

Deferred rivalry: On the U.S. Open

Injuries are coming in the way of **anticipated matchups** in US Open

The Carlos Alcaraz-Jannik Sinner rivalry is no doubt this **era's defining** matchup, but it has also been **punctuated** by long **pauses**. In early 2025, Sinner was absent for three months as he served a **doping**-related ban; this season, Alcaraz was out of action for four months from mid-April **owing to** a **troublesome** wrist. Just when it seemed that the two leading **lights** will **come face to face** at the US Open starting Sunday, Sinner has been **waylaid** by a knee injury. In 2025, they met six times in six months; there has just been a **solitary duel** in the **subsequent** nine. In a way, the **postponement** of the battle **may** suit Alcaraz, for the seven-time Major champion has not played a competitive singles **fixture** since Barcelona in April. **The Spaniard** has **warmed up** for **Flushing Meadows** with two mixed doubles matches partnering the **legendary** Serena Williams, but a best-of-five-sets contest is a significant **step-up**. The 23-year-old will open against Roman Safiullin — a tricky player who beat Alcaraz in 2023 on a Paris **hard-court** and reached the Wimbledon fourth round this year — and is drawn to meet the in-form American Ben Shelton in the quarterfinal. **Potential** semifinal opponents include 24-time Slam titlist Novak Djokovic and 2021 US Open winner Daniil Medvedev, which makes the defending champion's path challenging.

However, Djokovic and Medvedev are on their own tough journeys. The 39-year-old Serb is no longer the once-renowned hard-court master, and lost his **lone** match — in Cincinnati — after the semifinal reverse to Sinner at Wimbledon. Medvedev was last in a Major final at the 2024 Australian Open and is without a trophy since February. Alexander Zverev thus has a golden opportunity to make his big **breakthrough** on his favourite surface. Without Sinner, the German will be the top seed, and **following** the French Open **triumph** and Wimbledon **runner-up** finish, the 29-year-old will be confidence **personified**. Among women, two-time defending champion Aryna Sabalenka would have liked to be that player, but the Belarusian World No. 1 has **wobbled of late** and seen her lead at the top cut to less than 450 points. Her chief challenger Elena Rybakina may be **racing against time** to recover from an ankle injury, but with Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula all in impressive form leading into New York, Sabalenka will have a **daunting** task. Wimbledon winner Linda Noskova will be **looking for a worthy** follow-up while the fast-rising 21-year-old from the Philippines, Alexandra Eala, will hope to continue her recent **eye-popping run**. With Serena and Venus Williams **set to** pair up in doubles, there will be a rich **sprinkling** of **stardust** too.

[Practice Exercise]

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

Vocabulary

1. **Deferred** (adjective) - postponed, delayed, put off, adjourned, shelved स्थगित
2. **Rivalry** (noun) - competition, contest, feud, emulation, antagonism प्रतिद्वंद्विता
3. **Anticipated** (adjective) - expected, awaited, foreseen, predicted, contemplated प्रत्याशित
4. **Matchup** (noun) - contest, clash, encounter, bout, pairing मुकाबला
5. **Era** (noun) - epoch, age, period, generation, span युग
6. **Define** (verb) - characterize, delineate, typify, outline, mark परिभाषित करना
7. **Punctuate** (verb) - interrupt, intersperse, break, pepper विराम देना या व्यवधान डालना
8. **Pause** (noun) - break, intermission, respite, hiatus, halt अंतराल
9. **Doping** (noun) - performance-enhancing drug use, illegal medication, substance abuse डोपिंग
10. **Owing to** (preposition) - because of के कारण
11. **Troublesome** (adjective) - problematic, bothersome, annoying, vexatious, difficult कष्टदायक
12. **Lights** (noun) - stars, luminaries, leaders, pioneers, beacons प्रखर व्यक्ति
13. **Come face to face** (phrase) - to meet or encounter someone or something directly and in person आमने-सामने आना
14. **Waylaid** (verb) - intercepted, ambushed, waylay, blocked रास्ते में रोकना
15. **Solitary** (adjective) - single, lone, isolated, unique, individual एकल
16. **Duel** (noun) - contest, battle, combat, match, showdown द्वंद्व
17. **Subsequent** (adjective) - following, succeeding, later, ensuing, posterior आगामी
18. **Fixture** (noun) - match, game, event, appointment, engagement मुकाबला या मैच
19. **The Spaniard** (noun) - the native or citizen of Spain स्पेनियार्ड
20. **Warm up** (phrasal verb) - to entertain people while they are waiting for a performance to start वार्म अप करना
21. **Flushing Meadows** (noun) - the site of the US Open tennis tournament in New York फ्लशिंग मीडोज
22. **Legendary** (adjective) - iconic, famed, celebrated, mythical, renowned प्रसिद्ध
23. **Step-up** (noun) - escalation, elevation, increase, advance, upgrade बढ़ोत्तरी
24. **Hard-court** (adjective) - hard court surface, synthetic surface, acrylic surface हार्ड-कोर्ट
25. **Potential** (adjective) - possible, probable, latent, prospective संभावित
26. **Lone** (adjective) - solitary, single, isolated, only अकेला
27. **Breakthrough** (noun) - advance, progress, leap, headway, success बड़ी सफलता
28. **Following** (preposition) - after, subsequent to, succeeding के बाद
29. **Triumph** (noun) - victory, win, conquest, success, achievement विजय
30. **Runner-up** (noun) - second place finisher, finalist, placer उपविजेता

