

Chapter Nineteen

Fill Up The Blanks

Directions: In each of the following questions you are given one or more blanks. Each question is followed by five choices, only one of which fits the blank(s) appropriately. That correct choice is your answer. In case there is more than one blank, each answer choice has more than one filler which should fit the blanks in their respective order.

Exercise 1

1. To ____ time, please go ____ foot and not by bus.
1) spend, with 2) kill, towards 3) utilise, on
4) gain, on 5) utilise, by
2. Please do not ____ me now; I am very busy. I will look into it tomorrow.
1) demand 2) disturb 3) expect 4) worry 5) explain
3. After a recent mild paralytic attack his movements are ____ restricted; otherwise he is still very active.
1) not 2) entirely 3) slightly
4) nowhere 5) frequently
4. Satish reminded him ____ his promise but he was quite indifferent to what Satish said.
1) of 2) for 3) on 4) to 5) from
5. Among the factors ____ to the low productivity in agriculture, the first place is occupied by irregular water supply.
1) producing 2) showing 3) giving
4) resulting 5) contributing
6. I take interest ____ film-making.
1) to 2) for 3) on 4) with 5) in
7. I hope you will not turn ____ my request.
1) off 2) up 3) aside 4) down 5) around
8. The victorious army ____ through the fallen city.
1) attacked 2) ran 3) marched 4) disturbed 5) disbursed
9. How much did it ____ you to have your radio repaired?
1) estimate 2) charge 3) price 4) pay 5) cost
10. Despite his ____ he had to suffer.
1) punishment 2) crime 3) fault
4) negligence 5) innocence
11. The manager was forced to ____ the charge to the syndicate.
1) forgo 2) relieve 3) give 4) relinquish 5) abandon
12. The child ____ for the love of mother.
1) begged 2) lacked 3) desired 4) longed 5) asked
13. There seems to be an air of peace now ____ in our country.
1) flowing 2) floating 3) smelting
4) advancing 5) blowing

460 / English is Easy

14. The two brothers look so _____ that it is difficult to tell one from the other.
 1) identical 2) same 3) similar
 4) resembling 5) alike
15. A crescendo of metallic thuds arose from the market, where the blacksmiths were _____ the piece of metals.
 1) flattering 2) striking 3) hammering 4) thrashing 5) levelling
16. His _____ income does not allow him to buy a TV.
 1) small 2) meagre 3) spare 4) scarce 5) little
17. There is a disturbing _____ between politics and sports in India.
 1) link 2) connection 3) isthmus
 4) nexus 5) trend
18. His most striking _____ is the enthusiasm which he brings to everything he does.
 1) factor 2) attitude 3) characteristic
 4) character 5) appearance
19. Your behaviour can be termed as _____ and I request you to be more careful while in office.
 1) modesty 2) indecent 3) obedience
 4) reasonable 5) indiscipline
20. Although Sadhana stays with that family, she is not _____ to them.
 1) alike 2) similar 3) related 4) indifferent 5) affected
21. He does not like to be friendly with Sunil. He always gives her the cold _____.
 1) push 2) insult 3) shoulder 4) coffee 5) hand
22. There is a/an _____ to every rule.
 1) objection 2) criticism 3) caveat
 4) exception 5) disadvantage
23. Renu is a _____. You can lead her by the nose.
 1) novice 2) woman 3) blind 4) simpleton 5) cheat
24. In high school many of us never realised the importance that grammar would _____ in later life.
 1) figure 2) portray 3) play 4) exercise 5) establish
25. Priya is not _____ for this kind of a job.
 1) cut out 2) cut through 3) cut up 4) cut in 5) cut
26. He admired precision in everything but it never hampered his quick _____.
 1) dealing 2) action 3) decision
 4) finalisation 5) temperament
27. Mahesh _____ a bit _____ he was not invited by his friend to attend the party.
 1) expressed, than 2) grumbled, when 3) angered, since
 4) surprised, about 5) took, before
28. I cannot _____ it to you right now; tomorrow we will discuss about it.
 1) demand 2) disturb 3) worry 4) expect 5) explain
29. Dowry is no longer permitted by law even in _____ marriages.
 1) natural 2) conventional 3) love
 4) polygamous 5) social

30. Contemporary economic development differs _____ from the Industrial Revolution of the 19th century.
1) usually 2) specially 3) literally 4) markedly 5) naturally
31. Boswell's Life of Samuel Johnson is considered to be the greatest _____ ever written.
1) novel 2) autobiography 3) biography
4) fiction 5) essay
32. The bloodbath that _____ the assassination is now part of history.
1) ensued 2) led 3) dissipated 4) anticipated 5) created
33. My very thoughts were like the _____ rustle of dead leaves.
1) lively 2) funny 3) welcome 4) ghostly 5) sombre
34. An employment advertisement should _____ the number of vacancies.
1) provide 2) specify 3) contain 4) declare 5) count
35. The good are often _____ with their bones.
1) bury 2) interred 3) cover 4) fleshed 5) exhumed
36. More men adore the sun rising than the sun _____.
1) shining 2) setting 3) darkening 4) blazing 5) itself
37. We were brought up in a village and my grandfather was a simple _____ and quite illiterate.
1) pheasant 2) peasant 3) pleasant 4) man 5) squire
38. Children below the age of 12 can be tried only by the _____ Court.
1) Supreme 2) High 3) District 4) Juvenile 5) Sessions
39. Women should be paid the same as men when they do the same job, for surely, what is sauce for the _____ is sauce for the _____.
1) goose, gander 2) cock, hen 3) fox, vixen
4) buck, doe 5) lion, lioness
40. It is time that professors came down from their _____ towers and studied the real needs of the students.
1) gold 2) silver 3) clock 4) isolated 5) ivory
41. Everyone was _____ by surprise when she announced her plan to marry that boy.
1) moved 2) shaken 3) taken 4) deadened 5) prevailed
42. Our _____ lived in caves and used crude implements.
1) ancients 2) ancestors 3) antecedents
4) antipodes 5) predecessors
43. _____ my knowledge, Mr Ashok has a prejudice _____ foreigners.
1) In, for 2) As, towards 3) For, at
4) To, against 5) With, against
44. The police _____ him of stealing a car.
1) charged 2) warned 3) accused
4) threatened 5) warranted
45. His bad driving almost _____ an accident.
1) created 2) caused 3) resulted
4) made 5) precipitated
46. Ravi was always _____ of the good fortune of others.
1) miserable 2) irritable 3) greedy 4) envious 5) sorry

462 / English is Easy

47. Two of the fugitives managed to remain free by adeptly avoiding the _____ of the police.
1) pursuit 2) discovery 3) following 4) expression 5) torture
48. Known as a devout and serious person, she also has a _____ sense of humour.
1) better 2) plentiful 3) quick 4) beautiful 5) good
49. The victim tried to tell us what had happened but his _____ were not audible.
1) assailants 2) sounds 3) letters 4) proofs 5) words
50. Survival of mankind itself is in danger due to _____ of atomic weapons.
1) perpetuation 2) regularisation 3) provocation
4) proliferation 5) exploration

Exercise 2

1. Continuous unemployment has induced in the people a kind of _____ which is most depressing.
1) laziness 2) encouragement 3) satisfaction
4) anger 5) resistance
2. The writer, like a spider, _____ a web; the creatures caught in the web have no substance, no reality.
1) spins 2) catches 3) writes 4) compiles 5) finds
3. I am sorry that I have been unable to find a suitable vacancy for you. The _____ is that most of the vacancies require technical qualification that you do not possess.
1) difficulty 2) trouble 3) atmosphere
4) offer 5) obstruction
4. Production of crude oil during the first six months of the last year was 15 million tonnes as _____ the planned 14 million tonnes.
1) of 2) per 3) against 4) on 5) across
5. I am sure the examination will be conducted smoothly. The candidates are _____ to use unfair means because of the impact of moral teachings on them.
1) likely 2) probably 3) unexpected 4) uncertain 5) unlikely
6. Everyone should be _____ of his rights as well as duties.
1) conscious 2) conspicuous 3) conscientious
4) consensus 5) constitution
7. His treatment of his servant is _____ mean.
1) notoriously 2) nobly 3) golden
4) flexibly 5) thoroughly
8. Though fond of many acquaintances, I desire _____ only with a few.
1) introduction 2) cordiality 3) intimacy
4) encounter 5) exchange
9. It is true that inequality is a natural phenomenon but so are floods and cholera and other such _____.
1) calamities 2) difficulties 3) events
4) misfortunes 5) phenomena

10. The Director pointed out in favour of the manager that the profitability of the plant had _____ since he had taken over.
 1) added 2) arisen 3) increased 4) developed 5) declined
11. I shall go to Bombay tomorrow to see the doctor you _____.
 1) counsel 2) advise 3) guide 4) recommend 5) advocate
12. Any political leader who allows nepotism to flourish should be subject to _____.
 1) autopsy 2) stringency 3) stricture
 4) punishment 5) condemnation
13. Even when his reputation was in _____, almost every one was willing to acknowledge the qualities of his leadership.
 1) jeopardy 2) doldrums 3) eclipse
 4) harassment 5) dilemma
14. Charles Lamb's prose is richly _____ with literary ornaments like similes, metaphors, alliterations, transferred epithets etc.
 1) embalmed 2) saturated 3) embellished
 4) embroidered 5) embroiled
15. Cellular phone service has _____ in a new phase of communication.
 1) called 2) ushered 3) resulted
 4) started 5) blossomed
16. The murder would be _____ the moment the police caught up with the fugitive.
 1) solved 2) complicated 3) established
 4) witnessed 5) entailed
17. The three-day session in Delhi was _____ in a diversionary row over bilateralism.
 1) caught 2) engaged 3) mired
 4) dedicated 5) disheartened
18. The company has _____ badly under his leadership.
 1) improved 2) declined 3) hesitated 4) stuck 5) fared
19. A Japanese Boeing 747 passenger jet with 365 persons _____ was seized by hijackers.
 1) aboard 2) aloft 3) passengers 4) skilfully 5) asunder
20. The present _____ has not prevented the railway minister from announcing an increasing number of superfast trains.
 1) crisis 2) syndrome 3) government
 4) generation 5) stability
21. The second _____ of the Oslo peace process begins with the expansion of self-rule on the West Bank.
 1) term 2) point 3) match 4) phase 5) game
22. Tibet is _____ by mountains on three sides.
 1) hidden 2) flanked 3) kept 4) situated 5) pursued
23. Certain _____ have been taken under the five-year plans for accelerating the development process.
 1) gifts 2) programmes 3) plans
 4) measures 5) ideas

464 / English is Easy

24. Decisions may be _____ at either through initiative or through inertia.
1) formulated 2) deferred 3) looked 4) aimed 5) arrived
25. The Ghats in Maharashtra have been _____ to intensive developmental activity since Independence.
1) given 2) subjected 3) yielded 4) there 5) cultivated
26. The _____ for Mahatma Gandhi is in our hearts.
1) blank 2) place 3) room 4) house 5) statue
27. The foodgrains stocks in India are at a all-time _____.
1) highest 2) high 3) lowest 4) cost 5) yield
28. The saving-income _____ of the Indian economy has shot up substantially.
1) ratio 2) proportion 3) number
4) perception 5) analysis
29. Individuals are deprived of their freedom by the very process of _____ and standardisation.
1) discipline 2) uniformity 3) regimentation
4) collectivisation 5) modernisation
30. Retirement can either be a _____ to age or an opportunity for new adventure.
1) surrender 2) defeat 3) setback
4) acknowledgement 5) victory
31. Light _____ in a straight line.
1) moves 2) goes 3) travels 4) flows 5) shines
32. Some swear by the semi-divine _____ of her work, while others point out that not all her actions are above _____.
1) nature, criticism 2) temperament, herself
3) consciousness, dignity 4) character, judgement
5) scale, answer
33. The historic final in Moscow, where the temperature _____ to minus 30 degrees Centigrade, will be remembered for many things from the on-court competition to the _____ patriotic crowd.
1) declined, cheerfully 2) dived, ferociously 3) plummeted, fiercely
4) shot, coldly 5) rivalled, dully
34. Poets, musicians and painters look to nature as a source of _____ for creating their masterpieces.
1) inspiration 2) boost 3) thrust
4) agitation 5) entertainment
35. A project causing _____ damage to a fragile eco-system is now typical of India's development paradigm.
1) irreparable 2) incontrovertible 3) encashable
4) inconceivable 5) negotiable
36. About half a century ago, this instrument was _____ to the beautiful valley of Kashmir.
1) confined 2) associated 3) presented 4) prohibited 5) flaunted
37. Besides the items _____ from the almirah, documents were _____ all over the floor.
1) disappearing, thrown 2) deprived, scattered 3) missing, strewn
4) declining, spread 5) clear, split

38. Even if a man is found _____ by a court, he has an _____ to a higher court.
 1) guilty, appeal 2) convicted, onus 3) wanting, office
 4) derelict, attitude 5) safe, accident
39. Due to _____ rainfall, they had to _____ cut in water supply.
 1) inadequate, impose 2) sufficient, enforce 3) heavy, regulate
 4) scanty, lift 5) regular, clamp
40. The cardboard box was _____ under the pressure of the heavy trunk and, therefore, could not be used.
 1) placed 2) disturbed 3) crushed 4) dwindled 5) taken
41. Books are _____ the most lasting product of human effort.
 1) decidedly 2) definitely 3) far by
 4) certainly 5) deliberately
42. When I listened to his cogent arguments, all my _____ were _____ and I was forced to agree with his point of view.
 1) senses, stimulated 2) doubts, confirmed 3) friends, present
 4) questions, asked 5) doubts, dispelled
43. The ties that bind us together are so _____ that they can disappear at any moment.
 1) tentative 2) tenuous 3) restrictive 4) consistent 5) tenacious
44. We need more men of culture and enlightenment; we have too many _____ among us.
 1) boors 2) students 3) philistines
 4) pragmatists 5) philosophers
45. His remarks were filled with _____, which sounded lofty but presented nothing new to the audience.
 1) aphorisms 2) platitudes 3) bombast
 4) adages 5) symbols
46. In order to photograph _____ animals, elaborate flashlight equipment is necessary.
 1) predatory 2) wild 3) nocturnal 4) live 5) rare
47. He will not cheat you; cheating is against his _____.
 1) wind 2) sail 3) pretext 4) soul 5) grain
48. Nowadays they are at _____ drawn though they were friends once.
 1) swords 2) daggers 3) knives 4) spears 5) bows
49. When she was sick, her son did not attend _____ her.
 1) to 2) on 3) No word 4) at 5) over
50. The lion is at _____ and has wrought havoc in this area.
 1) stake 2) bay 3) sea 4) open 5) large

Exercise 3

1. _____ he woke up, he saw that his bag was stolen.
 1) If 2) When 3) Where 4) So 5) Neither
2. The Police Inspector _____ the wanted criminal from his friend's residence.
 1) arrived 2) gathered 3) arrested 4) collected 5) allowed
3. The Managing Director _____ many favours on his faithful servant Vibha.
 1) gave 2) approved 3) imposed 4) bestowed 5) dropped

466 / English is Easy

4. Purchasing a colour TV set is considered as a(n) _____ of status.
1) luxury 2) symbol 3) symptom 4) honour 5) action
5. Rajni _____ her mother to purchase a new saree for the occasion.
1) thought 2) called 3) thanked 4) advised 5) enquired
6. The Indian economy badly needs to _____ an export-oriented economic structure.
1) prepare 2) develop 3) achieve 4) gain 5) attain
7. Collective _____ are needed to root out the dowry system.
1) funds 2) methods 3) laws 4) decisions 5) efforts
8. A servant is expected to carry _____ orders of his master.
1) on 2) for 3) in 4) No word 5) out
9. As a social worker, he tried his best to _____ the condition of the poor.
1) improve 2) change 3) correct 4) develop 5) raise
10. Mahesh cannot be appointed since he _____ the experience necessary for the job.
1) misses 2) loses 3) lacks 4) needs 5) has
11. He is always curt in his _____.
1) business 2) writings 3) game 4) programme 5) replies
12. I saw a _____ of wolves remaining around the forest.
1) fleet 2) flock 3) group 4) herd 5) pack
13. I applied for and was _____ legal aid by the Labour Ministry.
1) granted 2) awarded 3) implemented
4) offered 5) allowed
14. The crooks did not _____ any resistance.
1) show 2) put 3) offer 4) exert 5) exercise
15. The officer decided to deploy as _____ a number of men as possible to guard the post.
1) many 2) more 3) few 4) less 5) small
16. Ambition is one of those _____ which are never satisfied.
1) ideas 2) fancies 3) passions 4) needs 5) energies
17. The new education policy provides a useful _____ for the planners to remove illiteracy.
1) breakup 2) breakthrough 3) breakaway
4) break-in 5) break-out
18. In autumn trees _____ their leaves.
1) shed 2) drop 3) leave 4) cast 5) reject
19. It is difficult to put _____ noisy and meddlesome neighbours.
1) across 2) up with 3) forward 4) on 5) by
20. The lonesome valley was _____ like a graveyard.
1) quiet 2) inhabitable 3) inimitable 4) populous 5) bustling
21. His first failure did not _____ him from making another attempt.
1) forbid 2) deter 3) defeat 4) interfere 5) cure
22. For a few seconds, Sudhir was _____ blinded by the powerful lights of the oncoming car.
1) totally 2) greatly 3) powerfully 4) largely 5) heavily
23. The community tried to bring to _____ all adulterators but its attempts were

foiled by the squad.

