

## Elon Musk's wealth **defies gravity** — and reality

Six years ago, a **study** by a financial services company **predicted** that the world would have its first trillionaire by 2026. Based on the fact that his net worth had grown 34 per cent in the previous five years, it predicted that the title would go to Amazon founder Jeff Bezos. Last week proved the study right on one count and wrong on the other. The world did, **indeed**, get its first trillionaire this year. It was not, however, Bezos but former Trump BFF Elon Musk, who crossed that **threshold** **thanks to** the **blockbuster** IPO of his aerospace and AI company, SpaceX.

What does it mean to have the kind of money where the only entities that are richer than oneself are 21 countries and a dozen corporations? **A trillion dollars** in the **abstract** **is** hard to picture. In 2020, when Bezos was still the world's richest man, a viral TikTok **sought to** explain the **scope** of his wealth in grains of rice: If **one grain** of rice represented \$100,000, Bezos — then valued at \$200 billion — **was** worth 2,000,000 grains of rice (about 54 kg). Musk's current net worth would thus **amount to** 10 million grains.



What else could a trillion dollars buy? Maybe 666 Burj Khalifas or 10,000 Gulfstream G700 jets or 200 Buckingham Palaces. **Of course**, Musk's wealth has **fluctuated** in the past; he lost over \$100 billion in 2023 when Tesla stocks **slumped**. But when one's personal **fortune** is linked to the business of defying gravity, even the loss of \$100 billion seems but a **minor glitch**. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

## Vocabulary

1. **Defy** (verb) - resist, confront, challenge, withstand, oppose अवहेलना करना
2. **Gravity** (noun) - weightiness, force, seriousness, pull, heaviness गुरुत्वाकर्षण
3. **Predict** (verb) - forecast, foresee, anticipate, project, augur भविष्यवाणी करना
4. **Indeed** (adverb) - actually, certainly, genuinely, truly, really वास्तव में
5. **Threshold** (noun) - limit, verge, brink, boundary, inception सीमा/देहलीज़
6. **Thanks to** (phrase) - because of, as a result of के कारण
7. **Blockbuster** (adjective) - massive, sensational, monumental, huge, successful शानदार/अत्यधिक सफल
8. **Abstract** (adjective) - theoretical, conceptual, academic, ideal, philosophical अमूर्त/भावनात्मक
9. **Seek to** (phrasal verb) - try to or attempt to प्रयास करना
10. **Scope** (noun) - extent, range, scale, breadth, capacity दायरा/विस्तार
11. **Amount to** (phrasal verb) - to be equal to or result in something. के बराबर होना
12. **Of course** (phrase) - naturally, certainly, obviously बेशक
13. **Fluctuate** (verb) - oscillate, shift, vary, swing, waver उतार-चढ़ाव होना
14. **Slump** (verb) - decline, drop, plummet, decrease, fall गिरावट आना
15. **Fortune** (noun) - wealth, assets, capital, riches, prosperity धन-संपत्ति
16. **Minor** (adjective) - slight, small, trivial, insignificant, secondary मामूली
17. **Glitch** (noun) - error, fault, flaw, defect, hiccup खराबी/त्रुटि

