

Verbal Analogy

Questions on analogy are a regular feature in the examinations. These questions evaluate both your vocabulary and your reasoning ability.

What are Analogy Questions?

In an analogy question, you are given a pair of words and four pairs of words as answer choices. You will have to first establish a distinct relationship between the words in the given pair and find one of the pairs of words in the answer choices that have a similar relationship.

Before you look at the answer-choices, it will be useful to think of a short sentence that expresses the relationship between the two words.

Example: WRITER : PEN

How are WRITER and PEN related? Well, the tool of the Writer is the Pen.

Example: BAPTISM : CHURCH

The sentence: **Baptism takes place in a Church.**

Let us take a simple example:

Given Pair:

CRICKET : BAT :: (read as Cricket is to Bat)

Answer Options:

- (a) Drama : Singer
- (b) Walking : Health
- (c) Football : Goal
- (d) Tennis : Racket

First, let us establish the relationship between the words 'Cricket' and 'Bat'.

Cricket is a sport and one needs a bat (a wooden implement or a tool to hit the ball) to play cricket (a game).

In the answer choices, (a) and (b) do not pertain to any game or an instrument to play that game. Options (c) and (d) pertain to sports. However, a 'Goal' is not an implement to play 'Football' whereas a 'Racket' is a tool used to play 'Tennis'. Therefore (d) is the right answer.

At first glance, the words in an analogy may seem to have nothing to do with each other, but remember, we have to find a relationship. Thus, analogies are two pairs of words with the same relationship. The key to solving questions on analogy lies in recognising the specific type of relationship in the given pairs of words.

Remember once again that questions on analogy evaluate your vocabulary as much as your reasoning ability.

Hints to solve problems on Analogy

1. Before you look at the options, think of a short sentence that expresses the relationship between the two words.

• **ORCHESTRA : MUSICIAN ::**

- (a) Story : Comedian
- (b) Street Play : Singer
- (c) Forest : Leaf
- (d) Troupe : Actor

First of all, make a simple sentence with the given pair of words in question.

An orchestra comprises musicians.

A 'Story' does not consist of 'Comedians'. Eliminate (a). A "Street play" may have a 'Singer' but does not consist of singers only; there may be other actors as well. Eliminate (b). A 'Forest' consists of more than just 'Leaves'. Eliminate (c). But a 'Troupe' consists of 'Actors'. Therefore the answer is option (d).

If more than one options fit your paraphrase, **zero in on more specific definitions of the relationship**, i.e. make the definition of your sentence narrower so that only the correct answer pair will match it. In your answer-choice you may not have probably included enough details about the original pair's relationship in the sentence, and therefore you must go back and rework the sentence.

2. Watch out for eye-catchers.

Frequently, some answer choices are placed as eye-catchers - choices that immediately suggest themselves by being obviously similar to the original pair. However, these are often misleading and should be avoided - they only look tempting upon the first glance - not the second. Essentially, in an analogy, in the original pair, you have two words that relate in a particular way. In eye-catchers, you are tempted with pairs of words that are related (perhaps in an obvious fashion, with a similarity in meanings), but are actually related in a grammatically or logically different manner. The most common tendency of an

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eye catcher is to remind you, in subject matter, of the original pair. Look at the very first example: in the given pair you have 'cricket' and in the option choices you have 'football' and 'tennis'. These could be the instant choices, without going into the distinct relationship.

Let us take another example:

- **PHARMACY : DRUGS**

- (a) Hotel : Food
- (b) Hospital : Patients
- (c) Counsellor : Advice
- (d) Banker : Money

Your instant choice may be (a) or (b) as both these are places and they are connected with what you find in them - like you get drugs in a pharmacy; you get food in a hotel and patients in a hospital. Now you have to go to another level of connection - drugs are prepared in a pharmacy. It is obvious that (a) would be the right choice and not (b) as patients are not prepared but treated in the hospital whereas food is prepared in a hotel.

As this is an important tip in solving analogy problems, let us study a third example,

- **MERCURY : FLUID**

- (a) Feather : Light
- (b) Iron : Heavy
- (c) Sand : Grainy
- (d) Oxygen : Gaseous

If you make a relationship sentence - **Mercury is fluid**, you will find that all four alternatives have the same relationship. Obviously our relationship sentence needs to be more specific. Try '**Mercury appears in a fluid state**'. (In options (a), (b) and (c), one word does not represent a state or form of the other).

