

# PHRASE FILLERS

**Directions (1-10): Select the most appropriate phrase to fill in the blank.**

## Question 1:

doubt

The politician's speech was met with skepticism, as it seemed to be

(-ve) tone rather than a sincere apology.

I. a mere exercise in damage control

II. cloaked in feigned contrition

III. brimming with heartfelt indignation

full of Grammar (-ve)  
✓ Tone  
✗ Context

gain  
to be a/an  
to be + v<sup>3</sup>  
to be + v<sup>4</sup>ing

(a) Only I

~~(b) Both I and II~~

(c) Only II

(d) Both II and III

(e) None of the above

## Question 2:

~~Contrast~~ (C+ve) predictions  
Despite the ambitious projections, the new project remains \_\_\_\_\_, (C-ve) tone, with little progress made on the ground.

I. praised successes (C+ve)  
I. lauded for operational breakthroughs

✓ II. mired in bureaucratic inertia (C-ve) entangled

✓ III. caught in logistical quagmire lack of movement

(a) Only II

(b) Both I and II

✓ (c) Both II and III

(d) Only III

(e) None of the above

### Question 3:

The jury was unconvinced by the defendant's testimony, finding it \_\_\_\_\_.

I. riddled with inconsistencies

II. a paragon of candor

III. lacking in coherence

(-ve) tone

mismatches (-ve)

honesty (+ve)

(-ve)

connection

(a) Both I and II

(b) Only II

(c) Both I and III

(d) Only III

(e) None of the above

#### Question 4:

In an effort to salvage the negotiations, the ambassador adopted a tone that was (+ve).

I. conciliatory and measured

II. dismissive and provocative

III. indicative of diplomatic finesse

restoring friendly relations

6 Quiz

(a) Only II

(b) Both II and III

(c) Only III

☒ (d) Both I and III

(e) None of the above

### Question 5:

The CEO's sudden resignation left the boardroom (-ve), struggling to maintain strategic direction.

- I. in a state of flux (uncertainty) (-ve) ✓  
-struggling  
II. grappling with leadership vacuum emptiness (-ve) ✓  
III. basking in institutional clarity (+ve)

(+1)

- ✓ (a) Both I and II  
(b) Only II  
(c) Both I and III  
(d) Only III  
(e) None of the above

## Question 6:

The report was dismissed as

(-ve) tone, failing to address the core systemic issues plaguing the sector.

(a) a superficial diagnostic

(b) an incisive critique

(c) replete with evasive language

(a) Only I

(b) Both I and II

(c) Only II

~~(d) Both I and III~~

(e) None of the above



### Question 7:

The artist's latest work is being hailed as (+ve), blending classic technique with bold innovation.

praised

imitation

mix  
newness

~~(a) a derivative pastiche~~

(b) a masterclass in reinvention (+ve)

(c) a daring reimagination bold (+ve)

(a) Only II

(b) Both I and II

☒ (c) Both II and III

(d) Only III

(e) None of the above

### Question 8:

The committee's decision was seen as  
(-ve), prioritizing political  
expediency over ethical considerations.

- (a) a pragmatic compromise (-ve)  
(b) a morally dubious concession (-ve)  
(c) a principled stand (+ve)

- (a) ☒ Both I and II  
(b) Only II  
(c) Both I and III  
(d) Only III  
(e) None of the above

### Question 9:

The startup's rapid collapse was attributed to (-ve) tone rather than market conditions.

(a) poor fiscal stewardship

(b) chronic internal dysfunction

(c) an abrupt surge in profitability

increase

(a) Only II

(b) Both II and III

(c) Only III (d)

✓ (d) Both I and II

(e) None of the above

**Question 10:** mem—memory

↓  
The memoir stands out as  
— (+ve), offering unfiltered insights  
into the complexities of political exile.