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The editorial highlights the emergence of the world's **first trillionaire**, marking a historic economic milestone.
2. Six years earlier, a financial study had predicted that a trillionaire would emerge by **2026**.
3. The study expected Jeff Bezos to become the world's first trillionaire based on his wealth growth trajectory.
4. However, the prediction was only partly correct because the title ultimately went to Elon Musk instead.
5. Musk crossed the trillion-dollar mark largely due to the successful public listing of [SpaceX](#) and growth linked to AI and aerospace ventures.
6. The editorial uses this event to reflect on the **extraordinary concentration of private wealth**.
7. It points out that Musk's personal wealth exceeds that of **most countries in the world**.
8. To explain the scale, the article compares wealth using a visual analogy involving **grains of rice**, showing how difficult it is to comprehend such figures.
9. Earlier comparisons estimated Bezos's wealth in millions of rice grains; Musk's fortune is portrayed as vastly larger.
10. The editorial also illustrates the scale by comparing it to the cost of **hundreds of skyscrapers, thousands of luxury jets, and hundreds of royal palaces**.
11. It suggests that trillion-dollar wealth appears almost detached from ordinary economic reality.
12. Despite reaching unprecedented levels, Musk's fortune remains heavily dependent on **market valuations and business performance**.
13. The editorial recalls that Musk previously lost more than **\$100 billion in 2023** when Tesla's valuation declined.
14. Yet such enormous fluctuations appear relatively small when compared with trillion-dollar wealth.
15. The broader message is that modern financial markets and technology sectors can create levels of wealth that seem to **challenge traditional ideas of scale, value, and economic reality**.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word “threshold” as used in the passage.**  
A. Gateway  
B. Boundary line  
C. Limitation  
D. Escalation
2. **According to the passage, which of the following is true regarding the financial forecast made six years ago?**  
A. The study’s calculation method was flawed because it overlooked market fluctuations.  
B. The study correctly identified the commercial sector but miscalculated the corporate leader.  
C. The predicted timeframe for the arrival of the first trillionaire proved entirely accurate.  
D. The forecast failed because Jeff Bezos’s net worth experienced a negative growth rate after five years.
3. **Based on the understanding of the passage, what does the rice analogy primarily demonstrate about Elon Musk’s wealth?**  
A. It corresponds to a financial value that is exactly five times the baseline valuation of his predecessor  
B. It can be accurately computed through tangible physical assets rather than abstract currencies.  
C. It matches the collective net worth of the twenty-one countries highlighted by the author.  
D. It proves that his current assets are insulated from corporate market crashes.
4. **What central idea is conveyed in the final sentence of the passage?**  
A. True billionaires never experience financial losses  
B. Massive losses seem minor at his scale  
C. Tesla stocks will recover quickly from a minor glitch  
D. Personal fortunes should never be linked to rocket research
5. **Which sentence contains a correct use of the passive voice from the passage?**  
A. "A trillion dollars in the abstract is hard to picture."  
B. "Bezos — then valued at \$200 billion — was worth 2,000,000 grains..."  
C. "But when one’s personal fortune is linked to the business..."  
D. "...he lost over \$100 billion in 2023 when Tesla stocks slumped."
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) between S1 and S6 to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**  
S1. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit in 2020, Nick Dowling’s thriving consultancy work was abruptly forced online, leaving him staring at a screen and quickly feeling disconnected and bored.  
P. Following her advice, he embraced the need to start at the bottom and successfully applied for an entry-level healthcare assistant position with a responsive services team.  
Q. To counter this sudden lack of energy and fulfillment, he intensified his involvement in voluntary work with the local ambulance service, taking on urgent tasks like delivering tests and supporting medical crews.  
R. As he immersed himself in this new clinical role, it took him a while to make a profound connection to his own personal history.

S. This immersive, hands-on medical experience naturally led him to seek a permanent role in the field, prompting his daughter to point him towards the NHS jobs website.

S6. He finally realized he had done this exact type of care work as a naive 21-year-old in Massachusetts, completing a beautiful, decades-long circle in his professional life.

A. P R S Q

B. Q S P R

C. S Q R P

D. Q P S R

7. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent paragraph based on the passage.**

A. Viewing this specific infiltration as a premeditated conspiracy, the country's top leadership believes the issue is fundamentally a severe challenge to national sovereignty and internal security.

B. However, critics warn that entirely securitising these national security concerns around population data could backfire, potentially creating a massive crisis of statelessness if people lack proper documentation.

C. Guided by concerns over "unnatural" population shifts, the Indian government has constituted a special panel, chaired by Justice P.P. Naolekar, to investigate the perceived threat of illegal infiltration.

D. To avoid this looming crisis of statelessness, experts argue that India's demographic governance must sensitively shift its focus toward more pressing realities, such as falling birth rates and the risk of losing the demographic dividend.