- 1) prison 2) action 3) head 4) book 5) bear
24. My friend says that he drinks tea because it is the best _____ in the world.
1) solution 2) liquid 3) beverage 4) fluid 5) leaf
25. You need _____ shoes for walking in the hills.
1) stout 2) good 3) sturdy
4) satisfactory 5) slippery
26. The members of the group were at _____ over the selection procedure.
1) sixes 2) random 3) sea 4) odds 5) space
27. The staff have felt on edge ever since they heard the rumour about _____.
1) inflation 2) retrenchment 3) scarcity
4) elections 5) espousal
28. The two women are so jealous that at the drop of a _____ they start insulting each other.
1) brick 2) curtain 3) hat 4) pin 5) kick
29. I was astounded at his _____ lack of knowledge about the continent of Africa.
1) abundant 2) colossal 3) huge 4) great 5) perfect
30. The twins are so alike that I cannot _____ one from the other.
1) say 2) notice 3) tell 4) discern 5) make
31. _____ you meet my son in the market, ask him to come home at once.
1) Would 2) Should 3) While 4) Will 5) May
32. The proud king turned a deaf ear to the _____ of his wise counsellors.
1) advices 2) advises 3) advise 4) advice 5) advisor
33. The old father brought _____ the moral of unity by asking each of his sons to break the bundle of sticks.
1) up 2) near 3) roost 4) home 5) book
34. The cloud of misfortunes appears to have blown _____.
1) out 2) up 3) away 4) over 5) No word
35. If we do not take _____ care in our industry, we will have to _____ a grave problem.
1) adequate, catch 2) normal, experience 3) proper, face
4) preventive, solve 5) intensive, aggravate
36. Lata's programmes _____ taking place throughout the state since last week.
1) has been 2) have been 3) is 4) will be 5) would be
37. _____ by people's perception, it seems that democracy has succeeded in India.
1) Making 2) Planned 3) Going 4) Like 5) Following
38. Family planning is essential for curbing the rapid _____ in population.
1) spurt 2) augmentation 3) spread
4) increase 5) flood
39. Kings have few things to desire and many things to _____.
1) crave 2) long 3) fear 4) apprehend 5) horrify
40. The winding road was no doubt a _____ climb and, though at every steep turn the car groaned, we finally reached the top.
1) tortuous 2) easy 3) fast 4) slow 5) zigzag

468 / English is Easy

41. Take care of the _____ and the hours will take care of themselves.
 1) days 2) years 3) seconds 4) minutes 5) weeks
42. Though he took a leap in the _____ when he invested all his savings in Reliance shares, he later on found that it was well worth the risk.
 1) dark 2) abyss 3) light 4) hole 5) frog
43. After being caught in the act, Rajneesh knew that he was in _____ trouble.
 1) intense 2) dreaded 3) terrible 4) dire 5) intensive
44. Owing to their unruly behaviour, some members of the cricket team were _____ from taking part in the matches.
 1) exempted 2) excluded 3) banned
 4) outlawed 5) proscribed
45. Mounting unemployment is the most serious and _____ problem faced by India today.
 1) profound 2) intractable 3) unpopular
 4) dubious 5) unattainable
46. Unemployment is not only _____ throughout the emerging world, but is growing worse, especially in urban areas.
 1) endemic 2) peripheral 3) absorbing
 4) prolific 5) endangering
47. A light rain _____ to the humidity.
 1) supplemented 2) added 3) increased
 4) complemented 5) complimented
48. Radha's heart _____ at the sight of the beautiful jewellery.
 1) leapt 2) stopped 3) stoned 4) crept 5) jumped
49. Anil was _____ for his blasphemous statements on the religious leaders.
 1) excommunicated 2) applauded 3) congratulated
 4) saluted 5) banned
50. Her spectacles simply would not rest on the _____ of her nose.
 1) arch 2) tip 3) bridge 4) top 5) peak

Exercise 4

1. Varsha pulled a long _____ when she was told that she could not go to the cinema.
 1) face 2) mouth 3) veil 4) hand 5) nose
2. Japan has a lot to offer India in her efforts to leap _____ the 21st century.
 1) in 2) into 3) over 4) to 5) against
3. The deadly fever left him completely _____.
 1) enervated 2) healthy 3) wealthy 4) dying 5) fatigued
4. I _____ him for the job and he got it.
 1) commended 2) asked 3) recommended
 4) hired 5) deprived
5. Since Mani was the only one who could not go abroad, he was regarded as the _____ sheep of the family.
 1) foolish 2) exceptional 3) black 4) white 5) stray
6. It is the slight _____ in an otherwise perfect face that made her look beautiful.
 1) ugliness 2) twist 3) imperfection 4) glow 5) hint

7. Changes in the legal system are inevitable for we are not working for a _____ society.
 1) backward 2) dynamic 3) developing
 4) modern 5) stagnant
8. Lata walked on and found a vacant seat to sit _____.
 1) on 2) in 3) up 4) down 5) through
9. Vinod's employers deducted the expenses from his salary, but _____ an ad hoc allowance to it.
 1) adduced 2) reduced 3) added 4) deducted 5) exempted
10. The Hindus are a _____ majority in India.
 1) linguistic 2) ethnic 3) religious
 4) demographic 5) class
11. One true _____ is better than a world of acquaintances.
 1) friend 2) energy 3) man 4) woman 5) person
12. Raman made a slight _____ of judgement and hit Vijay instead of the bully.
 1) mistake 2) blunder 3) slip
 4) error 5) calculation
13. Ahmed was quite rich. It was not for _____ but for excitement that he stole from the shop.
 1) pleasure 2) necessity 3) money 4) boredom 5) nothing
14. The rules _____ passengers to cross the railway line.
 1) advise 2) forbid 3) request 4) stop 5) hinder
15. Sachin's batting in this innings did not come _____ my expectations.
 1) to 2) off 3) in 4) along with 5) up to
16. He proved to be quite a wet blanket at the party, for he spoke to no one and _____ sat by himself.
 1) blithely 2) courageously 3) morosely
 4) wonderingly 5) enigmatically
17. Mr Kulkarni thought he was very clever but he found himself in the _____.
 1) curry 2) doldrums 3) event 4) soup 5) trouble
18. Brinjals are _____ cheap these days.
 1) dead 2) dust 3) dastardly 4) dirt 5) down
19. He _____ that he would come.
 1) requested 2) said 3) pleaded 4) urged 5) asked
20. If you drink too much, it will _____ your judgement.
 1) impede 2) impair 3) impose 4) impel 5) improve
21. The Managing Director treated the employees to a _____ lunch at an expensive hotel.
 1) precious 2) thriving 3) stupendous
 4) magnanimous 5) sumptuous
22. We need an unusually gifted person to solve this _____ problem.
 1) sensitive 2) sensible 3) sensuous 4) spurious 5) sensual
23. The _____ of ships reached the port safely.
 1) group 2) convoy 3) hatch 4) flight 5) swarm
24. If the money is _____ in the Unit Trust, it would yield good interest.
 1) invested 2) collected 3) spent 4) credited 5) engaged

470 / English is Easy

25. Several members _____ from voting.
 1) restrained 2) refused 3) abstained 4) retained 5) refrained
26. She stood there with tears _____ down her cheeks.
 1) rolling 2) dropping 3) falling 4) forming 5) shedding
27. He gave me an additional _____ of Rs 100 a month by _____ of the Commissioner.
 1) allowance, permission 2) pay, allowance
 3) payment, agreement 4) salary, admittance
 5) burden, virtue
28. There is no glory in war _____ the blood it _____.
 1) considering, sheds 2) comparing, spills 3) worth, costs
 4) thinking, demands 5) for, flows
29. Too much eating is _____ to health.
 1) unsuitable 2) detrimental 3) bad 4) inadvisable 5) incisive
30. Although they are not rich, they always wear _____ clothes.
 1) irrespective 2) respective 3) respectful
 4) respected 5) respectable
31. We cannot _____ the real state of things from what he says.
 1) defer 2) infer 3) confer 4) refer 5) pilfer
32. When he left after the cocktail party, he was as _____ as a judge.
 1) sober 2) drunk 3) wise 4) boring 5) brave
33. The degrees were awarded in the annual _____.
 1) convention 2) convocation 3) conventicle
 4) conference 5) convolution
34. Man is a _____ animal.
 1) brutal 2) violent 3) boring
 4) mad 5) gregarious
35. She was so badly injured that she needed _____ care in the hospital.
 1) extensive 2) little 3) deep 4) intensive 5) medical
36. It was his _____ nature which made him continue where most would have given up.
 1) divine 2) stubborn 3) good
 4) ill 5) unfortunate
37. It is often seen that bad husbands have very good _____.
 1) children 2) mothers 3) parents 4) wives 5) consorts
38. She yelled _____ him and he hastily retreated.
 1) to 2) at 3) for 4) against 5) towards
39. The cold did not make him ill but made him merely _____.
 1) sick 2) hungry 3) indisposed 4) unwilling 5) vomit
40. He _____ the policeman to help him catch the thief, but the policeman pretended not to hear.
 1) pleaded 2) importuned 3) threatened
 4) asked 5) requested
41. It was impossible for the overworked mother to _____ with so many yelling children.
 1) live 2) die 3) deal 4) cope 5) continue

42. The reporter said to the editor, "You need not consult anyone, you can take my _____ for it."
 1) promise 2) suggestion 3) ring 4) word 5) eyes
43. With old people he was as considerate as a son, and with children as _____ as a father.
 1) modest 2) hopeful 3) cheerful 4) sceptical 5) solicitous
44. I admire him because for all his achievements he is _____.
 1) humble 2) modest 3) gentle 4) quiet 5) pure
45. The treasurer _____ the funds and _____.
 1) stole, fled 2) embezzled, absconded
 3) robbed, decamped 4) purloined, skipped
 5) cheated, ran
46. Those who hate sincerity are _____.
 1) misogynists 2) cynics 3) pessimists
 4) misanthropists 5) infidels
47. His puns attest to his _____ but do not prove his _____.
 1) wisdom, learning 2) brilliance, sensibility
 3) sharpness, scholarship 4) wit, intelligence
 5) acerbity, interest
48. _____, they resumed their forward journey.
 1) Rising the sun 2) Having risen the sun
 3) The sun being risen 4) The sun having risen
 5) Or rising the sun
49. They have some difficulty _____ all the employees, especially the smaller ones, to conform _____ the adopted scale of wages.
 1) to get, with 2) getting, to 3) in getting, upon
 4) to getting, over 5) to be getting, up to
50. What he has done admits _____ no excuse.
 1) with 2) of 3) for 4) in 5) about

Exercise 5

1. It was _____ hot that day and the cable suffered the brunt of the heat.
 1) unbelievably 2) acceptably 3) uncompromisingly
 4) unfailingly 5) treacherously
2. Jayadev's behaviour is worthy of _____ by all the youngsters.
 1) following 2) emulation 3) trial 4) experiment 5) exploration
3. Jayant's friends had nothing to offer him other than _____ in his grief.
 1) kindness 2) consolation 3) friendship
 4) happiness 5) solution
4. Narain _____ the situation quickly and decided on the best course of action.
 1) measured 2) assessed 3) finalised 4) managed 5) accepted
5. He was initially _____ at the suggestion but was soon _____ it himself.
 1) frowning, rejecting 2) thrilled, propagating
 3) shocked, advocating 4) impressed, negating
 5) suspicious, trusting

472 / English is Easy

6. The Minister felt that the _____ made by the Committee was _____ even though similar schemes had worked earlier.
- 1) election, acceptable 2) choice, profitable
3) decision, gainful 4) recommendation, infeasible
5) acceptance, approved
7. Nabeesa was not _____ by the criticism and paid no _____ even when her best friend talked against her.
- 1) threatened, warning 2) troubled, mind 3) deterred, heed
4) bothered, attention 5) shaken, indication
8. The activities of the association have _____ from the _____ objectives set for it in the initial years.
- 1) emerged, total 2) deviated, original 3) grown, simple
4) details, grand 5) increased, perverse
9. The _____ imposed for non-payment was too _____ for it to bring in improvement in collection.
- 1) penalty, low 2) fine, severe 3) punishment, harsh
4) toll, simple 5) damage, cruel
10. The _____ with which he is able to wield the paint-brush is really remarkable.
- 1) ease 2) practice 3) majesty 4) sweep 5) energy
11. The purpose is supreme but it can be reached through _____ routes and sides.
- 1) divergent 2) dissimilar 3) different
4) contradictory 5) defined
12. He has not been seen _____ last Tuesday.
- 1) for 2) from 3) about 4) till 5) since
13. Among our companions, there was a cheerful American of Chinese _____.
- 1) root 2) colour 3) model 4) origin 5) ascent
14. The fruits of weakness like fear, bitterness and suspicion can _____ in a paralysis of decision.
- 1) exist 2) result 3) entangle 4) drown 5) indulge
15. An occasional wrong decision may be sometimes _____ to indecision.
- 1) susceptible 2) acceptable 3) preferable
4) questionable 5) useful
16. When indecision grips a nation, free men feel the need for an _____ ruler and are prepared to throw democracy overboard.
- 1) optimistic 2) autocratic 3) eccentric
4) energetic 5) indecisive
17. The state administration has ground _____ a halt, especially at the district level.
- 1) at 2) on 3) after 4) in 5) to
18. The Delhi Govt is gloating _____ its decision of banning direct as well as surrogate liquor ads.
- 1) at 2) over 3) of 4) for 5) with
19. The government is strapped _____ cash like never before.
- 1) with 2) of 3) by 4) for 5) without
20. India has the _____ of high saving and low growth rates.

- 1) irony 2) similarity 3) difference
4) paradox 5) relationship
21. The attorney protested that the testimony being offered was not _____ to the case and asked that it be stricken from the record as irrelevant.
1) favourable 2) coherent 3) harmful
4) beneficial 5) germane
22. I was so bored with the verbose and redundant style of that writer that I welcomed the change to the _____ style of this author.
1) prolix 2) consistent 3) terse
4) logistical 5) tacit
23. Vinayak is the _____ head of the family and commands a lot of respect from the family members.
1) solely 2) strongest 3) undisputed
4) full 5) controversial
24. He was one of the _____ spirits behind the Quit India movement.
1) revolving 2) strong 3) rising 4) amazing 5) moving
25. We must _____ help to the people hit by cyclone.
1) demand 2) render 3) decline 4) contribute 5) call
26. The State Transport Corporation has _____ a loss of Rs 5 crore this year.
1) derived 2) arranged 3) incurred
4) performed 5) formulated
27. I prefer the _____ proposition to the former.
1) older 2) new 3) later 4) latter 5) previous
28. Many areas of the city were _____ into darkness for several hours.
1) deep 2) spread 3) vacant 4) plunged 5) merged
29. Few countries can _____ India in variety, colour and richness of dance-forms.
1) rival 2) depict 3) prevail 4) fight 5) reveal
30. The _____ nature of your order left us no time to make usual inquiries.
1) important 2) urgent 3) plain 4) complex 5) trivial
31. It is _____ but true.
1) incredible 2) indifferent 3) incriminate
4) insufficient 5) invaluable
32. The eminent lawyer _____ his success to his father's guidance.
1) contributes 2) alleges 3) accounts
4) attributes 5) counts on
33. Violence _____ for the second time today.
1) reckoned 2) looted 3) erupted
4) disrupted 5) dislocated
34. She was a devoted wife and looked _____ her husband very well.
1) after 3) at 3) for 4) to 5) upon
35. It was a bumpy journey _____ we all slept soundly.
1) yet 2) hence 3) because 4) since 5) if
36. Shri Kale's appointment will be effective from the date he _____ charge of his new assignment.
1) assumes 2) resumes 3) attains 4) attends 5) occupies

474 / English is Easy

37. The leader appealed to the dissidents to come back to the party and assured them that their grievances could be _____ through negotiations.
 1) heard 2) eliminated 3) removed
 4) settled 5) abolished
38. All the officers were present at the occasion with the _____ of Shri Gokhale.
 1) exclusion 2) exception 3) absence
 4) omission 5) exemption
39. Please mind your own work and do not interfere in matters that do not _____ you.
 1) worry 2) invite 3) encourage 4) inspire 5) concern
40. Only students who have studied Psychology are _____ to apply for the post.
 1) selected 2) elected 3) influenced 4) intended 5) eligible
41. Only unselfish leaders can _____ the people.
 1) betray 2) progress 3) please
 4) inspire 5) encourage
42. The town, once a _____ seaport, is now a heap of ruins.
 1) prosperous 2) devastated 3) forsaken
 4) faded 5) destroyed
43. Travel will _____ you with new customs.
 1) associate 2) comply 3) acquaint 4) adorn 5) expose
44. He _____ smell of gas in the kitchen.
 1) developed 2) saw 3) determined 4) took 5) detected
45. He was arrested on a charge of theft but was later _____.
 1) punished 2) imprisoned 3) abandoned
 4) released 5) left
46. Will you please _____ from interfering in my affairs?
 1) avoid 2) dissent 3) prohibit 4) abstain 5) desist
47. A belief which is generally _____ is not necessarily one which is true.
 1) held 2) observed 3) followed 4) practised 5) placed
48. I had a glass of lemon juice to _____ my thirst.
 1) stop 2) prevent 3) quench 4) remove 5) finish
49. He looks so _____ but he has a very quick temper.
 1) arrogant 2) ferocious 3) obstinate
 4) meek 5) hostile
50. It is a penal _____ to bribe a public servant.
 1) charge 2) offence 3) code 4) right 5) sin

Exercise 6

1. The scientist _____ a new word for the new process.
 1) designed 2) produced 3) fabricated
 4) coined 5) originated
2. In the town the curfew was _____ following indiscriminate shooting by terrorists.
 1) lifted 2) implemented 3) clamped
 4) introduced 5) removed

3. The teacher _____ the boy's comic which he was reading during the Mathematics period.
 1) possessed 2) procured 3) collected
 4) abandoned 5) seized
4. He is a _____ criminal.
 1) popular 2) solid 3) guilty 4) kind 5) hardened
5. As a witness in the court you have to be _____ in your statement.
 1) exact 2) prompt 3) shor 4) pointed 5) accurate
6. The manager was _____ but was later reinstated.
 1) dismissed 2) punished 3) censured
 4) prosecuted 5) promoted
7. He makes his _____ visit every week.
 1) strict 2) customary 3) continuous
 4) casual 5) alternate
8. The party failed to _____ enough volunteers to bring its traditional voters to the polling booths.
 1) assemble 2) accumulate 3) collect
 4) mobilise 5) manage
9. I am given to _____ that you are going abroad.
 1) think 2) understand 3) predict
 4) apprehend 5) learn
10. I can _____ my holiday only by a few days.
 1) enjoy 2) take 3) extend 4) increase 5) reduce
11. The numerous rules _____ his attempts to expedite the proposal.
 1) complicated 2) thwarted 3) prevented
 4) failed 5) confused
12. Our newspapers _____ too much space to political news.
 1) devote 2) occupy 3) spend 4) apply 5) use
13. If all available land were _____ there would be no shortage of food.
 1) harvested 2) dug 3) grown
 4) cultivated 5) ploughed
14. When Sharad bought a motorcycle, his father _____ him against rash driving.
 1) notified 2) warned 3) advised 4) told 5) cautioned
15. The entire village condoled _____ the jawan's widow in her bereavement.
 1) in 2) for 3) to 4) with 5) on
16. A circus has to maintain a _____ of elephants.
 1) herd 2) swarm 3) fleet 4) flock 5) pack
17. On account of the dearth of grass in the arid plains the cattle became _____.
 1) flippant 2) jubilant 3) agitated 4) emaciated 5) vexed
18. The pilot had been warned about the storm before he took _____.
 1) away 2) up 3) over 4) off 5) on
19. The miser _____ gazed at the pile of gold coins in front of him.
 1) avidly 2) admiringly 3) thoughtfully
 4) earnestly 5) perniciously

476 / English is Easy

20. The thief made _____ all the money.
 1) up 2) off with 3) do with 4) good 5) out
21. I heard the _____ of thunder.
 1) crackle 2) rumble 3) ripple 4) clank 5) click
22. He did not register his _____ to the proposal.
 1) dissent 2) disfavour 3) divergence
 4) deviation 5) disparity
23. No matter what _____ come our way, we should not lose our temper.
 1) temptations 2) persons 3) distractions
 4) provocations 5) irritations
24. We were certain that the snowstorm was _____.
 1) inherent 2) unavoidable 3) immutable
 4) incoherent 5) imminent
25. It has now been _____ that 47 people died in the crash.
 1) counted 2) assured 3) ensured
 4) confirmed 5) completed
26. He was able to _____ his small income by working in a hotel at night.
 1) expand 2) multiply 3) amplify 4) supplement 5) magnify
27. Several of our players were injured, so our losing the match was almost _____.
 1) inexcusable 2) inevitable 3) unexpected 4) necessary 5) imminent
28. The children _____ crackers to celebrate the victory of their team.
 1) released 2) fired 3) shot 4) broke 5) burst
29. The _____ of the Minister's statement cannot be verified by people who have no access to official records.
 1) veracity 2) verbosity 3) ambiguity 4) validity 5) efficacy
30. The manner in which bombs exploded in five trains within a short span of time suggests that it is a part of a _____.
 1) game 2) conspiracy 3) villainy 4) sabotage 5) scam
31. Some regions of our country still remain _____ to the average man.
 1) inaccessible 2) impossible 3) impermeable
 4) impenetrable 5) intractable
32. It is a rugged, restless, and uncertain existence that the _____ lead.
 1) sailors 2) travellers 3) tourists
 4) nomads 5) astronauts
33. If something is beyond the _____ of human knowledge, man can know nothing about it.
 1) view 2) edge 3) end 4) glimpse 5) boundary
34. He became the Governor of a Province _____.
 1) by and large 2) in the course of time 3) at times
 4) little by little 5) ad nauseam
35. Because of the heavy rain, the match was _____.
 1) set aside 2) called off 3) fallen off
 4) broken off 5) turned off
36. This is a _____ translation of the speech.
 1) literary 2) literal 3) verbal 4) verbatim 5) verbose