31. **Personify** (verb) - embody, typify, represent, symbolize, epitomize प्रतीक होना
32. **Wobble** (verb) - falter, waver, vacillate, stumble, shake लड़खड़ाना
33. **Of late** (phrase) - recently, lately, latterly हाल ही में
34. **Race against time** (idiom) - a situation in which something has to be done very quickly समय के खिलाफ दौड़
35. **Daunting** (adjective) - intimidating, formidable, discouraging डरावना
36. **Look for** (phrasal verb) - to try to find something or someone तलाश करना
37. **Worthy** (adjective) - deserving, meriting, righteous, estimable, admirable योग्य
38. **Eye-popping run** (noun) - an exceptionally impressive, surprising, or massive streak of success, performance, or growth that grabs everyone's attention आँखें फटी रह जाने वाला प्रदर्शन
39. **Set to** (phrasal verb) - to start working or dealing with something in an energetic and determined way तैयार होना
40. **Sprinkling** (noun) - dusting, scattering, smattering, dash, touch छिड़काव
41. **Stardust** (noun) - glamour, magic, charm, enchantment, fascination जादुई चमक

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Alcaraz-Sinner rivalry:** The rivalry between **Carlos Alcaraz** and **Jannik Sinner** has become the defining matchup of this era, but injuries and interruptions have repeatedly delayed their encounters.
2. **Repeated absences:** Sinner missed three months in early 2025 due to a **doping-related ban**, while Alcaraz was sidelined for four months in 2026 because of a troublesome wrist injury.
3. **Sinner's latest setback:** Just before the U.S. Open, Sinner was **ruled out by a knee injury**, further postponing the much-anticipated rivalry.
4. **Fewer encounters:** Although the two met **six times in six months during 2025**, they have faced each other only once in the following nine months.
5. **Alcaraz's challenge:** The postponement may benefit Alcaraz, but he faces uncertainty because he has not played a **competitive singles match since April**.
6. **Limited preparation:** His only recent competitive exposure came through two **mixed-doubles matches with Serena Williams**, which is not equivalent to preparing for a best-of-five Grand Slam match.
7. **Difficult opening:** Alcaraz begins against **Roman Safiullin**, who has previously defeated him on a Paris hard court and reached the Wimbledon fourth round.
8. **Tough draw:** Alcaraz could face **Ben Shelton in the quarterfinals** and potentially Novak Djokovic or Daniil Medvedev in the semifinals.
9. **Djokovic's decline:** At 39, **Novak Djokovic** is no longer the dominant hard-court player he once was and has played very little competitive tennis recently.
10. **Medvedev's struggles:** **Daniil Medvedev** has not reached a Grand Slam final since the 2024 Australian Open and has been without a title since February.
11. **Opportunity for Zverev:** With Sinner absent, **Alexander Zverev** becomes the top seed and has a major opportunity to make a breakthrough.
12. **Zverev's confidence:** His French Open victory and Wimbledon runner-up finish have given him considerable **confidence**, especially on his preferred surface.
13. **Women's competition:** Two-time defending champion **Aryna Sabalenka** has recently struggled for consistency, while her lead at World No. 1 has narrowed considerably.
14. **Strong challengers:** Elena Rybakina faces an injury concern, while **Iga Swiatek, Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula** enter the tournament in impressive form, making Sabalenka's defence difficult.
15. **Star power:** Linda Noskova, rising Filipino player **Alexandra Eala**, and the planned doubles partnership of **Serena and Venus Williams** add further excitement and star quality to the U.S. Open.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage imply by stating the Alcaraz-Sinner rivalry is "punctuated by long pauses"?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Their matchups are delayed by recurring physical and regulatory absences
 - B. Both players deliberately choose to avoid participating in shared events
 - C. Their schedules are misaligned due to prioritizing doubles over singles
 - D. Frequent disagreements with tournament organizers cause match cancellations
2. **According to the passage, how has Carlos Alcaraz primarily prepared for the upcoming US Open?**
 - A. By competing in warm-up singles matches against Ben Shelton and Daniil Medvedev
 - B. By playing two mixed doubles matches alongside the legendary Serena Williams
 - C. By capturing his seventh Major title at Barcelona prior to heading to Flushing Meadows
 - D. By reaching the fourth round at Wimbledon to test his wrist in a best-of-five format
3. **What underlying theme connects the recent performances of both Novak Djokovic and Daniil Medvedev?**
 - A. Both are actively managing long-term physical ailments that restricted their participation in tune-up events
 - B. Both have struggled to adapt their playing styles to overcome the physical intensity of younger top seeds
 - C. Both are navigating a period of diminished dominance and lack of recent tournament titles on hard courts
 - D. Both are experiencing a sharp decline in world ranking due to unexpected early-round Grand Slam losses
4. **What does the passage imply by describing the doubles draw as having a "rich sprinkling of stardust"?**
 - A. The event gains exceptional prestige and public attraction from the inclusion of legendary figureheads
 - B. The introduction of night-session matches under stadium lights enhances the spectator experience
 - C. The tournament offers unprecedented financial incentives to attract top-tier singles players into doubles
 - D. The sudden resurgence of former champions creates an unpredictable outcome for the title
5. **According to the passage, who is Carlos Alcaraz potential draw path structured to meet in the quarterfinals?**
 - A. Novak Djokovic
 - B. Ben Shelton
 - C. Daniil Medvedev
 - D. Roman Safiullin
6. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. Across the room sat someone who had been trying to meet me for nearly a year after first reaching out over Instagram.
 2. I was never supposed to be there.