There you have it - only (d) holds as **Oxygen appears in a gaseous state**.

3. Eliminate options that do not have a clear and reasonably necessary relationship.

- **SOIL : EROSION ::**

- (a) Sloth : Energy
- (b) Muscle : Atrophy
- (c) Man : Happy
- (d) Woman : Marriage

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Lack of 'Energy' is 'Sloth'. Wasting away of 'Muscle' is 'Atrophy'. The pair 'Man : Happy' and 'Woman : Marriage' do not have the clear and necessary relationship as in (a) and (b). Therefore, the options (c) and (d) can be eliminated and you are left with options (a) and (b) to choose from.

Such elimination has been made through educated guessing, which is a useful technique. If you can eliminate one or more such options, you can arrive at the final answer with greater ease as you have fewer options to choose from.

Going back to the answer-choices, the wasting away of soil is erosion. The lack of energy is sloth but the wasting away of muscle is atrophy. There option (b) is the option.

4. Consider secondary meanings.

In some questions, there may be an attempt to mislead you as to the nature of the relationship between words (either in the original pair or in the answers) by using familiar words in an unfamiliar context - perhaps by applying a secondary, rarely used meaning of the word.

In order to identify the correct relationship (or even any relationship that makes sense) between a pair of words, you will have to consider whether a given word is being used in a different context, or by applying a secondary meaning it possesses. Once again, the importance of good vocabulary, obtained through extensive reading, will help you sail through this tide. When an apparently familiar word seems incongruous or out of place in a particular analogy, or pair, consider other meanings of the word to see if it is possible to derive a sensible relationship. Note the following example:

- **LONG : DESIRE ::**

- (a) Short : Happiness
- (b) Quick : Mind
- (c) Second : Support
- (d) Espouse : Shun

In this analogy, it is vital to consider secondary meanings of words as well as their primary meaning. 'Long' has nothing to do with measurement. Here 'Long' is a synonym for 'Desire'. In option (c) 'Second' is not the one that follows first. Here, 'Second' means to support. Hence, words in option (c) are synonymous. Therefore, the secondary meaning of the words helped us in finding the correct analogy.



Exercise

Directions: In each of the following questions, identify the pair of words which has a relationship similar to the pair in the question.

1. Germ : Disease
 - (a) Man : Woman
 - (b) War : Destruction
 - (c) Doctor : Medicine
 - (d) Owner : Shop
2. Ignominy : Disloyalty
 - (a) Fame : Heroism
 - (b) Derelict : Fool
 - (c) Death : Victory
 - (d) Martyr : Man
3. Gazelle : Swift
 - (a) Horse : Slow
 - (b) Swan : Graceful
 - (c) Lion : Roar
 - (d) Lamb : Bleat
4. Ascetic : Luxury
 - (a) Capitalist : Communist
 - (b) Teacher : Classroom
 - (c) Misogynist : Woman
 - (d) Scholar : Knowledge
5. Pilgrim : Shrine
 - (a) Traveller : Destination
 - (b) Accident : Injury
 - (c) Peace : War
 - (d) Flight : Escape
6. Spear : Dart
 - (a) Knife : Sword
 - (b) Door : Window
 - (c) Mountain : Molehill
 - (d) Cannon : Gun
7. Roar : Engine
 - (a) Whisper : Noise
 - (b) Echo : Sound
 - (c) Lash : Whip
 - (d) Tinkle : Bell
8. Argument : Debate
 - (a) Violence : Peace
 - (b) Fight : Contest
 - (c) Opponent : Challenge
 - (d) Abuse : Scold
9. Cow : Herd
 - (a) Grass : Green
 - (b) Wolf : Pack
 - (c) Bald : Hair
 - (d) Horse : Jockey
10. Wood : Carve
 - (a) Clay : Mould
 - (b) Pipe : Blow
 - (c) Paper : Burn
 - (d) Trees : Sway
11. Open : Secretive
 - (a) Mystery : Detective
 - (b) Honest : Truth
 - (c) Forthright : Snide
 - (d) Better : Best
12. Wave : Crest
 - (a) Pinnacle : Nadir
 - (b) Mountain : Peak
 - (c) Sea : Ocean
 - (d) Picture : Crayon
13. Letter : Word
 - (a) Club : People
 - (b) Page : Book
 - (c) Product : Factory
 - (d) Picture : Crayon
14. Spasm : Pain
 - (a) Sound : Noise
 - (b) Flash : Light
 - (c) Touch : Delicate
 - (d) Love : Hate
15. Myth : Story
 - (a) Fiction : Reality
 - (b) Bonnet : Hat
 - (c) Pencil : Paper
 - (d) Novel : Tale
16. Wheat : Chaff
 - (a) Wine : Dregs
 - (b) Crop : Corn
 - (c) Laughter : Raillery
 - (d) Cloud : Rain
17. Handcuffs : Robber
 - (a) Leash : Dog
 - (b) Rope : Tie
 - (c) Shoes : Feet
 - (d) Paper : Kite
18. Affirm : Hint
 - (a) Say : Deny
 - (b) Assert : Convince
 - (c) Confirm : Reject
 - (d) Charge : Insinuate
19. Boiling : Lukewarm
 - (a) Cold : Hot
 - (b) Cold : Freezing
 - (c) Cloudy : Evening
 - (d) Freezing : Cold
20. Dishonesty : Distrust
 - (a) Hand : Paper
 - (b) Money : Pickpocket
 - (c) Loyalty : Trust
 - (d) Murder : Jail
21. Immigration : Entrance
 - (a) Native : Foreigner
 - (b) Emigration : Departure
 - (c) File : Knife
 - (d) Nest : Bird
22. Emulate : Mimic
 - (a) Slander : Land
 - (b) Praise : Flatter
 - (c) Aggravate : Promote
 - (d) Express : Imply

