

Unsafe practices: On the Vietnam boat accident

Safety **protocols** should not be given **short shrift** in tourism and adventure

Survivor **accounts** of the Vietnam boat tragedy last week **point to** two clearly identifiable contributors. As the weather turned rough and the speedboat **took a sharp turn**, it tilted to the left. The **passengers** — all Indian tourists — sitting on the right **fell** to the left side. Almost all the passenger weight shifted at once, the boat lost balance and **turned turtle**. As it **capsized**, the boat captain and guide escaped through the open front door. Others who found an opening also jumped out. Those who could not leave were trapped inside the capsized boat and took in water. Rescuers pulled them **ashore** where first aid and **resuscitation** were attempted before they were moved to hospital. All this took precious time and **casualties mounted** as a result. Some 15 Indians are reported to have died while 17 survived. Four Vietnamese **crew** also survived. The **Indians** on the speedboat at Phú Quốc **were** among more than 100 employees that a mobile company had taken to Vietnam on a corporate **incentive** tour.

Industry data indicate that some three crore Indians visit foreign countries every year, with a **significant proportion** of them coming from non-metro cities. Many of the survivors at Phú Quốc were from such cities. South-East Asia has emerged as the preferred destination, with Thailand and Vietnam joining the traditional attractions of Singapore and Malaysia. Many of these new tourist spots are developing rapidly but, like India, have not fully **strengthened** safety-of-life practices. **For instance**, just as in India, pleasure boats operators may carry enough life jackets or distribute them but often do not **insist** that every passenger wears one. Life jackets **keep people afloat** with their heads above water if they **end up** in the sea. In Phú Quốc, passengers were **reportedly** given life jackets, but it is not yet confirmed whether they were all made to wear them before departure. Another basic safety feature should be ensuring that passengers remain securely **strapped** to their seats so that they do not shift during rough weather or sharp **manoeuvres**. Even small **shifts** in passenger weight can significantly **affect** the **stability** of a speedboat. This norm was **violated** in Phú Quốc. **Vietnam in particular has witnessed** a **surge** in tourism, with Indians forming a **substantial** share of visitors. Speedboat **rides** between the **islets** of the Phú Quốc **archipelago** and the main island **are** especially popular among Indian tourists. The Vietnamese government has promised to review safety standards on such boats and upgrade them where necessary. But **Indians, aided** by governments and operators, must **strengthen** their awareness of safety practices, especially those related to fire and water safety.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Protocols** (noun) - rules, procedures, codes, guidelines, standards. प्रोटोकॉल या नियम
2. **Short shrift** (phrase) - to give little attention or consideration to something; to dismiss. अनदेखी करना
3. **Point to** (phrasal verb) - to indicate, suggest, or signal something. संकेत करना
4. **Take a sharp turn** (phrase) - to change direction abruptly and quickly. अचानक मुड़ना
5. **Turn turtle** (phrase) - to capsize or turn upside down. पलट जाना
6. **Capsize** (verb) - overturn, upset, flip, invert, keel over. उलट जाना
7. **Ashore** (adverb) - onto the shore किनारे पर
8. **Resuscitation** (noun) - the act of reviving someone from unconsciousness or apparent death. पुनर्जीवन
9. **Casualties** (noun) - victims, fatalities, deaths, losses, injured persons. हताहत (मृतक या घायल)
10. **Mount** (verb) - increase, rise, escalate, accumulate, grow. बढ़ना
11. **Crew** (noun) - staff, team, personnel, workers, shipmates. कर्मचारी दल
12. **Incentive** (noun) - motivation, reward, encouragement, inducement, stimulus. प्रोत्साहन
13. **Significant** (adjective) - notable, important, considerable, substantial, meaningful. महत्वपूर्ण
14. **Proportion** (noun) - percentage, ratio, fraction, share, part. अनुपात
15. **Strengthen** (verb) - fortify, reinforce, bolster, consolidate, harden. मजबूत करना
16. **For instance** (phrase) - for example, as an example. उदाहरण के लिए
17. **Insist** (verb) - demand, require, persist, urge, mandate. आग्रह करना
18. **Keep afloat** (phrase) - to stay on the surface of the water; to prevent sinking. पानी की सतह पर बनाए रखना
19. **End up** (phrasal verb) - to eventually arrive at a particular state or place. अंततः कहीं पहुंचना या होना
20. **Reportedly** (adverb) - allegedly, according to reports, supposedly, apparently. कथित तौर पर
21. **Strap** (verb) - fasten, secure, tie, bind, lash. बांधना
22. **Manoeuvre** (noun) - carefully planned movement or action to gain an advantage. पैतरेबाजी या गतिविधि
23. **Stability** (noun) - balance, steadiness, equilibrium, firmness, security. स्थिरता
24. **Violate** (verb) - breach, break, infringe, defy, transgress. उल्लंघन करना
25. **In particular** (phrase) - specifically, especially, particularly, mainly. विशेष रूप से
26. **Witness** (verb) - observe, see, experience, encounter, behold. देखना या गवाह बनना
27. **Surge** (noun) - increase, rise, swell, escalation, growth. उछाल या तेजी

