

Put your phone away and tuck in

In his book of **manners**, Urbanus Magnus, the 13th-century English courtier Daniel of Beccles wrote: “One can have a meal without a table, but not without a tablecloth.” In the 21st century, one might say that it is not possible to have a meal without a smartphone — or so it would **seem** by the number of diners who seem **loath** to **look up** from their screens.

In the early years of the smartphone, several restaurants tried to **ban** the device, **in order to discourage** customers from taking photos of their food and **disrupting** the experience for others. They **gave up** partly because it was becoming a losing battle, and partly because social media-enabled discovery changed the **stakes** for them. In Sardinia, however, a group of restaurants has **plunged** once more unto the breach, **barring** families from using smartphones at the table in an attempt to get them to talk to each other and connect. **What** sets this initiative apart from other similar attempts is that the Sardinian **eateries** are not simply asking people to put away their phones — they’re offering alternatives like games and drawing kits that **encourage** interactions.



Could this strategy work where all previous **attempts** — such as asking diners to **surrender** their phones before entering the **premises** — **have** failed? **Commensality** has been an important way in which humans have built relationships. And while one initiative in Sardinia isn’t going to solve the growing global crisis of **loneliness**, **perhaps** it can show the way, one hot meal at a time. **[Practice Exercise]**

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

Vocabulary

1. **Tuck in** (phrasal verb) - to start eating heartily मजे से खाना
2. **Manner** (noun) - etiquette, behavior, conduct, decorum, protocol शिष्टाचार
3. **Seem** (verb) - appear, look, sound, feel, resemble प्रतीत होना
4. **Loath** (adjective) - reluctant, unwilling, hesitant, averse, disinclined अनिच्छुक
5. **Look up** (phrasal verb) - to raise one's eyes or gaze ऊपर देखना
6. **Ban** (verb) - prohibit, forbid, outlaw, bar, restrict प्रतिबंध लगाना
7. **In order to** (phrase) - with the purpose or intention of doing something के उद्देश्य से
8. **Discourage** (verb) - deter, dissuade, dishearten, prevent, demoralize हतोत्साहित करना
9. **Disrupt** (verb) - disturb, interrupt, obstruct, unsettle, hinder बाधित करना
10. **Give up** (phrasal verb) - to stop trying or to admit defeat हार मानना
11. **Stake** (noun) - risk, wager, consequence, interest, investment दांव
12. **Plunge** (verb) - dive, leap, jump, thrust, descend कूद पड़ना
13. **Bar** (verb) - ban, prohibit, forbid, block, prevent रोकना
14. **What** (pronoun) - the thing or things that जो
15. **Eatery** (noun) - restaurant, cafe, diner, bistro, cafeteria भोजनालय
16. **Encourage** (verb) - motivate, inspire, stimulate, support, promote प्रोत्साहित करना
17. **Surrender** (verb) - yield, relinquish, forfeit, concede, submit सौंप देना
18. **Premises** (noun) - property, site, grounds, building, facility परिसर
19. **Commensality** (noun) - fellowship, companionship, togetherness, sociability, conviviality साथ मिलकर भोजन करना
20. **Loneliness** (noun) - isolation, solitude, desolation, seclusion, emptiness अकेलापन
21. **Perhaps** (adverb) - maybe, possibly, conceivably, presumably, probably शायद

Summary of the Editorial

1. **Historical vs. Modern Dining:** In the 13th century, courtier Daniel of Beccles noted that a meal required a tablecloth, whereas 21st-century diners often act as though a meal cannot occur without a smartphone.
2. **Early Restaurant Bans Failed:** Initial attempts by restaurants to ban smartphones—aimed at preventing food photography and disruption—failed due to the devices' ubiquity and the promotional value of social media.
3. **Sardinia's New Initiative:** A group of restaurants in Sardinia is reviving smartphone bans for families during meals to foster face-to-face interaction and real-world connection.
4. **Interactive Alternatives Provided:** Unlike past rigid bans, the Sardinian eateries provide games and drawing kits to actively encourage conversation and engagement at the table.
5. **Role of Commensality:** The article notes that eating together (commensality) has historically served as a vital human mechanism for building relationships.
6. **Addressing Loneliness:** While a localized initiative in Sardinia cannot single-handedly solve global loneliness, it offers a practical model for restoring meaningful human connection during shared meals.

Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based

1. **What does the passage suggest about the concept of "commensality"?** [Editorial Page]
 - A. Aristocratic banquet etiquette required participants to value tablecloths above verbal interactions with fellow diners.
 - B. Contemporary hospitality establishments depend on online platform discovery to foster deep interpersonal relationships among patrons.
 - C. Gathering to share a meal has served as a fundamental vehicle for cultivating human relationships.
 - D. Medieval court dining traditions addressed public isolation by providing drawing kits during communal evening feasts.
2. **According to the passage, what distinguished earlier smartphone bans from the Sardinian restaurant initiative?**
 - A. Earlier policies relied on device surrender, whereas Sardinian eateries supply interactive activities to foster engagement.
 - B. Earlier policies targeted family gatherings, whereas Sardinian eateries apply mobile device restrictions to individual diners.
 - C. Earlier policies encouraged food photography, whereas Sardinian eateries restrict promotional social media sharing by customers.
 - D. Earlier policies supplied communal drawing kits, whereas Sardinian eateries require visitors to deposit phones outside.
3. **What does the phrase "plunged once more unto the breach" in the passage most nearly convey?**
 - A. Closed unprofitable dining establishments following disputes regarding mobile device bans
 - B. Resumed a difficult initiative despite earlier collective commercial failures
 - C. Imposed legal penalties on patrons who photograph food during meals
 - D. Replaced contemporary restaurant dining furniture with thirteenth-century medieval decorative styles
4. **Choose the word which is MOST OPPOSITE in meaning to the word printed in bold as used in the passage:**

"...by the number of diners who seem **LOATH** to look up from their screens."

LOATH

 - A. Disposed
 - B. Compliant
 - C. Obligated
 - D. Resigned
5. **Identify the correct passive voice form of the sentence taken from the passage:**

"The Sardinian eateries are not simply asking people to put away their phones — they are offering alternatives like games and drawing kits."

 - A. People have not simply been asked by the Sardinian eateries to put away their phones — alternatives like games and drawing kits are being offered by them.
 - B. People are not simply being asked by the Sardinian eateries to put away their phones — alternatives like games and drawing kits are being offered by them.

- C. People are not simply being asked by the Sardinian eateries to put away their phones — alternatives like games and drawing kits were being offered by them.
- D. People were not simply being asked by the Sardinian eateries to put away their phones — alternatives like games and drawing kits are being offered by them.
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. Indian Tourism Development Corporation, world's second biggest public sector undertaking of its kind running a chain of hotels, motels, travellers lodges, beach resorts and forest lodges in the country is planning to set up initially about half a dozen 'Indian restaurants' at 'strategic' places in the world.
- A. Some of them are likely to be located in the oil-rich Gulf countries.
- B. The location of these Indian restaurants abroad has not yet been finalised but they will be set up at some of the important world capitals.
- C. The managers of these restaurants will be specially trained in marketing Indian tourism abroad.
- D. According to Lt. Gen J.T. Sataravalla, Chairman and Managing Director of ITDC, now that the Corporation has already built up the necessary hotel infrastructure at important tourist centres within the country, it wants to popularise the famous Indian dishes to the foreigners at these restaurants abroad and also attract them to visit India.
- S6. The ITDC, which expects to earn Rs 7 crores of foreign exchange during 1975-76, has already entered the field in giving technical assistance abroad in running hotel industry.
- A. D-B-A-C
- B. B-A-D-C
- C. D-C-B-A
- D. B-D-A-C
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. Few cricketers, in fact few athletes, take a public stand on contemporary issues.
- A. So when a player does take a stand, it is both unusual and admirable.
- B. The usual excuse is the old chestnut: politics and sport should not mix.
- C. Nearly three years ago, Australia's opening batter Usman Khawaja wore a black armband during a home Test in support of the people of Gaza.
- D. But whether they should or not, they do and any justification for inaction is a cop out.
- S6. He had batted in the nets earlier with the writing "freedom is a human right" and "all lives are equal" on his shoes.
- A. B-D-A-C
- B. C-A-B-D
- C. B-A-D-C
- D. C-B-D-A
8. **Select the synonym of Exquisite.**
- A. Crude
- B. Harsh

- C. Delicate
D. Ordinary
9. **Pick the synonym of 'Frivolous'.**
A. Powerful
B. Essential
C. Significant
D. Trivial
10. **Choose the alternative which gives the correct meaning of the given idiom or phrase.**
Hold a candle to
A. To be a very religious person
B. To provide light in a dark room
C. To be as good as someone else
D. To waste time doing nothing
11. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM to replace the italicised word.**
His *extravagant* pretensions only served to excite ridicule.
A. lavish
B. costly
C. fanciful
D. economical
12. **Select the most appropriate ANTONYM of the given word.**
Fame
A. Disgrace
B. Laurels
C. Glory
D. Distinction
13. **Choose the correct one-word substitution for the words in italics:**
The professor specialized in *the study of ancient societies*.
A. Anthropology
B. Sociology
C. Archaeology
D. Paleontology
14. **Select the correctly spelt word.**
A. Breth
B. Breathe
C. Brilliant
D. Bruize
15. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in active voice.**
By whom was Hindi taught to you ?
A. By whom were you taught Hindi ?
B. Who teaches you Hindi ?
C. Who taught you Hindi ?
D. Who were you taught Hindi by ?
16. **Select the option that expresses the given sentence in Direct to Indirect Speech.**
He said, "I don't like spicy food."

