

The Hindu EDITORIAL ANALYSIS

7th January 2025

**PREPARE FOR BANK (PO/ CLERK), SSC, UPSC,
State PSC, CAT, CTET, RAILWAY EXAMS, CDS,
TET, NDA/AIRFORCE, NET and all Govt.
Exams**

VOCABULARY

1. Ostrich Effect (शुतुरमुर्ग प्रभाव)

Meaning: The act of ignoring or avoiding negative information by pretending it does not exist.

Synonyms: Denial, avoidance, ignorance

Antonyms: Acknowledgment, awareness, acceptance

Example: Many leaders exhibit the ostrich effect when faced with difficult decisions.

2. Resilient (लचीला)

Meaning: Able to recover quickly from difficulties or setbacks.

Synonyms: Flexible, robust, tough

Antonyms: Rigid, weak, fragile

Example: Despite the setbacks, the team remained resilient and fought back.

VOCABULARY

3. Ineptitude (अयोग्यता)

Meaning: Lack of skill or ability.

Synonyms: Incompetence, incapability, clumsiness

Antonyms: Competence, skillfulness, aptitude

Example: The team's defeat was due to their batting ineptitude.

4. Flux (अस्थिरता)

Meaning: Continuous change or movement.

Synonyms: Uncertainty, instability, fluctuation

Antonyms: Stability, steadiness, consistency

Example: The squad was in a state of flux following a string of defeats.

VOCABULARY

5. Frailty (कमजोरी)

Meaning: A weakness or flaw, especially in character or structure.

Synonyms: Weakness, vulnerability, deficiency

Antonyms: Strength, robustness, resilience

Example: The frailty of their batting order was exposed in the series.

6. Adept (कुशल)

Meaning: Very skilled or proficient at something.

Synonyms: Skilled, expert, capable

Antonyms: Incompetent, unskilled, clumsy

Example: The new player proved to be adept at handling pace bowling.

VOCABULARY

7. Triumph (विजय)

Meaning: A great victory or achievement.

Synonyms: Victory, success, conquest

Antonyms: Defeat, failure, loss

Example: The triumph in the final match boosted the team's morale.

8. Perpetrate (अंजाम देना)

Meaning: To carry out or commit a harmful, illegal, or immoral action.

Synonyms: Commit, execute, perform

Antonyms: Prevent, stop, hinder

Example: The team perpetrated several strategic errors during the series.

VOCABULARY

9. Ignominy (अपयश)

Meaning: Public shame or disgrace.

Synonyms: Dishonor, humiliation, disgrace

Antonyms: Honor, pride, respect

Example: The player faced ignominy after his poor performance.

10. Aversion (घृणा)

Meaning: A strong dislike or disinclination.

Synonyms: Hatred, antipathy, repulsion

Antonyms: Fondness, affection, liking

Example: He had an aversion to discussing past failures.

VOCABULARY

Phrasal Verbs:

1. Blow up

Meaning - to explode; to become very angry.

2. Do away with

Meaning - to abolish or get rid of something.

3. Do up

Meaning - to fasten or close something; to renovate or redecorate.

4. Ease off

Meaning - to reduce or lessen in intensity.

VOCABULARY

Idioms & Phrases

1. Through thick and thin

Meaning: through difficult times and situations

2. Like two peas in a pod

Meaning: very similar, especially in appearance

3. Bolt from the blue

Meaning: a complete surprise

VOCABULARY

4. Pull someone's leg

Meaning: deceive someone playfully; tease someone

5. Come rain or shine

Meaning: used to say that something will happen even it rains

Article for Reading

**The learning
opportunities hiding in
our failures**

Successes enjoy more attention than failures. We celebrate stories of triumph, and pore over them to extract the reasons why things went so well. Industries package the lessons and share them as tips for 'best practice', while after-dinner speakers regale their audiences with the steps they took to glory. By contrast, if they're not buried completely, failures, and those who perpetrate them, are more often seen as sources of shame or ignominy. Yet it is often the errors, missteps and outright flops that contain more useful practical information on how to do things better, if only we were more willing to share and study them. That's according to Ayelet Fishbach and Lauren Eskreis-Winkler, psychologists at the Booth School of Business at the University of Chicago. The pair believe that we often fail to learn sufficiently from when things go wrong. "Take bad business decisions, which we make because we don't learn from others' and our own failures. We similarly often ignore signs that our relationships aren't going well or that our boss is displeased with our performance.