3. Neither of us had expected this to be our first meeting.
4. I had almost skipped that work meeting, but something made me go.
 - A. 2-1-4-3
 - B. 2-4-1-3
 - C. 4-2-1-3
 - D. 1-2-4-3
7. **Direction: Rearrange the following parts (1, 2, 3, 4) to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
 1. Five years ago, the definition of a luxury home was relatively straightforward.
 2. A prime address, generous square footage, high-end finishes, a well-equipped clubhouse and perhaps an impressive view could make a property aspirational.
 3. Those markers still matter, but they no longer tell the whole story.
 4. India's luxury homebuyer has become more discerning, informed and global in outlook.
 - A. 2-1-3-4
 - B. 1-2-3-4
 - C. 1-3-2-4
 - D. 2-3-1-4
8. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Seize

 - A. Snatch
 - B. Catch
 - C. Loosen
 - D. Grab
9. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
 - A. Creature
 - B. Specified
 - C. Decrease
 - D. Pieceful
10. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**

Gradual

 - A. Slow
 - B. Regular
 - C. Gentle
 - D. Abrupt
11. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the given word.**

Regime

 - A. Country
 - B. Rule
 - C. Space
 - D. Territory
12. **Select the INCORRECTLY spelt word.**
 - A. Exterminated
 - B. Voilence

- C. Wildernesses
D. Unmanageable
13. **The following sentence has been divided into parts. One of them contains an error. Select the part that contains the error from the given options.**
You must avoid riding in a crowded bus / or travelling in a metro / during rush hour / as both are quiet unpleasant experiences.
A. or travelling in a metro
B. You must avoid riding in a crowded bus
C. as both are quiet unpleasant experiences
D. during rush hour
14. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body
A. Drove
B. Cluster
C. Throng
D. Crowd
15. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
Work and domestic _____ made Kajal short-tempered.
A. gravities
B. weights
C. forces
D. pressures
16. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
India is formally moving ahead to _____ 21 MIG-29 and 12 Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia along with upgrades of their existing fleets.
A. procure
B. achieve
C. accomplish
D. advance
17. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**
A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself
A. Trivet
B. Trilogy
C. Triplet
D. Triumvir
18. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**
Bang for the buck
A. More value for money
B. Less value for money
C. Dash against something
D. A sorrowful heart
19. **The following sentence has been split into four segments. Identify the segment that contains a grammatical error.**
Had you / not reached in time, / we will have / lost our lives.

- A. not reached in time
- B. Had you
- C. we will have
- D. lost our lives

20. **Select the most appropriate meaning of the given idiom.**

Raise the bar

- A. To raise the price
- B. To grow taller
- C. To set higher goals
- D. To win a competition

Complete the passage by filling in the blanks with the most appropriate words.

Lord Sriman Narayana has a unique divine power called "Aghatitha Ghatana Samarthya," the capability to bring together contradictory, opposing or _____ A _____ (incompatible) qualities and make the impossible possible. Adishesha (the serpent) and Garuda (the eagle), though natural adversaries, coexist harmoniously in Lord Vishnu's shrine to serve Him together. Tirukudandhai Dr. Venkatesh said in a discourse that He unifies the three causes of creation (Upadana, Nimitha, Sahakari karana) — Lord Narayana Himself serves as the raw material, the creator, and the instrument of creation. Just like a spider _____ B _____ a web entirely out of itself, the Lord combines all three causes within himself. He (Bhagavan) is the means (Sadhana) and the goal (Saadhya). As highlighted by Nammazhwar's line, "aarum avane, perum avane," Lord Narayana serves as both the path and means (aaru) to reach salvation and the ultimate goal (peru) to be attained.

