



## SYNONYMS

### Vocabulary

#### Relevance of Vocabulary

Words constitute the *elan vital* of language. A speech or a written passage, however short or large, is essentially a group of sentences and a sentence, in its turn, is a group of words. A rich stock of words thus becomes quite logically an essential prerequisite of language ability development. All competitive examinations take a direct test of vocabulary under items like Synonym, Antonym, Sentence Completion and Cloze Test. Besides, Comprehension and Sentence Arrangement require indirectly a competent understanding of words, their meaning, nuances and usage.

#### How to Build a Powerful Vocabulary

Learning is difficult, forgetting easy. It is a real challenge: how to learn words and not forget them? We can devise several methods in accordance with our habits, living conditions and time availability. However, the basic factor that remains germane in every case is repetition or recalling of words at short intervals, so that they are etched deep in our memory. It is advisable to learn

words from newspapers, speeches, magazines and good books because through sentences you can have an idea of their use and variations rather than simple denotations. Words change their nuances according to the context. For example, we can phrase out two sentences from the word *expose*.

1. Several leaders have been exposed for their involvement in scams.
2. If you go to a good institute you will expose yourself to a better academic atmosphere.

While in the first sentence it has a negative nuance, in the second it has a positive connotation. Thus both memorisation of words and understanding of their nuances and usage are necessary to develop a rich treasure of vocabulary.

We may adopt the following methods.

**1. Card System** Make cards of a manageable size. Learn 15 new words everyday from newspapers and magazines and write them on the card along with their meanings. Gradually, cards will pile up. Keep them on your reading table. Spare five minutes everyday anytime during the day. Shuffle them, give a look at the top card and revise the words. Next time another card will be on the top. Thus you will go on adding

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and revising. More and more words will become your possession.

**2. Calendar System** Just select a good old calendar with as many pages as possible. Hang it on the wall of your reading room from the reverse side. Write fifty good selected words on each page. Look at the page everyday anytime during the day whenever you feel free. Change the page after a week. Looking at the same page for a week means deepening your acquaintance with the same set of words several times. This way, you will be revising a lot of words without strain. Words will etch themselves deep into your memory.

**3. Word Profile** Making a word profile may work as a powerful and enduring technique to master words. Make a separate profile of every important word on a separate card. Write its meaning, its synonyms, its antonyms, its other parts of speech, its usage and its differences from other synonyms. We may use some private symbols for our understanding.

**P: Positive** A word which should always be preferably used in a good sense is a P word.

**Example** Alacrity, aplomb, benign.

**N: Negative** A word which should always be preferably used in a negative sense is a N word.

**Example** Calhoun (in collaboration). We cannot say 'in cahoots with and honest person', but we can say 'in cahoots with a dishonest person'.

**NT: Neutral** A word which can be used in both senses according to the need of the context.

**Example** Catalyst. Tyranny acts as a catalyst for terrorism. A challenge acts as a catalyst for a brave man to show his worth.

**C: Contrite** There are certain words which have a definite shape and size, a physical entity. Such a word is a C word.

**Example** Lamp. A lamp is a concrete thing.

**A: Abstract** There are certain words which have an abstract form. They exist only on the level of idea. Such a word is an A word.

**Example** Kindness, hiatus, aplomb.

**O: Open** There are certain words which can be used in both concrete and abstract senses. Such a word is an O word.

**Example** Fetter. Fetter means a chain of iron. The prisoner is in fetters. Fetter also means some kind of bondage. India is in fetters of poverty and unemployment.

**Fan** A fan in the concrete sense means a device to give air. In the abstract sense it means to enhance. For example, It is a new fan, Suppression fans protest.

**S: Specific** There are certain words which have a specific meaning. Such a word is a S word.

**Example** Ablution. It means cleaning of body or a part of a body before doing a ritual.

**L: Living** There are certain words which can be used only for living things.

**Example** Gregarious. Man is gregarious. Such a word is a L word.

**NT: Not living** There are certain words which can be used only for non-living things.

**Example** Cogent. We can say that it is a cogent argument. We cannot say that Ramesh is a cogent man.

**U: Universal** There are certain words which can be used for both living and non-living.

**Example** Excellent. Mr. Sinha is an excellent man. It is an excellent idea or proposal. Both sentences are correct. Such a word is a U word.

These are our personally developed symbols. We can make symbols according to our choice. The idea is to catalogue more and more usage of words. In the above manner we can make profiles of words. Words which are learnt in such details will remain in memory for ever or at least for a long time.

## Model I

### Fantastic

Part of speech

Other parts

of speech

Synonyms

Antonyms

: Adjective

: Fantastically (Adverb)

: Excellent, large, wonderful, strange, unlikely, unbelievable.

: Common, ordinary, small, familiar.

### Living

1. Something very good and exciting. This painting is fantastic.

2. A very large amount of something. This business has brought me a fantastic profit.

3. Strange. This bird is fantastic because its colour is unusual.

4. Unbelievable. This story is too fantastic to believe.

NT. It has both positive and negative nuances.

O. It can be used in both concrete and abstract senses.

U. It can be used both for human beings and non-living things.

### Symbols

## Synonym

A synonym is a word which has the same, or nearly the same meaning which another word has. Let us look at some such words.

1. Choose the word nearest in meaning to the given word.

**Fragile:**

(a) strong (b) grave

(c) weak (d) showy

The answer is (c), *weak*, as this is similar in meaning to *fragile*.

**Eisoteric:**

(a) fair (b) popular

(c) alluring (d) private

The answer is (d), *private*. This is not exactly equivalent to *eisoteric* but it is nearest in meaning among the alternatives.

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The test can be given directly, as shown above, or even through a sentence.

2. The italicised word or phrase is followed by four words marked (a), (b), (c) and (d). Choose the one which is the nearest in meaning to the given word.

He used to *regale* us with anecdotes.

(a) flatter (b) bore

(c) fix (d) entertain

The answer is (d), *entertain*. It is the nearest in meaning among the alternatives.

He is believed to be a very *industrious* worker.

(a) successful (b) sensible

(c) punctual (d) diligent

There answer is (d), *diligent*; it is similar in meaning.

## Clues or Tips

1. When the test is made through a sentence, try to find the key word and then use the technique of elimination.

He had the *nerve* to suggest that I was cheating.

(a) strength (b) capacity

(c) audacity (d) courage

The key word here is *cheating* and the sense therefore is negative. Now *strength*, *capacity* and *courage*—all these have a positive nuance. Thus they have to be eliminated. *Audacity* is therefore the right answer.

Suppose we have been given this sentence:

He had the *nerve* to face the robbers all alone.

(a) strength (b) capacity

(c) audacity (d) courage

Here the key word is *face* and the sense is positive. Thus *courage*, becomes the right choice. The same word *nerve* has different nuances in different contexts. Thus one should try to locate the sense behind the italicised word.

2. If the test is made directly, try to use the same form of word and tense.

**Wane:**

(a) decline (b) tired

(c) dead (d) shine



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Now *none* is used here as a verb. *Tired* and *dead* are not in the verb form but in the adjective form and thus they can be eliminated. The correct answer is *decline* which is also a verb here.

Baptize:

- (a) christen
- (b) holy
- (c) dehumanise
- (d) something that had been ostracised.

The word *baptize* is in the present tense; it is a verb and it is in the active voice. *Holy* is an adjective. Something that had been ostracised is in the past tense. Thus, both these alternatives are eliminated. The answer is *christen* as *dehumanise* is an antonym.

3. One of the frequent tricks used by the examiner is to include an antonym in choices given as answers for a synonym's question. Hence be careful whether you are looking for an antonym or a synonym.

Benediction:

- (a) rise
- (b) blessing
- (c) curse
- (d) prayer

The alternative (c), *curse*, is an antonym here. One should be alert in such a case.

#### Practice Set —1

Against each key word are given some suggested meanings. Choose the word or phrase which is nearest in meaning to the key word.