A. C A B D

B. C B A D

C. A C D B

D. D B C A

8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Nativist."**

A. Altruistic

B. Benevolent

C. Cognizant

D. Chauvinistic

9. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Steady."**

A. Consistent

B. Chimerical

C. Capricious

D. Choleric

10. **What is the correct meaning of the idiom "Cut the Gordian knot"?**

A. Avoid problem

B. Delay solution

C. Solve a complex problem boldly

D. Ignore difficulty

11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the word "Wane."**

A. Expand

B. Intensify

- C. Commence  
D. Flourish
12. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
A system of government by the wealthy class  
A. Theocracy  
B. Plutocracy  
C. Autocracy  
D. Democracy
13. **Choose the most appropriate word that can substitute the given group of words.**  
Yearly celebration of a date or an event  
A. Gala  
B. Anniversary  
C. Carnival  
D. Bash
14. **Select the option with the correct spelling that can replace the underlined word in the given sentence. If the spelling in the given sentence is already correct, choose Option "No replacement required".**  
The dissonent chords in the music created an unsettling and tense atmosphere.  
A. dissonant  
B. dissonent  
C. dissounant  
D. No replacement required
15. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**  
The school building was constructed in 1980.  
A. The school building had been constructed in 1980.  
B. Someone constructed the school building in 1980.  
C. The school building constructs in 1980.  
D. Someone is constructing the school building in 1980.
16. **A sentence is provided in direct speech. From the four given options, choose the one that most accurately conveys the sentence in its corresponding indirect speech.**  
I said, "Why are you crying?"  
A. I asked why he was crying.  
B. I said why are you crying.  
C. I told why you cried.  
D. I asked why he cried.
17. **Complete the sentence using the most appropriate word:**  
The sudden political \_\_\_\_\_ created nationwide confusion and fear.  
A. Ordeal  
B. Upheaval  
C. Tenet  
D. Chronicle
18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**  
There \_\_\_\_\_ been too many incidents of thefts lately.  
A. have

- B. has not
- C. was
- D. has

19. **Select the option that will improve the underlined part of the given sentence.**

He behaves if he were a king

- A. could be behaving as
- B. has been behaving as
- C. behaves as if
- D. will be behaving as

20. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

The report was more preferable (1)/ to the previous version (2)/ due to its structured layout (3)/ and clarity of language. (4)/

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

**Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:**

Tiruvalluvar says, "He enters the (1) abode of the gods who lays the axe at I and mine." One may maintain this advice is the hardest to follow in the material world that we live in where self-promotion appears to be the norm. \_\_\_\_\_(3) one conquers the 'I', one cannot lead a truly enriching life, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan.

Narayana Bhattadri says Krishna abhors two kinds of people: those who go about swollen-headed due to their academic achievements (vidyarti garvam) and those who boast about their riches (Aishwarya garvam). Mahalakshmi ensures that this does not happen with the true devotee.

Kusela came calling upon Krishna at the behest of his wife. To Kusela, living in abject poverty, Krishna was a dear friend but his wife pleaded with him to seek material help from the wealthy Krishna. When he agreed to visit Krishna, she sent Kusela with a gift of poha, a good portion of which was borrowed from their neighbours. After offering the poha, Kusela spoke of general affairs and did not seek any help from Krishna. Reaching for a fistful of poha and relishing it, the all-knowing Krishna immediately showered wealth upon Kusela, transforming his humble dwelling into a palatial one, filling it with gold, silver and other precious things. When Krishna reached for the second fistful of poha, Mahalakshmi, having \_\_\_\_\_(5) as Rukmini, stopped Him.

Why did She do so? By consuming the first fistful, Krishna had already granted immense material fortune. Had He consumed the second, He would have given away His entire spiritual domain as well. Thus, divine grace is carefully meted out, showing that Krishna profoundly \_\_\_\_\_(4) arrogance, while cherishing the pure, unembellished devotion of a (2) true devotee.

21. **Select the word that is the most appropriate synonym of "abode" as used in the passage: (1)**

- A. transient
- B. dwelling
- C. detachment
- D. banishment

22. **In the context of the passage, what characterizes the "true devotee"? (2).**
- A. One who pursues rigorous academic excellence to validate spiritual evolution.
  - B. One who actively negotiates material compensation for ritual offerings.
  - C. One who surrenders egotistical pride ("I" and "mine") and interacts with the divine free of hidden material motives.
  - D. One who accumulates vast neighborhoods of wealth to build monumental, palatial spaces.
23. **Choose the correct conjunction to fill in blank (3):**
- A. Unless
  - B. Despite
  - C. Consequently
  - D. Although
24. **Choose the appropriate verb form to complete blank (4) to maintain active present-tense agreement with the character's actions:**
- A. abhorred
  - B. abhors
  - C. abhorring
  - D. abhor
25. **Identify the correct grammatical participle form to complete blank (5):**
- A. manifest
  - B. manifestation
  - C. manifested
  - D. manifestly

## Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

### 1. B) **Boundary line**

A threshold represents a starting point, limit, or a specific level that must be crossed to produce a given effect. In this context, it refers to the financial boundary line of \$1 trillion that separated Musk from his previous wealth status to becoming the world's first trillionaire.