Exercise 7

1. Once he has signed the agreement, he won't be able to back _____.
1) up 2) in 3) at 4) out 5) on
2. _____ of old paintings is a job for the experts.
1) Resurrection 2) Retrieval 3) Restoration
4) Resumption 5) Revival
3. The master dispensed _____ the services of his servant.
1) up 2) with 3) from 4) through 5) No word
4. His friend has run _____ his whole fortune.
1) out 2) down 3) over 4) about 5) through
5. His answer was such _____ I expected him to give.
1) that 2) which 3) as 4) like which 5) who
6. My _____ were much reduced owing to that heavy loss.
1) friends 2) resources 3) means
4) enemies 5) aspirations
7. Idleness squanders what _____ in a previous generation has won.
1) laziness 2) indolence 3) resourcefulness
4) industry 5) work
8. The people never give up their liberties but under some _____.
1) delusion 2) allusion 3) confusion 4) illusion 5) effusion
9. That charming girl was the _____ of all eyes.
1) target 2) aim 3) cynosure 4) doggerel 5) ambition
10. The newspapers can publish news sensational, irresponsible and _____.
1) inflammable 2) inflammatory 3) sensible
4) incestuous 5) recriminatory
11. A person who is interested in antiques is called a(n) _____.
1) antiquated 2) equestrian 3) dissenter
4) antiquarian 5) antic
12. Everyone was impressed with her _____ charms.
1) magnetic 2) assertive 3) affable
4) maiden 5) ineluctable
13. In spite of all his brag he had to eat _____.
1) his words 2) humble pie 3) his salt
4) laurels 5) flesh and flood
14. His neighbour was so _____ that he refused to get his clothes washed.
1) affluent 2) parsimonious 3) refulgent
4) arrogant 5) dirty
15. His attitude to his boss was so _____ that it caused a good deal of repulsion.
1) refulgent 2) arrogant 3) sycophantic
4) hybrid 5) aggressive
16. Her _____ leads me to believe that she cannot be trusted.
1) veracity 2) voracity 3) mundaneness
4) mendacity 5) blandishment
17. His _____ way of life seemed inconsonant with his professions of virtue.
1) equable 2) moderate 3) squeamish
4) compromising 5) dissolute

18. His fears were explicitly betrayed by his _____ voice.
 1) phonetic 2) tremulous 3) tenuous
 4) malodorous 5) lackadaisical
19. The influence of the environment on man is revealed by an _____ study.
 1) anthropological 2) ecological 3) epigraphic
 4) numismatic 5) ecumenical
20. In West Bengal there was a time when every citizen suffered from the _____ of organised crime.
 1) insipidity 2) resilience 3) elusiveness
 4) fright 5) depredations
21. He could not get through the examination, because none of his answers was _____ to the questions asked.
 1) suitable 2) pertinent 3) relevant
 4) referential 5) impeccable
22. She had a terrible night caused by a(n) _____ during her sleep.
 1) incubus 2) debility 3) obsession
 4) delusion 5) hypochondria
23. He gave his wife _____ to invite anyone she wanted to the party.
 1) bete noire 2) forte 3) carte blanche
 4) amnesia 5) magnum opus
24. War must be regarded as _____ evil.
 1) necessary 2) unnecessary 3) devilish
 4) hellish 5) monstrous
25. His _____ encouraged his enemy to harm his interests.
 1) justice 2) pusillanimity 3) excitement
 4) frustration 5) irresponsibility
26. The mysticism and sadism of modern racial myths have _____ the truth that the only true race is the human race.
 1) exposed 2) belied 3) clarified
 4) obscured 5) fainted
27. Alexander Solzhenitsyn's works will be _____ by every lover of liberal thought and they will bring home to him how restrictive freedom is in the Russian system.
 1) borrowed 2) rejected 3) skimmed 4) compiled 5) perused
28. One can see in the Crusades the first great collective military _____ in which entire Europe participated.
 1) enterprise 2) expedition 3) march
 4) assignment 5) perspective
29. When freedom is threatened and territorial _____ is endangered, there is only one duty — the duty to meet the challenge with all our might.
 1) sovereignty 2) intractability 3) invincibility
 4) inviolability 5) integrity
30. Knowledge is like a deep well, fed by _____ springs, and your mind is the little bucket that you drop in it.
 1) immortal 2) inexhaustible 3) eternal
 4) perennial 5) sterling

480 / English is Easy

31. True health and true success go together for they are inseparably ____ in the thought-realm.
 1) tied up 2) bound up 3) intertwined
 4) interrelated 5) interspersed
32. The foolish waste all their mental and spiritual energy in ____ — foolish chatter of selfish argument, not to ____ wasteful physical excesses.
 1) triviality, speak of 2) frivolity, mention 3) gossip, tell
 4) obscurity, say 5) insipidity, expatiate
33. I do not think you will gain anything by insulting and ____ the man you do not agree with.
 1) defaming 2) depicting 3) charging
 4) revamping 5) enervating
34. It looks as if the discredited white minority regime of Mr Ian Smith has been able to make as ____ an exit from Rhodesia as have the Americans from Indo-China.
 1) sagacious 2) deferential 3) ignominious
 4) organised 5) majestic
35. The Indian ____ have discovered a way to boost the yield per acre of different ____ of wheat.
 1) agronomists, varieties 2) economists, kinds
 3) anthropologists, sorts 4) phrenologists, layers
 5) agroanalysts, vistas
36. The opposition parties allege that prices of essential commodities are ____ like a runaway balloon.
 1) flying 2) reviving 3) leaping 4) soaring 5) shooting
37. Success in great ventures call for ____ concentration and strong personal ____.
 1) sterling, attachment 2) standing, participation
 3) hectic, interest 4) continued, apathy
 5) unflagging, involvement
38. The admiration some leaders earn is ____ by their ____ instinct for hitting the frontlines in newspapers.
 1) developed, uncanny 2) generated, feeble
 3) engendered, unerring 4) evolved, aggressive
 5) conceded, provocative
39. With the realisation, we have found ourselves left with ____ moral values and little ethical ____.
 1) extreme, judgement 2) fundamental, scruples
 3) incidental, standards 4) obsolete, direction
 5) stereotyped, perspective
40. For nations conscious of the ____ of modern war, peace must be the goal of their foreign policies.
 1) perils 2) incidence 3) prudence
 4) redundancies 5) potentialities
41. They were reduced to skeletons for they had long been ____ for food.
 1) impinging 2) snarling 3) craving 4) longing 5) famishing

42. Even more than beauty, youth attracts me, and with a(n) _____ appeal.
 1) ineluctable 2) irresistible 3) incomprehensible
 4) delectable 5) sententious
43. It was through the Second World War that Russia _____ herself increase _____ in power and wealth and prestige.
 1) saw, abundantly 2) noticed, gullibly
 3) witnessed, prodigiously 4) allowed, thoroughly
 5) cajoled, phenomenally
44. Sometimes it is necessary for an author to know what is going on in the minds of his characters. This is called _____.
 1) omnipresence 2) ominiscience 3) omnipotence
 4) truculence 5) introversion
45. The speaker painted a _____ picture of hunger in parts of India.
 1) chimerical 2) passionate 3) parsimonious
 4) poignant 5) unctuous
46. Some parents make their commands so _____ that they antagonise their children.
 1) perfunctory 2) peremptory 3) acrimonious
 4) spasmodic 5) sporadic
47. Discontented wives, dejected lovers, frustrated politicians, all these tend to be _____.
 1) specious 2) abstemious 3) euphemistic
 4) persiflage 5) querulous
48. A(n) _____ is a person who dabbles in art and letters.
 1) dilettante 2) connoisseur 3) philistine
 4) chauvinist 5) epicurean
49. The assassination of the Archduke was followed by _____ throughout the whole European continent.
 1) repercussions 2) concatenations 3) reprisals
 4) consternations 5) enervations
50. A great literary or artistic work is known as _____.
 1) pot pourri 2) par excellence 3) bete noire
 4) peccadillo 5) magnum opus

Exercise 8

1. The person who is looking for sympathy talks _____.
 1) glibly 2) didactically 3) ominously
 4) plaintively 5) disparagingly
2. He has a _____ tongue; his pinching sarcasm has _____ everyone who has come into contact with him.
 1) wanton, immunised 2) vitriolic, alienated 3) pungent, animated
 4) recalcitrant, humanised 5) obsequious, adulated
3. The speaker did not properly use the time as he went on _____ on one point alone.
 1) devoting 2) deliberating 3) diluting
 4) distributing 5) dilating

482 / English is Easy

4. They decided to _____ down their original plans for the bigger house and make it smaller.
 1) climb 2) turn 3) scale 4) play 5) change
5. Usha was badly _____ by the news which she got in the letter.
 1) electrified 2) petrified 3) deranged 4) shaken 5) frozen
6. In spite of her other _____, Kasthuri still managed to find time for her hobbies.
 1) occupations 2) preoccupations 3) predilections
 4) business 5) promises
7. Success comes to those who are vigilant not to permit _____ from the chosen path.
 1) distraction 2) deviation 3) alienation
 4) diversion 5) obstruction
8. After a short holiday Rajni came back totally _____.
 1) rejuvenated 2) reborn 3) refurbished
 4) revamped 5) restored
9. The members were _____ of the date of the meeting well in advance.
 1) communicated 2) conveyed 3) ignorant
 4) informed 5) known
10. I had not expected to meet him; it was quite an _____ meeting.
 1) organised 2) intentional 3) undesirable
 4) auspicious 5) accidental
11. The window of our room _____ the rear.
 1) overlooks 2) opens 3) opposes
 4) adjoins 5) precedes
12. Their _____ to scale the mountain peak was an absolute failure.
 1) attempt 2) desire 3) anxiety
 4) proposal 5) dedication
13. _____ between labour and management is inevitable in any industrial society.
 1) coordination 2) competition 3) friction
 4) association 5) controversy
14. Macbeth is a tragedy of a man who was _____ with great qualities.
 1) empowered 2) endowed 3) obsessed
 4) possessed 5) privileged
15. Changes in the socio-economic environment have generated a sense of _____ crisis among the people.
 1) deliberate 2) fearful 3) damaging
 4) questionable 5) profound
16. The most obvious reason for his lack of popularity was his _____ to find fault with others.
 1) reluctance 2) premonition 3) superiority
 4) propensity 5) notoriety
17. Although he never learnt to read, his exceptional memory and enquiring mind eventually made him a very _____ man.
 1) benevolent 2) dedicated 3) pragmatic
 4) charismatic 5) erudite

18. The final electoral rolls have been intensively revised through house-to-house _____.
 1) documentation 2) categorisation 3) enumeration
 4) investigation 5) enunciation
19. The Chairman will come here at 5 pm to _____ a lecture.
 1) attain 2) speak 3) talk 4) deliver 5) take
20. Mountaineering institutes _____ to the young climbers the technical knowledge which has been accumulated over the years.
 1) impart 2) indicate 3) apply 4) help 5) present
21. Gokhale's patriotic speeches _____ people to dedicate their lives to the nation.
 1) forced 2) inflamed 3) instigated 4) prompted 5) inspired
22. In his address to the teachers, the Vice-Chancellor _____ certain measures being taken for improving the quality of college education.
 1) declined 2) directed 3) advised
 4) highlighted 5) demanded
23. The problems that India's economic development faces are _____.
 1) myopic 2) dubious 3) enormous 4) strong 5) morbid
24. In our zeal for progress we should not _____ the executive with more powers.
 1) avoid 2) arm 3) give 4) enhance 5) improve
25. Undoubtedly, English is the most _____ spoken language in the world today.
 1) elaborately 2) greatly 3) widely
 4) broadly 5) beautifully
26. The journey may be made by sea or _____ by road.
 1) alternately 2) alteringly 3) conversely
 4) alternatively 5) entirely
27. He has not yet attained the age of 18. He has, therefore, no _____ to vote in this election.
 1) power 2) claim 3) right
 4) authority 5) permission
28. The President today _____ the committee with the induction of the five new general secretaries in place of those dropped.
 1) reconstituted 2) reviewed 3) formed
 4) enlarged 5) supplemented
29. To say that a rectangle will never be a square because it is a rectangle is simply to _____ the very thing you profess to prove.
 1) ensure 2) insure 3) assume 4) contradict 5) subsume
30. Traffic problems in Bombay are as serious as in any other city in India; and they are complicated by digging of roads by the corporation on this or that _____.
 1) aspect 2) period 3) intention 4) instance 5) pretext
31. The Defence Minister said today that the Government was determined to _____ the accord and fulfil the legitimate aspirations of the people.
 1) implement 2) invest 3) practise 4) perform 5) entertain

484 / English is Easy

32. The unprecedented rise in the price of gold in India, contrary to the _____ elsewhere in the world, is baffling the experts.
 1) outlook 2) trend 3) cost 4) pattern 5) views
33. AIDS is not a disease that can be _____ through the air or by insects.
 1) circulated 2) transferred 3) transmitted
 4) conducted 5) injected
34. A controversial issue was _____ by a member of the Opposition in the Assembly, but there was no time to discuss it.
 1) risen 2) raised 3) arose 4) aroused 5) rose
35. Infant mortality rate in China has _____ from 200 per thousand to 14 per thousand.
 1) retarded 2) declined 3) contracted 4) minimised 5) declaimed
36. The labour leader _____ the Government in the assembly today of not protecting the interests of textile workers.
 1) assured 2) instigated 3) assaulted
 4) accused 5) attacked
37. A five-year-old boy was _____ from his school on Monday last by his servant for a ransom of Rs 8,000.
 1) driven 2) arrested 3) escorted
 4) stolen 5) kidnapped
38. All the national bodies responsible for _____ the standards of education will be brought under an apex body too shortly.
 1) selecting 2) creating 3) determining
 4) constructing 5) introducing
39. The car driver was arrested for rash driving and his licence was _____ by the police.
 1) impounded 2) prescribed 3) suspended
 4) penalised 5) banned
40. When people around you are losing their heads, it is very difficult to remain serene. It needs a lot of _____.
 1) patience 2) strength 3) courage 4) goodness 5) modesty
41. He has already made up his mind on this issue. Now it is _____ to argue with him.
 1) sympathetic 2) vague 3) futile
 4) contradictory 5) coherent
42. Nowadays there exists a spirit of _____ among the various departments of the University. This has led to a number of interdisciplinary research publications due to interaction of various research groups.
 1) cooperation 2) education 3) casteism
 4) favouritism 5) patriotism
43. The stock market is very _____ at the moment.
 1) sensible 2) sensitive 3) intensive
 4) remunerative 5) credulous
44. Everyone of us will have to atone for his or her _____.
 1) good deeds 2) goodness 3) good self
 4) gratitude 5) misdeeds

45. The official _____ the Chief Minister of the situation in the town.
 1) apprised 2) informed 3) appraised
 4) heard 5) asked
46. It is not fair to cast _____ on honest and innocent persons.
 1) aspirations 2) aspersions 3) inspiration
 4) adulation 5) stores
47. The audience _____ at the end of the drama.
 1) applauded 2) appraised 3) exploded
 4) appreciated 5) praised
48. The last _____ were performed before the body was cremated.
 1) rites 2) writes 3) rights 4) withers 5) wrights
49. Man is still a _____ in the labour market.
 1) glut 2) possibility 3) endemic
 4) commodity 5) epidemic
50. The Manager of the team _____ the competitors on their success.
 1) encouraged 2) wished 3) eulogised
 4) praised 5) congratulated

Exercise 9

1. I was worn with pain and weak from the _____ hardships which I had undergone.
 1) protracted 2) lengthened 3) stretched
 4) prolonged 5) elongated
2. The state of my finances were alarming; so I took up my quarters in a less _____ and less expensive domicile.
 1) pretentious 2) enthusiastic 3) handsome
 4) miserable 5) desultory
3. We _____ the bleak stone staircase and made our way down the corridor.
 1) climbed 2) mounted 3) ascended 4) spiralled 5) elevated
4. He bowed as if to some applauding crowd _____ up by his imagination.
 1) generated 2) wafted 3) conjured 4) stirred 5) piqued
5. It was a large airy sitting-room _____ by two broad windows.
 1) illuminated 2) furnished 3) hallowed
 4) dissected 5) energised
6. His chin had the _____ and squareness which mark the man of determination.
 1) majesty 2) delicacy 3) fragility
 4) curiosity 5) prominence
7. My health forbade me from venturing out unless the weather was exceptionally _____.
 1) generous 2) congenial 3) congenital
 4) ingenious 5) ingenuous
8. I had no friends who would call upon me and break the _____ of my daily existence.
 1) rigour 2) mystery 3) monotony
 4) zeal 5) eccentricity

486 / English is Easy

9. _____ readers are seldom remarkable for the exactness of their learning.
 1) Reasonable 2) Knowledgeable 3) Meticulous
 4) Desultory 5) Skilful
10. It is a mistake to think that the brain has elastic walls and can _____ to any extent.
 1) extend 2) distend 3) elongate
 4) swell 5) bubble
11. Those scattered linen-weavers were _____ from the town into the country.
 1) aliens 2) migrants 3) immigrants 4) emigrants 5) rustics
12. Raveloe was a village where many of the old echoes lingered, _____ by new voices.
 1) uncovered 2) substituted 3) nestled
 4) undrowned 5) imposed
13. Opinions concerning him had remained nearly _____; his daily habits had presented scarcely any visible change.
 1) static 2) biased 3) inconstant
 4) limpid 5) stationary
14. He had inherited from his mother an acquaintance with medicine — a little store of wisdom which she had imparted to him as a solemn _____.
 1) heritage 2) bequest 3) donation
 4) inheritance 5) dedication
15. Whatever _____ others might discern in William, to his friend's mind he was faultless.
 1) doubts 2) inexperience 3) admiration
 4) blemishes 5) complacency
16. The candle was burning low, and he had to lift it to see the patient's face _____.
 1) brightly 2) incandescently 3) visibly
 4) expressly 5) distinctly
17. Examination convinced him that the deacon had been dead for some time, for the limbs were _____.
 1) frigid 2) numb 3) dormant 4) extinct 5) rigid
18. He was about to speak _____ when he seemed checked again by some inward shock.
 1) impetuously 2) tremblingly 3) feebly
 4) incessantly 5) righteously
19. All his energies were turned into the _____ of disappointed faith.
 1) anxiety 2) anguish 3) metamorphosis
 4) culpability 5) despair
20. For a whole day Marner sat alone, _____ by despair.
 1) peeved 2) stunned 3) extricated
 4) engaged 5) thrilled
21. _____ at the major ports has led planners to develop satellite ports near them.
 1) Blockade 2) Density 3) Containment
 4) Transportation 5) Congestion

22. These stones are being brought from a 40-acre _____ in Karakkal.
 1) quarry 2) mine 3) crane 4) mountain 5) furnace
23. The blasting and quarrying will not significantly alter the _____ of the hill.
 1) aspect 2) profile 3) visage
 4) tranquillity 5) horizon
24. His residence is on the _____ of Hyderabad.
 1) rim 2) core 3) periphery 4) outskirts 5) satellite
25. The party _____ he founded is on the _____ of a political split.
 1) vicinity 2) approximation 3) corner
 4) brink 5) verge
26. 46 fire-tenders _____ for 24 hours before the flames could be brought under some control.
 1) continued 2) exercised 3) burned
 4) struggled 5) endeavoured
27. The depot staff were more keen on _____ their belongings in their residential quarters than on putting out the fire.
 1) protecting 2) erupting 3) scattering
 4) salvaging 5) smuggling
28. The party is virtually dead; it cannot kill anybody, but the _____ of its carcass can cause discomfort to others.
 1) stench 2) smell 3) obscenity 4) aroma 5) villainy
29. I do not wish to recount the _____ murder.
 1) delectable 2) susceptible 3) scurrilous
 4) gruesome 5) fantastic
30. Science is dead when it is _____ from modernism and stops contributing to progressive values.
 1) separated 2) eliminated 3) divorced
 4) segregated 5) eschewed
31. There is a mad _____ for each to get what they can.
 1) venture 2) squabble 3) scramble
 4) enterprise 5) alarm
32. India has the unhappy _____ of having the largest number of child labourers in the world.
 1) distinction 2) credit 3) record
 4) experience 5) compulsion
33. Private capital has a _____ to flow where profits are high.
 1) fatigue 2) proclivity 3) penchant
 4) preoccupation 5) prejudice
34. Jawaharlal Nehru first _____ the concept of non-alignment in 1946.
 1) confessed 2) pursued 3) involved
 4) emancipated 5) enunciated
35. Past civilisations often saw comets as _____ of death and doom.
 1) usherers 2) conductors 3) precursors
 4) portentous 5) harbingers
36. The father-son tensions that frequently _____ themselves in family businesses in the West are rarely witnessed in this country.

