

## Dangerous phase: On the crisis in West Asia

The Iran war is **plunging** the region in an economic and security **abyss**

The **crisis** in West Asia **is escalating** on two **fronts**. On Tuesday, the U.S. said that its forces had **struck** five Iranian oil tankers in the Gulf waters after what it **claimed** were Tehran's attacks on U.S. warships in the region. Iran **retaliated** with a massive **ballistic** missile attack on the Muwaffaq Salti U.S. air base in Jordan and **vowed to** respond with greater force to every U.S. attack from now on. It has also announced a new restricted zone in the Strait of Hormuz, warning commercial ships against crossing it under American naval **escort**. Separately, Yemen's **Houthis**, who are closely **aligned with** Tehran, **launched** an attack on Saudi Arabia, **wounding** dozens. Riyadh has vowed a response. The **Houthis**, who control northern Yemen and parts of its Red Sea coast, **have** already **enforced** a naval **blockade** of Saudi Arabia's western ports and launched an offensive against the forces of Yemen's **Saudi-backed** government in Taiz and Mocha. With both the Strait of Hormuz, which connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, and the Red Sea, a **critical** trade channel between Europe and Asia, remaining **flashpoints**, a horizontally **escalating** conflict from Tehran to Jordan and Riyadh to Bab-el Mandeb **threatens** to plunge the entire region into an economic and security abyss.

The current **phase** of the conflict could **prove** to be deadlier for several reasons. The **U.S.**, which in the recent past has used **intense** military strikes and economic **strangulation** as separate policy tools in an attempt to force Iran to surrender, **is** now using both simultaneously to **exert** maximum pressure on Tehran. The U.S. naval blockade has largely prevented Iran from exporting its oil, while the American naval escort to a limited number of ships out of the Strait of Hormuz has helped Washington **blunt** the impact of Iran's **chokehold** on the waterway on global energy prices. But President Donald Trump was wrong if he thought his maximum economic and military pressure would force Iran to **make concessions**. Iran, instead, decided to escalate the conflict by attacking American warships outside the Persian Gulf, fully aware that this would invite a stronger U.S. military response. Iran appears to believe that it has **a window of opportunity** with the U.S. **heading into** its midterm elections within weeks and Mr. Trump remaining politically weak **at home**. If Iran's strikes on U.S. military vessels signal a clear decision at the top to escalate the conflict, its missile attack on U.S. bases in Jordan suggests that Tehran has been **rebuilding** its strike capabilities — capabilities that Mr. Trump had claimed were destroyed. As neither Washington nor Iran seems ready to **step back** from the **precipice**, the war is **set to** enter a more dangerous phase with global economic implications.

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

**[Practice Exercise]**

## Vocabulary

1. **Plunge** (verb) - throw, thrust, dive, submerge, sink डुबो देना
2. **Abyss** (noun) - a very deep hole that seems to have no bottom खाई
3. **Escalate** (verb) - intensify, increase, mount, amplify, sharpen बढ़ना
4. **Front** (noun) - battlefield, theater of war, arena, side मोर्चा
5. **Strike** (verb) - attack, hit, raid, assault हमला करना
6. **Claim** (verb) - assert, allege, state, contention दावा करना
7. **Retaliate** (verb) - counter-attack, hit back, fight back, strike back, take reprisal जवाबी कार्रवाई करना
8. **Ballistic** (adjective) - projectile-driven, rocket-propelled, guided-missile बैलिस्टिक (प्रक्षेपास्त्र से संबंधित)
9. **Vow** (to) (verb) - pledge, promise, swear, commit संकल्प लेना
10. **Escort** (noun) - protection or accompaniment provided to someone/something सुरक्षा देना
11. **Align with** (phrasal verb) - to be in agreement, support, or cooperation with a person, group, idea, or goal के साथ जुड़े होना
12. **Wound** (verb) - injure, hurt, harm घायल करते हुए
13. **Enforce** (verb) - impose, implement, execute, apply, compel लागू करना
14. **Blockade** (noun) - siege, restriction, cordon, embargo, barricade नाकेबंदी
15. **Saudi-backed** (adjective) - supported by Saudi Arabia सऊदी समर्थित
16. **Critical** (adjective) - crucial, vital, essential, pivotal, important महत्वपूर्ण
17. **Flashpoint** (noun) - a place or stage at which violence might be expected to begin संघर्ष का केंद्र
18. **Escalating** (adjective) - mounting, intensifying, growing, rising बढ़ते हुए
19. **Threaten** (verb) - endanger, imperil, menace, pose a danger संकट पैदा करना
20. **Intense** (adjective) - severe, sharp, extreme, fierce, profound तीव्र
21. **Strangulation** (noun) - punishing or weakening a specific group, region, or nation by completely cutting off their money, trade, and business activities आर्थिक रूप से जकड़ कर पंगु बनाना
22. **Exert** (verb) - apply, exercise, put forth, bring to bear प्रभाव डालना
23. **Blunt** (verb) - dull, deaden, dampen, weaken, soften असर कम करना
24. **Chokehold** (noun) - stranglehold, grip, clamp, restriction शिकंजा
25. **Make concessions** (phrase) - if you make a concession to someone, you agree to let them do or have something, especially in order to end an argument or conflict समझौता करना