28. **Substantial** (adjective) - large, significant, considerable, major, meaningful. पर्याप्त
29. **Islets** (noun) - small islands छोटे द्वीप
30. **Archipelago** (noun) - group of islands. द्वीपसमूह
31. **Aid** (verb) - help, assist, support, facilitate, back. सहायता करना
32. **Strengthen** (verb) - fortify, reinforce, bolster, consolidate, harden. सुदृढ़ करना

Summary of the Editorial

1. **A tragic speedboat accident** in Vietnam's Phú Quốc claimed the lives of **15 Indian tourists**, while **17 Indians and four Vietnamese crew members survived**.
2. **The accident occurred** when rough weather and a sharp turn caused the speedboat to tilt, making passengers shift to one side and resulting in the boat capsizing.
3. **Sudden movement of passengers' weight** to the left side destabilized the boat, highlighting the importance of maintaining proper balance on small vessels.
4. **The captain and guide escaped first** through the open front door, while many passengers became trapped inside the overturned boat and drowned.
5. **Rescue efforts were delayed**, as trapped passengers had to be pulled out, given first aid and resuscitation, and then transported to hospitals, increasing the death toll.
6. **The victims were employees of an Indian mobile company** visiting Vietnam as part of a corporate incentive tour.
7. **Around three crore Indians travel abroad annually**, with a growing number of tourists coming from non-metro cities.
8. **South-East Asia, particularly Thailand and Vietnam**, has become a preferred destination for Indian tourists because of its affordability and attractions.
9. **Many emerging tourist destinations still have weak safety standards**, similar to those seen in India, especially in adventure and water tourism.
10. **Although life jackets were reportedly available**, it remains unclear whether every passenger was required to wear one before the journey.
11. **Wearing life jackets is critical**, as they keep people afloat with their heads above water, significantly increasing survival chances during water accidents.
12. **Passengers were reportedly not securely strapped into their seats**, allowing them to shift during the sharp turn and causing the boat to lose stability.
13. **Even minor shifts in passenger weight** can seriously affect the balance of speedboats, making strict seating and restraint protocols essential.
14. **The Vietnamese government has promised to review and strengthen safety standards** for speedboat operations following the tragedy.
15. **The editorial concludes that safety protocols must never be compromised**, and both governments, tour operators, and tourists must ensure strict compliance with life jacket use, seating rules, and fire and water safety measures to prevent similar tragedies.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following questions cannot be answered on the basis of the above passage?**
 - A. What was the total number of employees that the mobile company had taken to Vietnam on the corporate incentive tour? [Editorial page]
 - B. What exact proportion of the three crore Indian tourists traveling abroad annually originates specifically from non-metro cities?
 - C. How many individuals in total, including both Indian tourists and Vietnamese crew members, survived the speedboat capsizing?
 - D. Which specific destination countries in South-East Asia have traditionally attracted Indian tourists before the recent rise of Vietnam and Thailand?
2. **Which of the following most accurately captures the central theme of the passage?**
 - A. The necessity of institutionalizing and enforcing stringent water-safety practices in rapidly growing, non-traditional tourist markets to protect travelers.
 - B. The vulnerabilities of the marine transportation sector in South-East Asia and its immediate economic consequences on foreign corporate travel.
 - C. The rise in outbound tourism from India's non-metro regions and the corresponding pressure it places on the infrastructure of international transit hubs.
 - D. The negligence of local administrative authorities in Vietnam regarding the licensing and monitoring of pleasure-boat operators.
3. **Select the correct order of the given facts based on the passage describing the Vietnam boat tragedy.**
 - P. The speedboat capsized and turned turtle.
 - Q. The passengers fell to the left side of the boat.
 - R. The speedboat took a sharp turn in rough weather.
 - S. Rescuers pulled the trapped passengers ashore.
 - A. RQPS
 - B. QRPS
 - C. RPQS
 - D. RQSP
4. **"Resuscitation" in the passage means:**
 - A. surgical treatment of physical injuries and fractures
 - B. the process of identifying deceased passengers
 - C. emergency measures to restore breathing and heartbeat
 - D. administering medication to cure severe seasickness
5. **Considering the literal meaning and connotations of the words used in the passage, the author's attitude towards 'pleasure-boat operators' can best be described as:**
 - A. hostile and vindictive
 - B. critical and condescending
 - C. critical and admonitory
 - D. derogatory and antagonistic
6. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Wane**
 - A. Grow
 - B. Intensify
 - C. Decline