488 / English is Easy

- 1) forge 2) witness 3) manifest 4) evidence 5) recur
37. The separation of Maupassant's parents when he was 11 _____ him for life.
 1) wounded 2) scarred 3) frustrated
 4) despised 5) contracted
38. The conquerors _____ money from the inhabitants of the town.
 1) paid 2) exacted 3) traded
 4) collected 5) begged for
39. Hatred of the foreigner always arouses some _____ ones who are ready to die for an idea.
 1) curious 2) inflexible 3) intrepid 4) horrible 5) diligent
40. They could only see each other dimly in the _____ light.
 1) dazzling 2) obscure 3) skeletal 4) silhouette 5) flickering
41. The frozen citizens were silent; they remained immovable and _____.
 1) rough 2) taciturn 3) smoky 4) brusque 5) stiff
42. Conversation began among the three ladies, who had suddenly become friendly, almost _____.
 1) conjugal 2) contemptuous 3) intimate
 4) hostile 5) residual
43. The carriage foundered in a snowdrift and it took two hours to _____ it.
 1) exert 2) pillage 3) exacerbate 4) extricate 5) squander
44. She first resisted the temptation but later _____.
 1) gave up 2) yielded 3) proffered
 4) suffocated 5) released
45. They chatted, with reserve at first, with more _____ later.
 1) condescension 2) abandon 3) contagion
 4) sincerity 5) difficulty
46. The officer, _____ as all powerful people are, looked at him without a word.
 1) tragic 2) disgusted 3) insolent 4) docile 5) resistant
47. War is a _____ when one attacks a peaceable neighbour but a sacred duty when one defends one's country.
 1) compulsion 2) strategy 3) mischief
 4) barbarity 5) corpulence
48. As soon as supper was finished, as they were worn out with fatigue, they _____.
 1) resigned 2) retired 3) surrendered
 4) defended 5) fled
49. She is an artist to the tips of her fingers, signs beautifully, and draws to _____.
 1) completion 2) skill 3) limit
 4) distraction 5) perfection
50. She suffered from the poverty of her apartment, the _____ walls, the worn chairs, and the faded stuffs.
 1) shabby 2) torturous 3) humble 4) coquettish 5) enviable

Exercise 10

1. She saw a Venetian cross of gold and jewels and of _____ workmanship.
1) successful 2) gracious 3) enthusiastic
4) admirable 5) glorious
2. He was _____ to the heart by the injustice of the suspicion.
1) excused 2) wounded 3) stricken 4) amused 5) weakened
3. In a ditch there was a large patch of violets whose scent was _____ all round.
1) perceptible 2) prevailing 3) irascible 4) audible 5) visible
4. She worked _____, without thinking of what she was doing.
1) voluntarily 2) mechanically 3) fortunately
4) rationally 5) deliberately
5. She did not venture to _____ her secret to anyone.
1) oust 2) confide 3) discover 4) terminate 5) let
6. He _____ to her request immediately.
1) accessed 2) acceded 3) seceded
4) conceded 5) buttressed
7. There could not be any _____ about an unequal match between them, for in the country everyone is nearly equal.
1) trust 2) astonishment 3) scruples
4) scarcity 5) shivers
8. She stooped down so as not to be seen by any _____ scamp.
1) roving 2) loitering 3) prowling
4) scot-free 5) twittering
9. A feeling of delicious coolness _____ her from head to foot.
1) submerged 2) drowned 3) pervaded
4) seized 5) jerked
10. She gradually grew _____ to her life.
1) allayed 2) endeared 3) despised
4) accustomed 5) warranted
11. War broke _____ between them.
1) up 2) away 3) out 4) in 5) ice
12. All his beliefs were fixed, with never a _____.
1) steadiness 2) jolt 3) laxity 4) scorn 5) waver
13. For him, woman was the temptress who had _____ the first man.
1) cherished 2) ambushed 3) ensnared
4) extended 5) tolerated
14. He had toleration only for nuns, _____ harmless by their vow.
1) caused 2) resulted 3) rendered
4) activated 5) impressed
15. It hurt my pride to be forced to _____ a person who always insulted me; nevertheless, I tried to _____ him.
1) rebuke, condign 2) respect, avenge
3) propitiate, conciliate 4) repudiate, evaluate
5) intimidate, redeem

490 / English is Easy

16. At first I could not make out her reasons and was taken a little _____.
 1) surprise 2) wrong 3) astray 4) awry 5) aback
17. His _____ directions misled us as we did not know which of the two roads to take.
 1) foolish 2) complicated 3) extenuating
 4) ambiguous 5) arbitrary
18. In the Fifth Five-year Plan a grant of Rs 46 lakh was _____ for promotion and research on the medical benefits of Yoga.
 1) sponsored 2) ushered 3) scrutinised
 4) earmarked 5) benefitted
19. Although there are _____ outbursts of gunfire, we can report that the major rebellion has been suppressed.
 1) bitter 2) heinous 3) meagre 4) nocturnal 5) sporadic
20. In recent years there has been a(n) _____ explosion of Yoga institutes all over the world.
 1) palpable 2) indigenous 3) prestigious
 4) veritable 5) pulsating
21. His listeners enjoyed his _____ wit but his victims often _____ at its satire.
 1) lugubrious, suffered 2) taut, smiled 3) bitter, smarted
 4) lugubrious, smiled 5) trenchant, winced
22. _____ is perhaps the most common ailment Indians suffer from.
 1) Gastric 2) Stomach 3) Navel
 4) Heart 5) Flatulence
23. The child's earliest words deal with concrete objects and actions; it is much later that he is able to grapple with _____.
 1) decisions 2) abstractions 3) maxims
 4) opponents 5) mathematics
24. There are too many _____ who go about lecturing on Yoga without knowing anything about it.
 1) culprits 2) gullibles 3) godmen
 4) ascetics 5) charlatans
25. It would be difficult for one so _____ to be led to believe that all men are equal and that we must disregard race, colour and creed.
 1) emotional 2) broadminded 3) tolerant
 4) intolerant 5) democratic
26. Among the _____ found in the ruins of cities of the Indus Valley are figurines showing ascetics in yogic postures.
 1) relics 2) archaeology 3) tools 4) rubble 5) bodies
27. It is too early to _____ the results as the experiment is very new.
 1) count 2) register 3) cleanse
 4) approximate 5) gauge
28. Other exercises _____ energy; Yoga is designed to preserve it.
 1) spend 2) consume 3) dissipate 4) exhaust 5) annul
29. When he unveiled her deformed face on the wedding night, he _____ with horror.
 1) committed 2) agitated 3) recoiled 4) criticised 5) reclined

30. The film opens with a fiery sunset behind a temple with bells _____ for evensong.
1) thundering 2) pealing 3) clanging 4) pining 5) striking
31. The men laughed; the women covered their faces with their hands and _____.
1) muffled 2) giggled 3) ensconced 4) rescued 5) shrieked
32. Even a slight dislocation in the transport schedule could _____ disaster.
1) wreak 2) avert 3) instil 4) prove 5) spell
33. In summer in India, the sun goes on, day after day, from east to west, scorching _____.
1) gapingly 2) relentlessly 3) thirstily 4) caressingly 5) prickly
34. Taken in _____, alcohol is no more harmful than drinking fizzy aerated minerals.
1) excess 2) temperance 3) abstinence
4) drunkenness 5) moderation
35. Though a teetotaler in public, he had no _____ about drinking in private.
1) injunctions 2) compunctions 3) conviction
4) allegation 5) perdition
36. Maharashtra has played _____ with prohibition under various ministries.
1) geese and gander 2) hens and cocks 3) sows and boars
4) cows and bulls 5) ducks and drakes
37. Prohibition prevents a wage-earner from reducing his family to _____.
1) penury 2) ashes 3) couch-potatoes
4) disease 5) miserliness
38. English has _____ itself in the speech of the illiterate peasant as well as the most sophisticated urbanite.
1) included 2) intruded 3) involved
4) incarcerated 5) insinuated
39. The East India Company was _____ in A.D. 1600.
1) found 2) founded 3) invented 4) set foot 5) set out
40. Philip Mason has _____ the Anglo-Indian affair to a marriage which terminated in divorce by mutual consent.
1) liked 2) likened 3) resembled 4) paralleled 5) equalled
41. As usually happens in cases of divorces by mutual consent, when the time came to part, _____ tears were shed by either spouse.
1) rife 2) copious 3) frivolous
4) crocodile 5) ambiguous
42. The marriage counsellor was invited by the divorce court to explain why the marriage went on the _____.
1) boat 2) dock 3) anvil 4) doldrums 5) rocks
43. By the turn of the century, the English were firmly _____ on Indian soil.
1) ensconced 2) carved 3) endangered
4) enthralled 5) entrenched
44. The one _____ effort made by Indians to rid themselves of the English took place in the summer of 1857.
1) unified 2) integrated 3) unique 4) concerted 5) package

492 / English is Easy

45. It was an unequal combat between a _____ old man and a lusty young crusader.
 1) mature 2) precocious 3) decrepit
 4) lethargic 5) vengeful
46. Since the British were masters of the seas, no _____ power could venture into Indian waters under British rule.
 1) territorial 2) continental 3) maritime
 4) geo-political 5) cosmic
47. Much as Britons may boast of their _____ rule, there are many black pages in their Indian record.
 1) benign 2) vengeful 3) arrogant
 4) horrendous 5) fair
48. The visits stopped because the birds changed their feeding grounds, as they are _____ to do periodically.
 1) rife 2) galore 3) due 4) wont 5) adapted
49. Flamingoes usually reside at a particular _____.
 1) habiliment 2) habitat 3) dwelling 4) shelter 5) residence
50. It is important to know the _____ difference between the two similar ragas
 1) subtle 2) musical 3) harmonious
 4) minor 5) adhesive

Answers and explanations

Note: Two abbreviations have been used in answers and explanations:

(i) WFP — Words Followed by Prepositions. For this refer to the chapter “Preposition” in Part I (GRAMMAR).

(ii) WW — World of Words. It is assumed that you have read this chapter before coming to exercises.

Remember: Words and their usages are best learnt only by referring to them again and again.

Exercise I

1. 4; A clever way to tackle this question would be to see the second blank — a prepositional usage. You go *on* foot. So our choices narrow down to (3) and (4). Now, would you be *utilising* time if you go on foot? Perhaps not. So (3) is eliminated.

If you do something in order to *gain time*, you do it in order to give yourself enough time. For what? To think of an excuse or a way out of a difficult situation.

2. 2; This one is very easy. You do not want to get *disturbed* when you are seriously at work.
3. 3; Note that the paralytic attack was *mild*. Which gives us the clue that its effect would be *slight*. This is further substantiated by the second part of the sentence: “... otherwise he is still very active” means there is some (*slight*) trouble but not much.
4. 1; Let me **remind** you *of* something. If I *remind* you of a fact or event that you already know about, I make you think about it. You knew about the fact, but it had probably slipped out of your mind for some

reason. My statement serves as a *reminder*.

5. 5; If something **contributes** to an event or situation, it is one of the *causes* of it. Here *factors* has been used in the sense of *causes*.

If you *contribute* money or resources to something, you give them to help achieve a particular purpose.

6. 5; See **interest** (WFP). You take **interest** in an activity or a person. Then the activity or the person is of interest to you.

7. 4; What happens when someone makes a request to you? You either *accept* it or *reject* it. Now, we are looking for a prepositional phrase starting with *turn*. If you *turn down* a request or offer, you refuse it.

If you *turn around* a business or economy, it becomes successful, after being unsuccessful for a period of time.

If you *turn off* the road, you start going along a different road which leads you away from the earlier one.

If a bus *turns up*, it arrives, often unexpectedly or after you have been waiting a long time.

8. 2; Only two of the given choices — (2) and (3) — denote actions that can be done “*through* the fallen city”. Since the victorious army would be in a jubilant mood, *ran* is a better option.

9. 5; The repairer *charged* you but the repairing *cost* you.

10. 5; As a matter of rule, who should suffer? The *guilty*. But the word *despite* points to the contrary. Hence, *innocence*.

11. 4; See **relinquish** (WW).

12. 4; (2) is ruled out because *lacked* is not followed by preposition *for*. Among other choices, (4) is the most effective. If you *long for* something, you want it very much. That is exactly how a child wants its mother’s love.

13. 5; *Blowing* goes best with *air*. The *wind* (which is *air* in movement) *blows* while water *flows*. Things *float* in the air when they hang in it or move gently or slowly through it. The air itself does not float; it is the medium of floating.

14. 1; If two persons are only *similar*, you will point out to certain *likenesses*. Yet you can easily tell one from the other. In other words, you can *differentiate* between the two. But the given sentence says differentiation is *difficult*. Which means the *resemblance* is of a very high degree. In other words, **identical** (see WW).

15. 3; Who is a *blacksmith*? A *blacksmith* is a person whose job is making things by hand out of metal that has been heated to a high temperature. The *hammer* is an important tool in his trade.

16. 2; Note that we require a word which denotes “comparative *smallness*” — smallness in relation to its not being enough for the cost of a TV. *Meagre* is the most suitable word for its meaning of “not enough”.

17. 4; We often hear of crime-politics **nexus** (see WW). Here we have one between politics and sports. What is an *isthmus*? An *isthmus* is a narrow piece of land connecting two very large areas of land. The Isthmus of Panama connected the two Americas (North and South)

494 / **English is Easy**

- before it became the Panama Canal.
18. 3; We are talking of his most *striking* (remarkable) *quality*. The *characteristics* of a person or thing are the *qualities* or features that belong to them and make them recognisable.
19. 5; The second part of the sentence indicates that something is *wrong* with "your *behaviour*". Only (2) and (5) bring out this negative aspect. We reject (2) for two reasons:
 (i) *indecent* is an adjective whereas *termed as* is generally followed by a noun; and
 (ii) it is safer to call the behaviour *indiscipline* because it is a broader term and includes the sense of *indecent*.
20. 3; If you stay with a family, it is normally assumed that you are *related* to them.
21. 3; If A *gives* B the *cold shoulder* (in other words, if A *cold-shoulders* B), A behaves towards B in an unfriendly way, to show B that he does not care about B or that he wants B to go away.
22. 4; Consider this: "Boys play guitar. Rakesh is a boy. Rakesh does not play guitar." It means that the rule "Boys play guitar" applies to all boys *except* Rakesh. In other words, Rakesh is an *exception* to the rule.
23. 4; You can *lead* Renu *by the nose*. That is, you can have complete control over her. Now, this is possible only when Renu be a *simpleton*. A *simpleton* is a person who is not very intelligent and can easily be fooled.
24. 4; The part we are concerned with is: "the importance that grammar would ____". In other words, "grammar would ____ importance". It now becomes easy.
25. 1; If you are not **cut out** for a particular type of work, you do not have the qualities that are needed for a good performance at the work.
 If you **cut in on** someone, you interrupt him while he is speaking.
26. 3
27. 2; When you are not invited to a friend's party, what is your general reaction? You show your dissatisfaction by complaining. In other words, you **grumble** (see WW). **Angered** does not fit because Mahesh is the object of the verb *angered* (that is, made angry), not the agent. Not being invited *angered* Mahesh. In other words, Mahesh *was* angered.
28. 5; The clue lies in the preposition *to*. You *demand* or *expect* something *from* someone. But you *explain* it *to* someone.
 That is, you give details about it *to* someone so that he can understand it properly.
29. 2; (5) is rejected because all marriages are *social*. (1) is rejected because no marriage is *natural*. *Polygamous* means being married to more than one person; so (3) is irrelevant. *Love* marriages are usually without dowry. It is only in *conventional* marriages that the question of dowry arises. A *conventional* method or product is one that has been in use

- for a long time.
30. 4; The difference is large and therefore very obvious; hence *markedly*.
31. 3; The word "Life" in the title narrows our choices to (2) and (3). Now, what is the difference between the two? Both describe the life of a person. But an *autobiography* is written by the person himself whereas a *biography* is written by someone else. Here Johnson's life has been described not by Johnson himself, but by Boswell.
32. 1; If something *ensues*, it happens immediately after another event, usually as a result of it.
33. 4; Note that we are talking of "dead leaves". The first three choices suggest life and are therefore ruled out. *Ghostly* is preferred to *sombre* because it has a direct connection with "dead".
34. 2; The number of vacancies are *counted* and *provided* by the organisation, not by the ad. So (1) and (5) are ruled out. Of the remaining choices, (2) is the most appropriate. If you *specify* something, you give information about what is required in a certain situation.
35. 2; The verb will be in the V3 form because of the auxiliary *are*. So (1) and (3) are ruled out. What is done to the bones of the dead? They are either *burnt* or *buried*. *Interred* is a synonym of *buried*.
36. 2; This one is very easy. It is obvious that there is a comparison between two contrary things. The antonym of *rising* is *setting*.
37. 2; (1) is ruled out because *pheasant* is a bird; the grandfather is a *man*. But (4) is not appropriate because *man* is not specific. Who is a *squire*? In former times, the *squire* of an English village was the man who owned most of the land in it. The adjective *simple* thus does not apply to a *squire*. But a *peasant* (farmer) is usually simple and illiterate.
38. 4; A *juvenile* is a child or young person who is not yet old enough to be regarded as an adult. A *juvenile court* is a court which deals with crimes committed by juveniles. *Juvenile delinquency* is vandalism and other criminal behaviour that is committed by juveniles.
39. 1; *What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander* means what is acceptable for one person in a particular situation should be acceptable for another person in a similar situation.
40. 5; If you live in an *ivory tower*, you have no knowledge or experience of the practical problems of everyday life. In other words, you are a theoretical person, and this is not a good sign.
41. 3; If something *takes* you *by surprise* or if you are *taken by surprise* at something, it happens when you are not expecting it, or when you are not prepared for it.
42. 2; (3) is rejected because *antecedents* usually refers to things or events; we are persons. *The Antipodes* (4) refers to Australia and New Zealand. (5) is rejected because your *predecessor* is the person who had your job before you. HD Deve Gowda was the *predecessor* of prime minister IK Gujral. *The ancients* (1) are the people of an old civilisation, especially classical Greece or Rome. Our *ancestors* (2) are the people from whom we are descended.

