

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
frugal	to spend wisely, not spend too much sparing, economical, saving		He is not a miser but simply frugal, wisely spending the money he saved.
demur	to object, show reluctance object, dispute	de (away) + morari (delay)	He hated the cold and hence demurred when his friends suggested to play in the snow.
disinterested	unbiased, neutral		A disinterested jury is required at a trial
prevaricate	speak in an evasive manner, beat around the bush	pre (before) + praevaricat (walk crookedly, deviate)	He seemed to prevaricate when journalists asked pointed questions
ambivalent	mixed, conflicting emotions	ambi (both) + valent (strong) Someone who has strong feelings on both sides	He was ambivalent about who he wanted to win the game.
gregarious	to be likely to socialise with others, extroverted	greg (flock)	She was a gregarious student, always among people and activities.
qualify	make less severe, to limit		After the diaorrhea incident, he qualified his love for street food.
mercurial	prone to unexpected mood changes, moody, volatile		Her moods were as mercurial as the weather.
amenable	easily persuaded, to be open to		He is generally an amenable person and his sister could convince him to come to the bar.
profligate	spend recklessly (noun/verb)	pro (forward) + fligere (destroy) pro to destroying your money	He profligates the moment he is credited his salary due to which he is usually found penniless. (verb) Lottery winners usually go from being frugal to outright profligates in a short span of time. (noun)
vindicate	to clear someone of accusation, blame with supporting argument	vindicat (avenge) <i>sounds like win the case</i>	Johnny Depp was vindicated when the jury found Amber Heard to be the abuser. When a physicist proves a theory that his colleagues derided, he vindicates it
iconoclast	someone who attacks beliefs		Because Jared was an iconoclast and dared to question the company's mission, he was fired from his job
venerate	to deeply respect	venerat (adored, revered)	That professor is highly venerated among the academic community.
parochial	limited or narrow outlook		His food tastes are too parochial, I can't experience different cuisines with him.
egregious	really bad, negative, shockingly bad flagrant	ex (out) + greg (flock) standing out of the flock (so bad)	The crimes he committed were so egregious that he needs to be hanged in jail.
wanting	lacking		I have never felt like my vocabulary was wanting, but GRE has made me doubt myself.
parsimonious	miserly, extremely frugal, stingy	parcere (to spare) <i>sounds like sparse money</i>	When he got a promotion, even his parsimonious self agreed to treat us.
harangue	long speech (annoying), nasty rant	<i>sounds like her + angry (rant)</i>	The police inspector harangued the media on their greed for TRP.
censure	to express disapproval, harsh criticism	censere (assess)	When the student couple were caught, they were quickly censured by the school.
equivocal	confusing, ambiguous	equi (equal) + vocal equal call from both sides	The findings of the study were equivocal, the researchers had different opinions on its significance.
belie	give false representation to	be (about) + lie (lie) = lie about something	His smile belies the pain he feels inside.
laconic	to be of few words (somewhat lazy)	<i>lack of sonic (few words)</i>	She always had a thing for those laconic types, but her boyfriends were always inevitably talkative.
acrimony	bitterness, ill will	acri (acid=bad) + monious (manners)	The acrimony between DK and Vijay was evident after Vijay had an affair with DK's wife.
veracious	truthful	vera- (true)	We expect our leaders to be veracious but they often end up prevaricating.

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upbraid	to scold, find fault in		She was severely upbraided by the teacher after she failed for the third time in a row.
enervate	to drain energy from, lacking in energy	ex (out of) + nervus (sinew) <i>energy gone, wait</i>	Shopping in the mid afternoon was a terrible idea as the heat enervated us all.
ingenuous	innocent, naive	<i>genuous sounds like genuine</i>	He is a sweet and ingenuous guy and gets used by a lot of people.
galvanize	to excite or inspire someone to take action		Martin Luther King's speech galvanized an entire crowd to protest against injustice.
venality	the condition of being susceptible to bribes		Even some of the most biggest sporting events are not immune to venality
innocuous	harmless, not offensive	in (not) + nocuus (injury) <i>sounds like innocent</i>	It was an innocuous question, I didn't mean to offend you.
castigate	reprimand harshly, upbraid	<i>sounds like cast out of the gate</i>	Drill sergeants are known to castigate new recruits in the first week and cause them to have a nervous breakdown.
restive	restless		The crowd grew restive as the comedian's jokes fell flat.
calumny	making of false statement to injure someone's reputation, defamation		Amber Heard's statements in the media against Johnny Depp were full of calumnies.
prodigal	wastefully extravagant, profligate	<i>pretty girl (wastes money)</i>	High performing athletes usually succumb to a prodigal lifestyle.
amalgam	mixture, combination of multiple things		The band was an amalgam of hip-hop, reggae and blues music.
amorphous	shapeless, structureless	a (without) + morphe (form)	Her study plan was amorphous, she just read some notes from here and there.
extant	in existence (usually refers to documents), surviving		My grandmother's old letters from the 50's are still extant.
impertinent	rude, disrespectful		His boss noticed his impertinence around his colleagues and chose not to promote him.
commensurate	proportional		The sentence he received was commensurate to the crimes he committed.
gossamer	unusually delicate, fine, light	<i>go summer (so light and delicate, it allows light to go through it)</i>	The gossamer wings of a butterfly allow it to fly, but are also a curse as they are often damaged.
eschew	avoid, stay away	<i>sounds like ech ew!</i>	Eschew cashews if you are allergic to nuts.