1. Lethargy
  - (a) serenity
  - (b) listlessness
  - (c) impassivity
  - (d) laxity
2. Prognosis
  - (a) scheme
  - (b) forecast
  - (c) preface
  - (d) identification
3. Emaciated
  - (a) very tall
  - (b) very sleepy
  - (c) very thin
  - (d) very aged

4. Contract
  - (a) tract
  - (b) expand
  - (c) give
  - (d) abridge
5. Inedible
  - (a) unfit for human consumption
  - (b) polluted
  - (c) vitiated
  - (d) eatable
6. Docile
  - (a) vague
  - (b) gentle
  - (c) stupid
  - (d) stubborn
7. Hybrid
  - (a) crossbred
  - (b) pedigreed
  - (c) hackneyed
  - (d) unusual
8. Latent
  - (a) concealed
  - (b) apparent
  - (c) lethargic
  - (d) prompt
9. Erotic
  - (a) wandering
  - (b) given to mistakes
  - (c) difficult
  - (d) amorous
10. Aromatic
  - (a) crippled
  - (b) fragrant
  - (c) sentimental
  - (d) stinking
11. Nostalgic
  - (a) indolent
  - (b) diseased
  - (c) homesick
  - (d) soothing
12. Sadistic
  - (a) smart
  - (b) malicious
  - (c) given to deriving pleasure from inflicting pain on others
  - (d) depressed
13. Enigmatic
  - (a) displeased
  - (b) puzzling
  - (c) learned
  - (d) short-sighted
14. Sporadic
  - (a) epidemic
  - (b) whirling
  - (c) occasional
  - (d) stagnant

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15. Compendium
  - (a) summary
  - (b) index
  - (c) reference
  - (d) glossary

#### Practice Set —2

1. Histrionic
  - (a) hypersensitive
  - (b) overdramatic
  - (c) historically important
  - (d) inactive
2. Fiasco
  - (a) festival
  - (b) failure
  - (c) ridiculous plan
  - (d) misfortune
3. Amoral
  - (a) loving
  - (b) immoral
  - (c) uninvolved
  - (d) highly ethical
4. Virile
  - (a) athletic
  - (b) pompous
  - (c) manly
  - (d) boastful
5. Ameliorate
  - (a) to appease
  - (b) to make excuses
  - (c) to humiliate
  - (d) to improve
6. Consummation
  - (a) act of devouring
  - (b) act of forgiveness
  - (c) failure
  - (d) ultimate completion
7. Duplicity
  - (a) innocence
  - (b) cleverness
  - (c) double-dealing
  - (d) repetition
8. Homage
  - (a) excessive humility
  - (b) show respect and reverence
  - (c) poverty
  - (d) insincere flattery
9. Licentious
  - (a) generous
  - (b) gay
  - (c) hungry
  - (d) immoral
10. Ostentatious
  - (a) wealthy
  - (b) talkative
  - (c) showy
  - (d) noisy
11. Paramount
  - (a) above others in rank of authority
  - (b) famous
  - (c) wide and extensive
  - (d) very important
12. Arbitrator
  - (a) very bitter
  - (b) a priest
  - (c) one appointed by two parties to settle a dispute
  - (d) a despot
13. Didactic
  - (a) blunt
  - (b) in poetic metre
  - (c) direct
  - (d) of the nature of teaching
14. Emulate
  - (a) imitate
  - (b) deny
  - (c) question
  - (d) discuss
15. Resume
  - (a) a new start
  - (b) judgment based on insufficient evidence
  - (c) summary
  - (d) long withdrawn account

#### Practice Set —3

1. Tour de force
  - (a) long journey
  - (b) feat of skill
  - (c) spectacle
  - (d) show of force
2. Largesse
  - (a) extravagant
  - (b) bribe
  - (c) liberal
  - (d) great size
3. Melange
  - (a) mixture of medley
  - (b) household
  - (c) optical illusion
  - (d) desert

4. Debonair

- (a) superficial
- (b) pleasant and gracious
- (c) in high style
- (d) flighty

5. Pensive

- (a) habitually tardy
- (b) confident
- (c) given to quiet reflection
- (d) affectionate

6. Coup

- (a) sudden overthrow of a government
- (b) small enclosure
- (c) accident
- (d) clever reply

7. Baton

- (a) cargo
- (b) cane
- (c) stick used in conducting an orchestra

8. Composure

- (a) assumed attitude (b) liberty
- (c) restlessness (d) tranquillity

9. Implicate

- (a) to insult
- (b) doubt
- (c) involve
- (d) make clear

10. Concert

- (a) agreement
- (b) beauty
- (c) power
- (d) musical performance

11. Mfingate

- (a) to heal
- (b) soften
- (c) pardon
- (d) send on a mission

12. Buoyant

- (a) child-like
- (b) brisk
- (c) sturdy
- (d) light-hearted

13. Unalloyed

- (a) not connected
- (b) calm

- (c) absolutely pure and complete
- (d) inferior

14. Flapping

- (a) becoming afraid (b) hesitation
- (c) growing weak (d) limping

15. Rectify

- (a) to command
- (b) destroy
- (c) correct
- (d) to build

## Practice Set — 4

1. Incitement

- (a) stir up
- (b) calm
- (c) stimulate
- (d) noise

2. Devoid

- (a) stupid
- (b) lacking
- (c) evasive
- (d) hopeless

3. Resolved

- (a) summarised
- (b) dispelled
- (c) strengthened
- (d) tangled

4. Privy

- (a) dishonest
- (b) cautious
- (c) secretive
- (d) quiet

5. Pilfer

- (a) to gossip
- (b) steal
- (c) trifle
- (d) loiter

6. Hallowed

- (a) old
- (b) decayed
- (c) sacred
- (d) mellowed

7. Bridle

- (a) to bow
- (b) insult
- (c) show anger
- (d) criticise

8. Slothful

- (a) fat
- (b) stubborn
- (c) lazy
- (d) ignorant

9. Shift

- (a) to manage
- (b) move
- (c) slide
- (d) drag one's feet

10. Lest

- (a) unless
- (b) but

- (c) fear
- (d) anything but that

11. Cite

- (a) to memorise
- (b) see clearly
- (c) point out with a finger
- (d) quote

12. Satellite

- (a) sparkling
- (b) rules
- (c) a servile attendant
- (d) gem

13. Respite

- (a) reform
- (b) fatigue
- (c) ill will
- (d) short break

14. Incite

- (a) to cut off
- (b) arouse or stir up
- (c) perceive the inner nature of a thing
- (d) commence

15. Parasite

- (a) disease
- (b) a loss of motion
- (c) one that clings
- (d) exterminator

## Practice Set — 5

1. Apposite

- (a) appropriate
- (b) highly unpleasant
- (c) foolish
- (d) painful

2. Bald

- (a) broad
- (b) rash
- (c) unadorned
- (d) insulting

3. Glean

- (a) to gather bit by bit
- (b) speak
- (c) to discover
- (d) to polish

4. Barge

- (a) to thrust forward (b) to brag
- (c) to swell
- (d) to oppose

5. Drab

- (a) dull or colourless
- (b) tired
- (c) discouraged
- (d) shabby

6. Irk

- (a) to scold
- (b) to make a wry face
- (c) to urge
- (d) to annoy

7. Wield

- (a) to throw
- (b) to use with full effect
- (c) to grasp
- (d) to cut

8. Wreak

- (a) to twist
- (b) to emit an unpleasant odour
- (c) to inflict
- (d) to sweat

9. Cryptic

- (a) a puzzle
- (b) silence
- (c) precise
- (d) vault

10. Elude

- (a) to evade
- (b) to omit or leave out
- (c) to make mention of
- (d) to deceive

11. Embroid

- (a) to anger
- (b) to bring to boiling point
- (c) to encompass
- (d) to involve in dissension or strife

12. Compound

- (a) to emphasise
- (b) to confuse
- (c) to put together
- (d) to compress

13. Beguile

- (a) to charm
- (b) to become shy
- (c) to flatter
- (d) to smile at



14. Submerge  
(a) to walk on (b) to sink  
(c) to appear  
(d) to join together
15. Placate  
(a) to fatten out (b) to pacify  
(c) to annoy (d) to make sure

