

UNIT 2

VOCABULARY

Vocabulary is a broad concept in itself. One can enhance one's language skills by acquiring a good command over vocabulary.

Tips and Tricks to Learn Vocabulary

- **Read a Lot of Literature and Texts**

Reading literature will help you get to know new words. Every new word you will come across should be jotted down and its meaning should be checked out in a dictionary. Knowing the meaning of the word may help you become familiar with its usage. A habit of reading is an effective way to increase your vocabulary and so it should be incorporated daily by you.

- **Find Context of New Words**

The best way to remember and memorize words is find the context they will be used in. For achieving this, sentence formulation based on these new words should be practiced both orally and in written form. learn a few new words every day and try to incorporate them into the conversations that you are going to have throughout the day. This will help you get familiar with new words and use these words while conversing.

- **Learn Synonyms and Antonyms**

Learn the synonyms and antonyms for those words. Synonyms are words that have a similar meaning to a word while antonyms have a meaning opposite to that word. Understanding the relationship between a word and its synonyms and antonyms may make the task of remembering new words easier.

- **Learn Root-words Prefixes and Suffixes**

Learning root words may help you understand the meaning of all the words that will be based on that root word. This is efficient and time-saving as instead of having to learn and cram all the words having a common root word, you will be able to focus on their root which will automatically cover the words related to or employing that root word. Knowledge of prefixes and suffixes may also help in a similar fashion in this regard. For example, all words that have 'mal' will convey a negative sense, making their meaning easier to figure out.

Example: malfunction

- **Learn Tricks and Memorization Techniques**

There are multiple tricks and memorization techniques to help you memorize words and their meanings. One such trick is associating different words by categorizing them. Picturing is another efficient technique to learn difficult words. There are plenty of games and challenges, such as Scrabble and crossword puzzles to help you memorize the new words in a fun way.

- **Find Words that Might be Related to Job Spheres**

Usually, a vocabulary test is designed and adapted to the job position or the course it is being conducted for. Test that might be related to marketing may have different words than the tests being conducted for technicians. You may prepare for vocabulary tests by targeting the words that belong to the domain or field related to the role that the test is being conducted for. Such words may have a higher chance of being asked in the test and you may save time and effort by focusing on the related domains.

- **Learn Commonly Used Words in Vocabulary Tests**

Lists of the most commonly referenced words in different vocabulary tests are available online and offline. You may check out these lists to learn those words that have a higher chance of appearing in the tests. Such lists are also available based on the domain or expertise related to the job position you may be looking for.

- **Practice Regularly**

To master any test, there is nothing better than practicing and preparing for it on a regular basis. There are many sample tests available both online and in a written format provided by various organizations. You may take part in these mock tests to be familiar

with both the structure of the test and the medium on which the test will probably be conducted. Regularly reading and writing the words and using them in conversation may help you increase your vocabulary and perform well in the test.

Synopsis of solving a Vocabulary question

Steps to enhance Vocabulary

STEP 1

Identify the word

Whenever we come across a new word in a new sentence while reading a text book, newspaper or a magazine, we should look up its meaning. This is the best way to enhance vocabulary.

STEP 2

Along with the meaning of a word, its antonyms (words with opposite meaning) should also be taken into consideration. A good knowledge of words and their antonyms is very beneficial from the examination point of view.

STEP 3

The knowledge of words that are similar or closer in meaning to one another is very useful. It makes a student efficient enough to have a strong sense of the language.

STEP 4

This is one of the most important parts in vocabulary building. It serves to simulate memory by recalling the words and when needed, apart from making the proper sense and the use of words clear.

To understand these steps, we consider an example. Suppose we take word “Antique”

Using step 1 Antique means something that is old and has not been renewed for long e.g. Antique building (old building)

Using step 2 opposite of Antique is modern . It also can be replaced by Modern, renovated and Recent, etc.

Using step 3 Synonyms are the similar words in meaning. For synonyms, Antique can be replaced by Traditional and Ancient , etc.

Using step 4 To be more familiar with the word, we should use them in sentence form. For “Antique” a proper sentence is “People love to see the antique items”

ROOT WORDS

A root word is a word or word part that can form the basis of new words through the addition of prefixes and suffixes. Understanding the meanings of common roots can help you work out the meanings of new words as you encounter them.

Many of the words we use in our daily language come from a root word. Once you pull off any prefixes or suffixes, the root is usually what remains. For example, “egotist” has a root word of “ego” plus the suffix “-ist.” “Acting” has the root word “act”; “-ing” is merely the suffix. In the examples of root words below, we’ll examine the basic (root) word as well as its additions.

Root Words That Can Stand Alone

There are some root words that can be used on their own or as part of other common words in the English language. The following root words are provided with their meaning and, in parentheses, a few examples of the root as part of other words:

- **Act:** to move or do (actor, acting, reenact)
- **Arbor:** tree (arboreal, arboretum, arborist)
- **Crypt:** to hide (apocryphal, cryptic, cryptography)
- **Ego:** “I” (egotist, egocentric, egomaniac)
- **Form:** shape (conform, formulate, reform)
- **Legal:** related to the law (illegal, legalities, paralegal)
- **Norm:** typical (abnormal, normality, paranormal)
- **Phobia:** fear (arachnophobia, claustrophobia, hygrophobia)

Root Words as Word Stems

Since much of the English language is derived from Latin and Greek, there may be times when the root of a word isn't immediately recognizable because of its origin. You'll find that the roots listed below are from Greek or Latin and can't stand alone in English; they need something joined to them to make a whole word in English. Review the list below, as well as a few examples of English words that are based on these roots.

