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ANALYSIS

READING

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VOCAB

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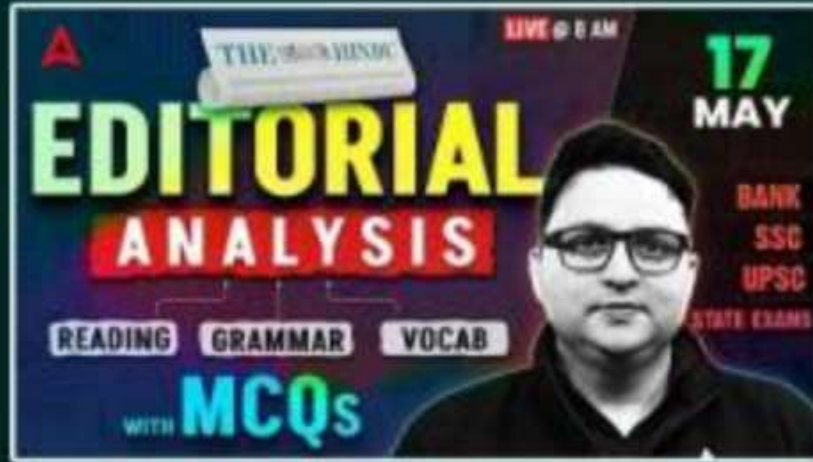
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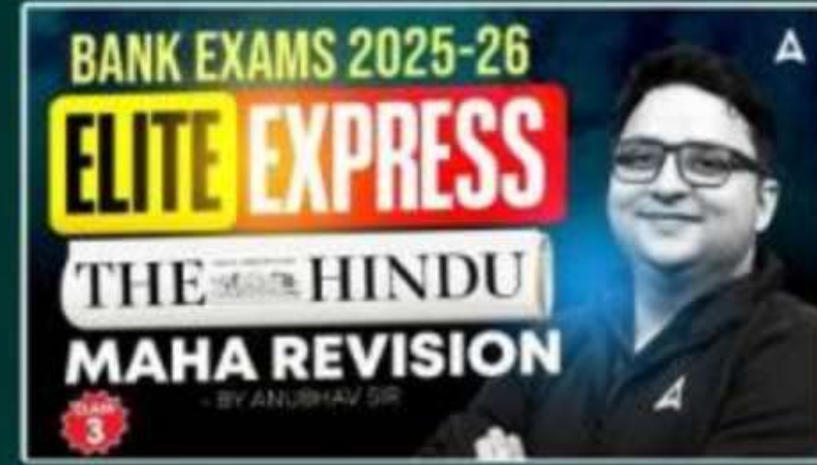


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DESCRIPTIVE

कैसे करें ?

- Economic & Social Issues
- Emerging Trends in Banking
- Current Trends - Ethics

-BY ANUBHAV SIR





English Simplified : Newspaper से नौकरी तक

**READING**

Let's be honest—when it comes to English for competitive exams, reading isn't just important... it's everything. Nearly half of the questions—directly or indirectly—are based on how well you read. But don't worry, you don't have to become a speed-reader overnight. What you need is smart, consistent reading. That's why I've picked real, relevant content from daily newspapers just for you. It'll train your mind to think, understand, and respond faster. Every passage you read here brings you a step closer to confidence and clarity. Nail this, and you've already won half the battle.

VOCABULARY

I know vocabulary can feel overwhelming sometimes—so many words, so little time. But here's the truth: it doesn't have to be that way. This section is designed to help you truly connect with words—not just memorize them. You'll learn them in context, understand how they're used in real life, and slowly start to own them. Everything you see here is from actual newspapers, so it's relevant, real, and reliable. Over time, you'll notice something beautiful—you won't just remember the words, you'll feel them. And that changes everything.

GRAMMAR

Grammar... it has a bit of a reputation, right? Too many rules, too many exceptions. But here's the thing: grammar doesn't have to be dry or confusing. In fact, it can be one of the most empowering tools you have. We're not going to cram rules—we're going to understand them, together. All examples come from real newspaper content, so you'll see how grammar actually works in real life. Slowly, patterns will start to click. You'll begin spotting mistakes naturally, understanding structure intuitively. That's grammar steps being scary and starts being your silent support system.