We don't code [pay attention to] failures and don't bother to learn the lesson for how to succeed," says Fishbach. Previous research had already exposed our unhelpful aversion to information about ongoing or future failure – a problem dubbed 'the ostrich effect' by University of Sheffield psychologist Thomas Webb and his colleagues. Whether we're trying a new fitness regime, building a company website or planning for a looming pandemic, the human inclination is to put our heads in the sand once we've embarked on our path. Rather than monitoring our progress to check if we've gone off track, we grit our teeth, continue and hope for the best. We also tend to neglect imagining what might go wrong when we look ahead toward attaining a goal, as research by psychologist Gabriele Oettingen at New York University and the University of Hamburg has shown. Yet when people are prompted to engage in 'mental contrasting' – anticipating the obstacles along the way to attaining their goal – they are more likely to persevere and succeed in their aims.

Now Eskreis-Winkler and Fishbach have added to this literature by focusing on our reluctance to pay attention to failures – both our own and others – after they’ve happened. In their recent paper, the researchers asked dozens of teachers to recall a specific time they’d been successful at work and a specific time that they’d failed. When they asked the teachers which story they’d choose to share to help other teachers, nearly 70% opted to share their success rather than their failure. The same thing happened when they asked hundreds of online volunteers to think of times they’d succeeded at staying focused at work, and then of times they’d failed and become distracted. The majority were more reluctant to share their focusing failures than successes. The aversion to sharing failures remained true even when the researchers asked the volunteers to share with their ‘future selves’, suggesting there is more to this bias than wanting to make a good impression on strangers.

Summary

The passage discusses how society tends to celebrate successes while often ignoring or stigmatizing failures, despite failures offering valuable lessons for improvement. Psychologists Ayelet Fishbach and Lauren Eskreis-Winkler argue that people fail to adequately learn from their own and others' mistakes, attributing this to phenomena like the "ostrich effect," where individuals avoid acknowledging potential or actual failure. Studies show that people are reluctant to share or reflect on their failures, even when it could provide insights for better future outcomes. The researchers emphasize the importance of learning from failures and propose approaches like mental contrasting to anticipate and address obstacles to success.

The tone of the passage is analytical and reflective. It presents research findings in a neutral, evidence-based manner while encouraging readers to reconsider their attitudes toward failures and their potential for learning.

Reading Comprehension

Based on the above passage, answer the following questions:

Question 1:

Why did Eskreis-Winkler and Fishbach's study find that people prefer sharing their successes over failures?

- a) They want to avoid embarrassment in professional settings.**
- b) They believe successes offer more valuable insights than failures.**
- c) They are biased towards presenting themselves in a favorable light.**
- d) Sharing failures is perceived as less beneficial even for personal reflection.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 2:

What role does 'mental contrasting' play in overcoming the human tendency to neglect failures?

- a) It encourages individuals to visualize future successes and use them as motivation.**
- b) It promotes resilience by focusing exclusively on overcoming obstacles.**
- c) It helps individuals anticipate potential obstacles and prepare for them effectively.**
- d) It aids in reinforcing positive thinking while dismissing negative possibilities.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 3:

Why do failures potentially offer more valuable lessons than successes, as per the psychologists' argument?

- a) Failures reveal specific mistakes that can be avoided in the future.**
- b) Successes are often influenced by luck, while failures are purely skill-based.**
- c) Successes provide general insights, while failures offer actionable strategies.**
- d) Failures expose fundamental flaws in a system that demand immediate attention.**
- e) None of the above**

Article for Skimming

**Down, but not out:
On the
Border-Gavaskar
Trophy**

A decade-long dominance wound to a close at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Sunday. The Border-Gavaskar Trophy, the second-biggest silverware in terms of stature after the Ashes in cricket, and the biggest on the basis of viewership, has been India's preserve since 2015. Australia last won the title in the 2014-15 home series and after that India claimed the trophy on four occasions. This winning streak ended once the fifth Test concluded at Sydney with Pat Cummins and his men winning by six wickets and seizing the series at 3-1. The margin could hint at a vast gap in ability between the two squads. But it was anything but that and India had its moments and could have finished on the victor's podium. This was a series where the batters played second fiddle to excellent speedsters. It is no surprise that when Jasprit Bumrah, the most dominant among them, got injured and could not bowl during the Australian second innings chase in the last Test, the host prospered.

