

Percentile Classes

Selected Synonyms and Antonyms (with Usage)

The **Synonyms and Antonyms** form an important part of the CAT Verbal ability section. This is because acquaintance with the vocabulary of the English language is a necessity for managerial effective expression either in the written or in the oral form.

SYNONYMS

Synonyms (in ancient Greek 'syn' means 'plus' and 'onoma' means 'name'), is nothing but the similar meaning of a particular word or its semantic relation. An example of synonyms is the words *cat* and *feline*, each describes any member of the family *Felidae*. Similarly, if we talk about a *long time* or an *extended time*, *long* and *extended* become synonyms.

Synonyms can be nouns, adverbs or adjectives, as long as both members of the pair are the same **Parts of Speech**. More examples of English synonyms:

- *baby* and *infant* (noun)
- *student* and *pupil* (noun)
- *pretty* and *attractive* (adjective)
- *sick* and *ill* (adjective)
- *interesting* and *fascinating* (adjective)
- *quickly* and *speedily* (adverb)

ANTONYMS

Antonyms come from the combination of Greek word '*an*' meaning 'opposite' and '*onoma*' meaning 'name'. Thus, antonyms are the negative connotation of a particular word in the same language. These are the word pairs that are opposite in meaning, such as *hot* and *cold*, *fat* and *thin*, and *up* and *down*. Words may have different antonyms, depending on the meaning. Both *long* and *tall* are antonyms of *short*.

Antonyms are also formed by adding a prefix. The following prefixes are used to give adjectives (and some verbs and nouns) a negative meaning: **un-**, **dis-**, **in-**, **il-** (before i), **im-** (before m, p, b), **ir-** (before r), **non-**, **de-**.

Un-

lucky	-	unlucky	educated	-	uneducated
healthy	-	unhealthy	comfortable	-	uncomfortable
necessary	-	unnecessary	lock	-	unlock
clear	-	unclear	dress	-	undress

Dis-

loyal	-	disloyal	please	-	displease
honest	-	dishonest	respect	-	disrespect
similar	-	dissimilar	connect	-	disconnect
obey	-	disobey	belief	-	disbelief

In-

complete	-	incomplete	convenient	-	inconvenient
direct	-	indirect	dependent	-	independent
sufficient	-	insufficient	discipline	-	indiscipline

Il-

liberal	-	illiberal	literate	-	illiterate
legal	-	illegal	logical	-	illogical

Im-

modest	-	immodest	probable	-	improbable
mobile	-	immobile	proper	-	improper
perfect	-	imperfect	balance	-	imbalance

Ir-

responsible	-	irresponsible	rational	-	irrational
regular	-	irregular	relevant	-	irrelevant

Non-

violent	-	nonviolent	alcoholic	-	non-alcoholic
fiction	-	nonfiction	smoker	-	non-smoker

De-

Centralization	-	decentralization	frost	-	defrost
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Antonyms can also be formed in the following ways:

(a) By changing the prefix

increase	-	decrease	inhale	-	exhale
export	-	import	include	-	exclude
external	-	internal	inferior	-	superior
inward	-	outward	ascend	-	descend

(b) by changing the suffix

careful	-	careless	cheerful	-	cheerless
useful	-	useless	colourful	-	colourless
harmful	-	harmless	hopeful	-	hopeless
joyful	-	joyless	painful	-	painless

Below given is an alphabetical list of some common synonymous and antonymous words in English.

1. **ABASH, verb:** to destroy the self-confidence, poise, or self-possession of; disconcert; make ashamed or embarrassed

Usage: He was *abashed* by the hooligans in front of his family members.

The manager's only intention behind the act was to *abash* his subordinates.

Synonyms: humiliate; humble; debase; degrade; reduce; depress; mortify; denigrate; embarrass; disconcert; astound; confound

Contextual Usage:

Napoleon was *humiliated* in the Battle of Waterloo by the humble British fleet under Lord Nelson.

You *debase* yourself by telling such lies.

Giving up smoking *reduces* the risk of heart disease.

She suffered the *mortification* of seeing her assistant promoted above her.

The rise in the oil prices will *depress* the car market.

Antonyms: immodesty; self-esteem; self-love; self-praise; complacency; smugness; dignified; upgrade; exalt

Contextual Usage:

The ceremony was *dignified* by the presence of the ambassador,

He was *exalted* as the pillar of the community.

She was *upgraded* to the post of senior designer.

In certain modern societies of west, *immodesty* has become a part of civilization.

To judge your standing in the society, you must develop *self-esteem*.

Self-love and *self-praise* are the new traits used in modern lifestyle.

2. **ABATE, verb:** to become less strong; to make something less strong

Usage: The storm showed no signs of *abating*.

They waited for the crowd's fury to *abate*.

Synonyms: decrease; lessen; moderate; diminish; subside; ally; slacken; subdue; alleviate; dwindle; ease; grow less; reduce

Contextual Usage:

With inclination towards westernization, our interest in the cultural and traditional life style is steadily *decreasing*.

Antiseptics *lessen* the chance of infection.

We must *moderate* our temper.

Their unequivocal opposition gradually *diminished*.

The tension generally *subsides* but intransigence always expands.

The doctor gave the patient an injection to *alleviate* his pain.

Their savings have *dwindled* to almost nothing.

Of late, the flood situation is beginning to *ease*.

The unabated rains *subdued* the spirits of the farmers.

He was punished because of *slackening* his duties.

The police tactfully *allayed* the commotion of the picketers.

Antonyms: increase; augment; extreme; enlarge; extend; dilate; sprout; expand; swell; grow; advance; develop; rise; ascend; enhance; deepen; heighten; intensify; magnify; aggravate; spread; disperse; exaggerate

Contextual Usage:

The volume of the gas *increases* as we decrease the pressure on it. Unhygienic food *augments* the chances of infection. The *extreme* of our temper invariably leads to ultimate destruction. It is the amplifier in a radio that *magnifies* the sound.

3. ABERRATION, noun: a fact, an action or a way of behaving that is not usual, and that may be unacceptable

Usage: It was a phase of temporary *aberration* of his exhausted mind.

The childless woman was regarded as an *aberration*, almost a social outcast.

Synonyms: deviation; variation; distortion; disorientation; error

Contextual Usage:

We should not *deviate* from our duty.

There was a conspicuous *variation* between the two balance sheets.

The culprit narrated a *distorted version* of the episode.

The 19th century masses could not assimilate the *disorientation* of Galileo.

It is unfortunate that just a single *error* cost him his job.

Antonyms: truth; sanity

Contextual Usage:

Mahatma Gandhi propagated the spiritual values of *truth*.

If sanity dawns on humanity, there will be no wars in the world.

4. ABHOR, verb: to hate something, for example a way of behaving or thinking, especially for moral reasons

Usage: She *abhors* getting wet in rain.

Their boss *abhors* any kind of casual approach towards work.

Synonyms: hate; dislike; detest; loathe; despise; abominate

Contextual Usage:

We should *hate* sin, not the sinner.

His *dislike* for the type of work resulted in his very slow rise in position.

Any noble person *loathe*s crime.

The rich should not *despise* the poor.

The conqueror should not *abominate* the defeated enemy.

Antonyms: love; fondness; liking; inclination; desire; admiration; affection; attachment; earning; passion; devotion; infatuation; advocating; idolatry

Contextual Usage:

Love of humanity is the first condition of prayer to god.

Mr Seth developed *more fondness* for his second daughter due to her great care for him.

She has a great *attachment* with her cousin, but you cannot call it love.

5. ABJURE, verb: to promise publicly that one will give up or reject a belief or a way of behaving; to renounce or give up under oath; forswear; to avoid or shun

Usage: He *abjured* of smoking.

In spite of *abjuring* his drug addiction, he could not live up to it.

Synonyms: forswear; renounce; relinquish; abandon; recant; repudiate; renunciation

Contextual Usage:

The astronomer Galileo was forced to *forswear* his theory of the rotation of the earth.

He has *recanted* the sinful ways after his release from jail.

It is not necessary to *renounce* the world for worshipping God.

Their elder son *relinquished* his right to property of his father voluntarily to help his sister.

If we can *abandon* our vices of anger, hatred and physical attachments, we are on the path to progress.

Don't resort to any kind of *renunciation* that is difficult to comply with.

Antonyms: desire; like; worship; long for; wish; earn

Contextual Usage:

He *desired* to go to the US for his higher studies, but the fate had something else designed for him.

Anyone who *wishes* to succeed in the politics will not resort to such act.

My father still *longs for* the old classical music.

Earn while you learn otherwise it will be difficult for you sustain.

6. **ABOVE BOARD, adj.:** legal and honest; in a legal and honest way; in open sight; without tricks, concealment, or disguise

Usage: Their actions are open and *above board*.

Don't worry; the deal is completely *above board*.

Synonyms: honest; candid; fair and square; frank; legitimate; covert; trustworthy

Contextual Usage:

He was *honest* enough to admit that he knew nothing about the subject. Let me be absolutely *candid with* you. The quality of your work is not up to mark. To *be frank* with you, I think your son has little chance of passing the exam. Politicians are *legitimate* targets for satire.

Antonyms: clandestine; deceitful; crooked; deceptive; devious; dishonest; fraudulent; furtive **Contextual Usage:**

All the officials are *crooked*.

Her simple style is *deceptive*. What she has to say is very profound.

He became rich by *devious* means.

It would be *dishonest* of me to pretend that I enjoyed the evening.

7. **ACCUMULATE, verb:** to gradually get more and more of something over a period of time; to gradually increase in number or quantity over a period of time

Usage: By investing wisely she *accumulated* a fortune.

Dust and dirt soon *accumulate* if a house is not cleaned regularly.

Synonyms: assemble; gather; congregate; rally; hoard; store; convene

Contextual Usage:

The members of the managing committee *assemble* every month to review the progress of the work and take necessary measures to step up construction of the township.

The rag pickers were *gathering* plastic bags from the garbage.

The strikers *congregated* at the gates of the factory and protested against the management.

To check black marketing, the government has banned *hoarding* of the essential commodities in large quantities.

The medicines should be *stored* in a cool place.

Antonyms: disperse; scatter; broadcast; spread; dissipate; distribute

Contextual Usage:

The police used tear gas to *disperse* the crowds.

The people *scattered* in the nearby streets to save themselves from the explosion.

I don't like to *broadcast* the fact that my father owns the company.

8. **ACCUSTOMED, adj.:** familiar with something and accepting it as normal or usual

Usage: My eyes slowly grew *accustomed* to the dark.

She was a person *accustomed to* having eight hours' sleep a night.

Synonyms: usual; common; conventional; customary; expected; habitual; normal; ordinary; regular; routine; adopted; familiar; used to

Contextual Usage:

She arrived later than *usual* time.

Robbery is not *common* in this area.

She is very *conventional* in her views.

He gave the *customary* speech of thanks to the chairman.

they started work at the *normal* time.

She writes a *regular* column for the national newspaper.

He is not *used to* such humid climate.

Antonyms: abnormal; infrequent; occasional; odd; peculiar; rare; strange; unusual

Contextual Usage:

Such cases are relatively *infrequent*.

There will be *occasional* shows during the day.

It is *unusual* for him to be so rude.

I had a *peculiar* feeling that I had been there before.

9. **ACME, noun:** the highest stage of development or the most excellent example of something
Usage: The invention is one of the *acmes* of engineering achievement in the recent times.
 She is at the *acme* of her career at present.
Synonyms: high point; apex; climax; crest; crown; culmination; optimum; peak; pinnacle; top; vertex; zenith
Contextual Usage:
 At the age of 40 he had reached the *apex* of his career.
 The *climax* of the celebration was the firework display.
 Her appointment was the *culmination* in her career.
 The *optimum* temperature of plants is not very low.
 At the very young age, he reached the *pinnacle* of his career.
 At its *zenith*, the Mughal Empire spread almost from Kabul to Bangladesh.
Antonyms: bottom; depths; low point; minimum; nadir; zero
Contextual Usage:
 The book that I want is right at the *bottom* of the pile.
 Water was found at the *depth* of fifty feet underground.
 In this area, temperature will fall to a *minimum* level by the end of December.
10. **AFFABLE, adj.:** pleasant, friendly; pleasantly easy to approach and to talk to; cordial; warmly polite; showing warmth and friendliness; benign
Usage: He is an *affable* and courteous gentleman.
 The actor seems to be quite *affable* to the journalists.
Synonyms: amiable; amicable; benevolent; benign; congenial; cordially; courteous; genial; gracious; mild; pleasant; sociable
Contextual Usage:
 Her parents seemed very *amiable*.
 An *amicable* settlement was reached between him and his brother over their paternal properties.
 I find this aspect of my job particularly *congenial*.
 He was *courteous* enough to not get agitated over the issue.
 He was *gracious* to everyone, smiling and thanking them all.
 The actress gave a *mild* answer in spite of her annoyance over the personal question asked by the media person.
Antonyms: brusque; cold; discourteous; distant; haughty; rude; surly; unfriendly; ungracious; unpleasant
Contextual Usage:
 His reply was typically *brusque*.
 Their expression was one of *haughty* contempt.
 It is *rude* to interrupt when somebody is speaking.
 He was distinctly *unfriendly* towards me.
 It would be *ungracious* of me not to acknowledge your help.
11. **AFFECTING, adj.:** moving or exciting the feelings or emotions; producing strong feelings of sadness and sympathy
Usage: The speech given by the religious leader was *affecting* to most of his audience.
 Have control over your *affecting* comments.
Synonyms: touching; melting; moving; pathetic; eloquent; impressive; changing
Contextual Usage:
 His performance was so *touching* that the audience could not help weeping.
 Wax solidifies again after *melting* and drying.
 Siddhartha's heart was moved on seeing the *pathetic* condition of the old lady.
 Swami Vivekananda's speech was so *eloquent* that Americans became his fans within no time.
 The data furnished by him was so *impressive* that none of the members of the Management could oppose any of his suggestions.
Antonyms: amusing; droll; ridiculous; absurd; funny; comic; laughable; farcical
Contextual Usage:
 It is *amusing* to find him going up to a tree.
 Your proposal to break this partnership is *ridiculous*.
 Do not act *funny*. Do as I say!
12. **ALLEGIANCE, noun:** a person's continued support for a political party, religion, ruler, etc.; the loyalty of a citizen to his or her government or of a subject to his or her sovereign
Usage: People of various party *allegiances* joined the campaign.
 He affirmed his *allegiance* to the president.

Synonyms: adherence; constant; devotion; duty; faithfulness; fealty; fidelity; homage; obedience; obligation; consistency

Contextual Usage:

Strict *adherence* to the rules is the way of life in this company.

She has played with great *consistency* throughout this season.

Her devotion to the job left her with little free time.

In the modern society, *marital fidelity* is not valued as highly as it once was.

He describes his book as *homage* to his father.

They attended the party more out of a sense of *obligation* than anything else.

Antonyms: disloyalty; faithfulness; falseness; inconstancy; infidelity; perfidy; treachery; treason

Contextual Usage:

He has been accused of *disloyalty* by the party workers.

She tolerated her husband's frequent *infidelities*.

In this country *treachery* and *treason* are considered criminal offences.

13. **ALTRUISTIC, adj.:** the fact of caring about the needs and happiness of other people more than one's own

Usage: Politicians are not necessarily motivated by pure *altruistic* demands of the civil societies.

I doubt whether her motives for donating the money are *altruistic*—she's probably looking for publicity.

Synonyms: benevolent; charitable; considerate; generous; humanitarian; philanthropic; self-sacrificing; unselfish

Contextual:

One should try to be more *charitable* to one's neighbors.

It was *generous* of you to share your food with your friends.

Since he is old and sick, doctors say he should be released from prison on *humanitarian* grounds.

Her work with refugees involved *considerable* self-sacrificing.

Antonyms: egoistical; egotistical; greedy; mean; self-centered; self-interested; selfish; self-seeking

Contextual Usage:

I had always thought him to be *egotistical* and attention-seeking person.

The starving child looked at the cake with *greedy* eyes.

When you have children, you automatically become less *selfish*.

14. **ANNIHILATE, verb:** to destroy somebody/something completely; to defeat somebody/something completely, annihilation, noun

Usage: During the Cold War the threat of nuclear *annihilation* was always on people's minds.

The human race has enough weapons to *annihilate* itself.

Synonyms: destroy; cancel; annul; suppress; extinguish; supersede; repeal

Contextual Usage:

The enemies kept bombing the city until all the buildings were *destroyed*.

The Prime Minister *cancelled* his tour of North Eastern States to preside over the non-aligned meet in New Delhi.

The policies adopted by the new Mayor *annulled the* good results of the schemes initiated by his predecessor.

The firemen struggled the whole night to *extinguish* the fire.

Two of his junior officers *superseded* him because of a vigilance case pending against him.

An Act passed by the parliament cannot be *repealed* by any State Legislature.

Antonyms: establish; confirm; support; encourage; promote; forward; produce; testify

Contextual Usage:

The non-aligned meet in New Delhi agreed to *establish* an independent news agency for covering reports on the activities of the movement around the world.

The Geneva Conference of the Super-Powers on disarmament *confirmed* the need to have a nuclear free outer space.

India and other non-aligned countries have *supported* the move to have a nuclear- weapon free world.

15. **ANTIQUATED, adj.:** old-fashioned or unsuitable for modern society

Usage: It will take many years to modernise these *antiquated* industries.

Compared with modern satellite dishes, ordinary TV aerials look positively *antiquated*.

Synonyms: antediluvian; antique; archaic; date; old-fashioned; outmoded; out-of-date; obsolete; outworn; passe; old; superannuated

Contextual Usage:

His ideas are positively *antediluvian*.

Her ideas on food are *distinctly passe*.

Skills which are now becoming *obsolete* should not be taught in polytechnic institution.

Antonyms: current; fashionable; fresh; modern; modish; new; stylish; up-to-date; young

Contextual Usage:

It is *becoming fashionable* to have long hair again. Terrorism is one of the major problems of the *modern* world. She wears clothes that are right *up to date*. Though he is sixty, he is *young* in his outlook.

16. **APOCRYPHAL**, *adj.*: well known, but probably not true; describes a story that is probably not true although often told and believed by some people to have happened

Usage: Most of the stories about the *Yeti* are *apocryphal*.

It's a good story but I dare say it's *apocryphal*.

Synonyms: doubtful; dubious; equivocal; fictitious; legendary; mythical; spurious; authenticated; uneconomical

Contextual Usage:

She looked rather *doubtful*.

I doubt his *dubious* motives.

He gave an *equivocal* reply, typical of politicians.

All the characters and places in this TV serial are *fictitious*.

Antonyms: attested; authentic; authorized; canonical; credible; factual; substantiated; true; undisputed; verified

Contextual Examples:

I have *authorized* him to act in my place when I am away. Is there any *credible* alternative to the nuclear deterrent? Can you *substantiate* your accusation against him? Unfortunately what you say about the company is all too *true*.

17. **AUGMENT**, *verb*: to increase the size or value of something by adding something to it

Usage: The new wall hanging has *augmented* to the beauty of the hall.

He would have to find work to *augment* his income.

Synonyms: add to; amplify; boost; build up; dilate; enhance; enlarge; expand; extend; grow; intensify; magnify; multiply, increase

Contextual Usage:

Many new words have been *added* to this edition of the Dictionary.

He asked me to *amplify* my earlier statement.

The unexpected win helped to *boost* the team's morale.

The pupils of your eyes get *dilated* when you enter a dark room.

The photograph is considerably *enlarged*.

The terrorists have *intensified* their bombing campaigns.

Post Commonwealth Games-2010, interest in sport is steadily *increasing* in the country.

Antonyms: contract; curtail; cut down; decrease; diminish; lessen; lower; reduce; shrink

Contextual Usage:

Metals *contract* as they get cooler.

We must try to *curtail* our expenditure.

The doctor told him to *cut down* the intake of oily and spicy food. These memories will not be *shrunk* by time. His strength has *diminished* over the years.

18. **BAFFLE**, *verb*: to confuse somebody completely; to be too difficult or strange for somebody to understand or explain;

Usage: I'm *baffled* why she hasn't called up yet.

She was completely *baffled* by his strange behaviour.

Synonyms: amaze; astound; bewilder; confound; confuse; daze; disconcert; flummox;

Contextual Usage:

We were *amazed* by the change in his appearance.

They were *astounded* that anyone could survive such a crush.

I am totally *bewildered* by the crossword clues.

The sudden rise in the edible items has *confounded* the city.

He was *dazed* for a moment by the blow to his head.

I was *disconcerted* to find the other guests formally dressed.

I was *flummoxed* by her question.

Antonyms: clarify; elucidate; explain; explicate; interpret; spell out

Contextual Usage:

He tried to *clarify* the doubt to everyone and control the situation. The notes help to *elucidate* the difficult parts of the texts. He *explained* the entire issue to his boss. She *interpreted* your silence as acceptance. Could you *spell* that word *out* for me again?

19. **BANAL**, *adj.*: boring, ordinary and not original; very ordinary and containing nothing that is interesting or important

Usage: He just sat there making *banal* remarks all evening.

I simply have no interest in listening to her *banal* conversation about the weather.

Synonyms: cliched; commonplace; hackneyed; humdrum; mundane; ordinary; pedestrian; stale; stereotyped; tired; trite; vapid; uninteresting

Contextual Usage:

Western clothes are now *commonplace* in Beijing.

She lead a pretty *mundane* life—nothing interesting ever happens to her.

I'm sick of watching those *vapid* television programmes.