- **Acri:** bitter (acid, acrimony, acidity)
- **Astro:** star (astronaut, astronomy, astrophysics)
- **Aud:** hear (audience, audible, audio)
- **Auto:** self (autonomy, autocrat, automatic)
- **Bene:** good (benefactor, benevolent, beneficial)
- **Carn:** flesh (carnal, carnivorous, reincarnate)
- **Corp:** body (corporal, corporate, corpse)
- **Cred:** believe (credible, credence, incredible)
- **Deca:** ten (decade, decathlon, decalogue)
- **Dict:** say (diction, dictate, edict)
- **Gen:** birth (genesis, genetics, generate)
- **Lum:** light (lumen, luminary, luminous)
- **Meter:** measure (kilometer, millimeter, pedometer)
- **Micro:** small (microbiology, microcosm, microscope)
- **Multi:** many (multilingual, multiple, multifaceted)
- **Port:** carry (portal, portable, transport)
- **Sect:** cut apart (dissect, sectional, transect)
- **Sen:** old (senator, senile, senior)
- **Sent:** to feel (consent, sensation, sensing)
- **Tele:** far (telephone, telegraph, television)
- **Vor:** to eat greedily (herbivore, omnivore, voracious)

You could argue that roots like “sent” and “sect” can also stand alone as English words, but they have different meanings in that case. For more examples, explore these Greek and Latin Word Roots.

Additional Root Word Examples

Whether talking with friends or reading a book, you're constantly bombarded with root words. Here are more examples of roots, their meanings, and other words that are formed by adding prefixes and/or suffixes to these language building blocks:

- **Ambul:** to move or walk (amble, ambulance, ambulate)
- **Cardio:** heart (cardiovascular, electrocardiogram, cardiology)
- **Cede:** to go or yield (intercede, recede, concede)
- **Counter:** against or opposite (counteract, counterpoint, counterargument)
- **Dem:** people (democracy, democrat, demographic)
- **Derm:** skin (dermatitis, dermatology, epidermis)
- **Equi:** equal (equity, equilateral, equidistant)
- **Hypno:** sleep (hypnosis, hypnotic, hypnotism)
- **Intra:** within or into (intrapersonal, intramural, intravenous)

- **Ject:** to throw (reject, eject, inject)
- **Magni:** big or great (magnificent, magnify, magnitude)
- **Mal:** bad (malignant, malfunction, malice)
- **Omni:** all (omnipotent, omnipresent, omnivore)
- **Poly:** many (polygamous, polygon, polytheist)
- **Script:** to write (manuscript, postscript, scripture)
- **Vis, vid:** to see (envision, evident, vision)

Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefixes and suffixes are grammatical “affixes” (prefixes come before the root word, and suffixes come after).

In very simplistic terms, prefixes change the meaning of words, and suffixes change their form (including plural, tense, comparative, and part of speech).

Prefixes – Change the Meaning of Words

Some of the most common prefixes are:

Prefix	Meaning	Examples
un-	not	unhappy, unsuccessful, unable
re-	again	redo, return, reappear
dis-	not, undo	disappear, disgrace, discontinue
inter-	between	International, internet, intermission
non-	not	nonsense, nonfiction, nonviolent
pre-	before	predawn, prefix, precaution
post-	after	postpone, postscript, postwar
poly-	many	polygamy, polyester, polyglot
sub-	under	subterranean, submarine, subordinate
co-	together	cooperate, collaborate, coordinate

Suffixes – Change the Form of Words

Some of the most common suffixes are:

Form	Suffix	Meaning	Examples
Noun	-age	action or process	marriage, voyage, pilgrimage
	-ence	state or quality of	violence, absence, reticence
	-ant	one who	servant, immigrant, assistant
	-arium	place for	aquarium, planetarium, auditorium
	-tion	state or quality of	starvation, inspiration, tension
	-cy	state or quality of	accuracy, bankruptcy, conspiracy
	-dom	state or quality of	freedom, boredom, wisdom
	-eer	person	engineer, puppeteer, auctioneer
	-ectomy	surgical removal of	tonsillectomy, appendectomy

	-ent	one who	superintendent, resident, regent
	-eur	one who	chauffeur, masseur
	-hood	state or quality of	childhood, falsehood, neighborhood
	-i	plural	alumni, foci, syllabi
	-ism	doctrine of	capitalism, socialism, patriotism
	-wright	one who works with	playwright, shipwright
	-ology	study of	biology, etymology, psychology
Adjective	-able	Is, can be	comfortable, durable, perishable
	-acious	inclined to be	audacious, loquacious, spacious
	-ant	inclined to be	vigilant, pleasant, defiant
	-ative	inclined to be	demonstrative, talkative, pejorative
	-ic	characteristic of	comic, poetic, historic
	-y	characteristic of	fruity, sunny, chewy
Verb	-ble	repeated action	stumble, squabble, mumble
	-ed	past tense	wanted, hated, looted
	-en	made of	strengthen, fasten, frighten
	-ify	to make	terrify, falsify, vilify
	-ize	to make	standardize, computerize, pulverize
	-ly	resembling	slowly, kindly, seriously
Adverb	-ward	direction	forward, backward, onward
	-ways	manner	sideways, crossways

SYNONYMS AND ANTONYMS

The synonyms and antonyms form an integral part of the English Language. Acquaintance with vocabulary of English language is a necessity for effective expression either in written or in the oral form.

SYNONYMS

Synonyms are the words which have a similar meaning to that of a given word.

Eg. The synonyms of the word reside is 'abode', 'dwell', 'to live' etc.

Here all the underlined words have the same meaning its context.

Synonyms can be any part of speech (Eg. Nouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, or preposition), as long as both words of the pair are the same part of speech.

Examples:

NOUN

Convenience and comfort

VERB

“buy” and “purchase”

ADJECTIVE

“sick” and “ill”

ADVERB

“quickly” and “speedily”

PREPOSITION

“on” and “upon”

Generally two types of questions are asked in the competitive exams

1. DIRECT FORMAT

In this format a word is given and out of the given four options, a word is to be selected which is the correct meaning of the given word.

e.g. Which of the given words is closest to the word written in bold letters?

i) Remote

a) Automatic

c) Mean

b) Distant

d) Savage

Ans: Remote means “located far away” and distant means far away in space or time. While ‘Automatic’ means done or occurring spontaneously, ‘Mean’ means intend to convey or refer to and ‘savage’ means cruel and vicious. So, the right synonym for Remote is ‘Distant’.

Hence, option (b) is the correct answer.

