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The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary

Vocabulary:

1. **Détente:** A situation where further progress by opposing parties seems impossible, often referring to a reduction in tension between countries or groups.
2. **Stalemate:** A situation where no progress is being made and neither side can win or succeed, often leading to a deadlock.
3. **Escalation:** The rapid intensification or increase in the seriousness of a situation.
4. **Intrusion:** Entering a place or situation where one is unwelcome, often involving an invasion or encroachment.
5. **Denialism:** Refusal to accept reality or facts, despite clear evidence or information.
6. **Repercussions:** The unintended negative consequences or effects of an action or event, often serious or far-reaching.
7. **Impetus:** A driving force or stimulus that encourages activity or development, often seen as a catalyst for change.
8. **Acrimonious:** A tone or attitude that is bitter, angry, or hostile, especially in speech or debate.
9. **Penchant:** A strong liking, preference, or habitual tendency toward something.
10. **Lacuna:** An unfilled space or gap, especially a missing portion in a text, idea, or document.

PHRASAL VERBS:

1. Bawl out Meaning – To scold or reprimand someone harshly.
2. Be along Meaning – To arrive or show up at a place.
3. Be down Meaning – To feel sad or depressed; to be reduced in number or amount.
4. Bear down on Meaning – To move toward someone or something in a determined or threatening way.

Idioms & Phrases

1. Green with envy Meaning – Very jealous or envious.
2. Have one's hands full Meaning – To be very busy or occupied with something.
3. Hit the books Meaning – To study hard.
4. Hit the nail on the head Meaning – To describe exactly what is causing a situation or problem.
5. Hold your horses Meaning – Wait or be patient; slow down before making a decision or taking action.

Articles (Reading & Skimming)

Article for Reading:

The long and winding road of India-China relations

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri was in China in January 2025, during which India and China made several announcements on the future of their bilateral relations. He met Wang Yi, who is China's Foreign Minister, the Director of the Office of Central Commission of Foreign Affairs and also a politburo member of the party, and also Liu Jianchao, Minister of the International Department of the Chinese Communist Party. The Indian statement after this meeting indicated that the process of restoration of several aspects of bilateral relations including media and think tank exchanges, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, and bilateral flights is on the cards for the summer of 2025. India and China have attempted to move forward after more than four years of tense and stalemate-based relations since the clashes in Galwan in June 2020. Stalemates cannot be permanent. Both sides have made their points and moved to the détente. One can argue that there are several reasons for the timing of this bilateral agreement, the main being the election of Donald Trump, who is a known disruptor and unpredictable in his ways of doing business. The other is about economic concerns in China and in India in recent times. India and China have been bracing for the Trump impact especially when by the middle of October last year his election was already beginning to look more likely to happen. This possibility may have pushed the October 2024 de-escalation agreement between India and China, and Mr. Trump's gigantic electoral victory in November 2024 may have pushed the January 2025 agreement between India and China. There is a historic logic to this as well. China agreed to normalising relations with India, after the 1962 war, only in the backdrop of the backlash in the aftermath of the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre. Again, China may have agreed to normalise its relations with India given that it had to brace for the Trump impact. Thus, there is both internal and external logic around the restoration of normalcy. However, since we do not

know whether patrolling rights have been/are fully restored or whether demobilisation is in its advanced stages, such an absence of communication on the part of the government raises doubts and questions needlessly. The Government of India has maintained absolute silence on the status of de-escalation, demilitarisation and demobilisation of the fairly large number of troops. Troops were mobilised and deployed on the border, first during the tensions of May-June 2020, and then in even larger numbers in the aftermath of the June 15, 2020 clashes. These troops were on active duty or in newly created barracks close to the six points of tension along the border including in Galwan, Depsang Bulge, Charding Nala, Gogra Post and Hot Springs and on the north bank of the Pangong lake. There is also no clarity whether the large number of People's Liberation Army troops on the Chinese side, before and after the clashes, have retreated to their bases. Confirmation of this would mean that the actual restoration of normalcy on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) has been achieved. India has also made it clear in the aftermath of 2020 that it was China that had violated the several agreements and protocols the two sides had signed. One is not sure about whether these have been rectified in a verifiable way. This in turn can only be established when patrolling rights have not only been agreed to but also exercised.