26. **A window of opportunity** (phrase) - a period of time or a situation when there is a chance to do something अवसर की खिड़की
27. **Head** (into) (verb) - approach, move toward, enter into, progress toward की ओर बढ़ना
28. **At home** (phrase) - domestically, within the country देश के भीतर
29. **Rebuild** (verb) - reconstruct, restore, remake, revive फिर से बनाना
30. **Step back** (phrasal verb) - to withdraw, retreat पीछे हटना
31. **Precipice** (noun) - brink, verge, edge, cliff कगार
32. **Set to** (phrasal verb) - to start working or dealing with something in an energetic and determined way होने वाला होना
33. **Implication** (noun) - consequence, ramification, repercussion, impact, effect परिणाम

### Summary of the Editorial

1. The crisis in **West Asia is escalating rapidly**, creating serious economic and security risks for the entire region.
2. The conflict is expanding on **multiple fronts**, involving the U.S., Iran, Yemen's Houthis and Saudi Arabia.
3. The U.S. has **struck Iranian oil tankers** in Gulf waters, claiming that Iran had attacked American warships in the region.
4. Iran has **retaliated with a large ballistic missile attack** on the Muwaffaq Salti U.S. air base in Jordan.
5. Tehran has **vowed to respond more forcefully** to every future American attack, indicating that it is unwilling to de-escalate.
6. Iran has also imposed a **restricted zone in the Strait of Hormuz** and warned commercial vessels against crossing it under American naval escort.
7. The Houthis, who are closely **aligned with Iran**, have attacked Saudi Arabia, further widening the conflict.
8. The Houthis have already **blockaded Saudi Arabia's western ports** and intensified their offensive against Saudi-backed forces in Yemen.
9. The **Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea** are crucial international trade and energy routes, so continued fighting there could disrupt global commerce.
10. The conflict is therefore becoming **horizontally wider**, spreading from Iran and the Gulf to Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the Red Sea.
11. The present phase may be **more dangerous and deadlier** because the U.S. is simultaneously using military attacks and economic pressure against Iran.
12. The U.S. naval blockade has severely restricted **Iran's oil exports**, while American naval escorts have attempted to reduce the effect of Iran's pressure on the Strait of Hormuz.
13. However, President Donald Trump's strategy of applying **maximum economic and military pressure** has failed to force Iran into making concessions.
14. Iran appears to be escalating deliberately, possibly believing that the approaching **U.S. midterm elections** and Trump's domestic political weakness provide it with an opportunity.
15. Since **neither Washington nor Tehran appears willing to step back**, the conflict is likely to enter an even more dangerous phase, with potentially severe **global economic consequences**, especially for energy supplies and international trade.

### Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. Which geographic flashpoint is NOT mentioned in the passage as being involved in the widening crisis? [Editorial Page]
  - A. Strait of Hormuz
  - B. Bab-el Mandeb
  - C. Suez Canal
  - D. Red Sea
2. What is implied by the U.S. policy of providing "American naval escort to a limited number of ships"?
  - A. Washington completely eliminated Iranian naval threats across international trade zones
  - B. Washington sought to soften energy market shocks while keeping pressure on Iran
  - C. Washington intended to encourage unrestricted commercial traffic in hostile waters
  - D. Washington aimed to force Iranian tankers into accepting Western military protection
3. According to the author, why did Washington's dual-pressure policy fail to achieve its primary objective?
  - A. American naval vessels lacked sufficient coverage in global trade channels
  - B. Iranian leaders chose calculated escalation over submitting to demands
  - C. Regional allies refused to provide logistics support for air strikes
  - D. Global energy markets remained uninfluenced by maritime blockades
4. What does the author mean by the phrase "horizontally escalating conflict"?
  - A. Spreading military hostilities across multiple geographic theaters
  - B. Intensifying offensive missile yields within localized borders
  - C. Shifting conflict focus from state armies to non-state proxy actors
  - D. Transitioning warfare strategy from economic boycotts to naval blockades
5. What is the primary purpose of this passage?
  - A. To praise the tactical victory of American naval forces in Persian Gulf waters
  - B. To outline the geographic advantages of ancient trade routes in West Asia
  - C. To analyze the escalating multi-front conflict and its global consequences
  - D. To advocate for immediate military intervention by international alliances
6. Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.

S1. When Swarajit Alakananda was passing by Flower Market around Ganesh Chaturthi in 2017, the colourful clay idols for sale by the roadside made him pause.

  - A. Swarajit has always been a Nature lover and was involved in lake clean-ups even back then.
  - B. "They looked beautiful, but I wondered if there was danger lurking behind, as the Tamil proverb goes," recalls the 32-year-old.
  - C. What if the idols were made of nothing but pure earth?
  - D. "I wondered what the idols might do to our waterbodies once they were submerged," he says.

S6. What if they came to life once they touched water?