496 / English is Easy

43. 1
44. 1; (2), (4) and (5) can be conveniently eliminated. *Charged* is preferred to *accused* because it is more specific; we know that the agent of the verb is *police*. When the police *charge* someone, they formally accuse him of having done something illegal.
45. 2; (1) and (4) can be conveniently eliminated. (3) is rejected because *resulted* should be followed by the preposition *in*. (5) is rejected because a crisis is *precipitated*, not an accident.
46. 4; When someone else has good fortune (luck), the general feeling is: "Why is he the favoured one? Why not I?" This is a feeling of *envy*.
47. 1; A *fugitive* is someone who is running away or hiding, usually in order to avoid being caught by the police. What do the police do? They *chase* the fugitives. *Pursue* is a synonym of *chase*. *Pursuit* is the noun form.
48. 5; If you can make others laugh as well as appreciate jokes, you have a *good* sense of humour.
49. 5; *Audible* means that which can be heard. You can either hear *sounds* or *words*. But to make sense, merely hearing *sounds* won't do. You must get the words properly in your ears.
50. 4; If you are even moderately interested in news, you must have heard of the NPT. It stands for Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty — a treaty which aims at halting the *proliferation* (increasing in number very quickly) of nuclear (atomic) weapons.

Exercise 2

1. 1; Note the word *depressing* (= sorrow + disappointment). (2) and (3) are positive moods and are therefore ruled out. (4) and (5) are negative moods but active. Only *laziness* suits our requirement of a passive mood.
2. 1; What does the spider do? It *spins* a web.
3. 1; (1), (2) and (5) are close choices and pose some difficulty. An *obstruction* is something that stands in the way and hinders a work. So the "technical qualification" and not the whole statement, may be seen as an *obstruction*. *Trouble* brings a sense of worry, which is not required here.
4. 3; *As againt* means "in comparison with". *As offfrom* means "starting from (the time stated)". For example, Hong Kong will be freed from British control, *as of* July 1, 1997.
If something happens *as per* a particular plan, it is done in the way planned.
5. 5; The message of moral teachings: do not use unfair means. So, the *probability* is that the candidates will *not* use unfair means. Or, they are *not likely* (= *unlikely*) to use unfair means.
6. 1; Clearly, we need an adjective. So (4) and (5), which are nouns, are ruled out. For 1, 2 and 3 see the respective choices in WW.
7. 1; If he is being *mean* to his servant, it means his treatment is unkind. Being unkind is a negative quality. Only (1) suggests this negative connotation.

Golden mean is a balance between two extreme positions, ideas etc. But here *mean* is a noun while in the given sentence it is an adjective (qualifies *treatment*).

8. 3; The correct choice should have a meaning similar to *acquaintances* but have a greater intensity. An *acquaintance* is a person whom one knows, especially through work or business, but who is not a close (*intimate*) friend.
9. 1; See **calamity** (WW). (1) is more specific than any other choice.
10. 3; (5) is rejected because the word should suggest that the fact goes “in favour of” the manager. If the profitability *declines*, it would go *against* the manager. A good manager *adds to* the profitability. In other words, the profitability *increases*.
11. 4; To see which doctor? “The doctor (that) you _____”. In other words, “You _____ the doctor” (because *doctor* is the object of the verb-choice). After simplifying thus, we find that only *recommend* fits the blank.
12. 4; An *autopsy* is a *post mortem* — an examination of a dead body by a doctor who cuts it open in order to try to discover the cause of death.
Stringency means “severity”.
Stricture means “severe criticism” and applies here. So does *condemnation*. But merely criticising won’t do. *Punishment* is necessary.
13. 1; (4) and (5) can be conveniently ruled out. (2) does not apply to “reputation”: if an activity or situation is *in the doldrums*, it is very quiet; nothing new or exciting is happening. See **jeopardy** (WW).
14. 3; The clue lies in “ornaments”. If something is **embellished with** decorative features (ornaments) or patterns, it has those features or patterns on it and they make it look more attractive.
15. 2; See **usher** (WW).
16. 1; A *murder* is like a riddle or puzzle. In absence of witnesses, the police remain clueless. But if the police catches up with the *fugitive* (see Ex 1, Q. 47, explanation), clues will be provided. And the murder would be *solved*.
17. 3; A *row* is a serious disagreement between people or organisations. See **mire** (WW).
18. 5; (3) makes no sense at all. (2) and (4) indicate negative performance. (1) indicates positive performance. Since *badly* is already mentioned, we need a neutral word suggesting performance. This meaning is given by *fared*.
19. 1; If you are *aboard* a ship or plane, you are on it or in it.
 If something is torn *asunder*, it is violently separated into two or more parts or pieces.
 See **aloft** (WW).
20. 1; Only something negative can prevent a good measure. We have two choices representing negativeness: (1) and (2). But (2) is not applicable: A *syndrome* is a medical condition that is characterised by a particular

498 / **English is Easy**

group of signs and symptoms.

21. 4; A process is implemented in *phases*. A *phase* is a particular stage in a process or in the gradual development of something.
22. 2; The side of anything large can be referred to as its *flank*. If something is *flanked* by things, it has them on its sides.
23. 4; (2), (3) and (4) are close choices. But note the verb *taken*. *Programmes* are *launched*, (*policies* are *formulated*), *plans* are *made*, but *measures* are *taken* (or *adopted*). When someone, usually a government or other authority, takes *measures* to do something, they carry out particular actions in order to achieve a particular result.
24. 5; You **arrive at** a decision.
25. 2; If you *subject* someone *to* something unpleasant, you make them experience it. Note that *intensive* developmental activity is an unpleasant experience for the mountains (the Ghats). At least, that is what the environmentalists say.
26. 2; *Room* is used in the sense of *place*, but in a different context. If there is *room* somewhere, there is enough empty space there for people or things to be fitted in, or for people to move freely or do what they want to.
27. 2; If something reaches a *high* of a particular amount or degree, that is the greatest it has ever been. We do not say “all-time *highest* or *lowest*” but “all-time *high* or *low*” though we mean the former.
28. 1; We are talking of a *relationship* between *saving* and *income*. Only (1) and (2) stand for *relationship*. But (1) is more appropriate.
29. 3; We are looking for a word which represents a “process” that deprives people of their freedom. (1) and (2) are ruled out because they are not processes. (5) encourages freedom.
- If farms or factories (note *not individuals*) are *collectivised* they are brought under state ownership and control, usually by combining a number of small farms or factories into one large one.
- Regimentation* is very strict control over the way a group of people behave. Where there is control, individuals are deprived of freedom.
30. 1; Either-or choice suggests a contrast.
31. 3; *Travels* gives the sense of path. *Flows* also gives this sense, but *light* is not a *fluid*.
32. 1; “She” can have *temperament* or *consciousness*, but not “her work”. So (2) and (3) are ruled out. “... above *answer*” makes no sense; so (5) is ruled out. (4) is rejected because “above criticism” is more suitable than “above judgement”.
33. 3; -30°C is too low a temperature. So, in all probability, the temperature has *fallen down*, and that too drastically. Hence, *plummeted*.
34. 1
35. 1; *Irreparable* damage or harm is so bad that it cannot be repaired or put right.

Incontrovertible evidence or facts are absolutely certain and cannot be denied or disproved.

If something is *encashable*, it can be cashed.

If something is *inconceivable*, one cannot even *conceive* (think of) it. That is, it is very unlikely to happen or be true.

If something is *negotiable*, it can be changed or agreed when people discuss it.

36. 1; If something is *confined to* a particular place, it exists only in that place.

37. 3; If a place is *strewn* with things, they are scattered there untidily.

38. 1; If someone is *convicted* of a crime, he is found guilty of that crime in a law court.

A *derelict* is a person who has no home or job and who has to live on the streets.

39. 1; None of the other pairs make sense. Common sense gives the relationship: “less rainfall, cut in water supply” and “more rainfall, no cut”.

40. 3; There was “pressure” upon it and it has been destroyed (“could not be used”). Both these senses are brought out only by *crushed*.

41. 4; (1) is ruled out because there is no question of a *decision*. (5) is ruled out because books cannot have *intention* of their own. (3) is ruled out because the correct expression is *by far*. *Certainly* and *definitely* are both used to emphasise what you are saying. But *certainly* is preferred in case of a statement (as here) while *definitely* emphasises an intention or opinion (“I am *definitely* leaving.” or “India will *definitely* win.”)

42. 5; See **cogent** (WW).

43. 2; The latter part of the sentence suggests that the ties are very weak. See **tenuous** (WW).

44. 3; The blank has to be filled by an antonym of *cultured*. A *philistine* is one who does not care about or understand good art, music or literature, and does not think that they are important. A *boor* is one whose behaviour and attitudes are rough, uneducated, and rude. Thus *boor* is more appropriately the antonym of *civilised*.

45. 2; An *aphorism* is a short witty sentence (not *lofty*) which expresses a general truth or observation.

See **platitude** (WW).

Bombast is the use of long, important-sounding words with little meaning in an attempt to impress others. (Note that the definition is silent on “presented nothing new”.)

An *adage* is something which people often say and which expresses a general truth about some aspect of life. (It need not be *lofty*.)

46. 3; The use of “flashlight” suggests that the animals have something to do with darkness (night). *Nocturnal* means “Of night” while *diurnal* means “of day”.

47. 5; If an idea or action goes *against your grain*, it is very difficult for you to accept it or do it, because it conflicts with your previous ideas, beliefs, or principles.

500 / English is Easy

48. 2; If two people are *at daggers drawn*, they are having an argument and are still very angry with each other.

49. 2; If you *attend on* someone, you go with him or are with him, especially to give protection, help or care. We *attend on* the sick because we are with them to give help and care.

If you *attend to* someone or something, you deal with them or look after them.

50. 5; If a dangerous person, thing, or animal is *at large*, they have not been captured or made safe.

Exercise 3

1. 2; If the sentence began with 'if', the second verb would be 'would see' instead of 'saw'.

2. 3; You *arrive at* a place; you *gather* or *collect* people (not one person); you *allow* someone to do something (but here to do what?). So none of these choices fits. (3) is correct.

3. 4; *Gave* is a general word; proposals are *approved*; sanctions are *imposed*; hints are *dropped*; but favours are *bestowed*.

4. 2; (1) is rejected because *luxury* itself is a "status". (3) is rejected because there are *symptoms* of a *disease*; *status* is not a disease. A *symptom* of an illness (or a bad situation) is something wrong which is considered to be a sign of this situation.

5. 4; You cannot *think* a person; so (1) is rejected. (3) is rejected because *thanking* is done after an action, not before it. (5) is rejected because *enquired* suggests the interrogative mood whereas "to purchase" suggests the imperative mood. *Advised* makes more sense than *called*.

6. 2; A plan is *prepared*; a target is *achieved*; an advantage is *gained*; a height is *attained*; but a structure is *developed*.

7. 5; When can the dowry system be eradicated (*rooted out*)? Only when everyone strives for it together. In other words, "collective *efforts*".

8. 5; If you *carry* something *off*, you do it successfully. If you *carry off* a prize or trophy, you win it.

If you *carry on* doing something, you continue to do it.

If you *carry out* a threat, task or instruction, you do it or act according to it.

If something *carries over* from one situation to another, it continues to exist or apply in the new situation.

If you *carry* something *through*, you do it or complete it, often in spite of difficulties.

9. 1

10. 3

11. 5; If someone is *curt*, he speaks or *replies* in a brief and rather rude way.

12. 5; A *fleet* of ships; a *flock* of sheep; a *group* of people; a *herd* of cattle; a *pack* of wolves. The collective noun *pack* is used in the following cases:

(i) wild animals that hunt together; e.g. *wolves*.

(ii) dogs trained together for hunting; e.g. *hounds*.

(iii) fighting machines that fight together as one force; e.g. *submarines* and *aircraft*.

(iv) a set of playing cards.

(v) any collection or group in a derogatory sense; e.g. *thieves*, *lies*.

13. 1; Aids are *granted*; contracts are *awarded*; policies are *implemented*; discounts are *offered*; use is *allowed*.

14. 3; When you fight back against the people who have attacked you, you *offer* resistance.

15. 5; Note that the adjective should qualify not *men* but “a *number* of men”. While *men* are countable, the moment we talk in terms of a *number* of men, it becomes a magnitude. The adjectives that qualify size (magnitude) are *large*, *small* etc.

16. 3; *Ambition* is the *desire* to be successful, rich, or powerful. Besides, the sentence tells us that it is “never satisfied”. Which means it is a *strong desire*. In other words, it is a *passion*.

17. 2; A **breakthrough** (see WW) is very important and useful. Let us study other *break-* words.

A *breakaway* group is a group of people who have separated from a larger group, for example because of a disagreement.

The *breakdown* of something such as a relationship, plan, or discussion is its failure or ending.

If there has been a *break-in*, someone has got into a building by force.

If there has been a *break-out*, someone has escaped from prison.

The *break-up* of a marriage, relationship, or association is the act of its finishing or coming to an end because the people involved decide that it is not working successfully.

18. 1

19. 2; If you *put up with* someone or something, you tolerate or accept them, even though you find them unpleasant or unsatisfactory.

When you *put* something *across* or *over*, you succeed in describing or explaining it to someone.

If something is *put back*, it is delayed or postponed.

If you *put* money *by*, you save it so that you can use it at a later time.

If you *put* something *down to* a particular thing, you believe that it is caused by that thing.

If you *put forth* a plan or proposal, you suggest it.

If you *put forward* a plan, proposal, or name, you suggest that it should be considered for a particular purpose or job.

If you *put in* an amount of time or effort doing something, you spend that time or effort doing it.

If you *put* something *off*, you delay doing it.

If you *put on* clothing or make-up, you place it on your body in order to wear it.

If you *put out* a fire, you make it stop burning.

502 / English is Easy

If you *put up* resistance to something, you resist it.

20. 1

21. 2; See *deter* (WW).

22. 1; When powerful lights beam on your eyes, you *can't* see things *at all* for a few seconds. You are *totally* blinded during that period.

23. 4; If you *bring someone to book*, you punish him for an offence or make him explain his behaviour officially.

24. 3; *Beverages* are drinks.

25. 3; That which is *sturdy* looks strong and is unlikely to be injured or damaged.

26. 4; If A is *at odds* with B, A is disagreeing or quarrelling with B. (1) is incomplete; the complete expression is *at sixes and sevens*. If you are *at sixes and sevens*, you are confused or disorganised.

27. 2; When does one feel *on edge*? When one is nervous. Of the given choices, *retrenchment* is the one that directly affects the employees and hence makes them nervous. When a government or business *retrenches*, it arranges to spend less; it cuts costs. As a fall-out from this, employees might lose jobs.

28. 3; If you are ready to do something *at the drop of a hat*, you are willing to do it immediately, without hesitating.

29. 2; Note the word *astounded* (not simply *surprised*, but *very, very surprised*). Which means the lack of knowledge is very, very big. Only *colossal* gives this sense of too high a degree of largeness.

30. 3; If you can *tell* A from B, you are able to recognise the difference between A and B.

31. 2; *Should* is used in conditional sentences about what is possible in the future.

32. 4; The noun form is *advice* and verb form *advise*. The plural use is *pieces of advice*.

33. 4; If you *bring something home* to someone, you make him understand how important or serious it is.

34. 4; If you *blow out* a flame or a candle, you blow (send out a stream of air from your mouth) at it so that it stops burning.

If a trouble ("cloud of misfortunes") or an argument *blows over*, it ends without any serious consequences.

If something *blows up*, it is destroyed by an explosion. If an incident *blows up*, it is made to seem more serious or important than it really is.

35. 3

36. 2; The action began at a particular point ("last week") and is still going on ("taking"). Hence, present perfect continuous tense. (1) is rejected because the verb should be plural in keeping with *programmes*.

37. 3; If you *go by* something (here "people's perception"), you use it as a basis for a judgement or action.

Let us see some other prepositional phrases with verb *go*.

The way you *go about* a problem is the way you approach it and deal with it.

If you *go after* something, you try to get it, catch it, or hit it.

If you *go along with* a rule, decision, or policy, you accept it and obey it.

If a piece of news or joke is *going (a)round*, it is being told by many people in the same period of time.

If you *go at* a task or activity, you start doing it in an energetic, enthusiastic way.

If you *go back on* a promise, you do not do what you promised.

If a remark, idea, or type of behaviour *goes down* in a particular way, it means that it gets a particular kind of reaction from a person or group of people.

If an event or action will *go down as* a particular thing, it will be regarded, remembered, or recorded as that thing.

If you *go for* something, you choose it.

If something is *going on*, it is happening.

If you *go over* a document, incident, or problem, you examine, discuss or think about it very carefully and systematically.

If you *go through* an experience (particularly unpleasant or difficult), you experience it.

If an amount of money *goes towards* something, it is used to pay part of the cost of that thing.

If you *go without* something that you need, you do not get it.

38. 4; (1) is rejected because **spurt** (see WW) is only for a brief period. (2) is rejected because *augmentation* is “deliberate addition” and does not need “curbing”.

39. 3

40. 1; A *tortuous* road is full of bends and twists.

41. 4

42. 1; If you take *a leap in the dark* or *a leap into the unknown*, you do something without having any previous experience in or knowledge of that activity. In other words, you take a risk.

43. 4; See **dire** (WW).

44. 3

45. 2; *Intractable* problems or situations are very difficult to deal with.

46. 1; If a disease is *endemic*, it is frequently found among the people who live there. Figuratively, if a condition or problem is *endemic*, it is very common and strong, and cannot be dealt with easily.

47. 2; Note the preposition *to*.

48. 1; Remember Wordsworth: “My heart *leaps* up when I behold / A rainbow in the sky”.

49. 1; If someone is *excommunicated*, it is publicly and officially stated that he is no longer allowed to be a part of that religion (or sect or *community*). This is a punishment for some very great wrong he has done.

50. 3; The *bridge* of a pair of glasses is the part that rests on your nose. The *bridge* of your nose is the thin top part of it, between your eyes.

504 / English is Easy**Exercise 4**

1. 1; If you *make a face* or *pull a face*, you show a feeling such as dislike, disgust, or defiance by putting an exaggerated expression on your face, for example by sticking out your tongue.
2. 2; "Leap" suggests movement. When we move from one medium *to the inside of* another (here "21st century"), we go *into* it.
3. 1; If you feel *enervated*, you feel tired and weak. That is what a deadly disease makes you feel. *Fatigue* is physical or mental tiredness that usually results from exertion or bad weather.
4. 3; If you *commend* someone, you praise him. But if you suggest me that he is a suitable person for a job, you *recommend* him to me.
5. 3; If someone is the *black sheep* of his family, he is considered bad or worthless by others in that family.

Another similar-appearing phrase is *dark horse* but it has a different meaning. If someone is called a *dark horse*, it means that people know very little about him, although he may recently have had success, or may be about to have success.