Article for Skimming:

Watering down: On water quality at Prayagraj

Official estimates suggest that around 45 crore visitors, nearly a third of India's population, have already been to Prayagraj for the Maha Kumbh Mela, which began in mid-January. With such a massive influx, even a small percentage of individuals who carry microbes could trigger extensive chains of disease transmission. The Ganga at Prayagraj, where devotees not only have ritual baths but also drink the water, inevitably becomes a complex receptacle of microbiomes. The

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which is responsible for monitoring and controlling air, water and land pollution, has been assessing water quality at Prayagraj since the festival began. Its reports, which are publicly accessible, present a mixed picture. On January 14, which was Makar Sankranti, one of the most auspicious bathing days, faecal coliform levels, a key indicator of contamination from human and animal waste, were at a high — nearly 11,000 units at the Sangam Ghat, which is more than four times the permissible limit of 2,500 units. At the Old Naini Bridge Ghat, along the Yamuna, the count was even higher, at 33,000 units. However, on other days, these numbers dropped to as low as 200 and 780 units. Similar fluctuations were observed for other parameters of water quality such as biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and dissolved oxygen (DO). A CPCB report submitted to the National Green Tribunal on February 3 stated that the water quality on January 12-13, 2025 was not fit for bathing, let alone drinking, despite bathing having a higher tolerance limit. However, the report also noted a reduction in organic pollution due to freshwater intrusion upstream. It further observed that the sheer number of people bathing in the river during the Maha Kumbh Mela, particularly on auspicious days, led to an inevitable spike in faecal contamination. These fluctuations are not exclusive to the Kumbh Mela. Routine monitoring of water quality by the CPCB has consistently recorded similar patterns, reinforcing the fact that, regardless of what the festival may be, water in the Ganga at Prayagraj is not fit for consumption, whether as a few drops or bucketful. The National Mission for Clean Ganga is based on a sustained effort to restore the river's health, and Uttar Pradesh, its largest beneficiary, must prioritise continuous cleanup efforts instead of undermining legitimate pollution concerns. The Kumbh Mela highlights the urgent need for long-term solutions, not denialism.

Descriptive Writing

Original Text:

The banking sector plays a crucial role in the economic development of a country by acting as the backbone of financial stability, facilitating investments, and driving economic growth. Banks serve as financial intermediaries, mobilizing savings from individuals and businesses and channeling them into productive investments, thereby fostering industrialization, infrastructure development, and entrepreneurship. A strong banking system enhances capital formation, which is essential for a country's economic progress. One of the primary functions of banks is to provide credit to businesses, industries, and individuals. By offering loans for infrastructure projects, manufacturing, agriculture, and small enterprises, banks support economic activities that generate employment and contribute to GDP growth. They also play a key role in financing startups and innovation, which are vital for a country's competitiveness in the global market. Moreover, banks facilitate trade and commerce by offering financial instruments such as letters of credit, trade financing, and foreign exchange services, enabling smooth international transactions and boosting exports. Financial inclusion is another critical aspect of banking in economic development. Through initiatives such as Jan Dhan Yojana in India, banks extend banking services to rural and underserved populations, ensuring access to savings accounts, credit, and insurance. This reduces dependency on informal lenders and empowers individuals economically. Additionally, the adoption of digital banking and fintech innovations has revolutionized financial services, making transactions faster, more efficient, and accessible to a larger population. Banks also contribute to economic stability by regulating money supply and controlling inflation through monetary policies set by central banks. By adjusting interest rates and managing liquidity, banks help maintain price stability and foster a favorable investment climate. Moreover, they play a crucial role in tax collection, ensuring government revenue generation for public welfare and infrastructure projects. Despite their

significance, banks face challenges such as non-performing assets (NPAs), cybersecurity threats, and financial frauds, which can impact economic stability. Strengthening regulatory frameworks, improving risk management, and embracing digital transformation are essential for ensuring a resilient banking system. A well-functioning banking sector is fundamental to economic prosperity, as it not only supports businesses and individuals but also strengthens the financial foundation of a nation.

