

Words and Expressions

amble	– stroll; walk	خراماں خراماں چلنا
approvingly	– appreciatively; admiringly	سراہتے ہوئے۔ خوش ہوتے ہوئے
bulky	– tall and heavy; heavy	موٹی۔ بھاری بھر کم
conceal	– hide; cover	چھپانا
connoisseur	– critic; a person with expert knowledge in the fine arts; expert	فنون لطیفہ میں ماہر
content	– satisfied; pleased; contented	مطمئن۔ قانع
converge	– gather; arrive at same destination; meet; join	آملنا۔ ایک مقام پر اکٹھے ہونا
courteously	– considerately; civilly; politely	شائستگی سے
dandy	– fashionable; fop	بناٹھنا۔ خوش پوش
engrossed	– absorbed; occupied	منہمک۔ محو۔ گم
faint	– dim; weak	مدھم
floppy	– loose; hanging or falling loosely	ڈھیلی ڈھالی
gaiety	– high spirit; liveliness; merriment; bustle	رونق۔ چہل پہل
grimy	– soiled; covered with dirt; dirty	میلا
gust	– blast; sudden, violent rush of wind; draft	جھوٹکا
hide-out	– shelter; safe place; refuge	پناہ گاہ
immune	– safe; protected; invulnerable; unaffected by	محفوظ۔ مبرا
indifference	– unconcern	لا تعلقی، بے نیازی
induce	– encourage; tempt	اکسانا۔ مائل کرنا
jauntily	– cheerfully; gaily; cheerily; playfully	خوشی خوشی، ترنگ میں
lean	– thin; weak	ڈبلی پتلی، کمزور، لاغر
means	– income; resources	وسائل، آمدنی
mite	– a very small creature, object or particle	چھوٹی سی چیز
mutter	– say something quietly	دھیمے لہجے میں کہنا۔ زیر لب کہنا
obviously	– apparently; evidently	بظاہر
odour	– smell; scent; perfume	خوشبو، مہک
pavement	– footpath; path for pedestrians; sidewalk	فٹ پاتھ

pedestrians	– foot-travellers	پیدل چلنے والے
precarious	– insecure; unstable; critical	غیر محفوظ، نازک
profligate	– wasteful; extravagant	فضول خرچ، آوارہ
promenade	– stroll; walk; amble; saunter	چہل قدمی
relish	– delight; pleasure	مزہ۔ لطف
resume	– restart; start again	دوبارہ شروع کرنا
roam	– wander aimlessly; rove	گھومنا پھرنا، آوارہ گردی کرنا
side-burns	– facial hairs in front of the ears; side whiskers	بڑی بڑی قلمیں
sleek	– smooth; shiny; glossy	نرم، ملائم، چمکیلا
spin	– twirl; turn; rotate	گھمانا
thin	– become less thick; shrink; dwindle; become less	کم ہونا، چھدرا ہونا
thronged	– crowded; packed	بھرا پڑا تھا
togged up	– dressed up; clad; spruced up	ایچھے کپڑوں میں ملبوس، بناٹھنا
vendor	– seller; hawker	بیچنے والے
vest	– Undershirt	بنیان
wares	– things for sale; goods	چیزیں جو برائے فروخت ہوں
well-groomed	– looking clean, neat and carefully dressed	صاف ستھرا، خوش پوش
witness	– observe; watch; behold	دیکھنا

Multiple Choice Questions

I. Choose the correct synonym.

- A **well-groomed** young man having walked up Davis Road turned to the Mall.
A) unctuous B) westernized
C) well off D) well-dressed
- The young man's hair was **sleek** and shining.
A) thin B) thick
C) grey D) smooth
- He wore the hat at a **rakish** angle.
A) straight B) stylish
C) vertical D) critical
- He twirled his cane **jauntily**.
A) playfully B) abruptly
C) reluctantly D) impatiently
- He **twirled** his cane jauntily.
A) threw B) spun
C) waved D) lifted
- The sharp icy **gusts** of wind struck like steel.
A) manners B) chills
C) whirls D) blasts
- The young man seemed to be **immune to** the sharp icy gusts of wind.
A) sensitive to B) lost in
C) prone to D) unaffected by
- The young man was **ambling** along.
A) strolling B) running
C) staggering D) standing

