

A betrayal foretold: On the U.S. and NATO alliance

After Donald Trump's taunts and threats, Europe will have to reimagine its security paradigm

The U.S. appears **poised to** break with 77 years of partnership with Western European nations **under the security umbrella of** NATO, especially after its President Donald Trump has said that he is "absolutely" considering **withdrawing** from the alliance, which in his view is a "**paper tiger**". This and similar **remarks** by Mr. Trump have followed White House's **apparent** frustration that European and other **allies** did not **expediently** send military assets into West Asia to **assist** the U.S. and Israel in their war campaign against Iran, particularly to secure safe **passage** for oil tankers through the Strait of Hormuz, currently under Tehran's control. Mr. Trump has frequently complained about getting less from NATO than Washington was putting into it, saying recently to the media, "... it's a one-way street". He has further **hinted** that NATO may have become an **ineffectual** global force when he recently observed that Russian President Vladimir Putin also "knows" that NATO lacks **teeth** to defend its members — a comment that gains additional **salience** in the **context** of Moscow's military **aggression** against Ukraine and its **likely** further military **adventurism** in the Baltic states region.

At the heart of the heightened tension in the U.S.-NATO relationship is Washington's constant **refrain** that defence spending by its European partners has **fallen short of** expectations — even if the immediate **trigger** for talk of withdrawing from NATO is the Iran war context. A prior **question of legality remains** unanswered too: under section 1250A of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, signed into force by former President Joe Biden, no U.S. President may **unilaterally** withdraw from NATO; rather they would require either a two-thirds **Senate** supermajority or an act of Congress **towards this end**. In the longer **arc** of history **spanning** the two Trump terms, **a split** with NATO, a security alliance, **might** not be of the same order as the **eviscerating** institutions of global **governance** and cooperation, which include the WTO and UN system organisations. But it is part of Mr. Trump's **simultaneous pursuit** of American global dominance and **splendid isolation**. On the one hand it may come as a relief to some that Mr. Trump's inward turn, pulling the U.S. back from global collaborative engagements could leave a security **vacuum** that could be **opportunistically exploited** by middle powers. However, for the world **at large**, and from a growth and economic stability **perspective**, the **shock** of a partner-nation **abandoning** its commitments worldwide **will** likely lead to a **recalibration** of trust and strategic **calculus**, **ultimately** remaking the rules-based international order and the global balance of cooperation across emerging powers. In this new post-Pax Americana world, **Europe**, more than most, **will** have to reimagine its security paradigm from first **principles**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Betrayal** (noun) - treachery, perfidy, disloyalty, double-crossing, breach of trust
विश्वासघात
2. **Foretell** (verb) - predict, prophesy, augur, forecast, presage भविष्यवाणी करना
3. **Alliance** (noun) - coalition, league, bloc, federation, partnership गठबंधन
4. **Taunt** (verb) - mock, sneer, deride, jeer, insult ताना मारना
5. **Reimagine** (verb) - rethink, reconceive, reinvent, re-envision, recast पुनर्कल्पना करना
6. **Paradigm** (noun) - model, pattern, framework, archetype, prototype मिसाल/प्रतिमान
7. **Poised** (to) (adjective) - ready, prepared, braced, geared, set संतुलित/तैयार
8. **Under the umbrella of** (phrase) - with the assistance or protection of a particular organization or idea के तत्वावधान में
9. **Withdraw** (verb) - retract, pull out, depart, secede, retreat वापस लेना/पीछे हटना
10. **Paper tiger** (noun) - a person or thing that appears threatening but is ineffectual and unable to withstand challenge कागजी शेर
11. **Remark** (noun) - comment, observation, statement, utterance, declaration टिप्पणी
12. **Apparent** (adjective) - evident, obvious, manifest, perceptible, clear स्पष्ट
13. **Ally** (noun) - partner, associate, colleague, confederate, collaborator मित्र राष्ट्र
14. **Expediently** (adverb) - quickly, efficiently, promptly, aptly, advantageously शीघ्रता से
15. **Assist** (verb) - aid, help, support, succor, abet सहायता करना
16. **Passage** (noun) - transit, path, way, route, channel मार्ग
17. **Hint** (verb) - insinuate, intimate, imply, suggest, indicate संकेत देना
18. **Ineffectual** (adjective) - futile, unproductive, vain, powerless, inadequate निष्प्रभावी
19. **Teeth** (noun) - genuine power to be effective or to harm/punish प्रभावी शक्ति
20. **Salience** (noun) - prominence, importance, significance, conspicuousness, eminence प्रमुखता
21. **Context** (noun) - background, circumstances, setting, milieu, situation संदर्भ
22. **Aggression** (noun) - hostility, belligerence, assault, onslaught, invasion आक्रमण
23. **Likely** (adjective) - probable, plausible, prospective, expected, anticipated संभावित
24. **Adventurism** (noun) - recklessness, audacity, gambling, boldness, daring दुस्साहस
25. **At the heart of** (phrase) - the most central or important part of something के केंद्र में
26. **Heightened** (adjective) - intensified, amplified, aggravated, enhanced, elevated बढ़ा हुआ