- honest story (+ve)  
(a) a candid narrative of disenchantment  
decorated lacking  
(b) an embellished account devoid of  
authenticity genuine (-ve)  
(c) an evocative portrait of dislocation (+ve)

- (a) Both I and II  
(b) Only II (C)  
☒ (c) Both I and III  
(d) Only III  
(e) None of the above

**Directions (11-16):** A paragraph is given below with 6 blanks. Below 6 different phrases are also given, which will fill these blanks and make a coherent passage. You are required to find the correct place for these phrases and fill in the blanks.

Sub + Verb

Sub Verb

He is

doing my work.

He is

on the top of it

He is

in Delhi

Sub + Verb ①  
, → A.G. —  $\sqrt{1}$  +ing  
 $\sqrt{3}$   
Prepos.

Conj + Verb

4 (Grv)  
An agreement between the US and China on a framework that will de-escalate trade tensions is great news as sub+verb (m). US President Donald Trump himself has tweeted that a deal with China "is done", subject to final approval from President Xi Jinping and himself. The US will get the rare earth metals it needs, A3 (n) 6. Last month, Washington and Beijing agreed a temporary truce over trade tariffs but each country has since accused the other of breaching the deal. A deal (Grv) with India could be next in queue, A3 (o) (2)—farm products, digital trade, and intellectual property. It was always expected the US would bargain hard. As such, even if an interim deal comes through before the July 9 deadline kicks in, India could consider it a win. This agreement would probably address the US' demands for lower tariffs on some industrial goods, possibly some farm goods and cover non-tariff barriers such as quality control regulations. Sub Verb 1 (p) and come into effect early next year. That is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as the current high tariffs proposed are avoided, because any BTA must be both durable and workable. Indeed, China's ability to hold its ground against the US appears to have inspired the Indian team to be more assertive; in the midst of the talks, New Delhi has formally taken on the US on the imposition of higher auto tariffs at the World Trade Organisation. Moreover, Sub Verb 3 in response to the US' doubling of tariffs on steel and aluminium (q). This should not impact the talks; the US will persist in its efforts to try and narrow its \$40 billion trade deficit with India by not just getting New Delhi to slash tariffs on a range of goods, A3 (r) 5. New Delhi, for its part, will resist yielding to the US' demands for liberal tariffs on food grains like rice and wheat and dairy products. 462135

1. a final BTA may be signed only in the last quarter of 2025 Sub Verb
2. even though negotiations in the latest trade talks in India have been tough over a few sticky issues Sub Verb
3. India has warned of retaliatory duties on some US goods Sub Verb
4. it could ease the way for many more bilateral trade agreements (BTA) (Grv)
5. but by also pushing for open access to areas like dairy
6. while Chinese students can take up their places at American colleges

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Indian team to be more assertive; in the midst of the talks, New Delhi has formally taken on the US on the imposition of higher auto tariffs at the World Trade Organisation. Moreover, in response to the US' doubling of tariffs on steel and aluminium, **\_\_(q)\_\_\_**. This should not impact the talks; the US will persist in its efforts to try and narrow its \$40 billion trade deficit with India by not just getting New Delhi to slash tariffs on a range of goods, **\_\_(r)\_\_\_**. New Delhi, for its part, will resist yielding to the US' demands for liberal tariffs on food grains like rice and wheat and dairy products.

- 1. a final BTA may be signed only in the last quarter of 2025**
- 2. even though negotiations in the latest trade talks in India have been tough over a few sticky issues**

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- 6. while Chinese students can take up their places at American colleges**



An agreement between the US and China on a framework that will de-escalate trade tensions is great news as **\_(m)\_**. US President Donald Trump himself has tweeted that a deal with China “is done”, subject to final approval from President Xi Jinping and himself.

(a) 3

(b) 6

(c) 1

 (d) 4

(e) 5

### Question 11:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place m**?

The US will get the rare earth metals it needs, \_\_\_(n)\_\_\_\_. Last month, Washington and Beijing agreed a temporary truce over trade tariffs but each country has since accused the other of breaching the deal.

(a) 5

(b) 4

✓ (c) 6

(d) 3

(e) 1

### Question 12:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place n**?

A deal with India could be next in queue, (o) — farm products, digital trade, and intellectual property. It was always expected the US would bargain hard.


