

1. **CRASH:**

1	The fall of the government caused a share market crash.
2	A crash course in computer programming was conducted for the employees.
3	The car spun out of control and crashed the side of a truck.
4	Vijay crashed to a 0-6 defeat in the final set of the tennis match.

Ans: The correct usage is **crashed into** the side of a truck.

2. **FLY:**

1	He is known to fly off the handle quite often.
2	The clerk's irritating behavior was the only fly in the ointment.
3	She was about to fly into a rage when he clarified that he did not mean to offend her.
4	The administration's foreign policy flies on the face of the universally accepted principles that have governed international relations in the country.

The correct usage is **to fly in the face of**. This means "to be antithetical to something.

Fly off the handle means to become angry quickly.

3. **ORDER:**

1	He is on orders t ensure that the perpetrators of this crime are brought to book as soon a possible.
2	I am taking all precautions in order that I do not fail again.
3	Corruption and nepotism seem to be the order of the day in public life.
4	I do not like him because he orders me about.

The correct usage is **under orders**.

4. **REIN:**

1	The manager gave free rein to his subordinate as he showed himself competent.
2	He has to be reined in as he was exceeding his limits.
3	The sudden departure of Mr. Sunder, forced Ravi to take the reins of the office.
4	Mr. Mark, the chairman, has rendered yeoman's service to his organization, but it is time he gracefully handed over the reins of power to someone younger.

The correct usage is **to take up the reins**.

5. ACT

1	Accidents caused by tornadoes, perils of the sea, extraordinary floods and sever ice storms are usually considered acts of God, but fires are not so considered unless they are caused by lightning.
2	But then I would rather be truthful than put an act on all the time.
3	The governor should act on the new energy bill.
4	The veteran artist was asked to get his act together for a more realistic portrayal of a man in trouble.

Put an act together means to get organized. Here it is wrongly used to convey that the artist was asked to act better.

6. FIGHT

1	A violent fight over the bill is expected in the parliament.
2	The Dean is fighting for his favorite candidate.
3	He fought of ten challengers on his way to the finals of the championship.
4	The gauls had the uncanny ability to fight their way out of the most difficult of situations

Correct usage should have been **fought off**.

7. GROUND

1	The soldiers held their ground against the enemy.
2	The scientists covered new ground in every space mission.
3	He was grounded for his outbursts against the leader.
4	Dravid was questioned on grounds of his declaration of the India innings, as Tendulkar was stranded a few short of a historic double century.

The correct usage should have been **on ground of**

8. LET

1	Even after injury to many soldiers of their team, there was no let up in their efforts.
2	The team leader finally let his team on their mission.
3	I let it be known that I was not interested.
4	Unable to overpower the intruder, John let his dog fly at his intruder's throat.

To let on is to admit or pretend. So incorrect usage here.

9. KNOCK

1	Unable to see him make a fool of himself, we tried to knock some sense into his head.
2	He had one look at the dark liquid in the bottle and with one huge gulp, he knocked back the entire bottle.
3	“Supari” is a word of Indian origin, and slang for a situation when one pays money to an assassin to knock-of an enemy.
4	His nasal whining got on to everyone’s nerves, and they all together asked him to knock it off.

The correct usage should be **knock-off**.

10. BRIDGE

1	Over the years they had managed to bridge the gap between them and had become friends
2	Her spectacles hung precariously on the bridge of her aquiline nose.
3	The bridge across her teeth had been slowly recovering .
4	They always met at four in the afternoon to play bridge and to gossip.

Bridge here means denture. It is wrong to say that bridge had been recovering.

11. DIG

1	He resented the chairman’s dig at his obesity but said nothing.
2	The children rummaged the old chest and dug Mamma’s wedding saree.
3	The host urged everyone to dig in and not bother about formalities.
4	The police will need to dig up a lot more evidence to have a strong case against the murderer.

It should have been **dug out** Mama’s wedding saree.

12. HEAT

1	We often say things in the heat of the moment that we might regret later.
2	The copper-bottomed pan takes a while to heat .
3	The competition forced the players to perform under heat.
4	The heat has risen to unimaginable levels this summer.

It should have been takes a while **to heat up**.

13. PIN

1	It is difficult to pin down the cause of her protracted ailment.
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2	The team had pinned their hopes on the star athlete.
3	The villagers pinned the blame for the drought to the agnostic.
4	The thieves pinned him against a wall and stole his belongings.