entrenched	stuck, fixed firmly		By the time we reach 60, most of our habits are so firmly entrenched that we find it hard to change.
cryptic	secretive, mysterious		He received a cryptic message at his doorstep minutes before his partner died.
diffident	lacking self-confidence, modest	dis (reverse) + fidere (to trust) opposite of confident - diffident	Amit was a diffident individual in his town but became very confident after moving to the city.
culminate	reach highest point or climax		My 2 months of GRE preparation culminated into a fantastic score.
exacerbate	make worse	ex (out) + acerbus (bitter) - out of normal bitterness, extra bitterness	He tried to make up to her but just ended up exacerbating the situation.
superfluous	no useful purpose, unnecessary, extra, used as <i>being more than enough</i>	super (over) + fluere (flow)	Eliminate all superfluous spending of time and focus on your work. The third paragraph is superfluous and can be deleted
apathetic	lack of interest, emotion, enthusiasm derived from apathy		KVS was such a good teacher that his lectures would interest even the apathetic students.

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inexorable	unstoppable, inevitable impossible to persuade		The end of the world is inexorable given climate change and pollution. The doctors were inexorable, and there was nothing to be done.
impudent	impertinent, rude, improperly forward	in (not) + pudere (to have shame)	He questioned his teacher in an impudent manner.
platitude	obvious remark, cliché, lost importance because used too often		What were originally thought to be finds of the century turned out to be mere platitudes.
deferential	respectful (esp. due to that person's experience and position)		When you meet the president, stand up straight and be deferential.
bucolic	relating to the pleasant aspects of the countryside and country life	<i>bulls cows like</i>	The church is lovely for its bucolic setting.
fortuitous	happy chance, by good fortune		Missing my bus turned out to be quite fortuitous as I met my old friend in the next train.
didactic	instructive (excessively), intended to teach		I recently read a didactic novel that set out to expose social injustice.
germane	relevant or appropriate		The lawyer began to talk about her client's professional achievements when the judge stopped her to point out it wasn't germane to the case.
meticulous	extreme care, great attention to detail		The tailor stitches the garment with meticulous care so as to not damage them.
banal	overused, repeated too often, unoriginal, platitude		The professor would use such banal expressions in his lecture that students would try and complete his sentences for fun.
conspicuous	completely obvious, no attempt to conceal, striking, prominent	<i>continue speak to make obvious</i>	He was very thin, with a conspicuous Adam's apple.
obscure	hide, make unclear (verb) known only by a few people (adj)		His view was obscured by her big head. Many big movie stars were once obscure actors trying very hard to find fame.
frivolous	not serious	<i>free-vo-lous = loves being carefree</i>	Compared to her concern for human rights, his constant obsession with football seems a bit frivolous.
mitigate	make less severe or harsh	<i>mithai get, it'll make things better</i>	The new drainage schemes have helped mitigate this problem.
decorous	good taste in manners and conduct		Ever decorous, she periodically excuses herself to another room rather than allow a guest to witness her blowing her nose.
torpor	inactivity, lethargic behaviour, lack of energy		I hate that my weekends are spent on bed watching YouTube in a state of torpor.
dogmatic	highly opinionated, not accepting that one's own belief may not be correct	derived from dogma <i>stubborn as a dog's tail</i>	He is dogmatic in his belief that the Earth is flat, claiming all the pictures are computer generated.
preclude	keep something from happening, make impossible	pre (before) + claudere (to shut) bar a route before anything happens	The doors are kept locked in the night to preclude any possibility of a burglary.
predilection	strong liking		She had a predilection for spicy wings and chilled beer.
audacious	willing to be bold, take risks		I can't believe she had the audacity to ask me to do her work for her.
lambast	criticise very angrily	<i>you baste a lamb and it gets angry at you</i>	Monica utterly lambasted her friends who had no consideration to the fact that she stressed out making food for everyone.
aesthete	one who professes great sensitivity to beauty of art and nature (noun)	derived from aesthetic	A true aesthete, she would spend hours in the museum admiring the Picasso.
volubility	talking or writing easily and fluently talkative	<i>volume-ability</i>	Her volubility knows no bounds, I have never had a call with her that hasn't lasted an hour.
rustic	characteristic of rural life, simple		The cabin had no electricity or plumbing, but he still adored its rustic charm.

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mawkish	overly sentimental to the point that it is disgusting		She is so incredibly mawkish, crying for the tiniest things that it gives me a headache sometimes.
dictatorial	expecting unquestioning obedience, like a dictator	derived from dictator	The coach was dictatorial in his approach, no one could ever argue with him.
chortle	laugh merrily		As I walked into the cafe I could hear people chortling and the clink of glasses.
aesthetic	appreciation of beauty (adj) principles guiding an artist (noun)		Monet and Picasso paintings give me great aesthetic pleasure. The painter operated with a peculiar aesthetic, publishing only those paintings that had a jar.
vociferous	conspicuously, offensively loud, characterized by vehement opinions	vox (voice) + ferre (to carry)	Skip Bayless is the most vociferous critic of LeBron James. He was vociferous in his support of the proposal.
querulous	complaining, whiny, petulant	queri (complain)	The querulous old woman managed to annoy even the most patient members of the staff.
prescience	know or foresee the future, foresight, foreknowledge	pre (before) + scio (to know)	His vehement warnings to not invest in that company seemed like an act of prescience after the company crashed and claimed bankruptcy.
