. Absentee  
B. Truant  
C. Vagabond  
D. Nomad
8. **The sentence below has errors in two parts which are highlighted in bold. Identify the same.**  
It is impossible to count the number of people who are given, (A) and continue to give, (B) their time, efforts, livelihood, (C) and lives in the fight (D) for injustice.  
A. BD  
B. AB  
C. AC  
D. AD
9. **Choose the grammatically correct sentence.**  
A. He did nothing but complain.  
B. He did nothing but to complain.  
C. He did nothing but complained.  
D. He does nothing than complain.
10. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate phrasal verb:**  
The deal fell through because the parties couldn't \_\_\_\_\_ on the terms.  
A. take over  
B. put across  
C. see eye to eye  
D. carry on
11. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**  
The novel's protagonist is portrayed as a \_\_\_\_\_ hero, flawed yet striving for redemption.  
A. vindictive  
B. quixotic  
C. fallible  
D. truculent
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: DREAD**  
A. Relief  
B. Excitement  
C. Fear  
D. Triumph
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**  
A. Obstant  
B. Obstinate  
C. Obstinate

- D. Obstinette
14. Which of the following sentences uses the word "trip" with a different meaning from the others?
- A. The unexpected boulder made him trip and fall.
  - B. He was so clumsy that he would trip over his own feet.
  - C. He walked carefully so he wouldn't trip on the uneven pavement.
  - D. Our annual family trip to the beach was unforgettable.
15. Select the most appropriate antonym of the word: Heresy
- A. Unorthodoxy
  - B. Dogma
  - C. Orthodoxy
  - D. Dissent
16. Choose the correct one-word substitute for:  
A place where soldiers are stationed
- A. Barracks
  - B. Fortification
  - C. Bastion
  - D. Fortress
17. Choose the incorrect spelling:
- A. Belligerent
  - B. Ineffable
  - C. Pulchritude
  - D. Disconsolat
18. What is the antonym of "Disparate"?
- A. Distinct
  - B. Separate
  - C. Similar
  - D. Contrasting
19. Choose the option with the most suitable pair of words to fill in the blanks.  
The researcher \_\_\_\_ the resilience of the hermits to the hardy \_\_\_\_ that survive even in the coldest climates.
- A. likens, likens
  - B. likens, lichens
  - C. lichens, likens
  - D. lichens, lichens
20. Which part of the following sentence contains a spelling error?  
The committee's decision was neither unanimous (1) nor particularly judicious (2), as several members expressed severe misgivings (3) about the procedure (4).
- A. (2)
  - B. (4)
  - C. (1)
  - D. (3)

### Comprehension

Sit on the left when you catch the train from Swansea to Carmarthen, and you can watch huge sandy estuaries unspool outside the window. There's a curlew standing by the water, an egret-haunted pool in the wetlands, and a boardwalk along the foreshore, part of the 870-mile Wales Coast Path. It has been a six-hour, four-train journey to get here from Essex, but I'll soon be on foot. Carmarthenshire has (1) \_\_\_ railways, a network of buses, and some epic long-distance paths, so it makes for an (2) \_\_\_ car-free break. The 13-mile Tywi Valley Path (officially opening in time for Easter) will (3) \_\_\_ Abergwili near Carmarthen and Ffairfach near Llandeilo, helping walkers and cyclists access some lovely (4) \_\_\_. I'm visiting just before Saint David's Day, and there are daffodils everywhere. Carmarthenshire offers a quintessentially Welsh experience, packed with castles, cockles and cawl (stew). As I (5) \_\_\_ from Ferry side station, there's a view of the ruined 12th-century Llansteffan Castle across the estuary. The Three Rivers hotel and spa, where I'm due to stay tonight, is 10 minutes into my walk. I drop off my bag and press on, feeling buoyant. I'm heading for Kidwelly, five miles from Ferry side along a hilly, inland stretch of coast path.

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

- A. punctual
- B. sedentary
- C. legible
- D. picturesque

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

- A. orthodox
- B. indigenous
- C. idol
- D. ideal

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

- A. link
- B. append
- C. diagnose
- D. intercept

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

- A. panorama
- B. scenery
- C. topography
- D. terrain

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

- A. set in
- B. set about
- C. set off
- D. set down

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. C) **The Donroe Doctrine.**

The passage explicitly states the strategy has been termed the "Donroe Doctrine".  
 Incorrect: (A), (B), and (D) are not mentioned as the name for the current strategy.