  - A. B-A-D-C
  - B. A-B-D-C
  - C. B-D-A-C

- D. A-D-C-B
7. **Direction: In the following question, the first and the last sentences of the passage are numbered S1 and S6. The rest of the passage is split into four parts and named A, B, C, and D. Rearrange these four parts to form a meaningful, logical, and coherent passage.**
- S1. Once upon a time, in the woods outside Pola de Somiedo, lived a family of Cantabrian brown bears.
- A. Meanwhile, the wider population dropped to about 60 bears across the surrounding Cantabrian mountain range that gave the species its name.
- B. The villagers reported sightings of a mother bear who had lost a leg to a hunter's trap, her two cubs and two adult males, either of which might have been the father.
- C. They have since clawed their way back from the edge of extinction here in northern Spain, and nature guide Luis Frechilla believes their numbers may now be upwards of 500 again.
- D. In those days, at the end of the 1980s, they seemed to be the last of their kind in this part of Asturias.
- S6. "They're still classed as endangered," he tells me, until the official count hits 1,000.
- A. B-A-D-C
- B. B-D-A-C
- C. D-B-A-C
- D. B-D-C-A
8. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**
- The coach said, "\_\_\_\_\_ Don't waste time."
- A. Hurry up, boys!
- B. Hurry up boys.
- C. Hurry up boys
- D. Hurry up, boys
9. **Select the most appropriate punctuation mark to fill in the blank.**
- Ram's sister \_\_\_\_\_ Sohini, met us the other day.
- A. No punctuation mark
- B. Hyphen (-)
- C. Comma (,)
- D. Ellipsis (. . .)
10. **Select the most appropriate option that rectifies the underlined incorrectly spelt word in the given sentence.**
- In order to win the battle on this issue, the administration will have to get free of the Antidiluvain tyranny of the Congressional Budget Office, which has not predicted any economic development accurately in decades.
- A. antedulevian
- B. antideluvean
- C. antideluvian
- D. antediluvian
11. **Select the most appropriate option that can replace the underlined segment in the given sentence.**
- The society should not tolerate hatred towards foreigners.
- A. xenophobia

- B. chauvinism  
C. misanthropy  
D. testimony
12. **Select the option that can be used as a one-word substitute for the given group of words.**  
To move hurriedly with short quick steps  
A. Crawl  
B. Scurry  
C. Loiter  
D. Squid
13. **Select the option that rectifies the underlined incorrectly spelt word in the given sentence.**  
Azim tried to embaras her in front of the group and the doctor scolded him.  
A. embarres  
B. embaress  
C. embarrass  
D. emberress
14. **Select the most appropriate synonym of the underlined word in the given sentence.**  
She felt dismal after hearing the news from her neighbour.  
A. Livid  
B. Bleak  
C. Cordial  
D. Bright
15. **Identify the ANTONYM of the word 'allow' in the following sentence.**  
The manager decided to allocate resources carefully, approach the issue with caution, admit the mistake openly and prohibit any further delays.  
A. approach  
B. prohibit  
C. allocate  
D. admit
16. **Select the option that best expresses the meaning of the phrase "Bear burden of."**  
A. To endure a heavy and difficult weight or responsibility  
B. To make a situation seem less hopeful or more serious  
C. To mention or discuss a subject briefly while talking  
D. To stop looking at someone or something and lose focus
17. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the underlined word in the given sentence.**  
Scientists were initially unsure whether the unexpected spike in temperature readings represented a genuine aberration in the region's climate pattern or simply reflected a temporary fluctuation that would correct itself within the following season.  
A. Deviation  
B. Anomaly  
C. Norm  
D. Irregularity
18. **Select the most appropriate SYNONYM of the given word.**  
INEFFABLE  
A. Expressible

- B. Describable
- C. Ordinary
- D. Indescribable

19. **Which of the following options is the most suitable conversion of the following sentence into Passive Voice?**

The volunteers are cleaning the beach after the festival.

- A. The beach is cleaned by the volunteers after the festival.
- B. The beach is being cleaned by the volunteers after the festival.
- C. The beach has been cleaned by the volunteers after the festival.
- D. The beach will be cleaned by the volunteers after the festival.

20. **Direction: Read the sentence to find the grammatical error. The sentence has been split into four parts: (A), (B), (C), and (D). Select the option that contains the error.**

The financial tribunal observed that (A) the sudden bankruptcy of the real estate firm (B) was due to the mismanagement (C) of its liquid assets. (D)

- A. The financial tribunal observed that
- B. the sudden bankruptcy of the real estate firm
- C. was due to the mismanagement
- D. of its liquid assets

**Directions: Five words in the passage below have been replaced with blanks. Choose the option that best completes each one.**

I never liked raw onions when I was younger. They had a strong (1)\_\_\_ that made my eyes (2)\_\_\_ when I bit (3)\_\_\_ them. Their purple hue and stringy appearance would immediately send me into a spiral, and I would pick them out of salads all the time. However, I'd watch my family eat onions with their food every night and eventually began trying them, realising they weren't so bad after all. (4)\_\_\_, I became the biggest onion enthusiast in my household, contrary to my stubbornness from before. This was one of many changes that have happened as I have grown up - and I have no doubt that many more such changes are yet to come. This raises an important question: if I am no longer the head of the Onion-Hate-Club™□, and that part of my identity was such an important marker of me at a certain point in time, then am I still me? When we change the combination of (5)\_\_\_ that make up who we are, how can the label of 'me' still stand for something so different?

21. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (1):**

- A. flavour
- B. fragrance
- C. flare
- D. flair

22. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (2):**

- A. throb
- B. sting
- C. smart
- D. stinging

23. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (3):**

- A. through
- B. with



- C. into
- D. no preposition required

24. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (4):**

- A. Soon
- B. thus
- C. hence
- D. after

25. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in blank (5):**

- A. ingredients
- B. attributes
- C. constituents
- D. fragmented

## Answers

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

[\[Practice Exercise\]](#)

## Explanations

### 1. C) Suez Canal

The Suez Canal is never mentioned anywhere in the passage. While it is a real and well-known geographic waterway connected to Red Sea shipping in general knowledge, the passage does not reference it at all as part of the described crisis. This makes it the correct answer to a "NOT mentioned" question.

(a) Strait of Hormuz — (it IS mentioned) The Strait of Hormuz is explicitly and repeatedly mentioned as a key flashpoint — Iran declared a restricted zone there, and it is described as a critical waterway central to the escalating conflict.