**Question 13:**

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place o**?

(a) 3

(b) 6


(c) 1

 (d) 2

(e) 4

This agreement would probably address the US' demands for lower tariffs on some industrial goods, possibly some farm goods and cover non-tariff barriers such as quality control regulations. \_\_\_\_**(p)**\_\_\_\_ and come into effect early next year.

(a) 3

 (b) 1

(c) 2

(d) 5

(e) 6

**Question 14:**

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place p**?

Moreover, in response to the US' doubling of tariffs on steel and aluminium,   (q)  . This should not impact the talks; the US will persist in its efforts to try and narrow its \$40 billion trade deficit with India by not just getting New Delhi to slash tariffs on a range of goods,   (r)  . New Delhi, for its part, will resist yielding to the US' demands for liberal tariffs on food grains like rice and wheat and dairy products.

**Question 15:**

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place q**?

(a) 5


(b) 1

✓ (c) 3

(d) 6

(e) 4

This should not impact the talks; the US will persist in its efforts to try and narrow its \$40 billion trade deficit with India by not just getting New Delhi to slash tariffs on a range of goods, \_\_**(r)**\_\_. New Delhi, for its part, will resist yielding to the US' demands for liberal tariffs on food grains like rice and wheat and dairy products.

 ~~(a)~~ 5

(b) 6

(c) 2

(d) 3

(e) 1

### Question 16:

Which of the following phrases can contextually and grammatically fill the **place r**?

## **Match the column + Cloze Test (New Pattern)**

**Directions (17-20): A paragraph is given below with three blanks. Phrases are provided below in the form of a 'Match the Following'. First, solve the 'Match the Following' to determine the consecutive pairs of phrases, which will then fit appropriately into the three respective blanks in the paragraph.**

## Passage I

Why nations rise and decline has been a question of scholarly analysis for long, and various academics have tried to examine and even offer prescriptive guidelines from time to time. However, as is the nature of history, it's difficult to proffer any fixed reason or explanation as different factors have led to the rise and fall of nations over centuries. In the current era, artificial intelligence (AI) has emerged as the newest benchmark for national power. Once, it was naval superiority, then industrial prowess and nuclear capabilities. (m) R The US and China have for long positioned themselves at the heart of this fierce technological competition. However, India, too, has entered the race recently and is intent on carving its own path in the global race. To reduce dependency on foreign AI systems and assert digital sovereignty, the government some time back selected Sarvam AI as the lead firm to build India's own foundational large language model. Recently, three additional firms, Soket AI, Gan AI, and Gnani AI,

have been chosen to join this effort. (n) P. In his seminal work The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers, Paul Kennedy argues that the fortunes of great nations have historically depended on the delicate balance between economic strength and military ambition. (o) Q. His analysis, spanning from 1500 to the late 20th century, shows how power has consistently gravitated toward nations that managed this equilibrium.



**Question 17:**

**Solve the 'Match the Following' to determine the consecutive pairs of phrases that should appropriately fit into the given blanks.**

Column I	Column II	Column III
(P) The thinking is that <u>control over</u>	(S) to support expansive goals, and they <u>fall</u> when they <u>overreach</u> , <u>burdened</u>	(V) to <u>control over</u> economic and <u>strategic autonomy</u> .
(Q) According to <u>Kennedy</u> , <u>states rise</u> when they <u>possess</u> the <u>economic capacity</u>	(T) <u>core technologies</u> is <u>equivalent</u>	(W) <u>growth</u> , <u>military innovation</u> , and <u>societal transformation</u> .
(R) Today, <u>AI</u> is <u>increasingly viewed</u>	(U) as <u>the</u> <u>key</u> <u>enabler</u> of <u>economic</u>	(X) <u>by</u> <u>military commitments</u> their <u>economic base</u> can no longer <u>sustain</u> , a <u>condition</u> he <u>termed</u> <u>imperial overstretch</u> .

