

Press and play: On the FIFA World Cup 2026

Spain **smothered** the opposition with **possession** and positional football

Spain's second World Cup **title**, achieved after a **narrow** extra-time **victory** over Argentina in the final, **was** a **triumph** of the collective. The Luis de la Fuente-coached **outfit** **conceded** just one goal in eight matches, **was** unmatched in the centre of the pitch with playmaker and Golden Ball winner Rodri completing a record 790 passes, and **exhibited** **diffused** excellence **up front** by having seven different players score its 14 goals. **So much so that** even the individual **brilliance** of the **teenaged** Lamine Yamal **was** **astutely** **subsumed** within the whole. In fact, de la Fuente and Rodri had combined to deliver the 2024 European Championship too, with the latter **adjudged** the world's best later that year. A second **Ballon d'Or** for the 30-year-old midfielder **metronome** **appears** a **certainty**. The win also **cemented** Spain's position as the **pre-eminent** footballing force of the first quarter of this century. Starting 2008, the country has won two of the five World Cups and three of the five Euros. Spain is the **reigning** women's World Champion, and the assembly line of coaches it produces and players it exports make the nation a true powerhouse. Interestingly, after its **maiden** World Cup win in 2010, Spain had not **gone past** the round of 16 at three **subsequent** editions. The **success** in North America **is** thus a full-circle moment.

Another high **point** for the tournament **was** Lionel Messi's **enduring** genius. Argentina's **quality** in the final **was** **dire** and the behaviour of its players **petulant**, but that should not **detract from** the 39-year-old's excellence in bringing his country **to the cusp of** defending its crown. Kylian Mbappe's experience was bitter-sweet; he won the Golden Boot (10 goals) and became the all-time top-scorer in World Cups (22) but remained a **mute spectator** as Spain **subjugated** his **star-studded** France in the semifinal. Jude Bellingham inspired England to third place, the best performance for the nation since winning in 1966. But the summer **sojourn** **laid bare** the team's continued lack of **cutting edge** after back-to-back runner-up finishes at Euro 2020 and 2024. The World Cup will also be **etched in** memory for a **plethora** of missteps, which governing body FIFA unfortunately **condoned**. By **arbitrarily** **invoking** **immigration** rules, and trying to **interfere** politically in on-field matters, the co-host U.S. **pushed the envelope** in undesirable ways. Commercially **driven** **hydration** **breaks** and the half-time **show** in the final **were** **tedious** and disruptive. Football should be allowed to flow freely, **on and off** **the turf**.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Smother** (verb) - suppress, stifle, overwhelm, suffocate, overwhelm. कुचल देना / दबाना
2. **Possession** (noun) - control, holding, retention, occupancy, command. नियंत्रण / अधिकार
3. **Narrow** (adjective) - slim, tight, close, slender, marginal. मामूली अंतर का / कठिन
4. **Victory** (noun) - triumph, win, conquest, success, achievement. जीत
5. **Triumph** (noun) - victory, success, achievement, win, conquest. विजय
6. **Outfit** (noun) - team, group, squad, organization, unit. टीम / दल
7. **Concede** (verb) - allow, yield, surrender, give up, permit. गोल खाना / स्वीकार करना
8. **Exhibit** (verb) - display, show, demonstrate, manifest, present. प्रदर्शित करना
9. **Diffused** (adjective) - scattered, spread, dispersed, distributed, widespread. फैला हुआ / व्यापक
10. **Up front** (phrase) - in forward positions अग्रिम पंक्ति में / आगे की ओर
11. **So much so that** (phrase) - to such an extent that, to the degree that. इस हद तक कि
12. **Teenaged** (adjective) - adolescent, teen, teenage, juvenile. किशोर उम्र का
13. **Astutely** (adverb) - shrewdly, cleverly, sharply, shrewdly, sagaciously. चालाकी से / बुद्धिमानी से
14. **Subsume** (verb) - absorb, include, embrace, incorporate, comprise. शामिल करना / अपने में समाहित करना
15. **Adjudge** (verb) - declare, decree, pronounce, judge, assess. घोषित करना / ठहराना
16. **Metronome** (noun) - a rhythmic controller or stabilizer (used here metaphorically for a midfielder). गति नियंत्रक (खिलाड़ी)
17. **Certainty** (noun) - sureness, inevitability, surety, assurance, positiveness. निश्चितता
18. **Cement** (verb) - solidify, strengthen, secure, establish, consolidate. मजबूत करना
19. **Pre-eminent** (adjective) - supreme, foremost, leading, paramount, top. सर्वोपरि / प्रमुख
20. **Reigning** (adjective) - ruling, current, defending, incumbent. वर्तमान (विजेता)
21. **Maiden** (adjective) - first, initial, inaugural, introductory. पहला / शुरुआती
22. **Go past** (phrasal verb) - to pass by or move beyond someone or something. पार करना / आगे बढ़ना
23. **Subsequent** (adjective) - following, succeeding, later, ensuing, following. बाद का
24. **Enduring** (adjective) - lasting, durable, persistent, eternal, long-lasting. चिरस्थायी / लंबे समय तक टिकने वाला
25. **Dire** (adjective) - terrible, awful, dreadful, grim, hopeless. दयनीय / भयानक

