

Wordcraft

30 August 2026

Seven lessons and a glossary of 18 words, every one harvested from the day's articles and editorials on ujiyari.com. A complete forty-five-minute session, on paper and online.

01 ROOT & FAMILY
tribuere

02 CONFUSABLE PAIR
principal / principle

03 COLLOCATION
The verbs of governance

04 FROM THE EDITION
justiciable

05 SAY IT SHORTER
Killing the zombie noun

06 USAGE WATCH
revert · discuss · comprise

07 IDIOM IN FORMAL REGISTER
on the back foot

08 PRACTICE LAB
listen · say it · cloze · unscramble



Do it online

ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/

A NOTE FROM THE DESK

Ornament loses marks. Precision wins them.

Ornament loses marks. Precision wins them. That is the whole charter of Wordcraft, and it is the opposite of what most vocabulary material teaches. An examiner reading a Mains answer is not impressed by *utilise*, *plethora* or *myriad*; each is a small tax on a reader who has two hundred scripts to get through. What the examiner rewards is the word that is exactly right, the pair that is never swapped, the verb the noun actually takes, and the fifteen words that were cut.

Every pack is harvested from that day's edition on uiyari.com, the daily articles and the editorials dated that day. You have just read these sentences; now you learn the words in them. Seven lessons a day, always the same seven kinds, so that the section teaches a system rather than a list: a root and its family, a confusable pair, the collocations of governance, one word from the edition shown in place, a padded sentence made short, a usage watch for Indian English that does not travel, and one idiom with the exact conditions under which it is safe.

Give it forty-five minutes. Read the glossary with the sentence, not the word alone. Do the worksheet before you look at the key. Say the words aloud; write the hundred words at the end, because vocabulary that is not produced is not owned. Where British, American and Indian usage differ, the pack says so: the examiner may come from any of the three habits, and a careful writer knows which one the reader holds.

THE ONE RULE

If an entry ever tempts you to write more grandly instead of more clearly, the entry has failed.

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator · uiyari.com

Wordcraft packs are harvested from that day's edition, checked against standard dictionaries, and note where British, American and Indian usage differ.

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HOW TO USE THIS PACK

1 Glossary first, sentence and all.

Read each word in the sentence it came from. Cover the meaning, say it in your own words, then check.

2 Lessons, two minutes each.

Read once, with a pencil. Do the sixty-second drill at the foot of each before moving on.

3 Lab, then worksheet, then key.

Say the words aloud, fill the cloze, rebuild the sentences, answer every item on the page. The key is at the back for a reason.

4 Write the hundred words.

Then tick the checklist honestly. Vocabulary that is not produced is not owned.

Every activity here is interactive online.

Scan any QR code in this pack, or the one here, to open the same item in the 45-minute session: cards fall due by spaced repetition, exercises are marked, the writing task is checked as you type, and words are read aloud in an Indian English voice.

ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/



GLOSSARY FROM THE EDITION

Words in the sentence they came from

18

Meaning first, then the sentence exactly as it appeared, then the source. Read the sentence aloud.



Hear every word

Tap a word online to hear it and mark it known
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#glossary

safe in GS answers essay, technical or editorial register keep out of answers

sturzstrom NOUN / SHTOORTS-shtrohM /

ESSAY

A very large rock avalanche that travels much farther and faster than ordinary friction would allow; the mass behaves like a flowing stream. A German loanword (*Sturz* fall + *Strom* stream); the English plural is usually *sturzsstroms*.

हिंदी: विशाल, तेज़ चट्टानी हिमस्खलन (जर्मन शब्द)

Some accounts use sturzstrom, from Albert Heim's German coinage of 1932 and formalised by Hsü in 1975: a stream of very rapidly moving debris from a disintegrating rock mass, typically over one million cubic metres, often exceeding 100 km per hour.

The Rasuwa Disaster Was Not a GLOF · Technical register; use it only where the article's own precision is wanted.

unattributability NOUN

/ un-ə-TRIB-yoo-tə-BIL-i-tee /

GS-SAFE

The condition of not being assignable to any particular source or cause. The adjective is *unattributable*; contrast *unattributed*, which means merely not yet assigned.

हिंदी: किसी स्रोत या कारण को न सौंपे जा सकने की स्थिति

A research paper from MIT's Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory on the unattributability of generative diffusion model outputs is being read as strengthening the legal position of image-generation firms, because the influence of any single training image falls as datasets grow.

Current Affairs Today, August 30, 2026 · Today's root lesson grows from this word.

justiciable ADJECTIVE / jə-STISH-ə-bəl /

GS-SAFE

Capable of being decided by a court; having the shape of a question a judge can rule on. Not a synonym for *legal* or *just*. Its opposite, *non-justiciable*, is the constitutional status of the Directive Principles under Article 37.

हिंदी: न्यायालय द्वारा निर्णय-योग्य; वाद-योग्य

To these add the legal frontier: attribution increasingly serves liability claims against carbon majors, where Raghu Murtugudde's scepticism about counterfactual worlds holding up in court meets the 2025 landmark rulings, the Hamm court's in-principle acceptance of proportional emitter liability in Lliuya v RWE and the ICJ advisory opinion, which together make the fraction-of-attribution question justiciable.

What Attribution Science Can Honestly Say · Today's "from the edition" lesson.

undemarcated ADJECTIVE / un-DEE-mar-kay-tid /

GS-SAFE

Not marked out on the ground. Boundary-making has two stages: a boundary is *delimited* when it is described on paper or a map, and *demarcated* when it is physically marked with pillars or fences. The India-China boundary is neither settled nor demarcated.

हिंदी: ज़मीन पर सीमांकित नहीं किया गया

On an undemarcated boundary, that agreement carries an implication about the alignment of the LAC at that spot.

Two New Border Meeting Points Were Agreed. Neither Has Been Named. · Delimit (on paper) before demarcate (on the ground): a Prelims-grade distinction.

interlocutor NOUN / in-ter-LOK-yoo-ter /

GS-SAFE

A person who takes part in a dialogue or conversation. In Indian political usage, the government's designated negotiator in a peace process or with a state's political groups.

हिंदी: वार्ताकार; संवाद में भाग लेने वाला

What has been offered so far is a committee headed by a Minister of State, not an interlocutor of ministerial rank.

