

Words and Expressions

abandoned	– evacuated; vacated; deserted
blossoms	– a mass of flowers on a tree
blueprints	– drawing, sketches; plan; design
bulge	– stick out in a round shape; protrude
casually	– carelessly; indifferently
converse	– chat; talk; speak
delicate	– fragile; weak; frail
dissolve	– melt; thaw
dome	– a hemispherical roof or vault
drench	– drown, make completely wet; soak
echo	– resound; reverberate
flake	– destroy; chip off; peel; break
fleck	– spot, a small mark; dot
flimsy	– fragile, thin; light; weak
flutter	– flap, wave gently; flicker
foggy	– slight, dim; hazy; unclear
gaze	– look fixedly; stare
glance	– look quickly; glimpse
hiss	– whisper: a sound like a long 's'
holler	– shout; yell
identity	– a person's essential self; individuality
idle	– pass the time lazily, doing nothing
insane	– mad, mentally disordered; crazy
instant	– a very brief period of time; moment
intellect	– mental power; mind; brainpower
leap	– jump; jump high or a long way; bound
marrow	– substance; soft tissue in bones

خالی یا غیر مستعمل
 پھل دار درختوں کے شگوفے
 خاکہ۔ ڈرائینگ
 باہر کی طرف ابھرنا
 بے اعتنائی سے
 بات چیت کرنا
 کمزور۔ نازک
 تحلیل کر دینا۔ پگھلا دینا
 گنبد
 بھگو دینا۔ شرابور کرنا
 گونجنا
 چھوٹے چھوٹے ٹکڑوں کی شکل میں بکھرنا، اڑنا یا اڑانا، بکھیرنا
 چھوٹا سا نشان یا ذرہ
 کمزور۔ ناپختہ
 پھڑپھڑانا
 دھندلا۔ غیر واضح
 نظریں جما کر دیکھنا۔ مسلسل دیکھنا
 سرسری نظر ڈالنا
 پھنکار۔ سسکاری۔ سرگوشی کی سی آواز
 زور سے پکارنا۔ چلا نا
 تشخص
 وقت گزاری کرنا۔ بے کار رہنا
 پاگل
 لمحہ۔ ساعت۔ پل
 عقل، سمجھ، جاننے سوچنے کی قوت
 چھلانگ لگانا
 ہڈی کا گودا

mystery	– puzzle; a puzzling event or situation; riddle; enigma	راز، بھید، حل طلب بات۔ معمہ
notion	– idea; view; concept; opinion; impression	خیال۔ رائے
peel	– strip away; remove outer layer; scale	چھیلنا
prowl	– roam stealthily	چپکے چپکے گھومنا پھرنا
ruin	– broken remains; wreck	کھنڈر
rust	– decay, corrode; rot	زنگ آلود ہونا
scared	– frightened; terrified	خوفزدہ
slender	– slim; thin in a graceful way; lean	دلی تلی
sob	– gasp while crying; say something by crying	سسکیاں بھرنا۔ رونا
stranded	– forsaken; trapped; caught in trouble; marooned	کسی مشکل یا مصیبت میں پھنسا ہوا
stroke	– pat; fondle; caress	پیار سے تھپتھپانا
submerge	– drown; plunge; immerse	ڈبوننا۔ غرقاب کرنا
unbidden	– uninvited; unasked	بن بلا یا
vacuum	– void; emptiness	خلا
wade	– walk in water	پانی میں چلنا
warped	– twisted out of shape; bent; deformed	ٹیڑھا
whirl away	– move away; rush	دائروی حرکت میں تیز بہتیر ہونا
wicker	– cane	بید

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

- Its lid gave a **bulging pop**.
A) whizzing sound B) explosive sound
C) muffled sound D) musical sound
- The other passengers **whirled away** across the Martian meadow.
A) moved rapidly B) turned around
C) settled d) vanished
- The man felt his hair **flutter** and the tissues of his body draw tight.
A) dwindle B) shine
C) flap D) stand
- as if he were standing at the centre of a **vacuum**.
A) void B) steamy air
C) heaviness D) bulging rock
- The children, small seeds, might at any instant be sown to all the Martian **climes**.
A) marshes B) lands
C) hills D) climates
- The wind blew as if to **flake away** their identities.
A) destroy B) dislike
C) develop D) deny

(Board 2010)

7. As **marrow** comes from a white bone.

- A) blood B) hollowness
C) splinters D) substance

8. He felt **submerged** in a chemical.

- A) flaked B) floated
C) drowned D) washed away

9. That could dissolve his **intellect** and burn away his past.

- A) cleverness B) mental power
C) aesthetic sense D) emotions

10. ...Martian hills that time had **worn** with a crushing pressure of years.