26. **Petulant** (adjective) - peevish, childish, sullen, irritable, testy. चिड़चिड़ा / हठी
27. **Detract from** (phrasal verb) - to reduce the value, quality, importance, or enjoyment of something कम करना (महत्व आदि)
28. **To the cusp of** (phrase) - on the verge of, very close to की कगार पर
29. **Mute spectator** (noun) - a silent observer, passive watcher, helpless witness. मूकदर्शक
30. **Subjugate** (verb) - conquer, defeat, overpower, master, crush. पराजित करना / वश में करना
31. **Star-studded** (adjective) - full of stars, illustrious, famous, brilliant. सितारों से सजे हुए
32. **Sojourn** (noun) - stay, visit, stopover, residence, tarry. प्रवास / ठहरना
33. **Lay bare** (phrase) - to make something known उजागर करना
34. **Cutting edge** (noun) - the most modern stage of development in a particular type of work or activity धारदार क्षमता / प्रभावशीलता
35. **Etched in** (phrase) - to deeply carve, permanently mark, or permanently implant something onto a surface or concept अंकित होना / छप जाना
36. **Plethora** (noun) - excess, abundance, profusion, surfeit, superfluity. भरमार / बहुतायत
37. **Condon** (verb) - overlook, excuse, forgive, accept, disregard. अनदेखा करना / माफ करना
38. **Arbitrarily** (adverb) - randomly, capriciously, unreasonably, despotically. मनमाने ढंग से
39. **Invoke** (verb) - apply, implement, summon, cite, resort to. लागू करना / आह्वान करना
40. **Immigration** (noun) - migration, resettlement, entering a country. आव्रजन
41. **Interfere** (verb) - meddle, intervene, intrude, tamper. दखल देना
42. **Push the envelope** (phrase) - to exceed limits, test boundaries, go too far. सीमा लांघना / हद पार करना
43. **Driven** (adjective) - propelled, motivated, caused, spurred. प्रेरित / संचालित
44. **Hydration** (noun) - maintaining fluid levels, water intake. जलयोजन / पानी की कमी पूरा करना
45. **Tedious** (adjective) - boring, dull, wearisome, monotonous, tiresome. थकाऊ / उबाऊ
46. **On and off the turf** (phrase) - both inside and outside the playing field. खेल के मैदान के अंदर और बाहर

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Spain won the 2026 FIFA World Cup**, defeating **Argentina in extra time** to secure its **second World Cup title**.
2. Spain's victory was built on **collective teamwork** rather than dependence on individual stars.
3. Under coach **Luis de la Fuente**, Spain conceded **only one goal in eight matches**, demonstrating exceptional defensive strength.
4. Midfielder **Rodri**, who won the **Golden Ball**, controlled Spain's midfield by completing a **record 790 passes** during the tournament.
5. Spain's attack was balanced, with **seven different players scoring its 14 goals**, reflecting strong team depth.
6. Young sensation **Lamine Yamal** impressed throughout the tournament, but his individual brilliance was effectively integrated into Spain's team-oriented style.
7. Spain's triumph reinforced its status as the **dominant football nation of the 21st century**, having won **two of the last five World Cups** and **three of the last five European Championships**.
8. The victory marked a **remarkable comeback**, as Spain had failed to progress beyond the **Round of 16** in the three World Cups following its 2010 triumph.
9. **Lionel Messi**, at **39 years of age**, delivered another outstanding World Cup campaign by leading Argentina to the final despite limited support from teammates.
10. **Kylian Mbappé** won the **Golden Boot** with **10 goals** and became the **all-time leading World Cup goalscorer with 22 goals**, although France lost to Spain in the semifinals.
11. **Jude Bellingham** inspired **England to a third-place finish**, their best World Cup performance since winning the tournament in 1966.
12. However, England once again struggled to convert promise into success, continuing a pattern of falling short after consecutive runner-up finishes at **Euro 2020 and Euro 2024**.
13. The editorial criticises **FIFA and the co-host United States** for controversies surrounding the tournament, including immigration-related issues and political interference.
14. It also disapproves of **commercially motivated hydration breaks** and the **half-time entertainment show in the final**, arguing that they disrupted the natural rhythm of football.
15. The editorial concludes that while the **2026 World Cup showcased Spain's tactical excellence and several memorable individual performances**, football's governing bodies should protect the sport's integrity by minimising unnecessary political and commercial interference.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **Which of the following assertions would most strengthen the author's claim that Spain's victory in the tournament was a "triumph of the collective"?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Lamine Yamal completed an all-time tournament high in individual dribbles and solo chances created.
 - B. Spain's defensive backline consisted entirely of veteran defenders from the same domestic club team.
 - C. No single Spanish player was responsible for scoring more than two of the total fourteen team goals.
 - D. Argentina's final defeat was caused by tactical errors and discipline issues in their defense.
2. **Which phrase best captures the author's message?**
 - A. "Unity triumphs over individualism"
 - B. "Commercial expansion fuels progress"
 - C. "Individual genius secures championships"
 - D. "Host nations dictate standards"
3. **In the context of the passage, the phrase full-circle moment (first paragraph) refers primarily to:**
 - A. Spain matching its 2010 World Cup title with a second victory after three consecutive early exits.
 - B. Spain securing the senior men's World Cup trophy after previously winning the women's World Cup.
 - C. Luis de la Fuente and Rodri winning the World Cup following their European Championship victory.
 - D. Rodri earning his second Ballon d'Or after completing a record number of passes in North America.
4. **Change the voice of the sentence derived from the passage:**
"Governing body FIFA unfortunately condoned a plethora of administrative missteps."
 - A. A plethora of administrative missteps is unfortunately being condoned by governing body FIFA.
 - B. A plethora of administrative missteps were unfortunately condoned by governing body FIFA.
 - C. A plethora of administrative missteps had been unfortunately condoned by governing body FIFA.
 - D. A plethora of administrative missteps was unfortunately condoned by governing body FIFA.
5. **Based on the information in the passage, with which of the following statements would the author most likely NOT agree?**
 - A. Individual stardom alone is insufficient to secure a World Cup title without collective tactical cohesion.
 - B. Commercial features like halftime shows enhance the spectator experience by giving matches modern appeal.
 - C. Spain's sustained dominance since 2008 qualifies it as the leading footballing nation of the early 21st century.
 - D. A team's poor behavior and subpar quality in a final should not erase the individual brilliance of its leader.

6. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (P, Q, R, S) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- P. What pleasantly surprised us was the serving of ragi sangati (ragi kali), accompanied by a generous ladle of brinjal pulusu.
- Q. The rustic pairing proved to be a winner, prompting us to go for a second helping of a dish that is rarely found on restaurant menus.
- R. As we settle down for lunch, a fresh banana leaf is laid out and the meal begins with a serving of kesari.
- S. This is followed by roti pachadi (thogayal), dondakaya vepudu (ivy gourd roast), carrot poriyal, vada, pappad and mango pickle.
- A. P-Q-R-S
B. R-S-P-Q
C. S-R-Q-P
D. R-P-S-Q
7. **Choose the option that is similar in meaning to the highlighted word in the given sentence:**
- Almost everybody has had acne.
- A. aches and pains
B. anxiety
C. pimples
D. boils
8. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Enforce."**
- A. Defer
B. Implement
C. Cite
D. Reflect
9. **Choose the word most opposite in meaning to the given word.**
- LAUD
- A. Condemn
B. Praise
C. Celebrate
D. Applaud
10. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Active Voice.**
- All doubts will be cleared by the end of the session by the teacher.
- A. The teacher clears all doubts by the end of the session.
B. The teacher cleared all doubts by the end of the session.
C. The teacher will clear all doubts by the end of the session.
D. The teacher is clearing all doubts by the end of the session.
11. **Choose the option with the correct spelling.**
- A. Kaliedoscope
B. Kaleidoscope
C. Kelaidoscope
D. Keliadoscope

12. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**

She said that she could not find her necklace anywhere and fears it might have been stolen.

- A. She said, "I didn't find my necklace anywhere; I fear it could have been stolen."
- B. She said, "I couldn't find my necklace anywhere and fears it might be stolen."
- C. She said, "I can't find my necklace anywhere; I fear it may have been stolen."
- D. She said, "I could find my necklace nowhere and fear it might have been stolen."

13. **Choose the option that is the most appropriate conversion of the following sentence into Direct Speech.**

She asked whether it hadn't been an extremely challenging puzzle.

- A. She said, "Isn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?"
- B. She asked, "Hadn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?"
- C. She asked, "Wasn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?"
- D. She said, "Hadn't it been an extremely challenging puzzle?"

14. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the word "Engulf."**

- A. Exacerbated
- B. Precipitate
- C. Persist
- D. Overwhelm

15. **Direction: Rearrange the following sentences (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**

- 1. Neon pink and blue lights washed over its creaking stairwells as flamenco dancers in high heels gathered on the steps, waiting to burst into performance.
- 2. But on March 27, the building assumed another personality altogether.
- 3. The 109-year-old Royal Insurance Building in Dalhousie Square, facing the stately GPO, spent decades folded into the city's bureaucratic routine.
- 4. The building is reflective of early 20th-Century colonial commercial architecture, with strong Edwardian and Classical influences visible in its scale and ornamentation.