Antonyms: challenging; distinctive; fresh; imaginative; interesting; new; novel; original; stimulating; unique; unusual

Contextual Usage:

He was dressed in the highly *distinctive* black and white coat. Most of the *original* inhabitants have left for the main land.

This success *stimulated* him to ever greater efforts. It is *unusual* for him to be so rude.

20. **BASHFUL, adj.:** shy and easily embarrassed; often feeling uncomfortable with other people

Usage: She gave a *bashful* smile as he complimented her on her work.

He was too *bashful* to talk about sex.

Synonyms: abashed; blushing; confused; coy; diffident; easily; embarrassed; overmodest; reserved; reticent; sheepish; shrinking; timid; timorous

Contextual Usage:

His boss's criticism left him feeling rather *abashed*.

She *blushed* crimson with embarrassment when he kissed her.

Do not be so *coy* about your achievement.

I was *embarrassed* by his comments about my clothes.

He seemed strangely *reticent* about his past.

She came into the room looking rather *sheepish*.

Antonyms: aggressive; arrogant; bold; brash; conceited; confident; egoistic; fearless; forward; immodest; impudent

Contextual Usage:

A good sales man should be *aggressive* if he wants to succeed.

The Professor has reputation for rudeness and intellectual *arrogance*.

I do not feel *bold* enough to ask for a pay increase.

Her *brash* and abrasive style made her unpopular.

I have always thought him to be *egoistical* and attention-seeking.

21. **BENEVOLENCE, noun:** kind, helpful and generous; benevolent, *adjective*

Usage: He has firm belief in the existence of a *benevolent* god.

The teacher wears a smile of *benevolence*.

Synonyms: god's grace; selflessness; kindness; kindliness; charity; humanity; fellow feelings; good nature; brotherly love; mercy; pity; harmony

Contextual Usage:

With *god's grace*, he could survive the accident.

Swami Ramakrishna was a living example of *selflessness* and *kindness*.

He believes in the maxim '*Charity* begins at home'.

Old lady has a benign personality. She has good nature and she does *feel pity* for others.

Mechanical life makes a man lose fellow feeling and *brotherly love* for others.

Officers of Industrial Relations machinery are supposed to bring *harmony* between the employers and the employees.

Antonyms: ill nature; spite; cruelty; inhumanity; evil eye; evil intent; enmity; hate; hatred; malice; venom; churlishness; outrage

Contextual Usage:

His *ill-nature* is the cause of his unpopularity.

He has earned *spite* of many friends due to his *churlishness*.

He does work with *cruelty* against his enmities.

22. **BEWILDER, verb:** to confuse somebody

Usage: She was totally *bewildered* by his sudden change of mood.

His complete lack of interest in modern lifestyle *bewilders* his family.

Synonyms: problem; poser; mystery; enigma

Contextual Usage:

All *problems* have a solution but one needs determination to solve them. Existence of god was a *great poser* for the priest to prove. Even the scientists have failed to unveil the *mystery* of cosmos completely. His behaviour has become an *enigma* even for the psychiatrists.

Antonyms: enlighten; teach; illuminate; inform; edify; instruct

Contextual Usage:

I do not know to edit a book. Would you *enlighten* me?

Will you *teach* me Spanish?

The banquet hall is *illuminated* by bright lights.

My friends *informed* me about her success.

The physician was appointed to *instruct* some ten boys on first-aid.

The charity show was not an *edifying* spectacle.

- 23. BLITHE, *adj.*:** happy; not anxious; showing one does not care or is not anxious about what he/she is doing; blithely, *adv.*

Usage: He drove with *blithe* disregard for the rules of the road.

He was *blithely* unaware of the trouble he'd caused.

Synonyms: careless; casual; indifferent; nonchalant; thoughtless; untroubled; animated; buoyant; carefree; cheerful; cheery; debonair

Contextual Usage:

This may not be obvious to the *casual* observer:

She appeared *indifferent* to their sufferings.

I had rarely seen him so *animated*.

The raft would be more *bouyant* if it was less heavy.

He strolled about, looking very *debonair* in his elegant new suit.

Antonyms: concerned; preoccupied; thoughtful; dejected; depressed; gloomy; melancholy; morose; sad; unhappy

Contextual Usage:

He didn't seem in the least *concerned* for his safety. She *seemed preoccupied* all the time I was talking to her. Repeated failure had left them feeling very *dejected*. He felt deeply *depressed* even suicidal at times. What are you so *gloomy* about? Cheer up!

- 24. BOOST, *noun and verb*:** to make something increase, or become better or more successful

Usage: The movie helped *boost* her screen career.

Share prices were *boosted* by reports of the Government's recovery from instability.

Synonyms: encouragement; aid; help; recommendation; hoist; lift

Contextual Usage:

At the time of frustration and disappointment, my father is a great source of *encouragement*.

Antonyms: courteous; smooth; polite; polished

Contextual Usage:

They highly *courteous* to us when we visited them.

He was *smooth* and soft whenever we went to seek his favor.

His *polite* behavior in fact greatly surprised us.

His behavior proved that he is a man of *polished* manners.

The terrorist groups were getting a lot of *aid* from ISI and other foreign agencies.

We should always be ready to *help* our relatives.

It was on the *recommendation* of an Architect that we opted for his design of the furniture of our new house.

The Principal will *hoist* the flag at the school ground on the Independence Day.

The budding weightlifter can *lift* as much weight as four persons together.

Antonyms: rebuke; discouragement; hindrance; obstacle; rebuff

Contextual Usage:

The company was publicly *rebuked for* having neglected safety procedures. Inequality is the biggest *hindrance* in the way of social and economic development. Lack of close connection between the public and private sectors is the biggest *obstacle* to the speedy expansion of small scale industries.

- 25. BRACE, *verb*:** to prepare somebody/oneself for something difficult or unpleasant that is going to happen; to press one's body or part of one's body firmly against something in order to stop oneself from falling; to contract the muscles in one's body or part of one's body before doing something that is physically difficult; to make something stronger or more solid by supporting it with something

Usage: They are *bracing* themselves for a long legal battle.

The roof was *braced* by lengths of timber.

Synonyms: strengthen; invigorate; prop; support; refresh

Contextual Usage:

Balance diet *strengthens* our body and mind.

The kind rich man *supported* many poor students.

Sleep *refreshes* us when we feel tired.

I feel *invigorated* by all this fresh air.

As the only son he *should prop up* his old parents.

Antonyms: weaken; degenerate; raze; knock; enfeeble

Contextual Examples:

The fall in productivity has *weakened* the economy. Too much materialism has *degenerated* our youth. The earthquake *razed* many buildings to ground.

26. **BRUSQUE, adj.:** using very few words and sounding rude; quick and rude in manner or speech, *adv.*

Usage: The doctor spoke in a *brusque* tone.

"I simply haven't got time to deal with the problem today," she said *brusquely*.

Synonyms: discourteous; gruff; curt; abrupt

Contextual Usage:

Although he is an educated person, he is often *discourteous* to his elders. The sergeant always gave a *gruff* answer to the soldier's questions. I was surprised at his *curt* reply. The programme came to an *abrupt* end when the lights went off.

Antonyms: courteous; smooth; polite; polished

Contextual Usage:

They highly *courteous* to us when we visited them.

He was *smooth* and soft whenever we went to seek his favor.

His polite behavior in fact greatly surprised us.

His behavior proved that he is a man *of polished* manners.

27. **CAJOLE, verb:** to make somebody do something by talking to them and being very nice to them; cajoling, *adj.*

Usage: We had to *cajole* him out of going to the US A for higher studies.

Her voice was soft and *cajoling*.

Synonyms: inveigle; beguile; coax; flatter; blandish; wheedle

Contextual Usage:

The gangsters managed to *inveigle* their aids from the clutches of the police somehow.

The innocent simple looking girl was *beguiled* into thinking she could become a famous actress.

He *coaxed* his father to let him use his new car.

The assistant *flattered* his boss telling him he was a good writer.

Even her *blandishments* could not win him over.

Mother tried to *wheedle* father into going to the party.

Antonyms: cool; dampen; flaunt; dam; dissuade

Contextual Usage:

She was in a high temper. It took me some time to *cool* her down.

She was in very high spirits. Her sister has *dampened* her by asking for a loan.

The subordinate *flaunted* the order of the manager.

The water of the river has been well *dammed* by this barrage project.

You should *dissuade* him from undertaking this risky project.

28. **CALAMITY, noun:** an event that causes great damage to people's lives, property, etc.

Usage: At last, we had to face the *calamity*.

Sudan suffered a series *of calamities* during the 1980s.

Synonyms: distress; misfortune; trouble; misery; catastrophe; affliction; disaster

Contextual Usage:

The minister was moved to see the misery of the *distressed* child labor employed in the weaving industry.

The loss of her job was a big *misfortune*.

Sometimes the members of opposition party create lot *of trouble* in the Parliament and obstruct the proceedings of the House.

The land reforms may have benefited the poor but not proved to be a *catastrophe* for the rich land-owners.

Our country is *afflicted* with twin disaster of food shortages and an exploding population.

Antonyms: prosperity; fortune; peace; joy; tranquility; happiness

Contextual Usage:

Recent agricultural research has made the farmers *quite prosperous*.

Land reforms have also brought *fortune* for the small farmer.

Peace is essential for the economic development of the country.

"It gives me immense *joy* to inaugurate this library of the village", said the head of the Gram Panchayat.

29. **CASUALTY, noun:** a person who is killed or injured in war or in an accident; a person that suffers or a thing that is destroyed when something else takes place; the part of a hospital where people who need urgent treatment are taken

Usage: *Casualty* list was published after the train accident.

Small shops have been a *casualty* of the recession.

Synonyms: mishap; incident; chance; calamity; misadventure

Contextual Usage:

Further inquiries show that he had visited the place of *incident* a few days earlier.

The police gave pick pocket another *chance* to mend himself.

His family was shocked to know of the *calamity* that befell him.

The amateur mountaineer's attempt to scale the Himalayas without proper equipments proved a *misadventure*.

Antonyms: design; purpose; intent; meaning; adventure

Contextual Usage:

The architectural *design* of this building was prepared with great care.

The purpose of my visit is to apprise you with the present circumstances.

He is *intent* on buying a car very soon.

There is a definite *meaning* to his frequent visits.

I am out for *adventure* in the hilly terrain this summer.

30. **CHAOS, noun and adj.:** a state of complete confusion and lack of order

Usage: Heavy snow has caused total *chaos* on the roads.

The house was in *chaos* after the party.

Synonyms: disorder; confusion; jumble; abysmal; void

Contextual Usage:

Everyone began shouting at once and the meeting broke up in *disorder*.

When you are in a hurry, you make *confusion* worse confounded.

She is very quick in making words from *the jumbled* letters.

He tried to conceal his *abysmal* ignorance of the subject by side tracking the issue.

Negotiations made *void* the disputed clause in the contract, thereby invalidating its provisions.

Antonyms: organization; government; orderliness

Contextual Usage:

Our Prime Minister has the capability to create *orderliness* out of chaos.

What we need is an efficient *organization* to look after our economic interest.

Democracy is defined as *a government* of people, by the people and for the people.

31. **CHOKE, verb:** to be unable to breathe because the passage to your lungs is blocked or you cannot get enough air; to make somebody unable to breathe; to make somebody stop breathing by squeezing their throat; to be unable to speak normally especially because of strong emotion; to make somebody feel too emotional to speak normally; to block or fill a passage, space, etc. so that movement is difficult; to fail at something because of being nervous

Usage: Her voice was *choked* with sobs.

The roads are *choked* up with traffic.

Synonyms: strangle; suffocate; smother; stifle; throttle

Contextual Usage:

The government's monetary policy is slowly *strangling* the economy.

The room was so *suffocating* that I could not stay there even a minute longer.

The caravan was *smothered* in dust while passing through Rajasthan.

We were *stifling* in that hot room with all the windows closed.

The guard *throttled* the burglar with his bare hands.

Antonyms: oxygenate; freshen; ventilate; air

Contextual Usage:

The patient was first *oxygenated* and then put on glucose.

A thorough cleaning will really *freshen* up the house.

This house is fine except for its *ventilation*.

We *need* fresh air to keep healthy.

32. **CLING, verb:** to hold on tightly to somebody/something; to stick to something; to stay close to somebody, especially because one needs them emotionally

Usage: They *clung* together, shivering with cold.

After her mother's death, she *clung* to her aunt more than ever.

Synonyms: attach; adhere; stick; cleave; hold together; embrace; hug

Contextual Usage:

A door is *attached* to the doorpost by hinges.

She always *adheres* to her father's principles.

He *sticks* doggedly at his physics homework until midnight.

Any married person considers it his duty to *cleave* to his marriage partner through thick and thin.

Religion has a force which can *hold* the masses together for long.

The lovebirds turned to *hug* each other as soon as they were in a secluded corner for the park.

This thesis *embraces* the major ideas you suggested.

Antonyms: surrender; give up; forgo; relinquish; resign; cede

Contextual Usage:

After long discussion I *surrendered* to his way of thinking.

I *gave up* the hope of her passing the Board Exam.

I cannot *forgo* my respect for matrimony.

She *relinquished the* charge of her Director's position on last Monday.

I *resigned* from my job last month.

Cuba was *ceded* by Spain to the US in 1898.

33. **COARSE**, *adj.*: rough; consisting of relatively large pieces; rude and offensive; coarsely, *adv.*

Usage: A dress made of *coarse* is the fashion-dress today.

He laughed *coarsely* at her helplessness.

Synonyms: unpolished; harsh; indelicate; unrefined; rude; gross

Contextual Usage:

The *unpolished* surfaces do not reflect light.

He is pretty *harsh* in dealing with his adversaries.

His popularity among his near and dear ones has reduced because of his *unrefined* manners.

The teacher has condoned the student for his *rude* behavior.

We were shocked at his *gross* ignorance of the subject under discussion.

Antonyms: polished; polite; elegant; refined; civilized; genteel

Contextual Usage:

His polished manners win him new friends wherever he goes.

His polite behavior is responsible for his success with subordinates.

He looks *elegant* in his new suit.

She is well *civilized*, has refined tastes and genteel outlook.

34. **COMBAT**, noun: fighting or a fight

Usage: A routine *combat* with the wind and waves is inevitable for a sailor.

The brave officer lost his life in a *combat*.

Synonyms: war; battle; action; contest; conflict; broil

Contextual Usage:

The cross border infiltration has led to *war* between the two countries.

Their whole life was a constant *battle* against poverty.

The army *action* in Bangladesh was praised by all.

It is little use *contesting* the election as an independent candidate.

The policies they are following will surely bring them in *conflict* with each other.

The travelers were *broiling* in the sun as they crossed the desert.

Antonyms: harmony; peace; concord; amity; agreement; quite

Contextual Usage:

Communal *harmony* is the first condition to keep India strong and united.

After years of *fighting*, the people of India and Pakistan longed for peace.

India and Pakistan must reach a *concord* to avoid disturbances in the Indian subcontinent.

They should develop *amity* among the people.

The two countries have to work out *agreement* on disputes of various types.

35. **COMPLACENT**, *adj.*: too satisfied with oneself or with a situation, so that one does not feel that any change is necessary; showing or feeling complacency

Usage: With a *complacent* smile, grandfather sent us off for picnic.

We must not become *complacent* about progress.

Synonyms: content; gratified; pleased; pleased with oneself; resting on one's laurels; satisfied self; assured; self-contented; self satisfied; serene; smug; unconcerned;

Contextual Usage:

He is **content** to stay in his present job for the time being.

It is extremely **gratifying** to see one's effort getting rewarded.

Your mother will be **pleased** with you for your brilliant result.

I felt quite **satisfied** with my day's work. Throughout the crisis she remained **serene** and in control.

Antonyms: discontent; dissatisfied; insecure; troubled; uneasy; unsatisfied

Contextual Usage:

The frequent strikes are a sign for growing **discontent** among the workers.

Many women feel **dissatisfied** with their appearance.

She feels very **insecure** about her marriage.

I had an uneasy **suspicion** that all was not well.

36. CONCEAL, verb: to hide somebody/something

Usage: He tried to **conceal** the fact that his son scored very low marks in the board exam.

She sat down to **conceal** the fact that she was trembling.

Synonyms: suppress; screen; disguise; hide; bury; camouflage; cover; obscure; secret

Contextual Usage:

Every individual has good and bad points. The one who can **suppress** the bad points and bring out the good ones becomes great.

Feature films **screened** this year at the film festival were all superb.

The actor had to **disguise** himself to give a real picture of the character he played.

Antonyms: expose; confess; avow; manifest; disclose; divulge; expose; reveal;

Contextual Usage:

It is always better to avoid **exposing** one's bad thoughts in public.

Let us **confess** faults before God.

He **avowed** his responsibility for the failure of the project.

37. CONCEDE, verb: to admit that something is true, logical, etc.; to give something away, especially unwillingly; to allow somebody to have something; to admit that one has lost a game, an election, etc.

Usage: He reluctantly **conceded** me the point.

After losing this decisive battle, the general was forced to **concede**.

Synonyms: admit; accept; acknowledge; allow; confess; grant; cede; hand over; relinquish; surrender; yield

Contextual Usage:

I wrestled with the problem for weeks but finally had to **admit** defeat.

You must **accept** the consequences of your action.

She **acknowledged** that the equipment had been incorrectly installed.

He **allowed** that I had the right to appeal.

She finally **confessed** to having stolen money.

I **grant** you that she's clever woman, but I wouldn't want to work for her.

Antonyms: contest; deny; disclaim; dispute; protest; refute; reject; boast; conquer; defeat

Contextual Usage:

He **denied** that he had been involved in this scam.

They **disclaimed** all the responsibility of the explosion.

They **disputed** at great length what they should do.

General **public protested** strongly at the cut of public spending.

He **refuted** all his suggestions that he was planning to resign.

38. CONCEITED, adj.: having too much pride in oneself and what one does

Usage: His **self-conceited** tendency cost him success in the recently concluded election.

It's very **conceited** of you to assume that your work is always the best.

Synonyms: arrogant; egotistical; immodest; narcissistic; overweening; too big for one's boot; vain

Contextual Usage:

He has a reputation for rudeness and intellectual **arrogance**.

I had always thought him to be **egotistical** and attention-seeking.

I am **immodest** enough to think that I played an important part in her decision.

Women are said to have **narcissistic** tendencies.

He is just **too big for his boot**, always bragging his achievements.

Antonyms: humble; modest; self-effacing; unassuming

Contextual Usage:

Be **humble** enough to learn from your mistakes.
 It's not good to boasting with everybody, be **modest** about your achievements.
 She is charming and pretty at the same time **self-effacing**.
 He is a gentle and **unassuming** person.

39. CONCORD, noun: peace and agreement

Usage: Tribal community still lives in **concord** with nature.

In the sentence 'They live in the country.' the plural verb 'live' is in **concord** with the plural subject 'They'.

Synonyms: unity; peace; amity; accord

Contextual Usage:

People showed an immense sense of **unity** at the meeting.

There was an implied atmosphere **of peace** at the inter-religious conference held in Allahabad-India

Indo-US **amity** has become a well known fact.

Antonyms: animosity; variance; discord; disagreement

Contextual Examples:

It is taking unduly long to end Indo-Pak **animosity**.

Variance in temperature may affect your health.

US-USSR **discord** on disarmament proposals led to some serious consequences.

40. CONSCIENTIOUS, adj.: taking care to do things carefully and correctly

Usage: What we lack today is a **conscientious** worker.

He was thorough and **conscientious**, rather than brilliant.

Synonyms: careful; diligent; faithful; uncorrupt; meticulous; responsible

Contextual Usage:

We should be very **careful** while handling glass utensils as they are easily breakable.

It is difficult to find an **uncorrupt** politician in our country.

One must **be faithful** to his organization.

She has done a **meticulous** and painstaking research on golden lagoons.

The company is proud of its **diligent** workers.

Antonyms: careless; corrupt; negligent; slack; profligate; wicked; vile

Contextual Usage:

Corruption is evident in every field of politics.

A number of **corrupt** officials have been dismissed recently.

The profligate spending of the top brass of the company paved way to its loss.

He entered the house with his **wicked** plans.

Don't talk to me now. He was in a **vile** mood.

She is very **careless** about her dresses.

41. CONTEMPTIBLE, adj.: not deserving any respect at all

Usage: The manner in which he treated all of us was highly **contemptible**.

She looked at him with a **contemptible** smirk.

Synonyms: despicable; paltry; pitiful; vile; detestable; execrable

Contextual Usage:

The attitude of some high caste members towards the scheduled castes is still **despicable** and should be condemned by all sane people.

Vile attitude of some rich is still responsible for class divisions in our society.

The snobs in society look down at the poor *vi\h pitiful* attitude.

Antonyms: respectable; admirable; excellent; weighty; grave; important

Contextual Usage:

India has earned a **respectable** position among suppressed nations after independence by her support to freedom movements in Asia and Africa.

In the board meeting, he made his points with **admirable** clarity.

The Indian team played **excellent** cricket in the last international match.

42. CONTENTED, adj.: showing or feeling happiness or satisfaction, especially because one's life is good

Usage: With a **contented** smile, he sent us off to our native place.

At forty, he was a **contented** man.

Synonyms: satisfied; gratified; pleased; cheerful; comfortable; serene; happy

Contextual Usage:

He is **satisfied** with the progress of his son.

He was **gratified** to know that his son had secured a top position in the higher secondary examination.

He was pleased with the sincere attitude of his employee and gave him an increment.