2. C) **The U.S. did not act.**

The passage says, "The tanker reached without incident" and the U.S. "did not push back".  
 Incorrect: (A), (B), and (D) contradict the statement that the ship arrived without incident

3. D) **1-True, 2-False.**

- Statement 1 is TRUE: The passage states the U.S. "imposed a de facto naval blockade on Cuba, leading to a severe fuel crunch."
- Statement 2 is FALSE: The author concludes that the international order only holds "when its constituents accept that might does NOT always make right."

4. B) **Brittle, bluff.**

The passage states: "Yet, the bully's power is often brittle and holds only until someone calls the bluff."

5. B) **Because of its history of deploying well-trained doctors for medical programmes in poor countries.**

- The author notes Cuba has "shown solidarity with the Global South by deploying well-trained doctors for medical programmes across poor countries."

others are WRONG: (A), (D), and (E) describe actions that Cuba is actually fighting against. (C) mentions Russia and Ukraine, but the passage does not say Cuba mediated their conflict.

6. A) **Correct Sequence: Option A (C-D-A-B)**

Sentence C सबसे पहले आएगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह मुख्य घटना को पेश करता है: बगदाद में एक अज्ञात अमेरिकी स्वतंत्र पत्रकार (US freelance journalist) का अपहरण।

Sentence D, Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "The reporter" वाक्यांश सीधे C में बताए गए "US freelance journalist" को refer करता है। यह उनका नाम (Shelly Kittleson) और अपहरण का समय बताकर घटना की विशिष्ट जानकारी देता है।

Sentence A, Sentence D के बाद आएगा क्योंकि "Following the incident" (घटना के बाद) वाक्यांश सीधे D में बताए गए अपहरण (abduction) को refer करता है। यह "the abductors" (अपहरणकर्ताओं) को पकड़ने के लिए सुरक्षा बलों द्वारा की गई तत्काल कार्रवाई का वर्णन करता है।

Sentence B सबसे अंत में आएगा क्योंकि pronoun "her" (उसे) और "this event" (इस घटना) पिछले वाक्यों में वर्णित Kittleson और अपहरण को refer करते हैं। यह अमेरिकी अधिकारियों द्वारा दी गई पूर्व चेतावनियों के बारे में पृष्ठभूमि (background) बताकर paragraph को समाप्त करता है।

- Sentence C comes first because it serves as the introductory topic sentence. It establishes the main news event: the kidnapping of an unnamed US freelance journalist in Baghdad.