- A. He said that he hadn't liked spicy food.
- B. He said that he likes spicy food.
- C. He said that he didn't like spicy food.
- D. He said that he doesn't like spicy food.

17. **Fill in the blank with appropriate prepositions.**

The soldier was suspected _____ being a spy and was put behind bars.

- A. of
- B. by
- C. up
- D. after

18. **Select the most appropriate option to fill in the blank.**

The company's success is attributed to its _____ business strategies.

- A. mundane
- B. downtrodden
- C. innovative
- D. worst

19. **Select the most appropriate option to improve the bold part of the sentence.**

He came here **with a view to meet** his old friend.

- A. to meet with
- B. for meeting
- C. in view to meet
- D. with a view to meeting

20. **The given sentence is divided into three segments. Select the option that has the segment with a grammatical error. If there is no error, select 'no error' as your answer.**

Soumya will be speak / on 'Stress management' in / London the next week.

- A. No error
- B. London the next week
- C. Soumya will be speak
- D. on 'Stress Management' in

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

I've written a fair amount about my boarding school years in Nigeria in the 90s, but never about the rats that accompanied my school experience. Picture it: thousands of girls from across the country, each bearing a suitcase or two of a term's worth of "provisions" – cornflakes, sugar cubes, powdered milk, hot chocolate powder, and so on. All it took was one or two careless girls giving the rats a taste of the exotic and they became among the most well-fed rats in the country, enjoying a steady stream of delicious teenage-girl snacks.

I will never forget the sight of rats – six or seven deep – congregating _____ A _____ dusk on the scraggly lawn next to my dormitory, like an illegal gathering of political dissidents. They were large (what with their rich diet), thick tails twitching, noses pushed together, damn near whispering. At first, they would scatter when humans approached. Then we had to clap and stomp to get them to shift. Like the _____ B _____ (proletariat), the rats began to understand their power, and stand their ground. They were no longer pests but now a sort of _____ C _____ (predator). If this sounds like the beginning of a highbrow horror, that's how it felt.

Stories circulated – rats that seemed irritated and bemused when you shouted at them; rats that strolled rather than scurried. The most fantastical stories came from people who alleged they'd woken up to a rat nibbling on their toes, and that the rats were dastardly enough to blow cool air, between bites, to soothe their victims back to _____ D _____ (slumber). I have a specific memory of being actively chased by the two large rats I'd disturbed when I went to fetch a bucket of water one night. I remember telling that story, still breathless, to wide-eyed roommates. A friend in another house came back to her dorm one evening to find a mother rat and her newborn pups – pink and devoid _____ E _____ fur – under her pillow.

21. **Fill in blank (A) with the correct preposition to complete the phrase.**

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

22. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (B): (proletariat).**

- A. bourgeoisie
- B. aristocracy
- C. intelligentsia
- D. plebeians

23. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (C): (predator).**

- A. prey
- B. marauder
- C. herbivore
- D. quarry

24. **Choose the most appropriate synonym for the word in (D): (slumber).**

- A. consciousness
- B. agitation
- C. repose
- D. insomnia

25. **Fill in blank (E) with the correct preposition to complete the phrase.**

- A. from
- B. with
- C. of
- D. in

Answers

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

[Practice Exercise]**Explanations**

1. C) **Gathering to share a meal has served as a fundamental vehicle for cultivating human relationships.**

passage: “Commensality has been an important way in which humans have built relationships. And while one initiative in Sardinia isn’t going to solve the growing global crisis of loneliness, perhaps it can show the way, one hot meal at a time.”---“Commensality” means eating together with other people. The passage says it has been an important way for humans to build relationships. The Sardinian restaurants want families to talk and connect at the table, which fits this idea. Option C says the same thing, so it is correct.

- Option A: Incorrect. The option says noble banquet manners made people value tablecloths above talking to fellow diners, but the passage only quotes Daniel of Beccles saying a meal needs a tablecloth, and it never says tablecloths mattered more than conversation, hence incorrect.
- Option B: Incorrect. The option says restaurants rely on online discovery to build deep relationships among patrons, but the passage says social media discovery only changed the stakes for restaurants, which is about getting customers, and not about building relationships between diners, hence incorrect.
- Option D: Incorrect. The option says medieval court dining gave out drawing kits to tackle isolation, but the passage says it is the Sardinian eateries today that offer games and drawing kits, and it never mentions medieval courts doing this, hence incorrect.