- D. Increase
7. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
- A. Liaison
 - B. Liasion
 - C. Leyson
 - D. Layson
8. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: Took the wind out of her sails**
- A. Made her feel confident
 - B. Took away her strength or energy
 - C. Encouraged her to do more
 - D. Helped her succeed
9. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (A, B, C, D) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- A. The amendment also simplified delayed registration, strengthened provisions for vulnerable children, mandated that medical institutions provide cause-of-death certificates, and enabled appointment of special sub-registrars during disasters and epidemics.
 - B. It introduced digital registration, electronic birth and death certificates, and national and State-level databases.
 - C. The 2023 amendment to the RBD Act represents the most significant reform since its enactment.
 - D. Birth certificates issued for children born on or after October 1, 2023, now serve as a single proof of date and place of birth for multiple government services.
- A. C-A-B-D
 - B. B-D-A-C
 - C. C-B-D-A
 - D. B-C-D-A
10. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the word: Vacillate**
- A. Decide
 - B. Waver
 - C. Resolve
 - D. Settle
11. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- 1. Elaborating on the consumer complaints, FSSAI said, "An infant food formulation was reportedly found in a highly deteriorated and unsafe condition, showing signs of contamination and improper storage and handling."
 - 2. The regulator has directed the platform to submit a detailed explanation and compliance report failing which appropriate legal action will be initiated.
 - 3. Complaints also alleged delivery of contaminated eggs and milk, along with damaged packaged food items through Swiggy Instamart.
 - 4. Food Safety Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Saturday (July 11, 2026), said it has issued nine notices to Swiggy Instamart following several consumer complaints, including of alleged supply of rotten and expired food products by the platform.

- A. 2-4-1-3
B. 4-2-1-3
C. 4-1-3-2
D. 1-3-4-2
12. **Change the following sentence into the Active form.**
The painting could not be exhibited without being restored first.
A. They could not exhibit the painting without restoring it first.
B. The painting could not have been exhibited without being restored.
C. The painting could not exhibit itself without being restored first.
D. Without being restored first, they could not exhibit the painting.
13. **Choose the correctly spelt word:**
A. Itinerary
B. Itinary
C. Itinerery
D. Itinarey
14. **Select the sentence containing the homonym of the highlighted word:**
He put the fish on the **hook** and threw it into the water.
A. He used a small hook to hang the picture.
B. He needed a small hook to attach the keychain.
C. The boxer threw a right hook.
D. The latch on the gate was a simple hook.
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in indirect voice:**
The professor said, "The students who had been absent yesterday will have to submit their assignments by tomorrow, or they will be penalized."
A. The professor said that the students who had been absent the day before would have to submit their assignments by the next day, or they would be penalized
B. The professor said that the students who were absent yesterday would have to submit their assignments by tomorrow, or they will be penalized.
C. The professor said that the students who had been absent the day before will have to submit their assignments by tomorrow, or they will be penalized.
D. The professor said that the students who were absent the day before would have to submit their assignments by tomorrow, or they would be penalized.
16. **Choose the correct one-word substitute for:**
A feeling of apprehension in tense situations.
A. Elation
B. Fury
C. Trepidation
D. Serenity
17. **Spot the misspelled word:**
A. Aesthetics
B. Irrefutable
C. Subtlety
D. Incorrigible
18. **Find the part of the sentence that contains an error:**