- Sentence D follows Sentence C because the phrase "The reporter" directly refers back to the "US freelance journalist" introduced in C. It provides specific details by naming her as Shelly Kittleson and giving the time of the abduction.
  - Sentence A follows Sentence D because the phrase "Following the incident" refers directly to the abduction mentioned in D. It describes the immediate action taken by Iraqi security forces to catch "the abductors".
  - Sentence B comes last because the pronoun "her" and the phrase "this event" refer back to Kittleson and the kidnapping described in the previous sentences. It provides concluding background context about prior warnings from US officials.
7. B) **Truant** (noun) – A person who habitually stays away from school or work without permission बिना अनुमति नियमित रूप से अनुपस्थित रहने वाला
- **Absentee** (noun) – A person who is simply not present अनुपस्थित व्यक्ति
  - **Vagabond** (noun) – A wanderer with no settled home आवारा / भटकने वाला
  - **Nomad** (noun) – A member of a wandering community खानाबदोश / घुमंतू
8. D) **AD**
- 'are given' के बदले 'have given' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ उन लोगों की बात हो रही है जिन्होंने पहले से समय, मेहनत आदि दिए हैं और अभी भी दे रहे हैं, अतः Present Perfect Tense 'have given' उपयुक्त है।
- 'have given' will be used instead of 'are given' because the idea expresses an action that started in the past and continues to the present; hence Present Perfect Tense is appropriate.
- 'for injustice' के बदले 'against injustice' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'fight' हमेशा किसी बुराई, समस्या या अन्याय के खिलाफ होती है, इसलिए 'against' Preposition सही है; जैसे— fight against corruption / fight against discrimination
- 'against injustice' will be used instead of 'for injustice' because the verb 'fight' takes the preposition 'against' when the fight is directed towards a wrong or evil; Like— fight against corruption / fight against discrimination
9. A) **He did nothing but complain.**
- complain' सही है क्योंकि संरचना do nothing but + V<sub>1</sub> (base form) होती है; यहाँ 'but' के बाद verb हमेशा base form में आता है — बिना 'to' और बिना past form के।
- 'complain' is correct because the structure is do nothing but + base verb (V<sub>1</sub>). After 'but' the verb stays in its base form — not 'to complain' and not 'complained'.
10. C) '**see eye to eye**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ संदर्भ में दोनों पक्षों के बीच सहमति/एकमत होने की बात की जा रही है। वाक्य कहता है कि सौदा इसलिए असफल हुआ क्योंकि पक्ष terms पर एकमत नहीं हो पाए। इसलिए see eye to eye सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'see eye to eye' should be used because the context indicates agreement or mutual understanding between the parties. The sentence implies the deal failed because they couldn't agree on the terms. Thus, see eye to eye is the most appropriate choice.
11. C) '**fallible**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में protagonist को ऐसे hero के रूप में दिखाया गया है जो गलतियाँ करता है और फिर भी सुधरने या प्रायश्चित की ओर बढ़ता है। वाक्य में "flawed yet striving for redemption" स्पष्ट संकेत देता है कि वह त्रुटिपूर्ण लेकिन सुधार की कोशिश करने वाला पात्र है, इसलिए fallible सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।

- ‘fallible’ should be used because the sentence describes a hero who is imperfect yet seeks redemption. The phrase “flawed yet striving for redemption” denotes a character capable of errors but attempting to improve, making fallible the most appropriate choice.
12. C) **Dread** (noun/verb) – fear, great anxiety, deep apprehension about something unpleasant  
भय / आशंका  
Synonym: **Fear** (noun) – an unpleasant emotion caused by threat or danger डर / भय
- **Relief** (noun) – removal of stress or pain राहत
  - **Excitement** (noun) – feeling of enthusiasm or eagerness उत्साह
  - **Triumph** (noun) – great victory or success विजय
13. B) The correctly spelt word is “**Obstinate**”, which means stubborn or unwilling to change one’s opinion or action ज़िद्दी / हठी।
14. D) पहले तीन वाक्यों में trip का अर्थ है – ठोकर खाकर गिर पड़ना या लड़खड़ाना।  
विकल्प D में trip का अर्थ है – यात्रा या सफ़र।  
उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ अलग है – इसलिए अलग अर्थ वाला प्रयोग विकल्प D में है।  
In the first three sentences, trip means to stumble or lose balance.  
In option D, trip means a journey or travel.  
Same spelling and pronunciation, different meaning – hence option D is the correct answer.
15. C) **Heresy** (noun) – belief or opinion that goes against established or accepted doctrine, especially religious विधर्म / प्रचलित सिद्धांत के विरुद्ध विचार  
Antonym: **Orthodoxy** (noun) – traditional or established beliefs conforming to accepted doctrine पारंपरिक मान्यता / रूढ़िवाद
- **Unorthodoxy** (noun) – not following accepted or traditional beliefs अपारंपरिकता
  - **Dogma** (noun) – official set of principles or beliefs laid down by an authority सिद्धांत / मत
  - **Dissent** (noun) – disagreement or holding a different opinion असहमति
16. A) **Barracks** (noun) – A place where soldiers are housed or stationed सैनिकों के रहने का स्थान
- Fortification (noun) – A defensive structure रक्षा संरचना / किलेबंदी
  - **Bastion** (noun) – A projecting part of a fort for defense किले का प्रक्षेप भाग / दुर्ग
  - **Fortress** (noun) – A large and heavily defended fort बड़ा और मजबूत किला
17. D) “Disconsolat” is the incorrect spelling. The correct spelling is “Disconsolate”, which means very unhappy and unable to be comforted अत्यंत दुखी / शोकाकुल।
18. C) **Disparate** (adjective) – distinct, different, unlike, not comparable भिन्न / असमान  
Antonym: **Similar** (adjective) – alike, resembling, having likeness समान / मिलता-जुलता
- **Distinct** (adjective) – clearly different स्पष्ट रूप से भिन्न
  - **Separate** (adjective) – not joined, apart अलग
  - **Contrasting** (adjective) – showing differences विपरीत / भिन्न
19. B) ‘**Likens, lichens**’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि पहला शब्द likens एक verb है जिसका अर्थ होता है compare करना, और संदर्भ में researcher hermits की resilience की तुलना कर रहा है। दूसरा शब्द lichens एक biological noun है जो hardy organisms को दर्शाता है जो कठिन जलवायु में भी जीवित रहते हैं। अर्थ और व्याकरण दोनों के अनुसार यही जोड़ी सबसे उपयुक्त है।