2. A) **Earlier policies relied on device surrender, whereas Sardinian eateries supply interactive activities to foster engagement.**

The option says earlier bans depended on making customers give up their phones, while the Sardinian restaurants offer activities that get people interacting. The passage says the Sardinian eateries “are not simply asking people to put away their phones” and are offering alternatives like games and drawing kits that encourage interactions. It also says earlier attempts included asking diners to surrender their phones before entering the premises. The option matches this difference, hence correct.

- Option B: Incorrect The option says earlier bans targeted family gatherings, while Sardinian restaurants restrict individual diners. The passage says the opposite: the Sardinian restaurants bar families from using smartphones at the table. Earlier bans were aimed at customers photographing food and disturbing others, not at families, hence incorrect.
- Option C: Incorrect The option says earlier policies encouraged food photography, while Sardinian restaurants limit promotional social media sharing. The passage says earlier restaurants tried to ban phones to discourage food photos. They did not encourage them. The Sardinian initiative is about getting families to talk, not about limiting promotion, hence incorrect.

- Option D: Incorrect The option says earlier policies supplied drawing kits, while Sardinian restaurants make visitors leave phones outside. This reverses the passage. Drawing kits and games are what the Sardinian eateries offer, and asking diners to surrender phones before entering was an earlier approach, hence incorrect.
3. B) **Resumed a difficult initiative despite earlier collective commercial failures.**
- “Plunged once more unto the breach” means to throw oneself again into a hard, risky task. The option says the restaurants restarted a difficult effort despite earlier failures. The passage says early restaurants tried to ban phones but gave up, because it was becoming a losing battle and social media changed the stakes for them. The words “once more” show the Sardinian restaurants are trying the same kind of ban again, and the author asks whether it can work where all previous attempts failed. The option matches this meaning, hence correct.
- Option A: Incorrect The option says restaurants shut down unprofitable outlets after disputes over phone bans. The passage says the Sardinian restaurants are barring families from using smartphones at the table, which means they are carrying on and trying something. It never mentions any restaurant closing, hence incorrect.
 - Option C: Incorrect The option says restaurants imposed legal penalties on patrons who photograph food. The passage says earlier restaurants wanted to discourage food photos, but it mentions no legal penalties. The Sardinian ban is meant to get families to talk to each other, and it uses games and drawing kits, not punishment, hence incorrect.
 - Option D: Incorrect The option says restaurants replaced modern furniture with thirteenth-century styles. The passage mentions the 13th century only through the quotation from Daniel of Beccles about tablecloths. It says nothing about restaurant decor, and “breach” in the phrase is a figure of speech, not a literal change of furnishings, hence incorrect.
4. A) **Disposed**
- In the passage, loath means unwilling, reluctant, or disinclined (i.e., diners are highly reluctant to look up from their phone screens).
- Disposed means having a specified inclination, tendency, or willingness to do something. Therefore, it serves as the exact antonym to “loath” in this context.
- Compliant: “compliant” means obeying a rule or request. It is about following instructions, not about being eager or willing from within.
- Obliged: The word “obliged” means forced or required to do something by duty. A person who is obliged may still be unwilling
- Resigned: Accepting something unpleasant that one cannot easily change.
5. B) **People are not simply being asked by the Sardinian eateries to put away their phones — alternatives like games and drawing kits are being offered by them.**
- The original sentence in the given question has two clauses, both in the present continuous tense (“are asking” and “are offering”). The passive of the present continuous is “is/are being + past participle”, so both clauses must become “are being asked” and “are being offered”.
- Part 1: “The Sardinian eateries (S) are not simply asking (V) people (O)...” becomes “People (O) are not simply being asked (V) by the Sardinian eateries (S)...”
 - Part 2: “...they (S) are offering (V) alternatives (O)...” becomes “...alternatives (O) are being offered (V) by them (S).”

- Option B correctly maintains the Present Continuous tense in the passive form for both parts of the sentence.
- Option A is wrong because it uses the Present Perfect passive ("have not simply been asked") in the first clause. The original sentence is in the Present Continuous tense ("are not asking"), which must be maintained as "are being asked."
- Option C is wrong because it uses the Past Continuous passive ("were being offered") in the second clause. The original sentence uses the Present Continuous ("are offering"), so the passive must remain in the present ("are being offered").
- Option D is wrong because it uses the Past Continuous passive ("were not simply being asked") in the first clause. A change in voice should never change the timeframe (tense) of the action; since the original action is happening in the present, "were" is grammatically incorrect here.