(b) Bab-el Mandeb — (it IS mentioned) Bab-el Mandeb is explicitly named as one of the geographic points marking the horizontal spread of the conflict, directly tying it to the crisis described in the passage.

(d) Red Sea — (it IS mentioned) The Red Sea is explicitly identified as one of the two key flashpoints (alongside the Strait of Hormuz) and is directly linked to the Houthi blockade and broader trade disruption discussed in the passage.

### 2. B) Washington sought to soften energy market shocks while keeping pressure on Iran

Passage line: "The U.S. naval blockade has largely prevented Iran from exporting its oil, while the American naval escort to a limited number of ships out of the Strait of Hormuz has helped Washington blunt the impact of Iran's chokehold on the waterway on global energy prices." This directly shows a dual strategy — the U.S. blockade cuts off Iran's oil exports (maintaining pressure on Tehran), while simultaneously escorting a limited number of ships through the Strait to prevent Iran's control of the waterway from causing severe global energy price shocks. The word "limited" is key — it implies a calculated, partial measure meant to mitigate market disruption without fully opening the strait, which would undercut the pressure campaign against Iran.

A) Incorrect: The passage uses the word "blunt," meaning to reduce or lessen the impact — not eliminate it entirely.

C) Incorrect: The explicit use of "limited" directly contradicts the idea of "unrestricted" traffic. The policy was a controlled, selective measure — not an effort to open the waters to free, unrestricted commercial movement.

D) Incorrect: The naval escort described in the passage is for ships exiting the Strait of Hormuz generally (implicitly non-Iranian commercial vessels), not for Iranian tankers. In fact, the U.S. is described as having struck Iranian oil tankers and blockading Iran's oil exports — the opposite of offering Iran protection.

### 3. B) Iranian leaders chose calculated escalation over submitting to demands.

Passage line: "But President Donald Trump was wrong if he thought his maximum economic and military pressure would force Iran to make concessions. Iran, instead, decided to escalate the conflict by attacking American warships outside the Persian Gulf, fully aware that this would invite a stronger U.S. military response." The passage directly states that Trump's "maximum economic and military pressure" (the dual-pressure policy) was intended to force Iran into concessions, but

this failed because Iran made a deliberate, calculated decision to escalate instead — attacking U.S. warships while being "fully aware" that it would provoke a stronger response. This is reinforced by the passage's note that Iran believed it had a "window of opportunity" due to the U.S. midterm elections and Trump's political weakness, showing Iran's escalation was a strategic choice rather than a reaction born of desperation or submission.

(a) Incorrect: The passage notes American escorts successfully helped blunt global energy price surges, so escort coverage was not the cause of policy failure.

(c) Incorrect: Unwillingness of allies is not cited in the passage as the reason for the failure of dual pressure.

(d) Incorrect: The passage states that global energy prices were impacted by Iran's chokehold and Washington's intervention.

4. A) **Spreading military hostilities across multiple geographic theaters.**

The phrase "horizontally escalating" is immediately followed by a list of distinct, geographically spread-out locations — Tehran, Jordan, Riyadh, and Bab-el Mandeb — showing the conflict is not intensifying in one single place but rather spreading outward across multiple fronts and countries. This matches the broader passage, which describes simultaneous flashpoints: U.S.-Iran clashes, the Jordan missile strike, Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, and blockades affecting both the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea. "Horizontal" escalation specifically implies geographic breadth/spread, as opposed to "vertical" escalation, which would mean intensifying within a single location or front.

(b) Incorrect: Refers to vertical escalation (intensity of weapons), not horizontal expansion across geography.

(c) Incorrect: The passage shows state military forces (U.S., Iran) are actively engaging, not replacing states with proxies.

(d) Incorrect: The passage discusses both naval blockades and missile strikes happening concurrently across areas, not replacing one with another.

5. C) **To analyze the escalating multi-front conflict and its global consequences**

Passage line: "The crisis in West Asia is escalating on two fronts" and "a horizontally escalating conflict from Tehran to Jordan and Riyadh to Bab-el Mandeb threatens to plunge the entire region into an economic and security abyss" combined with "the war is set to enter a more dangerous phase with global economic implications." The passage systematically analyzes the developing conflict across multiple fronts — U.S.-Iran military exchanges, the Strait of Hormuz blockade, Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, and the Red Sea trade route threat. It examines the strategic motivations behind Iran's escalation (the U.S. midterms, Trump's political weakness, Iran's rebuilt strike capabilities) and concludes with the broader economic and security consequences for the region and world. This is a clear analytical breakdown of an escalating geopolitical crisis.

A) Incorrect: The passage does not praise or celebrate any U.S. military action. It neutrally reports the U.S. strikes on Iranian oil tankers and notes that Iran retaliated with a "massive ballistic missile attack,

B) Incorrect: While the passage does mention these waterways, it does so only to explain their strategic/economic relevance to the current conflict — not to discuss "ancient trade routes" or their historical geographic advantages.