Antonyms: discontent; frustrated; malcontent; miserable

Contextual Usage:

There is general **discontent** among salaried classes owing to galloping inflation rate.

He felt **frustrated** with his routine work and resigned to take up a more creative job.

I feel **miserable** when I look at the way slum-dwellers live.

43. **CRIPPLE**, *verb*: to damage somebody's body so that they are no longer able to walk or move normally; to seriously damage or harm somebody/something; crippled, *adj.*

Usage: That is the ship that was **crippled** in a storm in 1987.

He was **crippled** by polio as a child.

Synonyms: disable; curtail; cramp; impair; weaken **Contextual Usage:**

The accident **disabled** him from attending the meetings of the Board.

It also **curtailed** his other day-to-day activities of business.

The new law has **cramped the** powers of the government to curb individual liberties.

Antonyms: free; ease; renovate; augment **Contextual Usage:**

You are **now free** to go anywhere you like.

I eased myself before undertaking the bus journey.

Let us **renovate** the shop before the next Diwali.

44. **CUSTOMARY**, *adj.*: if something is customary, it is what people usually do in a particular place or situation; typical of a particular person

Usage: There is a **customary** vote of thanks to the Chairman.

Is it **customary** to tip hairdressers in this beauty parlor?

Synonyms: usual; accepted; accustomed; common; confirmed; conventional; established; everyday; familiar; fashionable; general; habitual; normal; ordinary; popular; regular; routine; traditional; wanted

Contextual Usage:

When the accident took place, the **usual** crowd gathered.

My eyes slowly got **accustomed** to the darkness.

Doctors are still trying to find a cure for the **common** cold.

She is very **conventional** in her views.

Hinduism is the **established** religion in India.

Such accounts of environmental pollution are now depressingly.

Antonyms: exceptional; infrequent; irregular; occasional; rare; uncommon; unusual

Contextual Usage:

At the age of five he showed **exceptional** talent as a musician. Such cases² are relatively **infrequent** in India.

I don't drink much alcohol; just an **occasional** glass of wine is fine with me.

It is **rare to find such loyalty these days**.

She showed **uncommon** pleasure at his arrival.

45. **CYNICAL**, *adj.*: believing that people only do things to help themselves rather than for good or honest reasons; not believing that something good will happen or that something is important; not caring that something might hurt other people, if there is some advantage for you

Usage: His **cynical** smile revealed his malicious intention.

Her experiences with men have made her thoroughly **cynical** about love.

Synonyms: skeptical; contemptuous; derisive; distrustful; ironic; misanthropic; mocking; mordacious; pessimistic; sarcastic; sardonic; scoffing; scornful; sneering; unbelieving

Contextual Usage:

I'm rather **skeptical** about his chances of winning the elections despite what the exit polls say.

The company has shown a **contemptuous** disregard for the complaints of one of its old employees.

Ironically, the book the author felt was her worst sold more copies than any of her others.

I think the sales figures of this quarter were **too pessimistic**.

People who don't like him said he was very **sarcastic**.

Antonyms: gullible; hopeful; optimistic; trustful; trusting; unskeptical; unsuspecting

Contextual Usage:

He must have been pretty **gullible** to fall for that old trick. I feel **hopeful** that we'll find a suitable house very soon. She is not very **optimistic** about the outcome. He had crept upon his **unsuspecting** victim from behind.

46. **DAINTY**, *adj.*: small and delicate in a way that people find attractive; careful, often in a way that suggests good manners
Usage: A *dainty* child got the attention of all the people present in the function.

She took a *dainty* little bite of the apple.

Synonyms: delicate; charming; elegant; exquisite; fine; graceful; neat; petite; pretty; choice; delicious; palatable; savory; choosy; fastidious; finial fancy; sweetmeat; tidbit
Contextual Usage:

The fabric of this dress material is very *delicate*.

She writes with great *elegance* and economy.

This is arguably *the finest* collection of paintings in the recent times.

We managed to get the garden looking *neat* and tidy.

This dish is absolutely *delicious*.

She is very *choosy* about whom she associates with.

Antonyms: awkward; clumsy; coarse; gauche; inelegant; maladroit; uncouth; ungainly

Contextual Usage:

The handle of this teapot has an *awkward* shape. You *clumsy* oaf—that's the second glass you've broken today. A *coarse*, red-faced man yelled something across the road. I find him terribly *gauche*.

47. **DALLY**, *verb*: to do something too slowly; to take too much time making a decision

Usage: Don't *dally* with the idea of marrying this girl.

Things would not have gone out of hand had he not *dallied* them for so long.

Synonyms: dawdle; delay; drag one's feet or heel; linger; loiter; procrastinate; tarry; caress; fondle; tamper; tease; toy; trifle

Contextual Usage:

She doesn't get her work done by anyone else because she's always *dawdling*.

The train has been *delayed* due to heavy rains.

She wants to sell their apartment but her husband is *dragging* his feet.

She was still *lingering* around the theatre long after her other friends had gone home.

He *procrastinated* until it was too late to do anything at all.

Antonyms: hasten; hurry up; make haste; push; ran

Contextual Usage:

Don't *hasten/hurry* up so much that you spoil everything.

He repeatedly *pushed* forward his own claim.

He cannot *run* because he is patient of high blood pressure.

48. **DAZZLING**, *adj.*: something so bright that one cannot see for a short time; to impress somebody a lot with one's beauty, skill, etc.; *dazzle*, *verb*

Usage: The *dazzling* sunshine brought the poet out of me.

He was *dazzled* by the warmth of her smile.

Synonyms: brilliant; divine; glittering; glorious; radiant; scintillating; shining; sparkling; stunning; sublime; superb; virtuoso

Contextual Usage:

A *glittering* career has been predicted for her due to seriousness of her study.

Mahatma Gandhi, the father of nation has died *a glorious* death.

She was *radiant* with joy, hearing the news of passing her exam.

A very *scintillating* conversation was taped between the journalist and the lobbyist.

He shows a *sublime* indifference to sufferings of others.

Antonyms: dull; ordinary; tedious; unexceptional; unexciting; uninspiring; uninteresting; unmemorable; unremarkable

Contextual Usage:

The day began *grey* and *dull* in the hot summer seasons.

We had to sit through several *tedious* speeches.

The book is fascinating, despite its *uninspiring* title.

He is completely *uninterested* in anything to do with politics.

49. **DEE D**, *noun*: a thing that somebody does that is usually very good or very bad; a legal document that one signs, especially one that proves that one owns a house or a building

Usage: *Deeds* are better than words when people are in need of helps.

She is looking for her *deeds* of the house.

Synonyms: action; feat; exploit; work; achievement

Contextual Usage:

To every ***action***, there is an equal and opposite reaction.

Playing several chess games simultaneously is a ***rare feat***.

The papers were full of her latest amorous ***exploits***.

Some of his ***works*** are well known all over the world.

He was awarded for distinguished and scholastic ***achievements***.

Antonyms: inertness; restful; unemployment; passivity; dullness; fatigue; dawdling; dormancy; delay

Contextual Usage:

He used to be very active in his young days. Old age has set in a sort of ***inertness*** and brought a decline in the quality of his poetry.

He is spending ***restful*** days since his retirement.

The rate of ***unemployment has*** fallen in India with liberalization of the economy.

The new incentives have wakened up the private sector from ***its passivity***.

50. **DELICACY, noun:** the quality of being, or appearing to be, easy to damage or break; the quality of being done carefully and gently; very careful behaviour in a difficult situation so that nobody is offended; the fact that a situation is difficult and somebody may be easily offended; a type of food considered to be very special in a particular place

Usage: Everyone admired the ***delicacy*** of her features.

She handled the situation with great sensitivity and ***delicacy***.

Synonyms: smoothness; softness; nicety; elegance; refinement; slenderness; lightness

Contextual Usage:

Reflection of light depends upon the ***smoothness*** of the surface.

Some of the metals have ***extraordinary*** softness.

The picture frame and modern furniture have added to the ***elegance*** of her room.

The parents were very happy to see trends of ***refinement*** in the behavior of their spoiled son.

He was aware of the ***slenderness*** of chances of success, yet his lightness.

Antonyms: roughness; hardness; robustness; crudeness; heaviness

Contextual Usage:

The ***roughness*** of this cloth is in contrast to the softness of the nylon fabric.

The ***hardness*** of the Indian farmer is now bringing good results, thanks to the improved provision of irrigation facilities.

Sushil Kumar's ***robustness*** won gold medal in the Common Wealth Games for wrestling.

51. **DENIGRATE, verb:** to criticize somebody/something unfairly; to say somebody/something does not have any value or is not important

Usage: If you ***denigrate*** a girl in this campus, it will be treated as a cognizant offence.

I didn't intend to ***denigrate*** her achievements.

Synonyms: asperse; belittle; besmirch; blacken; calumniate; decry; defame; disparage; impugn; malign; revile; slander; vilify

Contextual Usage:

She felt ***belittled*** by her husband's arrogant behavior

He ***decried*** her efforts as a waste of time.

The article is an attempt to ***defame*** an honest social worker.

The government is regularly ***reviled*** for running down the welfare state.

She was ***vilified*** by the press for her rigid views.

Antonyms: acclaim; admire; approve; cheer; compliment; eulogize; extol; honour; laud; praise; take one's hat off to

Contextual Usage:

It was ***acclaimed*** as a great invention.

Aren't you going to ***admire*** my new hat?

The crowd ***cheered*** loudly as the Pope appeared.

She is always ***eulogizing*** her children's achievements.

I must say I ***take my hat off to*** him. I never thought he would get into the first team.

52. **DEPRAVED, adj.:** morally bad

Usage: The ***depraved*** persons will come forward to raise this issue against the company. This is the work of some ***depraved*** mind.

Synonyms: abandoned; corrupt; debased; debauched; degenerate; degraded; dissolute; evil; immoral; lascivious; lewd; licentious; perverted; profligate; shameless; sinful; vicious; vile; wicked

Contextual Usage:

He ***debauched*** many innocent girls.

Pornography ***degrades*** human dignity.

You cannot pretend there's no *evil* in the world.

Some people still think it is *immoral* to have sex before marriage.

Bribery is a *vile* practice.

That was *wicked* thing to do.

Antonyms: chaste; decent; ethical; good; honorable; innocent; moral; proper; pure; upright; virtuous; wholesome

Contextual Usage:

The hospital has no *decent* equipment.

His behavior has not been strictly *ethical*.

Is the height *good* enough for the armed forces job?

His intentions are entirely *honorable*.

They have imprisoned an *innocent* man.

Students do a year's foundation course before they start this degree *course proper*.

53. **DEPRECIATE, verb:** to become less valuable over a period of time; to reduce the value, as stated in the company's accounts, of a particular asset over a particular period of time; to make something seem unimportant or of no value

Usage: Shares of this company have *depreciated* last week.

I had no intention of *depreciating* your contribution in this project.

Synonyms: decrease; deflate; devalue; lessen; lower; reduce; disparage; denigrate; deride; detract; ridicule; scorn; traduce; underestimate

Contextual Usage:

The government has *decreased* the size of grants.

His influence was already *lessening* in the office.

Granny *lowered* herself slowly into a chair.

Giving up smoking *reduces* the risk of heart disease.

The poor service *detracted* from my enjoyment of the evening.

The opposition *ridiculed* the government's attempt to cover up the entire 2G scam.

She did nothing to conceal her *scorn* for her in-laws.

We *underestimated* the time it would take to reach our destination.

Antonyms: add to; appreciate; augment; enhance; enlarge; expand; grow; increase; use; admire; cherish; esteem; like, regard; respect; value

Contextual Usage:

Many words have been *added* to this edition of the Dictionary of Antonyms and Synonyms.

One can't *appreciate* foreign literature in translation.

Those clothes do *nothing* to *enhance* her appearance.

A tire *expands* when you pump air into it.

You must invest if you want your business to *grow*.

The greetings cards given by her childhood friends are her most *cherished* possession.

54. **DESPISE, verb:** to dislike and have no respect for somebody/something

Usage: A dish of strawberries and cream of chocolates is not to be *despised*.

She *despised* gossip in any form.

Synonyms: hate; abhor; scorn; loathe; disdain **Contextual Usage:**

To *hate* a human is inhumane. His negative thinking *abhors* me. He had a *scorn* for all weaklings. I *loathe* the company of bores. He *disdains* to sit with people like us.

Antonyms: admire; adore; like; love; respect; appreciate

Contextual Usage:

I *admire* his courage and sagacity.

I cannot help *adoring* your spirit of selflessness.

I *like* the very look of Taj Mahal.

I *love* to see a movie every Sunday.

55. **DETIMENTAL, adj.:** harmful

Usage: He works long hours every day to the *detimental* of his health.

The policy will be *detimental* to the peace process.

Synonyms: adverse; baleful; damaging; deleterious; destructive; disadvantages; harmful; inimical; injurious; mischievous; pernicious; prejudicial; unfavorable

Contextual Usage:

The cuts will have an *adverse* effect on our research programme. How *damaging* do you think this scam will be to the ruling party? Publication of the report might be *harmful to* the company's future plans. Their policies are *inimical* to national unity and harmony. Present conditions are *unfavorable* for sailing.

Antonyms: advantageous; beneficial; efficacious; favorable; good; helpful; salutary

Contextual Usage:

The slump in the housing market is *advantageous* to home buyers.

Fresh air is *beneficial* for healthy living.

She decided it would be more *efficacious* to remain silent.

The public reaction to the new text was generally *favorable*.

He is always very *helpful* to his mother.

The accident is a *salutary* reminder of the dangers of climbing.

56. **DILIGENT**, *adj.*: showing care and effort in your work or duties; diligently, *adv.*

Usage: *Diligent* work is what will take you to higher positions in your organization.

They worked *diligently* on the task they had been given.

Synonyms: careful; laborious; attentive; busy; painstaking

Contextual Usage:

The Prime Minister has asked the people to be *careful* of the divisive forces.

The engineer was praised for the *laborious job* of cleaning up the river after the floods.

The teacher flayed him for being not *attentive* in the class.

Now-a-days he is *busy* in social work.

It was the result *of the painstaking* efforts of the chairman that the company was saved from closure.

Antonyms: slack; lazy, indolent; idle; slothful

Contextual Usage:

My business is rather *slack* these days.

He is a *lazy* fellow and does not get up before 9 a.m.

He is a *man of indolent* habits. You cannot expect him to succeed in business.

Don't *idle* away your time if you want to succeed in business.

57. **DIPLOMATIC**, *adj.*: connected with managing relations between countries; having or showing skill in dealing with people in difficult situations

Usage: He is refined person in *diplomatic* approach.

Attempts are being made to settle the dispute by *diplomatic* means.

Synonyms: discreet; prudent; shrewd; sagacious; judicious; sharp; astute

Contextual Usage:

How can one be *discreet* if one does not know about the past career of one's opponent?

It was not *prudent* to undertake climbing of the steep slope. It has put her life in constant danger.

He was *shrewd* enough to understand how far he could go in criticizing the existing regime.

I like his *sharp* awareness of social niceties. ,

The secretary made an *astute* assessment of the strengths and weakness of the plans for reorganizing the department.

His judicious judgment has saved the family from its breakup.

In this matter you should ask a *sagacious* man for advice.

Antonyms: indiscreet; imprudent; tackles; injudicious; silly; bungling

Contextual Usage:

His *indiscretion* has made him to lose the contract.

He was so *imprudent* in dealing with his boss that he could retain his job more than six months.

His tactless behavior lost him his best friend.

58. **DOGGED**, *adj.*: showing determination; not giving up easily; doggedly, *adv.*

Usage: Her *dogged* -tendency is the main reason for her success in this international examination.

Although the soldiers fought *doggedly* on, a sense of hopeless despair engulfed them.

Synonyms: determined; firm; immovable; indefatigable; obstinate; persevering; persistent; pertinacious; resolute; steadfast; stubborn

Contextual Usage:

He is *determined* to go to the US for higher studies.

He is a *firm* believer of socialism.

Lock your bike to something *immovable* like a railing or lamp post.

The new boss is is very *obstinate* in his views.

Despite *persistent* denials, the rumor continued to spread.

A few preserving climbers finally reached the top of the cliff.

Antonyms: doubtful; half-hearted; hesitant; irresolute; undetermined; unsteady

Contextual Usage:

It is extremely **doubtful** that anyone survived the explosion. Being an introvert he made a **halfhearted** attempt at conversation. She is still **unsteady** on her feet after the illness.

59. **EBB, verb:** to move away from the land; to become gradually weaker or less

Usage: As night fell, our enthusiasm began to **ebb** away.

After the accident in which he lost his left-arm, his fortunes began to **ebb**.

Synonyms: wane; decline; decay; sink; recede; retire

Contextual Usage:

High morals of the olden days are on the **wane** due to greater emphasis on material aspects in modern life.

There is a **decline** in the balanced values among the youth.

The smell of death and **decay** hung over the town.

Antonyms: flow; increase; abound; swell

Contextual Usage:

There is an increased/tow of water in this canal owing to recent rains.

He **increased** his speed to overtake the bus.

Stories about his travels **abound**.

As the actor appeared on the stage, the cheering of the audience **swelled** through the hall.

60. **ENCHANTED, adj.:** placed under a spell; filled with great pleasure

Usage: The child was **enchanted** with her birthday gift.

She was **enchanted** with the flowers you sent her.

Synonyms: fascinated; bewitched; captivated; enraptured; enamored; entranced; spellbound; charmed

Contextual Usage:

The scenic view glimpsed through the window of the train **charmed** me.

I **was fascinated** by the beauty of the snow-capped mountain.

Dilip Kumar **bewitched** a generation of movie goers.

The actor's performance and good looks **captivated the** audience.

Lata Mangeshkar's beautiful voice **enraptured** audiences everywhere.

Most visitors are **enamored** by the marble beauty of the Taj Mahal.

A hypnotist looks for subjects which can be easily **entranced**.

Everyone was **spellbound by** the mimicry of the young boy at the concert.

Antonyms: disgusted; repulsed; replied; nauseated

Contextual Usage:

The teacher was **disgustedly** the continued indifference of the student in her studies. Everyone in the restaurant was **repulsed** by the horrible smell. I have not yet **replied** to my mother's last letter.

61. **ENCROACH, verb:** to begin to affect or use up too much of somebody's time, rights, personal life, etc; to slowly begin to cover more and more of an area

Usage: The sea is **encroaching** upon the land.

I never allow work to **encroach** upon his family life.

Synonyms: infringe; violate; invade; intrude; trespass

Contextual Usage:

I cannot tolerate anybody **infringing** my rights.

Violation of law is punishable in every state.

The state does not **intrude** into the personal life of individuals in a democracy.

Antonyms: desist; observe; respect; withdraw

Contextual Usage:

I **desisted** from slapping him on this face, although he did his worst to annoy me.

We can travel safely if we **observe** the rules of traffic seriously.

With due respect to your sentiments, I beg to **withdraw** my comments.

62. **ENDANGER, verb:** to put somebody/something in a situation in which they could be harmed or damaged

Usage: Brushing the wrong side of your boss will **endanger** your success.

That one mistake seriously **endangered the** reputation of their company.

Synonyms: hazard; jeopardize; risk; imperil

Contextual Usage:

Don't *hazard* your reputation by supporting a wrong person.

He has insured his factory against the *risk* of fire.

It is not advisable to *jeopardize* your health for this petty gain of money.

He *imperiled* his life to save a drowning child.

Antonyms: protect; safeguard; shield; defend; screen

Contextual Usage:

I can *protect* my rights, but do I protect the rights of others or of the society at large? Traditional weapons cannot *safeguard* a country against the evil designs of an atomic power. US is providing *shield* to those countries in Asia who bows its line.

63. **ENDORSE, verb:** to say publicly that one supports a person, statement or course of action; to write your name on the back of a cheque so that it can be paid into a bank account

Usage: His driving license has been *endorsed* by the authorities.

One wonders how many celebrities actually use the products they *endorse*.

Synonyms: approve; accredit; ratify; confirm; sanction

Contextual Usage:

I whole-heartedly *approve* your stand on this issue.

The college is *accredited* to AACSB.

India has *ratified* the Indo-Indonesian Trade Agreement of 1984.

Antonyms: discredit; condemn; censure; disapprove; reject; reprehend

Contextual Usage:

Communal disturbances in India bring *discredit* to the image of its unity and integrity. The communal elements anywhere need to be *condemned* in strong words. There was a vote of *censure* on the government's foreign policy.

64. **ENDURING, adj.:** lasting for a long time; endure, *verb*

Usage: She can't *endure* to see animals cruelly treated.

What is the reason for cricket's *enduring* interest in the Indians?

Synonyms: abiding; continuing; durable; firm; immortal; immovable; imperishable; perennial; permanent; persistent; prevailing

Contextual Usage:

These kitchen wares are made of *durable* material.

I'm tired of your *eternal* arguments.

She is now *the firm* on pursuing her higher studies.

The company is now taking the workers' welfare initiatives on a *permanent* basis.

Despite *persistent* denials, the rumor continued to spread.

Antonyms: brief; ephemeral; fleeting; momentary; passing; short-lived; temporary; transient; transitory

Contextual Usage:

Journalism is important but *ephemeral*.

In winters, days are *short* but nights are long. Her interest in tennis was very *short-lived*. This decoration is only *temporary*. Every living being is *transitory* by nature.

65. **ETERNAL, adj.:** without an end; existing or continuing forever; happening often and seeming never to stop

Usage: I'm tired of your *eternal* arguments.