Naga Talks Move to Ministerial Level, While the NSCN-IM Splits · Latin inter "between" + loqui "to speak", the same root as eloquent and colloquial.

transboundary ADJECTIVE / tranz-BOWN-də-ree /

GS-SAFE

Crossing a boundary between states or countries; used of rivers, pollution, hazards and their governance. The Bhotekoshi flood began in Tibet and killed people in Nepal, so its early warning was a transboundary problem.

हिंदी: सीमा-पार; एक से अधिक देशों को छूने वाला

Early-warning limitations in high mountains, transboundary hazard chains without a binding trilateral protocol, and the siting of run-of-river hydropower in the narrowest valleys.

The Rasuwa Disaster Was Not a GLOF · Corrected 30 Aug: first attributed to the Bhotekoshi editorial; the sentence is from the daily article.

doctrinal ADJECTIVE / dok-TRY-nəl /

GS-SAFE

Relating to a doctrine, meaning a body of settled legal principle. A court's *doctrinal contribution* is the rule of law it adds, as distinct from the facts it decided. Do not confuse with *doctrinaire*, which means rigidly attached to theory.

हिंदी: सिद्धांत-संबंधी; स्थापित विधिक सिद्धांत से जुड़ा

Its doctrinal contribution is the cleanest line in this whole area: the FIR is a public document under Section 74 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, and an accused should get a copy "at the earliest possible stage".

Can an Accused Be Denied a Copy of the FIR?

discretionary ADJECTIVE / dis-KRESH-ə-nə-ree /

GS-SAFE

Left to the judgement of the person exercising the power, rather than fixed by rule. A *discretionary power hedged by conditions* is one whose exercise is limited by them.

हिंदी: विवेकाधीन; अधिकारी के विवेक पर छोड़ा गया

That structure, a discretionary power hedged by rank, time limits and review, is a model worth citing in any answer on balancing rights against investigative necessity.

Can an Accused Be Denied a Copy of the FIR? · Spell it discretion (judgement), never discreation; discreet is a different word meaning tactful.

interpretive ADJECTIVE / in-TER-pri-tiv /

GS-SAFE

That interprets: a label is interpretive when it tells the reader what the numbers mean (a warning, a traffic light) rather than merely stating them. *Interpretive* and *interpretative* are both correct; British usage leans to the longer form, American to the shorter, and Indian writing uses both.

हिंदी: व्याख्यात्मक; अर्थ बताने वाला

WHO recommends interpretive front-of-pack labelling over non-interpretive formats.

The Two-Nutrient Loophole

complement NOUN / KOM-pli-mənt /

GS-SAFE

A thing that completes or goes well with another. Two policies are *complements* when each supplies what the other lacks. Never confuse with *compliment*, an expression of praise, which the same editorial also uses, correctly: "that is a diagnostic, not a compliment".

हिंदी: पूरक; जो दूसरे को पूरा करे

Argue claims-policing and warning labels as complements, deleting false reassurance while supplying true warning.

A Claim on a Food Packet Is a Claim, Not a Guarantee · Memory hook: a complement completes; a compliment is what I like to hear.

diagnostic NOUN / dy-əg-NOS-tik /

ESSAY

As a noun: a sign or test that reveals the state of something. Usually an adjective (*diagnostic test*); the noun use, common in medicine and engineering, is formal and exact.

हिंदी: निदान-सूचक; स्थिति उजागर करने वाला संकेत

Where a regulator moves fastest tells you where resistance binds least, and that is a diagnostic, not a compliment.

A Claim on a Food Packet Is a Claim, Not a Guarantee

licence / license NOUN / VERB / LY-səns /

GS-SAFE

In British and Indian English the noun is *licence* and the verb is *license* (like *advice* and *advise*). American English spells both *license*. The edition uses both forms correctly: ONGC Videsh "received a licence"; a State that shrugs at abuse "licenses it".

हिंदी: लाइसेंस (संज्ञा, ब्रिटिश/भारतीय वर्तनी licence) / लाइसेंस देना (क्रिया license)

As background, ONGC Videsh received a licence to operate upstream oil and gas projects in Venezuela in early August 2026.

A Fifth of a Country's Oil · Same pattern: practice (noun) / practise (verb) in British and Indian English; American English uses practice for both.

unrebutted ADJECTIVE / un-ri-BUT-id /

ESSAY

Not answered by evidence or argument to the contrary. To *rebut* is to offer evidence against a claim; to *refute* is to prove it false; to *deny* is simply to say it is untrue. Careful writers keep the three apart, and "refute" is the one most often misused for "deny".

हिंदी: अखंडित; जिसका खंडन नहीं किया गया

Advocate Nipun Saxena's charge of routine non-compliance stands unrebutted because nothing official exists to rebut or confirm it.

A Right the Statute Still Refuses to Write Down

red herring NOUN (IDIOM)

ESSAY

Something that draws attention away from the real question. The usual origin story is a smoked herring dragged across a trail to mislead hounds; whatever its history, the idiom is standard in British, American and Indian English and is safe in formal prose.

हिंदी: ध्यान भटकाने वाली बात; असली प्रश्न से हटाने वाला मुद्दा

Oil researcher Rory Johnston has called the 65-billion-barrel figure "a red herring", on the ground that reserves in the ground are not production and Venezuela's constraint has never been how much oil exists.

A Fifth of a Country's Oil · Today's idiom lesson places it beside smoking gun and on the back foot.

chokepoint NOUN / CHOHK-poynt /

GS-SAFE

A narrow passage whose closure blocks an entire route; in strategy, a strait or pass that controls trade or movement (the Strait of Hormuz, the Malacca Strait). Also written *choke point*.

हिंदी: संकरा मार्ग जिसके बंद होने से पूरा रास्ता रुक जाए; अवरोध-बिंदु

A war in West Asia closes a chokepoint, which raises fuel prices in the United States, which drives a resource agreement in South America.

A Fifth of a Country's Oil

propagate VERB / PROP-ə-gayt /

GS-SAFE

To spread or transmit, of ideas, signals, plants or behaviour. Latin *propagare*, to breed plants by cuttings; the sense of spreading an idea is a metaphor from the garden.

हिंदी: फैलाना; प्रसारित करना

Reference-group imitation: choice under uncertainty made by copying the highest-status acquaintance, Asthana's own confessed method, which propagates elite behaviour downward as aspiration.

Pedagogy Is the New Surname

autoregression NOUN / aw-toh-ri-GRESH-ən /

ESSAY

In statistics, predicting each value in a sequence from the values before it. A language model is autoregressive because it generates each word from the words already produced; that is why, the editorial argues, copied text can still be traced when copied images cannot.