27. **Refrain** (noun) - complaint, protest, catchphrase, mantra, theme बार-बार कही जाने वाली बात
28. **Fall short of** (idiom) - to fail to reach an amount or standard that was expected or needed उम्मीद से कम होना
29. **Trigger** (noun) - catalyst, cause, stimulus, spark, provocation कारण/उत्तेजक
30. **Legality** (noun) - validity, lawfulness, legitimacy, constitutionality, justice वैधता
31. **Unilaterally** (adverb) - independently, solo, single-handedly, autocratically, alone एकपक्षीय रूप से
32. **Senate** (noun) - council, chamber, assembly, legislature, house उच्च सदन
33. **Towards the end** (phrase) - near the conclusion or final part of a period or process समाप्ति की ओर
34. **Arc** (noun) - trajectory, curve, course, progression, path विकास का क्रम/चाप
35. **Span** (verb) - bridge, cover, extend, cross, traverse फैला होना
36. **Eviscerating** (adjective) - devastating, gutting, weakening, undermining, debilitating बेहद कमजोर करने वाला
37. **Governance** (noun) - administration, regulation, management, jurisdiction, control शासन
38. **Simultaneous** (adjective) - concurrent, coincident, synchronous, contemporary, parallel समकालीन
39. **Pursuit** (noun) - quest, search, chase, hunt, seeking लक्ष्य/खोज
40. **Splendid** (adjective) - magnificent, grand, superb, glorious, majestic शानदार
41. **Isolation** (noun) - seclusion, solitude, separation, detachment, insulation अलगाव
42. **Vacuum** (noun) - void, emptiness, gap, lacuna, vacancy शून्यता
43. **Opportunistically** (adverb) - selfishly, shrewdly, strategically, artfully, calculatingly अवसरवादी तरीके से
44. **Exploit** (verb) - utilize, manipulate, abuse, leverage, capitalize शोषण करना/उपयोग करना
45. **At large** (phrase) - as a whole; in general सामान्य रूप से/कुल मिलाकर
46. **Perspective** (noun) - viewpoint, outlook, standpoint, angle, stance परिप्रेक्ष्य
47. **Abandon** (verb) - desert, forsake, relinquish, discard, ditch त्याग देना
48. **Lead to** (phrasal verb) - to cause something to happen or exist किसी परिणाम तक ले जाना
49. **Recalibration** (noun) - readjustment, reappraisal, revision, correction, modification पुनर्मूल्यांकन/सुधार
50. **Calculus** (noun) - calculation, estimation, assessment, evaluation, computation गणना/हिसाब
51. **Ultimately** (adverb) - eventually, finally, fundamentally, basically, lastly अंततः
52. **Principle** (noun) - fundamental, doctrine, tenet, foundation, basic बुनियादी सिद्धांत