Bumrah began the series as captain, a position he returned to once the regular skipper, the out-of-form Rohit Sharma, opted out at the climax. And Bumrah, with 32 wickets, led the charts. Again with a resilient bat, he even helped India avoid the follow-on at Brisbane's Gabba. A transition is upon the Indian Test unit, especially after failing to qualify for the ICC World Test Championship final. Having eased out Cheteshwar Pujara and Ajinkya Rahane and now dealing with R. Ashwin's retirement mid-series, the selectors and coach Gautam Gambhir need to look at the future of Virat Kohli, Rohit and Ravindra Jadeja. These players were India's core in Tests, but a change is inevitable. Tours Down Under often force a flux. Dilip Vengsarkar retired after the 1991-92 tour, Rahul Dravid and V.V.S. Laxman followed suit after their 2011-12 visit. In the current sojourn, despite scoring a ton in the first Test at Perth, Kohli's overall yield of 190 at 23.75 was poor. Rohit's numbers are even worse as he scored 3, 6, 10, 3 and 9.

Yashasvi Jaiswal's runs, K.L. Rahul's initial consistency, newcomer Nitish Kumar Reddy's hundred at Melbourne, and the odd lower-order resistance, bailed out India but that was not enough. India lost due to batting ineptitude, a frailty that affected Australia too before its middle-order found a second-wind through Steve Smith, Travis Head and Marnus Labuschagne. Mohammed Siraj toiled hard but beyond him, Bumrah did not have much support from the bowling ranks. This was a series on which Cummins, through 25 wickets and 159 runs, imposed his will. India will need to find younger heroes, especially batters who are adept at playing both spin and pace, at home and abroad, in Tests and limited overs.

Question 4:

What is implied about Pat Cummins' role in Australia's success during the series?

- a) Cummins' all-round contributions significantly overshadowed his teammates' performances.**
- b) Cummins' leadership was instrumental in guiding Australia to victory despite individual lapses.**
- c) His ability to balance bowling and batting contributions made him a decisive figure in the series.**
- d) Cummins exploited India's weaknesses by targeting its underperforming senior players.**
- e) None of the above**

Question 5:

What is the primary weakness in the Indian team's current strategy, as inferred from the passage?

- a) Over-reliance on fast bowlers without adequate spin support.**
- b) Dependence on senior players who underperformed in the series.**
- c) Failing to prepare adequately for the ICC World Test Championship final.**
- d) Lack of middle-order consistency in high-pressure situations.**
- e) None of the above**

Today's Descriptive Question:

- **Write an essay of 200 words about the contribution of the Aviation industry to our lives.**

The aviation industry has revolutionized modern life, connecting people, cultures, and economies across vast distances. Air travel enables quick and convenient movement, fostering globalization and supporting tourism, trade, and business. Economies benefit significantly from aviation, as it boosts trade by facilitating the transport of goods quickly across borders, allowing businesses to expand globally and creating employment opportunities in airports, airlines, and tourism-related industries.

Beyond economic contributions, the aviation industry plays a critical role in humanitarian efforts. In times of crisis, such as natural disasters, aviation provides immediate aid delivery, medical evacuations, and support for displaced populations. Aircraft also contribute to scientific research, allowing

environmental monitoring and data collection from remote regions like the Arctic.

Culturally, aviation promotes global awareness and cultural exchange by making it easier for people to experience new places and perspectives. Furthermore, air travel fosters personal connections, allowing families and friends in different parts of the world to remain close.

However, the industry faces challenges, particularly in environmental impact. Efforts are being made to develop sustainable aviation technology to reduce carbon emissions. As the industry continues to innovate, it remains essential in shaping a more interconnected and resilient world.

- **Write a letter to the regional manager for a change in bank timing as it is inconvenient for customers.**

[Your Name]

[Your Address]

[City, Zip Code]

[Date]

Regional Manager

[Bank Name]

[Branch Address]

[City, Zip Code]

Subject: Request for Change in Bank Timing

Dear [Regional Manager's Name],

I am writing on behalf of several customers of [Bank Name], [Branch Name], to express concerns regarding the current bank operating hours. The present schedule, while convenient for the bank's internal operations, is causing challenges for many of us, especially working professionals and senior citizens who find it difficult to access services within the limited hours.

With the bank opening at [current opening time] and closing at [current closing time], there is limited opportunity for customers to handle their banking needs, particularly for those with full-time jobs. Additionally, senior citizens and students have expressed difficulty in visiting the bank during these hours, given their own schedules and commitments.

We kindly request the management to consider extending the hours by an hour

in the morning or evening to accommodate a wider range of customers. Alternatively, opening the branch on weekends, even for limited hours, would be immensely helpful. This change would undoubtedly improve customer satisfaction and accessibility to banking services.