हिंदी: स्व-प्रतिगमन: पिछले मानों से अगला मान अनुमानित करना (सांख्यिकी)

That distinction, diffusion versus autoregression, is exactly the kind of technical precision that separates a science-literate answer from a newspaper-literate one.

The Smoking Gun Dissolves at Scale, but Only for Images

indispensable ADJECTIVE / in-di-SPEN-sə-bəl /

GS-SAFE

That cannot be done without; absolutely necessary. Spelling trap: *-able*, not *-ible*, because it is built on *dispende* + *-able*.

हिंदी: अपरिहार्य; जिसके बिना काम न चले

A process whose indispensable interlocutor is excluded from its benefits asks the movement to trust the state with everything at once: weapons surrendered first, certification later; founder in prison throughout.

How a Forty-Year Insurgency Ends · Note interlocutor again, here in its exact peace-process sense.

01

LESSON 1 OF 7 · ROOT & FAMILY

tribuere

Latin · to allot, to assign



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards
that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-root

One Latin verb, and you own eight English words. *Tribuere* meant to assign a share, originally to the tribes (*tribus*) of Rome. Every descendant keeps the idea of **assigning something to someone**.

WORD	LITERAL BUILD	WHAT IT ASSIGNS
attribute (v.)	<i>ad</i> "to" + assign	a cause to an effect: <i>the flood was attributed to a landslide dam</i>
attribute (n.)	same word, noun stress	a quality assigned to a thing: <i>patience is his best attribute</i>
contribute	<i>con</i> "together"	your share, into a common pool
distribute	<i>dis</i> "apart"	shares, outward to many
retribution	<i>re</i> "back"	what is paid back: always punishment, never reward
tribute	bare root	what a subject people were assigned to pay; now, assigned honour
tributary	-ary "that which pays"	a river that pays its waters to a larger one: <i>the Yamuna is a tributary of the Ganga</i>
unattributable	negated, -able	that which <i>cannot</i> be assigned to a source

STRESS DISCIPLINE

The verb is *a-TRIB-ute*; the noun is *AT-trib-ute*. English shifts stress between verb and noun constantly (*re-CORD* / *RE-cord*, *pro-JECT* / *PRO-ject*, *con-DUCT* / *CON-duct*), and hearing it marks a careful speaker.

THE TRAP IN THE FAMILY

A *tributary* flows **into** a river. A *distributary* flows **out** of one, as the channels of the Ganga delta do. Same root, opposite direction: *dis-* "apart" sends the water away.

SPELLING ACROSS VARIETIES

No variation: British, American and Indian English spell every member of this family identically. The only difference is stress, which no variety marks on paper.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Write one sentence using *tributary* literally (a river) and *tribute* figuratively (honour). If both feel natural, the root is yours.

Harvested from the roundup and "The Smoking Gun Dissolves at Scale", where the MIT paper turns on the *unattributability* of diffusion-model outputs. The rest of the family is added from the root, not from the edition.

02

LESSON 2 OF 7 · CONFUSABLE PAIR

principal / principle



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-pair

principal

Latin princeps, "first in rank"

Adjective: first, chief, main. *Nepal's principal overland trade link with China.*

Noun: the first-ranked person (a school principal) or the first-ranked money (loan principal, on which interest runs).

principle

Latin principium, "a beginning, a foundation"

Noun only. Never an adjective. A foundational rule or truth. *Built on a "Do No Harm" principle.*

THE DISCRIMINATING TEST

Can you put *a* or *the* before it and mean "a rule"? Then it is **principle**. Is it doing the work of *main*? Then it is **principal**. There is no such thing as a "principle reason", and examiners notice.

MEMORY HOOK, USED HONESTLY

A **principle** is a rule. The principal is your *pal* only in primary school; the useful half of the hook is the *-le / -le* match.

WHERE THE EXAM MEETS IT

The *Directive Principles* of State Policy (Part IV). The *principal* secretary to a minister. The *principle* of natural justice. Loan *principal* in every RBI story. Four phrases, all examinable.

ACROSS VARIETIES

Identical in British, American and Indian English. This pair is confused everywhere, which is why getting it right is noticed everywhere.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Fill both blanks: "The _____ argument rests on the _____ of equal status." If you hesitated, reread the test.

Both words appear in today's edition, each used correctly: "Nepal's principal overland trade link with China" and the "Do No Harm" principle of the India AI Governance Guidelines.

LESSON 3 OF 7 · COLLOCATION

03

The verbs of governance



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards that return by spaced repetition
 ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-collocation

Fluency is knowing which verb a noun *takes*. Governance nouns are strict about their partners, and the wrong verb ("the bill was passed in the committee stage", "the declaration was signed by the summit") is the fastest tell of unsteady English in a Mains answer.

NOUN	TAKES	NEVER
a bill	is tabled , introduced, moved, passed, deferred	signed , adopted
an Act	is passed , assented to, enacted, amended, repealed	promulgated
a declaration	is adopted , issued	passed , enacted
a treaty / agreement	is signed , then ratified ; it enters into force	launched , passed
a resolution	is moved , adopted, defeated	signed
an ordinance	is promulgated , later replaced by an Act	passed (only Acts are passed)
rules / a notification	are notified , issued, gazetted	declared
a ceasefire	holds , collapses, is extended , is violated	expires only if it was time-bound

WHY THIS MATTERS BEYOND STYLE

Each collocation encodes procedure. Signed, then ratified, then in force is three legal stages; a candidate who writes "the treaty was passed" has flattened the law along with the English. In India the President *promulgates* an ordinance under Article 123 and *assents* to a bill under Article 111; a Governor promulgates under Article 213.

THE TRANSATLANTIC TRAP: TO TABLE

In British and Indian English, to *table* a bill is to **put it forward** for consideration. In American English, to table a motion is to **set it aside**, often for good. The same verb, opposite meanings. Indian usage follows the British sense, as today's Naga coverage does; if you write for an American reader, say *introduce*.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

One sentence each for *promulgated* and *notified*, using this week's news. Nothing fixes a collocation like using it on a live fact.

Every verb in the "takes" column was used in today's edition: the Nagaland Bill "would be *tabled* in the Assembly session beginning September 1", the Framework Agreement *signed* in 2015 (Naga talks), "No declaration has been *adopted*" (SCO), rules *notified*, a ceasefire *extended*.