IDIOMS & PHRASES

Idioms and phrases—those little expressions that often confuse us in the exam—don't worry, we've got this. I've picked the ones you'll actually come across in exams, pulled straight from daily newspapers. But more importantly, I'll help you understand them in a way that sticks. Not by rote, but through real context and simple meaning. Over time, these phrases will become second nature to you, and you'll be able to use and spot them effortlessly. It's one of those small things that makes a big difference.

When pigs fly**DESCRIPTIVE WRITING**

Descriptive writing is where your preparation meets your personality. It's not just about grammar or structure—it's about how you think, how you feel, and how clearly you express that. Whether you're writing an essay, a précis, or a report, I'll help you shape your thoughts with clarity and purpose. All the topics we'll work on come from current news, so your writing stays fresh, relevant, and impactful. And here's my promise—you'll never feel lost staring at a blank page again. Together, we'll build your voice, one word at a time.



Read the passage carefully and answer the following questions

**US-China climbdown in trade war – a welcome pause**

The United States and the People's Republic of China have announced a pause in the ongoing trade war between the two countries. The announcement came after two days of high-level negotiations in Geneva. The two economies have been locked in a tariff war since February 1, when US President Donald Trump imposed a 10 per cent tariff on China, as well as 25 per cent each on Mexico and Canada, citing the sale of fentanyl in the US. Reportedly, in the US, in 2021, deaths due to overdose of opioids surpassed 1,00,000, with 67 per cent of those deaths involving fentanyl. But Trump wanted to slap tariffs for other reasons as well, such as the US's large trade deficit vis-à-vis the rest of the world and the loss of manufacturing industry inside the US. For its part, China started retaliating with counter-tariffs of its own. This process escalated quickly after Trump's announcement of reciprocal tariffs on April 2. By April 10, the situation had worsened to a point where the US had imposed 145 per cent tariffs on China and China had retaliated with 125 per cent tariffs on the US.







HEINOUS

घृणित

(Adj.)

very bad or evil; deserving of hate or contempt

SYNONYMS

- Gruesome
- Atrocious
- Odious
- Egregious
- Diabolical

Heinous

Abominable

Vile

ANTONYMS

- Laudable
- Virtuous
- Admirable
- Alluring

Commendable

**FORMS**

Noun-(heinousness)

His heinous actions stood in stark contrast to her _____ efforts to help the victims.



INTIMIDATING

डरावना

causing fear

Adj / Verb

SYNONYMS

- Formidable ✓
- Daunting ✓
- Threatening ✓
- Unnerving ✓

Menacing

ANTONYMS

- Reassuring ✓
- Encouraging ✓
- Comforting ✓
- Tranquilizing ✓

Intimidate ✓

Soothing / Assuaging



FORMS

Noun-(intimidation) ✓
Verb-(intimidate) ✓

The bully tried to _____ the younger students into giving him their lunch money.



IMPUNITY

दण्डमुक्ति (N)

freedom from punishment, harm, or loss

SYNONYMS

- Immunity ✓
- Exemption ✓
- Indemnity ✓
- Privilege ✓

ANTONYMS

- Exposure ✓
- Vulnerability ✓
- Accountability ✓
- Liability ✓



FORMS

He violated the rules with _____, knowing that no one would dare to challenge him.



SECLUDED

एकांत

(Aman)

screened or sequestered from view

SYNONYMS

Solo

Solitary

- Isolated
- Restrained
- Confined
- Solitary

Remote
Deserted**ANTONYMS**

- Public
- Exposed
- Prominent
- Accessible

AKELA THODI HOON

MUSHKILE HAI MERE
SAATH.**FORMS**

Noun-(seclusion)

Verb-(seclude)

Sequence



While he enjoyed the secluded beach, his friends preferred a lively and _____ place.