- A) damaged B) flattened
C) created D) used

11. Lying like children's **delicate** bones among the blowing lakes of grass.

- A) sharp B) strong
C) fragile D) naked

12. The children **hollered** at the deep dome of Martian sky.

- A) shouted B) gazed
C) wondered D) aimed

13. The racing **hiss** of wind through the stiff grass.

- A) noise B) excess
C) access D) rustle

14. ... a man standing on the edge of a sea, ready to **wade** in and be drowned.

- A) walk B) bathe
C) swim D) plunge

15. ...like a third **unbidden** partner at every midnight talk.

- A) unasked for B) unprovoked
C) asked D) enlightened

16. Safe and **insane**!

- A) sound B) sad
C) mad D) mute

17. You haven't been **prowling** up in those ruins, have you?

- A) booming B) living
C) roaming D) cursing

18. Laura **stumbled** through the settlement, crying.

- A) staggered B) announced
C) glided D) envisaged

19. She **dashed** blindly on to the porch.

- A) prowled B) mumbled
C) descended D) rushed

20. She sobbed. "A radio **flash** just came."

- A) news B) analysis
C) view D) review

21. We're **stranded** on Mars, forever and ever.

- A) settled B) trapped
C) crushed D) pledged

22. He wanted to **strike** Laura, cry, "No, you're lying!"

- A) console B) warn
C) stroke D) slap

23. He was **drenched** in the hotness of his fear.

(Board 2010)

- A) drowned B) placed
C) relieved D) gripped

24. He **stroked** Laura's head against him.

- A) rebuked B) embraced
C) caressed D) hit

25. He looked with **dismay** at their house.

(Board 2007)

- A) gloom B) relief
C) wonder D) triumph

26. The boards were all **warped** out of shape.

- A) twisted B) flattened
C) cleared D) fixed

27. The men were **conversing** with great leisure and ease.

- A) exchanging B) quarrelling
C) chatting D) listening

28. Harry, I got a whole load of metal and some **blueprints**.

- A) drawings B) blue paper
C) worksheets D) documents

29. "Is that so, Harry?" Sam said, **casually**.

- A) carelessly B) curiously
C) anxiously D) searchingly

30. "Doesn't it **scare** you?"

- A) frighten B) change
C) urge D) astonish

31. His wife appeared with his supper in a **wicker** basket.

- A) earthen B) lunch
C) big D) cane

32. There were little, very dim **flecks** of new gold captured in the blue of his eyes.

- A) shields B) shapes
C) spots D) lids

33. The sons played songs on ancient flutes and pipes, their laughter **echoing** in the marble villa.
A) sounding B) resounding
C) giggling D) murmuring
34. In the empty Earth settlement, the painted houses flaked and **peeled**.
A) uninhabited B) abandoned
C) warped D) stripped away
35. Rubber tires hung suspended like stopped clock pendulums in the **blazing** air.
A) racing B) burning
C) foggy D) alien
36. The daughter wove **tapestries** and the sons played songs on ancient flutes and pipes.
A) gloves B) clothes
C) carpets D) embroideries
37. "Dark eh?" **mused** the captain.
A) found B) shouted
C) thought D) asked
38. They both looked at each other, **startled** by all they had just finished saying.
A) astonished B) preached
C) destroyed D) pleased
39. She was golden and **slender** as his daughter.
A) innocent B) punctual
C) slim D) childish
40. Men **leaped** out of it, shouting.
A) jumped B) peeped
C) mocked D) hissed
41. They found a **flimsy** rocket frame rusting in an empty shop.
A) modern B) unfinished
C) fragile D) gigantic
42. They found a flimsy rocket frame **rusting** in an empty shop.
A) working B) inclining
C) steaming D) decaying
43. The captain established headquarters in an **abandoned** bar.
A) frustrated B) evacuated
C) destroyed D) flourishing
44. They hadn't the **foggiest** notion of what happened to this town or its people.
A) slightest B) clearest
C) oldest D) oddest
45. They hadn't the foggiest **notion** of what happened to this town or its people.
A) idea B) surprise
C) craze D) research
46. They look **surprisingly** peaceful.
A) beautifully B) astonishingly
C) romantically D) powerfully
47. Chances are a **plague** did this town in, sir.
A) disease B) disturbance
C) disaster D) devil
48. I suppose this is one of those **mysteries** we'll never solve.
A) findings B) symphonies
C) challenges D) puzzles
49. Chances are a plague **did this town in**, sir.
A) explored B) populated this town
C) sustained this town
D) destroyed this town
50. One day the atom bomb will **fix** earth.
A) touch B) hit
C) hurt D) stand
51. A Martian **virus**, may be, some seed or pollen.
A) germ
B) ailment
C) a poison
D) antidote