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

16. **Choose the word most opposite in meaning to the given word.**

INSULAR

- A. Isolated
- B. Cosmopolitan
- C. Parochial
- D. Narrow-minded

17. **Fill in the blank with the correctly spelled word:**

"The _____ applauded loudly at the end of the performance."

- A. audiense
- B. audience
- C. audince
- D. audiencce

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

He succeeded _____ convincing the jury of his innocence.

- A. in
- B. at
- C. to
- D. by

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

The teacher was annoyed at the noise on the corridor.

- A. On the noise by
- B. About the noise through
- C. With the noise in
- D. No substitution

20. Choose the option that is opposite in meaning to the underlined word in the given sentence:

His account of the incident was exaggerated.

- A. overstated
- B. aggrandized
- C. inflated
- D. un-embellished

Read the cloze passage and answer the following questions:

'My way or highway' seems to be the mantra in this Kali Yuga. One is wrongly assuming that putting oneself in front of everyone else, or staying fixated on self-promotion or chasing material advancements is the ultimate goal in life. This wanting more for oneself is the root cause of one's dissatisfaction in life. Many of us fail to grasp that good principles and leading a dharmic life as guided by one's guru _____(3) the gateway to mental peace, spiritual progress and true happiness, said P. Swaminathan.

Swami Prabhupada said, "Accepting a guru is not merely for civilisation. A guru is essential for everyone who is genuinely interested in knowing God, on leading a spiritual life, the process of it and (their) relationship with God." A guru is one who brings you from darkness to light. Such a person is without ego, placing emphasis _____(5) the importance of truth.

The court of King Janaka was always filled with vedic pundits and scholars, engaged in heated but healthy debates and discussions on various philosophical and spiritual subjects. The court maharishi was Yajnavalkya, who was held in high regard. Spiritual conferences were held often in the court and during one such event, a number of scholars, sages and pundits arrived to take part in the same. Even Janaka was amazed at the turnout. The debates were of high quality and after the end of many rounds, only two were left standing. One was Yajnavalkya and the other was Maitreyi. The two, one male and the other female, engaged in a heated debate at the end of which Maitreyi emerged (1) victorious. Accepting defeat, the maharishi fell at her feet and begged her to take him on as her disciple.

Seeing the ocean of wisdom (2) supplicating to her, Maitreyi _____(4) overcome with emotion and urged the royal rishi to wed her instead. One may feel the urge to be praised — it is human nature — but humility is devotion. It trumps everything.

21. The word "victorious" in the passage is closest in meaning to: (1)

- A. defeated
 - B. triumphant
 - C. subdued
 - D. surrendered
22. **Select the word that is the most appropriate antonym of "supplicating" as used in the passage: (2)**
- A. begging
 - B. entreating
 - C. demanding
 - D. imploring
23. **Choose the correct verb form to complete the sentence: (3)**
- A. is
 - B. are
 - C. was
 - D. being
24. **Choose the correct auxiliary verb to fill in the blank: (4)**
- A. was
 - B. were
 - C. has
 - D. had
25. **Select the correct preposition to complete the sentence: (5)**
- A. on
 - B. at
 - C. in
 - D. with

Answers

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

Explanations

1. C) No single Spanish player was responsible for scoring more than two of the total fourteen team goals.

The passage defines Spain's win as a "triumph of the collective" by pointing out that their success was shared across the team rather than relied on a single star. Specifically, it notes that they had "seven different players score its 14 goals" and that even a standout talent like Lamine Yamal was "subsumed within the whole." Statement [C] directly reinforces this exact point: if no single player scored more than two goals, it proves that the scoring burden was evenly distributed across the entire squad, perfectly supporting the idea of a collective triumph.

Option [A] is incorrect: Highlighting individual statistical dominance by Lamine Yamal emphasizes solo brilliance rather than team unity, which weakens the claim that his play was "subsumed within the whole".

Option [B] is incorrect: the passage never mentions the club backgrounds of Spain's defenders; this detail is external to the passage.

Option [D] is incorrect: Explaining Argentina's errors focuses on why the opponent lost, rather than providing positive evidence that Spain's victory was built on collective teamwork.

2. A) "Unity triumphs over individualism"

The core message of the passage revolves around how Spain secured its World Cup victory through teamwork, shared goal-scoring ("seven different players score its 14 goals"), and integrating individual talent into a unified system ("even the individual brilliance of the teenaged Lamine Yamal was astutely subsumed within the whole"). This directly aligns with the idea that collective unity triumphs over individual stardom.

(b): The author actually criticizes commercialization, calling things like the hydration breaks and half-time show "tedious and disruptive."

(c): The passage explicitly argues the opposite for Spain—that it was a victory of the collective rather than relying solely on individual genius.

(d): The author heavily criticizes the host nation's actions ("pushed the envelope in undesirable ways"), rather than suggesting host nations should dictate standards.