Newspapers are simply responding to the *eternal* fascination of their readers with the private lives of the rich and famous.

Synonyms: perpetual; ceaseless; deathless; unending

Contextual Usage:

Poverty is a *perpetual problem* of India.

The administration in the country is working *ceaselessly* to eradicate the root cause of poverty.

The poor people are always engaged in a *deathless* struggle to subsist.

Antonyms: temporal; fleeting; swift; passing

Contextual Usage:

Although spiritual leader of millions of people, the Pope has no *temporal* power.

He said that life was *fleeting* and that each of us should make the best contribution to the good of society.

Machine has made human life *swift* and colorful.

66. **EVASION, noun:** the act of avoiding somebody or of avoiding something that one is supposed to do; a statement that somebody makes that avoids dealing with something or talking about something honestly and directly

Usage: His speech was full of *evasions* and half-truths.

His answers to my questions were all *evasions*.

Synonyms: quibble; subterfuge; prevarication; excuse; pretext

Contextual Usage:

I only have a few minor *quibbles* about your essay. Basically it's very good. Why didn't they tell us immediately instead of resorting to this *subterfuge!* The incident was used as a *pretext* for the military intervention in the area. Ignorance of the law is no *excuse*.

Antonyms: refutation; reply; rejoinder; response

Contextual Usage:

The minister's prompt *refutation* of the allegations did not satisfy his interviewers.

I am awaiting a *reply* to my letter from the authorities.

The opposition leader sent a *rejoinder* to the party in power on the issue of corruption.

67. EVIDENT, *adj.*: clear; easily seen

Usage: He looked at his children with *evident* pride.

It has now become *evident* to us that a mistake has been made.

Synonyms: clear; visible; obvious; evident; patent; manifest; distinct

Contextual Usage:

He tried to give many examples but could not make his point *clear*.

The vehicle was not *visible* because of the fog.

It was *obvious* to everyone that the child had been badly treated.

From the quick success of the business, it was *evident* that he had invested his money wisely.

Every law has a *patent* as well as latent meaning.

His nervousness was *manifest* to all those present.

He failed to realize the *distinct* note of annoyance in her voice.

Antonyms: hidden; obscure; secret; covert; latent; masked

Contextual Usage:

Her charming face was *hidden* behind the veil.

The autobiographies of great men are rather *obscure* for a common man to comprehend.

The defence ministry has kept the message received from the RAW as top *secret*.

68. EXERTION, *noun*: physical or mental effort; the act of making an effort; the use of power to make something happen

Usage: She was hot and breathless from the *exertion* of cycling uphill.

Exertion of authority is not always wise. Persuasion is better.

Synonyms: energy; strain; effort; stretch; pull; tug; spurt; struggle; pain; trouble; endeavour

Contextual Usage:

Einstein has proved that matter and *energy* are convertible into each other.

I can realize your *strain* of working while suffering from a painful back ailment.

In spite of his best *efforts* he could not win any prize.

He worked for six hours at a *stretch*.

The *pull* of current carried as downstream.

She gave her sister's hair a sharp *tug*.

The Red Cross *endeavored* to alleviate the suffering of mankind.

The President of the society has taken *pains* to save it from being wound up.

We are having *trouble* with our new car.

Antonyms: rest; repose; peace; tranquility; idleness; laziness; lethargy

Contextual Usage:

I switched off the machine and it came to *rest*.

Her face is mirror of her sweet *repose*.

I have *made peace* with my boss by clarifying all the misunderstandings.

Laziness and *lethargy* makes man dull.

69. FABULOUS, *adj.*: extremely good

Usage: The food looks *fabulous*.

Fabulous heroes could be found only in fictions.

Synonyms: brilliant; fantastic; marvelous; spectacular; superb; amazing; breathtaking; fictitious; immense; incredible; wonderful; astounding

Contextual Usage:

She has a *brilliant* mind. She always stood first in her class. Bachendri Pal was a *fantastic* mountaineer.

It's *marvelous* that they can at last own their house.

The weather was *superb* for mountaineering.
 I find it *amazing* that you can't swim.
 It was an absolutely *astounding* performance by the magician.
 All characters of this novel *are fictitious*.
 It's *wonderful* to know that you fared well in your examination.
Antonyms: actual; common; commonplace; credible; genuine; natural; ordinary; real
Contextual Usage:
 The *actual* cost of this fur coat is much higher than we had expected.
 Car thefts are becoming increasingly *common* these days in metro cities.
 Is there a *credible* alternative to the nuclear deterrent?
 The proposal seems *genuine*, but I can't trust without going thoroughly through it.
 Earthquake is a kind of *natural* calamity.

70. **FANCIFUL**, *adj.*: based on imagination and not facts or reason; decorated in an unusual style that shows imagination
Usage: His *fanciful* paintings are more popular in US than in England. The saree had a *fanciful* broad golden border.

Synonyms: imaginary; unreal; imaginative; fantastic; capricious; whimsical
Contextual Usage:

He is always haunted by his *imaginary* fear of failure in business.

The actions of diplomats must never be *capricious*.

She lives in an *unreal* world of make-believe.

What he says and does is all *whimsical*.

The painter's *imaginative* use of colour delighted the critics.

His recital *was fantastic*. He got immense praise from the audience.

Antonyms: positive; realistic; existent; substantial; factual; veritable

Contextual Usage:

His *positive* role in negotiating so successfully was greatly appreciated.

His role in this film is highly *realistic*. It seemed he actually lived the character he played.

A *substantial* amount of oil has been dug and drilled in this terrain.

71. **FEEBLE**, *adj.*: very weak; not effective; not showing determination or energy; feebly, *adv.*

Usage: His pulse was *very feeble*.

He shook his *head feebly*.

Synonyms: weak; impotent; frail; languid; debilitated; infirm

Contextual Usage:

The strong should help the *weak*.

Without the chairman's support, the committee is *impotent*.

He has put forth a *frail* theory which even an average person can challenge.

The *infirm* conclusion was based on deliberate distortion of the evidence.

The economy is now strengthening after a long and *debilitating* recession.

The *languid* wind offered no relief from the heat.

Antonyms: strong-willed; vigorous; muscular; athletic; stalwart; robust; sinewy

Contextual Usage:

A *strong-willed* man needs no arms to fight his way up.

The country has to make *vigorous* efforts to solve the unemployment problem.

His *muscular* body enables him to perform numerous feats.

He is a political *stalwart*. He has retained the Lok Sabha seat since the very first election after independence.

72. **FILTHY**, *adj.*: very dirty and unpleasant; very rude and offensive

Usage: This area is no *more filthy*.

He's got a *filthy* mind.

Synonyms: dirty; squalid; foul; impure; sullied; unclear

Contextual Usage:

A pile of *dirty* clothes is to be sent to the laundry.

The slum dwellers live a *squalid* life.

The policeman used language against the suspect.

People, *unclean* in mind and spirit, generally try to harm others.

I will not let my lips be *sullied* by the use of ugly words.

Failure of rains compelled people to drink *impure* water.

Antonyms: pure; clean; immaculate; spotless; unsullied; unsoiled

Contextual Usage:

We must first boil the water and then claim it is *pure*.
 Our classroom is so *clean*, not a speck of dust can be seen anywhere.
 He always wears *immaculate* and spotlessly *clean* clothes.
 This shirt is old but *unsoiled* so far.

73. **FORESIGHT, noun:** the ability to predict what is likely to happen and to use this to prepare for the future

Usage: If you had had *more foresight*, you would have saved yourself a lot of trouble?
 She **had a foresight** to prepare herself financially in case of retrenchment.

Synonyms: foreknowledge; care; caution; precaution; prudence; forethought; prescience; presentiment; foreshadowing

Contextual Usage:

His foreknowledge of the market saved the company from going bankrupt.

He *had forethought* to change his marketing strategy.

She showed *great prescience* in selling her shares just before the market cracked.

His father's *prudence* saved him falling prey to the trap of misleading advertisement.

The share broker had a *presentiment* that price of the company's share will rise in the near future.

These incidents *are foreshadows* of the civil war.

Antonyms: narrow-mindedness; bias; shortsightedness; prejudice

Contextual Usage:

Narrow-mindedness is one of the important causes of conflict among humans at all levels.

His judgement is free from any kind of *bias*.

His *shortsightedness* in business brought him early profit but huge loss in the long run.

74. **FUTILE, adj.:** having no purpose because there is no chance of success

Usage: All his attempts at last turned out to be *futile*.
 Their efforts to revive him *were futile*.

Synonyms: abortive; barren; bootless; empty; forlorn; fruitless; hollow; unproductive; unsuccessful; worthless; useless

Contextual Usage:

I was tired of their *barren* discussions.

The room was *empty*.

Empty houses quickly take on a *forlorn* look.

All our efforts to persuade her proved *fruitless*.

I tapped the wall to see if it was *hollow*.

She made several *unsuccessful* attempts to see him.

I displaced all the *worthless* furniture to the basement.

It is totally *useless* to persuade her, she is adamant and rude.

Antonyms: constructive; effective; fruitful; profitable; purposeful; successful; useful

Contextual Usage:

I'm trying to be *constructive* because I have less time to fulfill the task. Delhi government is trying to make the health service as *effective* as possible. She spent a *very profitable* afternoon in the library. Young people's energies should be directed towards *more purposeful* activities.

75. **GALLANT, adj.:** brave, especially in a very difficult situation; giving polite attention to women

Usage: He is very *gallant* in terms of taking high risks.

He left her standing in the rain. That wasn't *very gallant* of him.

Synonyms: bold; brave; courageous; daring; dashing; heroic; valiant; valorous; dignified; glorious; magnificent; splendid

Contextual Usage:

I don't feel *bold* enough to ask for a pay increase.

It was *brave* of her to go into a burning house to rescue her child.

These women are resourceful and *courageous*.

He has a *daring* personality. He always speaks the truth.

Throughout his trial he maintained a *dignified* silence.

Soldiers always die a *glorious* death in the battlefield.

The bride looked simply *magnificent* in her wedding dress.

The hotel stands in *splendid* isolation surrounded by green fields.

Antonyms: cowardly; fearful; ignoble; churlish; discourteous; ill-mannered; impolite; rude

Contextual Usage:

It was *cowardly* of you not to admit your mistake. It seems *churlish* to refuse such a generous offer. It is *discourteous* of you to arrive late every day. It was *ill-mannered* of you not to thank her. Some people think it is *impolite* to ask someone's age. It is rude to interrupt when somebody is speaking.

76. **GENIAL**, *adj.*: friendly and cheerful

Usage: He is under the *genial* influence of good wine.

The air hostess greeted the passengers with a *genial* smile.

Synonyms: affable; agreeable; amiable; cheerful; cheery; congenial; convivial; cordial; enlivening; friendly; glad; happy

Contextual Usage:

She found her in-laws very *affable*.

I found him most *agreeable* at that moment.

Her parents seemed very *amiable*.

You are looking very *cheerful* today, anything special?

I think that this aspect of my job is particularly *congenial*.

People very often take advantages of her because of her *easy going* nature.

I am *glad* to hear he is recovering his illness steadily.

I won't be happy until I know she is *happy*.

Antonyms: cheerless; coo; discourteous; frigid; morose; rude; sardonic; sullen; unfriendly

Contextual Usage:

It was *discourteous* of you to arrive late daily.

The new manager is a *morose*. He always behaves rudely with elders.

It was *rude* of them not to phone and say they would be late for the meeting.

All my attempts to amuse the children were met with *sullen* scowls.

He was distinctly *unfriendly* towards me.

77. **GRIM**, *adj.*: looking or sounding very serious; unpleasant and depressing; not attractive; depressing; of very low quality

Usage: The house looked *grim* and dreary in the rain.

At last our entire struggle turned out to be mere *grim* moves.

Synonyms: cruel; ferocious; fierce; formidable; frightful; ghastly; grisly; gruesome; harsh; merciless; ruthless; severe; sullen; surly; terrible

Contextual Usage:

In business, sometimes one has to be *cruel* to be kind in long run.

The lion is a *ferocious* animal. It can kill you.

He is a *formidable* boss. No one dared to disagree with him.

Even now the *frightful* prospect of nuclear war is not ruled out.

The police is investigating the mastermind behind this *grisly* crime.

We all have to face the *harsh* realities of life.

She was subjected to the *merciless* criticism of her opponents.

Eidi Ameen was a *ruthless* dictator of Uganda.

Antonyms: amiable; attractive; benign; cheerful; gentle; happy

Contextual Usage:

Her parents seemed very *amiable* and *gentle*.

He is intelligent, but I don't find him physically *attractive* at all.

The new secretary is very pretty and *cheerful*.

It is *easy* to go downward in respect of upward.

She agreed to come, after a little *gentle* persuasion.

I am very *happy* at his success.

78. **HABITUAL**, *adj.*: usual or typical of somebody/something; done, often in a way that is annoying or difficult to stop; doing something that has become a habit and is therefore difficult to stop

Usage: Grandfather took his *habitual* seat at the dining table.

We waited for father's *habitual* response.

Synonyms: accustomed; common; familiar; fixed; ordinary; constant

Contextual Examples:

My eyes slowly grew *accustomed* to the darkness.

Cigarette smoking is not only *common* among college students even school goers smoke cigarettes.

I am quite *familiar* with French language.

Allergies to milk are quite *common* in childhood.

It is *ordinary* to wear dhoti kurta in village still now.

Babies need *constant* attention.

Antonyms: abnormal; exceptional; extraordinary; rare; strange; unusual; infrequent; irregular; occasional

Contextual Usage:

In high context culture like India, it is *abnormal* to speak with the elders rudely.

In North India, rain in winter is *exceptional*.

Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru was an *extraordinary* statesman and great politician.

Such cases of diseases are relatively *infrequent* in this part of the country.

There will be *occasional* showers during daytime.

It is extremely *rare* for the weather in April to be this hot.

The person behaved in a *strange* manner.

79. HALT, verb: to stop; to make somebody/something stop

Usage: We want to *halt* between two arguments.

The trial was *halted* after the first week.

Synonyms: break off; cease; close down; come to an end; desist; draw up; terminate

Contextual Usage:

He *broke off* in the middle of the sentence.

Bajaj Auto *ceased* making scooters some time back.

At last the fight between two countries *came to an end* with the interference of UN.

I wish he'd *desist* from interacting with his friends at the odd hours.

The cab *drew up* outside the house.

The boss *terminated* careless employee.

Antonyms: begin; commence; continue; go ahead; maintain; proceed; resume; start; aid; boost; encourage; forward

Contextual Usage:

This year monsoon will *begin* after June. Our examination will *commence* next week. The desert *continued* as far as the eyes could see. The unexpected win helped to *boost* the team's morale. She *encouraged* her husband to lose weight. We have *today forwarded* you the new catalogue.

80. HANDY, adj.: easy to use or to do; located near to somebody/something; located or stored in a convenient place; skilful in using your hands or tools to make or repair things

Usage: Do not throw the plastic bag away. That may come in *handy*.

She always carried a *handy-sized* dictionary.

Synonyms: skilled; skilful; accessible; available; useful; adopt; expert; adroit; proficient; dexterous; ready; close; near; convenient

Contextual Usage:

It is better to pay more to a *skilled* man than waste time and resources on an unskilled man.

The mason did a *skilful job* in building this wall.

Sanjay was an *expert* driver that is why he could avert the accident.

Mostly leaders are *adroit* speakers.

Her *dexterous* fingers moved effortlessly over the key board of this computer.

The children are *close* to each other in age.

The parking lot is *convenient* to the office staff.

Although she is a *proficient* dancer, she takes little interest in it.

Antonyms: unskilled; unskillful; bungling; clumsy; unhandy; awkward; inept; maladroit; useless

Contextual Usage:

This factory will do better if it were to replace *unskilled* workers by trained ones.

He claimed proficiency on machines, but his handling of this machine seems *unskillful*.

The new management is *bungling* with the whole mechanism of the production process.

The cartoon was very *awkward*.

This book is *useless* to the competition aspirants.

Both parties are unhappy about the *maladroit* handling of the whole affair.

81. HAZARD, noun: a thing that can be dangerous or cause damage

Usage: Life to him seems to be full of *hazards*.

Growing levels of pollution represent a serious health *hazard* to the local population.

Synonyms: chance; danger; jeopardy; risk; venture; peril; contingency; threat

Contextual Usage:

This road may not be the right one but that's *chance* we're going to take. He had stayed up so late last night he felt the *danger* of dozing off at work. Many species are in *the peril* of extinction.

The entrepreneur has insured his assets against the *risk* of fire and theft. Such a gamble against odds would put their whole *venture in jeopardy*. The leader has *threatened* to wipe him out if ever he thought of leaving the gang. We must be prepared for any *contingency*.

Antonyms: assurance; certainty; necessity; protection; safeguard; security; surety

Contextual Usage:

I wanted an *assurance* from my company for my job security. There is no *certainty* of a lasting career in all the private sectors alike. There is no particular *necessity* for me to linger on this job. A house is the *first protection* from vagaries of nature.

82. **HUMANE, adj.:** showing kindness towards people and animals by making sure that they do not suffer more than is necessary

Usage: He is a man of *humane* character.

Animal rights activists claim that the animals are not being kept in *humane* conditions.

Synonyms: humanitarian; philanthropic; sympathetic; tender; kind; benign; charitable; compassionate

Contextual Usage:

Amnesty International is an organization doing lot of *humanitarian* work. Some of the industrialists are involved in a lot of *philanthropic* activities. Our management has a *sympathetic* attitude towards the labourers.

Antonyms: inhuman; unkind; cruel; uncharitable; malignant

Contextual Usage:

Policy of apartheid practice is considered *inhuman* in a democracy.

She never said anything *unkind* about anyone.

The issue may get *malignant* if not controlled in time.

83. **HYPOCRISY, noun:** behaviour in which somebody pretends to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have

Usage: Making a claim that he did not commit a mistake is nothing but *hypocrisy*.

Team Anna condemned the *hypocrisy* of those politicians who do one thing and say another.

Synonyms: deceit; duplicity; pretence; falsify; deception; cant

Contextual Usage:

Everyone was involved in the web of *deceit*.

Their friendliness was *only pretence*.

His speech was full of political, social and religious *cant*.

He *falsified* his birth certificate in order to get a new passport.

He was accused of obtaining property by *deception*.

Antonyms: honesty; uprightness; straightforwardness; sincerity; truthfulness

Contextual Usage:

He has risen in life by dint of his strict adherence to the principle of *honesty*.

He believes in *uprightness* and expects same from others.

His dealings are marked by *straightforwardness*. He does not indulge in hypocrisy.

84. **ICY, adj.:** very cold; covered with ice; not friendly or kind; showing feelings of dislike or anger

Usage: In summer, we experience *icy* wind in this town.

My eyes could no longer bear his *icy* gaze.

Synonyms: arctic; biting; bitter; chill; chilling; chilly; freezing; aloof; cold; distant; forbidding; frigid; frosty; glacial; indifferent; stony

Contextual Usage:

Black coffee leaves a *bitter* taste in mouth. The visitors got a *chilly* reception.

It is freezing here. Shut the window.

Throughout the conversation he remained silent and *aloof*.

Her manner was *cold and distant*.

His questions were met with a *frosty* silence.

Seeing her *indifferent* attitude, I gave up my intention to propose her.

Antonyms: blistering; boiling; cordial; friendly; gracious; warm

Contextual Usage:

The runners set off at a *blistering* pace.

You must be *boiling* in that fur coat!

It is very hot today. The temperature has risen to 45°C.

They were *very friendly* to me when I first arrived.

My grandmother is a *gracious* lady.

85. **IMITATE, verb:** to copy somebody/something; to copy the way a person speaks or behaves, in order to amuse people
Usage: Art *imitates* Nature.

One should *imitate* great and good men.

Synonyms: burlesque; echo; follow; copy; impersonate; mock; mimic; counterfeit; forge; parody

Contextual Usage:

The movie was criticized for its *burlesque* treatment of serious issues.

The gunshot *echoed* through the forest.

Religion teaches us to **follow** right path.

Children normally *copy* what elders do.

He can *impersonate* many well-known politicians.

The robot was programmed to *mimic* a series of human movements.

Nowadays *counterfeit* currency is in large circulation.

Everyone laughed when the comedian *parodied* the minister's brag.

Antonyms: alter; convert; modify; vary

Contextual Usage:

He had *altered* so much I scarcely recognized him.

He has converted his garage into lab.

The equipment has been *modified* to suit local requirements.

86. **IMPRUDENT, adj.:** not wise or sensible

Usage: Is it not *imprudent* of you to marry when your salary is very low?

It would be *imprudent* to invest all your money in the shares of one company.

Synonyms: careless; fool hardy; foolish; headless; ill-advised; ill-considered; ill-judged; improvident; irresponsible; rash; reckless

Contextual Usage:

If you want to do well in your career you should not be *careless* in your duties.

It was foolhardy of him to go swimming alone.

He is not serious in his job. He is a **headless man**.

He was ill-advised to tell his manager that he is not responsible for the damages.

It was *irresponsible* of you to leave the door unlocked.

It would be *rash* of them to make up their minds before they have heard all the evidence.

Antonyms: careful; cautious; considerate; discreet; judicious; polite; provident; prudent; responsible; wise

Contextual Usage:

Be *careful* of the dog, it sometimes bites the people.

It was *considerate* of you not to play the piano while I was asleep.

You should make a few *discreet* inquiries about the firm before you sign anything.

When the fight began he thought it **polite** to leave.