REPINE

असंतुष्ट होना V016

to express dissatisfaction, pain, or resentment
usually tiresomely ✓

SYNONYMS

- Grumble ✓
 - Lament ✓
 - Fret ✓
 - Bemoan ✓
- Whine*
Grievance

ANTONYMS

- Rejoice ✓
- Delight ✓
- Exult ✓
- Cheer ✓



FORMS

Noun-(repining) ✓
Adjective-(repining) ✓

Her constant _____ drained the enthusiasm of the entire team.



TRANSLATE

① निंदा करना (→)

To speak maliciously and falsely about someone; to slander or defame.

SYNONYMS

Disparage
Belittle

ANTONYMS

- Slander ✓
- Malign ✓
- Vilify ✓
- Besmirch ✓
- Denigrate ✓

Criticize
Censure
Condemn
Reprimand

- Exalt ✓
- Laud ✓
- Commend ✓
- Glorify ✓



FORMS

- ② Noun-(traducement) ✓
③ Adjective-(traducive) ✓

The politician tried to _____ his opponent with false allegations.



TENEBOUS

अंधकारमय

being without light or without much light

SYNONYMS

- Murky
- Obscure
- Sombre
- Gloomy

Melancholic

Dusky

ANTONYMS

- Luminous
- Lucid
- Radiant
- Lucent

**FORMS**

Noun-(tenebrousness)

14

The _____ of the old mansion made it the perfect setting for a horror film.



SOLATIUM**क्षतिपूर्ति**

Money given as compensation for injury, loss, or grief; consolation payment.

SYNONYMS

- Compensation ✓
- Reparation ✓
- Indemnity ✓
- Restitution ✓

DAMAGES

ANTONYMS

- Forfeiture
- Deprivation ✓
- Fine ✓
- Penalty ✓

Deprive

(Noun)

**FORMS**

The company offered a _____ to the family of the worker who was injured on the site.



CAJOLE

फुसलाना

Verb

To persuade someone gently by flattery or repeated coaxing.

SYNONYMS

- Coax ✓
- Wheedle ✓
- Blandish ✓
- Entice ✓
- Inveigle ✓

Sweet-talk

ANTONYMS

- Dissuade ✓
- Repel ✓
- Discourage ✓
- Bully ✓

DISCOURAGE



FORMS

Noun-(cajolery)
Adjective-(cajoling)

His constant _____ eventually convinced her to take the offer.



SEMBLANCE

झलक

a display of emotion or behavior that is insincere or intended to deceive

SYNONYMS

- Façade
- Pretense
- Guise
- Charade
- Veneer

ANTONYMS

- Reality
- Authenticity
- Substance
- Genuineness

Resemble



FORMS

The manager tried to maintain a _____ of calm despite the crisis.



Step up

Meaning: To increase effort, speed, or intensity of action

Example: The central bank decided to step up its intervention to stabilize the falling currency.

Rule out

Meaning: To eliminate something as a possibility

Example: The minister ruled out any chance of reversing the new education policy.

Dole out

Meaning: To distribute something, often in limited amounts

Example: The government began to dole out compensation to the victims of the industrial accident.

Toe the line ✓

Meaning: To conform to rules or expectations

Example: New employees are expected to toe the line or risk disciplinary action.

Cut corners ✓

Meaning: To do something in a cheap or easy way that lowers quality

Example: The builder was accused of cutting corners, leading to structural issues in the apartment complex.

Hit the nail on the head ✓

Meaning: To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem

Example: The analyst hit the nail on the head by pointing out the company's flawed pricing strategy.

Root: cred (Latin: *credere* – to believe)

Credible – believable; trustworthy

The witness gave a credible account of the incident.

Credence – belief or acceptance that something is true

Little credence was given to his explanation due to lack of evidence.