3. A) Spain matching its 2010 World Cup title with a second victory after three consecutive early exits.

In the first paragraph, the author discusses Spain's historical World Cup trajectory leading up to the current tournament: ("Interestingly, after its maiden World Cup win in 2010, Spain had not gone past the round of 16 at three subsequent editions. The success in North America is thus a full-circle moment.") The passage notes that after Spain's maiden World Cup win in 2010, the team hit a slump where they "had not gone past the round of 16 at three subsequent editions." Winning the tournament again in North America brings their journey full circle—returning to the pinnacle of global football after a decade of struggles following their initial triumph.

[B]: The passage mentions that Spain is the reigning women's World Champion as a separate point of pride, but the phrase "full-circle moment" immediately follows the historical timeline of the men's team going from 2010 glory to early exits and back to victory.

[C]: Winning consecutive tournaments (Euros and World Cup) is a major achievement highlighted in the passage, but the term "full-circle" specifically addresses the long gap and recovery since their 2010 title, not the sequence of different tournaments.

[D]: Rodri's passing record and Ballon d'Or predictions are individual achievements, whereas the "full-circle moment" describes the trajectory of the national team as a whole.

4. D) A plethora of administrative missteps was unfortunately condoned by governing body FIFA. The original sentence is in the active voice, simple past tense: "FIFA condoned a plethora of missteps." To convert to passive voice, the object ("a plethora of administrative missteps") becomes the subject, and the verb changes to "be + past participle" in the same tense (simple past): "was/were condoned by FIFA."

"A plethora of" is a singular collective phrase (like "a lot of," "a number of" used with mass/collective sense) — grammatically, "plethora" is the head noun and is singular, so it takes a singular verb ("was"), not "were." This rules out option (b).

Option (c) "had been condoned" incorrectly shifts the tense to past perfect, which changes the meaning to something completed before another past action — not present in the original.

Option (d) "is being condoned" incorrectly shifts to present continuous passive, changing the tense entirely.

5. B) Commercial features like halftime shows enhance the spectator experience by giving matches modern appeal.

The passage explicitly states that the commercially driven hydration breaks and the half-time show in the final were "tedious and disruptive," and closes with the sentiment that "football should be allowed to flow freely, on and off the turf." This directly contradicts the idea that such commercial features "enhance the spectator experience" — the author views them negatively, not positively.

[A] is supported by Spain's collective triumph despite Yamal's individual brilliance being "subsumed within the whole";

[C] is directly stated ("cemented Spain's position as the pre-eminent footballing force of the first quarter of this century");

[D] Supported by the second paragraph: "Argentina's quality in the final was dire and the behaviour of its players petulant, but that should not detract from the 39-year-old's excellence in bringing his country to the cusp of defending its crown."

6. B) R-S-P-Q

Sentence R paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "lunch" की शुरुआत को बिना किसी missing reference के independently introduce करता है।

Sentence S Sentence R के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ pronoun "This" सीधे तौर पर Sentence R में serve किए गए "kesari" (या meal की शुरुआत) को point करता है, और बताता है कि उसके बाद क्या परोसा गया।

Sentence P Sentence S के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह लगातार आ रहे dishes की list को expand करते हुए lunch के main surprise (ragi sangati और brinjal pulusu) को प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence Q Sentence P के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The rustic pairing" सीधे तौर पर Sentence P में बताए गए 'ragi sangati' और 'brinjal pulusu' के combination (जोड़ी) को refer करता है, और passage को बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त करता है।

- Sentence R starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the beginning of the lunch experience and the very first dish served, without any dangling references.
- Sentence S follows Sentence R because the pronoun "This" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the "kesari" (or the start of the meal) introduced in Sentence R to list the subsequent dishes.
- Sentence P follows Sentence S because it acts as a logical progression, continuing the chronological description of the meal by highlighting the specific surprise dishes (ragi sangati and brinjal pulusu) that were served next.
- Sentence Q concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. The demonstrative phrase "The rustic pairing" serves as a direct grammatical link, pointing exactly to the combination of ragi sangati and brinjal pulusu mentioned in Sentence P, wrapping up the dining experience.