Lord Narayana is the supreme sovereign master and the humble servant. He, being the supreme, willingly surrenders to the love of His devotees. When a devotee approaches Him with pure devotion, the master transforms _____ C _____ a servant: transcendent supreme majesty (Paratvam) and total humility (saulabhyam) are _____ D _____ (inherent) in His avatars. Sriman Narayana sheds all His pride, assumes the form of an animal without hesitation, and descends as an avatar such as Varaha Swami (wild boar avatar). He sniffs the earth out of love to rescue it, showcasing how transcendent supreme majesty (Paratvam) and absolute down-to-earth accessibility (Saulabhyam) unite _____ E _____ (seamlessly) in Him.

21. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (A): (incompatible).**

- A. conflicting
- B. harmonious
- C. identical
- D. consistent

22. **Fill in blank (B) with the correct present tense verb to maintain subject-verb agreement.**

- A. spin
- B. spun
- C. spins
- D. spinning

23. **Fill in blank (C) with the correct preposition to complete the verb phrase meaning "to change form or character."**

- A. over

- B. into
 - C. onto
 - D. across
24. **Choose the antonym of the word in (D): (inherent).**
- A. Intrinsic
 - B. Innate
 - C. Extraneous
 - D. Essential
25. **Choose the most appropriate meaning of the word in (E): (seamlessly).**
- A. flawlessly
 - B. abruptly
 - C. awkwardly
 - D. disjointedly

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]

Explanations

1. A) **Their matchups are delayed by recurring physical and regulatory absences**
 "In early 2025, Sinner was absent for three months as he served a doping-related ban; this season, Alcaraz was out of action for four months from mid-April owing to a troublesome wrist... Sinner has been waylaid by a knee injury." The passage explicitly lists three separate reasons the two players have missed time against each other: Sinner's doping ban (a regulatory/disciplinary absence), Alcaraz's wrist injury, and now Sinner's knee injury (both physical absences). These are the concrete "long pauses" referred to — none of them are voluntary choices by the players; they are external, unavoidable interruptions (injury or suspension) that have repeatedly kept the two from meeting on court. This directly matches Option A..
 (b) Incorrect: Nothing in the passage suggests either player voluntarily avoids the other; their absences are forced by bans and injuries.
 (c) Incorrect: The passage mentions Alcaraz playing doubles only as warm-up preparation, not as a primary scheduling priority causing missed singles matchups.
 (d) Incorrect: Cancellations are attributed strictly to player health and regulatory bans, not disputes with tournament organizers.
2. B) **By playing two mixed doubles matches alongside the legendary Serena Williams**
 "The Spaniard has warmed up for Flushing Meadows with two mixed doubles matches partnering the legendary Serena Williams, but a best-of-five-sets contest is a significant step-up."
 The passage states that Alcaraz's preparation for the US Open has consisted of two mixed doubles matches, played alongside Serena Williams. The passage even adds a caveat that a best-of-five singles match is a "significant step-up" from this doubles warm-up, reinforcing that this is indeed how — and the extent to which — he has prepared.
 (a) is incorrect: Shelton, Medvedev, and Djokovic are listed as potential draw opponents, not warm-up partners.
 (c) is incorrect: The passage mentions Barcelona only as the last place Alcaraz played a competitive singles match — not as the site of a title win, and certainly not his seventh Major (Majors are Grand Slams like the US Open, Wimbledon, French Open, Australian Open; Barcelona is not one of them).
 (d) is incorrect: Roman Safiullin reached the Wimbledon fourth round, not Alcaraz.
3. C) **Both are navigating a period of diminished dominance and lack of recent tournament titles on hard courts.**
 "The 39-year-old Serb is no longer the once-renowned hard-court master, and lost his lone match — in Cincinnati — after the semifinal reverse to Sinner at Wimbledon. Medvedev was last in a Major final at the 2024 Australian Open and is without a trophy since February." The passage explicitly frames both players as being past their peak: Djokovic is described as "no longer the once-renowned hard-court master" and has recently lost matches (Wimbledon

semifinal, Cincinnati). Medvedev's drought is quantified directly — his last Major final appearance was at the 2024 Australian Open, and he has been "without a trophy since February." Both descriptions point to the same underlying theme: a decline from their former dominant form and a lack of recent titles, particularly on hard courts (the surface relevant to the US Open). This is reinforced by the following line, "However, Djokovic and Medvedev are on their own tough journeys," which explicitly groups them together under a shared narrative of struggle. Option C captures this shared theme accurately.