Answers

1. B	8. C	15. A	22. D	29. A	36. D	43. B	50. B
2. A	9. B	16. C	23. A	30. A	37. C	44. A	51. A
3. C	10. A	17. C	24. C	31. D	38. A	45. A	
4. A	11. C	18. A	25. A	32. C	39. C	46. B	
5. D	12. A	19. D	26. A	33. B	40. A	47. A	
6. A	13. D	20. A	27. C	34. D	41. C	48. D	
7. D	14. A	21. B	28. A	35. B	42. D	49. D	

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. The man felt his hair flutter and the tissues of his body draw tight as if he were _____.
A) sick B) happy
C) feeling sad
D) standing at the center of a vacuum
2. At any moment the Martian air might _____.
A) bring relief
B) draw his soul from him
C) kill him
D) become pleasant
3. What did they see in Martian hills?
A) the old cities B) flower beds
C) stream of fresh water
D) deep valley
4. What did they do after building a cottage?
A) decorated it
B) furnished it
C) ate good breakfasts
D) arranged a feast
5. What was the news Laura told her parents?
A) the war on Earth
B) the death of the people
C) the arrival of a rocket
D) the fall of a rocket
6. Which one of the cities was attacked?
(Board 2007)
A) Texas B) Virginia
C) New York D) New Jersey
7. How did they feel on Mars after the attack on Earth?
A) drenched B) stranded
C) secluded D) surrendered
8. What were the men doing in town on the shadowy step of the grocery store?
A) quarrelling
B) conversing with great leisure and ease
C) playing D) buying the grocery
9. How many dollars did Sam demand for the metal?
A) two hundred B) three hundred
C) four hundred D) five hundred
10. In which season did Mr. Bittering stand very golden-eyed?
A) winter B) summer
C) autumn D) spring
11. Harry bought metal from Sam for _____ dollars.
(Board 2010)
A) 300 B) 400
C) 500 D) 600
12. What was the original colour of Harry's eyes?
(Board 2010)
A) black B) brown
C) red D) blue
13. Sam said that if Harry worked alone he would be able to build a rocket in about _____.
A) five years B) fifteen years
C) twenty years D) thirty years
14. What lay with Mr. and Mrs. Bittering as a third unbidden partner?
A) happiness B) fear
C) dreams D) children
15. According to Mr. Bittering, all dead cities have some kind of _____ in them.
A) dead bodies B) ruins
C) ghosts D) aliens
16. Who proposes to buy tickets for Earth?
A) Children B) Cora
C) Harry D) Sam
17. According to Harry, how many Earth people were there on Mars?
A) seven hundred B) eight hundred
C) nine hundred D) a thousand
18. Harry looked with dismay at _____.
A) the Martian hills B) the old cities
C) his house D) his wife
19. Who broke the news of war on Earth?
A) Cora B) Laura
C) Bittering D) the rocket men
20. The climate they faced on Mars was _____.
A) familiar B) friendly
C) unfriendly D) mild
21. After how many years did men come to rescue the Earth people on Mars?
A) three years B) four years
C) five years D) six years
22. Where did the captain establish his headquarters?
A) in the metal shop
B) in an abandoned bar
C) in the Earth settlement
D) in the marble ruins