Some farmers had been *provident* in the good years but others were rained by the bad harvests.

87. **INCLEMENT, adj.:** not pleasant; cold, wet, etc.

Usage: Fishermen of the coastal areas should not go into sea in this *inclement* weather.

The *inclement* work culture in the organization will adversely affect its progress.

Synonyms: rough; stormy; rigorous; severe; harsh; draconian; unfavorable; unpleasant **Contextual Usage:**

His *rough* behaviour repels even his friends.

Even after the *stormy* debate, no resolution was passed in the board meeting.

The weather today is rather *unfavourable* for playing golf.

Antonyms: genial; mild; pleasant; favourable; balmy; clement; merciful

Contextual Usage:

She has a *genial* personality. She makes everybody a well-wisher.

Today the weather is *mild* enough to let us go on a picnic.

Her pleasant manners win everybody to her side.

Don't go there until the situation *becomes favourable*.

88. **INTEGRITY, noun:** the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; the state of being whole and not divided.

Usage: He is a man of great *integrity*.

Isn't this treaty supposed to restore our territorial *integrity*?

Synonyms: honesty; probity; sincerity; truthfulness; rectitude; truth

Contextual Usage:

Honesty adopted as a policy in business pays huge dividends in the long run. **Probity** involves deep thinking about each and every aspect of a problem. **Sincerity** brings its reward by the very law of natural relationships. **Truthfulness** may cause trouble in the beginning but always has a happy ending.

Antonyms: unfairness; dishonesty; disunity; diversity

Contextual Usage:

Business loses and **unfairness** in the management were exposed by the consultants.

The firm's disrepute for **dishonesty** can seldom survive.

The sense of national integration among citizens is essential to avoid **disunity**.

India is a land of **diversity** in religion and language but unity in economy and polity.

89. INVINCIBLE, adj.: too strong to be defeated or changed

Usage: It is only because of his **invincible** determination, Gagan Narang succeeded getting bronze in the London Olympics, 2012.

The Indian cricket team seemed **invincible** in the last twenty overs.

Synonyms: impregnable; indestructible; indomitable; inseparable; insuperable; invulnerable; unassailable; unconquerable; insurmountable

Contextual Usage:

The team built up an **impregnable** 5-1 lead.

Our economic fortunes are inseparable from those of Europe.

Liverpool is in an **invulnerable** position at the top of the league.

Manchester United has built up an **unassailable** lead at the top of the premier division.

Before 1953, Mount Everest seemed **unconquerable**.

Antonyms: assailable; beatable; conquerable; defenseless; fallible; powerless; unprotected; vulnerable, weak; yielding

Contextual Usage:

The investigation committee has proved that it is **fallible** after all.

The Embassy seemed **powerless** to intervene.

The election defeat puts the party leader in a **vulnerable** position.

That bridge is too **weak** to carry such heavy traffic.

She is soft and **yielding**.

90. JAUNDICED, adj.: not expecting somebody/something to be good or useful, especially because of experiences that one has had in the past

Usage: Do not take a **jaundiced** view on this matter.

Team Anna looked on some politicians with a **jaundiced** eye.

Synonyms: cynical; preconceived; skeptical; bitter; biased; distorted; envious; hostile; jealous; partial; prejudiced; resentful; spiteful; suspicious

Contextual Usage:

They have grown rather **cynical** about democracy.

He had **no preconceived** ideas about what careers his children should follow.

I am rather **skeptical** about his chance of winning, despite what the papers say.

Failing in the exam was a **bitter** experience to him.

He is clearly **biased** in the government's favour.

She cast **envious** eyes on her sister's dress.

Antonyms: credulous; ingenuous; naive; optimistic; open-minded; trusting; unbiased

Contextual Usage:

Their approach to life is refreshingly **naive**.

She is quite **optimistic** about the outcome.

She wished her parents were more **open-minded** about her friends.

She has a **trusting** nature. She never deceives anybody.

91. JUST, adj. and adv.: something that most people consider to be morally fair and reasonable; appropriate in a particular situation

Usage: Be **just** to all.

I think she got **just** what she deserved.

Synonyms: decent; fair; good; honest; impartial; pure; right; accurate; exact; faithful; lawful; apt; deserved; proper; suitable; legitimate

Contextual Usage:

We must provide **decent** housing for poor.

Aung San Suu Kyi deserves a. **fair** treatment in her own country.

He is poor but ***honest***, he never tells a lie.

As chairman, he must remain ***impartial***.

Classical dance in ***its purest*** form requires symmetry and balance.

The dog is a ***faithful*** animal.

She doesn't have anything ***suitable*** to wear for the party.

Antonyms: corrupt; devious; dishonest; inequitable; prejudiced; unfair; unjust; unlawful; untrue; inappropriate; undeserved; unfit

Contextual Usage:

Corrupt officials should be punished.

It would be ***dishonest*** of me to pretend that I enjoyed the evening.

The price charged to distributors was highly ***inequitable***.

Few people will admit to being ***racially prejudiced***.

It is ***unfair*** to the candidates to raise their hopes too soon.

He was charged with ***unlawful*** possession of banned drugs.

92. **KINDLE**, **verb**: to start burning; to make a fire start burning; to make something such as an interest, emotion, etc., start to grow in somebody; to start to be felt by somebody

Usage: These songs ***kindled*** my enthusiasm to learn music.

Suspicion ***kindled*** within her slowly and steadily.

Synonyms: ignite; inflame; light; fire; agitate; excite; incite; induce

Contextual Usage:

The malicious propaganda of the communal parties ***ignited*** fresh wave of violence.

The speeches of the leaders ***inflamed*** the high passions of the crowd.

He ***put a lighted match*** to the paper and watched it burn.

The house caught ***fire*** due to short circuit.

His appearance at the party had clearly ***agitated*** her.

Antonyms: extinguish; put out; satisfy; satiate

Contextual Usage:

The police used new equipments to ***extinguish*** the fire in the house.

It took them five hours ***to put out*** the fire.

Of all the cold drinks, Campa Cola ***satisfies*** my thirst the best.

Journalism may be financially less paid. It does ***satiate*** one's thirst for knowledge and adventure.

93. **LESSEN**, **verb**: to become or make something become smaller, weaker, less important, etc.

Usage: This medicine will certainly ***lessen*** the pain to some extent.

As the speaker started off with her speech, the noise began to ***lessen***.

Synonyms: lighten; assuage; allay; mitigate; soften; temper **Contextual Usage:**

Computer has ***lightened*** the manual work of accounting.

They tried to ***assuage*** the feelings of their retrenched employees by assuring to absorb them in the next phase of expansion programme.

The company needs to ***allay*** the fear of the existing staff in respect of any further retrenchment.

The management has announced an increase in dearness allowance to ***mitigate*** the adverse effect of recent inflation. This has ***softened*** the attitude of hard core union leaders. It has also helped to ***temper*** the quality of the new staff.

Antonyms: heighten; toughen; enlarge; escalate; extend; intensify

Contextual Usage:

Promotions among the existing officers have greatly ***heightened*** the reputation of the company.

But the attitude of the lower staff has ***toughened*** threatening to reduce productivity at the lower levels.

We should ***enlarge*** the sphere of cooperation among the officers and the subordinates somehow to achieve better performance.

94. **LIBERAL**, **adj.**: willing to understand and respect other people's behaviour, opinions, etc, especially when they are different from your own; believing people should be able to choose how they behave; wanting or allowing a lot of political and economic freedom and supporting gradual social, political or religious change; generous; given in large amounts.

Usage: He is ***liberal*** of promises, but not of money.

She is quite ***liberal*** with her staff members.

Synonyms: plentiful; tolerant; profuse; free; progressive; generous; flexible

Contextual Usage:

The current monsoons assure a ***plentiful*** crop of food grains next year.

Unless Hindus and Muslims show the old ***tolerant*** attitude, the age-long oneness may not be fully restored.

His condition was critical due to ***profuse*** bleeding.

The new economic policy announced by the Finance minister gives ***a free*** hand to private enterprise in its day-to-day functioning.

Antonyms: scanty; grasping; low; mean

Contextual Usage:

The ***scanty*** rains this year in some of the state in India may adversely affect the total availability of food grains.

Our boss has a ***grasping*** temperament. He seldom looks to the other's view point.

I am feeling very ***low*** today. The news of the air crash has upset my spirits.

95. **LIKELY, adj.**: probable or expected; seeming suitable for a purpose

Usage: This looks a ***likely*** field for mushroom farming.

She seems the most ***likely*** candidate for the job.

Synonyms: apt; reasonable; presumable; liable; credible; possible; conceivable

Contextual Usage:

The song would have been more ***apt*** for a bass voice.

You must take all ***reasonable*** steps to ensure that the information that you provide is correct.

If you don't agree with her, she is ***liable*** to get angry.

He told quite a ***credible*** story of his adventure.

Frost is ***possible***, although unlikely, at this time of year.

There is no ***conceivable*** way to unite the opposition parties in India.

Antonyms: doubtful; improbable; questionable; unlikely; dubious; unreasonable

Contextual Usage:

I am ***doubtful*** of his sincere endeavor next time.

His arrival today in Delhi seems ***improbable*** due to bad weather.

The conclusions that they come to are highly ***questionable***.

My visit to Paris in the near future seems ***unlikely***.

His approach to this ticklish problem is rather ***dubious***.

The company has rejected the demand of the peons for further raise in salaries as ***unreasonable***.

96. **LIVELY, adj.**: full of life and energy; active and enthusiastic; full of interest or excitement; busy and active

Usage: The patient seems little ***lively*** this morning.

He showed a ***lively*** interest in politics in this student life.

Synonyms: vivid; vigorous; brisk; keen; vivacious; spirited

Contextual Usage:

He gave a ***vivid*** picture of his visit to France. His description of the luxurious living of the average citizen in France was rather ***animated***.

There was ***brisk*** business today in the shares of our company at the Stock Exchange.

Antonyms: listless; languid; languorous; lethargic; lifeless; immobile

Contextual Usage:

His heavy loss in business has left him rather ***listless***.

We spent a ***languid*** afternoon in the sun.

He falls occasionally sick as he has a ***lethargic*** routine.

97. **LONELY, adj.**: unhappy because one has no friends or people to talk to; sad and spent alone; a place where only a few people ever visit

Usage: This ***lonely*** mountain village has produced many poets of high repute.

She lives alone and often feels ***lonely***.

Synonyms: solitary; desolate; isolated; deserted; alone; single

Contextual Usage:

The streets were completely ***deserted***.

I was the ***solitary*** passenger in the early morning bus to the railway station.

He is a ***forlorn*** personality; seldom seen in the company of friends.

Antonyms: escorted; attended; befriended; popular; together; accompanied

Contextual Usage:

The new manager was ***escorted*** to his place of work by his assistant.

She ***attended*** the marriage ceremony of her brother with great enthusiasm. She was ***accompanied*** by a large number of her friends.

98. **MAGNANIMOUS**, *adj.*: kind, generous and forgiving, especially towards an enemy or a rival;
Usage: I was impressed by her *magnanimous* gesture.
 He was *magnanimous* in defeat and praised his opponent's skill.
Synonyms: beneficent; big; bountiful; charitable; handsome; kind; noble; beneficent; selfless
Contextual Usage:
 One gets awe-stricken by the *beneficent* powers of Nature. The *bigger* the crime the longer is the jail sentence.
 A *bountiful* supply of food has been sent to the earthquake victims by the central government.
 One should try to be more *charitable* to one's society. It was very *handsome* of him to pay for the meal. Would you be *kind* enough to help me?
Antonyms: miserly; petty; resentful; selfish; small; unforgiving; vindictive
Contextual Usage:
 At times, she is extremely *vindictive*.
 She felt angry and *resentful* at what had happened to her business.
 It was *selfish* of him to leave all the work to you.
 Children learn better in *small* classes.
 The island is an *unforgiving* place in winter.
99. **MAGNETIC**, *adj.*: connected with or produced by magnetism; somebody or something that people find very powerful and attractive
Usage: Our voice is recorded in the *magnetic* tape held inside the gadget.
 I admire her *magnetic* personality.
Synonyms: alluring; captivating; charismatic; charming; enchanting; fascinating; hypnotic; irresistible; mesmerizing; seductive
Contextual Usage:
 She has a *captivating* demeanour.
 The job offer is quite *alluring*.
 She has a *charismatic* figure and *charming* beauty.
 We found the scenery of Kashmir very *enchanting*.
 The results of the survey *make fascinating* reading.
 The music had a *hypnotic* effect on our mind and soul.
 She found his charms *irresistible*.
Antonyms: disagreeable; offensive; repellent; repulsive; unattractive; unlikeable; unpleasant
Contextual Usage:
 He is a *disagreeable* person therefore nobody likes him.
 You are generally very moderate but that time I found your attitude most *offensive*.
 The very idea of polygamy is *repellent to* me.
 I can't withstand the *repulsive* smell any longer.
100. **MAGNIFICENT**, *adj.*: extremely attractive and impressive; deserving praise
Usage: Ambanis have constructed a *magnificent* house near the beach in Mumbai.
 She looked *magnificent* in her wedding dress.
Synonyms: august; elegant; glorious; grand; impressive; lavish; luxurious; majestic; opulent; rich; regal; sublime; transcendent
Contextual Usage:
 Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru was an *august* statesman.
 The historical monuments of Agra give us an evidence of India's *glorious* past.
 It is not a very *grand* bungalow, just a small cottage.
 His collection of paintings is so *impressive* that viewers were *lavish* in their praise.
 This car is one of the *luxurious* models.
 Nobody gets *rich* from writing nowadays.
 She dismissed him with a *regal* gesture.
 The food was absolutely *sublime*.
Antonyms: bad; humble; ignoble; lowly; mean; modest; ordinary; petty; poor; trivial; undistinguished; unimposing
Contextual Usage:
 It is extremely *bad* to interrupt when two people are speaking. One should be *humble* enough to learn from your mistake.
 Don't be so *mean* in praising others. The meal was very ordinary yet hygienic. She's a good team player but a *poor* manager. It is not wise to fight over *trivial* matters.

101. **MELODY, noun:** a tune, especially the main tune in a piece of music written for several instruments or voices; a piece of music or a song with a clear or simple tune; the arrangement of musical notes in a tune

Usage: He was engrossed in the old classic *melodies*.

His songs are always strong on *melody*.

Synonyms: unison; tune; symphony; music; harmony; air

Contextual Usage:

The children showed complete *unison* in their dance and music items.

Sankar Jai Kishan has composed many soothing *tunes*.

Shall I play some **music**?

Both the partners worked together in complete *harmony* for several years.

It is often seen that a rich child carries an *air* of extravagance around him.

This *symphony* is part of his new composition.

Antonyms: discord; disharmony; distortion; disruption; noise

Contextual Usage:

Religion is no more the root of *discord* in modern societies. It is the clash of economic interests that causes *disharmony*.

Many a dispute in society is based on *distortion* of facts by vested interests.

Once the society is divided among classes, *disruption* consequentially follows.

The music presented at the concert was pure and simple *noise* meant for the animal taste and not for the gentry invited for the occasion.

102. **MISERY, noun:** great suffering of the mind or body; very poor living conditions; something that causes great suffering of mind or body; a person who is always unhappy and complaining

Usage: Children suffer *misery* from the toothache these days due to their eating habits.

He is a *misery* to spend time with.

Synonyms: woe; wretchedness; heartache; distress; anguish; torment; torture; agony; discomfort

Contextual Usage:

He was too *distressed* and confused to answer their questions.

Poverty is the biggest *wretchedness* of mankind.

The relationship caused her a great deal of *heartache*.

The majority of the people around the globe suffer from *anguish* of one type or the other, natural or manmade.

Antonyms: bliss; joy; happiness; pleasure; ecstasy; elation; sweetness

Contextual Usage:

It is a *bliss* to be ignorant of mankind's agonies.

Some people *get pleasure* out of other people's sufferings. They are called sadists. Real *happiness* lies in doing something which eradicates human suffering. Their cultural affinity helped to get real *ecstasy* during their honeymoon period.

103. **MODEST, adj.:** not talking much about your own abilities or possessions; shy about showing much of the body; not intended to attract attention; not very large, expensive, important, etc.

Usage: He is *modest* in his approach..

The research was carried out on a *modest* scale.

Synonyms: lowly; humble; shy; unassuming; unpretentious

Contextual Usage:

He has taken up job of a *lowly* government clerk.

Although a millionaire, he is *unpretentious* in his behaviour with his subordinates.

He is *humble* in habits but rich in intellectual.

She is beautiful in appearance but *shy* in public.

In spite of her great achievement in music, Lata Mageshkar is so *unassuming*

Antonyms: conceited; pretentious; showy; overbearing; immodest

Contextual Usage:

His high status in wealth has little meaning so long as he is *self-conceited and pretentious*. He is a fantastic story-teller but he becomes *overbearing* after a few minutes. His riches, unaccompanied by real talent, have made him rather *immodest*.

104. **MONOTONOUS, adj.:** never changing and therefore boring

Usage: People rarely prefer *monotonous* works.

New actors came and went with *monotonous* regularity.

Synonyms: all the same; boring; colorless; dull; humdrum; plodding; repetitive; soporific; tiresome; wearisome

Contextual Usage:

All the same there's some truth in what she says.

Don't read this book, it is so **boring**!

There is never a **dull** moment when my jovial cousins are around.

The day was rather **tiresome**.

I hate to take up **repetitive** works.

Antonyms: animated; enjoyable; entertaining; enthralling; exciting; exhilarating; interesting; lively; invigorating; engrossing

Contextual Usage:

I had rarely seen him so **animated** before.

The movie was immensely **enjoyable**.

The play was very **entertaining**.

The character of the protagonist of this novel is simply **enthralling**.

It is very **exciting** to go on a family outing.

My first parachute jumps was an **exhilarating** experience.

The science fictions, by their very subject treatment are very **engrossing**.

105. **MOURN**, *verb*: to feel and show sadness because somebody has died; to feel sad because something no longer exists or is no longer the same

Usage: He **mourns** the loss of his mother.

She **mourned** for her lost childhood.

Synonyms: bemoan; bewail; sorrow; lament; regret; grieve; deplore; cry

Contextual Usage:

He **bemoaned** the shortage of funds available for research.

He **bewailed** the disappearance of his little dog.

It is a matter of great **sorrow** that he has lost his son in an accident.

He **lamented** the loss incurred in the share market.

Everyone **regretted** the death of Indira Gandhi.

The trainees' lack of interest grieved the trainer.

The boatman **deplored** the roughness of the sea.

Antonyms: be joyful; joy; rejoice; triumph; enjoy; please

Contextual Usage:

The occasion of my brother's marriage was highly **joyful**.

The child gets a strange **joy** from playing with soft toys.

They **rejoiced** the silver jubilee of their company by holding a grand party.

The emergence of Bangladesh was a matter of great **triumph** for Mrs Indira Gandhi.

We **enjoyed** our stay in this hotel.

106. **NIMBLE**, *adj.*: able to move quickly and easily; able to think and understand quickly

Usage: Being as **nimble** as an ant is what will take you to a new height.

Dancer Isha Gupta was extremely **nimble** on her feet.

Synonyms: active; agile; prompt; flexible; quick; speedy; spry; swift

Contextual Usage:

Even at the age of 85, Khuswant Singh is very **active** and agile.

The company is very **prompt** in giving salary to its workers.

His attitude towards life is **quiet flexible**.

The **quick** reply given by the child surprised all of us.

Speedy action on the part of the fire brigade saved the house from destruction.

At 75, she is very **spry**. She manages everything in time.

The thief made a **swift** exit leaving no trace of his identity.

Antonyms: clumsy; unready; sluggish; inert; inactive; dull; dilatory

Contextual Usage:

Poor children of a slum cannot help looking **clumsy**. They are after all underfed and shabbily dressed.

The police was **unready** to chase the dacoits. No wonder the dacoits escaped.

My habits have become **sluggish**. This is the result of my recent sickness.

Our science teacher is rather **inert**, although extremely intelligent.

Anil is rather **inactive** for the type of quality education he is enjoying.

Our new teacher is rather **dull** and drab.

107. **NOBLE**, *adj.*: having fine personal qualities that people admire, such as courage, honesty and care for others; very impressive in size or quality; belonging to a family of high social rank (belonging to the nobility).

Usage: He has planned to build a house on a *noble* scale.

Martyrs sacrificed their lives for a *noble* cause.

Synonyms: dignified; lofty; eminent; honorable; magnificent; great; illustrious; elevated; lord; aristocrat; grand

Contextual Usage:

The President received the foreign guests in her usual *dignified* manner.

The Himalayas is a *lofty* mountain.

I met several *eminent* leaders in a conference yesterday.

Honorable Prime Minister has consented to chair the All Party Meeting.

Mahatma Gandhi was a *great* leader of India.

Shakespeare is England's most *illustrious* literary figure.

An *elevated* house is one that has been built on a high platform.

He keeps *lording* over his subordinates day in and day out.

Membership of this club is reserved for *aristocrats* only.

The army chief looked *grand* in his uniform.

Antonyms: ignoble; mean; humble; common; plebeian

Contextual Usage:

His *ignoble* attitude has spoiled the image of his political party.

He is rather *mean* in his dealings with his colleagues.

Mahatma Gandhi was *humble* in demeanour but noble in idea and action.

The *common* man in India still lives a simple life.

The way the person behaved shows that he belongs to *aplebian* class.

108. **NOTION**, *noun*: an idea, a belief or an understanding of something

Usage: I have no *notion* of what he means.

