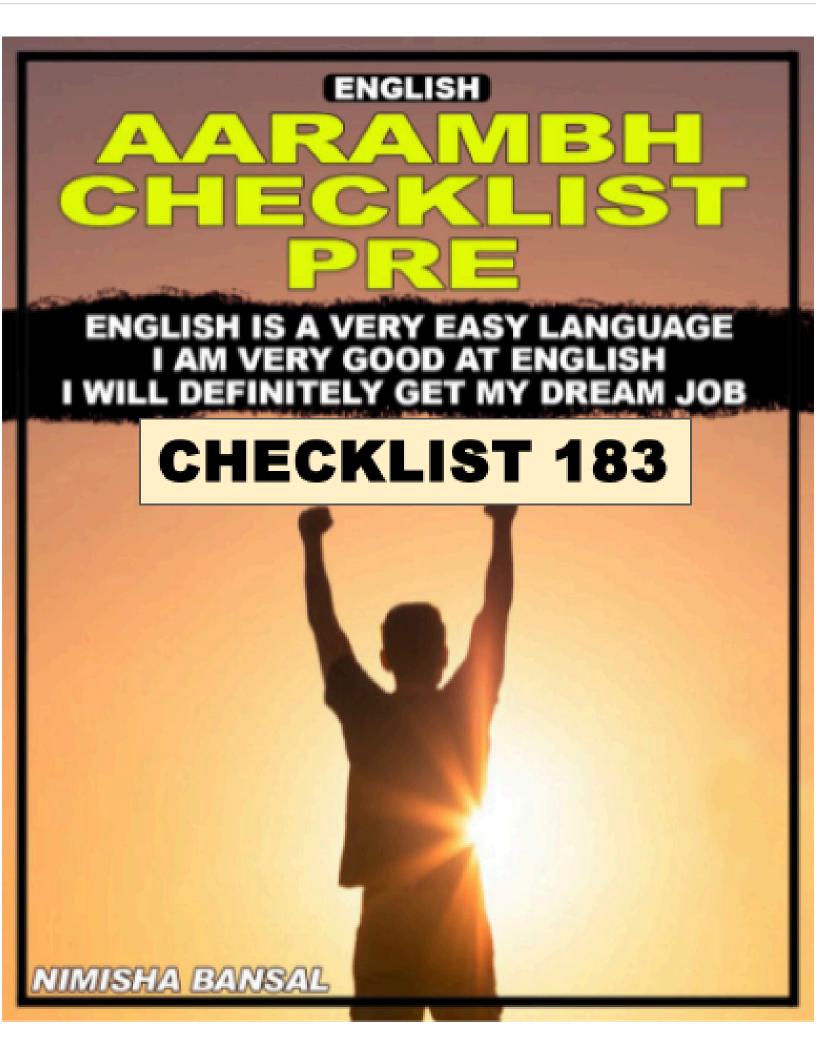
ENGLISH WITH NIMISHA BANSAL

1



# Word Usage:

Directions (1-10): In the sentences below, a word or phrase has been highlighted above and used in the sentences following it. You have to identify the sentence in which the given word has been properly used and conveys the same meaning as per the passage.

# 1. Overarching

- a. The **overarching** branches of the tree created a pleasant canopy over the garden path.
- b. The manager emphasized the **overarching** objective of the campaign, which was to promote brand awareness across all platforms.
- c. His **overarching** style of writing made the novel difficult to understand, as it lacked a clear structure.
- A. Only a
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both b and c
- D. Only c
- E. All of a, b and c

#### 2. Bolstered

- a. The new evidence **bolstered** the lawyer's argument, making the case stronger in court.
- b. She **bolstered** the sofa cushions before guests arrived, arranging them neatly for added comfort.
- c. The constant criticism from his peers **bolstered** his self-esteem, affecting him deeply.
- A. Both a and c
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both b and c

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E. All of a, b and c

## 3. Undermined

- a. The ambassador's vague statements gradually **undermined** the credibility of his country's official stance on the conflict.
- b. The archeologists **undermined** the ancient wall to preserve its inscriptions, carefully documenting every layer they removed.
- c. By frequently praising one team member over others, the manager inadvertently **undermined** team morale and trust.
- A. Both a and c
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both b and c
- D. Only c
- E. All of a, b and c

