

READING COMPREHENSION

PASSAGE

Doublespeak-whether jargon, euphemisms or bureaucratese-is not a slip of the tongue but a conscious use of language as both a tool and a weapon. It is language that conceals or manipulates thought. It makes the bad seem good, the negative appear positive, the unpleasant appear attractive or at least tolerable.

There is doublespeak in everyday life ("nondairy creamer"), business ("nonperforming assets") and government (the Internal Revenue Service). But when it comes to doublespeak, the military has a way with words that is unmatched. Only the military could call a tent a "frame-supported tension structure"; a parachute an "aerodynamic personnel decelerator"; and a zipper an "interlocking slide fastener."

Others may call it a bomb, but to the Army it's a "vertically deployed anti-personnel device."

Military doublespeak starts at the top. From the founding of our republic, there has been a Department of War. Until 1947, that is, when the military pulled off the doublespeak coup of the century. On July 27 President Harry S. Truman signed the National Security Act of 1947, an act that completely reorganized the armed forces. Section 202 establishes the post of Secretary of Defence, while Section 205(a) eliminates the Department of War. Thus, war became "defense."

At first glance this change might not seem all that significant, but examine the implications. Now members of Congress campaign to spend more on "defense." Candidates for public office charge their opponents with wanting to cut the \$300 billion defence budget, not the \$300 billion war budget.

Doublespeak also is useful when the Pentagon wants expensive items to sound very complicated and worth their high price. It's not an ordinary steel nut; it's a "hexiform rotatable surface compression unit," which is why it cost \$2,043 for just one of them. This little piece of doublespeak also allows the military to say that the equipment "suffered dramatically degraded useful operational life owing to the fact that a \$2,000 hexiform rotatable surface compression unit underwent catastrophic stress-related shaft detachment," which sounds a lot more impressive than saying it won't work because a 13-cent nut broke.

Some penny-pinchers may think that \$31,672 is a lot to pay for a couch, a love seat and 20 dining room chairs (or almost \$1,500 for each piece of furniture), but not if you think of it the way the Navy does. All that money was spent on "habitability improvements" for the destroyer USS Kidd.

Nothing is ever simple with the Pentagon. Even a newly designed bayonet becomes a "weapons system," while the smoke used in smoke bombs becomes a "universal obscurant." Even that favorite of the GI, field rations or C- rations, has now become MRE or "meal, ready to eat," though changing the name won't make it taste any better.

Then there is the "survivable enduring shelter," or SES, designed by Goodyear Aerospace to be placed on an existing truck chassis. Equipped with a 5,000-pound-plus pay-load, armor-plated shielding capable of stopping .30 caliber "projectiles" (Pentagon doublespeak for bullets) and an "intrusion detection system" (meaning a burglar alarm), the SES is designed "to meet the most stringent technical requirements for survival during a nuclear event," meaning it's supposed to be able to survive a nuclear bomb attack.

With doublespeak, weapons never fail. The Pentagon can explain that the cruise missile didn't fly out of control and crash in three pieces during a test flight in Canada. According to the Air Force, the missile merely "impacted with the ground prematurely." Not to be out-done by their U.S. counterparts, an official of the Canadian forces said the test flight was simply "terminated five minutes

earlier than planned." When an unarmed Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile developed problems after launch and had to be destroyed by commands radioed from the ground, the U.S. Air Force announced, "An anomaly occurred during the flight which caused the early termination." Although the Bigeye aerial nerve-gas bomb has been on the drawing boards for more than 20 years, it still doesn't work and, during one test drop in 1982, the bomb malfunctioned, producing what the Pentagon called "a forcible ejection of the internal bomb components." In other words, the bomb blew up.

With doublespeak, the missile can miss the target but the test can still be a success. "We did acquire the target, but we did not hit it...We achieved our objective," said Jim Kittinger, an official in the air-to-surface guided weapons office at Elgin Air force Base.

1. Which of the following best concurs with that the passage has to convey ?

- A. Doublespeak is a slip of the tongue.
- B. Doublespeak is consciously used both as a tool and a weapon.
- C. Doublespeak is a language concealing or manipulating a thought.
- D. All except (A).

2. All of the following, as per the passage, are false except that :

- A. doublespeak is used to falsify a statement, thereby throwing dust in the eyes of the people concerned.
- B. it is on account of doublespeak that the administration of the country take wrong decisions and plunge the country in economic ruin and disaster.
- C. it is a ploy employed to thwart espionage by the neighbouring, enemy country.
- D. doublespeak is highly resorted to, by the top brass of the military.