**Practice Set -6**

1. Angry (a) dispute (b) altar  
(c) place of refuge (d) omen
2. Ecstasy (a) exhausted (b) strong  
(c) joy (d) greed  
(e) rival
3. Effusion (a) shocking (b) exclamation  
(c) compensation (d) threatening  
(e) pouring forth
4. Elated (a) debased (b) respectful  
(c) dropping (d) extremely happy  
(e) charitable
5. Emancipate (a) set free (b) exist  
(c) correct morally (d) restrain  
(e) make a solemn declaration
6. Enigma (a) reply (b) puzzling  
(c) praise (d) lowest point  
(e) sharp
7. Estranged (a) difficult (b) heavy  
(c) mild (d) witty  
(e) separated
8. Eulogistic (a) prank (b) wanderer  
(c) well-settled (d) practical

- (e) praising

9. Exhort (a) urge  
(b) to give examples  
(c) waste  
(d) prevent  
(e) condemn

10. Carcass

- (a) mind (b) association  
(c) soul (d) dead body

11. Contingency

- (a) autonomous (b) independence  
(c) originality (d) conditionality

12. Disparage

- (a) command (b) exalt  
(c) undervalue (d) shallow

13. Gluttony

- (a) satisfaction (b) beatitude  
(c) sadness (d) greedy

14. Ingenious

- (a) sly (b) honest  
(c) wily (d) prepare

15. Kindred

- (a) foreigners (b) similar  
(c) disconnection (d) enemy

**Practice Set -7**

1. Ravish

- (a) accumulate (b) preserve  
(c) uphold (d) misuse

2. Meddle

- (a) disregard (b) interfere  
(c) overlook (d) free

3. Repugnance

- (a) affection (b) disinclination  
(c) like (d) approve

4. Skip

- (a) overlook (b) introduce  
(c) insert (d) notice

5. Unfold

- (a) stunt (b) compress  
(c) restrict (d) elaborate

6. Accolade

- (a) balcony (b) outer garments  
(c) drink (d) honour  
(e) fruit

7. Abjure

- (a) discuss (b) renounce  
(c) run off secretly (d) perjure  
(e) project

8. Abortive

- (a) unsuccessful (b) consuming  
(c) financing (d) familiar  
(e) fruitful

9. Acumen

- (a) ferocity (b) brilliance  
(c) swiftness (d) greed  
(e) keenness

10. Admonition

- (a) weapon (b) preamble  
(c) warning (d) alarm  
(e) hysteria

11. Baleful

- (a) doubtful (b) virtual  
(c) deadly (d) headless  
(e) virtuous

12. Baral

- (a) philosophical (b) original  
(c) dramatic (d) headless  
(e) commonplace

13. Baneful

- (a) generous (b) kindly  
(c) ruinous (d) severity  
(e) superfluous

14. Boroque

- (a) polished (b) constant  
(c) transformed (d) highly ornate  
(e) aglow

15. Beguile

- (a) irritate (b) loudly offensive  
(c) cheat (d) unfavourable  
(e) spacious

**Practice Set -8**

1. Bellicose

- (a) war-like (b) naval  
(c) amusing (d) piecemeal  
(e) errant

2. Benign

- (a) tenfold (b) peaceful  
(c) gentle (d) wavering  
(e) favourable

3. Boisterous

- (a) conflicting (b) vociferous  
(c) testimonial (d) grateful  
(e) adolescent

4. Bountiful

- (a) pretty (b) generous  
(c) shameful (d) spiritual  
(e) rude

5. Brazen

- (a) shameless (b) quick  
(c) modest (d) pleasant  
(e) melodramatic

6. Bucolic

- (a) citified (b) rustic  
(c) sick (d) intoxicated  
(e) healthy

7. Cache

- (a) lock (b) hiding place  
(c) tide (d) automobile  
(e) grappling hook

8. Cacophony

- (a) discordant  
(b) dance  
(c) applause  
(d) type of telephone  
(e) rooster

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9. Candid  
(a) vague (b) secretive  
(c) experienced (d) anxious  
(e) frank
10. Cohesion  
(a) independence  
(b) sticking together  
(c) shift  
(d) climbing
11. Fictitious  
(a) false (b) fraud  
(c) foul (d) flattering
12. Ghastly  
(a) useless (b) unholy  
(c) horrible (d) mean
13. Obscene  
(a) dirty (b) unhealthy  
(c) indecent (d) unwanted
14. Dexterity  
(a) efficiency (b) zest  
(c) tempo (d) skill
15. Gall  
(a) bitterness (b) poison  
(c) sour (d) taste

## Practice Set —9

1. Haughty  
(a) tall (b) proud  
(c) straightforward (d) careless  
(e) casual
2. Breach  
(a) break (b) slander  
(c) uncertain (d) restrict  
(e) rift
3. Cajole  
(a) scold (b) intimidate  
(c) threaten (d) persuade  
(e) craze

4. Open  
(a) confused (b) sordid  
(c) frank (d) upright  
(e) loose
5. Desolate  
(a) deserted (b) gloomy  
(c) hard (d) fiery  
(e) cheerful
6. Perilous  
(a) inane (b) useless  
(c) risky (d) frivolous  
(e) shaky
7. Give in  
(a) yield (b) refuse  
(c) deny (d) refute  
(e) find
8. Give up  
(a) start (b) give  
(c) receive (d) distribute  
(e) stop doing
9. Reiterate  
(a) frustrate (b) illustrate  
(c) repeat (d) deny  
(e) receipt
10. Remorse  
(a) boisterous (b) vehement  
(c) voluble (d) reliant  
(e) repentance
11. Rejoice  
(a) rejoin (b) rebuild  
(c) rename (d) delight  
(e) lighten
12. Discontented  
(a) dislike (b) disinfection  
(c) dissatisfied (d) disenchanted  
(e) dismembered
13. Starve  
(a) float (b) be naked  
(c) be hungry (d) be naughty  
(e) crawl

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14. Obscure  
(a) famous (b) well known  
(c) rampant (d) unknown  
(e) prevalent
15. Rash  
(a) rush (b) hurry  
(c) unthoughtful (d) meditated  
(e) rootless

## Practice Set —10

1. Handful  
(a) few, little (b) useless  
(c) useful (d) powerless
2. Rigid  
(a) sticky (b) voluminous  
(c) hard (d) bent  
(e) solid
3. Refund  
(a) deduct (b) receive  
(c) distribute (d) give  
(e) reimburse
4. Careless  
(a) spotless (b) faceless  
(c) negligent (d) vigilant  
(e) arrogant
5. Nymph  
(a) clinch (b) flinch  
(c) airy (d) fairy  
(e) cheery
6. Shortage  
(a) paucity (b) niggardly  
(c) wastage (d) hostage  
(e) foliage
7. Infamous  
(a) populous (b) prosperous  
(c) notorious (d) deciduous  
(e) spurious
8. Ideal  
(a) useless  
(b) model to be followed

- (c) thorough  
(d) civilised  
(e) forming an idea
9. Ingenious  
(a) misleading  
(b) false  
(c) clever at inventing  
(d) intoxicated  
(e) alarm
10. Immune  
(a) exempt (b) statutory  
(c) hostile (d) disturbing  
(e) misfortune
11. Incentive  
(a) objective (b) goad  
(c) stimulation (d) beginning  
(e) simulation
12. Incessant  
(a) irritated (b) overflowing  
(c) extreme (d) co-operative  
(e) continue
13. Impetuous  
(a) rash (b) violent  
(c) pleasing (d) freezing  
(e) resourceful
14. Incompatible  
(a) capable (b) reasonable  
(c) faulty (d) indifferent  
(e) contradictory
15. Inconsequential  
(a) disorderly (b) insignificant  
(c) subsequent (d) insufficient  
(e) preceding

## Practice Set —11

1. Acronym  
(a) poem of sorrow  
(b) similar meaning  
(c) word formed from an abbreviation  
(d) pen name used by an author