# 4. Arbitrary

- a. The teacher's **arbitrary** decision to cancel the exam left the students confused and upset.
- b. The new rules seemed **arbitrary**, with no clear rationale behind them, frustrating the employees.
- c. His **arbitrary** choice of vacation destination resulted in an unexpectedly wonderful experience, despite no prior research.
- A. Both a and c
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both b and c
- D. Only b

E. All of a, b and c

# 5. Ephemeral

- a. The fleeting beauty of the sunset reminded her of the **ephemeral** nature of life itself.
- b. The company's success was **ephemeral**, as they maintained steady growth over several decades.
- c. The artist's work was celebrated for its **ephemeral** quality, capturing moments in time that were meant to be transient and temporary.
- A. Only a
- B. Both a and b
- C. Only b
- D. Both a and c
- E. All of a, b and c

## 6. Juxtapose

- a. The artist chose to **juxtapose** the vibrant colors of the foreground with the muted shades of the background, creating a striking contrast.
- b. In his analysis, he carefully **juxtaposed** the cultural differences between the two societies, highlighting the impact of history on modern identity.
- c. The scientist **juxtaposed** the two theories to demonstrate their fundamental similarities, arguing that both offered valuable insights into the issue.
- A. Both a and c
- B. Both a and b
- C. Both b and c
- D. Only b
- E. All of a, b and c

## 7. Tumultuous

- a. The mountain range was known for its **tumultuous** stillness, offering a peaceful retreat for those seeking solitude.
- b. Their **tumultuous** relationship, filled with arguments and reconciliations, was the talk of their friends.
- c. The conference went smoothly, with no **tumultuous** debates or disruptions among the speakers.
- A. Only a
- B. Both b and c
- C. Only b
- D. Both a and c
- E. All of a, b and c

# 8. Cajole

- a. The politician tried to **cajole** the voters with promises of a better future, hoping to secure their support.
- b. He attempted to cajole the decision-making process by arguing aggressively and raising his voice.
- c. She attempted to **cajole** her colleagues into helping her finish the project, but they were too busy to assist.
- A. Only a
- B. Both b and c
- C. Only b
- D. Both a and c

E. All of a, b and c

## 9. Emulate

- a. The young scientist admired her mentor and worked hard to **emulate** his innovative approach to research.
- b. The athlete tried to **emulate** his opponent's aggressive style of play, hoping it would lead him to victory.
- c. She was determined to **emulate** the kindness and generosity of her role model, helping those in need whenever possible.
- A. Only a
- B. Both b and c
- C. Only b
- D. Both a and c
- E. All of a, b and c

#### 10. Exacerbate

- a. The harsh criticism served only to **exacerbate** the tension between the team members, making collaboration more difficult.
- b. Her timely intervention helped **exacerbate** the situation, preventing further conflict and confusion.
- c. Acknowledging the early signs of the disease can **exacerbate** its progression, leading to early treatments.
- A. Only a
- B. Both b and c
- C. Only b
- D. Both a and c
- E. All of a, b and c

## **ANSWER**

1.Answer: B

**Explanation:** The word "overarching" is typically used as an adjective to mean "comprehensive or all-encompassing," especially when referring to ideas, goals, themes, or strategies. It suggests something that includes or affects everything else.

**Option a:** though more **literal** than common usage. Here, "overarching" is used to describe branches that physically arch over, which is acceptable in a **literal**, **spatial sense**.

Option b: "Overarching" here refers to a broad, unifying goal, which fits perfectly.

**Option c** misuses it in a vague way that does not convey the intended meaning of comprehensiveness or importance. "Overarching" doesn't typically modify "style" like this.

2.Answer: B

**Explanation:** "Bolstered" means supported or strengthened.

**Sentence a** is correct because the evidence strengthens the argument.

**Sentence b** is acceptable as "bolstered" can also refer to adjusting or supporting cushions.

**Sentence c** is incorrect because criticism would not logically strengthen self-esteem; it contradicts the intended meaning of "bolstered."

