

Civil Service Exam Vocabulary Review 1

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Sample Sentence: After this operation, take three tablets everyday to *alleviate* the pain.

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5. scrutinize – to examine in detail

Sample Sentence: The guy who entered the building was suspicious, so the police *scrutinized* belongings.

6. tenacious – persistent, stubborn, obstinate, retentive

Sample Sentences

- That guy has been courting me for 5 years. He was so *tenacious* that I finally fell in love with him.
- I have quite a *tenacious* memory. I can't forget a face.

7. disdain – to scorn, to treat with contempt, despise

After the death of his wife, he was offered a large amount of money by his boss, but he refused it with *disdain*.

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Sample Sentence: Even when he was young, it was *evident* that he will do great things.

9. frugal – not wasteful, thrifty

Sample Sentence: All his life, he had been *frugal* in his expenses. No wonder he has a lot of money.

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Sample Sentence: Sometimes, his writings seems *superficial*, but when you look at them deeply, you will see the real meaning.

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Sample Sentence: Edward VIII *abdicated* his throne to be with the woman he loved.

2. **candor** – the quality of being frank, sincere, and honest

Sample sentence: Everyone was surprised by the *candor* of his speech because he usually evades questions.

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Sample Sentence: Ninoy Aquino's eloquent and lively speeches is one of the reasons why he always spoke at the end of every event.

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Sample Sentence: Disability should not be the reason why you should *forsake* your dreams.

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Sample: The presence of CCTV did not *inhibit* the driver from beating the red light.

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VOCABULARY 3

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making or becoming suitable; adjusting to circumstances
2. analysis
abstract separation of a whole into its constituent parts
3. argument
a dispute where there is strong disagreement
4. submissive
inclined or willing to give in to orders or wishes of others
5. malevolent
wishing or appearing to wish evil to others
6. corrugated
shaped into alternating parallel grooves and ridges
7. enthralled
filled with wonder and delight
8. definitely
without question and beyond doubt
9. development
a process in which something passes to a different stage
10. enrapture
hold spellbound
11. disappoint
fail to meet the hopes or expectations of
12. embarrassment
the shame felt when inadequacy or guilt is made public
13. environment
the totality of surrounding conditions
14. lament
a cry of sorrow and grief
15. monotonous
sounded or spoken in a tone unvarying in pitch
16. melancholy
a constitutional tendency to be gloomy and depressed
17. spiteful
showing malicious ill will and a desire to hurt
18. vacuous
devoid of matter
19. svelte
being of delicate or slender build
20. torrential
relating to or resulting from the action of a downpour
21. humiliate

- cause to feel shame
22. tedious
so lacking in interest as to cause mental weariness
23. dispute
coming into conflict with
24. refine
reduce to a pure state
25. illusion
an erroneous mental representation
26. elicit
call forth, as an emotion, feeling, or response
27. illicit
contrary to accepted morality or convention
28. subservient
compliant and obedient to authority
29. tentative
hesitant or lacking confidence; unsettled in mind or opinion
30. prevalent
most frequent or common
31. benevolent
showing or motivated by sympathy and understanding
32. benefactor
a person who helps people or institutions
33. benefit
something that aids or promotes well-being
34. inadequacy
a lack of competence
35. malicious
having the nature of threatening evil
36. malice
feeling a need to see others suffer
37. motley
consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds
38. adroit
quick or skillful or adept in action or thought
39. colossal
so great in size or force or extent as to elicit awe
40. colloquial
characteristic of informal spoken language or conversation
41. sustainable
capable of being prolonged

- 42. compliant
disposed to act in accordance with someone's wishes
- 43. shrewd
marked by practical hardheaded intelligence
- 44. devious
deviating from a straight course

- 1. diabolical
showing cunning or ingenuity or wickedness
- 2. debacle
a sudden and violent collapse
- 3. dragnet
a conical fishnet dragged through the water at great depths
- 4. accomplice
a person who joins with another in carrying out some plan
- 5. abduct
take away to an undisclosed location against their will
- 6. masticate
bite and grind with the teeth
- 7. oar
an implement used to propel or steer a boat
- 8. ewe
female sheep
- 9. manifest
clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment
- 10. motley
consisting of a haphazard assortment of different kinds
- 11. taxonomy
a classification of organisms based on similarities
- 12. entail
have as a logical consequence
- 13. empathize
be understanding of
- 14. ostentation
pretentious or showy or vulgar display
- 15. grubby
thickly covered with ingrained dirt or soot
- 16. disingenuous
not straightforward or candid
- 17. iffy

- subject to accident or chance or change
18. winch
lifting device consisting of a horizontal cylinder turned by a crank on which a cable or rope winds
19. backtrack
retrace one's course
20. pique
a sudden outburst of anger
21. siphon
a tube used to move liquid from one vessel to another
22. edgy
being in a tense state
23. volte-face
a major change in attitude or principle or point of view
24. hokum
a message that seems to convey no meaning
25. onus
an onerous or difficult concern
26. uppish
(used colloquially) overly conceited or arrogant
27. insidious
working or spreading in a hidden and usually injurious way
28. flaccid
drooping without elasticity
29. abject
of the most contemptible kind
30. bleak
unpleasantly cold and damp
31. chastise
censure severely
32. disdain
lack of respect accompanied by a feeling of intense dislike
33. encumbrance
an onerous or difficult concern
34. flimsy
a thin strong lightweight translucent paper
35. grisly
shockingly repellent; inspiring horror
36. hapless
deserving or inciting pity
37. intrigue