(a) Gateway: incorrect: A gateway refers to an opening or an entrance into a new space or area. While crossing a threshold can lead to an entrance, the word in this context specifically points to the exact financial line or point that was crossed (\$1 trillion).

(c) Limitation: incorrect: A limitation implies a restriction or a cap that prevents further progress. The passage describes an expansion and growth of wealth.

(d) Escalation: incorrect: Escalation means a rapid increase or rise in intensity or amount. While Musk's wealth did escalate, the word "threshold" refers to the specific benchmark point he crossed, not the act of rising itself.

### 2. C) **The predicted timeframe for the arrival of the first trillionaire proved entirely accurate.**

Line from the passage: "Six years ago, a study by a financial services company predicted that the world would have its first trillionaire by 2026. [...] Last week proved the study right on one count and wrong on the other. The world did, indeed, get its first trillionaire this year." The passage explicitly states that the study predicted the milestone would happen by 2026, and confirms that it did happen exactly in this year, making the timeframe fully accurate.

option A: incorrect: The passage mentions that the prediction was based on a 34 percent growth rate, but it never states that the calculation method itself was flawed or that it explicitly failed due to overlooking market fluctuations.

option B: incorrect: The study predicted Bezos (Amazon/E-commerce), but the trillionaire came from SpaceX (Aerospace/AI). Therefore, the study miscalculated both the leader and the sector.

option D: incorrect: The passage simply states that Musk beat Bezos to the threshold. It never mentions that Bezos's net worth experienced a negative growth rate.

### 3. A) It corresponds to a financial value that is exactly five times the baseline valuation of his predecessor

Line from the passage: "...Bezos — then valued at \$200 billion — was worth 2,000,000 grains of rice... Musk's current net worth would thus amount to 10 million grains." The passage sets Bezos's baseline valuation at 2 million grains of rice (\$200 billion). It then notes Musk's wealth equals 10 million grains. Since 10 million is exactly five times 2 million, the analogy directly demonstrates that Musk's wealth is five times that baseline (\$1 trillion).

B) incorrect: The passage states the rice is used merely as a visual aid to help people picture the scope of abstract wealth. It does not mean the wealth can be computed using physical items rather than abstract currencies.

C) incorrect: The passage states that those 21 countries are richer than Musk, not that his wealth matches their collective net worth. Furthermore, this fact is separate from the rice analogy.

D) incorrect: The passage explicitly states the opposite—Musk's wealth is heavily tied to stocks and has dropped significantly during past market slumps, meaning he is not insulated.

4. B) **Massive losses seem minor at his scale**

Line from the passage: "...even the loss of \$100 billion seems but a minor glitch." The final sentence uses a playful metaphor ("defying gravity") to show that because Musk's total net worth is so massive (a trillion dollars), losing an amount as huge as \$100 billion is relatively small to him and feels like just a "minor glitch."

Option A: incorrect: The passage explicitly mentions that Musk did experience a massive financial loss of \$100 billion, directly contradicting the idea that billionaires never lose money.

option C: incorrect: The final sentence is talking about how the loss feels relative to Musk's immense scale of wealth. The passage makes no predictions or promises about Tesla's stock performance or how fast it recovers.

option D: incorrect: The author is simply describing the reality of Musk's aerospace business ("defying gravity") to make a witty point about his trillionaire status. The passage does not offer any moral advice or judgment on what personal fortunes should or should not be linked to.

5. C) **"But when one's personal fortune is linked to the business..."**

A passive construction requires a form of the auxiliary verb "to be" followed by a past participle (be + past participle). In option (c), the subject is "one's personal fortune", the auxiliary verb is "is", and the past participle is "linked". The subject receives the action rather than performing it (the fortune is being linked to the business by an external factor or action), which perfectly satisfies the rules of the passive voice.