2. Antiquated  
(a) existing since old times  
(b) without a name  
(c) obsolete  
(d) coming before its time
3. Arcane  
(a) common place  
(b) old fashioned  
(c) modern  
(d) secret
4. Bowdlerize  
(a) to take out words that might be considered improper  
(b) give firmness to  
(c) use unnecessary strength  
(d) cut into two or more separate parts
5. Catharsis  
(a) sudden happening  
(b) outlet for strong emotions  
(c) anti-climax  
(d) informal discussion
6. Deterrent  
(a) cleansing substance  
(b) defence  
(c) restraint of action  
(d) warning
7. Extinct  
(a) dull  
(b) wonderful  
(c) no longer in existence  
(d) still in existence
8. Coeval  
(a) of the same age  
(b) duplicate  
(c) counterfeit  
(d) corresponding
9. Damp squib  
(a) insignificant happening  
(b) an old technique  
(c) unsuccessful attempt  
(d) short, shrill cry

10. Prowess  
(a) understanding (b) keenness  
(c) eagerness (d) bravery
11. Bigamy  
(a) biblical reference  
(b) having two wives or husbands living  
(c) fruit of a thorny shrub  
(d) ambiguity
12. Braggadocio  
(a) bribery  
(b) empty boasting  
(c) misadventure  
(d) sad plight
13. Credence  
(a) assurance (b) belief  
(c) credit (d) preference
14. Slake  
(a) rub (b) sharpen  
(c) quench (d) erase
15. Attrition  
(a) attraction (b) suffering  
(c) decline (d) friction

### Practice Set —12

1. Bovine  
(a) an expert (b) like an ox  
(c) meat extract (d) dim-witted
2. Appellation  
(a) ghost  
(b) a nickname or title  
(c) ultimate solution  
(d) beginning
3. Credence  
(a) religion or personal  
(b) reliance on the truth of something  
(c) gullible  
(d) simplicity
4. Baffle  
(a) to disconcert (b) tease  
(c) strike (d) send away

5. Amalgamate  
(a) to unite (b) gather  
(c) astonish greatly (d) frustrate
6. Acumen  
(a) bitterness  
(b) quickness of insight  
(c) abundance  
(d) deficit
7. Apathy  
(a) anger  
(b) lack of confidence  
(c) odd behaviour  
(d) indifference
8. Divulge  
(a) to strip (b) conceal  
(c) explore (d) reveal
9. Avocation  
(a) the pleading of a legal cause  
(b) contradiction  
(c) a main occupation  
(d) a side interest
10. Fastidious  
(a) overfed  
(b) overconfidence  
(c) finicky  
(d) overaspiring
11. Incredulous  
(a) superstitious (b) unreliable  
(c) unimaginative (d) skeptical
12. Culinary  
(a) creative  
(b) to do with cookery  
(c) delicious  
(d) fragrant
13. Facade  
(a) hilly view  
(b) exact copy  
(c) aspect  
(d) front of a building
14. Nascent  
(a) initial (b) unpleasant  
(c) latest (d) crude

### Practice Set —13

15. Sonorous  
(a) sleepy (b) loud  
(c) bright (d) heavy
1. Presage  
(a) to foretell (b) assume  
(c) make ready (d) consider
2. Subjugate  
(a) to capitulate (b) conquer  
(c) cause to wither (d) confuse
3. Yammer  
(a) strike  
(b) lament/grumble  
(c) whimper  
(d) shiver
4. Embroil  
(a) to get involved in hostilities  
(b) arouse bitter feelings  
(c) weaken  
(d) include
5. Exacerbate  
(a) to aggravate (b) bring out  
(c) throw up (d) wear away
6. Hypothetical  
(a) methodical  
(b) based on supposition  
(c) double faced  
(d) to do with superstition
7. Incidence  
(a) stubbornness  
(b) the range of occurrence  
(c) anecdotes  
(d) conclusion
8. Gargoyle  
(a) stone spout (b) golden eagle  
(c) garish (d) vile
9. Interim  
(a) interval (b) timely  
(c) internal (d) temporary



10. Helm
  - (a) edge
  - (b) head
  - (c) handle
  - (d) corner
11. Incision
  - (a) event
  - (b) indecisiveness
  - (c) dispute
  - (d) cut
12. Malice
  - (a) sickness
  - (b) curse
  - (c) spite
  - (d) stagnation
13. Precipitous
  - (a) exact
  - (b) very steep
  - (c) uncertain
  - (d) absurd
14. Propriety
  - (a) right
  - (b) nearness
  - (c) decorum
  - (d) estate
15. Soporific
  - (a) impressive
  - (b) soothing
  - (c) merry
  - (d) lethargic

Practice Set -14

1. Uplift
  - (a) outcome
  - (b) slow change
  - (c) upward turn
  - (d) radical change
2. Paron
  - (a) person of noble birth
  - (b) venerable old man
  - (c) capable person
  - (d) one who gives encouragement to others
3. Scavenger
  - (a) worthless person
  - (b) a bird that lives on decaying flesh
  - (c) kind of beetle
  - (d) one who mocks
4. Myriad
  - (a) bright
  - (b) imaginary
  - (c) very great number
  - (d) variety
5. Obliterate
  - (a) to blot out
  - (b) slow down
  - (c) block up
  - (d) decline
6. Malediction
  - (a) a curse against someone
  - (b) farewell words
  - (c) omen
  - (d) a closing prayer
7. Notoriety
  - (a) public shame
  - (b) unpleasant experience
  - (c) wrong option
  - (d) unfavourably known
8. Lachrymose
  - (a) impious
  - (b) moist
  - (c) mournful
  - (d) unimpressive
9. Fusillade
  - (a) confusion
  - (b) unwarranted aggression
  - (c) excitement
  - (d) sustained outburst of criticism
10. Reminiscent
  - (a) deserving to be remembered
  - (b) remembrance
  - (c) reminding one of
  - (d) revival
11. Sonorous
  - (a) sleepy
  - (b) loud
  - (c) bring
  - (d) heavy
12. Trumpety
  - (a) treasure
  - (b) trick
  - (c) rubbish
  - (d) useless argument
13. Expertise
  - (a) experience
  - (b) skill
  - (c) smartness
  - (d) art of expressing

- (a) beginning
- (b) style
- (c) movement
- (d) relevant

- (a) human species
- (b) kind-hearted
- (c) destitute
- (d) humorous

Practice Set -15

1. Compulsion
  - (a) joy
  - (b) being compelled
  - (c) danger
  - (d) the state of excitement
2. Cynosure
  - (a) repel
  - (b) threat
  - (c) centre of attraction
  - (d) rejoice
3. Dissolute
  - (a) immoral
  - (b) honest
  - (c) repulsive
  - (d) distant
4. Doleful
  - (a) mournful
  - (b) bright
  - (c) jovial
  - (d) colourful
5. Festal
  - (a) noisy
  - (b) merry
  - (c) sad
  - (d) serious
6. Hustings
  - (a) voice
  - (b) craze
  - (c) election campaigns(d)
  - (d) celebration
7. Lurid
  - (a) shocking
  - (b) bright
  - (c) abundant
  - (d) happy
8. Mortal
  - (a) spoil
  - (b) mark with spots
  - (c) erase
  - (d) colour
9. Outre
  - (a) eccentric
  - (b) traditional
  - (c) real
  - (d) fair

Practice Set -16

1. Perspicacious
  - (a) clear
  - (b) hazy
  - (c) shrewd
  - (d) bad
2. Proscribe
  - (a) allow
  - (b) prescribe
  - (c) banish
  - (d) advance
3. Obfuscation
  - (a) confusing others(b) prone
  - (c) to darken
  - (d) infer
4. Prone
  - (a) thrown forward(b) disease
  - (c) supine
  - (d) inactive

- (a) writing
- (b) music
- (c) a painting on wall
- (d) ancient

- (a) Light shades or colours
- (b) attempt
- (c) dark shade
- (d) conflict

- (a) an old man
- (b) a new recruit
- (c) a fighter
- (d) a wrestler

- (a) capable of feelings
- (b) dry
- (c) dull
- (d) dirty

- (a) the first work of a man
- (b) the last work of a man
- (c) a poem
- (d) a piece of music