We look forward to meet (1)/ you at the orientation session (2)/ scheduled for next Tuesday (3)/ in the seminar hall. (4)

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

19. **Choose the correct meaning of the idiom: On the warpath**

- A. To be in a peaceful state
- B. To be angry and ready to fight
- C. To be very busy
- D. To be on a journey

20. **Which of the following sentences uses the word "steep" with a different meaning from the others?**

- A. The road was very steep.
- B. He decided to steep the tea for five minutes.
- C. The roof of the house was very steep.
- D. The price of the new car was too steep.

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

During the dark days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, when uncertainty weighed heavily _____(1) every heart, the Government directed schools, colleges, and universities to shift to online teaching mode. Being posted as principal at a College in North Kashmir, I witnessed challenges faced by students living in remote areas, many were beyond the reach of online classes because of poor mobile and internet connectivity.

Amid these unprecedented circumstances, I was moved by the unwavering dedication of one college faculty who conducted online classes with remarkable commitment. He delivered notes to the students who were digitally _____(2) and ensured high student participation. His determination to reach every student, irrespective of geographical/technological barriers, and securing uninterrupted learning was indeed commendable.

Impressed by his professionalism, I _____(3) an article for a Kashmir-based English daily. In the article I acknowledged his efforts, mentioning him by name, while also hoping to inspire others to follow his example. It was a big honour and recognition he felt proud of. He framed the article and hung it on the corridor wall near the staircase of his house. Later, he sent me a photograph of it and said that, "The article has been a source of inspiration and moral strength for me. Every morning, _____(4) I leave for my duties, I look at the photograph. It _____(5) my resolve to meet every challenge of the day with courage, confidence, and resilience."

21. **Select the most appropriate option for (1):**

- A. at
- B. against
- C. on
- D. over

22. **Select the most appropriate option for (2):**

- A. unavailable
- B. inaccessible
- C. unapproachable

D. deprived

23. **Select the most appropriate option for (3):**

A. written

B. writes

C. wrote

D. write

24. **Select the most appropriate option for (4):**

A. as

B. hence

C. wherein

D. whenever

25. **Select the most appropriate option for (5):**

A. empower

B. triggered

C. reinforces

D. instigates

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. B) **What exact proportion of the three crore Indian tourists traveling abroad annually originates specifically from non-metro cities?**

The passage states that "some three crore Indians visit foreign countries every year, with a significant proportion of them coming from non-metro cities." The phrase "a significant proportion" is vague and qualitative. The passage does not provide the exact numerical percentage, ratio, or absolute headcount of tourists coming from non-metro cities, making this question unanswerable.

option (A) can be answered: The last sentence of the first paragraph explicitly states the total number: "The Indians on the speedboat at Phú Quốc were among more than 100 employees that a mobile company had taken to Vietnam..."

option (C) can be answered: The first paragraph provides all the necessary metrics to compute the exact total number of survivors: "17 survived" (Indians) and "Four Vietnamese crew also survived." Adding these together (17 + 4) gives a definitive total of 21 survivors.

option (D) can be answered: The second paragraph explicitly identifies these traditional markets by stating that Thailand and Vietnam are "joining the traditional attractions of Singapore and Malaysia."