Credulous – too willing to believe; gullible

Scammers often target credulous individuals with fake investment schemes.

$$\frac{4-5}{10}$$

$$\frac{8+}{10}$$

If a reporter's currency is their byline, their greatest asset is access — whether to leaders in corporate India, to officials within the government, to actors, or to sportspersons. However, access is a complicated thing. It involves building trust and establishing contacts over the years. It is equally shaped by how a reporter and the organisation they work for are perceived. After a stint in a smaller, digital-only media platform, I returned to *The Hindu* recently. The difference in access is stark. Back then, I would struggle to chase after companies, big or small; and I would have to cajole them to comment on a news development. Sometimes they would give me interviews, but more often than not, they would ignore me for days. The same thing happened with government officials. As I enjoyed a personal rapprochement with some of them, they were open to having conversations. But those who did not know me did not care. Now, the situation is different. The same companies I had hounded and the several others that I did not, seem all too eager to organise 'relationship building meetings'. For every data release or policy development, I get bombarded with quotes and press releases on what the heads of these companies have to say. The government's attitude has also changed, though not as radically. While earlier requests for meetings with Secretaries and Joint Secretaries fell on deaf ears, they are now entertained. However, this is not a privilege I take for granted, since I have seen what happens when one does that.



My first stint at *The Hindu* coincided with the time when Arun Jaitley was Finance Minister. Jaitley gave reporters more or less a free writ to roam the halls of the Ministry for stories.

This policy carried over briefly when Nirmala Sitharaman took over as Finance Minister. However, it soon stopped because the privilege was grossly abused. It was brought to the Minister's attention that several reporters were ordering food from apps to be delivered directly to North Block, which not only houses the Home Ministry, but is also located opposite the Ministry of Defence and the Prime Minister's Office. Some reporters went as far as to tail government officials on their way to the bathroom, hoping to get a quote from them.

Ms. Sitharaman decided to go the other extreme. She banned entry of all media persons to the Ministry, unless they had an official appointment. Those appointments, too, became rare. It took the media several years to regain her reluctant trust. Things are still far from where they were during Jaitley's time, but they are certainly better than what they were in 2019.

Access also depends very much on the journalist's work. Once I reported a foolish remark by a Minister. The news item was carried on the front page and I was immediately blacklisted. I no longer had access even off-the-record insights. It finally took a change of personnel in the Minister's office for me to regain some semblance of access. The attempt to gain greater access remains ongoing.

Several media houses and journalists have ample access to officials simply because they write what the government wants them to. But the life of a credible reporter involves a constant balance between **garnering** access, our prime asset, and maintaining the credibility of our byline.

Pattern 1 – Implication Based Question

What does the author imply about the relationship between a journalist's organisation and their access?

- A. A journalist's organisation can significantly influence how accessible sources become to them.
- B. Prestigious organisations inherently grant reporters ethical superiority over others.
- C. Access is based solely on the journalist's individual rapport with officials, regardless of affiliation.
- D. Personal credibility matters more than the media house in gaining access.
- E. Government officials prioritize personal preferences over institutional affiliations.

Pattern 2 – Vocab Based Questions

In the context of the sentence, “Access is a complicated thing,” which of the following **best captures** the author’s connotation of the word **complicated**?

- A. Strategically manipulated to serve personal interests
- B. Subject to unpredictable bureaucratic hierarchies
- C. Entangled with political loyalty, favoritism, and self-censorship
- D. Interdependent on intangible variables like trust, perception, and conduct
- E. Structurally inconsistent across levels of governance and media houses

Pattern 3 Paradox Based Question

Which of the following best explains the apparent contradiction in the author's improved access after rejoining The Hindu despite being the same individual?

- A. The journalist had learned how to approach officials more tactfully over time.
- B. The Hindu's legacy status provided implicit institutional legitimacy to the reporter.
- C. The government shifted its media engagement policy toward inclusiveness.
- D. The author re-established previous bureaucratic relationships after a temporary lapse.
- E. Access is cyclical and was coincidentally favourable at the time of rejoining.

Pattern 4 – Logical Completion Question

Several journalists lost access because they _____.

- A. revealed classified documents obtained from ministers
- B. criticized the Finance Minister's economic policies
- C. failed to follow up on leads given by officials
- D. published stories that embarrassed powerful individuals
- E. were unable to develop contacts within North Block

Pattern 5 – Logical Reasoning – Implicit Assumption

What was the **main reason** for Nirmala Sitharaman banning journalists from the Ministry?

- A. The media began reporting critically on her policies.
- B. Security agencies raised concerns about unverified individuals in the premises.
- C. Journalists repeatedly violated privacy and (decorum within Ministry premises).
- D. The Minister never supported Jaitley's liberal media policy.
- E. There was a sudden spike in politically sensitive leaks.