9. He was enjoying his promenade in the bitter cold.
A) inducement B) scramble
C) stroll D) idleness
10. He looked such dandy that tonga-wallas raced towards him.
A) elegant B) modern
C) educated D) fashionable
11. As the evening advanced, the cold became more intense.
A) bleak B) acute
C) mild D) tempting
12. It was a cold that induced people to seek comfort in pleasure.
A) encouraged B) discouraged
C) confined D) allowed
13. It was a cold that induced people to seek comfort in pleasure.
A) enhance B) renounce
C) give up D) look for
14. In such times, it was not only the profligate who ranged abroad, but...
A) idlers B) unhappy
C) wasteful D) fashionable
15. In such times, it was not only the profligate who ranged abroad.
A) came out B) sought comfort
C) converged D) felt amused
16. Even those who were usually content to live with their loneliness emerged from their hide-outs.
A) indifferent B) willing
C) dissatisfied D) satisfied
17. People emerged from their hide-outs to join in the gaiety of the streets.
A) appeared B) hid
C) ran away D) submerged
18. People emerged from their hide-outs to join in the gaiety of the streets.
A) shelters B) secrecy
C) passivity D) enthusiasm
19. To join in the gaiety of streets.
A) gloom B) desolation
C) merriment D) profligacy
20. People converged on the Mall.
A) departed B) diverged
C) strolled D) gathered
21. They amused themselves, each according to his means.
A) income B) temperament
C) desire D) comfort
22. The pavement thronged with pedestrians.
(Board 2015)
A) hotel B) footpath
C) shop D) ground
23. The lapels were stiff and the sleeves were well creased.
A) folded B) maintained
C) tailored D) crumpled
24. Poor little mite.
A) very small thing B) stray cat
C) cute pet D) faithful animal
25. He examined the guitar with the air of a connoisseur.
A) manner B) atmosphere
C) knowledge D) utterance
26. He examined the guitar with the air of a connoisseur.
(Board 2015)
A) customer B) critic
C) layman D) profligate
27. "No, thank you," the young man said with an air of indifference.
A) selfishness B) unconcern
C) pride D) contempt
28. He slipped the list into his pocket and resumed his promenade.
A) stopped B) restarted
C) stayed D) hastened
29. "You have to select it, sir," said the carpet dealer amiably.
A) sternly B) decisively
C) cordially D) bitterly
30. A cream colour rose adorned the lapel of the young man's overcoat.
A) embellished B) stiffened
C) creased D) marked
31. He adjusted it with a peculiar smile of satisfaction.
A) pretentious B) special
C) graceful D) generous
32. At this part, the crowd of pedestrians had thinned down.
A) become less B) become more
C) disappeared D) grown larger

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33. The young man tried to spin his cane around one finger.
A) twirl B) put
C) fixed D) felt
34. The girl wore a floppy shalwar.
A) loose B) long
C) tight D) striped
35. She was short and bulky.
A) skinny B) slender
C) fashionable D) chubby
36. The young man was delighted to watch this spectacle.
A) place B) loveliness
C) scene D) gaiety
37. He had been, perhaps, too deeply engrossed in himself.
A) cheerful B) absorbed
C) immune D) excited
38. He followed them closely hoping to get a glimpse of their faces.
A) gaze B) shape
C) glance D) sketch
39. There was a lot of blood about and he was in a very precarious state.
A) unconscious B) critical
C) bleeding D) painful
40. The assistant surgeon and the two nurses had their faces concealed behind masks.
A) groomed B) revealed
C) protected D) hidden
41. All togged up for Saturday night, poor chap!
A) worked up B) spruced up
C) ended up D) engrossed in
42. The strong scented oil still gave out a faint odour.
A) blackness B) smoothness
C) luster D) smell
43. Where the flesh showed through the holes it was grimed with dirt.
A) exposed B) rubbed
C) concealed D) soiled

Answers

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

II. Choose the correct answer.

1. What was the colour of the overcoat of the young man?
A) red B) brown
C) green D) black
2. What happened when the evening advanced?
A) The weather became pleasant.
B) The pleasant air began to blow.
C) The sky was covered with clouds and it started raining.
D) The cold became more intense.
3. What was the condition of the overcoat the young man was wearing?
A) It was old.
B) It was new.
C) It was ragged.
D) It was full of dust.
4. When the young man visited the music shop what did he find?
A) musical instruments
B) many people
C) nothing
D) books
5. When the young man died in the hospital what amount of money was discovered on him?
A) 200 rupees
B) 51 rupees
C) six annas and a few pies
D) six annas
6. What were the names of the nurses on duty in hospital?
A) Nasreen and Jamila
B) Shehnaz and Gill
C) Gill and Jamila
D) Shehnaz and Jamila