7. C) **Acne** (noun) – Skin disease with pimples, eruptions, blemishes मुहाँसे

Synonym: Pimples (noun) – Small swollen spots on the skin, acne spots फुंसियाँ / मुहाँसे

- **Aches and pains** (noun) – Minor body pains दर्द
- **Anxiety** (noun) – Worry, nervousness चिंता
- **Boils** (noun) – Painful swollen skin infections फोड़े

8. B) **Enforce** (verb) – implement, apply, execute, impose, carry out. (लागू करना)

Synonym: Implement (verb) – to put a decision, plan, or agreement into effect. (लागू करना/कार्यान्वित करना)

Defer (verb): Put off an action or event to a later time; postpone. (टालना)

Cite (verb): Quote as an evidence for or justification of an argument. (हवाला देना)

Reflect (verb): Show, indicate, or manifest. (प्रतिबिंबित करना)

9. A) Solution: A) **LAUD** (verb) – To praise someone or something highly. प्रशंसा करना/सराहना करना

Antonym: CONDEMN (verb) – To express strong disapproval of someone or something. निंदा करना/दोष देना

- **Praise** (verb) – To express warm approval; a synonym of laud, not an antonym. प्रशंसा करना
- **Celebrate** (verb) – To acknowledge with festivities or admiration; similar in meaning to laud. उत्सव मनाना/सराहना
- **Applaud** (verb) – To show approval by clapping; a synonym of laud, not an antonym. तालियाँ बजाना/सराहना

10. C) The teacher will clear all doubts by the end of the session.

Passive से Active Voice में बदलते समय Passive sentence का Subject, Active sentence का Object बन जाता है और “by” के बाद आने वाला doer Active sentence का Subject बनता है। यहाँ “All doubts” Passive sentence का Subject है और “the teacher” doer है। Verb “will be cleared” Simple Future Passive में है, इसलिए Active Voice में यह “will clear” (Simple Future) बनेगा। इसलिए सही Active form होगा — “The teacher will clear all doubts by the end of the session.”

- To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object of the active sentence, and the doer introduced by “by” becomes the subject. Here, “All doubts” is the subject of the passive sentence and “the teacher” is the doer. The verb “will be cleared” is in the Simple Future Passive form, so in Active Voice it changes into “will clear” in the Simple Future tense. Therefore, the correct active form is — “The teacher will clear all doubts by the end of the session.”

11. B) The correct spelling is ‘Kaleidoscope’ which means “a tube with mirrors and coloured pieces that form changing patterns” रंग-बिरंगे बदलते चित्र दिखाने वाला यंत्र।

12. C) She said, “I can't find my necklace anywhere; I fear it may have been stolen.”

Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय tense को original form में वापस लाया जाता है। यहाँ “could not find” का Direct Speech form “can't find” होगा। इसी प्रकार “might have been stolen” का Direct Speech form “may have been stolen” बनता है। Pronoun “she” बदलकर “I” होगा क्योंकि speaker स्वयं के बारे में बात कर रही है। इसलिए सही sentence होगा — “She said, ‘I can't find my necklace anywhere; I fear it may have been stolen.’”

- To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the tense is restored to its original form. Here, “could not find” changes back to “can't find.” Similarly, “might have been stolen” changes into “may have been stolen.” The pronoun “she” changes into “I” because the speaker is referring to herself. Therefore, the correct sentence is — “She said, ‘I can't find my necklace anywhere; I fear it may have been stolen.’”

13. C) She asked, “Wasn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?”

Indirect Speech से Direct Speech में बदलते समय tense को original form में वापस लाया जाता है। यहाँ “hadn't been” Past Perfect form में है, इसलिए Direct Speech में यह “wasn't” (Simple Past/Present sense according to context) बनेगा। क्योंकि sentence interrogative है, इसलिए reporting verb “asked” रहेगा। Structure question form में होगा — “Wasn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?” इसलिए यही सबसे उपयुक्त Direct Speech form है।

- To change Indirect Speech into Direct Speech, the tense is restored to its original form. Here, “hadn't been” in the Past Perfect form changes back into “wasn't” according to the context. Since the sentence is interrogative, the reporting verb “asked” remains appropriate. The structure must also return to question form — “Wasn't it an extremely challenging puzzle?” Therefore, this is the most appropriate Direct Speech form.

14. D) **Engulf** (verb) – overwhelm, swallow, surround, consume, submerge. (घेर लेना)

Synonym: Overwhelm (verb) – to submerge, bury, or drown beneath a huge mass. (अभिभूत कर देना/घेर लेना)

- **Exacerbated** (verb): aggravated, worsened, inflamed, intensified. (बदतर बनाना)
- **Precipitate** (verb): triggered, sparked, hastened, expedited. (प्रेरित करना/तेज करना)
- **Persist** (verb): to continue to do something despite difficulties. (जारी रखना)

15. B) 3-4-2-1

Sentence 3 paragraph की शुरुआत में आएगा क्योंकि यह "Royal Insurance Building" को बिना किसी missing reference के independently introduce करता है और इसके ऐतिहासिक bureaucratic routine के बारे में बताता है।

Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ phrase "The building" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 3 में introduce की गई building को point करता है, और इसके architectural style (Edwardian and Classical influences) को detail में expand करता है।

Sentence 2 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें इस्तेमाल हुआ transition word "But" एक सीधा contrast लाता है। यह Sentence 3 और 4 में बताई गई building की पुरानी गंभीर (bureaucratic) छवि को तोड़कर March 27 को सामने आई उसकी एक नई "personality" को प्रस्तुत करता है।