perfidy	deliberate betrayal, breach of trust	per (to ill effect) + fides (faith)	Sure, he was the best salesman but he got caught sharing product secrets to the rival company and was fired for such perfidy.
gall	rude, impertinent, audacity (noun) bitterness, acrimony		I can't believe she had the gall to ask me to do her work for her. In an act of gall, she keyed his car and punctured his tyres before leaving him.
culpability	state of guilt, blame	culpa (fault, blame)	Since he left the banana peel on the floor, he accepted culpability for her broken leg.
glut	excessive supply (noun) supply in excess (verb)	derived from glutton	The internet offers a glut of news related stories. In the economic crisis, hiring managers find their inboxes glutted with resumes.
incisive	ability to recognize or draw fine distinctions		The lawyer had an incisive mind, able to dissect a tangled issue and isolate the essential laws at play
engender	give rise to	<i>2 genders give rise to a kid</i>	The speech that the politician gave was so disturbing that it engendered deep hatred in the minority communities.
concede	accept defeat admit to a wrongdoing surrender or relinquish control		I concede. You win. After a stern look, she conceded to having broken the window. The Spanish were forced to concede much of their territory after losing the battle.
reticent	not revealing one's thoughts or feelings withdrawn, reserved	tacere (remain silent) <i>reticent ~ rehta shaant</i>	When asked about her father, she lost her enthusiasm and became rather reticent.
recondite	incomprehensible, difficult to penetrate (understand)	<i>sounds like reconduct, the professor reconducted the lecture as students didnt understand it</i>	I found Interstellar recondite and wanted to watch it with someone else to make sense of it together. Her poems are quite experimental in style and recondite in subject-matter.
gainsay	contradict or deny	gain (against) + say(say)	I can't gainsay anything he has told yet but I still don't trust his story.
archaic	very old		Hoping to sound intelligent, she spoke archaic English right out of Jane Austen's Pride And Prejudice - needless to say she didn't have many friends.
paragon	the best of its kind	paragon slippers	Even with the rise of players like Kobe Bryant and LeBron James, people still believe that Micheal Jordan is the paragon for basketball players.
eminent	famous and respected within a particular sphere, renowned	used as "eminent personality"	Shakespeare is one of the world's most eminent authors in the English language.
mollify	to make someone less angry, appease	mollis (soft) - make soft	She is the only one who is able to mollify him if he becomes angry in the mornings when he hasn't had his cup of coffee.
eclectic	comprised of variety of styles		She was known for her eclectic tastes in music, one month head-banging to metal and the next listening to western classical symphonies.
delineate	describe in detail, portray		Our coach dilineated the gameplan to us over the course of 30 minutes.

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ephemeral	lasting a very short time		Some compounds have ephemeral half lives, lasting only an hour or so.
subsume	to become part of something else		These two departments can be subsumed under the Arts department as well.
haughty	arrogant, proud		The haughty manager didn't believe that any of his subordinates could have insights as brilliant as his.
spurious	plausible but false		It is hard to distinguish a politician's spurious claims from the genuine ones.
ascetic	denial of worldly pleasures to self (verb) someone who practices self-denial	asketes (monk or hermit)	His ascetic life is why he gained so many believers, because he gave up riches to live as a saint. Ascetics like Gandhi are considered wise men because of their ability to practice self-restraint.
vilify	spread negative information about	derived from vile	He was noble and composed after the divorce but she didn't hesitate to vilify him every chance she got.
unequivocal	unambiguous, having only one meaning	opp. of equivocal	His first speech was vague and had many interpretations, so he made sure to be unequivocal this time.
vehement	marked by extreme intensity of emotions, intense		He vehemently denied any allegations of improper conduct on the casting couch.
immutable	something that cannot be changed		Tuples are immutable in Python.
heretic	someone who has unorthodox opinions in any field (not just religion)		Though cardio before weights is the norm, he was a heretic and always did the opposite.
panache	distinctive elegance, flamboyant		He was a flamboyant actor and entertained London audiences with great panache.
languid	disinclination for physical exertion or effort, unenergetic		After a tiring water polo session in the morning, we spent a languid evening on bed watching Netflix.
quotidian	found in normal course of events, regular, occurring everyday	<i>sounds like quote indian - newspaper quotes indian opinions everyday</i>	He gets so involved in Aristotle's arguments that he forgets quotidian concerns like exercising and eating regularly.
juxtapose	place side by side for contrast		Black-and-white photos of slums were juxtaposed with images of beautiful mansions and roads to highlight the contrast between the lives of the poor and the rich.
circumvent	find a way out of		One way of circumventing the GRE is to apply for grad schools that don't require GRE.
derivative	not original but drawing strong inspiration from something else	to be derived from	Nowadays, a lot of Bollywood songs are utterly derivative of western music.
incongruous	unsuitable, not matching, not keeping with	opp. of congruous	The vast economic inequality of modern society is incongruous with America's ideals.
belligerent	eager to fight, hostile, aggressive	bellum (war) <i>belli- sounds like bully</i>	Though he said that was fine after the fight, his belligerent tone indicated otherwise.
tenacious	stubborn, unyielding, persistent		Even the most tenacious advocates for gun ownership must admit to the associated risks.
fallacious	belief that is false or mistaken	based on "fallacy"	The rumour that Inuit has 40 different words that mean "snow" has been found to be fallacious.
treacherous	tending to betray dangerously unstable, unpredictable		The company secrets were leaked because a treacherous employee chose to betray them. The treacherous currents scared even the bravest sailors from going into the sea.
jingoism	fanatical and extreme patriotism		When the invading troops showed jingoism by burning down schools and churches, their leaders reprimanded them.
forlorn	showing hopelessness		When even her third attempt at the assignment was graded an F, she was simply forlorn and sat by the window not knowing what to do.
precocious	early development or maturity (especially in mental aptitude)	pre (before) + coquere (cook) to ripen early	Though only 7 years old, she was a precocious chess prodigy and could beat players twice her age.