6. B) **Q S P R**

Sentence Q, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत (S1 के तुरंत बाद) में आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "To counter this sudden lack of energy" (ऊर्जा की इस अचानक कमी को दूर करने के लिए) शब्द सीधे तौर पर S1 में बताए गए 'feeling disconnected and bored' (कटा हुआ और ऊबा हुआ महसूस करने) की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है कि अपनी ऊब मिटाने के लिए उन्होंने एम्बुलेंस सेवा के साथ स्वैच्छिक कार्य (voluntary work) तेज कर दिया।

Sentence S, Sentence Q के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "This immersive, hands-on medical experience" (यह गहन, व्यावहारिक चिकित्सा अनुभव) शब्द सीधे तौर पर Q में बताए गए एम्बुलेंस सेवा और मेडिकल क्रू की सहायता करने वाले कार्यों की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory link) बनाता है, जो बताता है कि इस अनुभव के कारण उनकी बेटी ने उन्हें NHS जॉब्स वेबसाइट देखने का सुझाव दिया (prompting his daughter to point him towards the NHS jobs website)।

Sentence P, Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "Following her advice" (उनकी सलाह मानते हुए) शब्द सीधे तौर पर S में उनकी बेटी द्वारा दी गई वेबसाइट चेक करने की सलाह की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस सलाह को मानकर उन्होंने हेल्थकेयर असिस्टेंट (healthcare assistant position) की नौकरी के लिए आवेदन किया।

Sentence R, Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" (S6 से पहले) की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this new clinical role" (यह नई नैदानिक भूमिका) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर P में मिली 'healthcare assistant position' से जुड़ता है। यह बताता है कि इस नई भूमिका में काम करते हुए उन्हें अपने अतीत से एक गहरा जुड़ाव (connection to his own personal history) महसूस हुआ, जो S6

(जिसमें उन्हें याद आता है कि 21 साल की उम्र में उन्होंने ठीक ऐसा ही काम किया था) के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence Q comes at the beginning (after S1) because the phrase "To counter this sudden lack of energy" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to him feeling "disconnected and bored" established in S1. It sets the factual ground by explaining how he transitioned into urgent voluntary work to find fulfillment.
- Sentence S follows Q because the phrase "This immersive, hands-on medical experience" creates a mandatory link, directly referring to the active ambulance and medical crew support duties detailed in Q. It introduces the next logical step: his daughter pointing him toward official NHS jobs based on this new passion.
- Sentence P follows S as it uses the phrase "Following her advice" to create a mandatory link pointing directly to his daughter's guidance in S. It explains the direct result of that advice: he applied for and secured an entry-level "healthcare assistant position."
- Sentence R follows P as the conclusion (leading into S6). It uses the phrase "this new clinical role" to refer directly back to the healthcare assistant job he just secured in P. It introduces his realization of a connection to his "personal history," seamlessly bridging into S6, which reveals the specifics of that history—his time doing the exact same work as a 21-year-old.

#### 7. A) **CABD**

Sentence C, पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "factual ground" तैयार करता है। यह बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ या सर्वनाम के मुख्य विषय का परिचय देता है—कि भारत सरकार ने 'illegal infiltration' (अवैध घुसपैठ) के कथित खतरे की जांच के लिए एक विशेष पैनल का गठन किया है।

Sentence A, Sentence C के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "this specific infiltration" (यह विशिष्ट घुसपैठ) शब्द सीधे तौर पर C में स्थापित किए गए 'illegal infiltration' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह एक अनिवार्य लिंक (mandatory link) बनाता है, जो बताता है कि देश का शीर्ष नेतृत्व इस घुसपैठ को 'national sovereignty and internal security' (राष्ट्रीय संप्रभुता और आंतरिक सुरक्षा) के लिए एक गंभीर चुनौती मानता है।

Sentence B, Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें मौजूद "these national security concerns" (इन राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा चिंताओं) शब्द सीधे तौर पर A में स्थापित किए गए 'internal security' की ओर इशारा करते हैं। यह बताता है कि आलोचकों के अनुसार, आबादी के आंकड़ों को लेकर इस तरह की सख्त सुरक्षा नीति अपनाने से 'crisis of statelessness' (राज्यविहीनता का संकट) पैदा हो सकता है।