Sentence 1 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह paragraph का conclusion है। यह Sentence 2 में बताई गई "another personality" को expand करते हुए उस बदलाव का सटीक दृश्य (neon lights और flamenco dancers) प्रस्तुत करता है, जिससे passage बेहतरीन तरीके से समाप्त होता है।

- Sentence 3 starts the passage because it provides the foundational context, independently introducing the 109-year-old Royal Insurance Building and its decades-long bureaucratic routine without any dangling references.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 3 because the phrase "The building" acts as a direct grammatical link, pointing specifically back to the Royal Insurance Building introduced in 3 to detail its colonial architectural style.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 4 because the transition word "But" serves as a direct contrast. It pivots away from the serious, historic descriptions established in 3 and 4 to introduce a completely new "personality" the building took on on March 27.
- Sentence 1 concludes the passage as the thematic synthesis. It directly expands on the "another personality" mentioned in Sentence 2, vividly describing the neon lights and waiting flamenco dancers to beautifully cap off the narrative of its transformation.

16. B) **INSULAR** (adjective) – Ignorant of or uninterested in cultures, ideas, or people outside one's own experience; narrow-minded. संकीर्ण/द्वीपीय/एकांगी

Antonym: **COSMOPOLITAN** (adjective) – Familiar with and at ease in many different countries and cultures; open-minded and worldly. विश्वव्यापी/अंतर्राष्ट्रीय/व्यापक दृष्टि वाला

- **Isolated** (adjective) – Far from other places or people; similar in meaning to insular. अलग-थलग/एकाकी

- **Parochial** (adjective) – Having a limited outlook; a synonym of insular. संकुचित/सीमित दृष्टि वाला
- **Narrow-minded** (adjective) – Not willing to accept new ideas; a synonym of insular. संकीर्ण मानसिकता वाला

17. B) Audience' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यह शब्द की सही spelling है। "Audience" का अर्थ होता है किसी प्रदर्शन, भाषण या कार्यक्रम को देखने-सुनने वाले लोगों का समूह। Sentence का अर्थ है कि प्रदर्शन के अंत में दर्शकों ने जोरदार तालियाँ बजाईं। इसलिए, "audience" सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

- 'Audience' should be used because it is the correct spelling of the word referring to the group of people watching or listening to a performance or event. The sentence conveys that the spectators applauded loudly at the end of the performance. Thus, "audience" would be the most appropriate choice.

18. A) In' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि verb "succeed" के साथ सामान्यतः preposition "in" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। "Succeed in doing something" का अर्थ होता है किसी कार्य में सफल होना। इसलिए, "He succeeded in convincing the jury of his innocence." सबसे उपयुक्त sentence होगा।

- 'In' should be used because the verb "succeed" is commonly followed by the preposition "in" before a gerund or action. The phrase "succeed in doing something" means to achieve success in a particular task. Thus, "He succeeded in convincing the jury of his innocence." would be the most appropriate sentence.

19. C) at the noise on the corridor' के बदले 'with the noise in the corridor' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'annoyed with' अधिक उपयुक्त प्रयोग है तथा 'corridor' के साथ Preposition 'in' का प्रयोग किया जाता है, न कि 'on'; जैसे— She was annoyed with the children in the classroom.

- 'with the noise in the corridor' will be used instead of 'at the noise on the corridor' because 'annoyed with' is the more appropriate usage, and the Preposition 'in' is used with 'corridor', not 'on'; Like— She was annoyed with the children in the classroom.

20. D) Exaggerated (adjective/verb) – Overstated, magnified, inflated, embellished बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर बताया गया

Antonym: Un-embellished (adjective) – Plain, simple, factual, not exaggerated बिना बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर / सादा

- **Overstated** (adjective/verb) – Exaggerated, amplified बढ़ा-चढ़ाकर कहना
- **Aggrandized** (verb) – Magnified, glorified, exaggerated महिमामंडित करना
- **Inflated** (adjective/verb) – Expanded, exaggerated, enlarged बढ़ा हुआ / अतिरंजित

21. B) Triumphant is the correct answer because it is a direct synonym for "victorious," meaning having won a battle or contest. Defeated means having lost, which is the exact opposite (antonym). Subdued means brought under control or quieted, lacking the active sense of winning. Surrendered means giving up completely to an opponent.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Triumphant सही है क्योंकि यह "victorious" (विजेता) का direct synonym है, जिसका meaning किसी मुकाबले में जीत हासिल करना होता है। Defeated का meaning हारना होता है (जो antonym है)। Subdued का meaning शांत या नियंत्रण में लाया हुआ होता है। Surrendered का meaning हार मानकर आत्मसमर्पण करना होता है।