04

LESSON 4 OF 7 · FROM THE EDITION

justiciable

/ jə-STISH-ə-bəl /



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards
that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-edition

Found in situ, at the end of a long sentence in today's attribution editorial: the 2025 rulings "together make the fraction-of-attribution question **justiciable**." Not a synonym for *legal* or *just*. A question is justiciable when it is capable of being decided by a court, when it has the shape a judge can rule on.

THE FAMILY

From Old French *justicier*, to bring to trial; ultimately Latin *justitia*. Its opposite, *non-justiciable*, carries real constitutional weight: Article 37 says the Directive Principles "shall not be enforceable by any court". True, binding on the state's conscience, but no court can enforce them. That single word does the work of a sentence.

REGISTER

Formal, precise, and welcome in a Mains answer *because* it is exact, not because it is rare. Compare the flabby alternative: "this issue can now be taken to court and decided there", eleven words for one.

NEAR-NEIGHBOURS TO KEEP APART

WORD	DESCRIBES	EXAMPLE
justiciable	the question	a justiciable dispute
judicious	a person's judgement	a judicious decision to wait
judicial	the courts	judicial review
juridical	law in theory	a juridical concept of personhood

SPELLING NOTE: JUDGMENT

Indian courts, like the British legal profession, write *judgment* without the *e*; general British prose prefers *judgement*; American English uses *judgment* for everything. In an answer on a court ruling, *judgment* is the safe form.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Write the pair: one sentence with *justiciable*, one with *non-justiciable*, both about the Constitution. You now hold the distinction for life.

Harvested from "What Attribution Science Can Honestly Say", where climate liability crossing from science into court is precisely a question *becoming justiciable*.

05

LESSON 5 OF 7 · SAY IT SHORTER

Killing the zombie noun



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-concision

The most common inflation in aspirant prose is **nominalisation**: burying the verb inside an abstract noun, then propping that noun up with *make*, *take*, *conduct*, *carry out*. The sentence lengthens; the agent disappears; the marks leak away. The examples below are constructed in the register of regulatory prose; they are not quotations from today's edition.

BEFORE · 24 WORDS

The government ~~has taken a decision with regard to the implementation of~~ front-of-pack warning labels ~~in order to bring about a reduction in~~ obesity.

AFTER · 11 WORDS

The government has decided to implement front-of-pack warning labels to reduce obesity.

Same facts. Thirteen words returned to your word limit.

THE MECHANICAL FIX

Hunt the endings **-tion, -ment, -ance, -ence, -ality, -isation**; ask what verb is trapped inside (*decision* → *decide*, *implementation* → *implement*, *reduction* → *reduce*); free it. Three passes over any answer, one hunt per pass.

THE PADDING THAT PROPS ZOMBIES UP

PADDING	REPLACE WITH
in order to	to
with regard to / in terms of	on, about, or nothing
carried out an examination of	examined
made a decision	decided
a number of	several, or the number
the fact that	that
at this point in time	now

WHEN NOMINALISATION IS RIGHT

When the abstract thing is itself the topic: "*Attribution has limits*" is correct, because attribution-as-a-practice is the subject. The crime is using the noun to *avoid* the verb, not using it to *name* a concept.

SPELLING ACROSS VARIETIES

Nominalisation, organisation, realise: British and Indian English prefer *-ise*; American English uses *-ize*; Oxford house style uses *-ize* even in Britain. Pick one and hold it through an answer. UPSC accepts both; inconsistency is what reads as carelessness.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Deflate this: "The committee carried out an examination of the proposal and made a recommendation for its rejection." Target: eight words.

Prompted by the register of the day's regulatory coverage (FSSAI). Officialese is where zombie nouns breed, and where an answer that resists them stands out.

06

LESSON 6 OF 7 · USAGE WATCH

revert · discuss ·
comprise

Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards
that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-usage

Three constructions common in Indian office English that read as errors to examiners and to readers abroad. No sneering: Indian English is a legitimate variety, and *prepone* is recorded in the Oxford English Dictionary. But these three are grammatical slips, not coinages, and they cost credibility everywhere.

WATCH	THE SLIP	THE REPAIR
revert	"Kindly revert back at the earliest." <i>Revert</i> means to return to a previous state; in standard English it never means <i>reply</i> , and <i>back</i> doubles it.	"Please reply by Friday." (A policy can <i>revert</i> to its 2020 form.)
discuss	"The committee discussed about the Bill." <i>Discuss</i> takes its object directly.	"The committee discussed the Bill." (But: <i>talked about</i> , <i>deliberated on</i> .)
comprise	"The SCO is comprised of ten members." The whole comprises its parts. Careful editors everywhere reject "comprised of", though some American dictionaries now record it as common.	"The SCO comprises ten members." Or flip it: "Ten members constitute the SCO."

THREE MORE FROM THE SAME FAMILY

SLIP	REPAIR	WHY
return back	return	<i>re-</i> already means back
explain me the rule	explain the rule to me	<i>explain</i> takes <i>to</i> before a person
cope up with	cope with	<i>up</i> belongs to <i>keep up with</i> , not <i>cope</i>

THE PRINCIPLE UNDERNEATH

Each slip adds a preposition English does not want (*back*, *about*, *of*, *up*) or drops one it does (*to*). When unsure, **strip the preposition and test the bare verb**. English is stingier with prepositions than the postposition habit of Hindi trains us to expect.

WHAT IS NOT A SLIP

"At the earliest possible stage", which the Supreme Court and today's FIR coverage both use, is standard English. The officialese slip is the bare "at the earliest" in place of a date. *Prepone*, *lakh*, *crore* and *do the needful* are Indian English, not errors; the last is register (office correspondence), so keep it out of an exam answer.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Write "comprises" and "consists of" in two correct sentences about the SCO's membership. They are mirror constructions; owning both ends the confusion.

The harvest found no usage slip in the day's own prose. Its one flag, "at the earliest", was inside the standard phrase "at the earliest possible stage" in the FIR coverage, which is correct. Today's entry therefore draws on the standing watch list.

07

LESSON 7 OF 7 · IDIOM IN FORMAL REGISTER

on the back foot



Drill this lesson online

Marked exercises, then cards
that return by spaced repetition
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#lesson-idiom

From cricket: a batter forced onto the back foot is defending, deprived of the drive. In prose: **forced into a defensive position by an opponent's move**. Today's Mecca-pact editorial concludes that "the pact has not put India on the back foot, but it has narrowed India's margin for error".