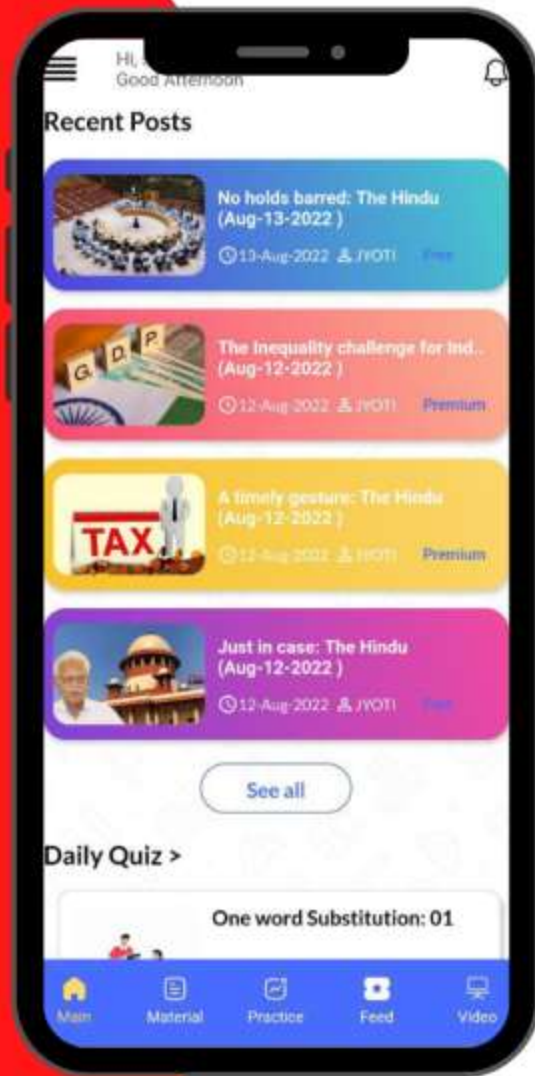
- 'Likens, lichens' should be used because the first word likens functions as a verb meaning to compare, which matches the context where the researcher is comparing the resilience of hermits. The second word lichens refers to hardy biological organisms that survive in cold climates, making the pairing both contextually and grammatically correct.
20. B) The incorrect spelling is "proceedure". The correct spelling is "**procedure**", which means a series of actions conducted in a certain order प्रक्रिया / विधि।
21. D) [**picturesque**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब बहुत सुंदर, मनमोहक या चित्र जैसा (visually attractive) होता है, जो इस यात्रा वृत्तांत में रेलवे के खूबसूरत नज़ारों का एकदम सटीक वर्णन करता है। Punctual का मतलब समय का पाबंद होना होता है। Sedentary का मतलब बहुत अधिक बैठे रहने वाला या निष्क्रिय (inactive) जीवनशैली होता है। Legible का मतलब इतना साफ़ होना कि आसानी से पढ़ा जा सके (जैसे किसी की लिखावट) होता है।
- [picturesque] is correct because it means visually attractive, especially in a quaint or charming way, which perfectly matches the highly visual, descriptive travel tone of the passage. Punctual means happening exactly on time, which is a good trait for trains but doesn't fit the atmospheric description of the landscape. Sedentary means tending to spend much time seated or being inactive. Legible means clear enough to read, referring specifically to handwriting or print.
22. D) [**ideal**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब उत्तम, सर्वोत्कृष्ट या आदर्श (perfectly suited) होता है। लेखक कह रहा है कि यहाँ की अच्छी परिवहन व्यवस्था इस जगह को बिना कार वाली छुट्टी के लिए बिल्कुल सही (ideal) बनाती है। Orthodox का मतलब रूढ़िवादी या पुरानी मान्यताओं को मानने वाला होता है। Indigenous का मतलब स्वदेशी या किसी खास जगह का मूल निवासी होता है। Idol एक संज्ञा (noun) है जिसका मतलब पूजा करने वाली मूर्ति या कोई बहुत लोकप्रिय व्यक्ति होता है।
- [ideal] is correct because it means satisfying one's conception of what is perfect or most suitable. The author is saying that having trains, buses, and paths makes the location perfect (ideal) for a car-free holiday. Orthodox means following traditional or generally accepted rules and beliefs. Indigenous means originating naturally in a particular place, or native. Idol is a noun meaning an image of a god used for worship, or a highly admired person.
23. A) [**link**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब दो चीज़ों या जगहों को आपस में जोड़ना (connect) होता है। यहाँ बताया गया है कि यह नया 13 मील लंबा रास्ता Abergwili और Ffairfach नाम की दो जगहों को आपस में जोड़ेगा। Intercept का मतलब किसी चीज़ को रास्ते में ही रोक लेना या पकड़ लेना होता है। Diagnose का मतलब जांच करके किसी बीमारी या समस्या की पहचान करना होता है। Append का मतलब किसी दस्तावेज़ के अंत में कोई अतिरिक्त जानकारी जोड़ना या संलग्न करना होता है।
- [link] is correct because it acts as a verb meaning to make, form, or suggest a connection between two things. The sentence describes a new 13-mile path that will connect (link) the two towns of Abergwili and Ffairfach. Intercept means to stop, catch, or interrupt something before it reaches its destination. Diagnose means to scientifically identify the exact nature of an illness or a problem. Append means to add something as an attachment or supplement, usually to a written document.