Pattern 6 – Purpose Based Questions

Why does the author mention Arun Jaitley's tenure as Finance Minister?

- A. To highlight a time when media enjoyed complete editorial freedom
- B. To demonstrate the contrast in policies between successive finance ministers
- C. To underscore how privilege can be temporary and easily revoked
- D. To advocate for reinstating Jaitley's policy of unrestricted access
- E. To explain why journalists should avoid confrontational reporting

Nearly 15 years after the Supreme Court of India described custodial torture and deaths as the most **heinous** crime committed by men in uniform, brutal third-degree treatment of suspects remains a chilling reality. Emboldened policemen, with contempt for procedure, show no hesitation in resorting to violence, not just within but also outside police stations. In Tamil Nadu, the recent death of a young man, Ajith Kumar, who was detained and tortured by a special police team, in plain clothes, for alleged theft in Sivaganga district, underscores the deeply ingrained authoritarian and **intimidating** nature of the police force. The **impunity** with which he was detained, without a formal complaint or the registration of a First Information Report, illustrates just how normalised such disturbing behaviour has become in policing. Under the direction of the Manamadurai Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Ajith Kumar was taken by the team to several **secluded** spots and subject to lathi blows to force him into confessing to have committed the theft — a woman visiting a temple in Madapuram had asked him to park her car; she later claimed that jewellery in the car was missing. Ajith collapsed under the brutality and the theft remains unproven. Justice S.M. Subramanian of the Madras High Court (Madurai Bench) aptly said, “It is almost police-organised crime... Very crudely, we have to say it is the state killing its own citizen.”

Most victims are from oppressed backgrounds, making them easy targets. In this case, attempts at a cover-up failed due to protests and political outrage. With the custodial murder of a father and son in Sattankulam during the COVID-19 pandemic still fresh in public memory, Chief Minister M.K. Stalin wasted no time in damage control. Seven policemen, including the DSP were suspended; later, five were arrested. The case was transferred to the CBI. Mindful of a political fallout, with the Assembly elections nine months away, Mr. Stalin apologised to the victim's mother. **Solatium** was offered, including a cooperative society job to his brother, and a housing plot to the family. Mr. Stalin said that such incidents are "unforgivable" and "unjustifiable" — views he has not aired in suspected custodial death cases in the past four years. However, these measures alone will not bring closure to the families. As directed by the High Court, he must ensure there is action against senior police officers, if their involvement is proven. A fast track trial is needed. It is time for the law-keepers to fall in line and for such killings to end.

Pattern 7 : Logical Inference Based

The phrase "**very crudely, we have to say it is the state killing its own citizen**" suggests:

- A) A deliberate attempt by the state to suppress dissent
- B) A systemic failure to reform police behaviour
- C) A sarcastic remark on the inefficiency of police forces
- D) An emotional outburst lacking judicial insight
- E) A generalized observation not rooted in evidence

Pattern 8 Tone Based Question

Which of the following best captures the tone of the author throughout the passage?

- A) Objective and detached X
- B) Condescending and sarcastic
- C) Measured yet indicting ✓
- D) Dramatic and speculative X
- E) Sympathetic and anecdotal ✓

Pattern 9 – Reasoning Based

What is the function of the sentence “Ajith collapsed under the brutality and the theft remains unproven” in the passage?

- A) To challenge the legal interpretation of confessions
- B) To present the irony of unverified suspicion leading to death ✓
- C) To prove that Ajith was guilty and the system failed him
- D) To highlight medical negligence after police brutality
- E) To show that theft cases often go unnoticed

Pattern 10 – Grammar Based Question

Identify the part of the sentence that contains a grammatical error:

Despite the public outrage (A) and the swift political response, (B) justice for the victim and his family (C) remain elusive even after several arrests. (D) No error (E)

- A) Despite the public outrage
- B) and the swift political response
- C) justice for the victim and his family
- D) remain elusive even after several arrests
- E) No error

remains

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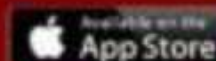
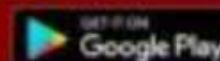
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