WHY THIS IDIOM IS SAFE IN AN EXAM

When most are not: it is (a) common in Indian and British broadsheet English, (b) instantly literal to any reader who knows cricket, and (c) doing analytical work: it names a strategic posture, not a decoration. Compare "the ball is in India's court", equally safe, against "raining cats and dogs", which belongs nowhere near a Mains answer.

TWO MORE FROM TODAY'S EDITION

A *red herring* (the Venezuela article: the 65-billion-barrel figure) is something that diverts attention from the real question. A *smoking gun* (the AI editorial) is conclusive evidence of who did it. Both are standard across British, American and Indian English, and both do analytical work; either may open an argument, neither should open an answer.

THE REGISTER RULE FOR ALL IDIOM

One idiom per answer at most, only where it compresses an idea, never in the introduction, never two in a row. Essays tolerate a little more; GS answers a little less; précis and reports, none.

FORMAL SIBLINGS

IDIOM	ONE STEP MORE FORMAL
on the back foot	on the defensive · ceding the initiative · reactive rather than proactive
the ball is in X's court	the next move is X's
a red herring	a distraction from the real question
a smoking gun	conclusive evidence
a level playing field	equal conditions of competition
moving the goalposts	changing the criteria mid-process

DOES IT TRAVEL?

Cricket idioms (*on the back foot*, *a sticky wicket*, *played with a straight bat*) are at home in Indian, British and Australian English but may not land with an American reader, whose sporting idioms come from baseball (*a ballpark figure*, *touch base*, *step up to the plate*). For an international readership, the formal sibling is safer than either.

SIXTY-SECOND DRILL

Rewrite "The pact has not put India on the back foot" twice: once with *ceding the initiative*, once with no figure at all. Feel what each version gains and loses.

Harvested from "The Mecca Pact Is Not About India. Its Consequences Are.", with *red herring* from the Venezuela article and *smoking gun* from the AI editorial.

PRACTICE LAB

Listen, say it, read it, build it

08

The same four activities as the online lab, on paper. Online, the words are read aloud and the microphone checks your pronunciation.

**Open the lab online**

Dictation with audio, mic-checked pronunciation, marked cloze
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#station-lab

SPEAKING

Say it aloud

Read the stress pattern, say each word three times, then use it in a sentence of your own. Tick when it comes out cleanly.

1. ☐ **doctrinal** / dok-TRY-nəl /
2. ☐ **propagate** / PR0P-ə-gayt /
3. ☐ **undemarcated** / un-DEE-mar-kay-tid /
4. ☐ **justiciable** / jə-STISH-ə-bəl /
5. ☐ **sturzstrom** / SHT00RTS-shtrohM /

READING

Cloze

Each sentence is from the edition with one word removed. Write it from context; the first letter is given.

1. That distinction, diffusion versus a _____, is exactly the kind of technical precision that separates a science-literate answer from a newspaper-literate one. (61)
2. Where a regulator moves fastest tells you where resistance binds least, and that is a d_____, not a compliment. (62)
3. Reference-group imitation: choice under uncertainty made by copying the highest-status acquaintance, Asthana's own confessed method, which p_____ elite behaviour downward as aspiration. (63)
4. Early-warning limitations in high mountains, t_____ hazard chains without a binding trilateral protocol, and the siting of run-of-river hydropower in the narrowest valleys. (64)
5. To these add the legal frontier: attribution increasingly serves liability claims against carbon majors, where Raghu Murtugudde's scepticism about counterfactual worlds holding up in court meets the 2025 landmark rulings, the Hamm court's in-principle acceptance of proportional emitter liability in Lliuya v RWE and the ICJ advisory opinion, which together make the fraction-of-attribution question j_____. (65)

SENTENCE BUILDING

Unscramble

Rebuild each model sentence. Punctuation stays with its word.

1. was sides both in 2015. signed
The Framework by Agreement

(66)

2. earliest. reply Kindly the at

(67)

3. in implemented thinks be The
scheme should Commission phases.
the

(68)

4. the file by return Monday.
Please

(69)

LISTENING

Dictation

Ask someone to read you the five words in the key (numbers 70 to 74), word then sentence. Write each word here. Alone? Scan the code above and the pack reads them to you.

1. (70)

2. (71)

3. (72)

4. (73)

5. (74)

READING IN THE CSAT SHAPE

Passage and inference

09

The passage is quoted verbatim from the edition. Read it twice; answer from the text, not from memory.

**Do it online**

Marked as you go, in the practice lab
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#station-lab

From What Attribution Science Can Honestly Say

Attribution is now a fixture of GS3 environment questions and of every post-disaster press cycle, including this week's Nepal flood, where scientists have pointedly stopped short of attribution. This piece supplies the machinery, the limits and, inadvertently, a lesson in source criticism: two of its quoted "experts" are not experts, and spotting that is a transferable exam skill.

Build a two-axis mental table: event class against claim strength. Heatwaves: strong probabilistic claims, safe to cite. Seasonal rainfall shifts: moderate. Sub-daily convective events, cloudbursts, tornadoes: attribution generally unavailable, say so. Then apply the source filter: is the sceptic inside the peer-reviewed conversation or outside it? Mishra doubting baselines is science; a hoax author in a partisan blog is not. An answer that demonstrates both filters, event-class and source-class, is doing what the examiner actually wants tested.

- 75** According to the passage, for which class of event is attribution "generally unavailable"?
- a) Sub-daily convective events such as cloudbursts
 - b) Heatwaves
 - c) Seasonal rainfall shifts
 - d) All extreme events
- 76** The "source filter" the passage recommends asks whether a sceptic is:
- a) inside or outside the peer-reviewed conversation
 - b) a scientist by training
 - c) quoted in a newspaper
 - d) doubting baselines
- 77** Which statement is best supported by the passage?
- a) Scientists deliberately refrained from attributing the Nepal flood
 - b) Scientists attributed the Nepal flood to climate change
 - c) Attribution should not be cited in GS3 answers
 - d) Heatwave attribution is weak
- 78** The author calls spotting a non-expert a "transferable exam skill" because:
- a) an answer showing both the event-class and the source-class filter is what the examiner tests
 - b) hoax authors are common in newspapers
 - c) GS3 carries more marks than GS1
 - d) baselines are uncertain
- 79** "Mishra doubting baselines is science" implies that:
- a) doubt raised from inside the field is legitimate scepticism
 - b) Mishra is a hoax author
 - c) baselines are settled
 - d) attribution is unscientific

WORKSHEET

Every exercise, on paper

Answer on the page; the key follows. Online, the drill marks each answer and brings back what you missed.