2. SENTENCE FORMAT

In this format one word of a sentence is highlighted and out of the given four options, a word is to be selected which is the correct meaning of the highlighted word.

e.g. Which of the given words have the same meaning to the words written in the capital letters?

i) A person gets **WEAK** mobile signal in remote area.

a) Fluctuating

c) Falling

b) Low

d) Distant

Ans (c) In this sentence 'WEAK' is used as 'low' mobile signal. While 'Fluctuating' (rise and fall), 'Falling' (drop down) and 'Distant' (far away) shows different nature in its meaning.

Hence option (c) is correct answer.

ANTONYMS

An antonym is a word that is directly opposite in meaning to a given word.

e.g.

The word 'close' has its antonym as 'Open'

Here, both the words are opposite in meaning to each other.

Antonyms are also asked on Direct and Indirect format based

1. DIRECT FORMAT

In this format a word is given and out of the given four options, a word is to be selected which is opposite in meaning to the given word.

e.g. Which of the given words is opposite in meaning to the word written in bold letters?

- **Dead**

a) Moving

c) Alive

b) Life

d) Decease

Ans: Dead means **no longer alive**. To find antonym of dead. We have to consider its opposite meaning i.e. not dead or living. Alive means living or not dead. So, option (c) is the correct answer

2. SENTENCE FORMAT

In this format one word of a sentence is highlighted or underlined and out of the given four options a word is to be selected which is opposite in meaning to that of the highlighted word.

e.g. Which of the given words is the antonym of the word written in capital and bold letters?

- Police took away the **DEAD** bodies from here.

- a) Decease c) Moving
- b) Life d) Alive

Ans (d) Answer is D

Most Commonly Asked Synonyms Questions in Competitive Exams

Here are few most expected and most commonly asked Synonyms Questions and Answers.

Words	Synonyms
Abandon	Leave, forsake.
Abettor	Accomplice
Abnegation	Denial
Abridge	Shorten, curtail.
Abundant	Plentiful.
Behaviour	Demeanour
Bereft	Deprived
Bias	Predilection
Brutal	Savage, cruel.
Callous	Hard, cruel.
Calm	Quiet, tranquil.
Carouse	Frolic
Casual	Uncertain
Crescendo	Escalation
Crusade	Campaign

Cupidity	Greed
Damage	Loss, harm, injury.
Decorate	Adorn, embellish.
Deformity	Malformation, disfigurement.
Earnest	Serious, solemn.
Embargo	Barrier
Emergency	Exigency
Esoteric	Abstruse
Eternal	Forever
Exceptional	Unusual, rare.
Fascinate	Charm, enchant.
Ferocious	Fierce, savage.
Fiendish	Cruel
Genuine	Real.
Genre	Category
Gigantic	Colossal, great.
Guilt	Sin, crime.
Guzzle	Imbibe
Haughty	Arrogant, proud.
Hazardous	Dangerous, risky, perilous.
Humility	Modesty, politeness.
Illiterate	Unlearned, ignorant.
Imperious	Authoritative, dictatorial.
Impertinent	Impudent, insolent, shameless.
Incinerate	Ignite
Jaded	Tired
Jolly	Jovial, merry.
Judicious	Discreet, prudent.
Knavery	Fraud
Laborious	Assiduous, industrious.
Laconic	Concise

Lament	Grieve, mourn.
Lethargy	Sluggishness
Maestro	Genius
Magnificent	Splendid, grand.
Marvellous	Wonderful
Meagre	Small.
Multitude	Mass, Assembly, Gathering
Nauseous	Loathsome
Nice	Pleasant, agreeable.
Notable	Remarkable, memorable.
Notorious	Infamous.
Obliterate	Destroy, efface.
Obsolete	Antiquated.
Ominous	Threatening
Opportune	Timely
Oracular	Cryptic
Pal	Buddy
Pandemonium	Chaos
Pensive	Thoughtful.
Perennial	Permanent, perpetual.
Persuade	Induce, urge.
Profligate	Immoral
Quaint	Queer, odd, singular.
Queer	Strange, odd.
Questionable	Doubtful.
Radiant	Bright, brilliant.
Rational	Logical
Refined	Elegant.
Rejoice	Delight.
Reville	Abuse
Ruck	Mass, Pile, Heap

Sacred	Holy, consecrated, pious.
Satiate	Satisfy.
Scanty	Slender, meagre.
Splayed	Spread
Synopsis	Summary
Talkative	Garrulous
Temerity	Boldness
Temperate	Moderate.
Thankful	Grateful, obliged.
Ugly	Repulsive
Urbane	Polite, courteous, suave.
Urge	Press, incite.
Vacillatge	Waver
Venerable	Respectable
Verbatim	Exactly
Vigilance	Watchfulness
Wealthy	Rich
Wickedness	Evil.
Wild	Savage.
Yield	Surrender.
Yielding	Submissive.
Zeal	Passion.
Zenith	Top, summit.

Most Commonly Asked Antonyms Questions in Competitive Exams

Here are the most expected and commonly asked Antonyms Questions and Answers. Practice them and be exam ready.

Word	Antonym
Acumen	Stupidity, Ignorance
Abash	Uphold, Discompose
Abortive	Productive

Adjunct	Separated, Subtracted
Ascend	Climb Escalate
Axiom	Absurdity, Blunder
Bleak	Bright, Pleasant
Barrier	Link, Assistance
Bleak	Bright, Cheerful
Calamity	Fortune
Comprise	Reject, lack
Contradict	Approve, Confirm
Carnal	Spiritual
Clandestine	Open, Legal
Conceit	Modesty
Consolidate	Weaken
Deceit	Veracity, Sincerity
Deprive	Restore, Renew
Docile	Headstrong, obstinate
Eclipse	Shine, eclipse
Endeavour	Cease, quit
Fabricate	Destroy, Dismantle
Feud	Harmony, fraternity
Frivolous	Solemn, significant
Gracious	Rude, Unforgiving
Glory	Shame, Disgrace
Hideous	Attractive, alluring
Impenitent	Repentant
Infernal	Heavenly
Immunity	Blame, Censure
Infringe	Comply, Concur
Jaded	Renewed, recreated
Justify	Impute, arraign
Knell	Reconstruction, rediscovery

Linger	Hasten, quicken
Mandatory	Optional
Molest	Console, soothe
Nimble	Sluggish, languid
Obstruct	Hasten, encourage
Ominous	Auspicious
Pacify	Irritate, worsen
Precarious	Assured
Restrain	Incite
Remonstrate	Agree, loud
Sacred	Ungodly, Profane
System	Chaos, Disorder
Solicit	Protest oppose
Throng	Dispersion, sparsity
Thrifty	Extravagant
Urchin	Creep, Knave
Veteran	Novice, tyro
Wan	Bright, healthy
Wile	Naivety, honour
Yearn	Content, satisfy
Zeal	Apathy, lethargy
Zest	Disgust, passive

List of Most common Words

(VOCABULARY)

Nudged (Verb) –

Definition: touch or push (something) gently or gradually.