D) Incorrect: The passage does not call for any international alliance intervention. It ends by stating neither Washington nor Iran "seems ready to step back from the precipice," describing the

trajectory of the conflict rather than prescribing a solution or advocating for action from any third party or alliance.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में roadside पर idols देखकर pause होने की घटना का उल्लेख है। Sentence B सीधे उनके immediate reaction को direct quote ("They looked beautiful, but I wondered...") के साथ clarify करता है।
- Sentence A Sentence B को follow करेगा क्योंकि यह Swarajit के background context को introduce करता है कि वह हमेशा से एक nature lover रहे हैं और उस समय भी lake clean-ups में involved थे।
- Sentence D Sentence A के बाद आएगा क्योंकि यह Sentence A में बताए गए lake clean-up interest से सीधे connect होता है, जहाँ वे पानी के स्रोतों के प्रदूषण को लेकर चिंता व्यक्त करते हैं ("I wondered what the idols might do to our waterbodies once they were submerged...")।
- Sentence C Sentence D के बाद आएगा और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह समस्या के समाधान के रूप में पहला rhetorical question उठाता है ("What if the idols were made of nothing but pure earth?")। अंत में, S6 Sentence C के विचार को आगे बढ़ाते हुए दूसरे rhetorical question ("What if they came to life once they touched water?") के साथ अनुक्रम को logically complete करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B follows S1 directly because S1 establishes the moment Swarajit paused before the roadside idols, and Sentence B immediately captures his direct reaction and reflection on potential hidden dangers.
- Sentence A follows Sentence B because it contextualizes his environmental concern by detailing his background as a nature lover actively involved in local lake clean-up drives.
- Sentence D follows Sentence A because it directly stems from his conservation mindset, expressing his specific concern regarding the ecological impact of submerged idols on water bodies.
- Sentence C follows Sentence D and links directly before S6 by introducing the initial conceptual question regarding eco-friendly alternatives ("What if the idols were made of nothing but pure earth?"). Finally, S6 pairs with Sentence C to deliver the second rhetorical question exploring the idea of the idols bringing forth new life upon immersion.

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

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा क्योंकि S1 में Pola de Somiedo के जंगलों में रहने वाले Cantabrian brown bears के परिवार को introduce किया गया है। Sentence B सीधे ग्रामीणों द्वारा देखे गए उस परिवार के विशिष्ट सदस्यों (three-legged mother bear, two cubs और two adult males) का विवरण देता है।
- Sentence D Sentence B को follow करेगा क्योंकि इसमें प्रयुक्त pronoun "they" Sentence B में उल्लिखित भालू परिवार को refer करता है और 1980 के दशक के अंत की समय सीमा ("In those

days, at the end of the 1980s...") स्थापित करता है जब वे Asturias के इस हिस्से में अपनी प्रजाति के अंतिम सदस्य प्रतीत होते थे।

- Sentence A Sentence D के बाद आया क्योंकि यह संक्रमण शब्द "Meanwhile" के साथ स्थानीय क्षेत्र से पूरे Cantabrian mountain range के व्यापक परिदृश्य की ओर बढ़ता है, जहाँ कुल जनसंख्या घटकर लगभग 60 भालू रह गई थी।
- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आया और S6 से ठीक पहले जुड़ेगा। यह ऐतिहासिक गिरावट से वर्तमान सुधार की ओर बदलाव दिखाता है ("They have since clawed their way back...") और nature guide Luis Frechilla को introduce करता है, जिनका मानना है कि संख्या अब 500 से ऊपर हो सकती है। अंत में, S6 में प्रयुक्त pronoun "he" सीधे Sentence C के Luis Frechilla को refer करते हुए उनके direct quote के साथ अनुक्रम को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B follows S1 directly because S1 establishes the setting and the presence of a Cantabrian brown bear family, while Sentence B immediately details the specific members sighted by the villagers (the injured mother, two cubs, and two adult males).
- Sentence D follows Sentence B because the pronoun "they" refers to the specific family identified in Sentence B, anchoring the historical timeframe to the late 1980s when they appeared to be the last surviving bears in that part of Asturias.
- Sentence A follows Sentence D because the transitional adverb "Meanwhile" broadens the geographic scope from the local woods to the wider Cantabrian mountain range, noting the alarming decline of the total population to roughly 60 bears.
- Sentence C follows Sentence A and links directly before S6 because it introduces the modern population recovery ("clawed their way back from the edge of extinction") and presents the source, nature guide Luis Frechilla. Finally, S6 uses the third-person pronoun "he" to directly quote Frechilla regarding their continued endangered classification, logically concluding the passage.

8. A) **Hurry up, boys!** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि वाक्य एक आदेश या उत्साहवर्धक कथन (imperative/exclamatory sentence) है, जिसमें 'boys' के पहले comma ( , ) लगाकर संबोधन (address) को स्पष्ट किया जाता है और अंत में '!' लगाकर आदेश की भावना (emotion) को प्रकट किया जाता है।

- 'Hurry up, boys!' should be used because the sentence is an imperative/exclamatory command, where the speaker (the coach) is addressing someone directly. The comma separates the addressed noun 'boys', and the exclamation mark emphasizes urgency or command. Hence, option A is the most appropriate choice.

9. C) **Comma ( , )** का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि "Sohini" एक non-restrictive appositive (अर्थात ऐसा शब्द या वाक्यांश जो अतिरिक्त जानकारी देता है, लेकिन उसके बिना वाक्य का अर्थ भी पूरा रहता है) है। इसलिए "Ram's sister, Sohini, met us the other day" सही वाक्य होगा। यदि हम comma नहीं लगाते, तो यह लगेगा कि "Sohini" नाम की केवल एक ही बहन है, जबकि comma लगाने से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि "Sohini" अतिरिक्त जानकारी है।

- Comma ( , ) should be used because "Sohini" is a non-restrictive appositive, meaning it gives extra information about "Ram's sister." The correct sentence is: "Ram's sister, Sohini, met us the other day." Without commas, it would imply that Ram has only one sister named Sohini, but with commas, it simply adds extra detail about who the sister is.