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abstain	choose not to take part in (particularly something enjoyable)		He abstained from eating fried food in the hope that his cholesterol reduces.
frustrate	hinder or prevent		I thought I would finish writing the paper today but a number of interruptions served to frustrate my plan.
elucidate	make clearer or easy to understand	derived from lucid (clear)	Since a lot of students found that particular lecture to be rather recondite, the professor had to reconduct the class to elucidate its contents.
apathy	absence of emotion, enthusiasm	a (not) + pathy (feelings)	Widespread apathy among voters led to a very small turnout on election day.
antipathy	hatred, dislike	anti (against) + pathy (feelings)	The extreme antipathy between India and Pakistan was what caused so many wars between the 2 nations.
itinerant	travelling from place to place to work	<i>have an itinerary for work</i>	Doctors used to be itinerant, travelling between patient's homes.
ameliorate	improve something that is bad	<i>Amelia Earhart improved the situation of women in aviation</i>	This story is of a man who adopted a village to ameliorate its poverty and lack of education.
tantamount	being essentially equal to something	<i>ante amount</i>	In many situations, being silent is tantamount to admitting guilt, so speak to prove your innocence.
disaffected	discontented toward authority, discontented, disgruntled, dissatisfied		After watching his superior take rations from the soldiers, he became disaffected and rebelled.
refractory	stubbornly resistant to authority, stubborn, unmanageable	<i>refraction - light stubbornly doesn't go straight through glass</i>	Used to apathetic school students, she was unprepared for energetic and refractory kindergarteners who didn't listen to a single word she said.
jubilant	very happy, delighted		My hardwork paid off and I was jubilant to receive a GRE score of 332.
contrive	pull off a plan or scheme (usually using tricky means)	<i>continue to try using cons.</i>	Despite a low GPA, he contrived to get into a college, going so far as to write his own LoRs.
travesty	absurd presentation of something, mockery		What I expected to be a tasteful documentary on his life turned out to be a poorly-made travesty of the form.
magnanimous	noble and generous (especially to a rival or someone less powerful)		He was a great sportsman; complimentary in defeat and magnanimous in victory.
staunch	very loyal, firm		No longer a staunch supporter of the movement, he will now openly question its goals.
guileless	free of deceit or cunningness	opp. of guile (cunning)	At first Ross thought Ben was guileless until he realised he had replaced the sugar with salt.
supplant	replace, supercede		Cell phones and smart phones have more or less supplanted traditional telephones in most homes.
avaricious	excessively greedy	<i>avarus (greedy), derived from avarice a very rich (greedy)</i>	Avaricious desire is similar to lust and gluttony and hence is listed as one of the 7 deadly sins.
insidious	working in a subtle but destructive way	Movie Insidious	Smoking is an insidious problem, there are no immediate effects but eventually you are left with lung cancer.
assuage	to lessen intensity, to ease		His phone call home to inform his parents that he was safe during the terrorist attacks served to assuage their fear.
erudite	having or showing great knowledge (usually from reading and learning)		Years of intense study and research turned him into an erudite scholar.
enigma	mysterious, puzzle		The reason behind her sudden outrage was an enigma to him.
fervid	excessively enthusiastic, passionate fervent, ardent		Compared to her apathetic bestfriend, she was a fervid follower of k-pop.
placate	make someone less angry, mollify		She was the only one that could placate him during his intense fits of rage.

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zeal	great energy, enthusiasm		She went to work on her first day with zeal and excitement, desperate to prove herself.
dessicate	remove moisture from something dehydrated, powdered		The bricks were dessicated by the sun. You must not desiccate to the point where life itself loses its flavour.
pedant	someone who is excessively concerned with minor details, scrupulous	<i>pendant has a lot of detail</i>	His lectures were extremely pedantic, excesssily focused on the details of one small topic.
vaccilate	to be indecisive, waver between multiple things	<i>should I take vaccine or not</i>	For a long time I vaccilated between Science and Commerce, and ended up taking Science at the end.
capricious	sudden, unaccountable mood changes mercurial, fickle		Life is hell when you are working under a capricious boss.
loquacious	talkative, garrulous, voluble		At first she seemed like a reticent person on the date, but her loquacious self came out after 3 shots.
pragmatic	believing in practical experience over theory, realistic, logical, reasoning		He was a pragmatic person and not a fan of long philosophical discussions.
propriety	conforming to decency, decorum proper	<i>proper</i>	Hiding his rather undecorous personality, he behaved with utmost propriety when he met his girlfriend's father.
ebullience	happy, full of energy, exuberance	<i>bought a new Enflied Bullet -> happy, excited</i>	The orator gave such an impassioned speech that the crowd was moved to ebullience.
arcane	mysterious, secret, understood by few only	Show Arcane	The show Arcane had a lot of arcane and mysterious characters with a dreadful past.