2. A) **The necessity of institutionalizing and enforcing stringent water-safety practices in rapidly growing, non-traditional tourist markets to protect travelers.**

The passage is built around a specific tragedy (the capsizing in Phú Quốc) but uses it as a case study to argue a broader point: rapid tourism growth in new destinations (like Vietnam and Thailand) has outpaced the establishment of robust safety-of-life practices. The final paragraph directly delivers the core thesis—while governments must review and upgrade safety standards, travelers must strengthen their own awareness of safety practices. Option A perfectly captures this systemic, behavioral, and policy-oriented argument.

Option B is narrow and off-target; the passage does not discuss "economic consequences" on corporate travel, only mentioning the corporate tour as background context.

Option C While the rise in non-metro outbound tourists is acknowledged as background data, the main threat discussed isn't infrastructural pressure on transit hubs (like airports), but rather the local safety hazards of holiday excursions.

Option D The passage focuses on general systemic safety norms (like passenger strapping and life-jacket enforcement) across developing spots (including India itself), rather than assigning exclusive blame to "local administrative negligence in Vietnam."

3. A) **RQPS**

R: The sequence begins with the external trigger: "As the weather turned rough and the speedboat took a sharp turn, it tilted to the left."

Q: The sudden tilt caused the passenger dynamics to shift: "The passengers... sitting on the right fell to the left side."

P: The resulting weight imbalance caused the disaster: "Almost all the passenger weight shifted at once, the boat lost balance and turned turtle." (capsized).

S: The final event is the aftermath and rescue response: "Rescuers pulled them ashore where first aid and resuscitation were attempted..."

4. C) **emergency measures to restore breathing and heartbeat**

In the passage, the word is used in the context of saving drowning victims who were trapped under the capsized boat and had inhaled water: "Rescuers pulled them ashore where first aid and resuscitation were attempted..." resuscitation (such as CPR—Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation) refers to emergency procedures performed to revive someone who is unconscious, not breathing, or has no heartbeat, to restore their vital life functions.

5. B) **critical and condescending**

Critical: The author actively points out the flaws and systemic shortcuts taken by pleasure-boat operators, observing that they "often do not insist that every passenger wears one [life jacket]" and explicitly states that essential passenger-securing safety norms were "violated in Phú Quốc."

Admonitory (offering a warning or serious counsel): Because the passage is dealing with a fatal tragedy, the tone is grounded in grave concern. The author highlights these lapses as a direct warning to travelers, operators, and governments to prevent future disasters, concluding that all parties "must strengthen their awareness of safety practices."

6. C) **Wane** (verb) – Decrease, diminish, fade, dwindle, ebb कम होना

Synonym: **Decline** (verb) – Become smaller, reduce, weaken, lessen घट जाना

- **Grow** (verb) – Develop, enlarge, expand, increase बढ़ना
- **Intensify** (verb) – Strengthen, escalate, heighten, reinforce तीव्र होना
- **Increase** (verb) – Rise, climb, surge, mount बढ़ना

7. A) The correctly spelt word is Liaison, which means "communication or cooperation that facilitates a close working relationship" संपर्क/समन्वय.

8. B) Took the wind out of her sails (idiom) – Took away her strength or energy सकी हिम्मत या उत्साह छीन लेना, किसी को निरुत्साहित कर देना

9. C) **C-B-D-A**

- Sentence C paragraph की शुरुआत में आया क्योंकि यह RBD Act में हुए 2023 amendment के main topic को introduce करता है।
- Sentence B Sentence C के बाद आया क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "It" सीधे तौर पर Sentence C में बताए गए "amendment" को point करता है और उसके द्वारा लाए गए primary बदलावों (digital registration) को बताता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B के बाद आया क्योंकि यह Sentence B में mention किए गए "birth certificates" के नए utility (single proof) को expand करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आया क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। "The amendment also" phrase का इस्तेमाल करते हुए यह इस amendment के अन्य महत्वपूर्ण features को list करके paragraph को पूरी तरह से समाप्त करता है।
 - Sentence C starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, explicitly introducing the main topic of the 2023 amendment to the RBD Act as a significant reform.

- Sentence B follows Sentence C because the pronoun "It" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "amendment" in Sentence C and detailing its primary introductions.
- Sentence D follows Sentence B because it acts as a logical progression, expanding specifically on the utility of the "electronic birth certificates" that were just introduced in Sentence B.
- Sentence A concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis, using the addition phrase "The amendment also" to list further reforms, seamlessly closing out the discussion on the amendment's features.

