

Words and Expressions

appetizing	– inviting; stimulating appetite; exciting	اشتبہ انگیز
astounded	– stunned; shocked; surprised	حیران و پریشان، ہکا بکا
belongings	– personal possessions; luggage	سامان۔ اسباب
campaign	– military expedition; battle; war	جنگ، معرکہ
caretaker	– keeper; guardian; custodian	نگران، محافظ
cease	– finish; end; stop	ختم ہونا
choke	– stifle; suffocate; to be too moved to speak	ہم گھٹنا
cordially	– genially; amiably; warmly	خوشدلی سے، گرمجوشی سے
credence	– reliability; trust; credibility; trustworthiness	بھروسہ۔ اعتبار، اعتماد
delirium	– restlessness; hallucination; feverishness	ہذیانی کیفیت۔ مخطوط الحواسی
discharge	– release; acquit; free	چھوڑ دینا، رہا کرنا
engrave	– inscribe; carve; etch	کندہ کرنا۔ کسی سخت سطح پر کھودنا یا تراشنا
esteem	– honour; respect; regard	عزت۔ احترام
exasperate	– annoy; make angry; infuriate	سخت برہم کرنا۔ غصہ دلانا
flushed	– reddened; red-faced	تمتا اٹھنا۔ سرخ ہو جانا
furiously	– angrily; violently	غصے سے۔ شدت سے
grieve	– afflict; distress; sadden	رنجیدہ کرنا۔ دکھ پہنچانا
harness	– leather straps for a horse; rein	گھوڑے کا ساز
havocs	– destruction; devastation	تباہی
incredulity	– distrust; suspicion; doubt; disbelief	بے یقینی۔ شک
indignation	– anger; exasperation	غصہ۔ برہمی
maintain	– assert; claim; affirm; hold; state; insist	و ثوق سے کہنا۔ دعویٰ کرنا
odour	– smell; aroma	خوشبو
prosecutor	– lawyer representing government	مقدمہ دائر کرنے والا، سرکاری وکیل
rascal	– rogue; dishonest person; scoundrel	بد دیانت شخص۔ بد معاش
reiterate	– repeat; restate	دہرانا۔ دوبارہ کہنا
salvation	– redemption; safety from sin	نجات۔ بخشش
stout	– sturdy; strong; very healthy	موٹا تازہ، قوی، تومند

triumph	– victory; success; delight; joy
waste	– become weak, ill, or very thin
withstand	– endure; resist; bear; survive

فتح۔ کامیابی۔ خوشی
کمزور، لاغر ہونا
مزاہمت یا مقابلہ کرنا

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

- At the end of market day, people came with gigs.
A) maids B) two-horse carts
C) trucks D) one-horse carts
- All the people gathered at a big hall.
A) stopped B) looked
C) slept D) assembled
- All the people brought their vehicles.
A) cycles B) motor-bikes
C) dumpcarts D) carriages
- There was an appetizing odour of roast beef.
A) inviting B) repulsive
C) bland D) nauseating
- There was an appetizing odour of roast beef.
A) demand B) colour
C) gravy D) smell
- The odour of the meal increased the appetite of the people.
A) profit B) expense
C) repulsion D) hunger
- Leaf and gravy dripping over the browned skin made everybody's mouth water.
A) absorbing B) baking
C) cooking D) trickling
- The weather was favourable for the green things.
A) helpful B) critical
C) unhelpful D) hostile
- After the drum beat had ceased, the drummer called out to the people.
A) stopped B) started
C) resumed D) lowered
- The drummer called out to the people.
A) appreciated B) addressed
C) abused D) ordered
- It is hereby made known to the inhabitants of this place that ...
A) dealers B) visitors
C) shopkeepers D) residents
- Hubert looked at the mayor, astounded.
A) overjoyed B) disappointed
C) exasperated D) stunned
- The Mayor was a stout, serious man.
A) ugly B) handsome
C) sturdy D) thin
- Mr. Hubert was terrified by the suspicion resting on him.
A) curiosity B) trust
C) doubt D) responsibility
- Mr. Hubert, the old man, remembered, understood and flushed with anger.
A) spat B) disturbed
C) flustered D) reddened
- Manana was a man of worthy credence.
A) dishonesty B) doubt
C) mistrust D) trust
- Manana mistook the cord.
A) mismanaged B) misheard
C) trusted D) misjudged
- Manana mistook the cord.
A) pocket knife B) duty
C) card D) string
- Mr. Hubert was a peasant.
A) master B) farmer
C) barber D) caretaker
- Mr. Hubert furiously lifted his hand.
A) angrily B) pleasantly
C) foolishly D) tactfully
- He spat to attest his honour.
A) devalue B) blemish
C) affirm D) reject