Summary of the Editorial

1. The U.S., under Donald Trump, is considering withdrawing from NATO, threatening a 77-year-old alliance.
2. Trump has described NATO as ineffective and a “paper tiger”.
3. His remarks reflect frustration with European allies’ limited military support in West Asia conflicts.
4. The U.S. expected allies to assist in operations related to Iran and securing oil routes in the Strait of Hormuz.
5. Trump has repeatedly argued that NATO is a “one-way street” with the U.S. contributing more than others.
6. He has also suggested that Russia perceives NATO as weak, especially amid the Ukraine conflict.
7. Tensions partly stem from the U.S. view that European countries are not spending enough on defence.
8. However, legal constraints exist — a U.S. President cannot unilaterally withdraw from NATO without Congressional approval.
9. A withdrawal would signal a major shift in U.S. foreign policy towards isolationism.
10. It aligns with Trump’s broader strategy of prioritising American dominance while reducing global commitments.
11. Such a move could weaken global security structures and alliances.
12. It may create a security vacuum that emerging or middle powers could exploit.
13. The decision would also undermine trust among partner nations in international agreements.
14. The global order, already strained, may shift away from cooperative frameworks built under U.S. leadership.
15. Europe would be most affected and would need to redesign its security strategy independently in a post-Pax Americana world.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following is cited as the "immediate trigger" for President Trump's recent discussions regarding a withdrawal from NATO?** [Editorial page]
 - A. The refusal of European allies to pay their two-thirds share of the Senate supermajority.
 - B. The lack of military assistance from allies for the U.S.-Israel war campaign against Iran.
 - C. The successful military annexation of the Baltic states by Russian President Vladimir Putin.
 - D. The signing of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act by former President Joe Biden.
2. **According to the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act, what is required for a U.S. President to legally withdraw from NATO?**
 - A. A unilateral executive order signed by the President during a time of global security vacuum.
 - B. An apparent frustration expressed by the White House regarding the Strait of Hormuz.
 - C. A two-thirds Senate supermajority or an explicit act of Congress.
 - D. A formal recommendation from the Russian President and middle powers.
3. **Direction: Read the passage and answer the question that follow:**

What does the author imply by describing President Trump's foreign policy as a "simultaneous pursuit of American global dominance and splendid isolation"?

 - A. The U.S. wants to lead the WTO and UN while increasing its military spending in the Baltic region.
 - B. The U.S. aims to maintain worldwide control while abandoning its collaborative security commitments.
 - C. The U.S. is looking to form a new alliance with Russia to replace the "paper tiger" of NATO.
 - D. The U.S. is focused on expanding the one-way street of NATO to include middle powers.
4. **Based on the passage, which region is specifically identified as having to "reimagine its security paradigm from first principles" if the U.S. leaves NATO?**
 - A. West Asia
 - B. The United States
 - C. Europe
 - D. The Baltic States
5. **Which of the following best describes the Tone of the passage regarding the potential U.S. withdrawal?**
 - A. Celebratory and Optimistic
 - B. Analytical and Sober
 - C. Aggressive and Jingoistic
 - D. Indifferent and Statistical
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful and grammatically correct paragraph.**
 1. Following the successful maneuver, Artemis II is now on a looping path that will carry the crew around the far side of the Moon.
 2. The four astronauts on the Artemis II mission have now left the Earth's orbit, after their Orion spacecraft fired its main engine for a push towards the Moon.
 3. As the spacecraft follows this path further into space, a livestream from the capsule shows the Earth slowly shrinking in the background.

4. This crucial engine burn, known as the translunar injection (TLI), went "flawlessly," according to NASA officials.
- A. 1, 4, 2, 3
 - B. 2, 4, 1, 3
 - C. 4, 1, 3, 2
 - D. 2, 1, 4, 3
7. **Choose the one-word substitute for the sentence below.**
Sara asked her geography teacher, a person who travels to distant lands called?
- A. Explorer
 - B. Wanderer
 - C. Adventurer
 - D. Voyager
8. **Choose the option that has an error in the sentence.**
When asked why students had enrolled in the geometry class, 85% of them saw it as essentials.
- A. When asked why students had enrolled.
 - B. in the geometry class
 - C. 85% of them saw it as essentials.
 - D. No correction required
9. **Fill in the blank with the most appropriate option:**
The professor's remarks were so _____ that even seasoned scholars found them difficult to decipher.
- A. translucent
 - B. enigmatic
 - C. arbitrary
 - D. verbose
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: RENOUNCE**
- A. Adopt
 - B. Accept
 - C. Reject
 - D. Welcome
11. **Choose the correct word.**
She decided to _____ down and rest for a while.
- A. lie
 - B. lye
 - C. lay
 - D. lei
12. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: WISDOM**
- A. Ignorance
 - B. Cunning
 - C. Knowledge
 - D. Foolishness

13. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

The room is 5 meters on 5 meters.

- A. by 5 meters
- B. of 5 meters
- C. at 5 meters
- D. No substitution

14. Choose the best option to replace the underlined part to improve the given sentence. If no substitution is required, select 'No substitution.'

He opened the package by a knife.

- A. with a knife
- B. up a knife
- C. off a knife
- D. No substitution

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

The wedding ring was passed down through generations.

- A. She wore a diamond ring on her left hand.
- B. He proposed with a beautiful engagement ring.
- C. Police busted a smuggling ring in the area.
- D. The golden ring sparkled under the lights.

16. Choose the correct one-word substitute for: A state of stunned confusion.

- A. Shock
- B. Surprise
- C. Daze
- D. Stun

17. What is the antonym of "Evanescent"?

- A. Fleeting
- B. Transient
- C. Enduring
- D. Ephemeral

18. Which part of the following sentence contains a spelling error?

Although his argument was well- structured (1), the absence of empiriecal data (2) rendered it somewhat specious (3) and unsubstantiated (4).

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

19. One of these words is spelled incorrectly. Which one is it?

- A. Presentation
- B. Commensurate
- C. Countenance
- D. Deprecate

20. Choose the most suitable preposition from the given options to fill in the blank in the following sentence:

He was so absorbed _____ the book that he didn't notice the bell.

- A. with
- B. in
- C. at
- D. for

Comprehension

That was 40 years ago. Corfu – the green queen of the Ionian Sea, Gerald Durrell's "garden of the gods" – was already popular. In the intervening decades, development has been (1) _____ and infrastructure, from roads to water supply, struggles to (2) _____ the summer influx. But how about visiting off-season and off-piste? Winter can be (3) _____, with many places shut, so my husband and I had chosen to come in spring, exploring largely on foot, via the Corfu trail. The sun was warm, the land now awake from hibernation as we set out on the 110-mile (180km) route that runs the length of the island, from Kavos to Agios Spyridon. Wriggling along the more rugged, less developed west coast, with deviations (4) _____ the central hills and wide Ropa valley, it then (5) _____ the mountainous north, always seeking the way less trodden. You could travel by limited buses or hire car, but doing some walking is the best way to happen upon Corfu's offbeat bits.

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1).**
 - A. rampant
 - B. chronic
 - C. contagious
 - D. indigenous
22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2).**
 - A. dispense with
 - B. cope up with
 - C. cope with
 - D. bear up
23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3).**
 - A. fluorescent
 - B. tricky
 - C. bilingual
 - D. crunchy
24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4).**
 - A. unto
 - B. throughout
 - C. in
 - D. into
25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5).**
 - A. circumvent
 - B. excavates
 - C. traverses
 - D. patrol

Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

Explanations

- B) The lack of military assistance from allies for the U.S.-Israel war campaign against Iran.**
 from passage: "This and similar remarks... have followed White House's apparent frustration that European and other allies did not expediently send military assets into West Asia to assist the U.S. and Israel in their war campaign against Iran..."

(A) The "two-thirds" mentioned in the passage refers to a "Senate supermajority" required for a legal exit, not a financial share of allies.

(C) The passage lists this as a future risk ("its likely further military adventurism"), not the immediate trigger for the current debate.