idiosyncrasy	behavioral attribute that is distinctive and peculiar to an individual		Her various idiosyncrasies include frequent neck flexes, laughing to her self and bright pink shoes.
aberrant	marked different from accepted norm		When the director began to get violent with his employees, the security had to come in to deal with his aberrant behaviour.
apocryphal	being of questionable authenticity fabricated, untrue, fictitious		The web is notorious for sandwiching apocryphal stories between actual news.
denigrate	charge falsely with malicious intent, criticise unfairly, belittle, disparage	<i>deny great, by belittling it</i>	He denigrated the work that was previously done by calling 'an absolute waste of time and money'.
abstruse	difficult to understand, incomprehensible esoteric, obscure, opp. of lucid	<i>absurd truth - difficult to understand</i>	Physics textbooks can sometimes be so abstruse that students give up immediately.
reconcile	make one thing compatible with the other		Her friends were unable to reconcile her kind self with the cruel character she played on TV.
refute	prove to be false, deny		No one could refute Newton's theories until Einstein came along.
expound	add details to, clarify in depth		The CEO refused to expound on the decision to fire so many employees, and received a lot of hate.
underscore	give extra weight, importance to	basically underline something for extra importance	Although he agreed that a first aid kit was important, he underscored the importance of carrying enough water on a trek.
ingratiate	gain favor with someone by deliberate efforts		Even though he hated his new boss, he decided to ingratiate himself to her in order to advance his career.
unscrupulous	having no morals, not fair or honest unethical, immoral		The unscrupulous lawyer used every manner of deceit and manipulation to win the case.
implacable	incapable of making less angry	im (not) + placate (make less angry)	The coach was always implacable, always giving the athletes a tough time.
ignoble	dishonourable	in (not) + noble	In the 90's, news of fixing in cricket became widely known -an ignoble act that Indian Cricket took a while to recover from.
exonerate	pronounce not guilty		Johnny Depp was exonerated by the Virginia court while Amber heard was found guilty.

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exculpate	clear of guilt, exonerate, vindicate		The justice system must convict those who are guilty and exculpate those who are innocent.
intransigent	unwilling to change ones views, stubborn uncompromising, inflexible	<i>in (not) + try and see gents!</i> unable to see another opinion	Despite many proofs being presented, the judge remained intransigent and found him to be guilty.
petulant	whiny, easily annoyed		Although the 3 year old was said to be mature for age, he became whiny and petulant and threw a fit whenever he was hungry.
soporific	inducing lethargy, sleep	sopor (sleep)	Although the professor is very good, his bland tone gives his lectures a soporific effect.
contingent	group of people (noun) dependent on (verb)		A small contingent of his supporters gathered outside his house. (noun) Me coming to the movies is contingent on him being there too. (verb)
copious	an abundance, a lot		That dish requires you to put copious amounts of butter and cream which is not good for your health.
construe	interpreted as, understood as		His inability to take a side on the issue was construed by everyone as a sign of weakness.
forthcoming	available when required		Financial support from her family was not forthcoming when she needed it the most.
temperance	trait of avoiding excess	derived from temperate (moderation)	He wasn't known for his temperance, ate food worth 2 people and drank worth 3.
incorrigible	incapable of being corrected, reformed	in (not) + corrigo (to correct)	He is an incorrigible liar, no amount of punishment can make him an honest person.
opaque	hard or impossible to understand	same word, different context	The YouTube video was full of technical jargon that was opaque to her.
exacting	requiring or demanding accuracy stringent, demanding, challenging		Though basketball practice is exacting, he is grateful to it for keeping him fit.
acerbic	harsh in tone	<i>like acid</i>	Movie critics are usually acerbic towards summer blockbusters, often calling them garbage.
myopic	lacking foresight or imagination	<i>myopia - short-sightedness</i> used in a different context	The company went out of business because the myopic managers couldn't predict the changes in the industry.
espouse	adopt, embrace		She espoused Buddhism and sought to seek her path to enlightenment.
confound	to cause confusion, astonish (verb) mistake one thing for another (verb)		Though he loved numbers, trigonometry and calculus confounded him. She would always confound equality with female dominance.
admonitory	serving to warn	admonish (warn strongly)	The prinicipal gave the students an admonitory speech, warning them of the dangers of prom night.
ostentatious	pretentious, showy, designed to impress		He preferred simple designs that were glamorous without being ostentatious.
eradicate	destroy completely		The disease has been completely eradicated from the world.
tortuous	not straightforward, twists and turns	tortus (twists) <i>torque - twists</i>	The climb up that mountain is marked by a tortuous path, full of twists and turns. His argument was so tortuous that people were just left confused.
bumbling	incompetent, acting in a confused way		The new receptionist is a bumbling fool, he has not a single clue about anything.
laudable	worthy of praise		His actions in the face of danger are laudable.
largess	extremely generosity and giving	largus (copious) <i>largest heart</i>	He was known for his largess, he donated almost everything he made to the poor and lived a very simple life.
hackneyed	lacking significance due to overuse, unoriginal, platitude		She rolled her eyes when she head the lecturer's hackneyed advice, "Be true to yourself"

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burgeon	grow and flourish	<i>eat burgers, grow in weight</i>	The housing market has been burgeoning for the past year but experts say it is just temporary.
exalt	praise or glorify	ex (out) + altus (high)	The teenagers exalted the rockstar, covering their bedrooms with pictures of him.
provincial	unsophisticated, limited perspective		Her enthusiasm about high school teams seemed provincial in comparison with her friends who were following national teams.