22. He talked in exasperating tone. (Board 2010)
 A) melodious B) agreeable
 C) pleasing D) annoying
23. I repeat it on my soul and my salvation.
 A) slavery B) curse
 C) redemption D) damnation
24. Hubert was choked with anger.
 A) pleased B) stuffed
 C) stifled D) senseless
25. He was choked with indignation.
 A) blame B) incredulity
 C) honour D) anger
26. He gave his presentation to his friends.
 A) justification B) indignation
 C) salvation D) soul
27. People called Mr. Hubert 'old rascal'. (Board 2007)
 A) peasant B) leader
 C) rogue D) master
28. Hubert told everyone about his adventure.
 A) incident B) findings
 C) theft D) wrath
29. Hubert met with incredulity. (Board 2010)
 A) distrust B) trust
 C) fame D) punishment
30. He returned the pocket-book with all its contents.
 A) curses B) fame
 C) respect D) articles
31. Hubert felt shame to his self-esteem.
 A) suspicion B) self-satisfaction
 C) guilt D) self-respect
32. Mr. Hubert was in triumph.
 A) defeat B) victory
 C) guilt D) disbelief
33. Hubert consumed his heart.
 A) solaced his heart B) became ill
 C) protested angrily D) softened
34. ...who had been on a campaign.
 A) boycott
 B) playground
 C) military exercise
 D) military expedition
35. He continued claiming his innocence in the delirium of his death struggles.
 A) delight B) feverishness
 C) anger D) splendour
36. Hubert reiterated his innocence.
 A) repeated B) rejected
 C) discarded D) blamed
37. A flood in its wrath carried away the people.
 A) anger B) delight
 C) innocence D) success
38. Hubert's grave withstood the havocs of flood.
 A) endured B) stood by
 C) fell victim to D) took in
39. Hubert's grave withstood the havocs of flood.
 A) sustenance B) destruction
 C) cause D) proof
40. There was no use in Hubert's protesting.
 A) innocence B) presenting
 C) reiterating D) complaining
41. People questioned him with serious curiosity.
 A) incredulity B) fury
 C) demand D) interest
42. He gave the book to his employer.
 A) uncle B) teacher
 C) father D) master
43. It was engraved on his tomb stone, years after his death. (Board 2007)
 A) applied B) typed
 C) inscribed D) signed
44. Mr. James was the caretaker of public Hall.
 A) engineer B) designer
 C) builder D) keeper

Answers

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

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. The rich people gathered at the big hall _____.
A) to watch a show B) for a discussion
C) to hear a lecture D) for a great meal
2. What was the public statement made by the drummer?
A) loss of a black leather pocketbook containing money and business papers
B) open invitation for dinner
C) to enjoy a concert
D) sale of a building
3. The police officer asked Hubert to accompany him to _____.
A) the police station B) the mayor's office
C) the court D) the airport
4. "By my word of honour I never heard of it" means _____.
A) that he never saw it
B) that he saw it
C) he never heard of it
D) being an honourable man he did not pick up the lost pocketbook
5. What did Hubert say in the most exasperating tone?
A) he never stole the pocket-book
B) he picked up a piece of string
C) it is nevertheless, truth of the good God, the sacred truth
D) "O him! Yes! He saw me pick up this string here"
6. On the recovery of the lost pocket-book, Hubert felt _____.
A) disgusted B) triumphant
C) indifferent D) concerned
7. "But he only met with incredulity" means that _____.
A) nobody believed him
B) everyone laughed at him
C) only his friends trusted his innocence
D) he could not prove his innocence
8. What did the people say behind his back?
A) those are lying excuses
B) he is innocent
C) he is unreliable
D) a man of loose character
9. What did Hubert feel on being accused of picking up the lost pocketbook?
A) extreme loneliness
B) shame and disgrace to his self-esteem and character
C) utter helplessness
D) incredulity
10. What were the last words of Hubert?
A) A piece of string! A piece of string!
B) By my word of honour I did not lie.
C) I handed over the pocket-book to its owner.
D) I picked up a pocket-book.
11. What were the contents of the lost pocketbook?
A) five hundred gold coins and business papers
B) twenty shillings and some business papers
C) five hundred shillings and some business papers
D) five hundred and twenty shillings
12. What is the moral of the story 'The Piece of String'?
A) Pride hath a fall.
B) Tit for tat.
C) Time heals all wounds
D) Truth triumphs
13. Where did people gather at the end of market day?
A) at a bus station
B) at a marketplace
C) at the village compound
D) at a great hall
14. How much money was there in the pocket book? (Board 2010)
A) 500 shillings B) 400 shillings
C) 300 shillings D) 200 shillings
15. What was the reward for returning the lost pocket-book?
A) 10 shillings B) 20 shillings
C) 30 shillings D) 40 shillings
16. Who was the caretaker of the public hall?
A) Mr. George B) Mr. Jones
C) Mr. Manana D) Mr. James