It should have been **pinned the blame on the** agnostic.

14. LUXURY

1	Rohit has landed a plum job, now he will be able to live in the lap of luxury.
2	A washing machine was considered luxury half a century ago.
3	I allow myself the luxury of visiting my parents every week.
4	A long warm bath is life's little luxuries.

It should have been considered **a luxury**

15. EXPLODE

1	Bombs seem to explode at regular intervals in some parts of India.
2	This report explodes the myth that thin is beautiful.
3	After ten minutes, the game exploded with life .
4	He explodes into a torrent of abuse at the slightest provocation.

It should have been **exploded into life**

15. GROUND

1	Your support for terrorist activities constitutes enough ground for military action against your country.
2	The boat was about to ground on the bank when the passengers shrieked.
3	The managing director called a meeting of his top managers as he felt that the company had to pull up its socks to make up ground on its competitors.
4	The ground is not suitable for making an emergency landing.

Should have been constitutes **enough grounds for**

16. INCH

1	Australia was within an inch of victory when rain stopped play.
2	The army inched forward towards the enemy country's capital.
3	The party was increasing its tally of seats inch by inch.
4	He looked each and every inch a wealthy aristocrat.

It should have been **looked every inch** a wealthy aristocrat.

17. PIN

1	I am pinning my hopes entirely on him.
2	They were on pins and spokes till the results were declared.
3	The doctor could not pin down Ravi's discomfort to any particular cause.
4	The thug pinned him against a wall and stole his valuables.

It should be **on pins and needles**

18. CASE

1	He gave me his telephone number and told me to contact him in the case of an emergency .
2	The jury felt that we had a good case after listening to our arguments.
3	In no case can we agree to his unreasonable demands.
4	The reason for the failure of this venture is not hard to fathom. It is clearly a case of inadequate planning.

Should have been **in case of an emergency**

19. HIT

1	The company has hit upon a new plan to reduce employee absenteeism.
2	His outburst at the meeting hit me as being out of character.
3	It is certain that hit-and-miss attempts do not pay.
4	The standard of political debates in the parliament has hit an all-time low.

It should have been **struck upon** a new plan

20. MUSTER

1	You are mistaken if you think that this shoddy piece of work will pass the muster .
2	You must try to muster courage in such an adverse situation.
3	His name has been deleted from the muster rolls.
4	She mustered up courage to question her superior.

It should have been **pass muster**

21. LIGHT

1	Raj is an expert in this field and he will surely make light of this problem.
2	The incident does not show him in good light.
3	Some of the cave paintings throw light on the lives of the people who dwelt here centuries ago.
4	The investigation brought to light the nexus between politicians and business tycoons.

It should have been **make light work of** which means do something very quickly and with little effort. Make light of means to consider as unimportant

22. RING

1	The meeting was meant to ring the curtain down on the spat between the friends.
2	His parting words still ring in my ears.
3	Her account of the happenings does not ring true.
4	George tried to ring a note of caution in his speech.

It should have been **to sound a note of caution**

23. CREDIT

1	The credit for India's victory must go to all team members.
2	He is a credit to the organization.
3	The credit continued long after the movie ended.
4	Your sincerity does you great credit.

It should have been **credits**

24. RECOMMEND

1	The nurse in the doctor's office asked the patient, " who recommend you to Dr. Brown? "
2	The new restaurant comes highly recommended.
3	The patient should be given the recommended dose.
4	The teacher recommended the book to all her students.

It should have been "**Who recommended Dr. Brown to you?**"

25. CHANCE

1	She has only a slim chance of winning the beauty contest.
2	I met her by chance at the shopping mall.
3	He took his chance and entered the building that was on fire.
4	This is your big chance, so prepare well for the final interview.

It should have been **took his chances**

26. RESERVE

1	He had plenty of acquaintances but because of his natural reserve he made few friends.
2	The discovery of large oil reserves has given a boost to the economy of the country.

3	The antique piano failed to reach its reserve price and had to be withdrawn from the auction.
4	Games like football and cricket are no longer the reserve of men.

It should have been **preserve** of men.

27. COURSE

1	The civil engineers are trying to change the course of the river.
2	The wisest course would be to do nothing.
3	Their parents allowed their friendship to run over its course .
4	After the hors d'oeuvre, the main course followed.

It should have been **run its course** which means to develop and finish naturally.