6. A) D-B-A-C

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence D S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-D का सीधा संबंध बनाएगा। S1 में ITDC द्वारा दुनिया के रणनीतिक स्थानों पर 'भारतीय रेस्तरां' स्थापित करने की योजना का उल्लेख है; Sentence D इस योजना के पीछे के उद्देश्य और नेतृत्व (ITDC के अध्यक्ष एवं प्रबंध निदेशक लेफ्टिनेंट जनरल जे.टी. सतारवाला) का आधिकारिक बयान सामने लाता है कि घरेलू स्तर पर बुनियादी ढांचा तैयार करने के बाद इसका उद्देश्य विदेशों में भारतीय व्यंजनों को लोकप्रिय बनाना और पर्यटकों को आकर्षित करना है।
- Sentence B Sentence D को फॉलो करेगा। D में विदेशों में रेस्तरां खोलने के विचार के बाद B उनके स्थान (location) के चयन की स्थिति स्पष्ट करता है—"The location of these Indian restaurants abroad has not yet been finalised but they will be set up at some of the important world capitals."
- Sentence A Sentence B के ठीक बाद आएगा और B-A का mandatory pair बनाएगा। B में विश्व की राजधानियों का जिक्र होने के बाद A संभावित भौगोलिक क्षेत्रों को और संकुचित करता है—"Some of them are likely to be located in the oil-rich Gulf countries." (यहाँ 'Some of them' सीधे उन रेस्तरांओं को संदर्भित करता है)।
- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आएगा। स्थानों की चर्चा के बाद C इन संस्थानों के संचालन और मानव संसाधन की बात करता है—"The managers of these restaurants will be specially trained in marketing Indian tourism abroad." इसके तुरंत बाद S6 विदेश में तकनीकी सहायता और अपेक्षित विदेशी मुद्रा आय के व्यापक वित्तीय संदर्भ को प्रस्तुत करते हुए गद्यांश को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence D directly follows S1 (S1-D), presenting the official rationale from ITDC's Chairman and Managing Director, Lt. Gen J.T. Sataravalla, explaining that having

established domestic hotel infrastructure, the corporation aims to popularize Indian cuisine abroad and drive inbound tourism.

- Sentence B follows Sentence D, moving logically from the institutional objective to the geographical planning stage—noting that while exact locations remain unfinalized, key world capitals are the primary target.
- Sentence A forms an unbroken cohesive link with Sentence B (B-A), using the pronoun phrase "Some of them" to narrow down the target locations from general capitals to specific territories in the oil-rich Gulf countries.
- Sentence C follows Sentence A, transitioning from location planning to operational execution by stating that the managers of these dining venues will receive specialized training in marketing Indian tourism overseas. Finally, S6 logically completes the passage by broadening the financial and technical scope, detailing ITDC's expected foreign exchange earnings and international advisory footprint.

7. A) B-D-A-C

Explanation:

Hindi Explanation:

- Sentence B S1 के तुरंत बाद आएगा और S1-B का सीधा संबंध बनाएगा। S1 में कहा गया है कि बहुत कम खिलाड़ी समकालीन मुद्दों पर सार्वजनिक रुख अपनाते हैं; Sentence B इसका कारण ("the usual excuse") स्पष्ट करता है कि राजनीति और खेल को आपस में नहीं मिलाया जाना चाहिए।
- Sentence D Sentence B के ठीक बाद आकर B-D का contrast pair बनाएगा। B में दिए गए बहाने पर D पलटवार करता है—"But whether they should or not, they do and any justification for inaction is a cop out."
- Sentence A Sentence D को फॉलो करेगा। तर्क की परिणति के रूप में निष्कर्ष सूचक शब्द "So" का प्रयोग करते हुए A कहता है कि जब कोई खिलाड़ी रुख अपनाता है, तो यह असामान्य और सराहनीय दोनों होता है।
- Sentence C Sentence A के बाद आएगा और सामान्य सिद्धांत से सीधे एक वास्तविक उदाहरण पर जाएगा—"Nearly three years ago, Australia's opening batter Usman Khawaja wore a black armband during a home Test in support of the people of Gaza." इसके तुरंत बाद S6 ("He had batted in the nets earlier with the writing...") सर्वनाम "He" और एडवर्ब "earlier" के माध्यम से ख्वाजा द्वारा जूते पर लिखे नारों का पूर्व-संदर्भ जोड़ते हुए गद्यांश को पूरा करता है।

English Explanation:

- Sentence B directly follows S1 (S1-B), diagnosing why so few athletes speak out by providing the conventional defense: the clichéd adage that politics and sport should remain separate.
- Sentence D establishes an immediate, direct contrast with Sentence B (B-D), using the conjunction "But" to dismiss that excuse and label neutrality as a cop-out.