17. People made fun of Hubert's innocence to _____
 A) exasperate him
 B) amuse themselves
 C) support Mr. Manana
 D) warn others
18. Who returned the pocketbook to its owner?
 A) James B) George
 C) Manana D) Hubert
19. Who believed Hubert's statement
 A) his friends B) the police chief
 C) the Mayor D) nobody
20. What did Mr. Hubert do to attest his honour?
 A) showed a piece of string
 B) knelt and sought justice from God
 C) abused Mr. Manana
 D) furiously lifted his hand spat at one side
21. What proved Mr. Hubert's innocence?
 A) his death B) his illness
 C) a flood D) nothing
22. What made Hubert shameful?
 A) being called a liar
 B) his illness
 C) the story of a string
 D) havocs of the flood
23. Who was Mr. Manana?
 A) the public prosecutor
 B) a peasant
 C) a shopkeeper
 D) a harness man
24. Who came on the scene after the meal?
 A) the police chief
 B) Mr. James
 C) Mr. Manana
 D) the Mayor
25. What kind of man was the Mayor?
 A) dutiful and considerate
 B) innocent and trusting
 C) stout and serious
 D) lean and lanky
26. Who was the owner of the lost pocketbook?
 A) the Mayor
 B) Mr. James
 C) the public prosecutor
 D) Mr. George
27. What had Hubert picked up from the road?
 A) nothing
 B) 20 shillings
 C) the lost pocketbook
 D) a piece of string
28. What withstood the havoc of flood?
 A) the people and their belongings
 B) the public hall
 C) the entire village
 D) Hubert's grave
29. Who is the author of "The Piece of String"?
 A) Langston Hughes
 B) Guy De Maupassant
 C) Jerome K. Jerome
 D) William Carlos Williams
30. Mr. Hubert was surprised when the police officer asked him to accompany him to _____
 (Board 2018)
 A) the police station
 B) the mayor's office
 C) the court
 D) the airport

Answers

1.	D	5.	C	9.	B	13.	D	17.	B	21.	C	25.	C	29.	B
2.	A	6.	B	10.	B	14.	A	18.	B	22.	A	26.	B	30.	B
3.	B	7.	A	11.	C	15.	B	19.	D	23.	D	27.	D		
4.	D	8.	A	12.	D	16.	D	20.	D	24.	A	28.	D		

Questions from the Textbook

Q.1 Why did Manana accuse Hubert of picking the lost pocket-book?

(Board 2008)

Ans. Mr. Manana was under a delusion that Hubert had picked up the pocket book. He saw Hubert stand there for some time and scrape the mud. He suspected that Hubert was looking for any coins which might have fallen out of the pocket-book.

Q.2 What did the people think of Mr. Hubert when they heard of the return of the pocket-book by some other person?

Ans. They still did not believe him. They said that he was making lying excuses. They thought he had concocted a story to escape the charge with impunity.

Q.3 Why did George give the pocket-book to his employer? (Board 2008,17)

Ans. George was an illiterate fellow – unable to read and write. Therefore, he gave the pocketbook to his employer and so left the matter to his discretion.

Q.4 What made Mr. Hubert shameful? (Board 2014,16,18)

Ans. The insult of being called a liar made Mr. Hubert shameful. According to him nothing was more shameful than to be called a liar.

Q.5 How did the people make fun of Hubert's innocence? (Board 2016,17)

Ans. They began to tell his story to amuse themselves. They told it like a soldier who had been on a campaign and told about his battles.