(D) The 2024 Act is the legal barrier to withdrawal, not the reason (trigger) for wanting to leave.
- C) A two-thirds Senate supermajority or an explicit act of Congress.**
 The passage explicitly mentions that under section 1250A, a President "would require either a two-thirds Senate supermajority or an act of Congress towards this end."
 Incorrect: (A) is what the law prohibits (unilateral withdrawal). (B) is a motive, not a legal requirement. (D) is not mentioned as a legal pathway.
- B) The U.S. aims to maintain worldwide control while abandoning its collaborative security commitments.**
 Passage: "...pulling the U.S. back from global collaborative engagements [Isolation]... it is part of Mr. Trump's simultaneous pursuit of American global dominance"

(A) The passage says the U.S. is "eviscerating" (destroying) the WTO and UN, not leading them.

(C) The author says Trump believes Putin "knows" NATO is weak, but the passage never says the U.S. wants to form an alliance with Russia.

(D) Trump calls NATO a "one-way street" and a "paper tiger," showing he wants to leave it, not expand it to middle powers.
- C) Europe.**
 The final sentence states, "In this new post-Pax Americana world, Europe, more than most, will have to reimagine its security paradigm from first principles."
 Incorrect: (A) and (D) are regions where conflict is occurring or threatened, but the passage identifies Europe as the entity that must fundamentally rethink its security structure. (B) is the nation withdrawing, not the one reimagining a collaborative paradigm.
- B) Analytical and Sober.**
 Analytical: It is Analytical because it weighs legal acts (Section 1250A) against geopolitical shifts. It is Sober because it describes the outcome as a "shock" that "remakes the rules-based international order."
 Sober: A sober tone is serious, sensible, and focused on the gravity of a situation. The author uses heavy, grounded vocabulary to describe the impact: "the shock of a partner-nation"

abandoning its commitments," and a "recalibration of trust and strategic calculus." These words suggest a serious, calculated rethinking of the world order.

6. B) **Correct Sequence: Option b (2-4-1-3)**

Sentence 2 सबसे पहले आएगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह मुख्य समाचार घटना को स्थापित करता है: आर्टेमिस II (Artemis II) के अंतरिक्ष यात्रियों का अपने मुख्य इंजन को फायर करने के बाद पृथ्वी की कक्षा छोड़ना।

Sentence 4, Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि वाक्यांश "This crucial engine burn" (यह महत्वपूर्ण इंजन बर्न) सीधे Sentence 2 में बताए गए "fired its main engine" (मुख्य इंजन को फायर करने) की कार्रवाई को refer करता है।

Sentence 1, Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि वाक्यांश "Following the successful maneuver" (सफल पैतरेबाजी के बाद) Sentence 4 में वर्णित 'निर्दोष (flawlessly) इंजन बर्न' को refer करता है। यह वर्तमान स्थिति को अपडेट करता है कि अंतरिक्ष यान अब एक "looping path" (घूमने वाले रास्ते) पर है।

Sentence 3 सबसे अंत में आएगा क्योंकि वाक्यांश "this path" (यह रास्ता) सीधे Sentence 1 में पेश किए गए "looping path" को refer करता है। यह एक अंतिम दृश्य विवरण (visual detail) देता है कि जैसे-जैसे अंतरिक्ष यान उस प्रक्षेपवक्र (trajectory) पर आगे बढ़ता है, पृथ्वी सिकुड़ती हुई दिखाई देती है।

Sentence 2 comes first because it serves as the introductory topic sentence. It establishes the main news event: the Artemis II astronauts leaving Earth's orbit after firing their main engine.

Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because the phrase "This crucial engine burn" directly refers back to the action of the spacecraft having "fired its main engine" mentioned in Sentence 2.

Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because the phrase "Following the successful maneuver" refers back to the flawless engine burn described in Sentence 4. It updates the current status, stating the spacecraft is now on a "looping path."

Sentence 3 comes last because the phrase "this path" directly links back to the "looping path" introduced in Sentence 1. It provides a concluding visual detail of what the crew is seeing as they travel along that trajectory.