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23. Sack : Dismiss
(a) Arraign : Convict (b) Exonerate : Charge
(c) Plant : Reap (d) Imprison : Police
24. Zeal : Bigotry
(a) Sweetness : Bitterness
(b) Envy : Jealousy
(c) Fanaticism : Intolerance
(d) Good : Bad
25. Urge : Insist
(a) Request : Deny (b) Plead : Beg
(c) Refuse : Hound (d) Finish : Begin
26. Control : Order
(a) Government : Legislators
(b) Anarchy : Chaos
(c) Teacher : Pupil
(d) Master : Servant
27. Poison : Death
(a) Life : Famine (b) Elixir : Life
(c) Medicine : Health (d) Prayer : Spirit
28. Leash : Dog
(a) Reins : Horse
(b) Tyranny : Despot
(c) Democracy : Communism
(d) Weapon : Peace
29. Joy : Ecstasy
(a) Admiration : Love
(b) Life : Hope
(c) Happiness : Sorrow
(d) Youth : Fun
30. Garbage : Squalor
(a) Dirtiness : Cleanliness
(b) Colour : Brush
(c) Diamond : Magnificence
(d) Poor : Hunger
31. Scholarly : Erudite
(a) Teacher : Lawyer (b) Reader : Hermit
(c) Ignorant : Illiterate (d) Master : Hunger
32. Cold : Chilled
(a) Joy : Agony (b) Cool : Warm
(c) Boil : Freeze (d) Tepid : Hot
33. Rupee : Paisa
(a) Hour : Minute (b) Degree : Time
(c) Week : Day (d) Century : Year
34. Chain : Link
(a) Necklace : Pendant
(b) Nexus : Connection
(c) Vacillate : Waver
(d) Gang : Ring
35. Practice : Practise
(a) Noun : Adverb (b) Advice : Advise
(c) Gone : Going (d) Do : Done
36. Synagogue : Religion
(a) Court : Law (b) Hospital : Illness
(c) Asylum : Lunacy (d) Prison : Crime
37. Oral : Taste
(a) Sense : Senile (b) Tactile : Touch
(c) Pensive : Upright (d) Ear : Nose
38. City : Village
(a) Skyscraper : Cottage
(b) Urban : Uncultured
(c) Ride : Walk
(d) Lawyers : Farmers
39. Journalist : Typewriter
(a) Surgeon : Scalpel (b) Carpenter : Lumber
(c) Electrician : Wire (d) Bricks : Mason
40. Body : Water
(a) Throat : Thirst (b) Cell : Plasma
(c) Stomach : Food (d) Ear : Drums
41. Coffee : Bean
(a) Cocoa : Bland (b) Cashew : Root
(c) Tobacco : Leaf (d) Tea : Garden
42. X-axis : Y-axis
(a) Degrees : Isobar
(b) Longitude : Latitude
(c) Longitude : Lassitude
(d) Tea : Garden
43. Fish : Bird
(a) Canoe : Motorcar
(b) Ship : Hovercraft
(c) Submarine : Aeroplane
(d) Reptile : Ornithology
44. Foresight : Farsightedness
(a) Long : Lengthy
(b) Further : Farther
(c) Short : Tall
(d) Thinker : Visionary