- Sentence A follows Sentence D, employing the conclusive adverb "So" to synthesize the opening argument—asserting that whenever a sportsman does break the silence, the gesture is both rare and praiseworthy.
 - Sentence C follows Sentence A, grounding the theoretical premise in a concrete, contemporary instance by introducing Australia's opening batter Usman Khawaja wearing a black armband for Gaza. Finally, S6 forms an essential chronological link with Sentence C (C-S6), using the pronoun "He" and the temporal adverb "earlier" to recount his net practice with humanitarian slogans inscribed on his shoes.
8. C) **Exquisite** (adjective) – Beautiful, refined, elegant, finely made. अत्यंत सुंदर / उत्कृष्ट
 Synonym: **Delicate** (adjective) – Fine, refined, graceful, subtle. नाज़ुक / कोमल
- **Crude** (adjective) – Rough, unrefined, raw, coarse. असभ्य / अपरिष्कृत
 - **Harsh** (adjective) – Severe, rough, unpleasant, stern. कठोर
 - **Ordinary** (adjective) – Common, usual, average, normal. साधारण
9. D) **Frivolous** (adjective) – Unimportant, silly, petty, superficial, insignificant. तुच्छ / हल्का
 Synonym: **Trivial** (adjective) – Of little importance, minor, insignificant, petty. तुच्छ
- **Powerful** (adjective) – Strong, mighty, influential, forceful. शक्तिशाली
 - **Essential** (adjective) – Necessary, important, indispensable, vital. आवश्यक
 - **Significant** (adjective) – Important, meaningful, notable, considerable. महत्वपूर्ण
10. C) **Hold a candle to** (idiom) – To be as good as someone else (usually used in the negative: can't hold a candle to) किसी की बराबरी करना
11. D) **Extravagant** (adjective) – Exceeding the limits of reason or necessity, wasteful, excessive, lavish. आविश्यक रूप से अधिक
 Antonym: **Economical** (adjective) – Providing good service or value in relation to the amount of money, resources, or time spent; thrifty, frugal. मितव्ययी
- **Lavish** (adjective) – Sumptuously rich, elaborate, or luxurious. ढेर सारा
 - **Costly** (adjective) – Expensive, high-priced, valuable. महंगा
 - **Fanciful** (adjective) – Over-imaginative and unrealistic; not practical. कल्पनिक
12. A) **Fame** (noun) – Widespread reputation, especially of a positive character; renown; public eminence. प्रसिद्धि
 Antonym: **Disgrace** (noun) – Loss of reputation or respect as the result of a dishonorable action; shame. अपमान
- **Laurels** (noun) – Honor and praise given for an achievement; accolades, recognition. सम्मान
 - **Glory** (noun) – High renown or honor won by notable achievements; magnificence, splendor. महिमा

- **Distinction** (noun) – Excellence that sets someone or something apart from others; a marked difference or contrast. विशेषता

13. C) **Archaeology** (noun) – The study of ancient societies and human history through the excavation and analysis of their remains. पुरातत्व विज्ञान

- **Anthropology** (noun) – the study of human beings, their origins, development, societies and cultures. मानव विज्ञान
- **Sociology** (noun) – the study of the development, structure and functioning of present-day human society. समाजशास्त्र
- **Paleontology** (noun) – the study of fossil animals and plants from past geological periods. जीवाश्म विज्ञान

14. B) **'Breathe' is the correctly spelt word, which means "to take air into the lungs and send it out again" साँस लेना।**

- The correct spelling of 'Breth' is 'Breath' which means "the air taken into or sent out of the lungs" साँस, श्वास।
- The correct spelling of 'Briliant' is 'Brilliant' which means "very bright or exceptionally clever" चमकदार, प्रतिभाशाली।
- The correct spelling of 'Bruize' is 'Bruise' which means "an injury appearing as a discoloured area on the skin" चोट का नीला निशान, खरोंच।

15. C) **Who taught you Hindi?**

Active वाक्य में बदलने के लिए, Passive वाक्य का Agent Active वाक्य का Subject बन जाता है और Passive वाक्य का Subject Object बन जाता है। "By whom" वाले Passive प्रश्न को Active में बदलते समय "By whom" की जगह "Who" Subject के रूप में आता है। Verb को Passive से Active में बदलते समय सही Tense का use किया जाता है। Passive वाक्य में "Hindi" Subject है, "was taught" Verb (Past Simple Passive) है और "By whom" Agent है। Active में बदलने पर "Who" Subject बन गया, Verb "taught" (Past Simple Active) हो गया और "you" तथा "Hindi" Objects के रूप में use हुए।

To change a sentence from Passive to Active Voice, the agent of the passive sentence becomes the subject of the active sentence, and the subject of the passive sentence becomes the object. When a passive question beginning with "By whom" is changed into active voice, "By whom" is replaced by "Who" as the subject. The verb is transformed from the passive form to the active form, ensuring correct tense usage. In this case, "Hindi" (Subject), "was taught" (Verb in Past Simple Passive) and "By whom" (Agent) from the passive voice have been transformed into "Who" (Subject), "taught" (Verb in Past Simple Active), with "you" and "Hindi" as the Objects.