Sentence D, Sentence B के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह पूरे scenario को एक "conclusion" की ओर ले जाता है। इसमें "this looming crisis of statelessness" (राज्यविहीनता का यह मंडराता संकट) का जिक्र है जो सीधे तौर पर B में बताए गए 'crisis of statelessness' से जुड़ता है। यह स्पष्ट करता है कि इस संकट से बचने के लिए सरकार को गिरती जन्म दर (falling birth rates) जैसी वास्तविक जनसांख्यिकीय समस्याओं पर ध्यान देना चाहिए, जो पैराग्राफ के तार्किक प्रवाह को पूरा करता है।

- Sentence C comes at the beginning because it establishes the factual ground. It introduces the primary subject—the constitution of a special panel by the Indian government to investigate "illegal infiltration"—without relying on any preceding context.
- Sentence A follows C because the phrase "this specific infiltration" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the "illegal infiltration" introduced in C. It expands on how

the top leadership views this issue as a threat to "national sovereignty and internal security."

- Sentence B follows A as the transitional phrase "these national security concerns" creates a mandatory link pointing directly back to the focus on "internal security" established in A. It introduces the counter-argument that overly securitizing these trends could backfire and lead to a "crisis of statelessness."
  - Sentence D follows B as the final conclusion. It uses the phrase "this looming crisis of statelessness" to refer directly back to the documentation crisis detailed in B. It effectively concludes the paragraph by arguing that the nation's demographic governance must pivot to address the real domestic challenges of falling birth rates and the demographic dividend.
8. D) **Nativist** (adjective) – Xenophobic, chauvinistic, isolationist, ethnocentric, nationalistic. (मूलनिवासी-वादी)  
Synonym: **Chauvinistic** (adjective) – Displaying excessive, aggressive, or prejudiced nationalism or loyalty. (अंधराष्ट्रवादी / संकीर्ण)
- **Altruistic** (adjective): Showing a disinterested and selfless concern for the well-being of others. (परोपकारी)
  - **Benevolent** (adjective): Well meaning and kindly; serving a charitable rather than a profit-making purpose. (दयालु)
  - **Cognizant** (adjective): Having knowledge or being aware of something. (जानकार)
9. A) **Steady** (adjective) – Stable, constant, consistent, firm, or uniform in movement, action, or quality. (स्थिर/नियमित)  
Synonym: **Consistent** (adjective) – Acting or done in the same way over time, especially so as to be fair or accurate. (नियमित)
- **Chimerical** (adjective): Wildly fanciful; highly unrealistic or imaginary. (काल्पनिक)
  - **Capricious** (adjective): Given to sudden and unaccountable changes of mood or behavior. (मनमौजी)
  - **Choleric** (adjective): Bad-tempered or irritable. (चिड़चिड़ा)
10. C) "**Cut the Gordian knot**" (idiom) – To solve a very difficult or complex problem in a bold and direct way, often by bypassing conventional methods. जटिल समस्या का साहसिक और निर्णायक समाधान करना।
11. D) **Wane** (verb) – To decrease gradually in size, strength, or intensity; decline. कम होना  
Antonym: **Flourish** (verb) – To grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way. फलना-फूलना
- **Expand** (verb) – To increase in size or volume. विस्तार करना
  - **Intensify** (verb) – To become stronger or more extreme. तेज़ होना
  - **Commence** (verb) – To begin or start. आरंभ करना
12. B) **Plutocracy** (noun) – A system of government by the wealthy class धनाढ्य वर्ग द्वारा सरकार
- **Theocracy** (noun) – A system of government in which priests rule in the name of God or a god. ईश्वर या किसी देवता के नाम पर पुजारियों द्वारा शासन की व्यवस्था.
  - **Autocracy** (noun) – A system of government by one person with absolute power. एक व्यक्ति द्वारा पूर्ण सत्ता के साथ शासन की व्यवस्था.