She had only a vague *notion* of what might happen.

Synonyms: conception; impression; imagination; opinion; doctrine; belief; supposition; thought

Contextual Usage:

The architect's *conception* of the building was a glass sky-scraper.

He imbibed a deep *impression* of the Taj's lovely moonlight beauty when he viewed it for the first time.

With a little *imagination* we should be able to find a solution to this vexed problem.

His pt teacher has a very high *opinion* about him.

Progress has swept many of the old *doctrines* away.

His firm *belief* in God helps him overcome all difficulties in life.

He acted on the *supposition* that the public would applaud his political maneuvers.

What are your *thoughts* on this topic?

Antonyms: truth; reality; fact; variety; actuality

Contextual Usage:

Truth always triumphs; falsehood never pays.

Terrorism has of late become one of the menacing *realities* across the world.

The fact of poverty in the developing countries continues to persist.

There is a great *variety* of religions in India—Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Zoroastrianism etc.

The *actuality* of divisive tendencies in the Indian social firmament cannot be denied.

109. **OBDURATE**, *adj.*: refusing to change your mind or your actions in any way

Usage: His *obdurate* nature resulted in loss of his job.

Some members of the committee are likely to prove *obdurate* on this matter.

Synonyms: adamant; dogged; firm; fixed; hard; hard-hearted; immovable; inexorable; inflexible; obstinate; relentless; unending; inexpressible

Contextual Usage:

She was quite *adamant* that she would not accept the job.

"I don't want to be unkind", he said in *a firm* voice.

He had the *fixed* idea that a woman's place was in the home.

Lock your bike to something *immovable* like a railing or a lamppost.

He is rather *obstinate* and *inflexible* in his attitude.

Antonyms: amenable; biddable; complaint; flexible; malleable; plaint; soft-hearted; submissive; tender; tractable; yielding; placid

Contextual Usage:

I find him very *amenable* to reason.

She is placid and biddable since her childhood.

The government, *complaint* as ever, gave in to their demand.

You need to be *more flexible* and imaginative in your approach.

The young are more *malleable* than the old.

110. **OBLIGATORY**, *adj.*: something that one must do because of the law, rules, etc.

Usage: 90% attendance at school *obligatory* or optional in that country?

It is *obligatory* for all employees in this factory to wear protective clothing.

Synonyms: necessary; unavoidable; needful; imperative; compulsory

Contextual Usage:

If *necessary*, I am prepared to come again tomorrow.

It is *unavoidable* to pay taxes if your income is beyond the limit fixed by the government.

I am sure he will do the *needful* in this matter.

It is absolutely *imperative* that we make a quick decision.

Environmental education should be *compulsory* in schools.

Antonyms: desired; willing; voluntary; self; chosen

Contextual Usage:

We should work our utmost to achieve our *desired* objectives.

"Sorry, I am not *willing* to relax the rules for the sake of your son's admission in my school", said the principal reluctantly.

My father has taken *voluntary* retirement after 20 years of service in the government, though he could still continue for few more years.

The career followed by his son is *self-chosen*. He has given him full liberty to do so.

111. **OBLITERATE**, *verb*: to remove all signs of something, either by destroying or covering it completely

Usage: The criminals *obliterated* all signs of crime before they left the scene.

The building was completely *obliterated* by the bomb.

Synonyms: annihilate; blot out; cancel; destroy; efface; eradicate; erase; expunge; extirpate; root out; wipe out

Contextual Usage:

She *annihilated* her opponent who failed to win a single game against her.

He tried to *blot out* anything that would remind him of his ordeal.

The match had to be *cancelled* because of bad weather.

They have *destroyed* all the evidence of the spot.

Time and weather had *effaced* the inscription on the monument.

Small pox has now been *eradicated*.

His family has tried to *erase* from his mind all memories of the disaster.

Antonyms: build; construct; create; establish; formulate; generate; make; form

Contextual Usage:

Birds *build* their nests out of twigs.

Delhi government had *constructed* many flyovers in Delhi before the Commonwealth Game 2010.

Scientists disagree about how the universe was *created*.

India tries to *establish* a good relationship with all her neighbours.

The compost is *specially formulated* for pot plants.

The proposal has *generated* a lot of interest.

112. **OBLIVIOUS**, *adj.*: not aware of something

Usage: The students were *oblivious* of what were taking place around them.

The couple seemed *oblivious* to what was going on around them.

Synonyms: forgetful; absent-minded; inattentive

Contextual Usage:

He is *forgetful*. One cannot entrust him serious assignments.

Our professor of Philosophy is so *absent-minded* that sometimes people take him for granted.

He is *inattentive* in his class. That is why he is so poor in the academics.

Antonyms: attentive; aware; observant

Contextual Usage:

He is very *attentive* in his lessons.

With the awareness created by the media, people are gradually becoming *aware* of their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

The Business Head is quite *observant* of the activities of the rival companies.

113. OBSCURE, adj.: not well known; difficult to understand

Usage: Is the meaning still *obscure* to you?

The meaning of his comment was *obscure* to everyone but himself.

Synonyms: dark; doubtful; dim; dense; hidden; dusky; muddy; turbid; involved; unintelligent; deep; darksome; cloudy

Contextual Usage:

He always kept his parents in the *dark* regarding the weakness in his studies.

It is extremely *doubtful* that anyone survived the explosion.

I could scarcely read by the *dim* light of the candle.

After looting the train the robbers ran into a *dense* forest.

They had to pass through the *muddy* water before reaching the temple.

The government has prescribed such an *involved* procedure for grant of subsidy that hardly very few can make use of such scheme.

What they were saying was *unintelligible* to me.

The sky all of a sudden turned *cloudy* and we had to stop our play in this ground.

I hardly recognized my friend in the *dusky* light.

Antonyms: apparent; intelligible; lucid; plain; straightforward; transparent; unadorned; obvious; evident; distinct

Contextual Usage:

It was *apparent* from her face that she was really upset.

His lecture was readily *intelligible* to all the students.

His thinking is very *lucid* but action rather complicated.

The walls *were plain* and *unadorned*.

We know you don't like her but try not to make it so *obvious*:

From his power of speech plus vast vocabulary at his command, it is *evident* that he is intelligent in studies.

114. ODIous, adj.: extremely unpleasant

Usage: I could not stand the *odious* smell reeking out of the leather factory.

The atmosphere in that college is *odious* to stay there even for a few days.

Synonyms: abhorrent; abominable; detestable; disgusting; execrable; foul; hateful; horrible; horrid; loathsome; obnoxious; repugnant; repulsive; unpleasant; vile

Contextual Usage:

Racism is *abhorrent* to any civilized society.

Murders and rape are *abominable* crimes.

It is detestable to me to get up early in the morning.

Biting nails all the time is a *disgusting* habit.

Her way of talking to elders is very *execrable*.

The idea of fighting against men of their own race was *hateful* to them.

Antonyms: agreeable; charming; congenial; delightful; enchanting; enjoyable; pleasant; pleasing; winsome

Contextual Usage:

I found him most *agreeable*.

She looks very *charming*.

I find this aspect of my job particularly *congenial*.

I was very *delightful* to see the splendid arrangement in the party.

We found the new Chairman very *enchanting*.

115. ONEROUS, adj.: needing great effort; causing trouble or worry

Usage: He resigned his job because that is full of *onerous* duties.

Hiding the truth proved highly *onerous* to him.

Synonyms: burdensome; troublesome; backbreaking; wearing; oppressive; difficult

Contextual Usage:

They were glad to get rid of their *burdensome* century old furniture.

A trained teacher knows how to handle the *troublesome* students.

Democracy cannot tolerate *oppressive* leadership.

Bringing the corrupt bureaucracy on the track is one of the most *difficult* problems of the new government.

The members of the society are tired of the *wearing* manners of the secretary.

Carrying the furniture to the attic was a *back breaking* task.

Antonyms: easy; fluent; harmless; comfortable

Contextual Usage:

The language paper was rather *easy*.

Modern moving baggage belts at the airports have *made fluent* the problem of luggage claim to the passengers.

Taking of bed tea is *harmless* but only if you keep the consumption within limits.

The new luxury coach is as *comfortable* as your well cushioned drawing room.

116. **OOZE, verb:** if a thick liquid oozes from a place, or if something oozes a thick liquid, the liquid flows from the place slowly; if somebody/something oozes a particular characteristic, quality, etc., they show it strongly

Usage: Blood still *oozes* from his wounds.

She walked into the party *oozing* with confidence.

Synonyms: drip; drop by drop; drizzle; let fall

Contextual Usage:

The bottle glucose was *dripping* very small drops into the tube for transmission into the patient's veins.

Today the weather is rather dry. There is no sign of even small drops to *drizzle*.

The earthen pitcher filters the water *drop by drop*.

Antonyms: rush; pour; gush; flow; rain

Contextual Usage:

During floods, this river has a sudden *rush* of water.

The rains today let fall heavy *pour* of water.

He felt a **gush** of emotions on meeting his family members after such a long time.

This tributary has a uniform *flow* of water throughout the year.

117. **OPULENT, adj.:** made or decorated using expensive materials; extremely rich

Usage: Action should be taken to remove the *opulent* vegetation in this area.

The *opulent* elite of Europe had huge impact on their governments.

Synonyms: affluent; lavish; luxurious; moneyed; prosperous; sumptuous; wealthy; well-to-do; copious; plentiful; profuse; prolific

Contextual Usage:

Her parents were very *affluent* in that locality.

He was *lavish* with his praise.

He bought a *luxurious* car to flaunt his ill-gotten wealth.

The *moneyed* class people lead a luxurious life.

The north of this region is still *more prosperous* than the south.

Mangoes *are plentiful* at the moment.

She supports her theory with *copious* evidences.

Antonyms: destitute; down and out; broke; moneyless; needy; penurious; poor; poverty-stricken

Contextual Usage:

When he died his family was left completely *destitute*.

During the recession thousands of small business went *broke* (had to stop doing business).

Nowadays he is *moneyless*.

We should help the *poor* and *needy*.

Due to bad policy of the government African farmers are *still poor*.

118. **OUTSTANDING, adj.:** extremely good; excellent; very obvious or important; not yet paid, done, solved, etc.

Usage: We have pictured the *outstanding* features of this landscape.

The negotiations failed to solve *outstanding* issues.

Synonyms: celebrated; distinguished; eminent; great; important; impressive; special; superior; superlative; eye-catching; prominent

Contextual Usage:

Amitabh Bachchan is *celebrated* worldwide for his acting skills.

I think gray hair makes you look very *distinguished*.

He is an *eminent* journalist in the field of investigative journalism.

Mahatma Gandhi was a *great* leader of international fame.

It is very *important* that you attend the meeting before putting in your papers.

His collection of painting is most *impressive*.

She is very *special* to the organization.

She is clearly *superior* to the other candidates.

Antonyms: dull; inferior; insignificant; mediocre; ordinary; pedestrian; run of the mill; unexceptional; unimpressive

Contextual Usage:

Today is deadly *dull* as the temperature touches an all time low point. Modern music is often considered *inferior* to that of the past. Very *ordinary* clothes were worn by the party president. His books are distinctly *mediocre*.

119. **PACIFY, verb:** to make somebody who is angry or upset become calm and quiet; to bring peace to an area where there is fighting or a war

Usage: We did all our best to *pacify* our father.

The speech was designed to *pacify* the irate crowd.

Synonyms: appease; mitigate; quench; lull; allay; compose; quieten; assuage; tranquillize

Contextual Usage:

He *appeased* his hunger with whatever came handy.

Government has taken several steps to *mitigate* the sufferings of the farmers of this area.

I need something to *quench* my thirst.

There was a *lull* before the patient's anxiety.

She remained well *composed* during the hot controversy.

The teachers tried to *quieten* the students.

The medicine may *assuage* the pain, but soaking in lukewarm water will do your injury more good.

This medicine will *tranquillize* the restless baby and put him asleep.

Antonyms: irritate; inflame; annoy; incense; enrage; exasperate; vex

Contextual Usage:

His criticism *irritated* everyone present in the meeting.

The fiery speech of the trade union leader *inflamed the* passions of the workers.

The subordinate's impertinence *annoyed the* boss.

They feel deeply *incensed* by the way I have been treated.

The student's rude behavior *enraged* the teacher.

The neglect of the civic problems in the city has *exasperated* the local population.

The municipal commissioner has *vexed* the public by his indifferent attitude.

120. **PEEVISH, adj.:** easily annoyed by unimportant things; bad-tempered

Usage: He was a sickly, *peevish* child from the very beginning.

The peevish nature of this politician is the biggest blockade for his progress.

Synonyms: acrimonious; cantankerous; captions; childish; churlish; crusty; fractions; fretful; ill-tempered; petulant; sulky; sullen; surly; testy; tetchy; touchy

Contextual Usage:

The *acrimonious* dispute between two groups was settled peacefully.

His prolonged illness has made him increasingly *cantankerous*.

It seems *churlish* to refuse such a generous offer.

She is *ill-tempered* so easily gets frustrated at the slightest of a provocation.

A petulant and jealous wife always quarrels with her husband.

She gave him a *sullen* glare.

Antonyms: affable; agreeable; cheerful; cheery; easy-going; even-tempered; genial; good-natured; happy; merry; pleasant; sweet

Contextual Usage:

He found his in-laws parents very *affable*.

I was very *happy* to hear the news of our team's victory.

She is very *cheerful* and *agreeable* by nature.

His mother doesn't mind who comes to stay. She is very *easy going*.

The air was *sweet* with the scent of lilies.

121. **PERSIST, verb:** to continue to do something despite difficulties or opposition, in a way that can seem unreasonable

Usage: *She persists* in wearing that old-fashioned hat.

He persisted with his questioning.

Synonyms: continue; last; remain; stay; endure; insist; preserve

Contextual Usage:

He *continued* his speech despite hooting by the audience.

He was afraid that his money would not *last* to the end of his holidays.

The weather will *remain* cold for the next few weeks.

How long did you *stay* there?

The Bible says that God's mercy *endures* forever.

Father *insisted* that mother must take two hour rest in the afternoon.

I didn't really want to go but he *insisted*.

Antonyms: discontinue; conclude; quit; finish; terminate; end; desist; cease

Contextual Usage:

My sister has *discontinued* her studies after graduation.

Her studies *concluded* after 15 years under the 10+2+3 year graduation course.

He has *quit* his job as he could not pull on with his boss.

He *has finished* his practical training with a satisfying experience.

The agreement was *terminated* immediately.

They decided to *end* their relationship.

He has *desisted* further assaults on his reputation.

Hostilities between the two sides *ceased* soon.

122. **PERSUADE, verb:** to make somebody do something by giving them good reasons for doing it; to v/make somebody believe that something is true

Usage: I'm sure he'll come with a bit *of persuading*.

No one *was persuaded* by his arguments.

Synonyms: allure; urge; lead; incite; entice; coax; convince; incline; move; induce; impel

Contextual Examples:

He was *allured* by her wealth and sophistication.

My mother *urged* me to go to the dentist.

He *led* the horse back into the stable.

His speech *incited* the tribals to violence.

He was not *enticed* into parting with his cash.

She *coaxed* the horse into coming a little closer.

The politicians' speech *convinced* the voters he was the most deserving candidate.

His whole family is *inclined* to rise early in the morning.

He was deeply *moved* on hearing his cousin's untimely death.

Nothing would *induce* me to take the job.

He felt *impelled* to investigate further.

Antonyms: hold back; restrain; deter; repel; dissuade; hinder; discourage

Contextual Usage:

I cannot now *hold back* my offer of a job to him in my organization.

His remarks greatly disparaged my reputation, but I *restrained* myself from giving him a blow on his jaw.

Such a blow could have *deterring* him from making such remarks in future.

Similar magnetic poles *repel* each other.

123. **PITIABLE, verb:** deserving pity or causing you to feel pity; not deserving respect

Usage: Her life was *pitiable* and sad.

His efforts to change the nature of his brother were nothing *but pitiable* attempts.

Synonyms: mournful; moving; grievous; distressing; sad; doleful; woeful; sorrowful

Contextual Usage:

Why do you look so *sad*.

It was *distressing* to see him suffering from pain.

Hearing the *sorrowful* news she wept bitterly.

His speech was deeply *moving*.

The death of Martin Luther King in 1968 was a *grievous* loss to humanity.

The funeral involved a long and *doleful* ceremony.

The *woeful* news of the death of Mrs. Indira Gandhi grieved the nation.

I couldn't bear the *mournful* look on her face.

Antonyms: pleasant; desirable; enviable

Contextual Usage:

The weather is very *pleasant* today.

Our college encourages numerous *desirable* extracurricular activities after study hours.

He is in the *enviable* position of having two job offers to choose from.

124. **PLACID, adj.:** not easily excited or irritated; calm and peaceful, with very little movement

Usage: Everything is visible in this *placid* water.

His position in the organization calls for & *placid* mind set.

Synonyms: calm; collected; composed; cool; even; gently; halcyon; mild; peaceful; serene; still; tranquil; undisturbed; unexcitable; untroubled

Contextual Usage:

The city is *calm* again after the bombing incident.

She is always *cool, calm, and collected* in at the time of crisis.

This wine cellar stays at an *even* temperature all year round.

He seems very meek and *mild*.

Though India is a country of diverse religious communities, the feeling of religious tolerance among the people makes it a *peaceful* country.

Throughout out the crisis she remained *serene* and in control.

Please stand *still* while I take your photograph.

Antonyms: agitated; disturbed; emotional; excitable; impulsive; passionate; rough; temperamental; tempestuous

Contextual Usage:

She became very *agitated* and started shouting.

She teaches children who are emotionally *disturbed*.

People get very *emotional* about issues like animal welfare.

Our journey from Delhi to Mumbai was very *excitable*.

My car is a bit *temperamental*. It may stop working anytime anywhere!

125. PRECARIOUS, adj.: not safe or certain; dangerous; likely to fall or cause somebody to fall

Usage: The path down to the beach is *very precarious* in wet weather.

The museum is in a financially *precarious* position.

Synonyms: doubtful; dubious; hairy; hazardous; insecure; perilous; risky; shaky; slippery; touch and go; tricky; uncertain; unreliable; unsafe; unstably

Contextual Usage:

I feel *doubtful* whether to go out in such climate or not.

They indulged in some highly *dubious* business practices to obtain their current position in the market.

Driving on icy roads can be pretty *hairy* (dangerous).

The government has prohibited the import of *hazardous* chemical.

She feels very *insecure* about her marriage.

It is very *risky* to drive without driving license.

Her hands are *shaky* because, she is nervous.

Antonyms: certain; dependable; reliable; safe; secure; stable; steady

Contextual Usage:

To my *certain* knowledge he was somewhere else at the time

His memory is not *reliable* these days due to prolong illness.

Will driving car to the hilltop be *safe* in this climate?

She was happy and *secure* to know that her family loved and supported her.

The patient's condition is *stable*.

126. PREDOMINANT, adj.: most obvious or noticeable; having more power or influence than others

Usage: This is a forest in which oak-trees are *predominant*.

Olive green is *the predominant* colour this spring in the fashion world.

Synonyms: main; chief; important; leading; paramount; prominent; superior; dominant; ruling; prevalent

Contextual Usage:

Our *main* concern is the welfare of these children.

The *most prominent* building in this area is the Rastrapati Bhawan.

Shahrukh Khan enjoys a *superior* position in his acting career.

India has become a *dominant* power of Asia and Far East.

The *ruling* class everywhere exploits the poor masses.

Superstition is still *prevalent* in some tribal communities.

Antonyms: minor; inferior; unimportant; junior; petty; subsidiary; subordinate

Contextual Usage:

There were numerous major and *minor* issues raised in the meeting of the shareholders of the company.

This pen is much *inferior* to the one I bought last time.

This subject is too *unimportant* to discuss any further.

Junior employees of the firm have decided to go on strike.

She was tired solving *the petty* squabbles of her kids.

This bank is a *subsidiary* of the State Bank of India.

There are quite a few officers and many *subordinates* reporting to him.

127. **PREDICAMENT, noun:** a difficult or unpleasant situation, especially one where it is difficult to know what to do

Usage: His efforts to help his friends landed him only in an awkward *predicament*.

The club is in a financial *predicament*.

Synonyms: plight; puzzle; strait; fix; difficulty; jam; perplexity

Contextual Usage:

The African elephant is in a desperate *plight*.

She found herself in desperate financial *straits*.

After losing all his money the gambler was in a great *fix*.

He has won the first prize for solving *a puzzle*.

I am in *a jam* due to financial shortage.

His comments have been the source of *much perplexity* and debate.

The changes were introduced in the organization with surprisingly little *difficulty*.

Antonyms: assurance; self-satisfaction; rest; decision; ease; comfort; calmness

Contextual Usage:

They called for *assurances* that the government is committed to its education policy.

He is working hard these days for *self-satisfaction*.

The doctor has set at *rest* my doubt about the disease.

Your *decision* in this matter is as good as mine.

The *ease* with which she learnt several foreign languages is astonishing.

My uncle lives in great *comfort* at this old age, thanks to his savings!

Mahatma Gandhi was a picture of *calmness* at the most difficult situation.

128. **PRUDENT, adj.:** sensible and careful when you make judgements and decisions; avoiding unnecessary risks

Usage: We are blessed with *a prudent* house keeper.

It might be more *prudent* to get a second opinion before going ahead with such huge investment.