60



Do the drill online

Marked as you go, weighted to your misses
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#station-drill

01 · Root & family · tribuere

7 items

1 Pair each word with what it assigns. MATCH

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • attribute | • a river's waters to a larger river |
| • contribute | • honour, or a payment owed by a subject people |
| • distribute | • one's share into a common pool |
| • retribution | • a cause to an effect |
| • tributary | • punishment paid back |
| • tribute | • shares outward to many |

2 Which word means "cannot be assigned to a source"? CHOOSE

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| a) unattributable | c) non-contributory |
| b) unattributed | d) undistributed |

3 "The report attributes the flood to a landslide dam." Which stress is right? CHOOSE

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| a) a-TRIB-utes | c) at-tri-BUTES |
| b) AT-trib-utes | d) either is fine |

4 The Yamuna is a ___ of the Ganga. FILL THE BLANK

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| a) tributary | c) tribute |
| b) distributary | d) contributor |

5 The pension is ___: members pay a share in every month. FILL THE BLANK

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| a) contributory | c) retributive |
| b) distributive | d) attributive |

6 Tap the wrong word. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The victory was contributed to the captain's calm.

7 The court ordered ___, not compensation: the sentence was meant to pay the crime back. FILL THE BLANK

- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| a) retribution | c) attribution |
| b) restitution | d) distribution |

02 · Confusable pair · principal / principle

9 items

8 Rasuwagadhi is Nepal's ___ overland trade link with China. FILL THE BLANK

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| a) principal | b) principle |
|--------------|--------------|

- 9 He refused the bribe on ___. FILL THE BLANK
a) principle b) principal
- 10 Interest accrues on the outstanding ___. FILL THE BLANK
a) principal b) principle
- 11 The ___ of natural justice requires that the accused be heard. FILL THE BLANK
a) principle b) principal
- 12 The ___ reason for the delay was procedural. FILL THE BLANK
a) principal b) principle
- 13 The Directive ___ of State Policy are set out in Part IV. FILL THE BLANK
a) Principles b) Principals
- 14 The ___ secretary briefed the minister before the Cabinet meeting. FILL THE BLANK
a) principal b) principle
- 15 Tap the wrong word. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The committee's principle recommendation was rejected by the House.

- 16 Which of these is never an adjective? CHOOSE
a) principle c) both can be
b) principal d) neither can be

03 · Collocation · The verbs of governance

11 items

- 17 The President ___ the ordinance on Friday. FILL THE BLANK
a) promulgated c) signed
b) passed d) adopted
- 18 The summit ___ a joint declaration on connectivity. FILL THE BLANK
a) adopted c) enacted
b) passed d) promulgated
- 19 The agreement ___ on 1 January, ninety days after the last ratification. FILL THE BLANK
a) entered into force c) was passed
b) was launched d) commenced operations
- 20 The Bill will be ___ in the Assembly session beginning 1 September. FILL THE BLANK
a) tabled c) adopted
b) signed d) promulgated
- 21 An American newspaper says a committee "tabled the motion". What happened? CHOOSE
a) the motion was set aside c) the motion was passed
b) the motion was put forward d) the motion was signed

32 Say it in five words. REWRITE

This issue can now be taken to a court of law and decided there by a judge.

33 Which pronunciation is right? CHOOSE

a) jə-STISH-ə-bəl

c) jus-TIK-ee-ə-bəl

b) JUS-ti-sigh-ə-bəl

d) jus-ti-SHY-bəl

34 In an answer about a Supreme Court ruling, the safe spelling is: CHOOSE

a) judgment

c) either, at random

b) judgement

d) judgemant

05 · Say it shorter · Killing the zombie noun

8 items

35 Deflate to eight words or fewer. REWRITE

The committee carried out an examination of the proposal and made a recommendation for its rejection.

36 Deflate to seven words or fewer. REWRITE

There has been a significant increase in the number of farmers who are making use of drip irrigation.

37 Deflate to ten words or fewer. REWRITE

It is the opinion of the Commission that the implementation of the scheme should be undertaken in a phased manner.

38 Free the verb trapped in each noun. MATCH

- implementation
- reduction
- assessment
- utilisation
- commencement
- facilitation

- implement
- help
- assess
- reduce
- begin
- use

39 When is a nominalisation the right choice? CHOOSE

a) when the abstract thing is itself the topic

c) when the agent is unknown

b) when the answer must sound formal

d) never

40 Tap the padding. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

In order to reduce obesity, the regulator issued warning labels.

- 41 Which verb is trapped in "conducted an investigation into"? CHOOSE
- a) investigated c) inquired
b) conducted d) examined

- 42 Tap the padding. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The state is aware of the fact that the aquifer is falling.

06 · Usage watch · revert · discuss · comprise

10 items

- 43 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

Kindly revert back at the earliest.

- 44 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The committee discussed about the Bill for two hours.

- 45 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The SCO is comprised of ten full members.

- 46 Ten members ___ the SCO. FILL THE BLANK

- a) constitute c) are comprised of
b) comprise d) consist

- 47 The SCO ___ ten full members. FILL THE BLANK

- a) comprises c) is constituted
b) consists d) comprises of

- 48 "Prepone" is: CHOOSE

- a) an Indian coinage recorded in the OED c) an American usage
b) a grammatical error d) a Latin borrowing

- 49 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

Please return back the file by Monday.

- 50 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

Can you explain me the new rule?

51 Tap the slip. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

Farmers are struggling to cope up with the delayed monsoon.