Precis:

Banks are pivotal to economic development as they mobilize savings, provide credit, and support industries and infrastructure projects. They facilitate trade, promote financial inclusion, and contribute to GDP growth by funding businesses and individuals. Digital banking and fintech advancements have further enhanced accessibility and efficiency. Additionally, banks help maintain economic stability through monetary policies, controlling inflation and ensuring smooth financial operations. However, challenges like NPAs and cybersecurity risks require strong regulatory frameworks. A robust banking system is essential for a nation's financial strength and long-term economic growth.

- **You are a student representative. Write an email to your principal requesting permission to organize a field visit to an industry.**

To:@gmail.com

Subject: Request for Permission to Organize an Industrial Field Visit

Dear [Principal's Name],

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to seek your permission to organize an industrial field visit for our students as part of our academic and practical learning experience. We believe that this visit will provide valuable insights into real-world industry operations, enhance our understanding of theoretical concepts, and expose us to the latest advancements in the field. The proposed visit is to [Industry Name], located at [Location], on [Proposed Date]. The trip will be supervised by faculty members, and all necessary safety measures will be taken. We kindly request your approval to proceed with the arrangements. If required, we can provide further details regarding the visit. We look forward to your positive response.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

[Your Name]

Student Representative

[Your Class/Department]

PERFECTION (WITH ANNOTATION) PDF

Question 1:

(a) The audience are excited to hear the final results of the competition, their faces reflecting a mix of nervousness and anticipation.

(b) Neither the students or the teachers were satisfied with the new school schedule, as it extended school hours without providing any additional breaks.

(c) The new Bill, which is now being scrutinised by a select committee of Lok Sabha, intends to contemporise as well as simplify the existing statute that dates back to 1961.

(d) There was few time left before the deadline, so they worked quickly to complete the project.

(e) All are correct

Select - Adj

Question 2:

(a) More than one student were late to class due to the heavy traffic in the morning.

(b) The professor's introduction to the course outlined the key objectives and expectations for students.

(c) The newly released movie broke all previous records at the box office, earning millions within the first weekend.

(d) The last book's page contained a shocking twist that no one expected.

(e) All are correct

last page of the book

Question 3:

- (a) If she follows the instructions carefully and pays attention to details, she ~~would~~^{will} have completed the task without making any mistakes.
- (b) There was nothing else to do ~~than~~^{but} wait patiently for the doctor to arrive.
- (c) The new employees are still getting accustomed ~~with~~^{to} the company's work culture and policies.

(d)

- (d) Social media often portrays an unrealistic version of a perfect lifestyle, making people feel pressured to keep up.
- (e) All are correct

Question 4:

- (a) Instead of worrying about the past, he started focusing on building a better future. ✓
- (b) The government has allocated a substantial budget for improving healthcare and education. ✓
- (c) The bridge was built with strong materials to sustain the heavy weight of vehicles and withstand harsh weather conditions. ✓
- (d) The mountain climbers faced extreme weather conditions, including freezing temperatures and strong winds, which made their journey even more dangerous. ✓

- ✓ (e) All are correct

(e)

Question 5:

(a) As the ^{elder} of the family, my grandfather always played a crucial role in resolving disputes and guiding the younger generation.

(b) The professor, ^{whom} deeply respect for his knowledge and dedication, has inspired me to pursue a career in research.

(c) If you want to achieve fluency in a new language, you must ^{practise} consistently and immerse yourself in the culture.

(d) According to a November 2023 WHO report, there is overwhelming evidence that cigarette smoking raises the risk of developing diabetes by 30%-40% compared with them who do not smoke.

(e) All are correct

(P) Over the next decade, major developments are expected, particularly in charging infrastructure and vehicle technology.

(Q) He noted that while the outlined goals are achievable, they will require substantial investment and won't be easy to implement.

(R) The U.S. government is considering revisions to auto emissions standards that would require automakers to significantly increase electric vehicle sales.

(S) Heck also mentioned that the proposal is still in its preliminary stage and may undergo changes before being finalized.

(T) According to Moody's industry analyst Matthias Heck, without these regulations, electric vehicles would have reached that level of market share sometime after 2035.

(U) By 2032, electric vehicles would need to account for approximately two-thirds of all new car sales in the United States.