7. D) **Voyager** (noun) – A person who goes on a long journey, especially by sea or space लंबी यात्रा करने वाला यात्री

- **Explorer** (noun) – A person who travels to distant or unknown lands to discover new places अन्वेषक/खोजकर्ता
- **Wanderer** (noun) – A person who moves from place to place without a fixed purpose भटकने वाला
- **Adventurer** (noun) – A person who seeks exciting or risky experiences साहसिक यात्री

8. C) 'essentials' के बदले 'essential' होगा क्योंकि as के बाद यहाँ adjective चाहिए, न कि plural noun; वाक्य का अर्थ है कि वे इसे आवश्यक मानते थे, न कि आवश्यक वस्तुएँ।

- 'essential' will be used instead of 'essentials' because after 'as' we need an adjective complement, not a plural noun; Like— They saw it as important, not important.

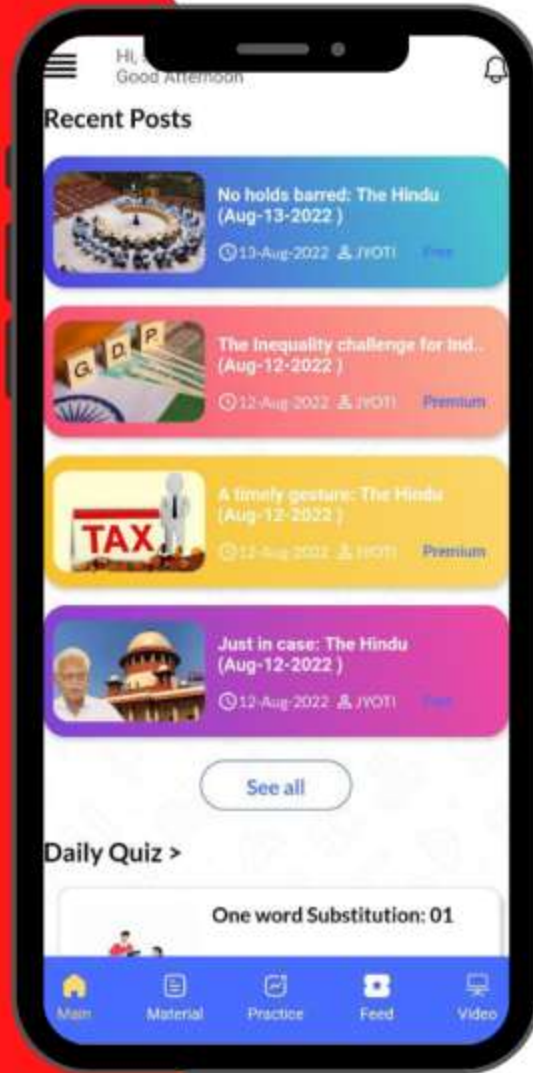
9. B) 'enigmatic' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि sentence में कहा गया है कि professor की remarks इतनी कठिन और रहस्यमयी थीं कि अनुभवी scholars भी उन्हें समझ नहीं पाए। "Enigmatic" का अर्थ होता है — mysterious and hard to understand — जो यहाँ context के साथ पूरी तरह मेल खाता है। इसलिए "enigmatic" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प है।
- 'Enigmatic' should be used because the sentence states that the professor's remarks were so puzzling and mysterious that even experienced scholars could not decipher them. The word directly conveys the idea of something difficult to interpret. Thus, "enigmatic" is the most appropriate choice.
10. C) **Renounce** (verb) – to give up, reject, or formally abandon something त्यागना / अस्वीकार करना
- Synonym: **Reject** (verb) – to refuse or turn down अस्वीकार करना
- **Adopt** (verb) – to accept or take up अपनाना
 - **Accept** (verb) – to receive willingly स्वीकार करना
 - **Welcome** (verb) – to greet gladly स्वागत करना
11. A) lie — The correct word is "lie", which means to recline or rest in a horizontal position लेटना / विश्राम करना।
12. C) **Wisdom** (noun) – deep knowledge, good judgment, and understanding बुद्धिमत्ता / ज्ञान
- Synonym: **Knowledge** (noun) – information and understanding gained through learning ज्ञान
- **Ignorance** (noun) – lack of knowledge अज्ञान
 - **Cunning** (noun/adjective) – cleverness used in a tricky way चालाकी
 - **Foolishness** (noun) – lack of good sense मूर्खता
13. A) 'on 5 meters' के बदले 'by 5 meters' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि length × width के माप बताने के लिए standard expression "by" प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— The hall is 10 meters by 8 meters.
- 'by 5 meters' will be used instead of 'on 5 meters' because dimensions are expressed using the pattern number + unit + by + number + unit.
14. A) 'by a knife' के बदले '**with a knife**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि किसी instrument/tool के प्रयोग को बताने के लिए preposition with प्रयोग होता है; जैसे— He cut the rope with a blade.
- 'with a knife' will be used instead of 'by a knife' because with is used to show the instrument used to perform an action.
15. C)
- Highlighted वाक्य में 'ring' का अर्थ है — उंगली में पहना जाने वाला आभूषण।
- विकल्प C में 'ring' का अर्थ है — अपराधियों का संगठित गिरोह (a criminal gang or network)।
- उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ अलग — इसलिए यह homonym का सही उदाहरण है।
- In the highlighted sentence, 'ring' refers to a piece of jewelry worn on the finger.
- In option C, 'ring' means an organized group involved in illegal activity.