3. As per the passage, doublespeak is resorted to :

- A. improve the skills of communication.
- B. mislead and confuse the policy makers so that the real picture does not come to the surface.
- C. impress the superiors and earn quick promotions.
- D. None of the above.

4. According to the passage, all of the following are characteristics of doublespeak, except that :

- A. it makes the bad seem good, the unpleasant appear attractive or tolerable and negative appear positive.
- B. it is used when the Pentagon wants expensive items to sound very complicated and worth their high price.
- C. it takes the form of a jargon, euphemisms or bureaucratese.
- D. it is nothing but just a slip of the tongue.

5. As per the passage, doublespeak is :

- A. rare in set ups like Science & Technology.
- B. common in bazaar talk and rumour mill.
- C. useful in defence establishments.
- D. a tool used by the politician while facing the public.

6. The underlying theme of the passage is that :

- A. doublespeak reflects the presence of mind of a person and is an effective arsenal for the person to sail through.
- B. doublespeak lessens the unpleasantness or the harshness of a situation which might be caused by blurting out the truth.
- C. doublespeak does not reflect a person's intentions in a noble way and often makes the person land in trouble and stand in poor light.
- D. the simple and the illiterate have no place for doublespeak, it is the educated and the refined, who employ the mode of doublespeak, to carry them through.

7. A suitable source of extraction for the passage could be :

- A. the minutes of the meeting of the high powered committee to deliberate on defence deals.
- B. an article on 'The Latest In Management Thought'.
- C. an analysis of the budget, whose special feature was the disproportional allocation of the budget to the defence sector.
- D. a freelance, yet thought provoking, writing on the skills of communication, used for carrying oneself convincingly and unscathingly amidst confronting circumstances.

8. The style of the author in handling the passage is :

- A. insulting
- B. impudent
- C. insightful
- D. ineffective

9. A suitable title for the passage could be :

- A. A Gift Of The Gab-Doublespeak.
- B. The Art Of Misleading People-Doublespeak.
- C. Doublespeak-A Weapon For settling Scores With The Opponents.
- D. Doublespeak - A Cause For The Incorrect Decision Taken.

10 "With doublespeak, the missile can miss the target but the test can still be a success". Which of the following best means the above statement, as per the passage?

- A. Results are not important, what is important are the efforts put in.
- B. Ends justify the means, a right approach will lead to the achievement of the target.
- C. Hitting the acquired target was not the objective, the objective was in justifying the inputs used for their achievement.
- D. Success cannot be acquired overnight but spills over to several days.

Answer Keys

1.(D) 2.(D) 3.(D) 4.(D) 5.(C) 6.(B) 7.(D) 8.(C) 9.(A) 10.(C)

SENTENCE IMPROVEMENT

11. An environmental disaster, the World Cup, political malapropisms, new senses to ancient words, a booming economic colossus and a heroic rescue that captivated the world contributed for the year's top words compiled by the Global Language Monitor

- A. political malapropisms, new senses to ancient words, a booming economic colossus and a heroic rescue that captivated the world contributed for
- B. political malapropisms, new senses given to ancient words, booming of an economic colossus and a heroic rescue that captivated the world contributed to
- C. political malapropisms, new senses to ancient words, a booming economic colossus and a heroic rescue that will captivate the world contribute to
- D. political malapropisms, new senses to ancient words, a booming economic colossus and a heroic rescue that captivated the world contributed to
- E. political malapropisms, new senses to ancient words, a booming economic colossus, a heroic rescue that captivated the world have contributed for

Answer – D

12. Slow as a snail, prone to delays, and overburdened by a ridership that grew by double digits in the last decade, the much-maligned F train is in dire need of a spruce-up.

- A. and overburdened by a ridership that grew by double digits in the last decade, the much-maligned F train is in dire need of a
- B. and overburdened with a ridership that is growing by double digits in the last decade, the much-maligned F train is in dire need of a
- C. despite overburdened by a ridership that grew by double digits in the last decade, the much-maligned F train is in dire need for a
- D. and overburdened by a ridership which grew by double digits in the last decade, the much-maligned F trains are in dire need of a
- E. and overburdened by a ridership that has grown by double digits in the last decade, the much maligned F train was in dire need of a

Answer – A

13. From Long Island to Buffalo, judges are sorting through duelling claims of electoral wrongdoing and election workers are pouring over ballots trying to determine the voters' intent.