(A) Incorrect: Physical ailments are mentioned for Sinner, Alcaraz, and Rybakina, but not as the reason for Djokovic's or Medvedev's recent form.

(B) Incorrect: The passage attributes their vulnerability to age/form gaps rather than specific tactical failures against younger players.

(D) Incorrect: Ranking drops are not discussed for Djokovic or Medvedev (only Sabalenka's point reduction is detailed).

4. A) **The event gains exceptional prestige and public attraction from the inclusion of legendary figureheads.**

"With Serena and Venus Williams set to pair up in doubles, there will be a rich sprinkling of stardust too." The phrase "rich sprinkling of stardust" is used immediately after mentioning that Serena and Venus Williams — both legendary, iconic figures in tennis history — will pair up in doubles. "Stardust" here is a figurative expression referring to glamour, star power, and prestige rather than anything literal. The implication is that their presence adds excitement, star appeal, and heightened public/media interest to the doubles draw, elevating its profile simply due to the legendary status of the players involved. This directly matches Option A, which captures the idea of added prestige and attraction from famous figures.

(b) Incorrect: "Stardust" is a figure of speech for star power, not literal stadium lighting or scheduling.

(c) Incorrect: Prize money and financial incentives are not discussed in the passage.

(d) Incorrect: The phrase refers to star appeal and glamour, not unpredictable tournament results.

5. B) **Ben Shelton**

"The 23-year-old will open against Roman Safiullin... and is drawn to meet the in-form American Ben Shelton in the quarterfinal." The passage states that Alcaraz "is drawn to meet the in-form American Ben Shelton in the quarterfinal." making Option B the correct answer.

(a) is incorrect: Djokovic is listed as a potential semifinal opponent.

(c) is incorrect: Medvedev is listed as a potential semifinal opponent.

(d) is incorrect: Safiullin is his opening (first-round) opponent.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence 2 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह आपके दिए गए पैसेज का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है ("I was never supposed to be there.") जो बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे मुख्य प्रसंग की पृष्ठभूमि स्थापित करता है।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 2 में कही गई बात का कारण स्पष्ट करता है कि लेखक वहां क्यों नहीं होने वाला था—उसने लगभग वह वर्क मीटिंग छोड़ ही दी थी, लेकिन किसी वजह से वह चला गया।

- Sentence 1 Sentence 4 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह मीटिंग रूम की स्थिति का विवरण देता है कि कमरे के दूसरी तरफ वह व्यक्ति बैठा था जो इंस्टाग्राम पर पहली बार संपर्क करने के बाद लगभग एक साल से लेखक से मिलने की कोशिश कर रहा था।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा और क्रम का conclusion बनेगा। यह "Neither of us had expected this..." के साथ दोनों के अप्रत्याशित रूप से पहली बार मिलने पर आश्चर्य व्यक्त करते हुए पैसेज को तार्किक रूप से समाप्त करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 2 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the exact first sentence of the provided text ("I was never supposed to be there."). It independently introduces the setting and theme without needing prior context.
- Sentence 4 follows Sentence 2 because it directly explains the opening statement, detailing how the narrator had almost skipped the work meeting before deciding to attend.
- Sentence 1 follows Sentence 4 because it describes the scene inside that work meeting, noting the person sitting across the room who had tried to meet the narrator for nearly a year after connecting on Instagram.
- Sentence 3 comes after Sentence 1 as the logical conclusion. It wraps up the narrative encounter by reflecting on how neither individual anticipated that this setting would be where they finally crossed paths for the first time.

7. B) 1-2-3-4

- Sentence 1 पैराग्राफ की शुरुआत करेगा क्योंकि यह introductory sentence है। यह आपके दिए गए पैसेज का बिल्कुल पहला वाक्य है, जो बिना किसी पूर्व संदर्भ के सीधे तौर पर पांच साल पहले लग्जरी होम की सरल परिभाषा का मुख्य विषय स्थापित करता है।
- Sentence 2 Sentence 1 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence 1 में उल्लिखित लग्जरी घर की परिभाषा को स्पष्ट करता है कि किन विशेषताओं (प्राइम एड्रेस, बड़ा एरिया, हार्ड-एंड फिनिश, क्लबहाउस और शानदार दृश्य) के कारण एक प्रॉपर्टी को आकांक्षी माना जाता था।
- Sentence 3 Sentence 2 के बाद आएगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त वाक्यांश "Those markers" सीधे तौर पर Sentence 2 में गिनाए गए पैमानों (प्राइम एड्रेस, स्क्वायर फुटेज आदि) को refer करता है और यह बताते हुए विरोधाभास पेश करता है कि हालांकि वे आज भी मायने रखते हैं, लेकिन अब वे पूरी कहानी बयां नहीं करते।
- Sentence 4 Sentence 3 के बाद आएगा और क्रम का conclusion बनेगा। यह पैसेज की अगली पंक्ति के रूप में बदलाव का कारण स्पष्ट करता है कि भारतीय लग्जरी होमबायर अब अधिक समझदार, जानकार और वैश्विक दृष्टिकोण वाला हो गया है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence 1 starts the paragraph as the introductory sentence, strictly using the exact opening line of the provided text. It independently establishes the core theme without requiring prior context: the straightforward definition of a luxury home five years ago.
- Sentence 2 follows Sentence 1 because it directly elaborates on that definition, listing the traditional markers of luxury such as a prime address, generous square footage, high-end finishes, clubhouses, and impressive views.
- Sentence 3 follows Sentence 2 because the demonstrative phrase "Those markers" directly refers back to the physical criteria detailed in Sentence 2, introducing a