52 The committee ____ the Bill clause by clause. FILL THE BLANK

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| a) deliberated on | c) discussed on |
| b) discussed about | d) talked |

07 · Idiom in formal register · on the back foot

8 items

53 Pair each idiom with its formal sibling. MATCH

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• on the back foot• the ball is in India's court• a red herring• a smoking gun• a level playing field• moving the goalposts | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• equal conditions of competition• conclusive evidence• a distraction from the real question• the next move is India's• changing the criteria mid-process• on the defensive |
|--|--|

54 Which idiom is safe in a Mains answer? CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| a) the ball is in Pakistan's court | c) spill the beans |
| b) raining cats and dogs | d) kick the bucket |

55 How many idioms may a GS answer carry? CHOOSE

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| a) one at most | c) two, well spaced |
| b) none | d) as many as compress ideas |

56 Where must an idiom never appear? CHOOSE

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|
| a) in the introduction | c) in the conclusion |
| b) in the body | d) in an example |

57 A "red herring" is: CHOOSE

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| a) a distraction from the real question | c) a defensive posture |
| b) conclusive evidence | d) a fair set of rules |

58 Rewrite with no figure of speech at all. REWRITE

The pact has not put India on the back foot.

59 Two idioms in a row. Tap the one to cut. Underline it and write the repair. SPOT THE SLIP

The government, on the back foot since the leak, now finds the ball in its court.

60 Which idiom would an American reader most likely miss? CHOOSE

- | | |
|--------------------|--------------------------|
| a) a sticky wicket | c) a smoking gun |
| b) a red herring | d) a level playing field |

ANSWER KEY

Key

With the reason behind every answer

Read the reason even when you were right; it carries the rule.

Root & family

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 attribute: a cause to an effect; contribute: one's share into a common pool; distribute: shares outward to many; retribution: punishment paid back; tributary: a river's waters to a larger river; tribute: honour, or a payment owed by a subject people</p> <p>2 a) unattributable. <i>Unattributed</i> means not yet assigned; <i>unattributable</i> means it cannot be. The MIT paper's claim is the stronger one: at scale, no source can be found.</p> <p>3 a) a-TRIB-utes. It is a verb here, so the stress falls on the second syllable. Only the noun ("a key attribute") takes AT-.</p> | <p>4 a) tributary. It pays its waters <i>into</i> the Ganga at Prayagraj. A distributary would carry water <i>away</i> from a river, as in a delta.</p> <p>5 a) contributory. <i>Con-</i> "together": everyone puts a share into the pool. <i>Distributive</i> is about sharing out; <i>retributive</i> is about paying back punishment.</p> <p>6 contributed → attributed. You <i>attribute</i> an effect to a cause. <i>Contribute</i> needs the giver as subject: "The captain's calm contributed to the victory."</p> <p>7 a) retribution. <i>Retribution</i> is punishment paid back. <i>Restitution</i> (a different root, <i>statuere</i>) restores what was taken.</p> |
|--|--|

Confusable pair

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>8 a) principal. It means <i>main</i>, so it is the adjective: principal. This is the edition's own sentence.</p> <p>9 a) principle. A rule of conduct: principle. "On principle" is a fixed phrase.</p> <p>10 a) principal. The first-ranked money, the sum itself: principal.</p> <p>11 a) principle. "The ___ of" followed by a rule: principle passes the test.</p> <p>12 a) principal. Main reason. There is no "principle reason".</p> | <p>13 a) Principles. Foundational rules for the state: Principles.</p> <p>14 a) principal. Chief secretary to the minister, an adjective of rank: principal.</p> <p>15 principle → principal. It means the <i>main</i> recommendation. <i>Principle</i> can never modify a noun.</p> <p>16 a) principle. <i>Principle</i> is a noun and nothing else. That single fact resolves most cases.</p> |
|---|---|

Collocation

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>17 a) promulgated. Ordinances are promulgated (Article 123). Only Acts are passed; the President assents to a bill rather than "signing" it.</p> <p>18 a) adopted. Declarations are adopted or issued. They have no legislative force, so they are never passed or enacted.</p> <p>19 a) entered into force. A treaty enters into force. "Launched" is for schemes and satellites.</p> <p>20 a) tabled. A bill is tabled (Indian and British sense: put forward). Nobody signs a bill.</p> <p>21 a) the motion was set aside. In American usage, to table is to shelve. In Indian and British usage it is the opposite. Know the reader.</p> <p>22 a) adopted. Resolutions are moved, adopted or defeated. Ratification is for treaties.</p> | <p>23 a) notified. Rules and notifications are notified, issued or gazetted: published in the Gazette of India.</p> <p>24 negotiated → signed → ratified → enters into force. Signature shows intent; ratification binds the state under its own law; entry into force is when obligations begin. Three verbs, three legal facts.</p> <p>25 passed → signed. Agreements are signed. "Passed" belongs to bills and resolutions in a legislature.</p> <p>26 passed → promulgated. A Governor promulgates an ordinance under Article 213; the legislature passes the Act that replaces it.</p> <p>27 a bill: is passed by Parliament; an Act: is assented to by the President; an ordinance: is promulgated; rules: are notified; a treaty: is ratified</p> |
|---|--|

From the edition

- 28** **justiciable**: a question a court can decide; **judicious**: showing good judgement; **judicial**: of the courts; **juridical**: of law in theory; **jurisdiction**: the authority to decide
- 29** **a) non-justiciable**. Article 37: not enforceable by any court, yet fundamental in the governance of the country.
- 30** **a) justiciable**. They can be decided and enforced by a court: justiciable.
- 31** **judicial** → judicious. A minister shows good judgement: judicious. Judicial decisions come from courts.
- 32** **This issue is now justiciable**. (5 words). Sixteen words to five, and the five are more exact.
- 33** **a) jə-STISH-ə-bəl**. Stress the second syllable; the -ci- is "sh".
- 34** **a) judgment**. Indian courts write judgment. General British prose prefers judgement; American English uses judgment throughout.

Say it shorter

- 35** **The committee examined the proposal and recommended rejection**. (8 words). Two zombie nouns (examination, recommendation) freed into two verbs. Sixteen words to eight.
- 36** **Far more farmers now use drip irrigation**. (7 words). "There has been an increase in the number of" is one idea: more. "Making use of" is one verb: use.
- 37** **The Commission thinks the scheme should be implemented in phases**. (10 words). "It is the opinion of X that" is "X thinks". "In a phased manner" is "in phases".
- 38** **implementation**: implement; **reduction**: reduce; **assessment**: assess; **utilisation**: use; **commencement**: begin; **facilitation**: help
- 39** **a) when the abstract thing is itself the topic**. "Attribution has limits" names a practice as its subject. That is naming, not hiding.
- 40** **In order to** → To. "In order to" is "to" with two words of packaging.
- 41** **a) investigated**. Conduct is the prop; investigation is the zombie; investigate is the verb.
- 42** **the fact that** → that. "The fact that" is "that" almost every time. Here even "aware that" is enough.