16. C) **He said that he didn't like spicy food.**

Direct से Indirect Speech में बदलते समय Pronoun, Tense और Negative form में परिवर्तन किया जाता है। दिए गए वाक्य में "I don't like spicy food" Simple Present Tense (Negative) में है, जिसे

Reporting Verb “said” (Past Tense) के कारण Indirect Speech में Simple Past (didn't like) में बदला जाता है। Pronoun “I” Reporting Subject के अनुसार “he” में बदल जाता है।

To change a sentence from Direct to Indirect Speech, the tense is backshifted when the reporting verb is in the past. Here, “don't like” (Simple Present) changes to “didn't like” (Simple Past), and the pronoun “I” changes to “he.”

17. A) ‘of’ का use होगा क्योंकि पूरे संदर्भ में, sentence यह बताने की कोशिश कर रहा है कि सैनिक पर एक निश्चित शक किया गया था। यहाँ “The soldier was suspected (_____) being a spy” में सही preposition वही है जो शक या संदेह व्यक्त करता है, और अंग्रेज़ी में “suspected of” का ही use किया जाता है। इसलिए, “of” सबसे उपयुक्त विकल्प होगा।

‘of’ should be used because in the entire context, the sentence is indicating that the soldier was under a certain suspicion. Here, in “The soldier was suspected (_____) being a spy,” the correct preposition is the one that expresses suspicion, and in English, it is “suspected of.” Thus, “of” would be the most appropriate choice.

18. C) ‘Innovative’ का use किया जाएगा क्योंकि इसका अर्थ होता है “नवीन और रचनात्मक”। वाक्य में बताया गया है कि कंपनी की सफलता उसकी व्यापार रणनीतियों के कारण है। ‘Innovative business strategies’ का अर्थ है नई और रचनात्मक नीतियां, जो किसी कंपनी की सफलता का मुख्य कारण होती हैं। ‘Innovative’ सही उत्तर है क्योंकि इसका अर्थ रचनात्मक है “नवीन और रचनात्मक”। वाक्य का संदर्भ है कि कंपनी की सफलता उसकी व्यापार रणनीतियों के कारण है। ‘Mundane’ (साधारण), ‘Downtrodden’ (दबा हुआ), और ‘Worst’ (सबसे खराब) इस संदर्भ में सही नहीं बैठते।

‘Innovative’ will be used because it means “new and creative.” The sentence attributes the company's success to its business strategies. “Innovative business strategies” suggests creative and forward-thinking strategies that contribute to success. ‘Innovative’ will be used as it means “new and creative.” The sentence talks about the company's success being due to its business strategies. ‘Mundane’ (ordinary), ‘Downtrodden’ (oppressed), and ‘Worst’ (negative) do not fit in this context.

19. D) ‘with a view to meet’ के बदले ‘with a view to meeting’ का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि ‘with a view to’ एक fixed expression है जिसके बाद gerund (V-ing) आता है, न कि infinitive; जैसे —

He came here with a view to meeting his old friend.

- ‘with a view to meeting’ should be used because ‘with a view to’ is always followed by a gerund (verb + ing). This is a fixed grammatical rule in English.
- ‘to meet with’ – Incorrect; this changes the phrase structure and meaning.
- ‘for meeting’ – Incorrect; while possible in some contexts, ‘with a view to meeting’ is the idiomatic replacement needed here.
- ‘in view to meet’ – Incorrect; not a standard English expression.

20. C) ‘will be speak’ के बदले ‘will speak’ का प्रयोग होगा, क्योंकि ‘will be’ के बाद verb की -ing form (Present Participle) आनी चाहिए, जैसे ‘will be speaking’, या फिर सीधे ‘will speak’ का प्रयोग होता है।

'will be speak' will be replaced by 'will speak', because after 'will be', the -ing form of the verb (Present Participle) should be used, such as 'will be speaking', or simply 'will speak' should be used.