24. B) [scenery] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब प्राकृतिक दृश्य या नज़ारे होता है, और यह "lovely" (सुंदर) शब्द के साथ बिल्कुल सटीक बैठता है। Panorama का मतलब बहुत विस्तृत या चौड़ा नज़ारा होता है, लेकिन ग्रामर के हिसाब से इसके साथ 'a' का इस्तेमाल होना चाहिए (a lovely panorama)। Topography का मतलब किसी जगह की भौगोलिक या वैज्ञानिक बनावट होता है। Terrain का मतलब ज़मीन का प्रकार या इलाका (जैसे ऊबड़-खाबड़ ज़मीन) होता है, इसका इस्तेमाल प्राकृतिक सुंदरता बताने के लिए नहीं होता।

- [scenery] is correct because it refers to the natural features of a landscape considered in terms of their visual appearance, fitting perfectly with the adjective "lovely". Panorama refers to a wide, unbroken view of a whole region, but grammatically it would require an article ("a lovely panorama"). Topography is the highly technical, scientific arrangement of the physical features of an area. Terrain refers to a stretch of land strictly regarding its physical, tactical, or geographical character (like rough terrain), not its beauty.

25. C) [set off] सही है क्योंकि यह एक phrasal verb है जिसका मतलब किसी यात्रा पर निकलना या प्रस्थान करना (begin a journey) होता है। यहाँ लेखक स्टेशन से अपनी पैदल यात्रा शुरू करने की बात कर रहा है। Set in का मतलब किसी चीज़ (अक्सर मौसम या कोई बुरी चीज़) का शुरू होकर टिक जाना होता है। Set about का मतलब किसी काम को पूरे जोश या पक्के इरादे के साथ शुरू करना होता है। Set down का मतलब किसी चीज़ को नीचे रखना या किसी बात को लिखकर दर्ज़ करना होता है।

- [set off] is correct because it is a standard phrasal verb meaning to begin a journey. The author is stating that they are starting their walk and departing from Ferryside station. Set in means for something (usually weather or something unpleasant) to begin and seem likely to continue. Set about means to start doing a specific task with vigor or determination. Set down means to physically place something on a surface, to record something in writing, or to land an aircraft/vehicle.



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