10. B) **Vacillate** (verb) – to be uncertain, hesitate in making decisions, oscillate in opinions
डगमगाना / दुविधा में पड़ना

Synonym: **Waver** (verb) – to move back and forth between choices, hesitate, be indecisive
डाँवाडोल होना

- **Decide** (verb) – to choose or make a clear decision निर्णय लेना
- **Resolve** (verb) – to settle or decide firmly दृढ़ निश्चय करना
- **Settle** (verb) – to finalize, conclude, or bring to rest निश्चय करना / निपटाना

11. B) **4-2-1-3**

- Sentence 4 paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह FSSAI द्वारा Swiggy Instamart को notices जारी करने और consumer complaints के main topic को पूरी तरह से introduce करता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुए terms "The regulator" और "the platform" सीधे तौर पर पिछले वाक्य में बताए गए FSSAI और Swiggy Instamart को point करते हैं और उनके खिलाफ लिए गए action को बताते हैं।
- Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 4 में mention की गई consumer complaints को expand करते हुए infant food का एक specific example देता है।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। "also alleged" phrase का इस्तेमाल करते हुए, यह infant food वाले issue में अन्य खराब items (eggs and milk) के examples को जोड़कर paragraph को समाप्त करता है।
 - Sentence 4 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, introducing the overarching main topic of FSSAI issuing official notices to Swiggy Instamart over severe consumer complaints.
 - Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because the terms "The regulator" and "the platform" act as direct grammatical links, pointing specifically back to FSSAI and Swiggy Instamart to detail the immediate mandate given to the company.
 - Sentence 1 follows Sentence 2 because it acts as a logical progression, elaborating on the broad "consumer complaints" established at the start by providing a specific, severe example regarding infant food.
 - Sentence 3 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. Using the additive phrase "also alleged," it attaches further specific examples (contaminated eggs and milk) to the previous complaint, completing the detailed list of allegations.

12. A) **They could not exhibit the painting without restoring it first.**

Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive वाक्य का Subject Active वाक्य का Object बन जाता है और Verb की संरचना Passive से Active में परिवर्तित होती है। यहाँ Passive वाक्य में "The painting"

Subject है, तथा “could not be exhibited” Modal + Passive संरचना है, और “without being restored first” एक आवश्यक condition clause है जो ज्यों-का-त्यों Active में रखा जाता है। Active में बदलने पर Agent “they” प्रयुक्त होता है क्योंकि painting स्वयं को exhibit नहीं कर सकती। Verb Active संरचना में “could not exhibit” हो जाता है और Object “the painting” बन जाता है।

- To convert from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object in the active sentence, and the verb structure changes from passive to active. In this case, “The painting” is the subject, “could not be exhibited” is a Modal + Passive form, and “without being restored first” functions as a condition clause that remains intact. In the active form, an agent such as “they” is used because the painting cannot exhibit itself. The verb changes to the active structure “could not exhibit,” and the painting becomes the object.

13. A) The correct spelling of ‘Itinary’ is **‘Itinerary’** which means “a planned route or journey” यात्रा-कार्यक्रम.

14. C) Highlighted वाक्य में ‘hook’ का अर्थ है — मछली पकड़ने वाला काँटा (a curved device for catching fish)।

विकल्प C में ‘hook’ का अर्थ मुक्का (a type of punch in boxing) है — right hook।

दोनों में उच्चारण और वर्तनी समान हैं, लेकिन अर्थ अलग हैं — इसलिए यह homonym का सही उदाहरण है।

- In the highlighted sentence, ‘hook’ refers to a fishhook used for catching fish. In option C, ‘hook’ means a boxing punch. Same spelling, same pronunciation, different meanings — making option C the correct homonym.