- **Democracy** (noun) – A system of government by the whole population or all the eligible members of a state, typically through elected representatives. सभी योग्य सदस्यों या पूरी जनसंख्या द्वारा, आमतौर पर चुने गए प्रतिनिधियों के माध्यम से, शासन की व्यवस्था।
13. B) **Anniversary** (noun) - The yearly celebration of a date or an event. वर्षगाँठ
- **Gala** (noun) – A social occasion with special entertainments or performances. समारोह
  - **Carnival** (noun) – A festival involving processions, music, dancing, and the use of masquerade. कार्निवल
  - **Bash** (noun) – A party or social event. धूमधाम
14. A) The correct spelling of 'dissonent' is '**dissonant**', which means "lacking harmony; producing an unpleasant sound" असंगत, बेसुरा।
15. B) **Someone constructed the school building in 1980.**  
Passive से Active Voice में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य में छिपा हुआ Agent Active वाक्य में Subject के रूप में लाया जाता है और Verb को उसी Tense में Active रूप में बदला जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में Tense Simple Past Passive है। Passive वाक्य में "The school building" Subject है, "was constructed" Verb है और Agent उल्लेखित नहीं है। Active में बदलते समय सामान्य Agent "Someone" प्रयोग किया जाता है और Verb constructed (Simple Past Active) में रहता है।
- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the hidden agent becomes the subject, and the verb is converted into its active form while keeping the same tense. Here, the sentence is in the Simple Past tense. "The school building" is the subject, "was constructed" is the passive verb, and the agent is implied. In the active form, "Someone" becomes the subject and the verb changes to "constructed."
16. A) **I asked why he was crying.**  
Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलने के लिए, Reported Speech के प्रश्न रूप को Statement की तरह बदला जाता है और question word (Why) को वैसा ही रखा जाता है। Direct वाक्य में "I said" Reporting Verb है और "Why are you crying?" Reported Speech है। Indirect में Reporting Verb "said" को प्रश्न के कारण asked में बदल दिया जाता है। Reported Speech में "are crying" (Present Continuous) को was crying (Past Continuous) में बदला गया है क्योंकि Reporting Verb (said) Past Tense में है। "you" को संदर्भ के अनुसार he में बदला गया है।  
In English  
To convert Direct to Indirect Speech:  
Identify the reporting verb: "said" → past tense. Since it is a question, it is more appropriate to use "asked" in indirect speech.  
Check the tense: Present Continuous ("are... crying") → backshifted to Past Continuous ("was... crying") because the reporting verb is in the past.  
Change pronouns: "you" → "he" (based on context).  
Remove quotation marks and change question format to statement format.  
In this sentence:  
Direct speech: "Why are you crying?"  
Indirect speech: expresses a Wh-question  
Type: Question in present continuous tense  
In indirect speech, Wh-questions are written as statements (no auxiliary before subject) and tense is usually backshifted if the reporting verb is past tense.

Changes made:

“said” → “asked”

“are crying” → “was crying” (tense backshift)

“you” → “he” (pronoun change)

Question mark removed, converted into a statement

Correct Indirect Speech:

"I asked why he was crying."

17. B) **Upheaval** (noun) – Disruption, disturbance, turmoil, disorder, chaos. उथल-पुथल

Correct usage: A political upheaval causes chaos and disorder.

- **Ordeal** (noun) – Difficult experience. कठिन परीक्षा
- **Tenet** (noun) – Principle or belief. सिद्धांत
- **Chronicle** (noun) – Record of events. इतिहास दर्ज करना

18. A) 'Have' का use होगा क्योंकि sentence present perfect tense में है, और 'too many incidents' एक plural subject है। 'Have' plural subject के साथ सही auxiliary verb है। 'Has not' का उपयोग singular subject के साथ होता है, लेकिन यहाँ subject plural है। 'Was' past tense को दर्शाता है, जो वाक्य के context में सही नहीं है क्योंकि यह वर्तमान घटनाओं के बारे में है। 'Has' singular subject के साथ use होता है, लेकिन 'incidents' plural है, इसलिए यह गलत है।

- 'Have' will be used because the sentence is in the present perfect tense, and 'too many incidents' is a plural subject. 'Have' is the correct auxiliary verb for a plural subject. 'Has not' is used with singular subjects, but the subject here is plural. 'Was' indicates the past tense, which doesn't fit as the sentence refers to recent events. 'Has' is used with singular subjects, but 'incidents' is plural, making it incorrect.