contrast by stating that while they still matter, they no longer represent the entire picture.

- Sentence 4 comes after Sentence 3 as the logical conclusion, strictly using the subsequent sentence of the text to explain why expectations have evolved—highlighting that India's luxury homebuyer has become far more discerning, informed, and global in outlook.

8. C) **Seize** (verb) – Take hold of suddenly and forcibly, grasp, clutch. पकड़ना

Antonym: **Loosen** (verb) – Make less tight or firm, relax, slacken. ढीला करना

- **Snatch** (verb) – To take or grasp abruptly or hastily. झपटना
- **Catch** (verb) – Capture or trap, to seize or take hold of. पकड़ना
- **Grab** (verb) – Seize or take hold of suddenly or roughly. ताड़ना

9. D) The correct spelling of 'Peaceful' is '**Peaceful**' शांत, सुखमय.

10. D) **Gradual** (adjective) – Taking place or progressing slowly or by degrees, steady, phased. धीरे-धीरे

Antonym: **Abrupt** (adjective) – Sudden and unexpected, brusque, hasty. अचानक

- **Slow** (adjective) – Moving or operating, or designed to do so, only at a low speed; not quick. धीमा
- **Regular** (adjective) – Occurring or done frequently and at uniform intervals, consistent, steady. नियमित
- **Gentle** (adjective) – Mild in temperament or behavior; kind or tender. कोमल

11. B) **Regime** (noun) – A system or planned way of doing things, especially one imposed from above. शासन प्रणाली

Synonym: **Rule** (noun) – Control or dominion, the period during which one holds power. शासन

- **Country** (noun) – A nation with its own government, occupying a particular territory. देश
- **Space** (noun) – A continuous area or expanse which is free, available, or unoccupied. स्थान
- **Territory** (noun) – An area of land under the jurisdiction of a ruler or state. प्रदेश

12. B) The incorrect spelling among the given options is 'Voilence'. The correct spelling is '**violence**' हिंसात्मकता, हिंसा.

13. C) '**quiet**' के बदले 'quite' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'quiet' का अर्थ होता है 'शांत' जबकि 'quite' का अर्थ होता है 'काफी' और यहाँ पर संदर्भ 'अप्रिय अनुभवों' की तीव्रता को बढ़ाने के लिए है। जैसे— यात्रा थकाऊ थी परंतु दृश्यावली बहुत सुंदर थी।

- 'quite' will be used instead of 'quiet' because 'quiet' means 'silent' while 'quite' means 'very' or 'to a considerable extent', and here the context is to intensify the unpleasantness of the experiences. Like— The journey was exhausting but the scenery was quite beautiful.

14. A) **Drove** (noun) – A herd or flock of animals being driven in a body जानवरों की टोली

- **Cluster** (noun) – A group of similar things or people positioned or occurring closely together समूह
- **Throng** (noun) – A large, densely packed crowd of people or animals भीड़
- **Crowd** (noun) – A large number of people gathered together मानव समूह