10. D) The correct spelling of 'Antidiluvain' is '**Antediluvian**', which means "extremely old-fashioned or outdated; belonging to the time before the biblical flood" — अत्यंत पुराना, प्राचीन।
11. A) **Xenophobia** (noun) – Dislike or hatred towards foreigners or strangers विदेशियों के प्रति घृणा
- **Chauvinism** (noun) – Exaggerated or aggressive patriotism अंधराष्ट्रभक्ति / अत्यधिक देशभक्ति
  - **Misanthropy** (noun) – Dislike or hatred of humankind मानवद्वेष
  - **Testimony** (noun) – A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law गवाही / साक्ष्य
12. B) **Scurry** (verb) – To move hurriedly with short quick steps जल्दी-जल्दी छोटे कदमों से चलना
- **Crawl** (verb) – To move on hands and knees or with the body close to the ground रेंगना
  - **Loiter** (verb) – To stand or wait around without apparent purpose बिना उद्देश्य के इधर-उधर घूमना
  - **Squid** (noun) – A sea animal with a soft body and ten arms एक समुद्री जीव (स्किड)
13. C) embarrass is the correct spelling of the word. The correct spelling of 'embaras' is 'embarrass', which means "to make (someone) feel awkward, self-conscious, or ashamed." शर्मिंदा करना, लज्जित करना
14. B) **Dismal** (adjective) – Gloomy, depressing, dreary, miserable, sorrowful उदास / निराशाजनक  
Synonym: **Bleak** (adjective) – Cold, hopeless, cheerless, desolate, depressing. उदास / निराशाजनक
- **Livid** (adjective) – Furiously angry, enraged, infuriated. क्रोधित
  - **Cordial** (adjective) – Warm, friendly, affectionate, genial. सौहार्दपूर्ण
  - **Bright** (adjective) – Shining, intelligent, happy, lively. उज्ज्वल / प्रसन्न
15. B) **Allow** (verb) – Permit, let, authorize, consent, approve. अनुमति देना / इजाजत देना  
Antonym: **Prohibit** (verb) – Forbid, ban, bar, prevent, restrict. रोक लगाना / निषेध करना
- **Approach** (verb) – Come near or deal with. निकट आना / पास जाना
  - **Allocate** (verb) – Distribute or assign resources. वितरित करना / बाँटना
  - **Admit** (verb) – Confess or accept truth. स्वीकार करना / मान लेना
16. A) Bear burden of (phrase) – to carry, support, or endure a heavy and difficult physical, emotional, or moral weight. (का बोझ उठाना)
17. C) **Aberration** (noun) – A departure from what is normal or expected; a deviation from a standard or type; something atypical or abnormal. सामान्य से विचलन, असंगति Antonym: Norm (noun) – Something that is usual, typical, or standard; the regular or expected state; the opposite of aberration. मानक, सामान्य स्थिति
- **Deviation** (noun) – The action of departing from an established course; a synonym of aberration, not an antonym. विचलन, भटकाव
  - **Anomaly** (noun) – Something that deviates from what is standard or expected; a synonym of aberration, not an antonym. विसंगति, असामान्यता
  - **Irregularity** (noun) – The state or quality of being irregular; a synonym of aberration, not an antonym. अनियमितता, विषमता
18. D) **INEFFABLE** (adjective) – too great or extreme to be expressed in words; beyond description.  
Hindi: व्यक्त करने में असमर्थ।  
Synonym: **Indescribable** (adjective) – too unusual or extreme to be described in words. Hindi: अवर्णनीय



- **Expressible** (adjective) – able to be expressed in words; opposite of Ineffable. Hindi: व्यक्त करने योग्य
- **Describable** (adjective) – capable of being described; opposite of Ineffable. Hindi: वर्णनीय
- **Ordinary** (adjective) – with no special qualities; unremarkable; opposite of Ineffable. Hindi: साधारण

19. B) **The beach is being cleaned by the volunteers after the festival.**

Active से Passive Voice में बदलने के लिए, Active वाक्य का Object Passive वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है। Verb को Active से Passive में बदलते समय सही Tense का प्रयोग किया जाता है। यहाँ "The volunteers" Subject है, "are cleaning" (Present Continuous) Verb है और "the beach" Object है। Passive में बदलने पर Object "The beach" Subject बन जाता है, Verb को "is being cleaned" (Present Continuous Passive) में बदला जाता है और "by the volunteers" जोड़ा जाता है। इसलिए सही वाक्य है — "The beach is being cleaned by the volunteers after the festival."

- To change a sentence from Active to Passive Voice, the object of the active sentence becomes the subject of the passive sentence. The verb is changed into the passive form with the correct tense. In this case, "The volunteers" (Subject), "are cleaning" (Verb in Present Continuous), and "the beach" (Object) are transformed into "The beach" (Subject), "is being cleaned" (Passive Verb in Present Continuous), and "by the volunteers". Hence, the correct answer is — "The beach is being cleaned by the volunteers after the festival." (Option 2)

20. C) The sentence wrongly uses the phrase "due to" directly after a form of the "be" verb ("was") to modify the entire predicate action. Grammatically, "due to" functions as an adjective phrase and should modify a specific noun, whereas an action or state introduced by a "be" verb requires the adverbial phrase "because of" or a predicate noun structure. Therefore, "due to" must be replaced with "because of" or "caused by."