Synonyms: canny; careful; cautious; circumspect; discerning; discreet; judicious; politic; sagacious, shrewd; vigilant; wary

Contextual Usage:

Be *careful* about what you say to him.

You should be *cautious* about spending money when you are away from your home.

You ought to make a few *discreet* enquiries before you sign any document.

When the fight began, he thought it is *politic* to leave.

He is a *shrewd* businessman. He never trusts anybody.

Antonyms: careless; heedless; imprudent; inconsiderate; indiscreet; irrational; rash; thoughtless; unwise; extravagant; wasteful

Contextual Usage:

He is very *careless* in his studies.

It is not good to be *heedless* about your health.

It would be *imprudent* to invest all your money in one company.

It was *indiscreet* of him to disclose that information.

She is rather *extravagant* when it comes to buying perfumes.

There has been a *rash* of burglaries in the area over the last month.

129. **QUARREL, noun:** an angry argument or disagreement between people, often about a personal matter; a reason for complaining about somebody/something or for disagreeing with somebody/something

Usage: His is always having *quarrels* with somebody about something.

We have no *quarrel* with his methods.

Synonyms: wrangle; fray; contest; enmity; fight; riot; row; strife; controversy; brawl

Contextual Usage:

He *wrangles* with his colleagues on trivial issues.

As the debate went on, tempers began to *fray*.

There was a great *contest* between them for the election.

Her action earned her the *enmity* of two or three colleagues.

She was given a tough *fight* by her opponents on the tennis court.

Government had to call the military to control the *riots*.

The country was torn apart by *strife*,

There are some new *controversies* over the ownership of this piece of land.

Most cowboy movies include a scene of a bar room **brawl**.

Antonyms: agreement; assent; consent; acquiesces; harmony; friendship; peace; amity; equanimity; concord

Contextual Usage:

India and Pakistan are trying to reach an **agreement** on better trade and cultural relations.

The President has put his **assent** on the 46th amendment of The Constitution of India.

The subordinate **acquiesced** to the wishes of his boss on the question of transfer from the headquarters.

The designer's aim is to produce a **harmony** of shape and texture.

India's friendship with the former USSR was beyond any controversy.

The non-aligned movement is responsible for a new desire *for peace* among nations round the world.

130. **RACY, adj.:** a style that is exciting and amusing

Usage: No one likes his **racy** style of speaking.

The novel is quite **racy** in its subject treatment.

Synonyms: flavourful; rich; spicy; spirited; poignant; lively

Contextual Usage:

The tomato soup is **so flavorful** that it has aroused my appetite.

Banana is **rich** source of iron and vitamins.

At launch they served very **spicy** dishes.

I'm afraid I don't feel very **lively** today.

Although our team was defeated, it exhibited a very **spirited** game.

The critic wrote a **poinant** review of the biography.

Antonyms: cold; vapid; dull; flat; stale; insipid; tasteless; stupid

Contextual Usage:

My office being 50 km away from my residence, I have to do with only a **cold** lunch on working day.

The **vapid** conversation between them bored me very much.

The **dull** atmosphere of this place repels my attendance.

This dish is not only **stale** but also **tasteless**.

He often tells **stupid** stories of his colleagues.

The hotel **charges flat** rate for snacks.

The group was an **insipid** imitation of the Beatles.

131. **REASONING, adj.:** the process of thinking about things in a logical way; opinions and ideas that are based on logical thinking

Usage: He surpasses most of us in power of **reasoning**.

I don't understand what is the **reasoning** behind this decision?

Synonyms: rationale; thinking; logic; analysis; exposition; generalization

Contextual Usage:

What is the **rationale** behind this decision?

What is your **thinking** on the issue of 'brain drain'?

Science is based on **logic** and **reasoning**.

The chemical **analysis** of the food taken by the deceased has proved that he was poisoned.

The **exposition** of heat and rain made her fall sick.

His **generalization** that most of modern youth are low on morality is wrong.

Antonyms: illogicality; stupidity; nonsensical; senselessness; foolish

Contextual Usage: The **illogicality** of his arguments sometimes irritates me beyond the point of tolerance.

The actions of the present manager are marked by **stupidity** of the highest order.

Only God can save him from bankruptcy. His decision of finance is all **nonsensical**.

Many of the well-wishers of the firm are becoming aware of the **senselessness** of the manager's dealings and are now feeling insecure.

Discussing among themselves, they regard the manager's decisions as **foolish**.

132. **REBELLION, noun:** an attempt by some of the people in a country to change their government, using violence; opposition to authority within an organization, a political party, etc.

Usage: The first **rebellion** against the dictator moved all of us.

Some members are in **rebellion** against proposed cuts in spending.

Synonyms: sedition; insurgency; disobedience; heresy; mutiny; uprising; insurrection; revolt

Contextual Usage:

In the army the punishment for **sedition** is very stringent.

The first **mutiny** in the Indian army took place in 1857 at Meerut.

Any uprising against his regime was suppressed ruthlessly by President Saddam Hussein.

During 1980s and 1990s, the Tamils had been charged **of insurrection** by the Government of Sri Lanka.

Only the President can grant pardon to a person who **revolts** against the Government.

Antonyms: loyalty; patriotism; devotion; faithfulness; nationalism; toadyism

Contextual Usage:

Anti-defection Bill provides for **loyalty** by members to the party which sponsored them for election.

Extreme form **of patriotism** is despised by some people as something obstructing the growth of internationalism.

Devotion to one's duty is always rewarded in one way or the other.

His faithfulness to his country is beyond any doubt;

Nationalism is welcome only so long as it does not contradict internationalism.

Toadyism stands for toeing the line of your boss blindly without regard to the merit or demerit of an action.

133. RECALCITRANT, adj.: unwilling to obey rules or follow instructions; difficult to control

Usage: It's difficult to manage a **recalcitrant** child.

The **recalcitrant** tendency of the union leaders resulted in loss of job for many factory workers.

Synonyms: contrary; defiant; insubordinate; intractable; obstinate; refractory; stubborn; uncontrollable; unmanageable; unruly; unwilling; wayward; willful

Contextual Usage:

The results were **contrary** to all expectation.

The child is a **defiant**. He does not obey his parents.

Two officers were reported for **insubordination**.

The **obstinate and stubborn** man refused to go to hospital.

He struggled hard to control his **unruly** emotions.

The public are usually **unwilling** to accept tax hike.

Contextual Usage:

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The actions of the present manager are marked by **stupidity** of the highest order.

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Two officers were reported for **insubordination**.

The **obstinate** and **stubborn** man refused to go to hospital.

He struggled hard to control his **unruly** emotions.

The public are usually **unwilling** to accept tax hike.

Antonyms: amenable; complaining; docile; obedient; submissive

Contextual Usage:

Apparently he seemed quite **amenable** to my idea. You need to get rid of your **complaining** behaviour. He has acted in **obedience** to the law. She followed her in-laws like a **submissive** child.

134. **RELUCTANT**, *adj.*: hesitating before doing something because you do not want to do it or be-V² cause you are not sure that it is the right thing to do

Usage: He seemed **reluctant** to help us.

She was **reluctant** to admit she was wrong.

Synonyms: unwilling; averse; slow; opposed; indisposed **Contextual Usage:**

He was **unwilling** to be transferred to Mumbai but his boss did not consider his plight.

He seems to be **averse** to hard work.

My tenant's rent payments are always **slow**.

She seems violently **opposed** to settling abroad.

She cannot perform the Opera tonight as she is **indisposed**.

Antonyms: desirous; inclined; willing; eager; disposed of; favourable

Contextual Usage:

She is **desirous** of going to the United States for higher studies in computer programming.

We can go for a walk, if you feel so **inclined**.

He is **eager** to return to India after completing his higher studies.

He has **disposed** of his guests with great difficulty.

His interview has **been favourable** but the result would be known after a month.

135. **REPEAL**, *verb*: if a government or other group or person with authority repeals a law, that law is no longer valid

Usage: The committee does not have the power to **repeal** the ban.

The Commission **repealed** the rule which was brought into force by the divisional manager.

Synonyms: abolish; revoke; nullify; reverse; annul; rescind

Contextual Usage:

Britain passed an Act of Parliament in 1870 to **revoke** slavery.

There is a campaign afoot to **abolish** current restrictions on immigration at least from the Indian side.

Law commission has recommended **nullifying** a number of antiquated laws.

You can **reverse** this table-cloth and it will still look nice.

Both the countries have decided to **annul** the previous agreement.

The Supreme Court **rescinded** the High Court judgment.

Antonyms: substantiate; ratify; endorse; confirm; assent

Contextual Usage:

In order to qualify for immigration, you have to **substantiate** your claim by showing evidence of academic standing.

The bank has **endorsed** my bill of exchange. This confirms my claim from the foreign buyer. Head of the twelve European governments will meet to **ratify** the treaty.

136. **SCANTY**, *adj.*: too little in amount for what is needed; very small and not covering much of your body

Usage: The well has **scanty** water.

The shortage of rice this year is because of **scanty** paddy harvest.

Synonyms: narrow; skimpy; inch; sparing; slender; meager; limited; small

Contextual Usage:

The lane was so **narrow** that two cars could not pass at the same time.

The bar dancers wore **skimpy** dresses.

If you **add a pinch** of salt, your dish will become tastier.

They have grown a number of **slender** birch trees.

She supplements her **meagre** income by giving tuitions.

They are doing our best with the **limited** resources available.

Doctors now advise only **sparing** use of butter.

The Chartered Accountants have instructions to check even the **small** details of their firms thoroughly before preparing the balance sheet.

Antonyms: profuse; abundant; lavish; unlimited; sufficient; ample; copious; absolute

Contextual Usage:

The philanthropist was quite *profuse* in donating to the poor.

The Tatas have *abundant* resources of men, money and materials to start new projects successfully.

He makes *lavish* expenditure on his kitchen to keep his family members healthy.

Nobody has *unlimited and absolute* powers in the Indian constitution, not even the Prime Minister.

There is *sufficient* provision for mutual checks and balances of the powers of the executive, legislature, and judiciary in the Indian constitution.

India has *ample* resources but limited organizational infrastructure.

137. **SHODDY, adj.:** made or done badly and with not enough care; dishonest or unfair

Usage: His book is nothing, but a *shoddy* piece of work.

Let's get rid of these *shoddy* goods as soon as possible.

Synonyms: cheap; junky; poor; rubbish; slipshod; tacky; tatty; tawdry; trashy

Contextual Usage:

Their woolen clothes are *cheap* in quality.

His *poor* performance in the league match made his coach upset.

The streets were littered with *rubbish*.

You were too *slipshod* in your presentation.

Antonyms: accurate; careful; craftsman-like; excellent; fine; meticulous

Contextual Usage:

He is *accurate* in mathematics.

You should be *careful* in lifting glass vase, it may fall.

She speaks *excellent* French.

This earthen pot was *well-made*.

These clothes are imported from France.

138. **SLANDER, noun and verb:** a false spoken statement intended to damage the good opinion people have of somebody; the legal offence of making this kind of statement

Usage: He is punished with fine because he *slandered*.

He's suing his ex-boss for *slander*.

Synonyms: decry; defame; aspersion; opprobrious; accuse; malign; disparage; defamation

Contextual Usage:

The captain *decried* the lack of support he received from his team.

Politicians *defame* each other to win public support.

It's not fair to cast *aspersions* on someone you know nothing about.

The liaison officer of the company was *reprimanded* for his opprobrious conduct.

All the *accused* have pleaded guilty.

She feels she has been much *maligned by the press*.

I don't mean to *disparage* your achievements.

He sued the newspaper for *defamation*.

Antonyms: praise; eulogize; commendation; laud; laudation; commend

Contextual Usage:

Your conduct in negotiating settlement between warring companies deserves *high praise*. The readers *eulogize* Shakespeare for his brilliance of expression and characterization. His outspoken behaviour did not *commend* itself to his colleagues. The local public *lauded the* achievements of the Municipal Commissioner.

139. **SLAPDASH, adj.:** done, or doing something, too quickly and carelessly

Usage: His *slapdash* approach resulted in total failure of the project.

She has a very *slapdash* approach to keeping accounts.

Synonyms: clumsy; disorderly; haphazard; hasty; hurried; messy; negligent; perfunctory; slipshod; slovenly; thoughtless; untidy

Contextual Usage:

It is not easy walking in these *clumsy* shoes.

He was arrested for being drunk and *disorderly*.

The books had been piled on the shelves in a *haphazard* fashion.

I don't want to make a *hasty* decision.

She is very *negligent* in her work.

The guard gave a *perfunctory* glance at her pass and let her through.

The goal was a result of *slipshod* defence.

I was hurt by her *thoughtless* behaviour.

Antonyms: careful; conscientious; fastidious; meticulous; ordered; orderly; painstaking; precise; punctilious; thoughtful; tidy; clear

Contextual Usage:

Be *careful* that you don't hurt anyone's feeling.

This essay is a most *conscientious* piece of work.

She is *meticulous* about her appearance.

The Hindustan Times gave a *clear and precise* description of the incident.

It was very *thoughtful* of you to send the flowers to her.

140. **SOLITARY**, *adj.*: done alone; without other people; enjoying being alone; frequently spending time alone; alone, with no other people or things around; only one (especially in negative sentences and questions)

Usage: The *solitary* life that he lives now is the punishment for his mistake. There was not a *solitary* shred of evidence (none at all) against him.

Synonyms: unfrequented; uninhabited; secluded; lonely; isolated; sequestered; deserted, recluse

Contextual Usage:

The palace, although well situated on the shore of this island, is *unfrequented* as there are a few mysteries concerning its history.

Many parts of Canada are still *uninhabited*.

He decided to take voluntary retirement in order to lead a *secluded* life.

She lives alone and often feels *lonely*.

He has *isolated* himself from many of his old friends to keep his sorrow to himself.

Antonyms: inhabited; popular; well frequented; sociable

Contextual Usage:

This land is *inhabited* by red Indians.

Skiing has become *very popular* in the recent times.

This restaurant is now *well-frequented* by military personnel.

The chairman of this club is a very *sociable* person.

141. **SOOTHE**, *verb*: to make somebody who is anxious, upset, etc. feel calmer; to make a tense or painful part of your body feel more comfortable

Usage: It is difficult to *soothe* a crying baby.

He took a warm bath to *soothe* his tense, tired muscles.

Synonyms: palliate; alleviate; ease; appease; solace; assuage; calm; deaden; tranquillize

Contextual Usage:

The announcement of financial assistance *has palliated* the victims of the earthquake.

A number of measures were taken to *alleviate* the growing security problem.

This computer is popular for its good design and *ease* of use.

Land reforms are designed to *appease* the farmers.

Today's rains have provided great *solace* to the draught ridden parts of the region.

Antonyms: irritate; nettle; inflame; agitate; animate; excite; stimulate; exasperate; enrage

Contextual Usage:

The sulky weather is rather *irritating*.

The trade union has *netted* the workers to resort to a pen-down strike.

The union's leaders have been warned against *inflaming* the workers against the company.

The workers are planning to *agitate* for an increase in their wages.

A smile suddenly *animated* her face.

142. **SORDID**, *adj.*: immoral or dishonest; very dirty and unpleasant

Usage: In India, still many people live in *sordid* poverty.

He didn't want to hear the *sordid* details of their relationship.

Synonyms: dirty; filthy; foul; seamy; sleazy; skimpy; squalid; wretched; debauched; degraded; low; shabby; shameful; vicious;

Contextual Usage:

Dirty water is not fit for drinking.

Don't *use* *filthy* languages while talking to your elders.

My boss has *afoul* temper.

The documentary showed the *seamier* side of life.

He was sick of his *sleazy* neighbourhood.

The water level in the reservoir was very *low* after the long draught.

She looked pretty *shabby* in those clothes.

There is nothing *shameful* about being poor.

Antonyms: clean; fresh; pure; spotless; unblemished; decent; honorable; noble; upright

Contextual Usage:

The water is *clean*. You can drink it.

Fresh air blows in the morning. So you should go for walk.

Pure milk is not available here.

His *spotless* character helps him to win the election.

She was admired for her *decent* manner.

143. **SPITEFUL, adj.:** behaving in an unkind way in order to hurt or upset somebody

Usage: He made some very *spiteful* remarks to me.

Our neighbours let their radio blare in a rather *spiteful* manner.

Synonyms: bitter; rancorous; malevolent; venomous; vindictive; malignant; malicious

Contextual Usage:

Their talks became increasingly *bitter* and *rancorous*.

The *malignant* attitude of nations against each other can be ended only by bringing about a classless society in which the interests of individuals cease to clash but are reconciled in the framework of a peaceful united mankind.

Nationalism and narrow patriotism are concepts which lead to the propagation of *malicious* propaganda that divides the worlds into conflicting groups and races.

It is not difficult to understand the motive behind the politician's press conference; it was intended *venomous* attack on his political enemies.

She accused her boss of being *vindictive*.

Antonyms: benign; beneficent; benevolent; benignant

Contextual Usage:

Educational systems in different countries should teach international citizenship to the students as a compulsory subject from the early age so that all humans and individuals develop a *benign* attitude.

Only a universal spirit of benignity can make everyone work for the *beneficent* functioning of a new world order of peace and mutual cooperation.

If the world's newly attained knowledge in sciences and humanities could be applied in full force, the universal *benignant* feeling would make the world a better place to live in peace, amity and prosperity.

144. **SPONTANEOUS, adj.:** not planned but done because one suddenly wants to do it; happening naturally, without being made to happen; done naturally, without being forced or practised

Usage: He made a *spontaneous* offer of help to us.

The audience burst into *spontaneous* applause.

Synonyms: extempore; free; impromptu; impulsive; instinctive; natural; unbidden; uncompelled; unforced, unprompted, voluntary, willing

Contextual Usage:

His *extempore* speech was admired by everyone. After ten years of imprisonment he was *free* again. Earthquake and flood are *natural* calamities. The firm went into *voluntary* liquidation. Are you *willing* to accept this additional responsibility? They often held *impromptu* meetings in their house. She's an *instinctive* player. He has an *impulsive* nature.

Antonyms: arranged; calculated; contrived; deliberate; forced; mannered; orchestrated; planned; premeditated; preplanned

Contextual Usage:

He took a *calculated* risk (a risk that one decides is worth taking even though one knows it might have bad results).

It is obviously a *contrived* incident to mislead the newspapers.

The *deliberate* killing of innocent civilians is the motto of terrorists.

I found this reasoning rather *forced*.

The attack was *clearly premeditated* by the terrorist.

145. **SUBLIME, adj.:** of very high quality and causing great admiration; extreme, especially in a way that shows one is not aware of what he/she is doing or is not concerned about what happens because of it

Usage: He battled on, in the *sublime* conviction that he was in the right.

To find a snack bar at the top of Mount Kailash would be to go from the *sublime* to ridiculous.

Synonyms: superb; grand; lofty; majestic; noble; glorious; exalted; splendid; resplendent; beautiful

Contextual Usage:

This computer set is *superb* both in terms of performance and design.

It was a *grand* reception from every angle.

The college has inculcated *lofty* ideals among the youth.

She has *exalted* manners which bewitch her friends and relatives.

The hotel stands in *splendid* isolation surrounded by moorland.

Antonyms: powerless; lowly; mundane; ordinary; poor; ridiculous; bad; commonplace; mean;

Contextual Usage:

She's always been *mean* with money.

The Embassy seemed *powerless* to intervene as things went out of its hand.

The meal served at the restaurant was very *ordinary*.

They ate and drank a *ridiculous* amount in the party last night.

She is socially *insignificant* in her neighborhood.

Western clothes are now *commonplace* in Beijing.

146. **SUBMISSIVE**, *adj.*: too willing to accept somebody else's authority and willing to obey them without questioning anything they want you to do

Usage: She is not a *submissive* wife.

Everyone takes him for granted because of his *submissive* behaviour.

Synonyms: abject; accommodating; acquiescent; amenable; deferential; docile; dutiful; humble; obedient; passive; pliant; tractable; unresisting

Contextual Usage:

I found the officials extremely *accommodating* to foreign visitors. The peasants proved more *acquiescent* than had been expected. Their family is very *amenable*.

One should be *humble* enough to learn from your mistakes. He is very *obedient* to his teachers and also to the elders.

Antonyms: awkward; difficult; disobedient; headstrong; intractable; obstinate; stubborn; uncooperative; unyielding

Contextual Usage:

Please arrange the meeting at a less *awkward time*.

It is quite *difficult* to stay here without proper supply of drinking water.

Disobedient children are not liked anywhere.

I am sick of my *headstrong* boss.

The *obstinate* child refused to go to school.

She can be *stubborn* as mule. She never changes her idea.

147. **TACITURN**, *adj.*: tending not to say very much, in a way that seems unfriendly

Usage: He is *taciturn* to talk in front of a large audience.

The *taciturn* character performed in a number of 1970s movies gave Amitabh Bachchan an image of an angry young man.

Synonyms: mute; quiet; reserved; reticent; silent; tight-lipped; withdrawn

Contextual Usage:

She remains *mute* all the time in prayer meeting.

Please can you keep the children *quite* while I am on the phone?

She is *reserved* by nature. She prefers to say alone.

He seemed strangely *reticent* about his past.

There are several questions I wanted to ask in the meeting but I kept *silent*.

Antonyms: chatty; communicative; garrulous; loquacious; outgoing; sociable; talkative; verbose; voluble; wordy

Contextual Usage:

This small kid is very *chatty*. He always speaks something or the other.

I don't find him very *communicative*. He is reserved.

The old army man becomes *garrulous* after a few glasses of wine.