TRUTOSP

T < S

change in rule

Question 6:

Which of the following options is the pair of the **Antipenultimate** statement and the **Penultimate** statement, respectively, after the correct rearrangement?

RUT QSP

(a) UT

(b) PR

(c) RU

(d) PS

☒ (e) QS

Question 11:

(I) The engineers (P) hastily developed a renewable energy (Q) framework to reduce carbon (R) emissions effectively.

(II) The environmentalists (S) meticulously planted trees in the degraded area, aiming to restore the (T) algorithm and promote ecological (U) balance.

P-
P. of S
Context
Tone

~~(a) P-S and R-U~~

☒ (b) P-S and Q-T

☒ (c) Only Q-T

~~(d) P-S, Q-T, and R-U~~

☒ (e) No arrangement is required

Question 12:

(I) The university (P)^{Adv}**rigorously**^{verb} introduced a course on astrobiology, (Q)^{distant}**theorizing** the potential for life in (R)**conducting** galaxies.
(II) The astronauts (S)**collaboratively** trained in zero-gravity simulations, (T)**exploring** about educational reforms while (U)**distant** experiments.

O-T
—
R-U

- (a) Only P-S
- (b) P-T and Q-U
- ☒ (c) R-U and Q-T
- (d) P-S and Q-U
- (e) No arrangement is required

Question 13:

(I) The hospital (P)^{Scientific term}**urgently** upgraded its ICU (Q)**ventilation** to manage severe respiratory (R)**cases** during flu season.

(II) The metro authority (S)**efficiently** addressed commuter complaints by improving train (T)**accessibility** and updating outdated (U)**protocols**.

P-S — Wrong
P-S

- (a) P-U and Q-T
- (b) Q-S and R-U
- (c) Only P-S
- (d) P-T and R-U
- ☒ (e) No arrangement is required

e

Direction (14-20): Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

India's recent Union Budget had the flavour of "staying the course", which is not surprising, given the continuity of the government at the Centre. There were proposals for adjusting personal income taxes, incentivising private sector research and development (R&D), providing more credit to micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), development of nuclear energy, and the usual number of more-or-less targeted welfare schemes. The Indian economy has demonstrated that it can grow comfortably at 6% a year, given its current capabilities and policies. Only major global events, such as financial crises or pandemics, (A) that trend. The challenge is accelerating growth so long as the country enjoys

favourable demographics, while also facing some global headwinds caused by conflict and an inward turn by the US. One key aspect of India's economic strategy has been to be more "pro-business".

This can mean many things. Broadly, it means less regulation of businesses, a process that has been going on for decades, but not in an even manner: in some dimensions, regulations remain **cumbersome** and even irrational. Of course, they are meant to protect workers, consumers, and citizens in terms of health, safety, and uncompensated harms of any kind. So, deregulation is not a trivial exercise. This year's Budget and Economic Survey seem to get into the details of this issue more than in the past, and the focus on reducing the regulatory burden of MSMEs has increased. The Economic Survey emphasises the importance of building greater trust between government and business, and one can add consumers and citizens into that mix — trust is a multisided phenomenon. Here, one might argue that good

governance — the provision of public or other socially desirable goods such as infrastructure and primary health and education — is as important in building trust as deregulation.

The government continues to pay attention to rationalising archaic and poorly written laws as well as regulations that derive from them. The Economic Survey, although less so than in one or two earlier years, continues to recognise the importance of improving the functioning of the judiciary, and, for that matter, the entire legal system. But this is an example of where enough resources are not being allocated. Good intentions, however eloquently and clearly expressed, always need money and skill to be realised.

India's political economy, operating within its federal democratic system, has long favoured expenditures meant to appeal to particular interest groups or voting blocs, and that continues to be the case. Therefore, raising enough tax revenue has always been a challenge.

The reform of India's tax system has been one of the "unsung heroes" of the last three decades, culminating in the goods and services tax which continues to iron out its kinks.

At the central level, there does not seem to be much the government can do to increase tax revenue except to stimulate growth. Cutting corporate tax rates a few years ago did not help much on the growth front, and raising exemption limits for individuals will also have a marginal effect since the number of income taxpayers is relatively small. The Centre continues to go after a few corporations for supposed tax evasion, but this mostly just undermines trust. The tendency to impose high tariffs for some goods also has no revenue benefits and does little to stimulate growth in a world of regional production networks. If there is one short-term revenue measure to prioritise, it is public sector disinvestment which keeps failing to meet stated targets.