28. ROLL

1	The rolls of thunder made me jump out of my skin.
2	The hills roll down to the sea.
3	You must roll your r's to speak French fluently.
4	Let the good times roll.

It should have been **roll** of thunder.

29. SPARK

1	Spark flew at the meeting after his controversial presentation.
2	He lacks the creative spark to succeed as a painter.
3	This proposal would spark a storm of protest around the country.
4	In spite of India's precarious position, we felt a spark of hope when Sachin Tendulkar came out to bat.

Should have been **sparks**

30. MOVE

1	He moved the motion at court in today's proceedings: let's wait and watch now.
2	Naomi must have thoroughly planned her moves in a match against Anand.
3	As I moved through the film, I lost all sense of time and ended up missing the meeting.
4	The old woman's tragic story moved even my brother to tears.

31. MATCH

1	It was difficult to believe that the two had never met – without knowing each other
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	they looked so matching .
2	His contribution to the family income match her efforts to make their house a home.
3	The police had to rely on the witness; they had no way of matching his statement.
4	In marriage he had finally met his match.

32. NETWORK

1	There is a proposal to construct an elaborate road network linking all major cities of the country.
2	Famines usually occur due to faulty distribution network.
3	He has maintained a close network with all his friends.
4	Conferences and seminars are a good place to network.

One can have a network of friends or can **maintain a close contact** with them.

33. REALISE

1	She never realised her ambition of becoming a doctor.
2	Her worst fears were realized when she saw the lock of the door broken.
3	Her ancestral home realized 5 crores at the auction.
4	He realized himself through his paintings.

It should have been – He **expressed** himself

35. STICK

1	Just throw in a cinnamon stick now.
2	He took away every stick of furniture from the apartment.
3	He initially came in for a lot of stick about his unconventional approach.
4	She stuck at me during every crisis.

It should have been stuck **by** me.

35. PLAY

1	He's only playing on being an artist- he goes off to Harvard business school next year.
2	What do you think you were playing at – you could have burnt yourself!
3	Though reluctant, he played along, as he didn't have a choice.
4	He had been playing politics in the group all along.

It should have been playing **at**.

36. KNOCK

1	He was knocking on 90 when he died.
2	He thirstily knocked down his drink and ordered another one.
3	My boss knocked every suggestion I made.
4	I was knocked out by his performance.

It should have been knocked **back**.

37. PAST

1	Writing letters has become a thing of past .
2	You walk past my house everyday, but you never come in.
3	It was past midnight when we got home.
4	We are curious to know more about your past.

It should have been a thing of **the** past.

38. WAIT

1	We had a long wait for the train.
2	You'll have to wait your turn.
3	The parents wait up for their daughter when she goes out for late night parties.
4	The king waited over the hermit like a humble servant.

It should have been **waited on** the hermit.

39. NEAT

1	It was a neat idea which was accepted by his colleagues right away.
2	He prefers to take his drink neat.
3	He arranged the chairs in neat rows for the concert.
4	The teacher asked her to be more neat in her work.

It should have been **neater**.

40. FLIGHT

1	She ran down the flight of steps to open the door.
2	The thief took flight as soon as he heard the siren of the police van.
3	This idea was one of my wilder flight of fantasy.
4	He is in flight from a failed marriage.

It should have been **flights**.

41. PICK

1	Here, one has to pick one's way along the roads during the rains, to avoid potholes.
2	The idea is so absurd it seems to have been picked out of a hat.
3	He quite likes her and keeps picking at her.
4	I saw her picking over fruit at fruit stall.

The sentence is incorrect as "pick at" means criticize someone and so it should have been He quite **dislikes** her

42. ODDS

1	What are the odds on him being elected again?
2	Apart from a few odds and ends, the room is clear.
3	In an odds-on situation, one cannot but lose.
4	His presence makes no odds in my life any longer.

Odds on refers to a state when success is more likely than failure. So it should have been: one cannot but **win**

43. BEAR

1	He is too vindictive to bear someone a grudge.
2	Bear left and follow the bus.
3	She invariably bears herself with dignity.
4	I doubt whether either of the witnesses would bear scrutiny.

It should have been He is too **forgiving** to bear someone a grudge.

45. ENSHRINED

1	The right to vote is enshrined in our constitution.
2	The priests enshrined the holy pendant inside the sacred vault.
3	The diamond was enshrined in the bank vault.
4	Respect for elders is enshrined in our religious books since time immemorial.