23. The captain thought that _____ had killed the Earth people on Mars. 11603074
 A) a plague B) the Martians
 C) hostile climate D) natural disasters
24. Harry felt submerged in a chemical that could _____ and burn away his past.
 A) fill him with horror
 B) dissolve his intellect
 C) wash him in a mountain stream
 D) make him golden and slender
25. Where did Harry and his family land?
 A) the Moon B) the Mercury
 C) Mars D) the Earth
26. How did the lid of rocket open?
 A) without any sound
 B) with a screeching sound
 C) softly
 D) with a bulging pop
27. What did Harry want to build?
 A) a space shuttle B) an aeroplane
 C) a rocket D) a jet
28. What was hanging suspended in the backyard?
 A) rubber tyres B) iron gates
 C) hung trees D) slippery stairs
29. Why was Cora not willing to go the Earth?
 A) due to bad weather
 B) due to her enemies
 C) due to good climate of Mars
 D) due to war on the Earth

Answers

1. D	4. C	7. B	10. C	13. D	16. C	19. B	22. B	25. C	28. A
2. B	5. A	8. B	11. C	14. B	17. D	20. C	23. B	26. D	29. D
3. A	6. C	9. D	12. D	15. C	18. C	21. C	24. B	27. C	

Questions from the Textbook

Q.1 Why did Harry want to go back to the Earth?

(Board 2007)

Ans. Harry believed that they would change completely if they lived longer on Mars. Therefore, he wanted to go back to the Earth.

Q.2 Why did Harry want to stay?

Ans. Harry did not want to stay on Mars but there was no way back. He was helpless. After the war on Earth, there were no more rockets to Mars.

Q.3 What climate did they face?

(Board 2016,17)

Ans. It was extremely hot in the summer season. The wind blew as if to flake away their identities. They had to face a very harsh climate on Mars. The summers and winters were very severe.

Q.4 What was the condition of the Bittering family on hearing the news of the war on the Earth?

Ans. They were all dismayed and saddened on hearing the news of war on the Earth. They felt stranded on Mars as there was no way back now.

Q.5 What did they want to grow?

Ans. They wanted to grow crops and look after their children. They wanted to go about their business and keep things going until the war ended and the rockets came back to Mars.

Q.6 What was the condition of their house?

Ans. Their house had changed beyond recognition. Under the erosive effects of extreme weather, the boards warped out of shape and the paint was beginning to peel off.

Q.7 What was the advice Harry gave to the people?

Ans. Harry advised the people that they must want to go back to the Earth or they would change completely. He urged them to build a rocket.

Q.8 How dangerous can a Martian virus be?

(Board 2007, 08,10)

Ans. A Martian virus could prove very dangerous. It could change the Earth people physically and mentally. It could make them forget their past; it could delete their memories and thus make them strangers unto themselves.

Additional Questions

Q.9 What kind of people did the rescue party come across?

Ans. The people the rescue party came across on Mars, were dark and yellow-eyed. They were very friendly and peaceful. Actually they were the Earth people, who had lost their Earthly identity.

Q.10 What was the rescue party's presumption about the missing Earth people?

Ans. They thought that the Martians had killed them or some plague had destroyed the town and its people.

Q.11 What was the captain's conclusion about the missing Earth people?

Ans. The captain couldn't understand what had happened to the Earth people on Mars. He thought that it was one of those mysteries they could never resolve.

Q.12 What was summer like on Mars?

Ans. The Martian summer was extremely hot. It burned the canals dry and moved like flames upon the meadows.

Q.13 What were the feelings of the Bittering family after landing on Mars? (Board 2018)

Ans. Harry Bittering was rather confused about coming to Mars. His wife, however, appeared unruffled and satisfied. She believed that they had escaped the havoc of an anticipated atomic war on earth.

Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

whats wrong asked his wife lets get back on the rocket go back to the earth yes listen

Solved:

"What's wrong?" asked his wife. "Let's get back on the rocket." "Go back to the Earth?" "Yes! Listen!"

2) **Unsolved:**

are you sure laura asked the father quietly laura wept were stranded on mars forever and ever

Solved:

"Are you sure, Laura?" asked the father quietly. Laura wept. "We're stranded on Mars, forever and ever!"

3) **Unsolved:**

father what will we do go about our business of course raise crops and children wait keep things going until the war ends and the rockets come again

Solved:

"Father, what will we do?" "Go about our business, of course. Raise crops and children. Wait. Keep things going until the war ends and the rockets come again."