6. 3; If a face is all perfection, it is robbed of its beauty.
7. 5; "Changes ... are *inevitable* (cannot be avoided)". That is, changes must take place. Why? For we are working for a changing (dynamic) society. In other words, "for we are *not* working for a *stagnant* (antonym of *dynamic*) society."
8. 2; You usually sit *in* a chair or seat. You sleep *in* a bed. But you sit *on* *someone's lap*. So *on* or *in* depends upon whether the place of sitting is enclosed (*in*) or an open surface (*on*).

Let us see some prepositional phrases with *sit*.

If you *sit about* or *around*, you spend time doing nothing useful or interesting.

If you *sit by* while something wrong or illegal is happening, you allow it to happen and do not do anything about it.

If you *sit down* and do something, you spend time and effort doing it in order to try to achieve something.

If you *sit in on* a lesson, meeting or discussion, you are present while it is taking place but do not take part in it.

If you are *sitting on* something, you are delaying dealing with it.

If you *sit something out*, you wait patiently for it to finish, without taking any action.

If you *sit through* a film, lecture or meeting, you stay until it is finished although you are not enjoying it.

9. 3; *But* suggests that we need the antonym of *deducted*.
10. 3; Hinduism is a *religion*.
11. 1; A *friend* is *intimate*, more than an *acquaintance* (see Ex. 2, Q. 8).
12. 4; A mistake in judgment is referred to as an *error*.
13. 2; Only the poor steal out of *necessity*. If you are rich and yet you steal, it is "not for *necessity*" but due to some other reason.
14. 2; If you *forbid* someone to do something, you order him that it must not

be done. Also see **forbid** (WW).

15. 5; If something *comes up to* a time or state (here “my expectations” = what I had expected), it gets near (to) it.

Let us see some prepositional phrases with *come*.

If you *come along* at a particular moment, you arrive by chance. If something is *coming along*, it is developing or making progress.

If you *come around* to an idea, you eventually change your mind and accept it or agree with it.

If C *comes between* A and B, C makes the connection between A and B less close or less happy.

If you *come by* something, you obtain it or find it.

If you *come down on* someone, you criticise him severely or treat him strictly.

If a problem, decision or question *comes down to* (or *boils down to*) a particular thing, that thing is the most important factor involved.

If soldiers or police *come for* you, they come to find you, usually in order to harm you or take you away, for example to prison.

If you *come in for* criticism or blame, you receive it.

If something *comes off*, it is successful or effective.

If you *come out with* a remark, especially a surprising one, you make it.

If a feeling or urge *comes over* you, especially a strange or surprising one, it affects you strongly.

If you *come through* a dangerous or difficult situation, you survive it and recover from it.

If you *come upon* someone, you meet him or find him by chance.

If you *come up with* a plan or idea, you think of it and suggest it.

16. 3; If you call someone a *wet blanket*, you criticise him because he refuses to join others in an enjoyable activity. He is *morose*, a *spoilsport*. A *morose* person is miserable, bad-tempered, and unwilling to talk very much to others.

17. 4; See **soup** (WW).

18. 4; If you say that something is *dirt cheap*, you are emphasising that it is very cheap indeed.

19. 2; It is the indirect speech of a simple statement: “I’ll come.” Hence, the plain verb *said*.

20. 2; If something *impairs* an ability (here “your judgement”), it damages it or makes it worse.

21. 5; That which is *sumptuous* is magnificent and obviously very expensive.

22. 1; A *sensitive* problem needs to be dealt with care because it is likely to cause disagreement or make people upset.

23. 2; A *convoy* is a group of *ships* or vehicles travelling together, especially for protection.

24. 1; You get *interest* when you *invest* money somewhere as a loan.

25. 3; See **abstain** (WFP).

26. 1; If drops of liquid (here “tears”) *roll down* a surface (here “cheeks”),

506 / **English is Easy**

they move quickly down it.

27. 1

28. 3

29. 2; See **detriment** (WFP). Compare the statutory warning on cigarette packets: "Cigarette smoking is *injurious* to health."

What does *incisive* mean? An *incisive* person is one who has the ability to express one's ideas clearly, briefly and forcefully.

30. 5; That which is *respectable* is adequate or acceptable. It is approved of by society and considered to be morally correct.

If you are *respected*, you are admired and considered important by many people. They are *respectful* to you.

31. 2; If you *infer A from B*, you decide that A is true on the basis of the information given by B.

32. 1; What is a "cocktail party"? It is a party where alcoholic drinks are taken. So when you leave the party, there are two possibilities: you are either *drunk* or *sober*. But the words "as a judge" in the simile suggest the latter.

33. 2; A *convocation* is a meeting or ceremony attended by a large number of people. Universities hold it annually and degrees are awarded in it.

In England in former times, a *conventicle* was a building used for a secret meeting of the *Non-conformists* — Christians in disagreement with (*not conforming to*) the established state religion.

34. 5; If you are *gregarious*, you enjoy being with others.

35. 4; You might have heard of ICUs or *Intensive Care Units*. They are also known as "Emergency" departments. The patients in ICU are in *intensive care*. That is, they are given extremely thorough care because they are very ill or badly injured.

36. 2; See *stubborn* (WW). A *stubborn* man is determined to do what he wants. He "continues" where others yield ("give up"). He is not willing to change his mind. Rain or shine, he persists in his conviction.

37. 4; *Husbands* gives us a direct clue that the appropriate word should be *wives*.

A ruling monarch's wife or husband is called his or her *consort*. A common man's wife or husband is called his or her *spouse*.

38. 2; If you *yell at* someone, you shout at him loudly, usually because you are angry, excited, or in pain.

39. 3; If you are *indisposed*, you are not very well in health. It suggests a degree lesser than that suggested by "being *ill*".

40. 2; If you *importune* someone, you ask him for something or urge him to do something, in an annoying way. Note that *importune* thus has a greater intensity than *ask* or *request*. If he wants to catch the thief, it is probably because something of his has been stolen. It will therefore be a pressing urge, even to the extent of annoyance.

41. 4; If you have to *cope with* an unpleasant situation, you have to accept it or endure it. Here the mother is faced with unpleasant situations: (i) "overworked" (ii) "yelling children". So it is "impossible" for her to

cope with them.

42. 4; If A says to B, "Take my *word* for it," A means that B should believe him because A is telling the truth, Here A is "the reporter" and B "the editor". Since A is telling the truth (or so he says), there is no need to consult C ("anyone" else).
43. 5; A *solicitous* person shows anxious concern for someone or something. That he is "considerate" towards the old gives a clue to his *solicitude* (concern). None of the other choices contain this meaning of "concern".
44. 2; You either boast about your achievements or you are *modest* (not *humble*, though a synonym) about them. Generally, achievements make one *proud*. But here *for* (= in spite of) gives a clue that the case is contrary. He is *modest* and therefore I admire him.
45. 2; If someone (for example the treasurer) *embezzles* money that his organisation or company has placed in his care, he takes it and uses it illegally for his own purposes.

If someone *absconds* with something, he leaves (the usual place) and takes it with him, although it does not belong to him.

46. 2; See **cynic** (WW).

47. 4; What is a *pun*? It is a clever and amusing use of a word so that what you say has two different meanings.

The ability to *pun* (make a pun) is known as *wit*.

Sample this one. The teacher asked Narendra, "What are you writing on?" Replied Narendra, "Paper, Ma'am".

Actually, the teacher wanted to know *which topic* Narendra was writing on. Narendra punned on *writing on*: he gave the surface (*paper*) instead of the topic. Narendra is *witty*, no doubt. But this does not ensure he is *intelligent* as well. His *intelligence* would be tested in what he wrote in the essay. It is one thing to make an amusing use of word here and there, and quite another to write *intelligently*.

48. 4; *The sun* is the agent of verb *rising*, not the object.

49. 2; Note the structure: I have *difficulty doing this*. There is no preposition between *difficulty* and *doing*.

Also, see **conform** (WFP).

50. 2; If A *admits of* no B, it leaves no chance for B being possible. So the given sentence means: "No excuse can be allowed for his action."

Also, see **admit** (WFP).

Exercise 5

1. 1; If you say that something is *unbelievable*, you are emphasising that it is very good, impressive, intense, or extreme. So, "*unbelievably hot*" means "very, very, very hot." No other choice emphasises this extremeness.
2. 2; If you *emulate* something or someone, you imitate them because you admire them a great deal. "Jayadev's behaviour" is "worthy of emulation" and must be therefore *exemplary* — worthy of setting an *example* to others.

508 / **English is Easy**

3. 2; Have you ever suffered *grief* (sorrow)? What do your friends do? Some of them might offer advice but most of them are wary of giving any suggestions: advice often evokes an irritated reaction. So they merely *console* you. That is, they try to make you feel more cheerful.
4. 2; When you *assess* a person, thing or situation, you consider them in order to make a judgement (decide a “course of action”) about them. *Managing* the situation comes as a result of implementing the best course of action.
5. 3; (1) and (2) are ruled out because they do not bring the contrast (“but”), making the sentence meaningless. Of the remaining choices, (4) and (5) are ruled out because of the preposition *at*. You are *impressed by* something; you are *suspicious of* something.
6. 4; “Even though” gives the clue that the adjective before it should be the antonym of “had worked earlier”. Now, *infeasible* means “that which cannot work”. See **feasible** (WW).
7. 3; (3) and (4) are close choices. Both *heed* and *attention* are acceptable for the second blank. Now, on to the first blank. You are *bothered with* or *about* something, but you are *deterred by* it. Hence, (3).
8. 2; “Initial” gives a clue to the second blank — something concerned with “beginning”. *Original*? Yes. Also, see **deviate** (WW).
9. 1; The sentence says: “too X (where X is the second blankfiller)... to bring in improvement in collection”. That is, “so X that it could not increase collection”. Which means X should be *low*.
10. 1; If you *wield* a weapon, tool (for example, paint-brush), or piece of equipment, you carry and use it. Now, a good artist uses his brush with remarkable *ease*. That is, he does it easily, without difficulty or effort.
11. 3; For example, God is the “supreme purpose” and religions are the “*different routes*”.
12. 5; When a *point of time* in the past (when the action started) is given, we use *since*. For a *period* of action, we use *for*.
13. 4; The *origin(s)* of something is its beginning, cause, or source. A person’s *origin(s)* refers to the country, race or social class of his or her parents or ancestors. An American of Chinese *origin* means someone like Michael Chang. The ancestors of this US tennis star were from China.
14. 2; If A *results in* B, A is the cause of B.
15. 3; The two (“... decision” and “indecision”) are being compared. *Preferable* is the only word denoting comparison.
16. 2; *Autocratic* is the adjective from *autocracy* (*autos* = self + *kratos* = power). An *autocratic* ruler concentrates all *power* in *himself*. He makes decisions without asking anyone else’s advice.
17. 5; If a country’s economy (or administration) or a process *grinds to a halt*, it gradually becomes slower or less active until it stops. If a vehicle *grinds to a halt*, it stops slowly and noisily.
18. 2; See **gloat** (WW).

19. 4; See **strapped** (WFP).
20. 4; Common sense tells us that *high saving* rates should lead to (greater investment and therefore) “high” *growth rates*. But here it is “low”. This is a **paradox** (see WW).
21. 5; Something that is *germane* to a situation or idea or case is connected with it in an important way. The word *irrelevant* in the sentence gives us the clue.
22. 3; A “verbose and redundant style” is one which uses words unnecessarily. A *terse* style, on the other hand, is brief — having no unnecessary words. A *terse* statement or comment is brief and unfriendly. *Prolix* is a synonym of *verbose*. A *prolix* speech uses too many words and is therefore tiringly or uninterestingly long.
23. 3; (1) is rejected because *solely* is an adverb. The word that qualifies a noun (*head*) should be an adjective. Also, there can be only *one* head. So the adjective does not admit any comparison; thus (2) is rejected. (4) is rejected because “*full*” does not make any sense. (5) is rejected because a *controversial* head will have his detractors - he *cannot* “command full respect”.
24. 5; The *moving spirit* or *moving force* behind something is a person or thing that caused it to start and keep going. The *moving spirit* behind a movement influences people to take part in it.
25. 2; *Render* is used in the following senses:
- (i) See WW.
 - (ii) If you *render* someone help or assistance, you help him. This is the use in the given question.
 - (iii) When someone in authority *renders* a verdict, decision, or response, he announces it.
 - (iv) If you *render* something in a particular language or in a particular way, you translate it thus.
26. 3; See **incur** (WW). “Loss” is something unpleasant.
27. 4; For the usage of *former* and *latter*, see “Adjective” in the **Grammar** section.
28. 4; If something is *plunged* into a particular state or situation (here *darkness*), it is suddenly into that state or situation. Power-cuts often *plunge* cities into darkness — a familiar scenario!
29. 1; If A *rivals* B, both A and B are of the same standard or quality. In other words, A *matches* B. “Few countries can *rival* India” means there is hardly any country that can match India. India is almost *unique*.
30. 2; The words “left us *no time*” suggest *urgency*. If something is *urgent*, it needs to be dealt with as soon as possible. An *important* work needs attention but an *urgent* work needs *immediate* attention.
31. 1; See **credo** (WW). Let me give you one example of “*incredible* but true.” The New Zealand team were once bundled off for 26 in a Test innings! *Unbelievable*, isn’t it? Even primary school teams score more than that! But it is a *fact*.
32. 4; If you *attribute* A to B, you think that A was caused by B. In other

510 / **English is Easy**

words, B led to A. Here, for example, the lawyer feels that his father's guidance led to his success.

33. 3; When a volcano *erupts*, it throws out a lot of hot, molten lava, ash, and steam. Similarly, if violence or fighting *erupts*, it suddenly begins or intensifies in an unexpected, violent way. If your skin *erupts*, sores or spots suddenly appear on it.
34. 1; Let us look at the *look* phrases:
 If you *look after* someone, you do what is necessary to keep him healthy, safe, or in good condition.
 If you *look after* something, you are responsible for it. It is your duty to see that it functions all right.
 If you *look ahead*, you think about what is going to happen in the future; you make plans for the future. On the contrary, if you *look back*, you think about things that happened in the past.
 If A *looks down on* B, A considers B to be inferior or unimportant.
 If you *look forward to* something that is going to happen, you want it to happen because you think you will enjoy it.
 If you *look into* a problem, you try to find out about it; you examine the facts related to the problem.
 If you *look on* while something happens, you watch it happening without taking part yourself.
 If you *look up* a fact or a piece of information, you find it out by looking in a reference book, list etc.
 If you *look up to* someone, especially someone older than you, you respect and admire him.
35. 1; The result is a contrast. Normally, a bumpy journey results in a lack of sleep.
36. 1; See **assume** (WW).
37. 4; If two people *settle* an argument or problem (here "grievances"), they solve it by making a decision about who is right or about what to do. This is usually done "through *negotiations*". *Negotiations* are formal discussions in which both sides try to reach an agreement.
38. 2; A simpler way of writing this sentence would be: "All the officers were present at the occasion *except* Shri Gokhale." Now, in order to emphasise "*except* Shri Gokhale", we convert it to "the *exception* of Shri Gokhale."
39. 5; If a situation, event or activity *concerns* you, it affects or involves you.
40. 5; Those who have filled application forms must be well-aware of this word. The advertisement for a vacancy specifies the *eligibility* criteria - the minimum requirements.
41. 4; "The unselfish leaders" become role models. They thus serve as a source of *inspiration* — more than mere *encouragement*.
42. 1; We need an adjective which is in contrast to "a heap of ruins". Only *prosperous* gives this sense. *Prosperous* places are rich, successful and growing (in quality).

43. 3; If I *acquaint* you with something, I make you familiar with it.
44. 5; If you *detect* something, you notice it or sense it, even though it is not very obvious. Now, if there is a very slight leakage of “gas”, its smell is not very obvious. Even then a sharp nose (sharp in its sense of smell) *detects* it.
45. 4; The antonym of *arrest* is *release*.
46. 5; If you *desist from* doing something, you stop doing it.
47. 1; If you believe that something is true, you *hold* such a belief or opinion about it.
48. 3; When you satisfy your thirst by drinking something, you *quench* it *with* that thing.
49. 4; If you have a *quick temper*, you get angry easily.
The use of *but* suggests the adjective required should convey a meaning opposite this. Hence, **meek** (see WW).
50. 2; The word *penal* means “punishable by law”. Hence, *offence* is the correct choice. An *offence* is a crime that breaks a particular law and requires a particular punishment. A *sin*, on the other hand, is a moral wrong. If you *sin*, you break the laws of God.

Exercise 6

1. 4; Words are the currency (coins) of language. When you make new words, you *coin* them.
If you *fabricate* information (lies), you invent it in order to deceive others.
2. 3; *Imposed* would have been a more appropriate word.
3. 5; The “comic” (comics book) changes hands - it goes from the boy to the teacher. Only (2), (3) and (5) give this sense of change of hands. Of these, *seized* is the most appropriate. If someone in authority (here “the teacher”) *seizes* your property (here “the boy’s comic”), they take it from you, often by force. Of course, no boy would willingly part with his “comic”.
4. 5; If a wicked man is known by people, he is not *popular* but *notorious*. Hence, (1) is rejected. (2) is rejected because *solid* makes no sense here. (3) is rejected because it does not add to the meaning of the noun (*criminal*); all criminals are *guilty*. (4) is possible but, apparently, it is a contradiction. (5) is the most appropriate. If someone is *hardened*, he has had so much experience of something bad or unpleasant (such as *crime*) that he is no longer affected by it as others would be. An average man or even a criminal in his earlier phase would be afraid of murders. But one murder after another *hardens* him. Until he becomes a *hardened* criminal. He commits a murder and could be seen comfortably at the tea-table the next moment.
5. 1; *Exact* means “correct in every detail”.
6. 1; *Dismiss* is the antonym of *reinstate*. If you *reinstate* someone, you give him back a job or position which had been taken away from him (when he was *dismissed*).
7. 2; “Every week” suggests a routine, a *usual* happening. That which is

512 / **English is Easy**

customary is what a person *usually* does or has.

8. 4; If you *mobilise* people to do something, you succeed in encouraging them to take action, especially political action.
9. 2; If I am *given to understand* that something is the case (“you are going abroad”), it is communicated to me (the message has somehow reached me) that it is the case, usually without being told directly. In the context of the given sentence, you have not told me that you are going abroad; my source of information is someone other than you.
10. 3; If you *extend* something (here “holiday”), you make it last longer than before (that is, the original schedule).
In other words, the holiday now ends at a later date.
11. 2; See **thwart** (WW).
12. 1; The preposition *to* gives the clue. The other possibility on this ground, that is *apply*, brings out no sense. If you *devote* a particular proportion (here “too much space”) of a piece of writing (here “newspapers”) *to* a particular subject (here “political news”), you deal with the subject in that amount of space.
13. 4; **Cultivate** (see WW) is the general word for *farming*. All the rest — *plough, dig, grow* and *harvest* — are merely part-processes.
14. 5; We have two very close choices - (2) and (5). But the preposition *against* gives us the clue. See **caution** and **warn** (WFP).
15. 4; You **condole** *with* a person *on/over* his or her great misfortune.
16. 1; A *herd* is a group of animals of one kind (for example, *elephants, cattle*) which live and feed together. However, for *goats, sheep* and *birds*, we use *flock*. Also see soln. to Ex. 3, Q. 12 above.
17. 4; “Dearth of grass” implies that the cattle do not get enough grass for food. This would result in “weakness”. A person or animal that is *emaciated* is extremely thin and weak because of illness or lack of food.
18. 4; Let us take a look at the *take* phrases:
When an aeroplane *takes off*, it leaves the ground and starts flying. See also **takeoff** (WW).
If you *take after* a member of your family (say your grandfather), you resemble him in your appearance, your behaviour, or your character.
If you *take apart* an argument or an idea, you show what its weaknesses are, usually by analysing it carefully.
If something *takes away from* an achievement, success, or quality, it makes it (achievement etc.) seem lower in value or worth than it should be.
If you *take down* a structure, you remove every piece of it. If you *take down* a piece of information or statement, you write it down.
If you are *taken in* by someone or something, you are deceived by them, so that you get a false impression of them.
If A *takes on* B, A fights B or competes against B, especially when B is bigger or more powerful than A.