abate	reduce in amount or degree		As the hurricanes abated, the winds dropped and the sea became calm.
abscond	leave secretly		The patron absconded from the back of the restaurant without paying the bill. The conman absconded from the country after scamming 9 women off their savings.
aggrandize	to increase in power, status, reputation	grandis (large) <i>make more grand</i>	She hoped to aggrandize herself by claiming that her staff's achievements were her own.
alleviate	make more bearable	<i>Pain says "I'll leave wait"</i>	The painkiller helps to alleviate the pain.
anachronism	out of place in time	ana (backward) + khronos (time)	The town is a throwback to medieval times, an anachronism that has survived the passing years.
arbitrate	judge a dispute between two opposing parties		The wife and husband failed to reach an agreement so the judge had to arbitrate their dispute.
ardour	intense, passionate feeling, enthusiasm zeal	ardere (to burn) - <i>burn with passion</i>	She displayed great ardour for art.
attenuate	reduce in force or degree		Research proves that forestation can attenuate the force of waves in coastal areas.
austere	severe, stern, strict having no comfort or luxury having plain, unadorned appearance		She held an austere look of disapproval when she caught her son eating chocolates secretly. His lavish way of living and prodigal nature could hardly be called austere. The walls of the church had an austere and simple appearance, nothing too ostentatious.
bombastic	pompous in speech and manner, high sounding with little meaning		His claims are mostly bombastic, they are too crazy to have happened to him.
caustic	biting in wit, sarcastic in a cutting way		She was known for her caustic wit from her cutting, yet clever, insults.
chauvinist	someone prejudiced toward the group that they belong to		The idea that men are superior to women is common among male chauvinists.
chicanery	deception, trickery, deceit	<i>chicken-air - chicken deceives us into thinking it can fly</i>	Politicians use storylines packed with propaganda and political chicanery to gain voters' trust.
cogent	convincing, well reasoned, compelling	<i>considerate and gentle -> convincing</i>	Compared to the cogent and well structured argument presented by Johnny's lawyers, Amber's legal team's arguments seemed outright ridiculous.
condone	accept or overlook behaviour that is considered wrong		The college cannot condone the use of drugs on the campus. Strict action will be taken.
convoluted	complex, difficult to follow		The film is let down by a convoluted plot in which nothing really happens.
credulous	trusting, gullible	<i>incredulous - unable to believe credulous - believe everything</i>	The villagers staged a mock IPL to fool credulous foreigners into betting on the game.
crescendo	steadily increasing volume or force		As soon as the drum solo started, the reluctant cheers began to crescendo.
desultory	disconnected, aimless		She had no idea what she wanted to do and went from one major to another in a desultory manner.
diatribe	bitter verbal attack, harangue, stream of abuse		The presidential candidate made a diatribe against the opposing party, causing there to be even more anger between the parties.
dilate	make larger, to expand		When you enter a dark room, your pupils dilate to let in more light.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
dilatory	intended to delay	derived from delay	The congressman used dilatory measures to delay the passage of the bill.
dilettante	a person who cultivates an interest without real commitment or knowledge.		Gilderoy Lockhart is a barely competent wizard; though he likes to take authority in times of danger, he is nothing more than a dilettante.
dirge	a mournful speech, funeral song		When she sang a dirge for her deceased father, she brought everyone to tears.
disabuse	disillusion, undecieve, set right, correct		He quickly disabused me of my mistaken notions about his culture.
disparate	different		Although the twins look alike, their personalities are disparate.
dissemble	pretend, conceal, disguise, feign	dissimulare (disguise), dis (not) + semblance (outward appearance)	The murderer could not dissemble to the police anymore and had to accept his crimes.
dissonance	lack of harmony, especially among musical tones; disparity	dis (not) + sonic (sound)	His cruel abuse showed a dissonance with his loving words.
efficacy	effectiveness		The instant efficacy of the medicine was backed up by its not having any side effects, making it the goto medicine for the illness.
elegy	sorrowful poem, dirge		Although the elegy is about death and loss, it encourages you to appreciate life and live in spirituality.
erratic	wandering, unpredictable		The plot seemed very predictable until it suddenly took a series of erratic turns that surprised the audience.
esoteric	known or understood only by few, abstruse		Only a handful of experts are knowledgeable about the esoteric world of particle physics.
estimable	admirable	<i>esteem-able</i>	Many people find it estimable that Mother Teresa devoted her entire life to helping the poor.
eulogy	speech in praise of someone	eu (well) + logy (words)	The best man delivered a heartfelt eulogy to the newly married couple that brought everyone to tears.
euphemism	using an inoffensive word as a substitute for a more offensive word	eu (well) + pHEME (speaking)	The funeral director preferred the euphemism 'sleeping' instead of 'dead'.
exigent	urgent, requiring immediate action	<i>extremely urgent</i>	The patient was losing blood so rapidly that the exigent concern was to stop the bleeding.
florid	excessively decorated, over-elaborate, embellished	<i>full of flora decorations</i>	The palace had been decorated in a florid style, carvings and paintings on every wall.
foment	incite, instigate, stir up, engender		The social media influencer was arrested on the charges of attempting to foment political unrest.
garrulous	talkative, voluble, loquacious		The garrulous parakeet distracted its owner with its continuous talking
perturbed	disturbed, unsettled		She didn't seem to be perturbed by the constant construction noise outside her window.