Usage watch

- 43** **revert back** → reply. Revert means return to an earlier state; back doubles it; neither means reply. And give a date instead of "at the earliest".
- 44** **about** → (delete). Discuss takes its object directly: discussed the Bill.
- 45** **comprised of** → comprises. The whole comprises its parts. "Comprised of" is the one form careful editors reject.
- 46** **a) constitute**. Parts constitute (or compose) the whole. Only the whole comprises.
- 47** **a) comprises**. The whole comprises its parts, with no "of". "Consists" would need "of".
- 48** **a) an Indian coinage recorded in the OED**. Coinage is how a language grows. The three slips in the lesson are grammar, not coinage; that is the difference.
- 49** **return back** → return. Re- already means back. Return, revert, reply, respond: none takes "back".
- 50** **explain me** → explain to me. Explain takes "to" before the person: explain the rule to me, or explain to me the rule.
- 51** **cope up with** → cope with. "Up" belongs to keep up with. Cope takes only "with".
- 52** **a) deliberated on**. Deliberate takes "on"; discuss takes nothing. Both are right when the preposition matches the verb.

Idiom in formal register

- 53** **on the back foot**: on the defensive; **the ball is in India's court**: the next move is India's; **a red herring**: a distraction from the real question; **a smoking gun**: conclusive evidence; **a level playing field**: equal conditions of competition; **moving the goalposts**: changing the criteria mid-process
- 54** **a) the ball is in Pakistan's court**. It passes all three tests: broadsheet-common, literal to any reader, and it names who must act next.
- 55** **a) one at most**. One, only where it compresses an idea. Précis and reports take none.
- 56** **a) in the introduction**. The introduction sets register. Open plainly; earn the figure later.
- 57** **a) a distraction from the real question**. The Venezuela article: the barrel count distracts from the real constraint, which is production.

58 The pact has not forced India into a defensive position. (10 words). Plain version: exact, a little longer, no image. Now you can choose the idiom rather than reach for it.

59 the ball in its court. → must now decide. Keep the idiom doing analytical work (the posture); replace the second with plain prose.

60 a) a sticky wicket. Cricket idioms are Indian, British and Australian property. The other three are shared across varieties.

Practice lab

61 autoregression (autoregression).

62 diagnostic (diagnostic).

63 propagates (propagate).

64 transboundary (transboundary).

65 justiciable (justiciable).

66 The Framework Agreement was signed by both sides in 2015.

67 Kindly reply at the earliest.

68 The Commission thinks the scheme should be implemented in phases.

69 Please return the file by Monday.

70 interlocutor / in-ter-LOK-yoo-ter /. Read it to the learner twice, then the sentence: *What has been offered so far is a committee headed by a Minister of State, not an interlocutor of ministerial rank.*

71 complement / KOM-pli-mənt /. Read it to the learner twice, then the sentence: *Argue claims-policing and warning labels as complements, deleting false reassurance while supplying true warning.*

72 undemarcated / un-DEE-mar-kay-tid /. Read it to the learner twice, then the sentence: *On an undemarcated boundary, that agreement carries an implication about the alignment of the LAC at that spot.*

73 justiciable / jə-STISH-ə-bəl /. Read it to the learner twice, then the sentence: *To these add the legal frontier: attribution increasingly serves liability claims against carbon majors, where Raghu Murtugudde's scepticism about counterfactual worlds holding up in court meets the 2025 landmark rulings, the Hamm court's in-principle acceptance of proportional emitter liability in Lliuya v RWE and the ICJ advisory opinion, which together make the fraction-of-attribution question justiciable.*

74 interpretive / in-TER-pri-tiv /. Read it to the learner twice, then the sentence: *WHO recommends interpretive front-of-pack labelling over non-interpretive formats.*

75 a) Sub-daily convective events such as cloudbursts. The passage grades three classes: heatwaves strong, seasonal shifts moderate, sub-daily convective events "generally unavailable, say so".

76 a) inside or outside the peer-reviewed conversation. "Is the sceptic inside the peer-reviewed conversation or outside it?" Mishra doubting baselines is inside; a hoax author is outside.

77 a) Scientists deliberately refrained from attributing the Nepal flood. "Scientists have pointedly stopped short of attribution": a deliberate refusal, not an absence of interest.

78 a) an answer showing both the event-class and the source-class filter is what the examiner tests. The last sentence: an answer that demonstrates both filters "is doing what the examiner actually wants tested".

79 a) doubt raised from inside the field is legitimate scepticism. The contrast is with "a hoax author in a partisan blog"; the scepticism is legitimate because of where it comes from.

WRITING TASK

Write The FIR question, in 120 words



Write it online

Word count, padding and
zombie nouns checked as you
type
ujiyari.com/wordcraft/2026/08/30/#station-write

In no more than 120 words, argue whether an accused person's right to a copy of the FIR should be written into the BNSS. Use *justiciable* or *non-justiciable* correctly, one governance verb from today's table (*tabled*, *notified*, *promulgated*, *adopted*, *ratified*), and exactly one idiom, not in the first sentence. No padding, no zombie nouns you can free.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

SELF-CHECK

- ☐ Within 120 words
 - ☐ "justiciable" or "non-justiciable" used
 - ☐ a governance verb from the table
 - ☐ Exactly one idiom, not in the first sentence
 - ☐ No padding phrases (in order to, with regard to, the fact that)
 - ☐ Every -tion / -ment noun checked: could it be a verb?

WEEKLY ANSWER CLINIC · 150 WORDS

Extreme event attribution is scientifically strongest for heatwaves and weakest for short-duration localised events. Explain why, and discuss the implications for climate litigation and for India's disaster management priorities.

From What Attribution Science Can Honestly Say. Use at least 5 words from this week's glossaries. Open with the two-axis idea (event class against claim strength), give one line each on litigation and on disaster priorities, close with what an answer may honestly claim. Online, the clinic shows your week's words and ticks them as you use them.

CONTINUE ONLINE

Tomorrow's pack is harvested from tomorrow's edition.

Every Wordcraft pack comes from that day's articles and editorials on uiyari.com. Read the edition, then do the pack: the words arrive in a context you have just read, which is the only way they stay.

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Companion sections: [/vocab/](#) (what a word scores in a GS answer), [/terms/](#) (key concepts), [/editorials/](#) and [/daily/](#) (where these words came from).