If A *takes* something out on B, A behaves in an unpleasant way towards B because A feels angry or upset, even though this is not B's fault.

If you *take to* doing something, you begin to do it as a regular habit.

If you *take up* an activity or a subject, you become interested in it and spend time doing it, either as a hobby or as a career. If you *take up* a question, problem, or cause, you act on it or discuss how you are going to act on it.

If you are *taken up with* something, it keeps you busy or fully occupied.

19. 1; If you are *avid* for something, you are very eager to get it.

20. 2; If you *make off with* something, you steal it and take it away with you.

21. 2; A *rumble* is a low, continuous, throbbing sound. When clouds at a distance thunder, this is the sound they produce. Have you ever heard your stomach *rumble*? It does when you are hungry.

Other choices also denote sounds. If something *crackles*, it makes a rapid series of short, harsh noises. This sound is produced by fire, radio, dry twigs under your feet, etc.

Ripple is the sound of gently running water. For example, a stream *ripples*.

If something *clanks*, it makes a short loud sound, like that of a heavy metal chain being moved.

Click is a slight short, sharp sound. The key *clicks* when you open a lock. Cameras *click*. Switches are *clicked*. Those who operate computer must be familiar with the *click* of a button on the mouse.

22. 1; See **dissent** (WW).

23. 4; *Provocation* is the noun from *provoke* (see WW).

24. 5; *Unavoidable* means "certain to happen" while *imminent* means "almost certain to happen". Usually, we cannot be 100 per cent *certain* of a natural phenomenon like "hailstorm". So it is safer to call it *imminent* than *unavoidable*.

25. 4; When enough information is made available about a report ("47 people died in the crash") so that it is certain to be true, we say that the report has been *confirmed*.

26. 4; If you *supplement* something, you add something to it in order to improve it.

27. 2; *Imminent* means "almost inevitable (unavoidable)". So we reject (5) to avoid the repetition of "almost".

28. 2; Crackers (= fireworks) *burst* or explode when "the children" *fire* it.

29. 1; See soln to Q. 25 above. When a statement (or report) is verified (or confirmed), what is it that we *confirm*? We confirm the *veracity* of the statement. That is, whether the statement is true.

30. 2; A *conspiracy* (see WW) is well-planned and involves several persons as its agents or their accomplices in one form or the other.

31. 1; **Inaccessible** (see WFP) means that which cannot be *accessed*

514 / **English is Easy**

(reached).

32. 4; All other choices denote people whose existence may be “rugged” and “restless” but involves a degree of “certainty”. Unlike *nomads*, they have fixed routes and destinations and, above all, a home to go back to. *Nomads* are tribes which travel from place to place rather than living in one place (home) all the time. They have an “uncertain existence”.
33. 5; A *boundary* denotes the limits beyond which lies an alien territory.
34. 2; If something changes or becomes true *in the course of time*, it has so become over a long period of time.
35. 2; If you *call off* an event that has been planned, you cancel it.
36. 2; A *literal* translation is one in which you translate *each word* of the original work. Since each language has its own idiom, a *literal* translation leads to awkward usages. A *literal* translation is therefore not considered good. A good translation gives the meaning of each expression, sentence or paragraph, using words that sound natural.
37. 1; (2) and (4) make the sentence meaningless. (5) does not use the correct word: What is *denied* is a report, statement or request (not a project); when you *deny* them, you say ‘No’ to them. (3) would be correct if the choice had the words *held back* in place of simply *held*.
38. 5; The part after “One must accept” is the object of the verb *accept*. In other words, it is a noun clause. Now, of the given choices, a noun clause can start with either *how* or *that*. So, our choices narrow down to (3) and (5).

Now, come to the second choice. The modifier of *something* comes after it (for example, *new* here); it does not precede it. So the modifier in the second blank should modify *is* (a verb) and should therefore be an adverb. But *sudden* is an adjective. So we reject (3).

39. 4; You can either *focus*, *draw* or *invite* “attention”. So (1) and (3) are ruled out. Again, you can *focus* attention *on* (not *to*) something. So (2) is ruled out. Of (4) and (5), *draw* is more appropriate. Besides, the second blank-filler gives the clue. “The second paragraph” *pertains to* (is concerned with) “the terms of sale”.
40. 1; See **casual** (WW).
41. 4; We have so many times heard of “prize *distribution*”.
42. 3; If someone is *indispensable*, you cannot *dispense with* him. If you *dispense with* something, you stop using it; you get rid of it altogether, especially because you no longer need it. But *indispensable* persons are always needed and therefore can’t be kicked out. They are absolutely essential; others can’t function without them.
43. 2; People use an *instrument* (here “language”) to achieve a particular *aim* (here “communication”).
44. 3; That which is *noticeable* is very obvious. It can easily be seen, heard or recognised. Thus it is easy to be *noticed*.
45. 1; See **abstain** (WFP).
46. 5; If X *calls for* a particular action or quality, X needs it or makes it

necessary.

47. 3; An *occasion* is an important event, ceremony or celebration.
 48. 2; If you *assure* me that something is true or will happen, you tell me that it is definitely so.
 49. 2; If you *tie down* someone, you restrict his freedom in some way.
 50. 2

Exercise 7

1. 4; See back (WW).
 2. 3; When you *restore* something such as an old building, *painting*, or piece of furniture, you repair and clean it, so that it looks like it did when it was new.
 3. 2; See soln. to Ex. 6, Q. 42 above.
 4. 2; Let us go through the *run* phrases:
 If you *run down* an amount of something, you reduce it or allow it to decrease.
 If A *runs after* B, A is trying to start a relationship (usually sexual) with B. *Running after* someone is not considered decent.
 If you *run around*, you go to a lot of places and you do a lot of things, often in a rushed or disorganised way.
 If you let your imagination or your emotions *run away with* you, you fail to control them and cannot think sensibly.
 If you *run into* problems or difficulties, you unexpectedly begin to experience them.
 If you *run through* a list of items, you read or mention all the items quickly.
 If you *run to* someone, you go to them for help or to tell them something.
 If you *run up* bills or debts, you acquire them by buying a lot of things or borrowing money.
 5. 3; "I expected him to give" denotes the kind (category) of the answer; it is not the result of "his answer". So use *as*, not *that*.
 6. 3; "My *means*" refers to the money that I have.
 7. 4; *Industry* is the antonym of *idleness*.
 8. 1; If you are under a *delusion*, you are carrying a false impression.
 9. 3; If you are the *cynosure* of all eyes, you are a centre of attention or interest.
 10. 2; What is the difference between *inflammable* and *inflammatory*? That which is *inflammable* can catch flames. An *inflammable* material or chemical catches fire and burns easily. You must have seen the caution on petrol tankers: Highly *Inflammable*.
 That which is *inflammatory* causes "flames". If you say or do *inflammatory* things, it is likely to make people react very angrily. For example, there are certain news reports which *inflame* certain people.
 11. 4; An *antique* is an *old object* which is valuable because of its beauty or rarity. It may be a piece of furniture, decorative object, jewellery etc.
 12. 5; We have three close choices: (1), (3) and (5). *Affable* means pleasant

516 / **English is Easy**

and friendly. *Magnetic* is a better choice: that which is *magnetic* attracts you like a magnet. But *ineluctable* is the strongest choice: that which is *ineluctable* is impossible to escape from. So if her “charms” are *ineluctable*, “everyone” must be “impressed”.

13. 2; (1) and (2) are close choices. If you have to *eat your words*, you have to take back what you have said. If you have to *eat humble pie*, you have to apologise humbly. Thus (2) is more humiliating and hence a more suitable contrast to “brag” (= boast).

14. 2; One who is *parsimonious* is very unwilling to spend money.

15. 3; See **sycophantic** (WW).

16. 5; Your *blandishments* are pleasant things that you say to others in order to persuade them to do something. The pleasant things might not be true, so you are not readily trusted by a cautious person.

17. 5; (1), (2) and (4) are virtuous ways themselves. But note that the “_____ way of life” needs to be “inconsonant (not in agreement)” with “virtue”. So only (5) fits: A *dissolute* person does not care at all about morals.

Squeamish has nothing to do with *virtue* and is therefore out of context. If you are *squeamish*, you are easily upset by unpleasant sights or situations.

18. 2; “Fear” makes your voice **tremble** (see WW). In other words, it becomes *tremulous*.

19. 2; *Ecology* is the pattern of relations of plants, animals and people to each other and their surroundings (environment).

Anthropology is the scientific study of the human (Greek *anthropos* = man) race, including its different types and its beliefs, social habits and organisation, etc.

Epigraphy is the study of *inscriptions*. An *inscription* is writing carved into something made of stone or metal, for example, a gravestone, monument, or medal.

Numismatics is the study of coins or medals.

Ecumenical activities, ideas, and movements try to unite different Christian Churches.

20. 5; The *depredations* of a person, animal, or force are their harmful actions, which usually involve taking or damaging something.

21. 2; Answers that are not **pertinent** (see WW) do not fetch marks.

22. 1; An *incubus* is a male devil supposed to have sex with a sleeping woman. Broadly, *incubus* means a very worrying problem. In literary usages, as in the given sentence, it means a bad dream and is synonymous with *nightmare*.

23. 3; *Carte blanche*, a French word, means “blank paper”. When you are given a “blank paper”, it’s your choice what to fill in. So if he gave his wife *carte blanche*, he gave her the authority to do whatever she thought right. In other words, she could “invite anyone she wanted to the party.”

24. 5; A *monster* is a large imaginary creature that looks very ugly and frightening. “War” is like a *monster*. In other words, it is *monstrous*.

25. 2; *Pusillanimity* comes from Latin *pusillus* (= petty) and *animus* (= spirit). So if he is *pusillanimous*, he is “petty-spirited”. In other words, timid or cowardly. His “enemy” took advantage of his “*pusillanimity*” and “harmed his interests”.
26. 4; If A *obscures* B, A prevents B from being seen or heard properly. A makes B difficult to understand.
27. 5; *Peruse* means to read. A *perusal* (reading) of “Solzhenitsyn’s works” will “bring home to him” (make him understand) the truth about “freedom” in Russia — that freedom is only nominal; it is, in fact, “restrictive”. Note that Russia here is a part of the USSR, not the post-1991 Russia. (3) gives the sense of “reading hurriedly”.
28. 2; An *expedition* is an organised journey that is made for a particular purpose.
29. 1; If merely “territorial *integrity*” were threatened, there would be two possibilities of losing *integrity* (the state of being a united whole): (i) there is a secessionist (see *secede* in WW) movement from within the country, or (ii) an enemy seizes part of the country. In either case, “freedom” is not being lost. “Freedom” is the soul of the country: it is threatened when *sovereignty* is lost. “Territorial *sovereignty*” is the power that a country has to govern itself.
30. 4; That which is **perennial** (see also WW) seems to exist all the time. *Perennial* springs do not dry.
31. 3; If A and B are *intertwined*, they are closely connected with each other in many ways.
32. 2; (1) and (2) are close choices but *frivolity* (see **frivolous** in WW) is preferred to *triviality* (see **trivial** in WW). Note the words “the foolish waste” and “wasteful physical excesses.”. This sense of “waste” is better conveyed by *frivolity*.
33. 1; The required word should have a meaning similar to “insulting”. If you *defame* someone, you say something bad and untrue about him.
34. 3; The word “discredited” gives us the clue that the required word should show the “regime” in a poor light. *Ignominious* is the only such word. That which is *ignominious* is shameful or very embarrassing.
35. 1; An *agronomist* is a person who studies the cultivation of land in order to produce crops. The words “yield per acre” and “wheat” (a crop) are sufficient to give us the clue.
36. 4; See **soar** (WW). We reject (1) because “flying” does not give the sense of upward direction. (5) is rejected because *shooting* has not been followed by *up*. Besides, a “balloon” does not *shoot up*; a rocket *shoots up*.
37. 5; If something is *unflagging*, it does not *flag*. If your spirits *flag*; you begin to lose enthusiasm or energy. Thus an “*unflagging* concentration” is constant and strong.
38. 3; If a particular feeling (here “admiration”), atmosphere, or situation is *engendered* by X (here “instinct”), it means X causes it to occur.
If you have an “*unerring* instinct” for doing something, you never

518 / **English is Easy**

fail doing that, as if by habit.

39. 5; When a thing becomes *stereotyped*, people form a fixed general idea or image of it. Its real meaning or characteristic often gets lost in the process. That is the case with “moral values” for quite many: “Do this” or “Don’t do this” only because the scriptures say so (that is, a fixed general idea). The “ethical *perspective*” (belief about what is right and what is wrong) has been lost.

40. 1; See **peril** (WW).

41. 5; If someone is *reduced to skeletons*, it means he has lost much of his flesh and become very weak. This is often the result of a lack of food. Now, we are familiar with the word *famine* — a serious shortage of food in a country, which may cause many deaths. When there is a *famine*, people are *famished* for food — that is, very hungry.

42. 2; *Appeal* is an attraction. *Resist* is the word that goes with *temptation* or *attraction*. If the appeal is *irresistible*, you just can’t resist it.

43. 3; Let us start with the second blank. The “increase” can be either *prodigious* or *phenomenal* (among the given choices). So our options narrow down to (3) and (5). Now, come to the first blank. We eliminate (5) because *cajoled* (see **cajole** in WW) does not fit here.

44. 2; *Omni-* comes from Latin *omnis* (= all). Thus *omniscience* (Latin *scio* = know) means “knowing all”. *Omnipotent* means “all-powerful”. *Omnipresent* means “all-present” or “ubiquitous” (see WW).

The *omnibus* edition of books contains *all* (or a large collection of) the stories or articles by a particular person or about a particular subject. An *omnivorous* person or animal eats all kinds of food, including both meat and plants. An *omnivorous* reader reads whatever comes his way, whatever he lays his hands on.

45. 4; It is likely that the “picture” (description) of “hunger” would make the listeners sad. Such a description is **poignant** (see WW).

The word *chimerical* is quite interesting. In Greek mythology, a *chimera* is a monster with the head of a lion, the body of a goat, and the tail of a snake. Unrealistic!, isn’t it? So a *chimera* is an unrealistic idea that you have about something. Or, a *chimera* is a hope that is unlikely to be fulfilled. *Chimerical* is the adjective.

What is *unctuous*? An *unctuous* person seems to be full of praise, kindness, or interest, but is obviously insincere.

46. 2; If your commands are *peremptory*, they show that you expect to be obeyed immediately.

47. 5; One who is *querulous* often complains about things.

48. 1; A *connoisseur* knows quite a lot about art and letters, food etc. A *dilettante*, on the other hand, merely *seems* to be interested in these things, but does not really know. He is not serious about them; he merely *dabbles* in them.

49. 1; If an action or event (here “the assassination”) has *repercussions*, it causes unpleasant things to happen some time after the original action or event.

50. 5; *Magnum* means “big” (or great). (Hence a *magnifying* glass makes things appear *big*.) *Opus* means “work”. (When you *operate* something, a computer for example, you make it work.) Combining the two, we get *magnum opus* = great work. But it is used only in the sense of “a great literary or artistic work”. *Vanity Fair* is the *magnum opus* of William Thackeray.

Exercise 8

1. 4; When does a person come to you for sympathy? When he (or she) has a problem. Or when he is in a crisis. He can be either angry or sad. Anger does not evoke sympathy. So he must tell his sorrow in a sad and mournful voice. In other words, he talks *plaintively*.
2. 2; Go for the second blank first. What is *sarcasm*? It is saying the opposite of what you mean. One gets *sarcastic* in order to mock or insult others. Take an example of *sarcasm*: You meet an ugly girl. She asks you to accompany her. Repelled by her ugliness, you tell her *sarcastically*, “I don’t go around with *beautiful* (obviously, you mean *ugly*!) girls.” Such a statement *pinches* the girl. A girl whom you have treated with such “pinching sarcasm” will never be friendly or sympathetic to you in future. You have thus *alienated* her. Those who are thus “pinchingly sarcastic” have a *vitriolic* tongue. That is, their words are full of bitterness and hate, and so cause a lot of distress and pain.
3. 2; If you **deliberate** on something, you consider it carefully, often in formal meetings with other people.
4. 3; If you *scale down* something, you reduce it in scale. That is, you make it smaller in size, amount, or extent than it used to be.
5. 4; If you are *shaken* by an unpleasant experience, it makes you feel shocked and upset. “Badly *shaken*” thus means “much shocked”.
But *petrified* itself means “very frightened.” So it does not admit an intensifying adverb *badly*.
6. 2; Your *preoccupations* are the activities that take up your attention (or time), leaving little room for other things.
7. 2; (1), (2) and (4) are close choices. **Distraction** (see WW) happens to your thoughts. When we are talking of “path”, it is either **deviation** (see WW) or *diversion*. While *diversion* is moving away from the main course (road), *deviation* is moving away from the normal (here “chosen”) path.
8. 1; What does a holiday do to you? It makes you fresh (as if you were young) again. See **rejuvenate** (WW). (2) is rejected because you do not get a new life. (3), (4) and (5) apply to things, not to persons.
9. 4; (5) is rejected because the *date* became *known* to the members; the *members* were *not known*. Similar is the case with (1) and (2). (3) is rejected because it does not make sense. You can know (be *informed*) of something in advance. But you can’t be *ignorant* (not aware) “in advance”.
10. 5; There were no expectations of the meeting; it was only “by chance”.

520 / **English is Easy**

In other words, the meeting was *accidental*.

11. 1; If a building or window *overlooks* a place (here “the rear” - that is, the backyard), you can see the place clearly from the building or the window.
12. 1; (2), (3) and (4) are the pre-action phase. One fails or succeeds only when one *does* a work. That is, when one *tries*. Hence, *attempt*. (5) makes no sense at all.
13. 3; Students of physics must be well aware of *friction*. *Friction* is the force that makes it difficult for things to move freely when they are touching each other. It thus shows a lack of co-ordination. If there is *friction* between people, there is disagreement and argument between them. That is exactly what happens “between labour and management.”
14. 2; If you have a desirable ability, characteristic, or possession from birth, you are **endowed** *with* it.
15. 5; See **profound** (WW). All *crises* (plural of *crisis*) are “fearful” and “damaging”. So (2) and (3) do not add anything to the sentence. (1) and (4) do not make any sense.
16. 4; If you have a *propensity* to do something (usually undesirable - for example “find fault with others”), you have a natural tendency to behave in that particular way.
17. 4; A *charismatic* person attracts, influences, and inspires people by his or her personal qualities (here “exceptional memory” and “enquiring mind”).

What does *erudite* mean? An *erudite* person is one who shows great academic knowledge. Now, academic knowledge cannot come without reading. But the man here “never learnt to read”. So we reject (5).

18. 3; *Enumeration* is the naming of things on a list (here “electoral rolls”) one by one.
19. 4; *Deliver* is used in the following senses:

If you *deliver* something somewhere, you take it there. For example: The postman *delivers* letters at our homes.

When you *deliver* what you have promised to do or make, you do it or make it. For example: The manager promised to get ads but failed to *deliver*.