impervious	impossible to penetrate, incapable of being affected	im (not) + pervious (penetrable)	A good raincoat is impervious to moisture.
impetuous	quick to act without thinking, impulsive, reckless	impetere (attack)	It is not good for an investment broker to be impetuous as each option must be analysed thoroughly.
inchoate	not fully formed or developed, rudimentary; disorganised	<i>inka wait</i>	Her story is still at its inchoate stages, the entire plot needs to be thought out yet.
inimical	hostile, unfriendly (usually wrt conditions or environment)	<i>sounds like enemy-cal</i>	Even though the children grew up together, they were inimical to each other at school.
insipid	lacking vigour or interest, boring lacking flavour, tasteless, bland	in (not) + sipid (taste)	The critic claimed that the movie was insipid, too boring to watch it in a theatre. I drank mugs and mugs of insipid coffee to stay awake for the exam.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
inundate	to overwhelm to flood		Since the website went live, we have been inundated with complaints from customers. The tidal wave inundated Atlantis, which was lost beneath the water.
irascible	easily made angry	ira (angry)	Attila the Hun's irascible and violent nature made all who dealt with him fear for their lives.
malinger	to evade responsibility by pretending to be sick	<i>mal (wrong) + injure - pretend injury</i>	A common way to avoid the army draft was by malingering - pretending to be sick and staying home.
misanthrope	someone who dislikes humankind	misein (hate) + anthropos (man)	Scrooge wasn't the mean-spirited misanthrope most of us believe him to be.
obdurate	stubborn, unyielding, intransigent	ob (in opposition) + durare (hard)	I tried to persuade him but he was completely obdurate and didn't listen to my words.
obstinate	stubborn, intransigent, obdurate	obstinare (persist)	The obstinate child could not be persuaded to eat any food that he didn't like.
obsequious	overly submissive, obedient, eager to please, ingratiating	obsequi (follow, comply with) <i>obsessed with saying qui (yes) -ous</i>	The obsequious new intern sought to compliment and agree with her boss every day in order to gain favou
obviate	prevent, make unnecessary		The river was shallow enough to wade across, obviating the need to build a bridge.
occlude	obstruct, stop		Eclipses occur when the light of the sun is occluded by the moon.
onerous	burdensome, difficult, troublesome	oner (burden)	The team was given such an onerous task that they struggled for weeks to complete it.
opprobrium	public disgrace, shame, dishonour		After the ball tampering scandal went public, Warner and Smith were banned in utter opprobrium.
perfunctory	done in a routine way without real feeling or interest, desultory		The machine-like bank teller processed the transaction and gave the customer a perfunctory nod.
philanthropy	charity, desire to promote welfare of others, humanitarianism	philanthropos (man-loving)	Bill Gates has donated billions of dollars to the poor and is known for his philanthropy.
propitiate	regain favour by doing something that pleases them, appease, concile, placate	propitius (favourable)	The pagans thought it was important to propitiate the gods with sacrifices.
prudence	wisdom, cautiousness		The college student exhibited prudence by building practical experience along with theoretical study.
quiescent	motionless	<i>quiet and still</i>	Many animals are quiescent in the winter months, minimising activity to conserve energy.
rarefy	make sparse, make thinner, less dense		As the air rarefies at higher altitudes, the air is too thin to breathe at the top of mountains.
repudiate	reject the validity of		Her claims of being related to the Russians were repudiated after a DNA test.
satiate	satisfy fully, overindulge	satis (enough)	He was so starved that not even two people's worth of food could satiate his hunger.
specious	superficially plausible, but actually wrong		The student's specious excuse for being late seemed plausible but turned out to be false when the teacher called her mother.
stolid	unemotional, lacking sensitivity	<i>solid and hard heart, no emotions</i>	The prisoner appeared stolid and unaffected by the judge's harsh sentence.
tacit	done without using words	<i>thats it, no words</i>	The entire room reached a tacit agreement to make the sale.
taciturn	not talkative, silent	derived from tacit	His silent and taciturn nature made people believe that he was extremely decent.
tirade	long harsh speech, verbal attack harangue, diatribe		The staff were shocked at the manager's tirade over such a minor mistake

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
vex	to annoy		The old neighbour who liked his peace and quiet was vexed by his new neighbour's dog.
constituents	people living in a constituency, voting individual parts of something		The mayor's constituents were no longer happy with her performance. The constituents of metal alloy are nickel, copper and tin.
winsome	charming in a childlike or naive way	wyn (joy)	She was winsome by nature and many people were drawn to this free and playful spirit.
gauche	socially awkward, inelegant, graceless		Janardhan says the most gauche things, such as telling a girl she needs to work out and lose weight.
sanction	penalty for disobeying a rule or law		International sanctions have been placed on some shipping lanes that were thought to be involved with human trafficking.
inscrutable	not easily understood		His speech was so dense and confusing that many of the audience found it inscrutable.
pernicious	harmful in a subtle or hidden way	<i>pernicious anemia</i>	The pernicious influences of mass media came to the forefront after a false news article caused the murder of a student.
circumscribe	restrict within limits, keep within bounds		The tour of South America was circumscribed so that they only visited the tourist locations and avoided the dangerous parts of the city.
sycophant	try to please someone to gain personal advantage, obsequious person (noun)		The CEO was largely unaware of the damaging consequences of his choices because he was surrounded only by sycophants who wouldn't dare criticise him.