22. C) Demanding is the correct answer because the question asks for an antonym (opposite word). "Supplicating" means asking for something very humbly or begging (as the rishi did by falling at her feet). "Demanding" means claiming something forcefully and with authority, making it the perfect opposite. Begging, Entreating, and Imploring are all direct synonyms of supplicating, meaning to plead humbly.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Demanding सही है क्योंकि प्रश्न में antonym (विलोम शब्द) पूछा गया है। "Supplicating" का meaning बहुत विनम्रता से प्रार्थना करना या गिड़गिड़ाना होता है। "Demanding" का meaning अधिकार से या ज़बरदस्ती मांगना होता है, जो इसका perfect opposite है। Begging, Entreating, और Imploring सभी supplicating के synonyms हैं (प्रार्थना करना)।

23. B) Are is used because the sentence contains a compound subject consisting of two distinct noun phrases joined by "and" ("good principles" AND "leading a dharmic life"). A plural subject requires a plural present-tense verb to express a general truth. Is violates subject-verb agreement because it is singular. Was is singular and past tense, breaking the present-tense flow of universal facts. Being is a participle that cannot function as the main finite verb without an auxiliary verb (like "are being").

In Hindi:

- यहाँ Are का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि sentence का subject compound है ("good principles" और "leading a dharmic life" 'and' से जुड़े हैं)। Plural subject के साथ present tense में plural verb (are) आती है। Is singular है, इसलिए grammatically गलत है। Was past tense और singular है। Being बिना helping verb के main verb की तरह काम नहीं कर सकता।

24. A) Was is used because the subject "Maitreyi" is singular, and the narrative describes a completed past event. "Was overcome" is the correct passive voice construction indicating that the emotion overwhelmed her. Were is grammatically incorrect for a singular subject. Has is present tense, which breaks the past narrative. Had is grammatically fatal here; "had overcome" creates an active voice structure, meaning Maitreyi successfully defeated the emotion, which completely contradicts the passage's meaning.

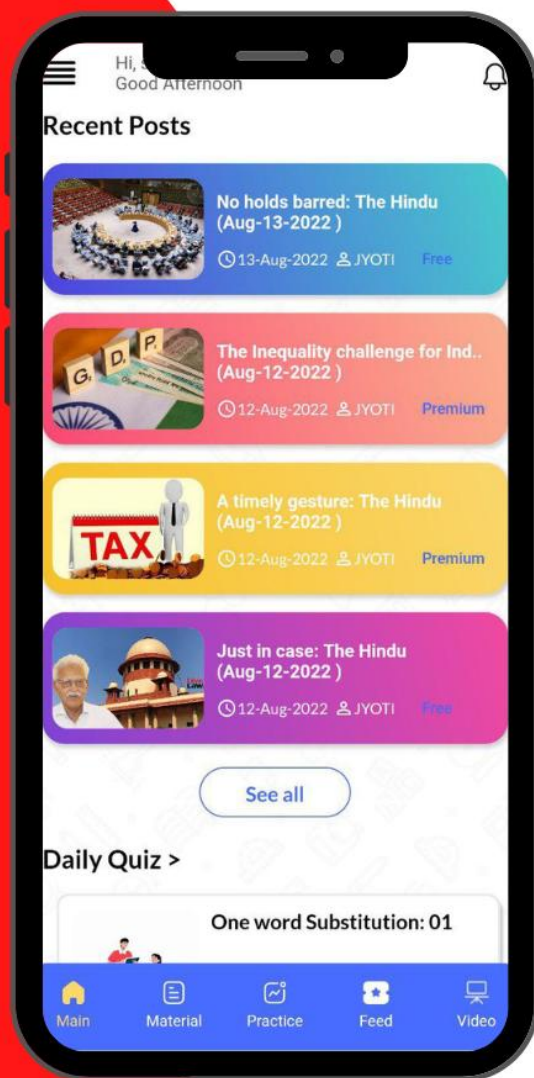
In Hindi:

- यहाँ Was का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि subject "Maitreyi" singular है और कहानी past tense में है। "Was overcome" एक passive voice है जिसका मतलब है कि वह भावनाओं के वश में हो गई। Were plural subject के लिए आता है। Has present tense है। Had का use करने से sentence active voice ("had overcome") बन जाएगा, जिसका मतलब होगा कि मैत्रेयी ने भावनाओं को हरा दिया, जो passage के meaning के बिल्कुल उलट है।

25. A) On is used because the noun "emphasis" has a strict, fixed grammatical collocation with the preposition "on" (or "upon") when indicating the target of focus. In English, you always "place emphasis on something." At, In, and With are grammatically incorrect because they never collocate with "emphasis" to form this standard phrase.

In Hindi:

- यहाँ On का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि English grammar में "emphasis" (ज़ोर देना) noun के साथ हमेशा "on" preposition का ही fixed collocation होता है (किसी चीज़ पर emphasis देना)। At, In, और With का use "emphasis" के साथ target बताने के लिए नहीं होता, इसलिए ये पूरी तरह गलत हैं।



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