If you *deliver* A into B’s care, you give B responsibility for A. For example: Her mother *delivered* her to me before she (her mother) died.

If you give a lecture or speech in public, you *deliver* it. [The given question has this usage.]

When you *deliver* a baby, you help the woman who is giving birth to the baby.

If A *delivers* a blow to B, A hits B.

If someone *delivers* you from something, he rescues or saves you from it.

20. 1; See **impart** (WW). 21. 5

22. 4; If you *highlight* a point or problem, you throw *greater light* on it than

on others. That is, you emphasise it or make others think about it.

23. 3; See **enormous** (WW).
24. 2; See **arm** (WFP). “Powers” are “weapon” in the hands of the executive.
25. 3; If a language is spoken by many people or throughout a large area, we say that it is *widely* spoken.
26. 4; What is the difference between *alternately* and *alternatively*? *Alternatively* implies that you have a choice (*alternative*) — *either* by sea *or* by road. In the given question conjunction “or” gives us the clue.
When we say *alternately* it means first by sea, then by road, the third time by sea again, the fourth time by road again, and so on. Since both the routes are being used in this case, the conjunction should be “and”.
27. 3; If you have a *right* to do something (here “vote”), you are morally or legally entitled to do it. “The age of 18” is the legal barrier here.
28. 1; When you *review* something, it is merely a study, not an action (implementation). But “induction” is an action. So we reject (2). Again, “the committee” already existed, otherwise how could five persons have been “dropped”. And you don’t *form* that which already exists. So (3) is rejected.
(4) is rejected because “enlarging” would only involve “induction”, no “dropping”. Similar is the case with *supplemented* (5). Since it involves both adding (“induction”) and “dropping”, it is a “reconstitution” — forming it again.
29. 3; See **assume** (WW).
30. 5; A *pretext* is a reason which you *pretend* has caused you to do something. That is, you tell people that X is the reason, but in fact it is not.
31. 1; If you *implement* something (here “an accord” - that is, agreement), you ensure that it is brought into practice.
32. 2; The *trend* shows which way the graph is moving: is it rising or falling? The word “rise” gives us the clue.
33. 3; If A *transmits* a disease to B, A has the disease and causes B to have it. Here, “disease” gives us the clue.
34. 2; If you *raise* a subject (here, “a controversial issue”), an objection, or a question, you mention it or bring it to someone’s attention (here, to the attention of the members of the “Assembly”).
35. 2; Here, the infant mortality rate (IMR) moves from a higher level (200) to a lower level (14). Hence, **declined** see (WW).
36. 4; The preposition *of* makes our job easy. Of the given choices, only *assured* and *accused* are followed by the preposition *of*. You *accuse/assure* someone *of* something. But meaningwise, *assured* does not fit. Such an *assurance* (of “not protecting the interests”) would be suicidal for any “labour leader”.
37. 5; The word “*ransom*” gives us the clue. A *ransom* is the money (Rs 8,000) that has to be paid to the kidnapper (here, “servant”) so that he

522 / English is Easy

- will set free the person *kidnapped* (here, the “five-year-old boy”).
38. 3; If you *determine* something, you cause it to be of a particular kind. Here, “the national bodies” decide what (kind) “the standards of education” should be.
39. 1; If something (here, the driver’s licence) is *impounded* by the police, customs officers or other officials, they officially take possession of it because a law or rule has been broken (here, “rash driving”). *Impounded* thus means *seized* in a specific context.
40. 1
41. 3; He has already decided (“made up his mind”). In order that the “argument” might succeed, it should have been done before he “made up his mind”. Now, it is futile (see WW).
42. 1; The words “interdisciplinary” and “interaction” point to the working together (*co-operation*) of the various departments.
43. 2; If something is *sensitive* to a physical force, it is easily affected by it. A *sensitive* “stock market” implies that there are chances of big changes in the stock market index due to government changes or certain governmental decisions, etc.
44. 5; If you *atone* for what you have done, you do something to show that you are *sorry* you did it. Obviously, one is *sorry* for one’s *misdeeds*, not for one’s “good deeds”.
45. 1; Both (1) and (2) are correct but *apprised* is a formal usage. Such formal usages are preferred when the persons involved include “the Chief Minister” himself - a stately personage.
46. 2; If you *cast aspersions on* someone, you suggest that he is not very good in some way.
47. 1; When people (here “audience”) *applaud*, they clap their hands in order to show approval, for example when they have enjoyed a drama or concert.
48. 1; A *rite* is a traditional ceremony carried out by a particular group or within a particular society. The *last rites* are performed when a person dies.
49. 4; A *commodity* is something that is sold for money. “Man is still a *commodity*” implies that he is treated as a *thing*; the human touch is missing.
50. 5; Whenever someone succeeds, we say to him, ‘*Congrats!*’

Exercise 9

1. 4; Both *prolonged* and *protracted* give the sense of “lasting longer than expected.” But note that *protracted* is the past participle from the transitive verb *protract*. When you *protract* something, you make it last longer, often without good reason. So negotiations get *protracted* when the parties involved are unwilling to compromise. Whenever we use *protracted*, there must be some agent (party) behind it - that’s what happens with transitive verbs.

Prolonged, on the other hand, is an adjective also, apart from being the past participle of *prolong*. As an adjective, *prolonged* means

- “continuing for a long time”. Since we do not know the agent behind it, we use adjective *prolonged* instead of past participle *protracted*.
2. 1; If someone or something is *pretentious*, they try to seem important or significant, more than what they really are. There are *pretensions* involved. This results in living beyond one’s means.
 3. 3; If you *ascend* a hill or staircase, you go up it. (1) is rejected because *climb* is a general word; *ascend* is more specific for a “staircase”. Besides, *climb* (1) and *mount* (2) are used with “stairs”, *ascend* with “staircase”.
 4. 3; See *conjure* (WW).
If something *piques* your interest or curiosity, it arouses it. See also *piquant* (WW).
 5. 1; What is the function of windows? To bring in *light* and fresh air. When the room gets *light*, it is *illuminated*.
Illuminate comes from Latin *lumen* (= light). Let us take a look at a few other words from this root. *Lumen* is the unit of light. A *luminary* is an expert in a particular subject or activity. He is called so because he shines like a brilliant light in his field. *Luminescence* is a soft, glowing light. That which is *luminous* shines or glows in the dark. The *luminosity* of a star or sun is how bright it is.
 6. 5; That which is *prominent* is very noticeable.
 7. 2; A *congenial* person, place, or environment (here “weather”) is pleasant. They are in agreement with your tastes or nature.
 8. 3; *Monotony* is the noun form of *monotonous* (see WW). Apparently, the writer of the sentence led a lonely life. Such a life becomes boring because it has a regular, repeated pattern which never changes. In other words, it becomes *monotonous*. The coming of friends could have brought about some change and broken the *monotony*.
 9. 4; That which is *desultory* is done in an unplanned and disorganised way, and without enthusiasm. A *desultory* reader will thus not take reading seriously. As a result, he would lack the “exactness of learning”.
 10. 2; If a part of your body (here “the brain”) *distends*, it becomes swollen and unnaturally large.
 11. 4; What is the difference between *migrate*, *emigrate* and *immigrate*? If people *migrate*, they move from one place to another, especially in order to find work or to live somewhere *for a short time*. For example, Siberian cranes *migrate* to Bharatpur in winter. Once the winter is over, they go back again to Siberia.
Emigration or *immigration* is permanent. An *emigrant* (one who *emigrates*) leaves his own country to live in another country. For the new country which he comes to, he is an *immigrant*. In other words, you *emigrate from* your country and *immigrate to* another country.
 12. 4; If sound A *drowns* sound B, sound A is so loud that you cannot hear sound B properly.
 13. 5; See *stationary* (WW).

524 / **English is Easy**

14. 2; You *inherit* things from your parents; your parents *bequeathe* them to you. *Bequest* is the noun form of *bequeathe*.
15. 4; **Blemish** (see WW) means “fault”.
16. 5; If something is *distinct*, you can hear, see or taste it clearly.
17. 5; The limbs can become *numb* (senseless; see WW) even when one is alive — say, due to the effect of an anaesthetic. But they usually become *rigid* only when one dies. A *rigid* substance or object is stiff and does not bend, stretch, or twist easily.
18. 1; An *impetuous* person is likely to act quickly and suddenly without thinking or being careful.
19. 2; *Anguish* is great mental suffering or physical pain.
20. 2; If you are *stunned* by something, you are very shocked or astonished by it; as a result, you are unable to speak or do anything.
21. 5; If there is *congestion* in a place, the place is extremely crowded and blocked with traffic or people. The problem of *congestion* is thus essentially a problem of space. It could be got rid of through addition of space (by developing “satellite ports”).
Blockade is slightly different. It is the *action* that is taken to prevent goods or people from entering or leaving it. The problem here is political — *blockades* are the creation of strikers or political groups. And the problem could persist even at the newly-developed satellite ports.
22. 1; A *quarry* is an area that is dug out from a piece of land or mountainside in order to extract *stones*.
23. 2; The *profile* of something (here “the hill”) is its shape seen against a background.
24. 4; The *outskirts* of a city (here “Hyderabad”) or town are the part that are farthest away from its centre.
25. 5; If you are *on the verge of* something, you are going to do it very soon. Also see **verge** (WW).
26. 4; It was a *struggle*: “fire-tenders” vs fire (“the flames”).
27. 4; The building was on fire; the staff wanted to save whatever they could (“their belongings”). See **salvage** (WW).
28. 1; A *carcass* is the body of a dead animal. The most striking feature of a dead body (when it is dead for quite sometime) is its *stench* — strong and very unpleasant smell.
29. 4; That which is *gruesome* (synonym *ghastly*) is extremely unpleasant and shocking.
30. 3; If you are *divorced* from a situation (here “modernism”), you act as if you are completely unaffected by it.
31. 3; If you *scramble* to a different place or position, you move there in a hurried, undignified way. If there is a *scramble* for something, people compete with each other for it, in a rough and undignified way.
32. 1; If you have the *distinction* of being something, it is being emphasised that you have the special or unique quality of being that thing. If the quality is bad (for example, child labour is undesirable), we say

“*unenviable* or *unhappy distinction*.”

33. 3; See **penchant** (WW). (2) is rejected because *proclivity* is a tendency to do something bad. If private capital flows to high profits, there is nothing bad about it.
34. 5; When you *enunciate* a thought, idea, or plan, you express it very clearly and precisely.
35. 5; If A is a *harbinger* of B, A is a sign that B is going to happen.
36. 3; If something *manifests* itself, it becomes visible or obvious. The word “themselves” gives us the hint that the required verb should be one that may be followed by a reflexive pronoun.
37. 2; Remember that 11 is an impressionable age. At 11, one is neither so young as to not understand things nor mature enough to come to terms with the realities of life. The divorce of parents when Maupassant was 11 thus struck him like an arrow and *wounded* him. Though the wound healed up in the course of time, the **scar** (see WW) remained “for life”.
38. 2; If you *exact* something, you demand and obtain it from someone else, especially because you are in a superior or more powerful position. Now, “the conquerors” perfectly fit this description.
39. 3; *Trepidation* is fear or anxiety about something that you are going to do or experience. An *intrepid* person is *without trepidation*. In other words, he or she acts bravely. Only such persons can be “ready to die for an idea.”
40. 2; That which is *obscure* is not clear. So *obscure* light makes vision “dim”.
41. 5; Only (2) and (5) go along with words like “frozen”, “silent” and “immovable”. But (2) is rejected because *taciturnity* (see **taciturn** in WW) is a general characteristic; you cannot be *taciturn* at a particular moment (occasion), you can be *silent*. If you remain *silent* on most of the occasions, we say that you are *taciturn*. Here, in the given sentence, we are talking of a particular moment.
42. 3; If you are *intimate*, you are very close, closer than *friendly*.
43. 4; When a ship *founders*, it fills with water and sinks. Similarly the carriage *foundered* (that is, sank) in the *snowdrift* (deep pile of snow formed by the wind). The trapped (sunk) carriage then had to be freed from the snowdrift. In other words, it had to be *extricated*.
44. 2; *Yield* is the antonym of *resist*.
45. 2; If you do something with *abandon*, you behave in a wild, uncontrolled way. You do not think or care about how you should behave. On the other hand, if you do something with *reserve*, you control each and every action.
46. 3; “Powerful people” do not much care about others. As is evident from the given example: “The officer looked at him without a word.” How rude of him! This leads us to the conclusion that power breeds **insolence** (see WW).
47. 4; *Barbarity* is the noun from **barbarous** (see WW). Civilised people are

526 / English is Easy

expected to be peaceful and doubly so when the neighbour is peaceable. If with such a neighbour one goes to war - attacks him - one is just the opposite of *civilised*. In other words, *barbarous*.

48. 2; When you *retire*, say "after supper", you go to bed. You have *retiring rooms* at railway stations so that you can take rest.
49. 5; If you do something (here "draw") *to perfection*, you do it so well that it could not be done any better.
50. 1; Since the apartment is in a poor condition, the walls must be **shabby** (see WW).

Exercise 10

1. 4; That which is *admirable* deserves to be praised and *admired* (= liked very much + highly respected).
2. 3; If you are *stricken to the heart* by something, you are very severely affected by it.
3. 2; *Scent* cannot be seen. So *visible* (5) is rejected. Nor can it be heard. So *audible* (4) is rejected. Nor can it be angry. So (3) is rejected.
(1) and (2) are close choices. Now, "perceptible" means that which can *just* be noticed. But here there is a *large* patch of violets. So its scent is expected to be more than *perceptible*. *Prevailing* is the word which we use when something exists on quite large a scale — "all round".
4. 2; See **mechanically** (WW).
5. 2; If you *confide* in someone, you tell him a secret. In other words, you tell it to him *in confidence*. Or, you *take him into confidence*.
6. 2; See **accede** and **access** (both WFP). Note that the two words have no relationship at all.
7. 3; Had it been an unequal match, your conscience would have said, "No, this is not fair! How can such a weak person be pitted against such a strong one? This is sheer injustice to the weak." In other words, you would have **scruples** (see WW). But since "everyone is nearly equal", there would be no "unequal match", and hence no "scruples".
8. 3; Who is a *scamp*? A *scamp* is a trouble-making but usually playful child Dennis the Menace, for example. Such children are on the lookout for one mischief or the other. In order to do this, they can often be seen "moving about quietly, trying not to be seen or heard". In other words, *prowling*.
9. 3; If something (here "a feeling of delicious coolness") *pervades* a place or thing, it is a noticeable feature throughout it ("from head to foot").
10. 4; If you grow *accustomed* to something, you get used to it. That is, you have experienced it so much that it becomes easy to deal with; it does not surprise you anymore.
11. 3; When something *breaks up*, it separates; it is divided into several parts. But how can you divide a "war"? So, (1) is rejected.

If you *break away* from someone, you free yourself from him. Thus (2) also does not make sense.

If a thief *breaks in*, he gets into a building by force. We reject (4) because “war” cannot be compared to a “thief”.

If you *break the ice* at a party or meeting, or in a new situation, you do something to make people feel relaxed and comfortable. “War”, on the other hand, only complicates matters. So, (5) is rejected. Besides, *the* is missing. The correct phrase is *break the ice* and not *break ice*.

(3) is correct. If “war”, fighting, disease, etc. *breaks out*, it begins suddenly.

12. 5; That which is “fixed” cannot **waver** (see WW).

13. 3; Who is a “temptress”? A woman who tempts a man. How does she do this? She sets a trap or **snare** (see WW) for him. In other words, she *ensnares* him.

14. 3; See *render* (WW).

15. 3; If A *propitiates* B, A stops B being angry or impatient by doing something to please B.

If A *conciliates* B, A tries to end a disagreement with B.

16. 5; See **aback** (WW).

17. 4; The words “misled” and “two roads” give us the clue to *ambiguous* (see WW).

18. 4; See **earmark** (WFP).

19. 5; “Although” suggests that the “rebellion” has been “suppressed” but not fully so. There are incidents of gunfire. However, they are not a regular feature. They are merely **sporadic** (see WW).

20. 4; (1) is rejected because *palpable* (see WW) does not add to the meaning of “explosion”. All explosions are palpable; it cannot be kept wrapped under covers. If there is an explosion, people will certainly know it. And this applies to the meaning of explosion here (that is, increase in number) as well.

However, the degree of explosion may vary. *Veritable* emphasises the size, amount, or nature of something.

21. 5; A *trenchant* criticism, comment, wit, etc. is very clear, effective, and forceful. For *wince* see WW.

22. 5; (2), (3) and (4) are the names of the organs of the body, not of *ailments* (diseases). So these choices can be easily eliminated. The trouble lies with (1). Note that *gastric* is no disease. Besides, it should not be confused with *gas*. *Gastric* means “of the stomach”. What is commonly “mis-known” as *gastric* is, actually, *flatulence* — too much gas in a person’s intestines, which causes an uncomfortable feeling.

23. 2; The antonym of *concrete* is *abstract*.

24. 5

25. 4; If you are *tolerant*, you *tolerate* (bear) things. For example, if A is a Tamil Brahmin and B a Jat from Haryana, and yet both A and B live together, they are *tolerant*. Since both are from different backgrounds, differences are bound to be there. But A and B *tolerate* these differences. Their underlying belief is: “All men are equal. Race, colour, creed etc. should not be a barrier between man and man. Let us disregard

528 / **English is Easy**

these differences.”

Now, imagine C, who does not subscribe to the above belief. Then C is *intolerant*.

26. 1; *Relics* are objects of the past that have survived destruction.
27. 5; A *gauge* is a device that measures the amount or quantity of something.
28. 2; The word should be an antonym of *preserve*. That is, *spend* or its synonym. Now, when food, drink, household goods, fuel, energy, or time are *spent*, we say they are *consumed*.
29. 3; What happens to a gun when it is fired? It makes a quick backward movement. In other words, it *recoils*. Similarly, you move your body quickly away from something that frightens, offends, or hurts you.
30. 2; When bells *peal*, they ring one after another, making a musical sound.
31. 2; When you *giggle*, you laugh in a childlike, helpless way, because you are amused, nervous, or embarrassed.
32. 5; The verb *spell* is used to suggest an unpleasant result (here “disaster”).
33. 2; Seldom does one get relief from the “scorching” sun. Hence, *relentlessly*.
34. 5; If you do something (eat, drink, smoke, etc.) *in moderation*, you do not do it (here “take alcohol”) too much or more than is reasonable.
35. 2; If he has no *compunction* about doing something (here “drinking in private”), he does it without feeling ashamed or guilty. He is gradually getting hardened.
36. 5; If you *play ducks and drakes* with something, you waste it wildly. In other words, you do not take it seriously enough.
37. 1; See **penury** (WW).
38. 5; If you *insinuate* yourself into a particular situation, you manage very cleverly to get into that situation.
39. 2; The V₃ of *found* (see **foundation** in WW) is *founded*.
40. 2; If you *liken* A to B, you say that A is *like* B.
41. 2; See **copious** (WW).
42. 5; If a marriage, business etc. is *on the rocks*, it is experiencing very severe difficulties and looks likely to end very soon.
43. 5
44. 4; A *concerted* action is done by several people or groups working together.
45. 3; See **decrepit** (WW).
46. 3; *Maritime* is used to describe things relating to the sea and to ships.
47. 1; *Benign* conditions are pleasant or make it easy for something to happen.
48. 4; If you are *wont* to do something, you often or regularly do it.
49. 2; The *habitat* of an animal (here the bird “flamingo”) or plant is the natural environment in which it normally lives or grows.
50. 1