- A. judges are sorting through duelling claims of electoral wrongdoing and election workers are pouring over ballots trying to determine
- B. judges were sorting in duelling claims of electoral wrongdoing and election workers pour over ballots trying to determine
- C. judges are sorting from duelling claims of electoral wrongdoing and election workers are pouring over ballots trying in an effort for determining
- D. judges are sorting through dual claims of electoral wrongdoing but election workers are pouring over ballots for trying to determine
- E. judges sort through duelling claims of electoral wrongdoing and election workers are pouring over ballots determining

Answer – A

14. Large banks, hedge funds and private investors hungry for new and lucrative opportunities are bankrolling other people's lawsuits, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars for medical malpractice claims, divorcing battles and class actions against corporations

- A. are bankrolling other people's lawsuits, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars for medical malpractice claims, divorcing battles and class actions against corporations
- B. will bankroll other people's lawsuits, pump hundreds of millions of dollars into medical malpractice claims, divorce battles and class actions against corporations
- C. are bankrolling other people's lawsuits, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into medical malpractice claims, divorce battles and class actions against corporations
- D. to bankroll other people's lawsuits, pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into medical malpractice claims, for divorce battles and class actions against corporations
- E. are bankrolling other people's lawsuits, for pumping hundreds of millions of dollars into medical malpractice claims, for divorce battles and class actions against corporations

Answer – C

15. In her substantive new book, Elyssa Dimant examined the role of minimalism in fashion and also looks at the broader context of its appearance in art, architecture and design.

- A. Elyssa Dimant examined the role of minimalism in fashion and also looks at the broader context of its appearance in art, architecture and design.
- B. Elyssa Dimant examines the role of minimalism in fashion, but also looked at the broader context of their appearance in art, architecture and design.
- C. the role of minimalism in fashion has been examined by Elyssa Dimant, but she also looks at the broader context of its appearance in art, architecture and design.
- D. Elyssa Dimant examines the role of minimalism in fashion, but also looks at the broader context of its appearance in art, architecture and design.
- E. Elyssa Dimant has been examining the role of minimalism in fashion, and also looking at the broader context of their appearance in art, architecture and design.

Answer – D

16. The Cricket Board has constituted a three-member committee to investigate the case of the missing batsman that fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and has subsequently applied for political asylum there.

- A. to investigate the case of the missing batsman that fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and has subsequently applied for political asylum there.
- B. for investigating the case of the missing batsman, who fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and subsequently applied for political asylum there.
- C. to investigate the case of the missing batsman, having fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and subsequently applying for political asylum there.
- D. to investigate the case of the missing batsman, who fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and subsequently applied for political asylum there.
- E. for investigating the case of the missing batsman, who has fled the team hotel in Amsterdam to go to London and is subsequently applying for political asylum there.

Answer – D

17. The banned Rebel Party today dismissed allegations levelled by the opposition members on the nexus between them and the dissidents, saying that they did not have any relations with the dissidents.

- A. on the nexus between them and the dissidents, saying that they did not have any relations with the dissidents.
- B. on the nexus between it and the dissidents, saying that they did not have any relations with the dissidents.
- C. on the nexus between it and the dissidents, saying that it did not have any relations with the dissidents.
- D. about the nexus between them and the dissidents, saying that it did not have any relations with the dissidents.
- E. for the nexus between it and the dissidents and said that it did not have any relations with the dissidents.

Answer – C

18. Indonesia's Mount Merapi volcano has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.

- A. has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country
- B. killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- C. has killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, which has lead to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- D. had killed 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaration of an emergency in the country.
- E. has been killing 191 people since it began erupting late last month, leading to the declaring of an emergency in the country.

Answer – A

SPOT THE ERROR

19. Both the civilians (a) / and army men (b) / joined the second World War. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

20. The hospital is (a) / within hundred meters (b) / from my house. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

21. The majority of the (a) / IT professionals recommends (b) / that effective measures (c) / should be taken against software piracy. (d) / No error (e)

Correct Option : A.

22. He obtained good marks (a) / not only in English essay (b) / but also in arithmetic which was (c) / full of complicated calculations. (d) / No error (e)

Correct Option : B.

23. The famous Dr. Narayana (a) / is only Orthopedist (b) / in our village. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

24. This incumbent lacks (a) / an experience (b) / otherwise he is well qualified. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : B.

25. A person I met (a) / in the theatre (b) / was the actor himself. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : A

26. The war of Mahabharata (a) / is the full length illustration (b) / of a righteous war. (c) / No error (d)

Correct Option : A.