- यह sentence "be" verb ("was") के ठीक बाद गलत तरीके से "due to" phrase का उपयोग करता है। Grammatically, "due to" एक adjective phrase की तरह काम करता है, जबकि क्रिया या पूरे वाक्य की स्थिति को बताने के लिए "because of" या "caused by" का उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। इसलिए, "due to" को बदलकर "because of" किया जाना चाहिए।

21. A) **flavour**

Blank (1) needs a noun for the taste of raw onion, since the writer is explaining why she disliked eating them. a) flavour: is a noun meaning the taste of a food as experienced in the mouth, matching a dislike formed by biting into onions, and sitting naturally with "strong." b) fragrance: is a noun meaning a pleasant scent, violating the requirement since its positive sense clashes with the aversion described, and it names a smell rather than a taste. c) flare: is a noun meaning a sudden burst of flame or a signal light, violating the requirement since it belongs to fire and lighting, with no connection to how food tastes. d) flair: is a noun meaning a natural talent, or stylishness in doing something, violating the requirement since it describes a person's ability or style, not a quality of an onion.

Hindi:

- Blank (1) में ऐसा noun चाहिए जो कच्चे प्याज़ के स्वाद को बताए, क्योंकि लेखिका बता रही हैं कि उन्हें यह क्यों पसंद नहीं था। a) flavour: इसका meaning है खाने का वो स्वाद जो मुँह में महसूस होता है, जो प्याज़ चबाने से बनी नापसंदगी से match करता है, और "strong" के साथ सहज बैठता है। b) fragrance: इसका meaning है भीनी, अच्छी खुशबू, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका सकारात्मक

भाव यहाँ की नफरत से टकराता है, और यह गंध बताता है, स्वाद नहीं। c) flare: इसका meaning है आग की अचानक लपट या signal वाली रोशनी, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह आग और रोशनी से जुड़ा है, खाने के स्वाद से इसका कोई नाता नहीं। d) flair: इसका meaning है किसी का नैसर्गिक हुनर या काम करने का खास अंदाज़, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह इंसान की काबिलियत बताता है, प्याज़ की कोई खूबी नहीं।

## 22. B) sting

Blank (2) needs a base-form verb after "made my eyes," for the sharp burning onions cause. a) throb: is a base-form verb meaning pulsing with dull, repeated pain, violating the requirement since it describes a deep beating ache, as in a headache, not the immediate burn of onion fumes. b) sting: is a base-form verb meaning producing a sharp, smarting pain, matching the well-known effect of cutting or biting into raw onion. c) smart: is a base-form verb meaning feeling a sharp superficial pain, close in sense, but violating the requirement since it is chiefly used of a wound or a slap and rarely of eyes reacting to onion. d) stinging: is a present participle, violating the requirement since "made" takes a bare infinitive after its object, giving "made my eyes sting."

Hindi:

- Blank (2) में "made my eyes" के बाद ऐसा base-form verb चाहिए जो प्याज़ से होने वाली तीखी जलन को बताए। a) throb: इसका meaning है रह-रहकर टीस उठना, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह सिरदर्द जैसी गहरी, धड़कती पीड़ा बताता है, प्याज़ से होने वाली तुरंत जलन नहीं। b) sting: इसका meaning है तीखी, चुभती जलन होना, जो कच्चे प्याज़ के जाने-पहचाने असर से match करता है। c) smart: इसका meaning है ऊपरी तीखी चुभन महसूस होना, meaning close है, पर violate करता है क्योंकि यह ज्यादातर घाव या थप्पड़ के लिए चलता है, प्याज़ से आँखों की जलन के लिए नहीं। d) stinging: यह present participle है, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "made" के object के बाद bare infinitive आता है, यानी "made my eyes sting"।

## 23. C) into

Blank (3) needs a preposition after "bit," for teeth sinking inside the onion. a) through: is a preposition meaning passing from one side of something to the other, violating the requirement since it means severing the onion completely, whereas the writer is describing the moment of biting down on it. b) with: is a preposition meaning accompanying or by means of, violating the requirement since "bit with" would name the tool one bites with, as in "bit with her front teeth," not the thing being bitten. c) into: is a preposition meaning penetrating to the inside of something, matching the fixed pairing "bite into," used for teeth sinking in and releasing the taste. d) no preposition required: violating the requirement since "bit them" would shift the meaning to attacking or nipping the onions, losing the sense of sinking teeth in and tasting them, which "bite into" carries.

Hindi:

- Blank (3) में "bit" के बाद ऐसा preposition चाहिए जो दाँतों के प्याज़ के अंदर धँसने को बताए। a) through: इसका meaning है एक तरफ से दूसरी तरफ आर-पार, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसमें प्याज़ को पूरा काट देना होता है, जबकि यहाँ दाँत गड़ाने के पल की बात है। b) with: इसका meaning है किसी के साथ या किसी के ज़रिए, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "bit with" यह बताता है कि किससे काटा, जैसे "bit with her front teeth", यह नहीं कि क्या काटा। c) into: इसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के अंदर घुसना, जो "bite into" वाले जमे-जमाए जोड़े से match करता है। d) no preposition



required: यह violate करता है क्योंकि "bit them" से meaning बदलकर प्याज़ पर हमला करने या काट खाने जैसा हो जाएगा, और दाँत गड़ाकर स्वाद लेने वाला भाव खो जाएगा जो "bite into" देता है।

#### 24. A) Soon

Blank (4) needs a word that opens the sentence and marks the passage of a little time before the change took hold. a) Soon: is an adverb meaning in a short time from then, matching a shift that follows the trying phase without taking long. b) thus: is a conjunctive adverb meaning in this way or as a result, violating the requirement since it draws a logical conclusion, while the sentence marks a point in time, and it is written in lower case to boot. c) hence: is a conjunctive adverb meaning for that reason, violating the requirement since it too signals cause and effect rather than the passing of time. d) after: is a preposition or conjunction meaning later than something, violating the requirement since it must be followed by a noun or clause telling us after what, and cannot stand alone before a comma.