#### 3.Answer: A

**Explanation: "Undermined"** means to **weaken something gradually or insidiously**, often referring to authority, confidence, morale, or stability.

a is correct — vague statements eroding credibility fits the figurative and common use of "undermined."

- **b** is incorrect while physically digging *under* something is literal, "undermined" is not used appropriately in this context. A better verb would be "excavated" or "dug beneath."
- **c** is correct favoring one person over others can reduce morale or trust over time, which is a good use of "undermined."

#### 4.Answer: E

**Explanation: "Arbitrary"** means based on random choice or personal whim, rather than any reason or system.

**a** is correct — The teacher's decision is random and without justification, fitting the meaning of "arbitrary."

**b** is correct — The rules lack reason or consistency, which is a classic example of something being "arbitrary."

**c** is correct — The choice of vacation destination was random, and though it turned out well, the randomness still fits the definition of "arbitrary."

5.Answer: D

**Explanation:** "Ephemeral" means something that is short-lived or temporary.

**a** is correct — the beauty of the sunset is fleeting, so it's an example of something ephemeral.

**b** is incorrect — "ephemeral" refers to something temporary, so the company's long-term success contradicts this meaning.

**c** is correct — the artist's work is described as capturing moments that are meant to be transient, which fits the meaning of "ephemeral."

6.Answer: E

**Explanation:** "Juxtapose" means to place two things side by side for comparison or contrast.

**a** is correct — the artist places contrasting colors side by side to create visual impact, which is a perfect use of "juxtapose."

**b** is correct — comparing cultural differences between two societies involves placing them side by side to highlight contrasts, which fits "juxtapose."

**c** is correct — even when comparing similarities between two theories, they are being placed side by side for analysis, which is a valid use of "juxtapose."

#### 7.Answer: B

**Explanation: Tumultuous** (adjective): Describing something that is noisy, chaotic, or disorderly; characterized by great excitement, disturbance, or upheaval.

**a** is incorrect — "tumultuous" means chaotic or disorderly, so it is incorrect to describe "stillness" as tumultuous. Stillness is typically calm and peaceful, which contradicts the meaning of "tumultuous."

**b** is correct — a "tumultuous relationship" refers to a relationship filled with conflict, emotional ups and downs, and disorder, which fits the definition of "tumultuous."

**c** is correct — the sentence describes a smooth conference, but the word "tumultuous" would typically imply chaos or disruption. Thus, "no tumultuous debates" means the absence of chaos, which is correctly used.

#### 8.Answer: D

**Explanation:** "Cajole" means to persuade someone gently or by flattery or promises, often through subtle manipulation.

- **a** is correct The politician is using persuasion through promises to gain support, which fits the definition of "cajole" (to persuade gently or by flattery).
- **b** is incorrect "Cajole" involves gentle persuasion, not aggression. Arguing aggressively contradicts the meaning of "cajole."
- **c** is correct The sentence involves trying to persuade colleagues to help, which fits the meaning of "cajole," as it refers to gentle or subtle persuasion.

#### 9.Answer: E

**Explanation: Emulate** means to try to match or surpass someone, especially by imitating them; to strive to be like someone you admire or respect, often in behavior, achievements, or qualities.

- **a** is correct "Emulate" means to imitate or strive to equal or surpass someone, especially by imitation. The scientist admires the mentor and works to follow his approach, which fits the meaning of "emulate."
- **b** is correct The athlete is trying to imitate or adopt the opponent's style, which is a direct use of "emulate."
- **c** is correct The individual is striving to imitate the kindness and generosity of their role model, fitting the definition of "emulate."

#### 10. Answer: A

**Explanation: Exacerbate** means to make a problem, situation, or negative feeling worse or more severe.

- **a** is correct *Exacerbate* means to **make a problem, situation, or feeling worse**. Harsh criticism worsening the tension fits the correct usage.
- **b** is incorrect Her *timely intervention* **prevented** conflict, which implies improvement, not worsening. Using "exacerbate" here contradicts the intended meaning.
- **c** is incorrect *Acknowledging* early signs would usually help in prevention, not *worsen* the disease. So "exacerbate" is used inaccurately here.







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