- (a) mark
- (b) avoid
- (c) quarrel
- (d) encourage



16. Inept
  - (a) inept
  - (b) fearless
  - (c) ugly
  - (d) coward
17. Vernal
  - (a) luxuriant
  - (b) springlike
  - (c) scale
  - (d) dirty
18. Gluttony
  - (a) happiness
  - (b) contentment
  - (c) satisfaction
  - (d) greed
19. Incensed
  - (a) incited
  - (b) affected
  - (c) encouraged
  - (d) inspired
20. Sozzled
  - (a) cultured
  - (b) drunk
  - (c) moderate
  - (d) burning
21. Vinupate
  - (a) encourage
  - (b) appraise
  - (c) abuse
  - (d) appreciate
22. Compunction
  - (a) regret
  - (b) appreciate
  - (c) wonder
  - (d) anger
23. Obstreperous
  - (a) cheerful
  - (b) noisy
  - (c) calm
  - (d) obstinate
24. Ostracise
  - (a) welcome
  - (b) include
  - (c) expedite
  - (d) cut off
25. Deplete
  - (a) take away
  - (b) fill
  - (c) make greater
  - (d) to exhaust
26. Osmosis
  - (a) gradual acceptance
  - (b) slow recovery
  - (c) abrupt ending
  - (d) crowded
27. Viaduct
  - (a) railroad
  - (b) bridge
  - (c) pipe
  - (d) leave
28. Spew
  - (a) throw in water
  - (b) spit
  - (c) to come forth in a flush
  - (d) take up liquids
29. Repugnance
  - (a) disinclination
  - (b) affection
  - (c) like
  - (d) approve
30. Alacrity
  - (a) eagerness
  - (b) hesitatingly
  - (c) unwillingly
  - (d) with suspicion
31. Vendetta
  - (a) threat
  - (b) mortal
  - (c) friendship
  - (d) feud
32. Whim
  - (a) desire
  - (b) unnatural behaviour
  - (c) clumsy
  - (d) fancy
33. Penchant
  - (a) disability
  - (b) like
  - (c) eagerness
  - (d) dislike
34. Anathema
  - (a) something strongly detested
  - (b) accepted
  - (c) difficult to collect
  - (d) constant
35. Cavil
  - (a) munch
  - (b) quibble
  - (c) amuse
  - (d) appreciate
36. Estrange
  - (a) endanger
  - (b) to become puzzling
  - (c) miscalculate
  - (d) alienate
37. Hansom
  - (a) man's clock
  - (b) Elaborate serving dish

Practice Set - 17

1. Frasco
  - (a) strength
  - (b) success
  - (c) failure
  - (d) hope

13. Mortified
  - (a) dirty
  - (b) pock-marked
  - (c) full of holes
  - (d) having splodches of colour
14. Parry
  - (a) cut away bit by bit
15. Troglodytic
  - (a) cadaverous
  - (b) ominous
  - (c) unbridled
  - (d) resembling a caveman

ANSWER KEY

Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5
1. (d)	1. (b)	1. (b)	1. (a)	1. (a)
2. (d)	2. (b)	2. (c)	2. (b)	2. (c)
3. (c)	3. (c)	3. (a)	3. (a)	3. (a)
4. (d)	4. (c)	4. (b)	4. (c)	4. (d)
5. (a)	5. (d)	5. (c)	5. (b)	5. (a)
6. (b)	6. (d)	6. (a)	6. (c)	6. (b)
7. (a)	7. (c)	7. (c)	7. (c)	7. (b)
8. (a)	8. (b)	8. (d)	8. (c)	8. (c)
9. (d)	9. (d)	9. (c)	9. (b)	9. (c)
10. (b)	10. (c)	10. (a)	10. (d)	10. (a)
11. (c)	11. (a)	11. (a)	11. (d)	11. (d)
12. (c)	12. (c)	12. (d)	12. (c)	12. (c)
13. (b)	13. (d)	13. (c)	13. (d)	13. (a)
14. (c)	14. (a)	14. (c)	14. (b)	14. (c)
15. (d)	15. (a)	15. (c)	15. (c)	15. (b)

Set 6	Set 7	Set 8	Set 9	Set 10
1. (d)	1. (d)	1. (a)	1. (b)	1. (a)
2. (c)	2. (b)	2. (c)	2. (a)	2. (c)
3. (e)	3. (b)	3. (b)	3. (d)	3. (c)
4. (d)	4. (a)	4. (b)	4. (c)	4. (c)
5. (a)	5. (d)	5. (a)	5. (a)	5. (d)
6. (b)	6. (d)	6. (b)	6. (c)	6. (a)
7. (c)	7. (b)	7. (b)	7. (a)	7. (c)
8. (c)	8. (a)	8. (a)	8. (c)	8. (b)
9. (a)	9. (b)	9. (c)	9. (c)	9. (c)
10. (d)	10. (c)	10. (b)	10. (e)	10. (a)
11. (d)	11. (c)	11. (a)	11. (d)	11. (c)
12. (c)	12. (e)	12. (c)	12. (c)	12. (a)
13. (d)	13. (c)	13. (c)	13. (c)	13. (a)
14. (b)	14. (d)	14. (d)	14. (d)	14. (c)
15. (b)	15. (c)	15. (a)	15. (c)	15. (b)

Set 11	Set 12	Set 13	Set 14	Set 15
1. (c)	1. (b)	1. (a)	1. (d)	1. (b)
2. (c)	2. (a)	2. (b)	2. (d)	2. (c)
3. (d)	3. (b)	3. (b)	3. (a)	3. (a)
4. (a)	4. (a)	4. (a)	4. (d)	4. (a)
5. (b)	5. (a)	5. (a)	5. (a)	5. (b)
6. (c)	6. (b)	6. (b)	6. (c)	6. (c)
7. (c)	7. (d)	7. (b)	7. (d)	7. (a)
8. (a)	8. (d)	8. (a)	8. (c)	8. (b)
9. (c)	9. (c)	9. (d)	9. (d)	9. (a)
10. (d)	10. (c)	10. (b)	10. (b)	10. (c)
11. (b)	11. (d)	11. (d)	11. (a)	11. (a)
12. (b)	12. (b)	12. (a)	12. (c)	12. (b)
13. (c)	13. (d)	13. (b)	13. (b)	13. (a)
14. (d)	14. (a)	14. (c)	14. (a)	14. (b)
15. (c)	15. (a)	15. (b)	15. (b)	15. (a)

## CHAPTER 2

### ANTONYMS

#### Antonym

An antonym is a word which has the opposite, or nearly the opposite meaning of the given word.

#### EXAMPLES

A. Choose the word *opposite* in meaning to the given word.

- Profane
  - beautiful
  - sacred
  - glorious
  - insane

The answer is (b), sacred.

The test can be given directly as shown above or at times through a sentence.

B. Choose the word *opposite* in meaning to the word in *italics* in the given sentence.

- He led an ascetic life but his wife had her *ways*.

- self-indulgent
- austere
- artificial
- pompous

The answer is (a), *self-indulgent*.

- There is something *repulsive* about the way he handles people.

- attractive
- smooth
- reflective
- distinctive

The answer is (a), *attractive*.

#### Clues or Tips

A. Note that the given word and the answer must belong to the same parts of speech.

*Pragmatic:*

- angry
- quixotic
- colourful
- pungent

Here the choice (c), *colourful*, is a noun while the word *pragmatic* is an adjective and thus this alternative may be rejected. The correct answer is (b), *quixotic*.

B. Note that the given word and the answer must belong to the same tense form.

*Perceived:*

- ignored
- created
- apprehend
- conceive

Here the alternatives *apprehend* and *conceive* are in the present tense and thus they can be rejected. *Ignored* gives an opposite meaning and it is also in the past tense as the word *perceived* is. Thus it is the correct answer.