Synonyms: touch, bump (against), push (against), run into

Antonyms: discourage, pull, repress

Usage: the canoe nudged a bank of reeds

2. Explicitly (Adverb) –

Definition: in a clear and detailed manner, leaving no room for confusion or doubt.

Synonyms: specially, decidedly, surprisingly.

Antonyms: normally, usually, commonly.

Usage: the essay should state explicitly how the facts support the thesis

3. Supersede (Verb) –

Definition: take the place of (a person or thing previously in authority or use); supplant.

Synonyms: replace, supplant, take the place of, take over from, substitute for, displace, oust, overthrow

Antonyms: keep, stay, accept.

Usage: the older models of car have now been superseded

4. Turbulence (Noun) –

Definition: violent or unsteady movement of air or water, or of some other fluid.

Antonym: Peace, Serenity, Quenching

Synonym: Upheaval, turbulency, turbulences

Example: Sienna's year has been marked by violent or overwhelming turbulence.

5. Deployed (Verb) –

Meaning: move (troops or equipment) into position for military action.

Synonyms: position, station, post, place, install, locate

Antonyms: concentrate

Usage: "Profiting from a mutiny, the rebel forces deployed their troops rapidly and cut the country virtually in two."

6. Outrageous (Adjective) –

Meaning: shockingly bad or excessive.

Synonyms: shocking, disgraceful, scandalous

Antonyms: acceptable, mild, moderate

Usage: "There had to be a reason why he lost control and watched helplessly as his own body committed such an outrageous act."

7. Dispensation (Noun)

Meaning: exemption from a rule or usual requirement.

Synonyms: exemption, immunity, exception

Antonyms: responsibility, liability, obligation

Usage: "The political dispensation to follow will be either stable or colonial, but not both."

8. Reviled (Verb) –

Meaning: criticize in an abusive or angrily insulting manner.

Synonyms: criticize, censure, condemn

Antonyms: praise, extol, approve

Usage: "People who are creative, who invent and discover new ways are reviled."

9. Connivance (Noun) –

Meaning: Willingness to secretly allow or be involved in wrongdoing, especially an immoral or illegal act.

Synonyms: collusion, complicity, collaboration

Antonyms: assistance, abetment, aid

Usage: "The culmination of this is the present unfolding catastrophe, which required the moral connivance, in one way or another, of nearly every sector of civil society."

10. Rampage (Noun) –

Meaning: A period of violent and uncontrollable behaviour, typically involving a large group of people.

Synonyms: berserk, out of control, wild, bonkers

Antonyms: calmness, delight, pleasure, amusement

Usage: "Hamer residents say they are living in fear after gangs went on the rampage and vandalised cars."

11. Ransacked (Verb) –

Meaning: Go hurriedly through (a place) stealing things and causing damage.

Synonyms: plunder, pillage, steal from

Antonyms: cleaned, found, gave

Usage: "It's unusual for someone to strike like this during the day and to ransack the place in such a disturbing way."

12. Detained (Verb) –

Meaning: Keep (someone) in official custody, typically for questioning about a crime or in politically sensitive situations.

Synonyms: delay, hold up, make late

Antonyms: freed, lost, released

Usage: "If people are unlawfully detained, they have a right to be free?"

13. Congregated (Verb) –

Meaning: gather into a crowd or mass.

Synonyms: assemble, gather, collect, accumulate, gather

Antonyms: disperse, scatter, dissolve, diffuse

Usage: "As she neared the Village Square, she saw a crowd of people congregated there."

14. Assertions (Noun) –

Meaning: a confident and forceful statement of fact or belief.

Synonyms: declaration, contention, statement, speech, contention, account

Antonyms: disavowals, denial, desertion, repudiations, renunciation, abandonment

Usage: "Imposing such a ban requires far more compelling logic than the assertion that we should not play God."

15. Accorded (Verb) –

Meaning: give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition).

Synonyms: give, grant, tender, stretch, allowance, kind-hearted

Antonyms: withhold, remove, refuse, confiscate

Usage: "Sand back has never received the recognition accorded his minimalist peers."

16. Creeping (Verb)

Meaning: move slowly and carefully in order to avoid being heard or noticed.

Synonyms: crawl, move on all fours, move on hands and knees, Crawling, Slithering, Scrambling

Antonyms: barrelling, bolting, breakneck, fastening, quick

Usage: "She carefully crept around them and made her way to Fiona."

17. Expertise (Noun)

Meaning: expert skill or knowledge in a particular field.

Synonyms: skill, skilfulness, expertness, ability, astuteness

Antonyms: incompetence, ineffectiveness, ineptitude, uselessness

Usage: "Each member casts a ballot for the category of competition in their field of expertise."

18. Overdue (Adjective) –

Meaning: not having arrived, happened, or been done by the expected time.

Synonyms: late, not on time, behind, schedule

Antonyms: early, punctual, on time

Usage: "All I'm saying is that we're 7 years overdue for skinny ties and narrow lapels."

19. Devastated (Verb) –

Meaning: destroy or ruin.

Synonyms: destroy, ruin, leave in ruins

Antonyms: fixed, repaired, sober

Usage: "the city was devastated by a huge earthquake"

20. Evacuation (Noun)

Meaning: the action of evacuating a person or a place.