7. What was the owner of the shop wearing on his head?
A) a cap B) a silk turban
C) nothing D) a green kerchief
8. After the accident when the driver sped away what were the words of the passers-by?
A) Catch him! B) Stop him!
C) Kill him! D) Follow him!
9. What was the condition of the young man after the accident?
A) He was in a very precarious condition.
B) He was in a stable condition.
C) He was in a normal condition.
D) He bled profusely.
10. What was the first thing removed from the body of the young man after the accident?
A) overcoat
B) shoes and socks
C) white silk scarf
D) old cotton sweater
11. The young man's shoes were old but _____.
A) well polished B) cheap
C) expensive D) worn out
12. What time of the year was it when the young man was strolling on the Mall?
A) mid summer B) autumn
C) mid winter D) spring
13. What could be heard playing in one of the restaurants?
A) a Spanish guitar B) an orchestra
C) a German piano D) a flute
14. What was lost at the time of the accident?
A) the cane
B) the black comb
C) the half-smoked cigarette
D) the diary
15. The young man's hair was sleek and shining and he wore _____.
A) silver rings B) sideburns
C) white gloves D) a brown hat
16. The young man examined the guitar with the air of a _____.
A) hobbyist B) guitarist
C) rambler D) connoisseur
17. The cold weather induced people to emerge from their hideouts and _____.
A) to enjoy the latest hit songs
B) join the crowd outside a restaurant
C) join in the gaiety of the streets
D) to enjoy the orchestra in a restaurant
18. A few yards further on, a large _____ carpet attracted the young man's attention.
A) Persian B) Indian
C) Pakistani D) Oriental
19. The young man followed the couple hoping to get a glimpse of their faces and _____.
A) to hear more of their talk.
B) to overtake them.
C) to spot them out in the crowd.
D) to observe them closely.
20. After the accident the young man was loaded into a _____ and taken to the nearby hospital.
A) car B) truck
C) rickshaw D) police van
21. What was hanging on the wall in the Western music shop?
A) gramophone records
B) Indian guitar
C) Spanish guitar
D) German piano
22. What was the price of the carpet?
A) two hundred rupees
B) five hundred and thirty two rupees
C) fourteen hundred and two rupees
D) fourteen hundred and thirty two rupees
23. What adorned the lapel of the young man's overcoat?
A) a red rose
B) a cream-coloured rose
C) large, shiny buttons of horn
D) a gold lace
24. The young man's thin moustache seemed to have been _____.
A) trimmed neatly
B) drawn with a pencil
C) smoothed with a fragrant oil
D) drawn stylishly
25. The sharp icy gusts of wind struck like steel but the young man seemed to be _____ them.
A) feeling B) waiting for
C) sensitive to D) immune to

Answers

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

Questions from the Textbook

Q.1 What was the colour of the overcoat of the young man?

Ans. The young man wore a brown overcoat. It was old but presentable.

Q.2 What was the appearance of the young man? OR
What did the young man look like?

Ans. The young man had a fashionable appearance. He was wearing a brown overcoat and a green felt hat. He had a thin moustache, sleek and shining hair, and he wore sideburns. In his hand, he held a short polished cane.

Q.3 Why did the people come out on the Mall?

(Board 2014)

Ans. There was something about the cold weather that induced people to seek comfort in pleasure. So they emerged from their hideouts to join the gaiety of the Mall.

Q.4 What were the people wearing?

Ans. Most of the people were wearing overcoats which were of every kind from the astrakhan to the rough military khaki.

Q.5 Why was the cat shivering?

Ans. The cat was shivering because of the intense cold.

Q.6 Why did the driver of the truck speed away after the accident?

(Board 2014)

Ans. The driver of the truck heard a shriek and knew that he had hit somebody. So he took advantage of the dark and sped away into the night.

Q.7 Who took the young man to the hospital? OR
How was the young man transported to the hospital?

Ans. A car was stopped. The young man was loaded into it and taken to the hospital.

Q.8 What kind of music was played in one of the restaurants?

Ans. An orchestra was playing in one of the restaurants. Although the music was foreign, the people were listening in silence. Those standing outside seemed to be enjoying the music more than those sitting inside.