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C. Make sure that the given word and the answer are in the same voice. *Contraction:*

- (a) reduction
- (b) something which is being expanded
- (c) increase
- (d) expansive

The word *contraction* is a noun in the active voice. The alternative *reduction* is similar in meaning. (b) is in the passive voice. *Expansive* is an adjective. Thus all these three alternatives are incorrect. The word *increase* is a noun and is in the active voice and matches with the given word *contraction*. This is, therefore, the correct answer.

D. A favourite trick of the examiner is mix a synonym in the alternatives to confuse the examinee.

- Venerate:*
- (a) respect
  - (b) condemn
  - (c) inculcate
  - (d) initiate
  - (e) severe

The alternative (a), *respect*, is a synonym. One needs to be alert in such cases. The correct answer is (b) *condemn*.

### Practice Set —1

Pick out the word opposite or nearly so in the meaning of the given words.

1. Accepted
  - (a) followed
  - (b) noted
  - (c) provided
  - (d) considered
  - (e) rejected
2. Anger
  - (a) party
  - (b) happiness
  - (c) approval
  - (d) love
  - (e) joy
3. Loved
  - (a) refused
  - (b) defamed
  - (c) distracted
  - (d) averted
  - (e) hated
4. Obey
  - (a) attract
  - (b) disobey
  - (c) repel
  - (d) diffuse
  - (e) None

5. Ourwit
  - (a) laugh
  - (b) victory
  - (c) defeat
  - (d) win
  - (e) None
6. Come
  - (a) play
  - (b) fast
  - (c) go
  - (d) got
  - (e) None
7. Hard
  - (a) soft
  - (b) smooth
  - (c) delicate
  - (d) easy
  - (e) less
8. Wealthy
  - (a) wicked
  - (b) famous
  - (c) ill
  - (d) poor
  - (e) harmful
9. Dull
  - (a) pale
  - (b) wise
  - (c) shining
  - (d) colourful
  - (e) foolish
10. Alleviation
  - (a) lessening
  - (b) magnification
  - (c) intensify
  - (d) aggravation
  - (e) exaggeration
11. Receded
  - (a) bloomed
  - (b) advanced
  - (c) increased
  - (d) diminished
  - (e) rebuilt
12. Transparent
  - (a) translucent
  - (b) vague
  - (c) blind
  - (d) opaque
13. Extrovert
  - (a) boaster
  - (b) mixer
  - (c) introvert
  - (d) social
14. Virtuous
  - (a) vicious
  - (b) vulgar
  - (c) miserly
  - (d) insincere
15. Urban
  - (a) rustic
  - (b) rural
  - (c) civil
  - (d) domestic

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### Practice Set —2

1. Genuine
  - (a) rotten
  - (b) bogus
  - (c) unsound
  - (d) impure
2. Militant
  - (a) religious
  - (b) spiritual
  - (c) combative
  - (d) pacifist
3. Unruly
  - (a) curious
  - (b) obedient
  - (c) intelligent
  - (d) indifferent
4. Ruthless
  - (a) militant
  - (b) might
  - (c) majestic
  - (d) merciful
5. Erudite
  - (a) ignorant
  - (b) unknown
  - (c) illiterate
  - (d) unfamiliar
6. Churlish
  - (a) young
  - (b) cultured
  - (c) cowardly
  - (d) accommodating
7. Latent
  - (a) hidden
  - (b) forbidding
  - (c) obvious
  - (d) artificial
8. Antipathy
  - (a) indifference
  - (b) willingness
  - (c) fondness
  - (d) liking
9. Deviate
  - (a) oblige
  - (b) break
  - (c) locate
  - (d) follow
  - (e) concentrate
10. Vividly
  - (a) unintentionally
  - (b) unimpressively
  - (c) unscrupulously
  - (d) unwillingly
  - (e) unpopular
11. Releases
  - (a) liberates
  - (b) closes
  - (c) confines
  - (d) provides
  - (e) strengthens
12. Morose
  - (a) healthy
  - (b) gloomy
  - (c) haggard
  - (d) cheerful

13. Inspired
  - (a) overwhelmed
  - (b) dispirited
  - (c) disillusioned
  - (d) sceptical
14. Cynical
  - (a) mature
  - (b) eccentric
  - (c) naive
  - (d) crazy
15. Malevolent
  - (a) kindly
  - (b) vacuous
  - (c) ambivalent
  - (d) primitive

### Practice Set —3

1. Autonomous
  - (a) magnanimous
  - (b) ambiguous
  - (c) exiguous
  - (d) dependent
  - (e) operational
2. Baffle
  - (a) make way
  - (b) thwart
  - (c) confuse
  - (d) check
  - (e) substitute
3. Blithe
  - (a) joyless
  - (b) gay in disposition
  - (c) light-hearted
  - (d) generosity
  - (e) cheerfulness
4. Brazen
  - (a) bold
  - (b) made of brass
  - (c) made of copper
  - (d) insolent
  - (e) shy
5. Churlish
  - (a) boorish
  - (b) coarse
  - (c) courteous
  - (d) niggardly
  - (e) modest
6. Extravagant
  - (a) developing
  - (b) wonderful
  - (c) disappearing
  - (d) economical
  - (e) real
7. Desultory
  - (a) disconnected
  - (b) lacking order

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2. Inevitable (a) unavoidable (b) eatable (c) half-baked (d) uncertain
3. Facsimile (a) reproduction (b) sincere (c) original (d) fact-finding
4. Ferment (a) fiery (b) arbour (c) poisonous (d) apathetic
5. Fiasco (a) canco (b) mansion (c) pollution (d) success
6. Fluster (a) upset (b) disconcert (c) arrange (d) disobey
7. Abundant (a) fertile (b) infertile (c) prolific (d) transparent
8. Felicitous (a) effeminate (b) canine (c) sensuous (d) notorious
9. Glossy (a) sleek (b) ventilating (c) dull (d) obscene
10. Hybrid (a) mongrel (b) purebred (c) composite (d) familiar
11. Hypothesis (a) fact (b) theory (c) conclusive (d) suppressed
12. Ingenuity (a) skilfulness (b) cunning (c) sentimental (d) certain
13. Exhume (a) decipher (b) dig (c) integrate (d) admit
14. Exalt (a) ennoble (b) glorify (c) extol (d) depreciate
15. Extrinsic (a) repulsive (b) inherent (c) swift (d) ambitious
16. Euphoric (a) serene (b) ecstatic (c) joyous (d) blissful
17. Eulogistic (a) pretty (b) critical (c) brief (d) stern
18. Eulogistic (a) free (b) critical (c) brief (d) stern

### Practice Set —4

## 23 | Verbal Ability for Competitive Examinations

13. Isolation (a) seclusion (b) segregation (c) association (d) hardhood
14. Invincible (a) invulnerable (b) visible (c) wanton (d) ancient
15. Malign (a) disparage (b) slander (c) praise (d) purify
16. Esoteric (a) external (b) familiar (c) native (d) pleasant
17. Ponderous (a) simple (b) thoughtless (c) empty (d) light
18. Nominal (a) huge (b) clear (c) real (d) solid
19. Parallelism (a) obliquity (b) contrast (c) disparity (d) divergence
20. Antiquity (a) common (b) recent (c) innovation (d) youthfulness
21. Sweet (a) support (b) reject (c) deny (d) praise
22. Transparent (a) translucent (b) vague (c) blind (d) opaque
23. Extrovert (a) boaster (b) mixer (c) introvert (d) social
24. Virtuous (a) vicious (b) vulgar (c) miserly (d) domestic
25. Sophisticated (a) rustic (b) rural (c) civil (d) domestic
26. Genuine (a) rotten (b) bogus (c) unsound (d) impure
27. Exonerate (a) reflect (b) contract (c) accuse (d) admit
28. Husbandry (a) mistresshood (b) subordination (c) discipline (d) wastefulness
29. Laudatory (a) cheerless (b) defamatory (c) quiet (d) inadmirable
30. Neophyte (a) old (b) experienced (c) orthodox (d) tasteless
31. Bestial (a) least acceptable (b) unanimated (c) heavenly (d) noble
32. Compliant (a) defective (b) adamant (c) elementary (d) appreciative
33. Quell (a) praise (b) recommend (c) incite (d) contract
34. Avidity (a) over-active (b) carelessness (c) greedy (d) stupidity
35. Bawdy (a) decent (b) indecent (c) dirty (d) inflexible
36. Odious (a) familiar (b) pleasant (c) insignificant (d) cacophony