Thank you for considering this request, and we look forward to a positive response that enhances convenience for your customers.

**Yours sincerely,
[Your Name]**

Match the column

- 1. Through thick and thin**
- 2. Like two peas in a pod**
- 3. Bolt from the blue**
- 4. Pull someone's leg**
- 5. Come rain or shine**

- A. a complete surprise**
- B. deceive someone playfully**
- C. through difficult times and situations**
- D. No matter what happens**
- E. very similar, especially in appearance**

Answer:

1-c

2-e

3-a

4-b

5-d

Vocabulary

1. Ostrich Effect:
2. Resilient:
3. Ineptitude:
4. Flux:
5. Frailty:
6. Adept:
7. Triumph:
8. Perpetrate:
9. Ignominy:
10. Aversion:

Rc ans

1.

Ans: d

Explanation:

Reference:

“The aversion to sharing failures remained true even when the researchers asked the volunteers to share with their ‘future selves.’”

The passage explicitly states that participants were reluctant to share failures even with their “future selves,” suggesting that the aversion goes beyond social image concerns and extends to perceiving failures as less useful for personal reflection.

Incorrect Options:

- a) Avoiding embarrassment is not explicitly mentioned.
- b) The passage suggests that failures often contain more practical information than successes.
- c) Bias towards favorable presentation was not the main conclusion of the study.

2.

Ans: c

Explanation:

Reference:

“Yet when people are prompted to engage in ‘mental contrasting’ – anticipating the obstacles along the way to attaining their goal – they are more likely to persevere and succeed.”

The passage describes mental contrasting as a method of "anticipating the obstacles along the way to attaining their goal," which makes individuals more likely to persevere and succeed.

Incorrect Options:

- a) Mental contrasting involves obstacles, not just visualizing success.
- b) It balances obstacles and success, not focusing solely on resilience.
- d) Dismissing negative possibilities is the opposite of what mental contrasting advocates.

3.

Ans: a

Explanation:

Reference:

“Yet it is often the errors, missteps and outright flops that contain more useful practical information on how to do things better.”

The passage emphasizes that failures contain practical information and lessons on "how to do things better," as they expose specific errors and missteps.

Incorrect Options:

b) The role of luck versus skill is not discussed.

c) Both successes and failures can offer actionable strategies; the passage emphasizes errors in failures.

d) While failures may expose flaws, this is not the primary reason mentioned.

4.

Ans: c

Explanation:

Reference:

“This was a series on which Cummins, through 25 wickets and 159 runs, imposed his will.”

Cummins’ impact was highlighted through both his 25 wickets and 159 runs, showing his critical role as an all-rounder. His balanced contributions were pivotal to Australia’s victory.

Incorrect Options:

- a) While Cummins was key, the middle-order batters also played a major role, and his performance didn’t entirely overshadow others.
- b) Leadership is not discussed as a primary factor in the passage.
- d) The passage does not explicitly mention Cummins targeting specific players.

5.

Ans: b

Explanation:

Reference:

“In the current sojourn, despite scoring a ton in the first Test at Perth, Kohli’s overall yield of 190 at 23.75 was poor. Rohit’s numbers are even worse...”


The passage emphasizes the poor performance of senior players like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, suggesting that reliance on them was a critical weakness.

Incorrect Options:

a) Spin bowling issues are not highlighted.

b) While the World Test Championship is mentioned, it’s not a focus of the weakness discussed.

d) Middle-order inconsistency is an Australian issue, not India’s primary problem.

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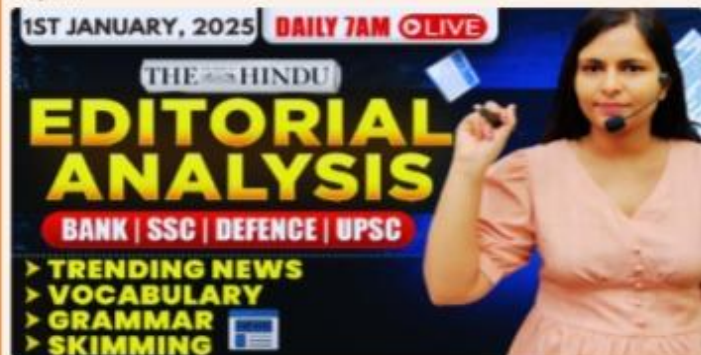
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Perfection I

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