Synonyms: removal, clearance, shifting

Antonyms: retention, holding, preservation, withholding

Usage: "there were waves of evacuation during the blitz"

SOME MORE COMMONLY USED WORDS

aberration

(*n.*) something that differs from the norm (In 1974, Poland won the World Cup, but the success turned out to be an *aberration*, and Poland have not won a World Cup since).

abhor

(*v.*) to hate, detest (Because he always wound up getting hit in the head when he tried to play cricket, Marcin began to *abhor* the sport).

acquiesce

(*v.*) to agree without protesting (Though Mr. Pospieszny wanted to stay outside and work in his garage, when his wife told him that he had better come in to dinner, he *acquiesced* to her demands.)

alacrity

(*n.*) eagerness, speed (For some reason, Simon loved to help his girlfriend whenever he could, so when his girlfriend asked him to set the table he did so with *alacrity*.)

amiable

(*adj.*) friendly (An *amiable* fellow, Neil got along with just about everyone.)

appease

(*v.*) to calm, satisfy (When Jerry cries, his mother gives him chocolate to *appease* him.)

arcane

(*adj.*) obscure, secret, known only by a few (The professor is an expert in *arcane* Kashubian literature.)

avarice

(*n.*) excessive greed (The banker's *avarice* led him to amass an enormous personal fortune.)

brazen

(*adj.*) excessively bold, brash, clear and obvious (Critics condemned the writer's *brazen* attempt to plagiarise Frankow-Czerwonko's work.)

brusque

(*adj.*) short, abrupt, dismissive (Simon's *brusque* manner sometimes offends his colleagues.)

cajole

(*v.*) to urge, coax (Magda's friends *cajoled* her into drinking too much.)

callous

(*adj.*) harsh, cold, unfeeling (The murderer's *callous* lack of remorse shocked the jury.)

candor

(*n.*) honesty, frankness (We were surprised by the *candor* of the politician's speech because she is usually rather evasive.)

chide

(*v.*) to voice disapproval (Hania *chided* Gregory for his vulgar habits and sloppy appearance.)

circumspect

(*adj.*) cautious (Though I promised Marta's father I would bring her home promptly by midnight, it would have been more *circumspect* not to have specified a time.)

clandestine

(*adj.*) secret (Announcing to her boyfriend that she was going to the library, Maria actually went to meet George for a *clandestine* liaison.)

coerce

(*v.*) to make somebody do something by force or threat (The court decided that David

Beckham did not have to honor the contract because he had been *coerced* into signing it.)

coherent

(*adj.*) logically consistent, intelligible (William could not figure out what Harold had seen because he was too distraught to deliver a *coherent* statement.)

complacency

(*n.*) self-satisfied ignorance of danger (Simon tried to shock his friends out of their *complacency* by painting a frightening picture of what might happen to them.)

confidant

(*n.*) a person entrusted with secrets (Shortly after we met, he became my chief *confidant*.)

connive

(*v.*) to plot, scheme (She *connived* to get me to give up my plans to start up a new business.)

cumulative

(*adj.*) increasing, building upon itself (The *cumulative* effect of hours spent using the World English website was a vast improvement in his vocabulary and general level of English.)

debase

(*v.*) to lower the quality or esteem of something (The large raise that he gave himself *debased* his motives for running the charity.)

decry

(*v.*) to criticize openly (Andrzej Lepper, the leader of the Polish Self Defence party *decried* the appalling state of Polish roads.)

deferential

(*adj.*) showing respect for another's authority (Donata is always excessively *deferential* to any kind of authority figure.)

demure

(*adj.*) quiet, modest, reserved (Though everyone else at the party was dancing and going crazy, she remained *demure*.)

deride

(*v.*) to laugh at mockingly, scorn (The native speaker often *derided* the other teacher's accent.)

despot

(*n.*) one who has total power and rules brutally (The *despot* issued a death sentence for anyone who disobeyed his laws.)

diligent

(*adj.*) showing care in doing one's work (The *diligent* researcher made sure to double check her measurements.)

elated

(*adj.*) overjoyed, thrilled (When he found out he had won the lottery, the postman was *elated*.)

eloquent

(*adj.*) expressive, articulate, moving (The best man gave such an *eloquent* speech that most guests were crying.)

embezzle

(*v.*) to steal money by falsifying records (The accountant was fired for *embezzling* €10,000 of the company's funds.)

empathy

(*n.*) sensitivity to another's feelings as if they were one's own (I feel such *empathy* for my dog when she's upset so am I!)

enmity

(*n.*) ill will, hatred, hostility (John and Scott have clearly not forgiven each other, because the *enmity* between them is obvious to anyone in their presence.)

erudite

(*adj.*) learned (My English teacher is such an *erudite* scholar that he has translated some of

the most difficult and abstruse Old English poetry.)

extol

(v.) to praise, revere (Kamila *extolled* the virtues of a vegetarian diet to her meat-loving boyfriend.)

fabricate

(v.) to make up, invent (When I arrived an hour late to class, I *fabricated* some excuse about my car breaking down on the way to work.)

feral

(adj.) wild, savage (That beast looks so *feral* that I would fear being alone with it.)

flabbergasted

(adj.) astounded (Whenever I read an Agatha Christie mystery novel, I am always *flabbergasted* when I learn the identity of the murderer.)

forsake

(v.) to give up, renounce (I won't *forsake* my conservative principles.)

fractious

(adj.) troublesome or irritable (Although the child insisted he wasn't tired, his *fractious* behaviour - especially his decision to crush his jam sandwiches all over the floor - convinced everyone present that it was time to put him to bed.)

furtive

(adj.) secretive, sly (Claudia's placement of her drugs in her sock drawer was not as *furtive* as she thought, as the sock drawer is the first place most parents look.)

gluttony

(n.) overindulgence in food or drink (Helen's fried chicken tastes so divine, I don't know how anyone can call *gluttony* a sin.)

gratuitous

(adj.) uncalled for, unwarranted (Every evening the guy at the fish and chip shop gives me a *gratuitous* helping of vinegar.)