15. D) '**Pressures**' का use होगा क्योंकि "pressures" का अर्थ होता है दबाव या तनाव, जिससे किसी को परेशानी हो सकती है। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि काजल को काम और घर की वजह से चिड़चिड़ापन आ गया था, इसलिए 'pressures' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'gravities' का अर्थ होता है गुरुत्वाकर्षण, 'weights' का अर्थ है भार और 'forces' का अर्थ है बल जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Pressures' should be used because it signifies stress or tension that can lead to someone feeling irritable. The sentence mentions that Kajal became short-tempered due to work and domestic responsibilities, making 'pressures' appropriate here. Whereas, 'gravities' refers to gravitational pull, 'weights' means heaviness, and 'forces' means strength or power, which don't fit in this context.
16. A) Procure' का use होगा क्योंकि "procure" का अर्थ होता है प्राप्त करना या खरीदना। Sentence में mention किया गया है कि भारत अधिकारिक रूप से Russia से MIG-29 और Sukhoi-30MKI लड़ाकू विमानों को प्राप्त कर रहा है, इसलिए 'procure' यहाँ सही है। जबकि 'Achieve' का अर्थ है प्राप्त करना (मुकाम के रूप में), 'Accomplish' का अर्थ है पूरा करना, और 'Advance' का अर्थ है आगे बढ़ना, जो इस context में सही नहीं है।
- 'Procure' should be used because it means to obtain or purchase. The sentence indicates that India is formally moving ahead to obtain MIG-29 and Sukhoi-30MKI fighters from Russia, making 'procure' appropriate here. Whereas, 'Achieve' implies reaching a goal, 'Accomplish' means to complete, and 'Advance' means to move forward, which don't fit in this context.
17. B) **Trilogy** (noun) – A group of three novels or plays, each complete in itself त्रैतीयक
- **Trivet** (noun) – a three-legged stand for supporting a hot dish or pot. तीन पायों वाला स्टैंड
 - **Triplet** (noun) – one of three children or animals born at the same time from the same pregnancy तिड़वाँ (शिशु)
 - **Triumvir** (noun) – one of three rulers who share power, especially in ancient Rome. त्रैतीयक (शासक)
18. A) **Bang for the buck** (idiom) — More value for money धन की पूरी कीमत
19. C) 'we will have' के बदले '**we would have**' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि यहाँ Conditional Past Tense का प्रयोग किया गया है, और इसे यथासम्भव सही रूप में रखना चाहिए; जैसे— If he had studied, he would have passed.
- 'we would have' will be used instead of 'we will have' because Conditional Past Tense is used here, and it should be maintained correctly; Like— If he had studied, he would have passed.
20. C) **Raise the bar** (idiom) – To set higher goals or standards उच्च मानक तय करना
21. A) **conflicting**
- The passage discusses bringing together contradictory, opposing, or mutually exclusive traits (contradictory, opposing or incompatible qualities). The question asks for the most appropriate synonym for "incompatible" (meaning incapable of existing together in harmony).
- a) conflicting: means mutually opposed or incompatible, serving as the direct synonym. b) harmonious: means forming a pleasing or consistent whole (antonym). c) identical: means exactly the same. d) consistent: means acting in the same way or compatible (antonym).
- In Hindi:

- यह sentence भगवान द्वारा परस्पर विरोधी और असंगत गुणों को एक साथ लाने को describe करता है। Question में "incompatible" (परस्पर विरोधी/असंगत) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) conflicting: इसका meaning 'परस्पर विरोधी या टकराने वाला' (mutually opposed) होता है, जो "incompatible" का direct synonym है। b) harmonious: इसका meaning सामंजस्यपूर्ण (antonym) होता है। c) identical: इसका meaning समान होता है। d) consistent: इसका meaning सुसंगत होता है।

22. C) spins

The sentence describes a universal natural fact in the simple present tense regarding how a spider creates a web (Just like a spider _____ a web entirely out of itself...). The singular countable subject "a spider" strictly requires the third-person singular present verb (V1 + -s/-es). a) spin: is the plural base form. b) spun: is the past tense form. c) spins: is the singular present verb that correctly agrees with the singular subject "a spider." d) spinning: is a participle that cannot function as a finite main verb without an auxiliary verb.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence मकड़ी द्वारा अपने भीतर से जाला बुनने के सार्वभौमिक सत्य को simple present tense में describe करता है। Singular subject "a spider" के अनुसार third-person singular present verb (V1 + -s/-es) की आवश्यकता है। a) spin: यह plural base verb है। b) spun: यह past tense है। c) spins: यह singular present verb है जो singular subject "a spider" के साथ subject-verb agreement के नियमानुसार perfectly fit होता है। d) spinning: यह participle है जो बिना helping verb के main verb नहीं बन सकता।

23. B) into

The sentence describes the profound transformation in character and role where the supreme master changes and becomes a servant (the master transforms _____ a servant). Blank (C) requires the standard preposition used with "transform" to indicate a change from one state or form to another. a) over: indicates position above or across. b) into: forms the standard phrasal construction "transform into", meaning to change completely in form, appearance, or character. c) onto: indicates moving to a surface. d) across: denotes extending from one side to another.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence भक्त के प्रेम में प्रभु के स्वामी से सेवक के रूप में परिवर्तित होने को describe करता है। Verb "transforms" के साथ एक रूप से दूसरे रूप में परिवर्तन दर्शाने वाले standard preposition की आवश्यकता है। a) over: यह ऊपर की स्थिति दिखाता है। b) into: यह "transforms" के साथ मिलकर निश्चित expression "transforms into" (रूप में बदल जाना) बनाता है, जो यहाँ perfectly fit होता है। c) onto: यह सतह पर गति दिखाता है। d) across: यह आर-पार दिखाता है।