Enshrined has sacred connotations. So incorrect

46. FURTHER

1	Further to the letter sent by you, we would like to meet you on Wednesday morning.
2	Rishi was alarmed when he realized that he had climbed up the mountain further than anyone else.
3	I plan to study abroad to further my future.

4	The family was grief-stricken when they realized that the disease had progressed further than what was diagnosed.
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It should have been further my **education/ career**.

48. VOID

1	When SARS broke out, Singapore left many men void .
2	The Election commission declared that at least one per cent of the votes polled were null and void.
3	Yoga has the ability to void one's system of undesirable matter.
4	The void left by the death of playback singers like Rafi cannot be filled.

It should have been **Singapore was left void of many men**

49. TURN

1	I heard the click as the key turned in the lock.
2	The acrobat fell down while trying to turn a somersault.
3	It is better that you get married before you turn out forty years of age.
4	The moderator advised the participants to turn to another aspect of the problem.

Should have been **turn forty**

50. SCRAPE

1	Coming in from the rain, she scrapped the mud off her shoes.
2	With great difficulty, we managed to scrape sponsors for the show.
3	If I am lucky I might scrape through the exam.
4	The baby not only survived the train accident but escaped with only a few scrapes and bruises.

It should have been **scrape together** or **scrape up** which means to manage with difficulty.

51. LIGHT

1	He is a prolific writer but none of his writings have seen the light of the day.
2	We were advised not to read fine print in dim light.
3	Recent research has thrown new light on the cause of the disease.
4	I pored over the problem for several days before light suddenly dawned.

It should have **light of day**.

52. CATCH

1	The sight of the U.F.O. made children catch their breath,
2	You will never catch me coming late to the office.
3	Meeting after several years, we spent a sleepless night catching up on each other's news.
4	As he joined the class in mid-term, he had to work hard to catch on with the others.

It should have been catch **up**

53. MUDDLE

1	We must have a definite plan; we cannot just keep muddling like this.
2	The entire fiasco was the result of a bureaucratic muddle.
3	I am sorry that things are in such a muddle.
4	He seems to have got all muddled up with the dates.

It should have been **muddling along**

54. LABOUR

1	According to economics, labour is one of the factors of production.
2	His long and arduous labour was not in vain.
3	The doctors tried to help Renu in her difficult labour.
4	Rex was labouring with the misapprehension that he was the strongest dog in the locality.

It should have been labouring **under**

55. INCIDENTAL

1	The company provided an allowance to meet incidental expenses.
2	The implication of the incidental discovery could be enormous.
3	The risks are incidental for the work of a fire-fighter.
4	We were advised not to overlook incidental details.

It should have been **incidental to** which mean connected with.

56. CURTAIN

1	The mother drew the curtains to let in the sunlight so that the child would wake up.
2	The audience grew impatient as the curtain failed to go up well past the scheduled time.
3	The agreement brought the curtain down on the long-standing dispute.
4	A curtain of secrecy shrouded the deal.

“Drew the curtains” implies pulled them across the window so that they cover it. It should have been **drew back the curtains**

57. GLASS

1	The wine glass with its thin stem looks elegant and delicate.
2	Glass containers are easy to clean and hygienic for storing provisions.
3	Manisha packed all her glasses and China carefully in the crate.
4	I didn't recognize Sophie at first as she was wearing dark glasses.

It should have been **glass and China**

58. HELP

1	I can't help thinking that the police knew far more about the case than they admit to.
2	The newly recruited candidate will help the marketing manager.
3	Parents should teach children to help with the housework.
4	It helped the patient greatly to be able to discuss his condition.

It should have been **assist**

59. INFLUENCE

1	Gandhiji's life has influenced millions around the world.
2	That he committed the crime under influence of drugs is no reason to show leniency.
3	The influence of friends is strong on a teenager.
4	The wording of a question can influence the way people answer it.

It should have been **under the influence**

60. JUMP

1	She is always found to be a jump ahead of her rivals.
2	There was a jump in the price of petrol last month.
3	He was found to jump off frequently during his speech.
4	Mary jumped out of her skin when she heard of the news.

It should have been **jump about** (Jump out of skin means to be startled)

61. MEASURE

1	The standard kilogram is maintained as a measure of mass.
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2	The problem was in measure caused by her carelessness.
3	The boys were asked to measure the length of the wall.
4	The Golden gem award is a measure of recognition in the field of art.

It should have been **in large measure**