Q.6 Why did Hubert keep claiming his innocence before his death?

Ans. It shows how traumatic this incident had been that even in his death throes, he kept claiming his innocence. He knew the people still did not believe him. He was extremely distressed at being called a liar.

Additional Questions

Q.7 What was engraved on the grave of Mr. Hubert?

Ans. The following words were engraved on his tombstone;
"Here lies a man who told nothing but truth. Here lies the man who would not prove his innocence but the flood proved it!"

Q.8 Draw a short character sketch of Mr. Hubert.

Ans. Mr. Hubert was a simple countryman. He was honest, truthful and very sensitive. He believed that nothing was more shameful than to be called a liar.

Q.9 What effect did the feelings of shame and disgrace have on Mr. Hubert?

Ans. Mr. Hubert consumed his heart over this grief and became very weak. He ultimately died from this grief.

Q.10 Why did the Mayor not believe Mr. Hubert? (Board 2015)

Ans. The Mayor believed that Mr. Manana was a man of worthy credence and could not accuse Hubert for nothing. That is why, he did not accept Mr. Hubert's justifications.

Q.11 What was the mentality of the people who did not believe Hubert?

Ans. The people of the village were overpowered by a feeling of mass mind. They took pleasure in the pain of others. Instead of accepting Mr. Hubert's justifications, they rather made fun of him.

Q.12 What warning did the Mayor give to Mr. Hubert?

Ans. The Mayor discharged Mr. Hubert with a warning that he would consult the public prosecutor and ask for further orders.

Q. 13 Who is Mr. Hubert? (Board 2022)

Ans. Mr. Hubert was a poor old peasant. He was a simple countryman who was wrongly blamed for stealing someone's pocketbook. But he was innocent. He just picked up a piece of string but people did not believe him and called him a thief.

Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

mr hubert surprised and disturbed followed the police officer the mayor a stout serious man was waiting for hubert

Solved:

Mr. Hubert surprised and disturbed, followed the police officer. The Mayor, a stout serious man, was waiting for Hubert.

2) **Unsolved:**

why me me me picked up the pocketbook yes you yourself by my word of honour i never heard of it

Solved:

"Why, me? Me? Me picked up the pocketbook?" "Yes, you yourself." "By my word of honour I never heard of it."

3) **Unsolved:**

(Board 2015)

whatever reasons he gave people were not willing to believe those are lying excuses they said behind his back

Solved:

"Whatever reasons he gave, people were not willing to believe. "Those are lying excuses," they said behind his back.

4) **Unsolved:**

(Board 2011) 11605090

i was seen with the pocketbook who saw me mr manana the harness man saw you pick up the pocketbook

Solved:

"I was seen with the pocketbook? Who saw me?" "Mr. Manana, the harness man, saw you pick up the pocketbook."

5) **Unsolved:**

o him yes he saw me pick up this string here and as he said so he drew out the little piece of string from his pocket

Solved:

"O, him! Yes! He saw me pick up this string here." And as he said so, he drew out the little piece of string from his pocket.

6) **Unsolved:**

but the mayor shook his head and said you will not make me believe that mr manana who is a man of worthy credence mistook the cord for a pocket book

Solved:

But the Mayor shook his head and said. "You will not make me believe that Mr. Manana, who is a man of worthy credence, mistook the cord for a pocket-book."

7) **Unsolved:**

mr hubert the peasant furiously lifted his hand spat at one side to attest his honour and said in most exasperating tone it is nevertheless truth of the good god the sacred truth i repeat it on my soul and my salvation

Solved:

Mr. Hubert, the peasant, furiously lifted his hand, spat at one side to attest his honour and said in the most exasperating tone, "It is, nevertheless, truth of the good God, the sacred truth. I repeat it on my soul and my salvation."

8) **Unsolved:**

mr hubert went along stopping his friends giving them his statement and presentation turning his pocket inside out to prove that he had nothing all they said was you old rascal get out of here

Solved:

Mr. Hubert went along stopping his friends, giving them his statement and presentation, turning his pocket inside out to prove that he had nothing. All they said was, "You old rascal! Get out of here!"

9) **Unsolved:**

it was engraved on his tombstone years after his death here lies a man who told nothing but truth here lies a man who would not prove his innocence but the flood proved it

Solved:

It was engraved on his tombstone, years after his death, "Here lies a man who told nothing but truth. Here lies the man who would not prove his innocence, but the flood proved it!"