24. C) Extraneous

The passage refers to divine majesty and supreme accessibility existing as permanent, inseparable, natural elements of the Lord's divine nature (inherent in His avatars). The question asks for the antonym of "inherent" (meaning existing as a natural, permanent, or inborn attribute). a) Intrinsic: means belonging naturally/essential (synonym). b) Innate: means inborn or natural (synonym). c) Extraneous: means not belonging, coming from the outside, or

not an essential part of something, serving as the direct antonym of "inherent." d) Essential: means absolutely necessary or fundamental (synonym).

In Hindi:

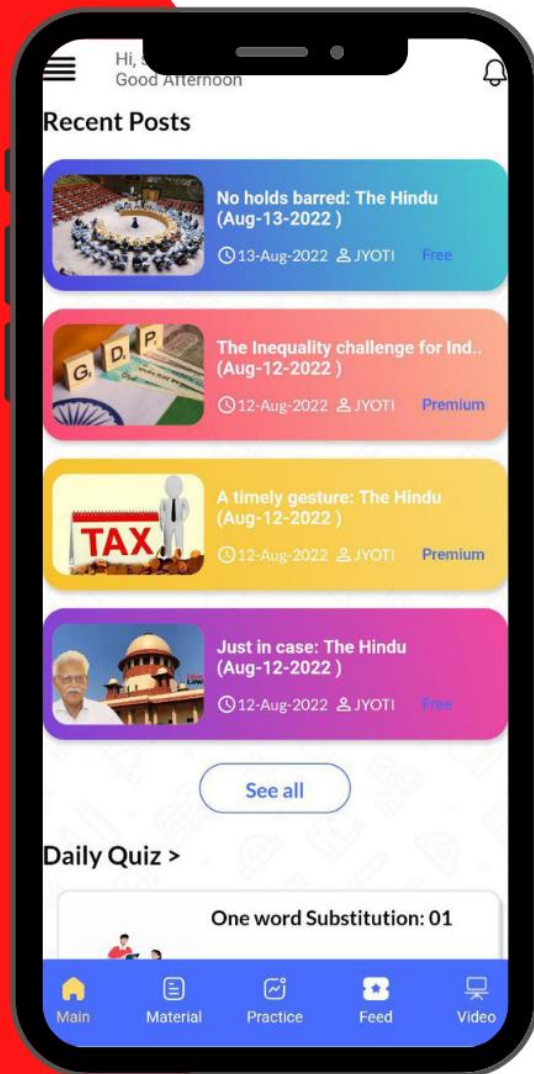
- यह sentence भगवान के अवतारों में दिव्यता और विनम्रता के स्वाभाविक और अंतर्निहित होने ("inherent") को describe करता है। Question में "inherent" (स्वाभाविक/अंतर्निहित) का direct antonym पूछा गया है। a) Intrinsic: इसका meaning आंतरिक/स्वाभाविक (synonym) होता है। b) Innate: इसका meaning जन्मजात/स्वाभाविक (synonym) होता है। c) Extraneous: इसका meaning 'बाहरी, असंबद्ध या जो मूल प्रकृति का हिस्सा न हो' (external/not essential) होता है, जो "inherent" का direct antonym है। d) Essential: इसका meaning आवश्यक/मूलभूत (synonym) होता है।

25. A) flawlessly

The passage highlights how two seemingly opposite divine attributes (transcendent majesty and extreme humility) blend together smoothly, perfectly, and without any conflict (unite seamlessly in Him). The question asks for the most appropriate meaning of "seamlessly." a) flawlessly: means without any defects, gaps, or difficulties (smoothly and perfectly), capturing the precise contextual meaning of "seamlessly." b) abruptly: means suddenly and unexpectedly. c) awkwardly: means in an uncomfortable or clumsy way (antonym). d) disjointedly: means lacking unity or coherence (antonym).

In Hindi:

- यह sentence भगवान में सर्वोच्च दिव्यता और अत्यधिक सुलभता के बिना किसी बाधा या विरोध के सरलता और पूर्णता से एक होने ("unite seamlessly") को describe करता है। Question में "seamlessly" (सुचारू रूप से/त्रुटिहीनता से) का सबसे सटीक meaning पूछा गया है। a) flawlessly: इसका meaning 'त्रुटिहीन रूप से, सुचारू रूप से या पूर्णता से' (smoothly/without flaws) होता है, जो "seamlessly" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। b) abruptly: इसका meaning अचानक होता है। c) awkwardly: इसका meaning बेढंगेपन से होता है। d) disjointedly: इसका meaning असंबद्ध रूप से होता है।



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