FILL IN THE BLANK

27. Well, I won't up any more excuses. I wasn't here yesterday because I went to a football match.
(a) make (b) move (c) do (d) look

ANSWER-A

28. Thank you for your honesty. Now up that piece of paper.
(a) take (b) show (c) pick (d) hold

ANSWER-C

29. Right. What's this? Oh no, you're me out of the firm.
(a) leaving (b) throwing (c) paying (d) shutting

ANSWER-B

30. I come if I had had time.
(a) have (b) had (c) would have (d) did

ANSWER-C

31. This time tomorrow you sitting in a deck chair on the beach.
(a) are (b) were (c) will (d) will be

ANSWER-D

32. Before you telephoned, I watching television.
(a) was (b) will be (c) am (d) have

ANSWER-A

33. After the storm finished, many people were found lying in the street.
(a) has (b) had (c) were (d) did

ANSWER-B

34. Tomorrow we taking the day off.
(a) will (b) have (c) were (d) are

ANSWER-D

CRITICAL REASONING

35. A number of CEOs are preparing to make fresh investments and are also stepping up hiring.
Which of the following inferences can best be drawn from the above statements?
a) 6–8% GDP growth is likely over the next three years.
b) A higher GDP growth is likely over the next few years.
c) The new regime has failed to meet expectations.
d) The companies will soon be burdened with loans.
e) None of these

36. Statement: A Washington-based news organisation released a report that claims radioactive and toxic waste has been leaking out of India's oldest and most important uranium mine, affecting people, livestock, rivers, forests and agricultural produce in the area.
Which of the following can be inferred from the given information?
(a) The government has closed the mines.
(b) Government of India has taken adequate measures to prevent toxic leaks from the site.
(c) People living in the area have evacuated the toxic place.
(d) Mining has exposed workers and villagers to radiation, heavy metals and other carcinogens, including arsenic.
(e) Adequate measures have not been taken to prevent toxic leaks from the site.

37. Statement: The first tranche of sovereign gold bonds that closed on November 20 received an encouraging response despite falling gold prices, suggesting that the scheme may be successful in reducing imports of the metal.

Which of the following can be inferred from the given statement?
(An inference is something that is not directly stated but can be inferred from the given facts.)

- (A) Investment in gold is considered safe by the people.
- (B) Investment in gold is considered to give good returns.
- (C) Country imports of gold will fall.
- (D) The positive response to the gold scheme has elicited response from across the country.
- (E) The scheme will encourage bulk depositors such as Hindu undivided families and institutions to participate.
- (a) Only (A) and (C) (b) Only (B) and (D) (c) Only (A) and (B)
- (d) Only (D) and (E) (e) Only (E) and (A)

38. Statement: In a bid to secure airports the civil aviation ministry has decided to cut down the number of airport entry passes (AEPs) being provided to the staff of Union Ministers and MPs.

Which of the following can be inferred from the given information?

- (a) No follower of any minister will be issued pass at the airport.
- (b) The airport will be less crowded.
- (c) Ministers and MPs will be to travel alone at the airports
- (d) The sale of visitor tickets will be stopped at all the airports.
- (e) Airport security will be strengthened.

39. Statement: Solar power tariff in India touched a record low of Rs. 4.63 per unit, accelerating India's \$ 160-billion clean energy drive and casting a shadow on fossil fuel plants that pollute air and sometime charge a higher rate.

Which of the following can be inferred from the given information?
(An inference is something that is not directly stated but can be inferred from the given information).

- (a) Lot of private companies are investing in solar power projects in India.
- (b) The government is focusing on clean energy.
- (c) The level of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) in India is rising.
- (d) The government is providing for setting up solar power plants.
- (e) None of the above

40. Statement: Google has received India's permission to start testing Project Loon, under which the company will beam the internet from balloons in the sky, in an effort to provide affordable internet access.

Which of the following can be inferred from the given information?
(An inference is something that is not directly stated but can be inferred from the given information).

- (a) Project Loon will boost up the internet activities in rural areas.
- (b) The privacy of the end user of Internet will be lost.
- (c) The project will give an opportunity to watch our country and capture sensitive information, making India more vulnerable.
- (d) The company will be able to save lots of money through this project.
- (e) None of the above

ANSWERS:

35. (b);

36. Answer:(e)

37. Answer:(c)

38. Ans.(b)

39. Ans.(b)

40. Ans.(a)