Only major global events, such as financial crises or pandemics, __**(A)**__ that trend.

Question 14:

Choose the most suitable phrase to fill the given **blank (A)** to make the sentence grammatically and contextually correct.

- I. disrupt ✓ (✓)
- II. reinforce] X
- III. perpetuate] X

- (a) Both I and II
- (b) Both II and III
- ✓ (c) Only I
- (d) Both I and III
- (e) All I, II and III

Question 15:

Which of the following is the “**TRUE**” statement based on the given passage?

- I. The Union Budget emphasized easing regulatory requirements for MSMEs. ✓ True
- II. India's tax system has been successfully reformed over the last four decades. False
- III. The government has allocated sufficient resources to improve the judiciary. False

- (a) Only III
- (b) Both I and II
- (c) Both II and III
- ✓ (d) Only I (8)
- (e) All I, II and III

Question 16:

Based on the passage, which of the following statements most accurately reflects India's economic strategy?

- (a) India's economic strategy is solely focused on increasing tax revenue.
- (b) India's economic strategy focuses on fostering a pro-business environment and streamlining regulations.
- (c) India's economic strategy neglects the importance of trust between government and businesses.

(d) India's economic strategy prioritizes high tariffs to stimulate growth.

(e) India's economic strategy is irrelevant to global economic trends.

Question 17:

Which of the following is the "**FALSE**" statement based on the given passage?

- I. The Economic Survey stresses the need for greater trust among government, businesses, consumers, and citizens. True
- II. Reducing corporate tax rates earlier significantly boosted growth. False
- III. India's federal democracy has historically prioritized spending to attract specific interest groups or voter blocs. True

✓ (a) Only II

(a)

(b) Both II and III

(c) Only I

(d) Both I and III

(e) All I, II and III

Question 18:

What does the passage suggest about India's approach to public sector disinvestment?

- (a) Public sector disinvestment has consistently met its targets. ←
- (b) Public sector disinvestment is a long-term solution to India's revenue challenges. ↗
- (c) Public sector disinvestment is irrelevant to India's economic strategy. ←

(d) Public sector disinvestment has significantly boosted economic growth. ↖

(e) Public sector disinvestment is a short-term revenue measure that has failed to meet targets. ↖

Broadly, it means less regulation of businesses, a process that has been going on for decades, but not in an even manner: in some dimensions, regulations remain **cumbersome** and even irrational. ↘

Question 19:

Which of the following options can be the appropriate **Synonym(s)** of the word '**Cumbersome**', as used in the above passage?

- I. burdensome ✓
 - II. trivial —
 - III. clumsy ✓
- insignificant*

(a) Both I and II

(b) Only II

✓ (c) Both I and III

(d) Only I

(e) All I, II and III

Good intentions, however **eloquently** and clearly expressed, always need money and skill to be realised.

Question 20:

Which of the following options can be the appropriate **Antonym(s)** of the word '**Eloquently**', as used in the above passage?

- I. mellifluently — (+ve)
- II. vacuously — ✓
- III. pleasantly — (+ve)

logua - speech

- (a) Only I
- ☒ (b) Only II
- (c) Both II and III
- (d) Both I and II
- (e) All I, II and III

The initiative, characterized by its (A) measures and strategic foresight, aimed to recalibrate global energy policies.

Question 21:

Which of the following best fits in Option A?

- (a) dissipate ✓
- ☒ (b) audacious Adj
- (c) obsolete
- (d) tenuous } -ve
- (e) perfunctory

Handwritten notes for Question 21:

- 15-16 Nov
- cakewalk
- Vocals
- Gram
- 15 + V. Good
- 10+30
- 20+ Excellent
- Train yourself for the worst
- 5-10 - NG
- Perform the best
- nimushaal710@gmail.com

Despite the administration's (B) ^{(+ve) Noun} Ady intent to mitigate environmental degradation, dissenting voices warned that the rapid pace of reforms might inadvertently (C) socioeconomic disparities.