Women are *loquacious* by nature.

He has an *outgoing*, he doesn't hide anything from his friends.

She has never really been the *sociable* type.

What's wrong with the child? She is not *talkative* this evening.

He was very *voluble* on the subject of women's rights.

The teacher commented that his essay was *wordy* and repetitive.

148. **TEDIOUS**, *adj.*: lasting or taking too long and not interesting

Usage: The *tedious* work took our whole day to complete it. We had to listen to the *tedious* details of his operation.

Synonyms: banal; drab; dreary; dull; irksome; laborious; monotonous; prosaic; soporific; tiresome; tiring; vapid; wearisome

Contextual Usage:

The clown dressed himself in ***drab*** clothes.

In the days of bonded labour people led ***dreary*** life.

The weather of Leh in winter is quite ***dull and dreary***.

I found the organization's restrictions imposed on new employees ***irksome***.

She was a ***laborious*** girl. She secured 98% in board exam.

My job is rather ***monotonous***.

Antonyms: enjoyable; enthralling; exciting; exhilarating; imaginative; inspiring; interesting; quickly; finished; short; stimulating

Contextual Usage:

The picnic tour was really ***enjoyable***.

The Annual Day celebration was very ***exciting***.

My first parachute jump was an ***exhilarating*** experience for me.

Pundit Jawaharlal Nehru was an ***inspiring*** leader.

I find his work very ***stimulating***.

149. **TERSE, adj.:** using few words and often not seeming polite or friendly; tersely, *adv.*

Usage: He made a ***terse*** talk about the policy of this company.

The Party Spokesperson issued a ***terse*** statement denying the charges of corruption.

Synonyms: neat; short; succinct; laconic; compact; sententious; condensed

Contextual Usage:

The house is small but ***neat*** and tidy.

I could only have a ***short*** conversation before he left for the airport.

All his replies were to the point and ***succinct***.

No one seemed to be satisfied by his ***laconic*** reply on the issue.

This is a ***compact***, handy book for synonyms and antonyms perfectly illustrated with the usage of words. It helps in the making of ***summary*** of long passage by expanding your vocabulary.

The ideas contained in this book are ***sententious*** and ***condensed***.

Antonyms: diffuse; circumlocutory; confused; discursive; rambling; verbose; lengthy; wordy

Contextual Usage:

This story is a ***diffused*** version of a little incident. It teaches the art of expanding ideas and expressions.

Aldous Huxley's book is ***verbose*** yet interesting.

Some of Thomas Hardy's stories are unnecessarily ***lengthy***.

It is desirable to avoid ***wordy*** letters. Brevity in correspondence pays.

150. **TIMID, adj.:** shy and nervous; not brave

Usage: That fellow is as ***timid*** as a rabbit.

Deer are naturally ***timid*** creatures.

Synonyms: bashful; afraid; coward; coy; nervous; diffident; shy; chicken-hearted; timorous; submissive

Contextual Usage:

She is too ***bashful*** to aspire to be a model girl.

He is ***diffident*** of conversing with high authorities due to lack of confidence.

You are too ***shy*** to speak to a strange girl.

She is ***chicken-hearted***. She can't face the circumstances with courage.

His ***timorous*** behaviour at the meeting with his girl friend's father proved disastrous for his love.

He is too ***submissive*** to be a team leader.

Antonyms: audacious; brace; daring; confident; poised; aggressive; arrogance; fearless; shameless

Contextual Usage:

Shifting the manufacturing unit proved to be an ***audacious*** decision. He is ***confident*** of what he wants and how he will have them. He remains ***poised*** in turbulent circumstances. He is often condemned for his ***arrogant*** nature. He becomes ***aggressive*** when he is drunk.

151. **TOUCHY, adj.:** easily upset or offended; something that may upset or offend people and should therefore be dealt with carefully

Usage: His ***touchy*** nature repelled him from his friends.

He's a little ***touchy*** about his native place.

Synonyms: bad tempered; captious; cross; grumpy; irascible; irritable; peevish; petulant; querulous; oversensitive; surly

Contextual Usage:

The boss is often *bad tempered* in the late afternoons.
She is *oversensitive*. She cannot bear even a slight criticism.

The scorching sun in May and June is very *irritable*.
Grumpy people are not liked in any good society.

It's no point taking with him now. He is in *apeevish* mood.
He complained in a *querulous* voice about having been woken up.

Synonyms: affable; cheerful; warm; genial; imperious; indifferent; insensitive; pleasant; sunny; sweet; unconcerned
Contextual Usage:

He found his girl friend's parent very *affable*.

After a full night uninterrupted sleep, the pilot felt bright and *cheerful* and full of energy.
She appeared *indifferent* to their sufferings.

Light music is *always pleasant* to my ears.

The air was *sweet* with the fragrance of lilies.

After days of tension, the atmosphere at home was *warm* and *genial* again.

152. **TREACHEROUS**, *adj.*: that cannot be trusted; intending to harm; dangerous, especially when seeming safe
Usage: The snow on the roads made driving conditions *treacherous*.

Do not rely on my memory. It is *treacherous*.

Synonyms: disloyal; deceitful; duplicitous; faithlessness; false; perfidious; unreliable; untrue; unfaithful; unreliable; hypocritical; perfidious

Contextual Usage:

Citizens who prove *disloyal* to their country are liable to punishment under law.

The government was accused of being *hypocritical* and *deceitful*.

He is *unfaithful* to his company.

The Chinese motorbike part is *unreliable* for durability and accuracy.

Some of the terrorists have been arrested by the government for *their perfidious* activities.

Synonyms: faithful; loyal; trustee; devoted; reliable; trustworthy

Contextual Usage:

Deepak *remained faithful* to his beliefs.

Throughout his life he remained a *loyal* devotee of the congress ideology.

She is *one* of the *trustees* of this institution.

He is *devoted* to the cause of education.

He is a *reliable* member of the Managing Committee of this college.

Mr Ratan Tata is a *trustworthy* businessman, always selling and rendering honest dealings.

153. **TRANSIENT**, *adj.*: continuing for only a short time; staying or working in a place for only a short time, before moving on

Usage: Mumbai is a city with a large *transient* population

The couple enjoyed only *transient* happiness. Soon they got divorced.

Synonyms: brief; fleeting; fugitive; short; transitory; livid; momentary; flying; passing; evanescent; temporary; ephemeral

Contextual Usage:

My stay in our college hostel was very *brief but* memorable.

For a *fleeting* moment I thought the car was going to crash.

He has been a *fugitive* from justice for almost a decade now.

Causes of *disharmony* among groups have been successfully removed by a discreet approach.

Synonyms: long lasting; detailed; permanent; persistent

Contextual Usage:

She expected a *long-lasting* relationship from her husband but due to her husband's drinking habit the relation broke off.
Nothing is *permanent* in this world.

The writer gives a *detailed* description of various philosophical postulations.

It is very hard to deal with *persistent* peoples who hardly compromise with their principles.

154. **TYRANNY**, *noun*: unfair or cruel use of power or authority; the rule of a tyrant; a country under this rule
Usage: He is a victim of oppression and *tyranny*.

The *tyranny* of the Nazi rule is a black spot in the history of Germany.

Synonyms: totalitarianism; autocracy; oppression; despotism; rigor; harshness

Contextual Usage:

Totalitarianism is a political concept which thrived during first part of the century up to Second World War in Germany and Italy. The power in these countries was held by Hitler and Mussolini in its totality. They believed in *autocracy*. Hitler and Mussolini let loose *oppression* of the people and made them obey the government in their wrongful activities. They were despots of the *harshest* variety. They ruled with all the *rigor* and *harshness* at their command. Antonyms: pity; love; compassion; softness; sympathy

Contextual Usage:

Opposite to the tyranny of the dictators is the government of the democracies in which *pity* and *love* are the key policies for the people at large.

The rich should have a *compassion* for the poor.

In a country where the rich show sincere *sympathy* for the poor, the government adopts a policy of *softness* for the rich.

155. **UNANIMITY, noun:** complete agreement about something among a group of people

Usage: We are in *unanimity* to support the government policy.

There is no *unanimity* of opinion among the medical profession on this subject.

Synonyms: harmony; assent; concert; concurrence; unity; unison; like-mindedness; agreement; accord; concord

Contextual Usage:

There is scope for greater *harmony* among the people of India.

Try to sing in *unison* if you can.

Rajeev Gandhi has been able to achieve quite a few *agreements* with dissidents-Akalis in Punjab, ULFA in Assam to quote a few.

Accord in Assam has solved the decade old dispute over foreigners who migrated to the state from Bangladesh. It has brought *concord* among the people of the state.

Antonyms: disagreement; bones of contention; difference; variance; disharmony

Contextual Usage:

Recent accords have considerably reduced areas of *disagreement* on vital issue of autonomy and reconciliation of economic interests of different regions in the country.

Numerous *bones of contention* have been removed by peaceful negotiation.

Differences among political groups have been removed by rational discussion.

Points of *variance* among politicians have been clarified to mutual satisfaction.

Causes of *disharmony* among groups have been successfully removed.

156. **UNCONQUERABLE adj.:** too strong to be defeated or changed

Usage: No situation is *unconquerable* if one has faith on one's caliber.

Growing population is certainly a challenge of the present day but is definitely not *unconquerable*.

Synonyms: insuperable; invincible; indomitable; insurmountable

Contextual Usage:

The moon remained *insuperable* until 1969 when it was first reached by Neil Armstrong.

Indian army has shown *indomitable* courage during all the wars with Pakistan.

The problems created by the new management are becoming *insurmountable* day by day.

Antonyms: weak; powerless; feeble; conquerable

Contextual Usage:

Man is still *powerless* before the vagaries of nature.

The power of man is *feeble* compared to that of nature despite recent achievements in science.

The common diseases that perpetrated death on men have been conquered or made *conquerable*.

157. **UPHOLD, verb:** to support something that you think is right and make sure that it continues to exist

Usage: I cannot *uphold* such a conduct.

The regime has been criticized for failing to *uphold* human rights.

Synonyms: champion; back; sponsor; support; maintain; defend; sustain

Contextual Usage:

India has always *championed* case of the poor countries at all international forums.

The political party *sponsors* and *backs* such candidates in elections who stand for the upliftment of the poor.

I *supported* the court which *maintained* the judgment of the high court on the issue of property rights of individuals in the country.

It is impossible to *defend* against an all-out attack.

Antonyms: betray; drop; destroy; demolish; destruct

Contextual Usage:

Never *betray* your friend for a temporary benefit. *Drop* bad habits in your day-to-day life. It is good to *destroy* evil thoughts from your mind. The building got *demolished* in a bomb blast.

158. **VAGUE**, *adj.*: not clear in a person's mind; not having or giving enough information or details about something; suggesting a lack of clear thought or attention

Usage: I have not even a *vague* idea about what they want.

In the darkness they could see the *vague* outline of a church.

Synonyms: haze; dim; obscure; indistinct; indefinite

Contextual Usage:

His speeches have put a *haze* on the political objectives of the party.

There are *dim* prospects of his success at the polls.

The leader has *obscured the* basic economic issues on which controversies have raged in recent decades.

His views on putting limitations on individual property have remained *indistinct*.

The workers of the factory have gone on strike for an *indefinite* period.

Antonyms: clear; defined; plain; definite; exact; lucid; well-defined; sensible

Contextual Usage:

The Prime Minister has given a *clear* indication of his future policies. He has *defined* precisely the priorities of his administration. They elected a leader who was almost the *exact* opposite of the previous one. He has had negotiations with opposition leaders *in plain* and *sensible* words.

159. **VEHEMENT**, *adj.*: showing very strong feelings, especially anger

Usage: He is man *of vehement* desires.

He had been *vehement* in his opposition to the idea.

Synonyms: ardent; emphatic; fervent; forceful; eager; earnest; passionate

Contextual Usage:

I am *eager* to join your club but you must accept my subscription in installments. I *earnestly* request you to accept my application for membership of the club. He was most *emphatic* that I go with him. I *am passionately* in love with the billiards game practiced in your club.

Antonyms: feeble; mild; affected; cool; moderate; apathetic; calm

Contextual Usage:

My desire to join your club is *feeble*.

The city is *calm* again after last week's riot.

It's safe to take a *mild* sedative.

Your club has now a reputation of adversely being *affected* by the haughty behaviour of its richer members.

160. **WANE**, *verb*: to become gradually weaker or less important; appearing of the moon slightly smaller each day after being round and full

Usage: After his defeat in the election, his reputation started to *wane*.

Her enthusiasm for the whole idea was *waning* rapidly.

Synonyms: abate; atrophy; decrease; diminish; drop; dwindle; fail; lesson

Contextual Usage:

Public interest in this issue seems to have *abated*.

The idealism had become totally *atrophied*.

The government has *decreased the* size of grants.

His strength has *diminished* over the years.

Their savings have *dwindled* away to almost nothing.

His influence was already *lessening*.

Antonyms: blossom; brighten; develop; expand; grow; improve; increase; rise; strengthen; wax

Contextual Usage:

The gulmohar trees are in full *blossom*.

He *brightened up* when he heard the good news.

The plot for the novel gradually *developed* well.

A tyre *expands* when we pump air into it.

You must invest more money if you want your business to *grow*.

Her health is gradually *improving*.

161. **WAVERING**, *adj.*: to be or become weak or unsteady; to hesitate and be unable to make a decision or choice; to move in an unsteady way

Usage: We captured those *wavering* flames in our camera.

She's *wavering* between buying a house in the city or moving away.

Synonyms: oscillating; unsteady; fluctuating; undecided; undetermined; inconstant; vacillating; faltering; quivering

Contextual Usage:

In this computer the *oscillating* disk completes a full circle and returns to its original position at the end.

The minister's position in politics is *unsteady*. He is too weak to float his ideas through the media with speed.

He keeps *fluctuating* from socialism to communism and again from communism back to socialism.

He is *undecided* about his future course of action.

Antonyms: steady; unwavering; determined; firm; resolute; unhesitating; steadfast

Contextual Usage:

He is *steady* like a rock in his ideology.

There are newspapers which welcome his ideology and they give him *unwavering* publicity.

They are *determined* to push him up to political power.

This manager is *firm* in his determination to translate his deals into reality.

He pursues the cause of socialism *resolutely* through the media.

162. XANTHOUS, adj.: yellow in colour; yellowish

Usage: The *xanthous* nature of this flower attracted all the children.

She got her hair full coloured to make it *xanthous*.

Synonyms: light-skinned; golden-haired; yellow-haired; fair-haired; blonde; fair

Contextual Usage:

The Europeans are a *light-skinned race*.

She is a *golden-haired blonde* from Switzerland.

Some of the females in Australia and New Zealand are *yellow haired*. This is again a physical phenomenon.

Antonyms: brown; black; wheatish; skinned

Contextual Usage:

Her eyes are light *brown* in colour.

The original residents of Africa have a *black* skin.

Most Indians have a *wheatish* complexion.

163. YAHOO, adj.: a rude, loud and unpleasant person, especially one who has little education

Usage: No one likes a *yahoo* like him as a boss.

You need to get rid of your *yahoo* ways in order to be taken seriously.

Synonyms: barbarian; brute; savage, uncivilized, cruel

Contextual Usage:

Some tribes still practice *barbarian* rituals.

He is a *brute* by nature.

No one had expected such *savage* act from him.

His ways are quite *uncivilized*.

You should be ashamed of your *cruel* act.

Antonyms: urbane; charming; kind; generous, civilized, polished; refined

Contextual Usage:

He was *charming* and *urbane*, full of witty conversation.

The weather was very *kind* to us.

It was *generous* of him to offer to pay for us both.

No *civilized* country should allow such terrible injustices.

She gave a *polished* performance on the piano.

Beneath his *refined* manners and superficial elegance the man was a snake.

164. YIELD, verb: to produce or provide something, for example a profit, result or crop; to stop resisting something/somebody; to agree to do something that one does not want to do; to allow somebody to win, have or take control of something that has been one's until now; to move, bend or break because of pressure; to allow vehicles on a bigger road to go first

Usage: One should never *yield* to negative forces.

Despite our attempts to break it, the lock would *not yield*.

Synonyms: give way; submit; accede; waive; surrender; renounce; abandon; forgo; crop; harvest

Contextual Usage:

The bridge was defective and *gave way* as soon as the train passed over it.

He has *submitted* the requisite documents to the college.

His mother *acceded* to his demand for a holiday tour.

The enemy could not resist our forces and had to *surrender*.

He has decided to *renounce* the world and become a *Sanyasi*.

He has *abandoned* the idea of becoming a singer.

She was willing to *forgo* the pleasure of the trip and let July go instead.

The beans *cropped* very well this year.

The farmer has sold this year's *harvest* in the market at good profit.

Antonyms: resist; withstand; refuse; keep back; withhold; restrain; oppose; assail; contend; confront

Contextual Usage:

I could not *resist* the temptation of cold coffee and accepted his kind offer.

They could not *withstand* the heat of the summer and proceeded to Shimla for relief.

I could not *refuse* the kind offer of a lucrative job in my friend's firm.

I am keeping back some savings for the rainy day.

The judge *withheld* his decision to the next sitting.

165. **YOKES, noun:** something which connects two things or people, usually in a way that unfairly limits freedom

Usage: In this film, the hero did his best to break *the yoke* of the tyrant.

Both countries had thrown off the communist *yoke*.

Synonyms: link; connect; harness; couple; string

Contextual Usage:

India has broken the *link* of imperialism with Britain, though she continues its link with the Commonwealth countries as a full-fledged member.

The two towns are *connected* by an excellent bus service.

There are two parts of this machine come into operation when *coupled*.

There is no string attached to the foreign aid coming to India.

Antonyms: release; divorce; abandon; disconnect

Contextual Usage:

The government *released* all political prisoners after attaining independence.

The question of political system prevailing in a country cannot be *divorced* from foreign relations.

They have agreed to *divorce* on certain mutually settled terms.

I have *abandoned* the idea of marriage for the time being.

166. **YELL, verb:** to shout loudly because of anger, excitement, fright or pain

Usage: He greeted us and *yelled* with laughter.

She yelled at the child to get down from the wall.

Synonyms: scream; screech; howl; shrink; cry; bawl; holler

Contextual Usage:

She screamed to prove her innocence.

The car *screeched* to halt.

I feel very irritated when I hear the *shriek* of chalk on the black board.

"Stop this nonsense!" the man *bawled*.

The women *cried* aloud for help.

Holler when you're ready.

Antonyms: mumble; mutter; murmur; whisper

Contextual Usage:

Please don't *mumble*. Speak up what you want! The student *muttered* asking an apology for being late. What is this *murmur* all about? The boy *whispered* that he is afraid.

167. **ZEAL, noun:** great energy or enthusiasm connected with something that you feel strongly about

Usage: Her letter expressed her *zeal* for the cause of the development of the poor people.

The *zeal* for huge money-making kept me ticking all these years.

Synonyms: zest; dedication; eagerness; devotion; earnestness; warmth; energy

Contextual Usage:

Hope is the *zest* of life.

His *dedication* to work has earned him very good reputation.

His *eagerness* to make friends was exploited by some people.

His *earnestness* to bring an improvement in the system is clear from the actions taken by him.

The parents were gratified to see the *devotion* of the governess to the care of their child.

The sun is the most important source of *energy*.

Antonyms: coolness; weakness; laziness; carelessness; apathy

Contextual Usage:

His *coolness* often dwindle to the level of indifferences.
 His calm face has often been exploited as his *weakness*.
 His *laziness* will cost him his job some day.
 His *carelessness* is now matter of habit. But his other virtues keep him safe in his job.
 He has *apathy* for serious reading.

- 168. ZENITH, noun:** the highest point that the sun or moon reaches in the sky, directly above you; the time when something is strongest and most successful

Usage: He took voluntary retirement at the *zenith* of his career.

The rock band was at the *zenith* of its creative powers.

Synonyms: acme; apex; climax; crest; peak; pinnacle; summit; top; apogee

Contextual Usage:

By dint of hard labor he reached the *acme* of success.

At 45 he'd reached the *apex* of his career.

Her intervention brought their quarrel to *climax*.

He was riding the *crest* of a new wave of popular fame. The climbers made camp halfway up the *peak*. My office is at the *top* floor.

Antonyms: base; bottom; depths; lowest point; nadir; rock bottom

Contextual Usage:

She used her family's history as a *base* for her novel. There are tea-leaves in the *bottom* of my cup. Water was found at a *depth* of 40 feet underground. Company losses reached their *nadir* in 2008. Prices have reached *rock bottom*.

- 169. ZIP, noun and verb:** energy or speed; to move very quickly or to make something move very quickly in the direction mentioned

Usage: They have the right *zip* to stand against the tyrant.

A sports car *zipped* past us.

Synonyms: energy; drive; gusto; vitality; fly; shoot; zoom; vigor; enthusiasm

Contextual Usage:

The children are always full of *energy*.

For many weeks they *zoomed* around Disneyland enjoying the creations of Walt Disney.

He worked with fresh *vigor* and *enthusiasm*.

She is coming up with *vitality* and new ideas.

They sang the chorus with *gusto*.

Antonyms: inertia; apathy; listlessness; laziness; sluggishness; lethargy

Contextual Usage:

There was wide spread *apathy* among the election campaigners as there occurred lot of bomb blasts these days.

I can't seem to throw off the feeling of *inertia*.

Laziness makes a person dull.

He is disliked by everyone for his *sluggish* nature.

He was sick for more than a month and his *listlessness* due to sickness hampered his official works.