Same spelling and pronunciation but different meanings — hence option C is correct.

16. C) **Daze** (noun) – A state of stunned confusion स्तब्ध भ्रम की अवस्था
- **Shock** (noun) – A sudden disturbing emotional or physical reaction आघात
 - **Surprise** (noun) – A feeling caused by something unexpected आश्चर्य
 - **Stun** (verb/noun)** – To make someone temporarily unable to think or feel स्तब्ध कर देना
17. C) **Evanescent** (adjective) – short-lived, quickly fading, disappearing soon क्षणभंगुर / जल्दी मिटने वाला
- Antonym: **Enduring** (adjective) – lasting, permanent, continuing for a long time टिकाऊ / स्थायी
- **Fleeting** (adjective) – lasting for a very short time क्षणिक
 - **Transient** (adjective) – temporary, not lasting अस्थायी
 - **Ephemeral** (adjective) – brief, short-lived अल्पकालिक
18. B) (2) '**empiriical**' के बदले 'empirical' होगा क्योंकि यहाँ शब्द की spelling गलत है; सही spelling empirical होती है, जिसका अर्थ है अनुभव या प्रयोग पर आधारित।
- 'empirical' will be used instead of 'empiriical' because the given word is incorrectly spelt; the correct form is empirical, meaning based on observation or experiment.
19. C) The word “Countanance” is spelled incorrectly. The correct spelling is “**Countenance**”, which means facial expression or to approve/support मुख-मुद्रा / समर्थन करना।
20. B) 'in' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि “absorbed in” एक fixed collocation (स्थिर प्रयोग) है, जिसका अर्थ होता है किसी काम में पूरी तरह डूब जाना। Sentence में व्यक्ति किताब पढ़ने में इतना डूबा हुआ है कि उसे घंटी की आवाज भी सुनाई नहीं दी। इसलिए, “in” सबसे उपयुक्त preposition है।
- 'In' should be used because “absorbed in” is a standard collocation meaning deeply engaged or fully immersed in something. In the sentence, the person is completely immersed in the book and does not notice the bell. Thus, “in” is the most appropriate choice.
21. A) **rampant**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब बिना किसी रोक-टोक के तेज़ी से फैलना (unchecked growth) होता है; यहाँ पर्यटन के कारण होने वाले अनियंत्रित निर्माण की बात हो रही है। Chronic का इस्तेमाल लंबे समय तक चलने वाली बीमारी या समस्या के लिए होता है। Contagious का मतलब छूने से फैलने वाली बीमारी (संक्रामक) होता है। Indigenous का मतलब स्वदेशी या किसी खास जगह का मूल निवासी होता है।
- [rampant] is correct because it is an adjective meaning flourishing or spreading unchecked, often used to describe excessive or out-of-control building and development. Chronic means long-lasting and difficult to eradicate (used for illnesses or continuous problems). Contagious refers to a disease spread from one person to another by direct contact. Indigenous means originating naturally in a particular place or native.