- a crafty and involved plot to achieve your ends
38. jaded
 exhausted
39. keen
 intense or sharp
40. dainty
 something considered choice to eat
41. tarry
 leave slowly and hesitantly
42. knuckle
 a joint of a finger when the fist is closed
43. discrete
 constituting a separate entity or part
44. efface
 remove by or as if by rubbing or erasing
45. evident
 clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment
46. composure
 steadiness of mind under stress
47. embargo
 a government order imposing a trade barrier
48. interdict
 command against
49. intrepid
 invulnerable to fear or intimidation
50. importune
 beg persistently and urgently
51. destitute
 poor enough to need help from others
52. pauper
 a person who is very poor
53. evacuation
 the act of leaving a dangerous place in an orderly fashion
54. yuppie
 a young upwardly mobile professional individual
55. silo
 a cylindrical tower used for storing silage
56. demur
 politely refuse or take exception to
57. acumen
 shrewdness shown by keen insight

- 58. antebellum
belonging to a period before a war
- 59. bellicose
having or showing a ready disposition to fight
- 60. bowdlerize
edit by omitting or modifying parts considered indelicate
- 61. abjure
formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief
- 62. circumlocution
an indirect way of expressing something
- 63. ameliorate
to make better
- 64. accolade
a tangible symbol signifying approval or distinction
- 65. apprise
inform somebody of something
- 66. agile
moving quickly and lightly
- 67. clandestine
conducted with or marked by hidden aims or methods
- 68. clemency
leniency and compassion shown toward offenders
- 69. conspicuous
obvious to the eye or mind
- 70. havoc
violent and needless disturbance
- 71. jeopardy
a source of danger
- 72. exorbitant
greatly exceeding bounds of reason or moderation
- 73. fiasco
a complete failure or collapse
- 74. sap
a watery solution in the vascular system of a plant
- 75. blend
mix together different elements
- 76. exultation
the utterance of sounds expressing great joy
- 77. forthwith
without delay or hesitation; with no time intervening
- 78. fortitude

- strength of mind that enables one to endure adversity
79. jubilant
full of high-spirited delight
80. relinquish
turn away from; give up
81. redundant
more than is needed, desired, or required
82. sordid
foul and run-down and repulsive
83. sporadic
recurring in scattered or unpredictable instances
84. ruthless
without mercy or pity
85. heartfelt
earnest
86. amity
a state of friendship and cordiality
87. honorary
given as an award without the normal duties
88. excerpt
a passage selected from a larger work
89. amiable
diffusing warmth and friendliness
90. zenith
the point above the observer directly opposite the nadir
91. pinnacle
a slender upright spire at the top of a buttress of tower
92. dilemma
state of uncertainty in a choice between unfavorable options
93. paradox
a statement that contradicts itself
94. admonish
scold or reprimand; take to task
95. pilfer
make off with belongings of others
96. foe
an armed adversary
97. woe
misery resulting from affliction
98. mendicant
a pauper who lives by begging

99. importune
beg persistently and urgently
100. mull
reflect deeply on a subject

Idiomatic expressions – Line

Meanings

Line is a quite a common word in many idiomatic expressions. It has a range of meanings:

If you *drop someone a line*, you write them a letter.

The *bottom line* refers to accounts where you see the profit or loss at the bottom.

The *dotted line* is the line on which you sign your name for a contract or bill.

If you *draw a line* under something on a piece of paper you separate it from what comes before. If you *draw a line* under an experience, it means it is finished and you don't want to hear any more about it.

If you *toe the line*, you conform. In politics, you often have to toe the party line – support what the party believes. People who rock the boat are said to *step*

out of line. If something is different from other similar things, it can be *brought into line* with the others.

If your job is on the line, you are at risk of losing it. If someone is *on the line*, they are on the telephone.

Examples:

Susan says she's happy with Martin but reading *between the lines*, something's not quite right. They never seem to go out together.

This is Sarah Williams. Can I speak to Amanda Price, please?

Hold the line, please. I'll just see if she's free.

Right. Have a good journey. Good luck with the new job and everything.

Thanks. *I'll drop you a line* to let you know how I'm getting on.

I agree. Let's move the meeting to the 24th and involve the other departments.

Good. I'm pleased *we're thinking along similar lines*.

Exercises: Use the following idiomatic expressions in the sentences below:

a. *in line for*

- b. *the bottom line*
- c. *on the dotted line*
- d. *drew a line under*
- e. *out of line*

1. Make sure you read the contract in detail before you sign _____.
2. If you step _____ in this company, they get rid of you. You don't get a second chance.
3. When John's divorce came through, he _____ that episode of his life.
4. Helen's doing very well at work. In fact, I think she's _____ promotion.
5. I know you don't want to learn English but _____ is, if you want to get a better job here, you need to speak a foreign language.

c; 2. e; 3. d; 4. a; 5. b;