(C)

repair
attracted

- (a) ambiguous ^{(-ve) not clear Ady}
(b) capricious ^{(-ve) unpredictable - Ady}
(c) unwavering ^{determined - Ady}
(d) overhaul ^{Verb}
(e) allured ^{V³}

Question 22:

Which of the following best fits in **Option B**?

Despite the administration's (B) intent to mitigate environmental degradation, dissenting voices warned that the rapid pace of reforms might inadvertently (C) socioeconomic disparities.

↓
↑↑↑
(C)
↑
inequalities

Question 23:

Which of the following best fits in **Option C**?

- (a) tranquil ^{- calm Ady}
(b) amplify ^{- increase}
(c) abstain ^{- prevent}
(d) alleviate
(e) mitigate }
reduce

Critics argued that such transformative policies, though ostensibly beneficial, could render local communities (D), further marginalizing vulnerable populations.

- (a) disempowered *(-ve)*
- (b) invigorated *(+ve) energetic*
- (c) mendacious *- Adz*
- (d) frivolous *- playful*
- (e) resilient *- lacking seriousness*

Question 24:

Which of the following best fits in **Option D**?

*unscrupulous
dishonest*

Nevertheless, the summit underscored the imperative to (E) sustainable development through a multifaceted approach that balanced ecological imperatives with economic stability.

- ✓ (a) champion *support (+ve)*
- (b) undermine
- (c) overthrow *(-ve)*
- (d) obstruct
- ✓ (e) arbitrate *↓*

Question 25:

Which of the following best fits in **Option E**?

(a)

Question 26:

Tangible

clear
evident
palpable
conspicuous
explicit

I. From the smell it was evident that the drains had been blocked for several days.

II. Official policy has changed, for reasons that remain obscure. not clear

III. The excitement among the fans became palpable as the team scored the winning goal in the final minutes of the game.

- ☒ (a) Both I and III
(b) Only II
(c) Both I and II
(d) Only III
(e) All I, II and III

Question 27:

Burgeoning

increasing

I. At this time Boston was the most flourishing town of North America.

II. Over the past century, the town has developed into a thriving commercial centre.

III. An ailing economy has left many families struggling to make ends meet.

- (a) Both I and III
(b) Only II
☒ (c) Both I and II
(d) Only III
(e) All I, II and III

Question 28:

1. when
2. after
3. but

<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
P) Universal Music is set to pull its millions of songs from TikTok	S) their songs are played on streaming and social media platforms.
Q) Music companies earn royalty payments	T) it accounts for just 1% of Universal's total revenue, the label said.
R) TikTok - which is owned by Chinese company ByteDance - has more than one billion users	U) a breakdown in talks over payments.

- (a) P2U ✓
- (b) Q1S ✓
- (c) R3T ✓
- (d) All of the above
- (e) Both a and b

d

Question 29:

1. But
2. Since
3. And

 and

<u>Column A</u>	<u>Column B</u>
P) Bopanna notched his 500th doubles win in the third round of the Australian Open,	S) at 43 years and 329 days became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam doubles title.
Q) It took 61 attempts, with 19 different partners,	T) Matthew Ebden beat Italians Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (7-0) 7-5 in Saturday's final.
R) The 43-year-old Indian, already set to become the oldest men's doubles number one	U) Rohan Bopanna finally won his first men's doubles Grand Slam title to set yet more records.

- (a) P3S ✓
- (b) Q1U ✓
- (c) R3T ✗
- (d) Both b and c
- (e) Both a and b

e

Question 30:

1. But
2. As
3. Moreover

as [R & R
Simultaneous
Action

Column A	Column B
P) Indian naval forces have rescued two hijacked vessels off Somalia's coast	S) a photo posted on X showed armed navy personnel guarding men who had their hands tied behind their backs.
Q) The status of the pirates was not mentioned again	T) fears grow over a possible resurgence in piracy in the area.
R) The waters off the Somali coast were previously a hotbed for piracy	U) it had all but stopped after international forces stepped up patrols.

- (a) All P2S; Q2T and R2U
 (b) All P2T; Q1S and R1U
 (c) All P2U; Q1S and R1T
 (d) All P3T; Q3U and R1S
 (e) no combinations can make meaningful sentences

(6)

(R U)