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45. Crime : Accomplice
(a) Legislation : Parliament
(b) Repair : Mechanic
(c) Journey : Train
(d) Textbook : Co-author
46. Obsolete : Contemporary
(a) Past : Future (b) Present : Future
(c) Past : Present (d) Future : Past
47. Kindness : Hostility
(a) Deception : Confidence
(b) Walking : Running
(c) Dissent : Commotion
(d) Giant : Pygmy
48. Automobile : Petrol
(a) Fire : Fuel (b) Plane : Propeller
(c) Diesel : Gas (d) Man : Food
49. Romantic : Realistic
(a) Dramatic : Prosaic (b) Fanciful : Actual
(c) Thought : Idea (d) Poet : Dramatist
50. Incipient : Experience
(a) Callow : Maturity (b) Young : Senile
(c) Spoiled : Pure (d) Teenage : Youth
51. Message : Code
(a) Word : Charade (b) Phrase : Act
(c) Chart : Graph (d) Fun : Frolic
52. Fearful : Courageous
(a) Beautiful : Attractive
(b) Flower : Fragrance
(c) Dunce : Clever
(d) Worry : Poor
53. Tipsy : Drunken
(a) Intelligent : Dumb
(b) Generous : Cheerful
(c) Sensible : Lively
(d) Pleased : Thrilled
54. Arc : Curve
(a) Triangle : Base
(b) Rectangle : Triangle
(c) Revolution : Distance
(d) Square : Polygon
55. Opaque : Translucent
(a) Glass : Jug
(b) Transparent : Translucent
(c) Turbid : Transparent
(d) Dark : Light
56. Speech : Slander
(a) Magazine : Book (b) Book : Movie
(c) Good : Bad (d) Oratory : Libel
57. Agile : Acrobat
(a) Fast : Quick (b) Speak : Sing
(c) Eloquent : Orator (d) Clown : Fun
58. Tears : Hurt
(a) Touch : Delicate (b) Fume : Anger
(c) Hurt : Agony (d) Love : Hate
59. Urban : Rustic
(a) Metropolitan : Bucolic
(b) Rose : Flower
(c) Sit : Relax
(d) Examine : Rusticate
60. Cat : Feline
(a) Eagle : Lyre (b) Sparrow : Nest
(c) Chair : Furniture (d) Horse : Equine
61. Chop : Slice
(a) Cut : Cake (b) Shout : Laugh
(c) Grate : Cheese (d) Fry : Bake
62. Song : Lyrics
(a) Drama : Script
(b) Satire : Comedy
(c) Cliche : Commonplace
(d) Speech : Slander
63. Assault : Impregnable
(a) Insult : Invulnerable
(b) Attack : Defend
(c) Defame : Destroy
(d) Succeed : Capable
64. Condone : Offence
(a) Punish : Criminal (b) Ignore : Judgement
(c) Law : Police (d) Pardon : Crime
65. Money : Squander
(a) Food : Eat
(b) Electricity : Generate
(c) Energy : Dissipate
(d) Wealth : Spend
66. Pat : Slap
(a) Winter : Summer (b) Praise : Scold
(c) Pink : Blue (d) Rust : Steel
67. Paper : Blackboard
(a) Filter : Air (b) Pencil : Pen
(c) Eraser : Duster (d) Polish : Shoe