4) **Unsolved:**

im going into town weve got to do something now ill be back

Solved:

"I'm going into town. We've got to do something now. I'll be back."

5) **Unsolved:**

look he said to them you did hear the news the other day didnt you they nodded and laughed sure sure harry what are you going to do about it do harry do what can we do build a rocket thats what

Solved:

"Look," he said to them. "You did hear the news, the other day, didn't you?" They nodded and laughed. "Sure. Sure, Harry." "What are you going to do about it?" "Do, Harry, do? What can we do?" "Build a rocket, that's what!"

6) **Unsolved:**

is that so harry sam said casually and youre taller and thinner you might be right harry

Solved:

"Is that so, Harry?" Sam said, casually. "And you're taller and thinner." "You might be right, Harry."

7) **Unsolved:**

now look what youve done said sam a moment later youve broken my mirror

Solved:

"Now look what you've done," said Sam a moment later. "You've broken my mirror."

8) **Unsolved:**

i wont touch it he said i ll eat only food from our deep-freeze food that came from the earth nothing from our garden

Solved:

"I won't touch it," he said. "I'll eat only food from our deep-freeze. Food that came from the Earth. Nothing from our garden."

9) **Unsolved:**

the towns empty no ones going back he said theres no reason to none at all

Solved:

"The town's empty. No one's going back," he said. "There's no reason to, none at all."

10) **Unsolved:**

he picked up the luggage in his cold hands here we go he said a man standing on the edge of a sea ready to wade in and be drowned

Solved:

He picked up the luggage in his cold hands. "Here we go," he said – a man standing on the edge of a sea, ready to wade in and be drowned.

11) **Unsolved:**

i feel like a salt crystal he said in a mountain stream being washed away we dont belong here were earth people this is mars it was meant for martians for heavens sake cora lets buy tickets for home

Solved:

"I feel like a salt crystal," he said, "in a mountain stream, being washed away. We don't belong here. We're Earth people. This is Mars. It was meant for Martians. For heaven's sake, Cora, let's buy tickets for home!"

12) **Unsolved:**

mother father the war earth she sobbed a radio flash just came atom bombs hit new york all the space rockets blown up no more rockets to mars ever

Solved:

"Mother, Father – the war, Earth!" she sobbed. "A radio flash just came. Atom bombs hit New York! All the space rockets blown up. No more rockets to Mars, ever!"

- 13) **Unsolved:**
what are you doing you fools he thought sitting here you ve heard the news we re stranded on this planet well move arent you frightened arent you afraid what are you going to do
Solved:
What are you doing, you fools! he thought. Sitting here! You've heard the news – we're stranded on this planet. Well, move! Aren't you frightened? Aren't you afraid? What are you going to do?
- 14) **Unsolved:**
bittering wanted to cry you ve got to work with me if we stay here we ll all change the air dont you smell it something in the air a martian virus may be some seed or a pollen listen to me.
Solved:
Bittering wanted to cry, "You've got to work with me. If we stay here, we'll all change. The air. Don't you smell it? Something in the air. A Martian virus, may be; some seed, or a pollen. Listen to me!"
- 15) **Unsolved:**
i worked in a shop once when i was twenty i know metal once i get it started the others will help he said not looking at her laying out the blueprints
Solved:
"I worked in a shop once, when I was twenty. I know metal. Once I get it started, the others will help," he said, not looking at her, laying out the blueprints.
- 16) **Unsolved:**
we ll go back to town may be next year or the year after or the year after that he said calmly now i m warm how about taking a swim
Solved:
"We'll go back to town may be next year, or the year after, or the year after that," he said, calmly. "Now – I'm warm. How about taking a swim?"
- 17) **Unsolved:**
the towns empty but we found native life in the hills sir dark people yellow eyes martians very friendly we talked a bit not much they learn english fast i m sure our relations will be most friendly with them sir
Solved:
"The town's empty, but we found native life in the hills, sir. Dark people. Yellow eyes. Martians. Very friendly. We talked a bit, not much. They learn English fast. I'm sure our relations will be most friendly with them, sir."
- 18) **Unsolved:**
in the quiet autumn mr bittering stood very dark now very golden eyed upon the slope above his villa looking at the valley
Solved:
In the quiet autumn Mr. Bittering stood, very dark now, very golden-eyed, upon the slope above his villa, looking at the valley.

(Lahore Board 2019)