15. A) **The professor said that the students who had been absent the day before would have to submit their assignments by the next day, or they would be penalized.**

Active से Indirect (Reported) Speech में बदलने के लिए, Direct Speech की Tense, Pronouns और Time-expressions को बदलना पड़ता है। Reporting verb “said” Past Tense में है, इसलिए Future “will” को “would” में बदला जाता है और Time expressions जैसे “yesterday” को “the day before” तथा “tomorrow” को “the next day” में बदला जाता है। Direct sentence में “will have to submit...” Future Obligation है जो Indirect में “would have to submit...” बन जाता है और “they will be penalized” Future Passive को “they would be penalized” में बदला जाता है।

- To convert a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the tense shifts back, pronouns align with the reporting clause, and time references are appropriately changed. Since “said” is a reporting verb in the past, future marker “will” becomes “would,” “yesterday” changes to “the day before,” and “tomorrow” becomes “the next day.” The future obligation “will have to submit” is therefore rendered as “would have to submit,” and the passive future “they will be penalized” becomes “they would be penalized.”

16. C) **Trepidation** (noun) – A feeling of apprehension or fear in tense situations घबराहट/आशंका

- Elation** (noun) – great happiness, उत्साह/प्रसन्नता
- Fury** (noun) – wild or violent anger, प्रचंड क्रोध
- Serenity** (noun) – calmness, शांति/स्थिरता

17. D) The correct spelling of 'Incorrigible' is '**Incorrigible**' which means "not able to be corrected or reformed" असुधारनीय, जिसे सुधारा न जा सके.
18. A) 'to meet' में error है क्योंकि 'look forward to' के बाद verb का -ing form आता है, न कि infinitive। सही प्रयोग होगा 'look forward to meeting'।
 Look forward to" is a fixed phrasal verb.
 In this expression, "to" is a preposition, not an infinitive marker.
 A preposition is always followed by:
 a noun, or
 a gerund (verb + -ing).
 Therefore, "meet" (base verb) is incorrect after to.
 Correct Sentence: We look forward to meeting you at the orientation session scheduled for next Tuesday in the seminar hall.
19. B) **On the warpath** (idiom) – To be angry and ready to fight — बहुत गुस्से में होना और झगड़े के लिए तैयार होना
20. B) तीन वाक्यों में '**steep**' का अर्थ है — खड़ी ढलान वाला / तीव्र ढलान (having a sharp incline)। लेकिन विकल्प B में '**steep**' का अर्थ है — भिगोना / डुबोकर छोड़ना (to soak, especially in liquid)। इसलिए B का अर्थ बाकी से अलग है।
 In three sentences, 'steep' means having a sharp incline.
 But in option B, 'steep' means to soak (as in tea).
 Thus, option B is the one with a different meaning.
21. C) **on**
 On is used because it forms the exact standard phrase "weigh heavily on," which means to cause someone a lot of worry, anxiety, or mental burden. Over means above in a physical sense, which does not fit this mental burden idiom perfectly. Against means in opposition to, and At indicates a specific point, neither of which match the correct phrase structure.
- यहाँ On का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह "weigh heavily on" का exact standard phrase बनाता है, जिसका meaning किसी को बहुत अधिक worry या tension देना होता है। Over का meaning above (ऊपर) होता है, जो इस idiom में सही fit नहीं बैठता। Against का meaning opposition (खिलाफ) होता है और At का use specific point के लिए होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।
22. B) **inaccessible**
 Inaccessible is used because it describes places, resources, or people that cannot be reached or accessed, perfectly fitting the context of students lacking digital connectivity. Unavailable means not free or out of stock, which misses the technology barrier. Unapproachable is used for people who are unfriendly or intimidating to talk to.. Deprived requires the preposition "of" to be grammatically correct here.
- यहाँ Inaccessible का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning ऐसी situation है जहाँ access करना या पहुंचना संभव न हो, जो digital connectivity न होने वाले students के context में exact सही है। Unavailable का meaning free न होना होता है। Unapproachable का use उन लोगों के लिए होता है जिनसे बात करना मुश्किल या डरावना हो। Deprived के साथ "of" का आना ज़रूरी है, जो यहाँ नहीं है।
23. C) **wrote**
 Wrote is used because the sentence describes an action completed in the past. Since the passage is narrating a past event, the simple past tense action verb "wrote" is required.