19. C) 'behaves as if' का प्रयोग '**behaves if**' के स्थान पर होगा क्योंकि 'as if' का प्रयोग तब किया जाता है जब कोई स्थिति वास्तविक न हो और काल्पनिक परिस्थिति को व्यक्त करना हो; जैसे— He behaves as if he knew everything.

- 'behaves as if' will be used instead of 'behaves if' because 'as if' is used when the situation is imaginary or hypothetical; Like— He behaves as if he knew everything.

20. A) 'more preferable' के बदले केवल '**preferable**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि preferable स्वयं में comparative sense देता है और इसके साथ 'more' लगाना superfluous / गलत है। जैसे— This option is preferable to the other.

- 'preferable' will be used instead of 'more preferable' because the word preferable already carries a comparative meaning.

So adding more makes the expression redundant.

Example— This option is preferable to the other.

21. B) The word "abode" refers to a place where someone lives (a home or residence). "(dwelling)" is the exact synonym for it. A) transient means lasting only for a short time. C) detachment means an objective or un-emotional state. D) banishment means the punishment of being sent away from a country or place.

- "Abode" का मतलब घर या रहने की जगह होता है। "(dwelling)" का मतलब भी बिल्कुल यही (residence) है। A) transient का मतलब है short time के लिए। C) detachment का मतलब emotional दूरी है। D) banishment का मतलब देश निकाला (kicking someone out) है।

22. C) The passage clearly states that a true devotee "lays the axe at I and mine" (destroys ego and possessiveness) and uses Kusela as an example of someone who "did not seek any help" despite extreme poverty. Option (C) perfectly captures this by stating they surrender egotistical pride ("I" and "mine") and do not have hidden material motives.
- Passage साफ बताता है कि एक true devotee (सच्चा भक्त) वह है जो "I and mine" (अहंकार और मेरापन) को खत्म कर देता है। Kusela का example भी यही दिखाता है कि उसने अपनी गरीबी के बाद भी भगवान से कोई material help नहीं मांगी। Option (C) इस बात को perfectly describe करता है कि सच्चे भक्त में ego (अहंकार) और hidden material motives नहीं होते।
23. A) The blank needs a conjunction that introduces a negative condition. The sentence structure is: "[If] one [does not] conquer the 'I', one cannot lead a truly enriching life." "(Unless)" exactly means "if not" or "except if," making the sentence logically complete. B) Despite shows contrast but is a preposition. C) Consequently shows result. D) Although shows contrast but doesn't fit the conditional logic here.
- Blank को एक ऐसे conjunction की ज़रूरत है जो condition (शर्त) को दिखाए। Sentence का मतलब है: "जब तक कोई अपने 'I' (अहंकार) को नहीं जीतता, वह एक अच्छी life नहीं जी सकता।" "(Unless)" का मतलब "जब तक कि नहीं" (if not) होता है, जो यहाँ एकदम सही बैठता है।
24. A) The blank tests subject-verb agreement and tense. The subject is "Krishna," which is a singular noun. The passage is narrating a universal truth/habitual action in the present tense (indicated by verbs like "is carefully meted out," "cherishing"). Therefore, a singular present-tense verb is needed. "(abhors)" is the correct singular present-tense form. A) abhorred is past tense. C) abhorring needs a helping verb (is/was). D) abhor is a plural present-tense verb.
- Blank subject-verb agreement और tense को test करता है। यहाँ subject "Krishna" (singular noun) है। Passage present tense में चल रहा है ("is", "cherishing")। इसलिए हमें singular present-tense verb की ज़रूरत है। "(abhors)" सही singular verb है। A) abhorred past tense है। D) abhor plural verb है, जो singular subject के साथ agree नहीं करता।
25. C) The blank tests the grammatical structure of a perfect participle phrase. The word "having" must be followed by a past participle (Verb's 3rd form) to show an action completed before another action. "Having + manifested" is the correct grammatical structure. A) manifest is the base verb/adjective. B) manifestation is a noun. D) manifestly is an adverb.
- Blank grammar के perfect participle rule को test करता है। English grammar में "having" के बाद हमेशा past participle (Verb की 3rd form) का use होता है। इसलिए "having manifested" सही structure है। A) manifest base verb है। B) manifestation noun है। D) manifestly adverb है।