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68. Fame : Notorious
 (a) Haughtiness : Arrogant
 (b) Celebrity : Star
 (c) Honesty : Hypocrisy
 (d) Look : See
69. Large : Enormous
 (a) Warm : Cold (b) Speed : Half
 (c) Plump : Fat (d) Tight : Slight
70. Debate : Soliloquy
 (a) Group : Solo (b) Royal : Regal
 (c) Prose : Drama (d) Speech : Silence
71. Song : Ballad
 (a) Custom : Solemn (b) Habit : Old
 (c) Foil : Toil (d) Story : Epic
72. Die : Dice
 (a) Data : Datum (b) Mouse : Mice
 (c) Monkey : Monkeys (d) Date : Dates
73. Stone : Bomb
 (a) Plane : Jet (b) Archaic : Modern
 (c) Sword : Scabbard (d) Pen : Knife
74. Inane : Trite
 (a) Copy : Original (b) Limited : Full
 (c) Sad : Manic (d) Empty : Hackneyed
75. Day : Week
 (a) Week : Year (b) Second : Time
 (c) Time : Duration (d) Week : Month



Answer Key

1. (b) 2. (a) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (a) 6. (d) 7. (d) 8. (b) 9. (b) 10. (a)
11. (c) 12. (b) 13. (b) 14. (b) 15. (b) 16. (a) 17. (a) 18. (d) 19. (d) 20. (c)
21. (b) 22. (b) 23. (a) 24. (c) 25. (b) 26. (b) 27. (b) 28. (a) 29. (a) 30. (c)
31. (c) 32. (d) 33. (d) 34. (b) 35. (b) 36. (a) 37. (b) 38. (a) 39. (a) 40. (b)
41. (c) 42. (b) 43. (c) 44. (d) 45. (d) 46. (c) 47. (a) 48. (d) 49. (a) 50. (a)
51. (a) 52. (c) 53. (d) 54. (d) 55. (c) 56. (d) 57. (c) 58. (b) 59. (a) 60. (d)
61. (d) 62. (a) 63. (a) 64. (d) 65. (c) 66. (b) 67. (c) 68. (c) 69. (c) 70. (a)
71. (d) 72. (b) 73. (b) 74. (d) 75. (d)



Explanations

1. b Disease is caused by a germ. Similarly, destruction is caused by war.
2. a Just as a disloyal person gets ignominy or disgrace, a heroic person gets fame.
3. b The movement of a gazelle can be termed as swift. Similarly, the movement of the swan can be termed as graceful.
4. c An ascetic keeps away from luxuries. Similarly, a misogynist is a person who keeps away from women.
5. a Just as a pilgrims aim is a shrine, a travellers aim is to reach his destination.
6. d Cannon and gun work on the same principle just as spear and dart work on the same principle. The first is a bigger version of the second.
7. d Just as the engine roars when started, the sound of bells is known as tinkle.
8. b In a debate people argue, similarly in a contest people fight.
9. b A group of cows is known as a herd. Similarly, a group of wolves is known as a pack.
10. a Wood can be carved to make various designs on it for various purposes. Similarly, clay can be moulded into various shapes for various purposes.
11. c Open and secretive are antonyms just as forthright and snide are.
12. b Top of a wave is known as a crest just as the top of a mountain is known as a peak.
13. b A word contain letters, similarly a book contains pages.
14. b The first is used to describe the second for example flashes of light and spasm of pain.
15. b The first is a type of second like myth is a type of a story and bonnet is a type of a hat.
16. a Chaff is the worthless and useless part that is separated from wheat. Similarly, dreg is the remnant or the useless part of wine.
17. a Handcuffs are used to tie a robbers hands. Similarly, a leash is used to tie a dog.
18. d The first of both pairs are synonyms (i.e. affirm and charge) but charge is the negative form of affirm. Same in the case with the second of both pairs i.e. hint and insinuate. Insinuate is hinting in a negative way.
19. d Boiling in the advanced stage of lukewarm just as freezing is the advanced stage of cold.
20. c Just as dishonesty leads to distrust in the mind of the other person, loyalty leads to trust in the mind of the other person.
21. b The first of both pairs are antonyms and so are the second of both pairs and also just as in immigration a person enters similarly in emigration a person leaves.
22. b Mimic is to emulate someone or can be called a form of emulation or imitation just as flattery is a form of praise.
23. a Both the pairs are synonyms, i.e. sack is the synonym of dismiss and arraign is the synonym of convict.
24. c The first of both pairs are synonyms and so are the second of both pairs.
25. b Urge and insist are synonyms and so are plead and beg.
26. b Control and order are both synonyms and anarchy and chaos are their antonyms.
27. b Just as intake of poison causes death intake of elixir prolongs life.
28. a Just as a leash is used to control the movement of a dog, similarly reins are used to control the movement of a horse.
29. a Joy leads to ecstasy. Similarly, admiration leads to love.
30. c Just as we describe garbage as squalor or dirty, similarly we describe diamond as magnificent.
31. c Just as a scholarly person can be termed as erudite, an ignorant person can be referred to as illiterate.
32. d Cold - chilled and tepid - hot can be termed as pair of synonyms while all the rest are antonyms.
33. d A rupee consists of 100 paise exactly in the same manner as a century has 100 years.
34. b A series of links make a chain exactly as a series of connections make a nexus.
35. b Both the pairs have American usage and relevant Indian equivalent.
36. a Synagogue is a place where a particular religion is practised just as court is a place where law is practised.
37. b Oral relates to the sense of taste just as tactile refers to the sense of touch.
38. a The first is an urban form of the second.