### Practice Set —6



2. Serene  
(a) impure  
(c) showy  
(b) agitated  
(d) complicated
3. Immaculate  
(a) up-to-date  
(c) untidy  
(b) significant  
(d) expressive
4. Expurgate  
(a) strain  
(c) entertain  
(b) admit  
(d) renew
5. Turpid  
(a) clean  
(c) bright  
(b) smooth  
(d) detailed

6. Laudation  
(a) reduction  
(c) criticism  
(b) passive  
(d) simplification
7. Repinard  
(a) encourage  
(c) release  
(b) recommend  
(d) praise

8. Gullible  
(a) unreliable  
(b) uncompanionable  
(c) rigid  
(d) distrustful

9. Rectitude  
(a) firmness  
(c) smoothness  
(b) deception  
(d) atheism

10. Clemency  
(a) corporal  
(c) transformation  
(b) compromise  
(d) sensibility
- (e) intolerance

11. Dogmatic  
(a) peremptory  
(c) simple  
(b) spellbound  
(d) unscrupulous
- (e) uncertain

12. Progress  
(a) reversion  
(c) movement  
(b) advance  
(d) silence
- (e) conformity

13. Taciturnity  
(a) reciprocity  
(b) endorsement

- (c) talkative  
(e) transparency  
(d) flamboyance
14. Synchronised  
(a) noisy  
(c) consequent  
(b) discordant  
(d) following
- (e) adorned
15. Urbanity  
(a) rustic  
(c) cruelty  
(b) crudeness  
(d) sociability
- (e) affability

### Practice Set -7

1. Incarcerate  
(a) mobilise  
(c) treat  
(b) impersonate  
(d) liberate
- (e) impress
2. Malefactor  
(a) assistant  
(c) performer  
(b) supervisor  
(d) benefactor
- (e) malingering

3. Laceration  
(a) insensitivity  
(c) preoccupation  
(b) armour  
(d) palpitation
- (e) healing
4. Annulment  
(a) smooth  
(c) cancellation  
(b) revival  
(d) stubborn
- (e) vertical

5. Pretentious  
(a) transparent  
(c) clear  
(b) humble  
(d) obvious
- (e) usual

6. Considerable  
(a) inadequate  
(c) usual  
(b) inattentive  
(d) common

7. Deserter  
(a) sympathiser  
(c) flatterer  
(b) favourite  
(d) loyalist

8. Inflexible  
(a) soft  
(c) yielding  
(b) tender  
(d) obedient

9. Inquisitive  
(a) uninterested  
(c) indolent  
(b) dull  
(d) careful
- (e) diligent
10. Gratify  
(a) defeat  
(c) frustrate  
(b) distress  
(d) discourage
- (e) gratify
11. Waive  
(a) widen  
(c) prosper  
(b) fatten  
(d) swell
- (e) prosper
12. Shrill  
(a) weak  
(c) inaudible  
(b) muffled  
(d) blunt
- (e) inaudible
13. Wavering  
(a) straight  
(c) strong  
(b) tight  
(d) poor
- (e) strong
14. Fabulous  
(a) literary  
(c) real  
(b) commonplace  
(d) poor
- (e) real
15. Erratic  
(a) free  
(c) right  
(b) punctual  
(d) reliable
- (e) right

### Practice Set -8

1. Endow  
(a) rob  
(c) divest  
(b) snatch  
(d) dispossess

2. Polemic  
(a) friendship  
(c) animity  
(b) agreement  
(d) cooperation

3. Mundane  
(a) excellent  
(c) heavenly  
(b) superior  
(d) extraordinary

4. Furtive  
(a) open  
(c) unambiguous  
(b) obvious  
(d) straight

5. Objective  
(a) personal  
(c) deleted  
(b) familiar  
(d) intimate
- (e) deleted
6. Extant  
(a) destroyed  
(c) forgotten  
(b) extinguished  
(d) unheeded

7. Ephemeral  
(a) spiritual  
(c) permanent  
(b) ethical  
(d) stable
- (e) permanent
8. Strident  
(a) musical  
(c) melodious  
(b) pleasant  
(d) stable
- (e) musical
9. Fecund  
(a) hard  
(c) solid  
(b) unpolished  
(d) barren
- (e) solid
10. Outstrip  
(a) cooperate  
(c) follow  
(b) compete  
(d) cover
- (e) follow
11. Corpulence  
(a) slender  
(c) guilt  
(b) cheerful  
(d) poverty
- (e) slender
12. Mitigate  
(a) expedite  
(c) slacken  
(b) worsen  
(d) repair
- (e) expedite
13. Dilettante  
(a) stupid  
(c) tidy  
(b) rapid  
(d) professional
- (e) stupid
14. Languid  
(a) cheerful  
(c) vigorous  
(b) progressive  
(d) fashionable
- (e) cheerful

### Practice Set -9

1. Impeccable  
(a) reasonable  
(c) repulsive  
(b) practical  
(d) faulty

2. Morose  
(a) harmless  
(c) cheerful  
(b) decent  
(d) unusual

3. Clarity  
(a) reserve  
(c) candour  
(b) confusion  
(d) exaggeration

4. Bridge  
(a) release  
(c) bind  
(b) open  
(d) divide

Practice Set -10

5. Auspicious  
(a) condemn (b) conspicuous  
(c) unfavourable (d) spicy
6. Frugal  
(a) charitable (b) extravagant  
(c) generous (d) gaudy
7. Laudable  
(a) commendable (b) negligible  
(c) admirable (d) praiseworthy  
(e) blameful
8. Stagnant  
(a) effervescence (b) mobile  
(c) progress (d) inertia  
(e) flamboyance
9. Deleterious  
(a) fatal (b) nourishing  
(c) vital (d) injurious  
(e) benevolent
10. Pernicious  
(a) innocuous (b) healthy  
(c) hygienic (d) fine  
(e) excellent
11. Predicament  
(a) firmness (b) confidence  
(c) fantasy (d) certainty  
(e) ease
12. Relinquish  
(a) keep (b) possess  
(c) claim (d) persist  
(e) stick to
13. Retrogressive  
(a) progressive (b) advancing  
(c) furthering (d) forwarding  
(e) improving
14. Vivacious  
(a) languid (b) open  
(c) strong (d) bright
15. Voluntary  
(a) involuntary (b) instinctive  
(c) compelled (d) coercive  
(e) forced
1. Brilliant  
(a) shining (b) dull  
(c) flat (d) apparent
2. Labyrinthine  
(a) clear (b) opaque  
(c) obscure (d) straight
3. Tyro  
(a) virtuoso (b) new  
(c) learner (d) good-looking
4. Onrush  
(a) flow (b) obstruction  
(c) force (d) blocked
5. Flamboyant  
(a) excited (b) quiet  
(c) angry (d) multi-coloured
6. Demented  
(a) enraged (b) calm  
(c) angry (d) original
7. Insolent  
(a) proud (b) humble  
(c) ashamed (d) ignorant
8. Copious  
(a) plentiful (b) little  
(c) accommodative (d) abundant
9. Nostalgic  
(a) wistful (b) airy  
(c) forgetful (d) ambitious
10. Heterogeneous  
(a) homogeneous (b) similar  
(c) different (d) colourful
11. Inhibit  
(a) refrain (b) discard  
(c) activate (d) surrender
12. Wholesome  
(a) robust (b) rough  
(c) weak (d) complete
13. Arduous  
(a) rugged (b) fragile  
(c) robust (d) hard