haughty

(adj.) disdainfully proud (The superstar's *haughty* dismissal of her co-stars will backfire on her someday.)

hypocrisy

(n.) pretending to believe what one does not (Once the politician began passing legislation that contradicted his campaign promises, his *hypocrisy* became apparent.)

impeccable

(adj.) exemplary, flawless (If your grades were as *impeccable* as your brother's, then you too would receive a car for a graduation present.)

impertinent

(adj.) rude, insolent (Most of your comments are so *impertinent* that I don't wish to dignify them with an answer.)

implacable

(adj.) incapable of being appeased or mitigated (Watch out: once you shun Grandmother's cooking, she is totally *implacable*.)

impudent

(adj.) casually rude, insolent, impertinent (The *impudent* young woman looked her teacher up and down and told him he was hot.)

incisive

(adj.) clear, sharp, direct (The discussion wasn't going anywhere until her *incisive* comment allowed everyone to see what the true issues were.)

indolent

(adj.) lazy (Why should my *indolent* children, who can't even pick themselves up off the sofa to pour their own juice, be rewarded with a trip to Burger King?)

inept

(*adj.*) not suitable or capable, unqualified (She proved how *inept* she was when she forgot two orders and spilled a pint of cider in a customer's lap.)

infamy

(*n.*) notoriety, extreme ill repute (The *infamy* of his crime will not lessen as time passes.)

inhibit

(*v.*) to prevent, restrain, stop (When I told you I needed the car last night, I certainly never meant to *inhibit* you from going out.)

innate

(*adj.*) inborn, native, inherent (His incredible athletic talent is *innate*, he never trains, lifts weights, or practices.)

insatiable

(*adj.*) incapable of being satisfied (My *insatiable* appetite for blondes was a real problem on my recent holiday in Japan!)

insular

(*adj.*) separated and narrow-minded; tight-knit, closed off (Because of the sensitive nature of their jobs, those who work for MI5 must remain *insular* and generally only spend time with each other.)

intrepid

(*adj.*) brave in the face of danger (After scaling a live volcano prior to its eruption, the explorer was praised for his *intrepid* attitude.)

inveterate

(*adj.*) stubbornly established by habit (I'm the first to admit that I'm an *inveterate* cider drinker—I drink four pints a day.)

jubilant

(*adj.*) extremely joyful, happy (The crowd was *jubilant* when the firefighter carried the woman from the flaming building.)

knell

(*n.*) the solemn sound of a bell, often indicating a death (Echoing throughout our village, the funeral *knell* made the grey day even more grim.)

lithe

(*adj.*) graceful, flexible, supple (Although the dancers were all outstanding, Joanna's control of her *lithe* body was particularly impressive.)

lurid

(*adj.*) ghastly, sensational (Barry's story, in which he described a character torturing his neighbour's tortoise, was judged too *lurid* to be published on the English Library's website.)

maverick

(*n.*) an independent, nonconformist person (John is a real *maverick* and always does things his own way.)

maxim

(*n.*) a common saying expressing a principle of conduct (Ms. Stone's etiquette *maxims* are both entertaining and instructional.)

meticulous

(*adj.*) extremely careful with details (The ornate needlework in the bride's gown was a product of *meticulous* handiwork.)

modicum

(*n.*) a small amount of something (Refusing to display even a *modicum* of sensitivity, Magda announced her boss's affair to the entire office.)

morose

(*adj.*) gloomy or sullen (David's *morose* nature made him very unpleasant to talk to.)

myriad

(*adj.*) consisting of a very great number (It was difficult to decide what to do on Saturday night because the city presented us with *myriad* possibilities for fun.)

nadir

(*n.*) the lowest point of something (My day was boring, but the *nadir* came when my new car was stolen.)

nominal

(*adj.*) trifling, insignificant (Because he was moving the following week and needed to get rid of his furniture more than he needed money, Kim sold everything for a *nominal* price.)

novice

(*n.*) a beginner, someone without training or experience (Because we were all *novices* at archery, our instructor decided to begin with the basics)

nuance

(*n.*) a slight variation in meaning, tone, expression (The *nuances* of the poem were not obvious to the casual reader, but the teacher was able to point them out.)

oblivious

(*adj.*) lacking consciousness or awareness of something (*Oblivious* to the burning smell emanating from the kitchen, my father did not notice that the rolls in the oven were burned until much too late.)

obsequious

(*adj.*) excessively compliant or submissive (Donald acted like Susan's servant, obeying her every request in an *obsequious* manner.)

obtuse

(*adj.*) lacking quickness of sensibility or intellect (Political opponents warned that the prime minister's *obtuse* approach to foreign policy would embroil the nation in mindless war.)

panacea

(*n.*) a remedy for all ills or difficulties (Doctors wish there was a single *panacea* for every disease, but sadly there is not.)

parody

(*n.*) a satirical imitation (A hush fell over the classroom when the teacher returned to find Magdalena acting out a *parody* of his teaching style.)

penchant

(*n.*) a tendency, partiality, preference (Fiona's dinner parties quickly became monotonous on account of her *penchant* for Indian dishes.)

perusal

(*n.*) a careful examination, review (The actor agreed to accept the role after a three-month *perusal* of the movie script.)

plethora

(*n.*) an abundance, excess (The wedding banquet included a *plethora* of oysters piled almost three feet high.)

predilection

(*n.*) a preference or inclination for something (James has a *predilection* for eating toad in the whole with tomato ketchup.)

quaint

(*adj.*) charmingly old-fashioned (Mary was delighted by the *quaint* bonnets she saw in Romania.)

rash

(*adj.*) hasty, incautious (It's best to think things over calmly and thoroughly, rather than make *rash* decisions.)

refurbish

(*v.*) to restore, clean up (After being *refurbished* the old Triumph motorcycle commanded the handsome price of \$6000.)

repudiate

(*v.*) to reject, refuse to accept (Tom made a strong case for an extension of his curfew, but his mother *repudiated* it with a few biting words.)

rife

(*adj.*) abundant (Surprisingly, the teacher's writing was *rife* with spelling errors.)