Written is a past participle and cannot be used without a helping verb like "have" or "had". Writes and Write are present tense verbs, which are incorrect here because the story happened in the past.

- यहाँ Wrote का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह past में पूरी हो चुकी action को दर्शाता है। यह एक simple past tense verb है। Written के साथ "have" या "had" जैसी helping verb का होना ज़रूरी है। Writes और Write present tense verbs हैं, जो इस past story के लिए गलत हैं।

24. A) as

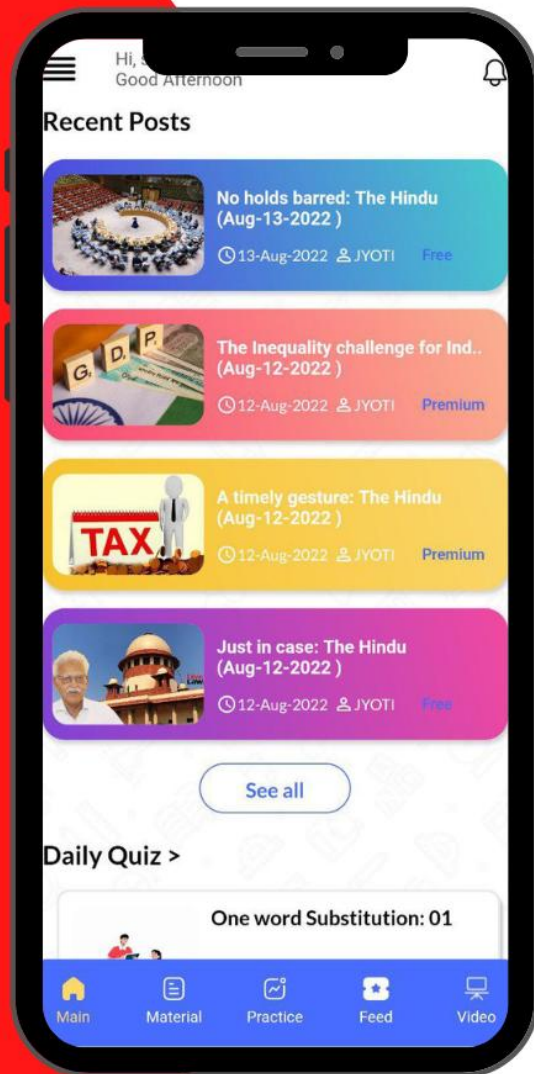
As is used because it acts as a time link to show that two actions are happening at the exact same time (leaving for duties and looking at the photo). Whenever means every time, which is a close distractor, but "as" provides the exact simultaneous time link needed in this specific sentence flow. (hence) means therefore, which breaks the time structure. Wherein means 'in which', which makes no sense here.

- यहाँ As का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि यह दो actions (ड्यूटी पर जाना और फोटो देखना) को exact same time पर होते हुए दिखाता है। Whenever का meaning 'जब कभी' होता है, लेकिन simultaneous time link के लिए "as" सबसे सटीक है। Hence का meaning 'इसलिए' होता है और Wherein का meaning 'जिसमें' होता है, जो यहाँ पूरी तरह गलत हैं।

25. C) reinforces

Reinforces is used because it means to strengthen a feeling or idea, which perfectly matches strengthening one's "resolve" (determination). Additionally, the singular subject "It" requires a singular present tense verb ending in 's'. Empower is plural and lacks the 's' needed for a singular subject. Triggered is past tense, which breaks the present tense flow of the quote ("I look... It reinforces"). Instigates means to start something bad, which misses the positive meaning.

- यहाँ Reinforces का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका meaning किसी feeling या resolve (दृढ़ संकल्प) को strengthen (मजबूत) करना होता है। साथ ही, singular subject "It" के साथ present tense में 's' वाली verb का आना ज़रूरी है। Empower में 's' नहीं है, इसलिए यह गलत है। Triggered past tense है, जो quote के present tense flow को तोड़ता है। Instigates का meaning कुछ negative शुरू करना होता है, जो यहाँ गलत है।



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