Additional Questions

Q.9 Describe the overcoat worn by the young man. OR What was the condition of the overcoat?

(Board 2017)

Ans. The young man was wearing a brown overcoat. It was old but well cut. Its lapels were stiff and the sleeves well creased. Its buttons were of horn, big and shiny.

Q.10 What were the weather conditions when the young man was enjoying his promenade on the Mall?

Ans: It was winter season. Cold icy gusts of wind struck like steel. It was a weather that induced people to seek comfort in pleasure.

Q.11 How did the people amuse themselves on the Mall?

Ans. The people amused themselves among a variety of restaurants, cafes and snack bars. Those who could not afford the pleasure inside were content to gaze at the colourful lights and brilliant advertisements outside.

Q.12 What was the attitude of the people towards the music outside one of the restaurants?

Ans. Although the music was foreign, the people outside the restaurant were enjoying it more than those sitting inside the restaurant.

Q.13 What was there at the large Western music shop?

Ans. There were musical instruments neatly arranged on the shelves. The latest hit songs were displayed on a long table. A Spanish guitar and a huge German piano were particularly attractive.

Q.14 What was the reaction of the passers-by to the accident?

Ans. Those who witnessed the accident shouted: "Stop him! ...Take the number". Soon a lot of people gathered on the scene of the accident.

Q.15 Who were on duty in the casualty department?

Ans. Assistant Surgeon Khan and two young nurses, Shehnaz and Gill, were on duty in the casualty department that night.

Q.16 What was the young man wearing underneath his overcoat?

Ans. Underneath his overcoat, the young man was wearing only an old cotton sweater and a dirty vest which were all in holes. There was no tie, no collar, not even a shirt.

Q.17 Give a list of the articles which were found from the coat of the young man.

Ans. The articles discovered on the young man were a small black comb, a handkerchief, six annas and a few pies, a half-smoked cigarette, a little diary, a list of gramophone records and a few handbills.

Q.18. What was the condition of the young man when he was taken to the hospital? (Board 2018)

Ans. He was in a precarious condition. He was just alive. He had been fatally injured due to which he had lost much blood and was in coma.

Q. 19. What is the moral of the story "Overcoat"?

(Board 2022)

Ans. It is a tragic story of a destitute young man. Every thing about him was hidden under the coat. It's all about insecurities that arise from a class divide. It shows how people present images of their lives that may not necessarily be true. We should not judge the people by their appearance because appearances are often deceptive.

Punctuation Exercises

1) **Unsolved:**

yes sir have you change for a ten rupee note no sir but i ll get it for you and what if you dont come back

Solved:

"Yes, sir" "Have you change for a ten rupee note?" "No, sir, but I'll get it for you." "And what if you don't come back?"

2) **Unsolved:**

if you dont trust me sir you can come with me anyway what do you want to buy never mind here i have found one anna now give me a good cigarette and be off with you

Solved:

"If you don't trust me sir, you can come with me. Anyway, what do you want to buy?"

"Never mind..... Here, I have found one anna. Now give me a good cigarette and be off with you."

3) **Unsolved:**

you have only to select sir said the carpet dealer amiably and we will reduce the price to the minimum

Solved:

"You have only to select, sir," said the carpet dealer amiably, "and we will reduce the price to the minimum."

4) **Unsolved:**

thank you so much the young man said approvingly a fine carpet indeed i ll come again some time and he walked away

Solved:

"Thank you so much," the young man said approvingly. "A fine carpet indeed, I'll come again some time," and he walked away.

5) **Unsolved:**

he was now walking along the pavement near the high courts he had been roaming about for quite a long time but his spirits were still high he was neither tired nor bored

Solved:

He was now walking along the pavement near the High Courts. He had been roaming about for quite a long time, but his spirits were still high; he was neither tired nor bored.

6) **Unsolved:**

two or three passersby who had witnessed the accident shouted stop him take the number but the truck was no more to be seen

Solved:

Two or three passers-by who had witnessed the accident shouted: "Stop him take the number," but the truck was no more to be seen.

7) **Unsolved:**

seems quite well to do nurse shehnaz said to nurse gill to which she replied in a lower tone all toggged up for saturday night poor chap

Solved:

"Seems quite well-to-do," Nurse Shehnaz said to nurse Gill, to which she replied in a lower tone:

"All toggged up for Saturday night, poor chap."