- ~~(a) PUW, QTV, RSX~~
- ~~(b) PSV, QTX, RUW~~
- ~~(c) PTV, QSW, RUX~~
- ✓ (d) PTV, QSX, RUW
- ~~(e) PUW, QSX, RTV~~

Once, it was naval superiority, then industrial prowess and nuclear capabilities.     (m)     The US and China have for long positioned themselves at the heart of this fierce technological competition.

Recently, three additional firms, Soken AI, Gan AI, and Gnani AI, have been chosen to join this effort.     (n)    .

    (o)    . His analysis, spanning from 1500 to the late 20th century, shows how power has consistently gravitated toward nations that managed this equilibrium.

### Question 18:

**Based on the previous question, which of the following consecutive pairs should fit in the blanks (m), (n), and (o), respectively?**

- (a) (Q \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_)
- ☒ (b) (R \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_)
- (c) (Q \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_)
- (d) (P \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_)
- (e) (R \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_)

## Passage II:

The government has rolled out a new electric vehicle (EV) policy that aims to lure global automakers into making cars in India. (m). Therefore, the policy seems destined to become a non-starter. Ironically, this is not because it lacks structure or seriousness, but because it is a classic case of putting the cart before the horse. Let's start with timing.

Announcing the detailed guidelines now, amid ongoing trade negotiations with the US and following the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA), sends mixed signals to both industry and potential investors. (n). British brands like Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin, and Rolls-Royce will surely exploit this window, which may bring down car prices by up to 40%. In contrast, the EV policy requires global firms to invest a minimum of \$500 million (Rs 4,150 crore), meet stringent localisation targets, and places a hefty bank guarantee to import vehicles at 15% import duty. Naturally,

if manufacturers are able to get a favourable import duty regime through trade pacts, why would they bother with bureaucratic hurdles?

(o). Despite minister HD Kumaraswamy naming companies like Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Škoda, Hyundai, and Kia as participants in the consultation process, none has confirmed their intent to apply so far.

Question 19:

Solve the 'Match the Following' to determine the consecutive pairs of phrases that should appropriately fit into the given blanks.

Column I	Column II	Column III
(P) The <u>lack</u> of public endorsement	(S) <u>by</u> any industry body or global manufacturer	(V) <u>has</u> missed the two foundational pillars for any policy's success: need and timing.
(Q) The UK FTA, in particular, slashes	(T) <u>on</u> Monday, the ministry of heavy industries	(W) <u>following</u> the policy's notification tells its own story.
(R) But it is evident that while framing the detailed guidelines, which were notified	(U) <u>import</u> duties for a fixed number of	(X) <u>premium</u> vehicles, from over 100% to just 10%.

- (a) ~~PTX, QSV, RUW~~
- (b) ~~PUV, QTX, RSW~~
- (c) PSW, QUX, RTV
- (d) PSV, QUW, RTX
- (e) PTW, QUX, RSV

(c)

The government has rolled out a new electric vehicle (EV) policy that aims to lure global automakers into making cars in India. \_\_\_\_ (m) \_\_\_\_ . Therefore, the policy seems destined to become a non-starter. Announcing the detailed guidelines now, amid ongoing trade negotiations with the US and following the India-UK free trade agreement (FTA), sends mixed signals to both industry and potential investors. \_\_\_\_ (n) \_\_\_\_ . British brands like Jaguar Land Rover, Aston Martin, and Rolls-Royce will surely exploit this window, which may bring down car prices by up to 40%.

\_\_\_\_ (o) \_\_\_\_ . Despite minister HD Kumaraswamy naming companies like Mercedes-Benz, Volkswagen, Škoda, Hyundai, and Kia as participants in the consultation process, none has confirmed their intent to apply so far.

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**Question 20:**

**Based on the previous question, which of the following consecutive pairs should fit in the blanks (m), (n), and (o), respectively?**

**Sleep**

- (a) (P \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_)
- (b) (Q \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_)
- (c) (R \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_)
- (d) (P \_\_, \_\_), (R \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_)
- (e) (R \_\_, \_\_), (Q \_\_, \_\_), (P \_\_, \_\_)

*e*