22. C) [**cope with**] सही है क्योंकि यह ग्रामर के हिसाब से बिल्कुल सही phrase है जिसका मतलब किसी मुश्किल स्थिति को संभालना (deal with) होता है। Cope up with ग्रामर के अनुसार पूरी तरह गलत है (बोलचाल में लोग यह गलती करते हैं, लेकिन 'cope' के साथ 'up' नहीं आता)। Dispense with का मतलब किसी चीज़ से छुटकारा पाना या उसके बिना काम चलाना होता है। Bear up का मतलब मुश्किल हालात में हिम्मत बनाए रखना होता है।
- [cope with] is correct because it is the standard, grammatically sound English phrasal verb meaning to deal effectively with a difficult situation or problem, like handling a massive summer influx of tourists. Cope up with is grammatically incorrect and is a very common error; the word "up" should never be used here. Dispense with means to manage without something or get rid of it. Bear up means to remain cheerful or strong in the face of adversity.
23. B) [**tricky**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब मुश्किल, पेचीदा या परेशानी भरा (difficult) होता है; सर्दियों में वहाँ घूमना पेचीदा है क्योंकि कई ज़रूरी जगहें बंद होती हैं। Fluorescent का मतलब बहुत चमकीला या चमकने वाली लाइट होता है। Crunchy का मतलब कुरकुरा (जैसे खाना) होता है। Bilingual का मतलब दो भाषाएं बोलने वाला होता है।
- [tricky] is correct because it means requiring care or skill because it is difficult, awkward, or unpredictable. Traveling there in winter is "tricky" (difficult to navigate) because many necessary places are shut down. Fluorescent refers to vivid colors or tubes that emit bright light. Crunchy describes food making a sharp noise when bitten. Bilingual means speaking two languages fluently.
24. D) [**into**] सही है क्योंकि यह preposition गति (motion) या दिशा को दर्शाता है जब कोई चीज़ बाहर से अंदर की तरफ जाती है; यहाँ रास्ते के पहाड़ियों के अंदर (into) जाने की बात हो रही है। Unto 'to' का पुराना रूप है जिसका इस्तेमाल अब आम इंग्लिश में नहीं होता। Throughout का मतलब हर जगह या पूरी तरह से होता है। In का मतलब अंदर होता है, लेकिन यह स्थिरता दिखाता है, जबकि 'into' दिशा और गति दिखाता है।
- [into] is correct because it is the preposition used to express motion, movement, or direction toward the inside of a place. The trail deviates (turns and moves) into the central hills. Unto is an archaic form of 'to' mostly found in historical texts. Throughout means in every part of a place or object. In indicates being enclosed inside something but indicates a static position, lacking the movement implied by the trail's path.
25. C) [**traverses**] सही है क्योंकि इसका मतलब किसी क्षेत्र (विशेषकर भौगोलिक इलाके) के बीच से होकर गुज़रना (travel across) होता है; यह रास्ता उत्तरी पहाड़ों के बीच से गुज़रता है। साथ ही, 'it' एकवचन (singular) है इसलिए क्रिया में 's' लगना ज़रूरी है। Circumvent बहुवचन क्रिया है (ग्रामर के हिसाब से गलत) जिसका मतलब बाधा से बचकर निकल जाना होता है। Excavates का मतलब ज़मीन में खुदाई करना होता है। Patrol plural verb है जिसका मतलब सुरक्षा के लिए गश्त लगाना होता है।
- [traverses] is correct because it means to travel across or through a geographical area, perfectly describing a physical trail cutting through the mountainous north.

Furthermore, the subject "it" (the trail) is singular, requiring the singular verb form ending in 's'. Circumvent (plural verb form, grammatically incorrect here) means to find a way around an obstacle to avoid it. Excavates means to make a hole by digging out earth. Patrol (plural verb form, grammatically incorrect here) means to keep watch over an area by walking around it.



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