12. Cozen

- (a) prate (b) vilify  
(c) cheat (d) treat honestly

13. Debonair

- (a) balm (b) awkward  
(c) good-looking (d) windy

14. Blanch

- (a) bleach (b) enlighten  
(c) darken (d) analyse

15. Audacious

- (a) accountable (b) vulnerable  
(c) extremely daring (d) cowardly

Practice Set -12

1. Husbandry

- (a) wastefulness (b) friction  
(c) cowardice (d) hard labour

2. Fantastic

- (a) good (b) unique  
(c) real (d) imaginary

3. Anathematised

- (a) locate (b) radiate  
(c) deceive (d) bless

4. Antithesis

- (a) similarity (b) quite  
(c) different (d) regular

5. Deferential

- (a) disorganised (b) disrespectful  
(c) distinguishable (d) respectful

6. Exhume

- (a) exit (b) inter  
(c) admit (d) decipher

7. Ulterior

- (a) tipped (b) sparkling  
(c) stated (d) rampaging

8. Craven

- (a) greedy (b) generous  
(c) coward (d) brave

9. Euphonious

- (a) strident (b) significant  
(c) lethargic (d) distasteful

Practice Set -11

1. Analogous

- (a) dissimilar (b) showy  
(c) haughty (d) senile

2. Devious

- (a) indirect (b) direct  
(c) random (d) abnormal

3. Candid

- (a) anxious (b) vague  
(c) secretive (d) shallow

4. Turbulence

- (a) hostility (b) noisy  
(c) impropriety (d) calmness

5. Antediluvian

- (a) isolated (b) celebration  
(c) ancient (d) modern

6. Chimerical

- (a) economical (b) unnatural  
(c) realistic (d) wonderful

7. Arduous

- (a) difficult (b) easy  
(c) gluttony (d) exertion

8. Dank

- (a) dry (b) gutters  
(c) wet (d) babbling

9. Vanguard

- (a) rear (b) front  
(c) regiment (d) echelon

10. Dastard

- (a) warmth (b) hero  
(c) idol (d) presence

11. Austerity

- (a) extreme (b) harsh  
(c) lenience (d) ascetic



10. Gaucherie (a) tact (b) culminate (c) drizzle (d) quiet
11. Grandiose (a) clumsy (b) simple (c) proud (d) heavy
12. Hibernial (a) spring-like (b) seasonal (c) regular (d) attitude
13. Pect (a) equivalent (b) equal (c) certain (d) unequal
14. Gnome (a) gloom (b) casual (c) small (d) giant
15. Moor (a) strict (b) difficult (c) not disputable (d) disputable

Practice Set —13

1. Callous (a) hardened (b) soft (c) sensitive (d) compact
2. Haggard (a) plump (b) vast (c) maidenly (d) shrewd
3. Capacious (a) confining (b) ferocious (c) militant (d) extrovert
4. Laconic (a) wicked (b) verbose (c) milky (d) fragrance
5. Capricious (a) insured (b) photographic (c) satisfied (d) steadfast
6. Kith (a) relative (b) son (c) strangers (d) outfit

Practice Set —14

7. Hegira (a) oasis (b) return (c) calm (d) noise
8. Carte blanche (a) restriction (b) investment (c) order (d) importance
9. Lackadaisical (a) intelligent (b) dull (c) ambitious (d) monthly
10. Chaffing (a) capitalistic (b) happily (c) sneering (d) serious
11. Obijugation (a) rebuke (b) elegy (c) hate (d) praise
12. Nefarious (a) lacking (b) emperious (c) benign (d) neglected
13. Neophyte (a) veteran (b) novice (c) unknown (d) newly born
14. Noisome (a) clean (b) fragrant (c) sleepy (d) dirty
15. Fantastic (a) illusion (b) real (c) wonderful (d) economical

ANSWER KEY

ANSWER KEY				
Set 1	Set 2	Set 3	Set 4	Set 5
1. (c)	1. (b)	1. (d)	1. (b)	1. (a)
2. (d)	2. (d)	2. (a)	2. (d)	2. (b)
3. (e)	3. (b)	3. (a)	3. (c)	3. (a)
4. (b)	4. (d)	4. (e)	4. (d)	4. (a)
5. (c)	5. (a)	5. (c)	5. (d)	5. (d)
6. (c)	6. (b)	6. (d)	6. (b)	6. (b)
7. (a)	7. (c)	7. (c)	7. (b)	7. (c)
8. (d)	8. (a)	8. (a)	8. (e)	8. (d)
9. (c)	9. (d)	9. (b)	9. (c)	9. (c)
10. (d)	10. (b)	10. (b)	10. (b)	10. (a)
11. (b)	11. (e)	11. (b)	11. (a)	11. (a)
12. (d)	12. (d)	12. (e)	12. (e)	12. (b)
13. (c)	13. (b)	13. (e)	13. (c)	13. (c)
14. (a)	14. (a)	14. (d)	14. (e)	14. (a)
15. (b)	15. (a)	15. (b)	15. (c)	15. (a)
4. Dainty (a) coarse (b) graceful (c) delectable (d) obedient	6. Prohibit (a) cleanliness (b) corruption (c) regret (d) upswing	10. Scourious (a) decent (b) savage (c) descent (d) volatile	11. Sacerdotal (a) frank (b) layman (c) region (d) religious minded	12. Demure (a) sedate (b) close (c) indecorous (d) open
5. Gasconade (a) modesty (b) seizure (c) cleanliness (d) illusive	7. Deftle (a) ride (b) purify (c) assemble (d) order	13. Rubicund (a) wanted (b) dangerous (c) indicative (d) pallid	14. Rueful (a) impertinent (b) hated (c) colourless (d) permitted	15. Derogatory (a) conferred (b) praising (c) immediate (d) roguish
6. Prim (a) formal (b) prior (c) informal (d) private	8. Delite (a) tide (b) purify (c) assemble (d) order	15. Derogatory (a) conferred (b) praising (c) immediate (d) roguish		
9. Pulchritude (a) masculinity (b) female (c) notoriety (d) ugliness)				

Set 6	Set 7	Set 8	Set 9	Set 10
1. (b)	1. (d)	1. (d)	1. (d)	1. (b)
2. (b)	2. (d)	2. (b)	2. (c)	2. (d)
3. (c)	3. (e)	3. (c)	3. (b)	3. (a)
4. (b)	4. (e)	4. (d)	4. (d)	4. (b)
5. (a)	5. (b)	5. (a)	5. (c)	5. (b)
6. (c)	6. (a)	6. (a)	6. (b)	6. (b)
7. (a)	7. (d)	7. (c)	7. (e)	7. (b)
8. (c)	8. (c)	8. (b)	8. (b)	8. (b)
9. (b)	9. (a)	9. (d)	9. (b)	9. (b)
10. (e)	10. (c)	10. (c)	10. (b)	10. (a)
11. (d)	11. (c)	11. (a)	11. (c)	11. (c)
12. (a)	12. (b)	12. (b)	12. (e)	12. (c)
13. (a)	13. (a)	13. (a)	13. (a)	13. (b)
14. (b)	14. (d)	14. (a)	14. (a)	14. (c)
15. (a)	15. (c)	15. (b)	15. (a)	15. (d)
Set 11	Set 12	Set 13	Set 14	
1. (a)	1. (a)	1. (b)	1. (b)	
2. (b)	2. (c)	2. (a)	2. (c)	
3. (c)	3. (d)	3. (a)	3. (c)	
4. (d)	4. (a)	4. (b)	4. (a)	
5. (d)	5. (b)	5. (d)	5. (a)	
6. (c)	6. (b)	6. (c)	6. (b)	
7. (b)	7. (c)	7. (b)	7. (b)	
8. (a)	8. (d)	8. (a)	8. (c)	
9. (a)	9. (a)	9. (c)	9. (d)	
10. (b)	10. (a)	10. (d)	10. (a)	
11. (c)	11. (b)	11. (d)	11. (b)	
12. (d)	12. (c)	12. (c)	12. (c)	
13. (b)	13. (d)	13. (a)	13. (d)	
14. (c)	14. (d)	14. (b)	14. (a)	
15. (d)	15. (c)	15. (b)	15. (b)	