salient

(*adj.*) significant, conspicuous (One of the *salient* differences between Alison and Helen is that Alison is a couple of kilos heavier.)

serendipity

(*n.*) luck, finding good things without looking for them (In an amazing bit of *serendipity*, penniless Mark found a \$50 bill on the back seat of the bus.)

staid

(*adj.*) sedate, serious, self-restrained (The *staid* butler never changed his expression no matter what happened.)

superfluous

(*adj.*) exceeding what is necessary (Samantha had already won the campaign so her constant flattery of others was *superfluous*.)

sycophant

(*n.*) one who flatters for self-gain (Some see the people in the cabinet as the Prime Minister's closest advisors, but others see them as *sycophants*.)

taciturn

(*adj.*) not inclined to talk (Though Magda never seems to stop talking, her brother is quite *taciturn*.)

truculent

(*adj.*) ready to fight, cruel (This club doesn't really attract the dangerous types, so why was that bouncer being so *truculent*?)

umbrage

(*n.*) resentment, offence (He called me a lily-livered coward, and I took *umbrage* at the insult.)

venerable

(*adj.*) deserving of respect because of age or achievement (The *venerable* High Court judge had made several key rulings in landmark cases throughout the years.)

vex

(*v.*) to confuse or annoy (My boyfriend *vexes* me by pinching my bottom for hours on end.)

vociferous

(*adj.*) loud, boisterous (I'm tired of his *vociferous* whining so I'm breaking up with him.)

wanton

(*adj.*) undisciplined, lewd, lustful (Joanna's *wanton* demeanor often made the frat guys next door very excited.)

zenith

(*n.*) the highest point, culminating point (I was too nice to tell Emily that she had reached the absolute *zenith* of her career with that one top 10 hit of hers.)

Exercise-1

i) Add the correct prefix to the front of each base word to make a new word.

1) dis- , non- , un-

i) honest

ii) stop

iii) ripe

iv) pleasant

ii) _____

ii) _____

iii) _____

iv) _____

ii) Add the correct suffix to make a new word

1) -Able, -ment, -ness

i) Depent

ii) amaze

iii) manage

iv) soft

EXERCISE 2

1. The government has _____ smoking in public places. (**PREVENTED / BANNED / AVOIDED / STOPPED**).

2. The police _____ the man because he was behaving suspiciously. (**ARRESTED / SENTENCED / CHARGED / CONVICTED**).

3. My mother _____ me for breaking the window. (**ACCUSED / COMPLAINED / CHARGED / BLAMED**)

4. You have to find a good _____ for being late, otherwise they won't believe you. (**CAUSE / RESULT / EXCUSE / AIM**)

5. The _____ of the meeting is to improve relationships between the two companies. (**PURPOSE / SENSE / REASON / CAUSE**)

6. The child was _____ by a dangerous dog and taken to the hospital. (**KNOCKED / ATTACKED / BLOWN / BEAT**).

7. Tourists from all over the world come to London to hear Big Ben _____ midnight. (**BLOW / BEAT / HIT / STRIKE**)

8. The bank robbers were able to _____ through the back door. (**ESCAPE / CHASE / LEAK / CATCH**)

9. The teacher is constantly _____ me although I always put my hand up. (**IGNORING / REGARDING / ATTENDING / NOTICING**)

10. My girlfriend wants to _____ a career in engineering (**PRACTICE / PURSUE / TAKE / CHASE**)

11. I have never _____ during a test, but other students have tried it. (**CHEATED / BETRAYED / TRICKED / FAKED**)

12. When I get home from my holiday, I want to _____ about the bad hotel service. (**OBJECT / PRAISE / STRIKE / COMPLAIN**)

13. She tried to _____ him from doing something really dangerous, but he didn't listen. (**AVOID / CHECK / BLOCK / PREVENT**)

14. The murderer was _____ to five years in prison. (**CHARGED / JUDGED / SENTENCED / PUNISHED**)

15. The press conference was a _____ because the reporters didn't learn anything new. (**DISSATISFACTION / REGRET / DISCONTENT / DISAPPOINTMENT**)

EXERCISE 3

Directions (1-4): In each of the following questions five options are given, of which one word is most nearly the same or opposite in meaning to the given word in the question. Find the correct option having either same or opposite meaning.

Q1. REPERCUSSION

- (a) Reliant
- (b) Consequence
- (c) Impertinence
- (d) Prompting
- (e) Callous

Q2. MASQUERADE

- (a) Contentious
- (b) Pretense
- (c) Belligerent
- (d) Arrogant
- (e) Reminiscent

Q3. Wither

- (a) Ingenious
- (b) Gnawed
- (c) Persistent
- (d) Thrive
- (e) Reverie

Q4. REPROBATE

- (a) Repudiate
- (b) Strident
- (c) Virtuous
- (d) Flagrant
- (e) Stoic

Directions (5 – 9): In the following questions, four words are given, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of the words which are either synonyms or antonyms of each other. If no such pair is formed, mark option (e) i.e., “none of these” as your answer choice.

Q5. (i) conclusion
(ii) paradox
(iii) discrepancy
(iv) pragmatic

- (a) only (i) – (iv)
- (b) only (i) – (iii)
- (c) only (ii) – (iii)
- (d) only (i) – (ii)
- (e) none of these

Q6. (i) declaration
(ii) modicum
(iii) laxity
(iv) surveillance

- (a) only (iii) – (iv)
- (b) only (i) – (iii)
- (c) only (ii) – (iii)
- (d) only (i) – (ii)
- (e) none of these

Q7. (i) historical
(ii) tussle
(iii) cumbrous
(iv) combat

- (a) only (iii) – (iv)
- (b) only (i) – (iii)
- (c) only (ii) – (iv)
- (d) only (i) – (ii)
- (e) none of these

Q8. (i) prudent
(ii) crucial
(iii) fluid
(iv) reckless

- (a) only (ii) – (iii)
- (b) only (i) – (iii)
- (c) only (ii) – (iv)
- (d) only (i) – (iv)
- (e) none of these

Q9. (i) itinerant

- (ii) nomads
- (iii) eradication
- (iv) penchant

- (a) only (i) – (ii)
- (b) only (ii) – (iii)
- (c) only (ii) – (iv)
- (d) only (i) – (iv)
- (e) none of these

Directions (10-11): In the following questions, five words are given, choose the most suitable alternative reflecting the combination of word(s) similar in meaning with each other.