21. C) at

The sentence describes the rats gathering at a specific time of day ("dusk"). Blank (A) requires the correct preposition of time for this specific period. a) on: is used for specific days or dates (e.g., "on Monday"). b) in: is used for months, years, or broader parts of the day (e.g., "in the morning"), but not for "dusk". c) at: forms the standard expression "at dusk" (meaning at the exact time when day changes to night), fitting the context perfectly. d) by: means no later than a certain time.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence चूहों के गोधूली वेला या शाम के समय ("dusk") इकट्ठा होने को describe करता है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण में दिन के विशिष्ट समय (जैसे dawn, dusk, night) को दर्शाने के लिए हमेशा preposition "at" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। a) on, b) in, और d) by: यहाँ व्याकरणिक रूप से गलत हैं। c) at: यह मानक expression "at dusk" (शाम के समय) को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है।

22. D) plebeians

The sentence compares the rats realizing their collective power to the working class ("proletariat"). The question asks for the synonym of "proletariat" (meaning the lowest social or economic class; the commoners). a) bourgeoisie: means the middle class (antonym). b) aristocracy: means the highest class or nobility (antonym). c) intelligentsia: means intellectuals or highly educated people. d) plebeians: means the common people or working-class members, serving as the direct synonym for "proletariat".

In Hindi:

- यह sentence चूहों द्वारा अपनी ताकत पहचानने की तुलना मज़दूर वर्ग या आम जनता ("proletariat") से करता है। Question में "proletariat" (मज़दूर वर्ग / आम जनता) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) bourgeoisie: इसका meaning मध्यम वर्ग (antonym) होता है। b) aristocracy: इसका meaning उच्च वर्ग या कुलीन वर्ग (antonym) होता है। c) intelligentsia: इसका meaning बुद्धिजीवी वर्ग होता है। d) plebeians: इसका meaning 'आम लोग या साधारण वर्ग' (commoners/working class) होता है, जो "proletariat" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है।

23. B) marauder

The passage notes the rats evolved from being mere pests into aggressive attackers or hunters ("predator"). The question asks for the synonym of "predator" (an animal or person that preys on others). a) prey: means an animal hunted for food (antonym). b) marauder: means someone who roams around looking to attack or plunder, serving as a strong synonym for an aggressive "predator" in this context. c) herbivore: means a plant-eating animal. d) quarry: means the animal being hunted or the target (antonym).

In Hindi:

- यह sentence चूहों के अब केवल कीड़े-मकोड़े (pests) न रहकर शिकारी या हमलावर ("predator") बन जाने को describe करता है। Question में "predator" (शिकारी / हमलावर) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) prey: इसका meaning शिकार (antonym) होता है। b) marauder: इसका meaning 'हमलावर या लूटपाट करने वाला' (attacker/raider) होता है, जो आक्रामक "predator" के अर्थ से closely match करता है। c) herbivore: इसका meaning शाकाहारी होता है। d) quarry: इसका meaning शिकार (antonym) होता है।

24. C) repose

The story mentions rats blowing cool air to soothe their victims back to sleep ("slumber"). The question asks for the synonym of "slumber" (meaning a state of sleep). a) consciousness: means being awake and aware (antonym). b) agitation: means a state of anxiety or nervous excitement. c) repose: means a state of rest, sleep, or tranquility, serving as the best high-register synonym for "slumber". d) insomnia: means the inability to sleep (antonym).

In Hindi:

- यह sentence चूहों द्वारा अपने शिकार को वापस नींद ("slumber") में सुलाने के लिए ठंडी हवा फूंकने की कहानी को describe करता है। Question में "slumber" (नींद / विश्राम) का सबसे सटीक synonym पूछा गया है। a) consciousness: इसका meaning होश या जागृत अवस्था (antonym) होता है। b) agitation: इसका meaning बेचैनी होता है। c) repose: इसका meaning 'विश्राम या नींद की अवस्था' (rest/sleep) होता है, जो "slumber" के अर्थ से perfectly match करता है। d) insomnia: इसका meaning अनिद्रा (antonym) होता है।

25. C) of

The sentence describes the newborn rat pups as lacking or being without fur (pink and devoid _____ fur). Blank (E) requires the correct preposition that follows the adjective "devoid". a) from, b) with, d) in: are incorrect prepositions for this word. c) of: forms the fixed English expression "devoid of" (meaning completely lacking or free from), which fits the context perfectly.

In Hindi:

- यह sentence चूहों के नवजात बच्चों के बालों से रहित या बिना बालों के ("devoid") होने को describe करता है। अंग्रेजी व्याकरण में 'से रहित या के बिना' का अर्थ देने के लिए "devoid" के साथ हमेशा preposition "of" का प्रयोग किया जाता है। c) of: यह मानक अभिव्यक्ति "devoid of" को पूर्ण करता है, जो context में perfectly fit होता है। a) from, b) with, और d) in: इस शब्द के साथ व्याकरणिक रूप से गलत हैं।