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39. a Just as the typewriter is the main tool of the journalist, similarly scalpel is the tool of the surgeon.
40. b Water is a major constituent of the body exactly in the same manner plasma is a constituent of the cell.
41. c Coffee is made from bean. Similarly, tobacco is made from leaf.
42. b The relation between both the pairs is that they are perpendicular to each other.
43. c The relationship between the two is that the first of each pair moves in water while the second moves in air.
44. d A thinker has foresight while a visionary has farsightedness.
45. d Just as an accomplice assists a criminal in crime, similarly a co-author assists the author in writing a textbook.
46. c Obsolete is what was used in the past and is no longer used, contemporary is what is used in the present.
47. a Just as kindness removes hostility among people deception removes confidence among people.
48. d Petrol is needed by an automobile to keep moving just as food is needed by a man to stay alive.
49. a The first of both involve emotions and imagination while the second are lacking imagination and represent things as they are.
50. a The first of both are synonyms meaning beginner while the second of both are synonyms meaning having a good experience.
51. a Just as in a code the message has to be guessed, similarly in a charade the word has to be guessed.
52. c Fearful is the antonym of courageous while dunce is the antonym of clever.
53. d Tipsy and drunken are synonyms just as pleased and thrilled are synonyms.
54. d Arc is a subset of curve just as a square is a subset of a polygon.
55. c The first of both are synonyms which mean they do not allow light to pass through them while the second of both are also synonyms which mean they allow light to pass through them.
56. d The first of both are synonyms meaning type of speaking while the second options mean defamatory form of text or speech.
57. c The first part of both pairs describes the second part like an acrobat is agile and an orator is eloquent.
58. b The second option of both the pairs is the feeling while the first option is the respective outcomes of those feelings for example when a person is hurt, tears come out and when a person is angry he fumes.
59. a The first of both the pairs that is urban and metropolitan and the second of both the pairs that is rustic and bucolic are synonyms.
60. d A cat belongs to the feline family. Similarly, a horse belongs to the equine family.
61. d Just as chop and slice are methods to cut, fry and bake are methods to cook.
62. a Just as the words of a song are known as lyrics the words of a drama are known as script.
63. a Impregnable is something which does not have an effect of any assault. In the same manner invulnerable is someone who does not have an effect of insult.
64. d The first of both pairs condone and pardon are synonyms and so are the second of both pairs offence and crime.
65. c To squander is to spend money wastefully just as to dissipate is to waste energy.
66. b Pat is the physical form of praise while slap is the physical form of scold.
67. c An eraser is used to erase writing from paper just as a duster is used to erase from the blackboard.
68. c The first of both the options, i.e. fame and honesty are positive traits. Similarly, the second of both options are negative traits.
69. c Large is the synonym of enormous and plump is the synonym of fat.
70. a Both are sets of antonyms. In a debate lots of people participate while soliloquy means speaking to oneself or alone. Similarly, group means a lot of people while solo is alone.
71. d A ballad is a long narrative or song just as an epic is a long story.
72. b The plural of mouse is mice just as the plural of dice is die.
73. b Stone was used in archaic times as a weapon while bomb is used in modern times.
74. d Inane and empty are synonyms while trite and hackneyed are also synonyms.
75. d Just as after day the next unit is week, similarly after week the next unit is month.

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