Q10.

- (I) Guise
- (II) Staple
- (III) Wean
- (IV) Affliction
- (V) Torment

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) III and IV
- (d) IV and V
- (e) I, III and IV

Q11.

- (I) Abstention
- (II) Reverence
- (III) Travesty
- (IV) Veneration
- (V) homage

- (a) I and II
- (b) II and III
- (c) II, IV and V
- (d) I, II and V
- (e) I, III and IV

Directions (12-15): Choose the word/group of words which is most **SIMILAR** in meaning to the word/group of words printed in bold as used in passage.

Q12. Impromptu

- (a) extempore
- (b) enticing
- (c) rapturous
- (d) entralling
- (e) enamouring

Q13. Peculiar

- (a) intuitive
- (b) winsome
- (c) queer
- (d) imperious
- (e) inciting

Q14. Dire

- (a) devour
- (b) revoke
- (c) unprecedented
- (d) appalling
- (e) extraneous

Q15. Tapering off

- (a) tenable
- (b) Abate
- (c) ameliorate
- (d) repudiate
- (e) inundate

EXERCISE 4

I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words.

1. population growth in less developed countries is widely regarded as a major obstacle to their material progress and a major global economic and political problem.

- A)** Timely
- B)** Hasty
- C)** Leisurely
- D)** Rapid

E) Retarded

2. The recent rapid increase in population in less developed countries reflects a fall in mortality.

A) steep

B) superficial

C) shrewd

D) tight

E) tame

3. Thomas Malthus predicted in the late 18th century that world population would inevitably rise above the ability of the land to nourish it, and that the result would be mass and war.

A) controversy

B) avoidance

C) starvation

D) pollution

E) sarcasm

4. The population problem has global , but action to cope with it is mainly a national responsibility.

A) penalties

B) attitudes

C) diameters

D) legends

E) dimensions

5. Providing structures, facilities and services, and coping with unemployment, pollution, congestion, crime and social alienation are formidable

A) treasures

B) triumphs

C) festivities

D) challenges

E) satisfactions

6. The Ministry of Agriculture experts cannot when the new technology will arrive or how it will affect international commerce in foodstuffs.

- A) predict
- B) combat
- C) delay
- D) admit
- E) offend

7. In the last 40 years alone, modern farming methods have or even tripled yields per land unit for major food grains such as wheat, rice and corn.

- A) aroused
- B) multiplied
- C) quadrupled
- D) doubled
- E) saluted

8. To many people in industrialized countries, with their incomparably more populations, food is

something that comes from the supermarket; agriculture is a dusty and mysterious process of interest only to a group of people known as farmers.

- A) affluent
- B) impoverished
- C) imperfect
- D) inferior
- E) modest

9. In some cases the more prosperous groups have been relatively recent immigrants, who mostly came in empty-handed but were , ambitious, energetic, and resourceful.

- A) tangible
- B) industrious
- C) exaggerated

D) talkative

E) feeble

10. Another development has been the scientific technological industrial revolution which has since World War II social and environmental so rapidly that many persons have lost their traditional role in society.

A) settlements

B) impressions

C) penetrations

D) prayers

E) conditions

11. Biology has much to tell us about our nature and our origins -- though, admittedly, not too much about the reasons for our

A) occurrence

B) guaranties

C) existence

D) contentment

E) unwillingness

12. This is legitimate investigation of reproductive biology, indispensable for birth control on the one hand and treatment of infertility on the other, with a more possibility that it can contribute to efforts to prevent genetic defects.

A) ancestral

B) insane

C) exhaustible

D) remote

E) hysterical

13. To shy back in from knowledge when we are at the threshold of knowing so much more would, in

my view, be tragic.

A) fear

B) toil

- C) sweat**
- D) joy**
- E) temper**

14. Evolution, along with other theories and discoveries in biology, seems to the materialist position.

- A) humiliate**
- B) accumulate**
- C) degrade**
- D) reinforce**
- E) suffocate**

15. The building blocks of living molecules have been produced in the laboratory by subjecting materials to the simulated conditions presumed to have existed in the earth's early atmosphere.

- A) shabby**
- B) inanimate**
- C) false**
- D) convertible**
- E) ventilated**

16. Chemical companies are speculating that the next of chemicals will come, not from petroleum, but from genetically engineered plants.

- A) contractions**
- B) contamination**
- C) generation**
- D) confrontation**
- E) shortage**

17. The days when the farmer produced almost everything the farm needed from potatoes to pork, kept what was and sold the rest, are long gone.

- A) necessary**

- B) necessarily**
- C) needy**
- D) necessity**
- E) needless**

18. Even with the recent succession of better-than-average harvests, world food reserves today only 19 percent of annual world consumption.

- A) mediate**
- B) purchase**
- C) frustrate**
- D) cancel**
- E) equal**

19. Developing countries are becoming increasingly on food imports from two countries – the United States and Canada.

- A) negligible**
- B) conventional**
- C) impartial**
- D) dependent**
- E) near-sighted**

20. Present and foreseeable increases in world population will call for increases in materials and energy unlikely to be if present practices, policies and lifestyles persist.

- A) conceived**
- B) concealed**
- C) met**
- D) trusted**
- E) convinced**

EXERCISE 5

Match each word with its definition.

1. agitated _____
2. agile _____
3. recapitulation _____
4. precedent _____
5. unprecedented _____
6. recurrent _____
7. alienate _____
8. concise _____
9. decapitation _____
10. degradation _____

- A. well-coordinated and quick movement or thought
- B. to make indifferent, unfriendly, or withdrawn
- C. happening again and again over a period of time
- D. covering much in few words; brief; to the point
- E. a previous act (decision) taken as a valid model
- F. a brief repetition made in order to remind
- G. a major reduction in social status or moral character
- H. to be busy/inactive/nervous or upset
- I. breaking old records
- J. to cut off the head