Hindi:

- Blank (4) में ऐसा शब्द चाहिए जो sentence शुरू करे और बताए कि बदलाव आने में थोड़ा वक्त लगा। a) Soon: यह adverb है जिसका meaning है थोड़े ही समय बाद, जो उस बदलाव से match करता है जो चखने के दौर के बाद बिना ज़्यादा देर के आ जाता है। b) thus: यह conjunctive adverb है जिसका meaning है इस तरह या इसके नतीजे में, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह तार्किक नतीजा बताता है, जबकि sentence समय की बात कर रहा है, और यह छोटे अक्षर में भी लिखा है। c) hence: इसका meaning है इस वजह से, जो violate करता है क्योंकि यह भी कारण और नतीजा दिखाता है, समय बीतना नहीं। d) after: यह preposition या conjunction है जिसका meaning है किसी चीज़ के बाद, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसके बाद यह बताना पड़ता है कि किसके बाद, यह अकेला comma से पहले खड़ा नहीं हो सकता।

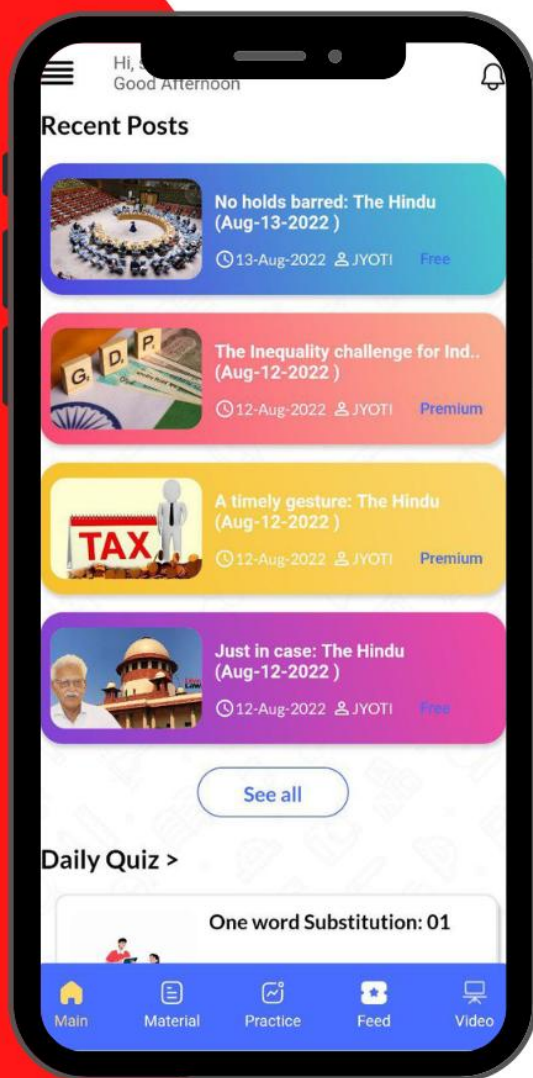
#### 25. C) constituents

Blank (5) needs a plural noun for the component parts that together compose a self, since the question is about identity being made up of many pieces. a) ingredients: is a noun meaning the items combined to make a dish or mixture, violating the requirement since its kitchen sense would be an odd literal echo of the onion story rather than a term for parts of a self. b) attributes: is a noun meaning qualities or characteristics belonging to someone, violating the requirement since attributes are traits a person has, not the building blocks that constitute the person. c) constituents: is a noun meaning the component parts that together make up a whole, matching "that make up who we are" and the philosophical question of what a self is composed of. d) fragmented: is an adjective meaning broken into disconnected pieces, violating the requirement since "the combination of fragmented" leaves the phrase without a noun, and its sense of breakage clashes with a self described as a working combination.

Hindi:

- Blank (5) में ऐसा plural noun चाहिए जो उन हिस्सों को बताए जो मिलकर एक व्यक्तित्व बनाते हैं, क्योंकि सवाल यही है कि पहचान कई टुकड़ों से बनती है। a) ingredients: इसका meaning है किसी व्यंजन या मिश्रण में डाली जाने वाली चीज़ें, जो violate करता है क्योंकि इसका रसोई वाला भाव प्याज़ की कहानी की अटपटी नकल बन जाएगा, व्यक्तित्व के हिस्सों का नाम नहीं। b) attributes: इसका meaning है किसी के गुण या खासियतें, जो violate करता है क्योंकि गुण वो हैं जो किसी के पास होते हैं, वो बुनियादी हिस्से नहीं जिनसे वो इंसान बनता है। c) constituents: इसका meaning है वो हिस्से जो मिलकर एक पूरी चीज़ बनाते हैं, जो "that make up who we are" से match करता है। d)

fragmented: यह adjective है जिसका meaning है टुकड़ों में बिखरा हुआ, जो violate करता है क्योंकि "the combination of fragmented" में noun रह ही नहीं जाता, और इसका टूटन वाला भाव उस व्यक्तित्व से टकराता है जिसे हिस्सों का चलता हुआ मेल बताया गया है।



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

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