prodigious	remarkable, impressive, great	<i>prodigy-ous</i>	Charlie Puth is a truly prodigious musician who also has the extremely rare ability of perfect pitch.
resurgent	rising again after period of inactivity, reviving		The resurgent economy is true testimony of the success of the new government.
intrepid	fearless, adventurous, brave	in (not) + trepidus (alarmed)	He was an intrepid adventurer, frequently taking risks which eventually led to his downfall.
brazen	bold, without shame, unrestrained		His large "donations" to the police department allowed him to go about his illegal business with brazen assurance.
munificent	very generous	munus (gift) <i>opposite of maleficent (kinda)</i>	Uncle was known for his munificence, giving his nieces and nephews lavish Christmas presents.
pedestrian	lacking imagination or inspiration, boring, monotonous		The couple were so bored with their pedestrian lives that they decided to go on a world tour.
ostracize	exclude from community or group, exclude, shun	<i>the ostrich was ostracized by birds because it couldn't fly</i>	The woman was declared a witch and was ostracized by all the villagers.
ravenous	extremely hungry, devouring food in great quantities		I might be a light eater on normal days, but I have a ravenous appetite on Tuesdays at Plan B.
poignant	emotionally touching, evoking sadness or regret, moving, saddening		Going back to school was a poignant reminder of how fast time passes.
reverent	showing deep respect, veneration		The school observed a reverent silence as a tribute to their fellow schoolmate who passed away.
rescind	cancel officially, revoke		The 5 ISA policy was officially rescinded after severe criticism from both students and teachers.
tractable	easy to control, influence, manage	tractate (to handle) opp. of intractable (hard to deal with)	Compared to chaotic kindergarteners, high school students are a lot more tractable. He is the only professor who can even make even quantum physics seem tractable.
precipitous	done with great haste, no deliberation, rash, hurried		She precipitously purchased those stocks without consulting with any advisor and ended up losing all her money.
subversive	in opposition of an established system	subvert - seeking to undermine an established organisation or system	The ruling party has begun a campaign to shut down all subversive websites that it deems a threat to "national safety".
propitious	indicating a good chance of success, favourable, promising		Nothing can be said deterministically as of now, but I must say the test results appear to be propitious.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
trite	repeated too often, overfamiliar through use, platitudinous, hackneyed, banal		When the comedian finished his trite performance, most of the audience was yawning.
myriad	large number, multitude		There are a myriad of internet sites claiming to sell pills that boost energy in bed.
hegemony	leadership, dominance over a certain area	yajamani - master (shows dominance)	The two countries went to war fighting for hegemony over the entire region.
scrupulous	extreme care, effort, attention to detail moralistic, knowing right or wrong	opp. of unscrupulous	His scrupulous debugging of the code saved us weeks of stress and paranoia. Everyone trusted what he said because of his scrupulous and honest nature.
lionize	give great importance to, glorify, exalt	lion has great importance in the jungle	Modern cricketers enjoy extreme popularity and are lionized by millions of people across the world.
inveterate	habitual, deep-seated, deep-rooted	vetus (old) - old deep-rooted habit	He is an inveterate smoker and has never been able to quit no matter how many times his family persuaded him to.
accolade	award or praise		The major received a myriad of posthumous accolades for his bravery on the battlefield.
antithetical	directly opposed, contrasted		He finds it difficult to socialise with atheists whose beliefs are antithetical to his orthodox Christian upbringing.
sporadic	occurring at irregular intervals, scattered irregular in time or space		The signals were first sporadic but after a bit of tuning we are able to detect a clear pattern.
insolent	rude, arrogant		Her insolent little brother needed to be disciplined and taught good manners.
haphazard	lacking organisation		She jammed the books haphazardly into the shelves.
harried	troubled or annoyed persistently	harry was harried by voldemort's constant efforts to kill him	With a team of new interns, the manager was constantly harried with little questions and doubts and could not focus on his work.
jovial	full of high spirit, cheerful		Once it was clear that the match was won, the players played the last few overs with a jovial attitude.
edifying	enlightening, providing moral improvement		Many people have claimed the Bhagavad Gita to be an edifying literature, teaching them about how to live a dutiful and good life.
posit	assume as fact, postulate		Initially, it was posited that the Earth was flat but that was disproven later.
duress	compulsory force or threat, compulsion meant to coerce someone		The witness said that he signed the contract under duress and the court should not consider it.
disseminate	become widely known		Before the effects of anesthesia were disseminated, patients had to go through the full pain of a surgery.
fastidious	overly concerned with small details, fussy, scrupulous, meticulous		She is very fastidious about her shoes, arranging them in a specific order and shape.
dispassionate	unaffected by strong emotion, rational, unsentimental	passion = emotion	A scientist must be dispassionate, always focusing on the facts and not have any personal attachments.
contrition	feeling remorse or guilt, repentance		Those who show contrition during their prison terms are usually given shorter sentences.
appease	pacify or placate (someone) by acceding to their demands.		The new amendments have been added to appease local pressure groups.
arduous	involving or requiring strenuous effort; difficult and tiring, onerous	arduous (difficult) sounds like hard-ous	In order to deal with arduous cross-country journeys, truck drivers consume a lot of caffeinated drinks to stay awake for 30 hours.
reproach	express criticism		Her friends reproached her for not putting her family first.
transient	lasting a very short time, temporary		The unpredictable and transient nature of deja vu makes it a very difficult phenomenon to study.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
askance	look of suspicion or disapproval (adv)		The old orthodox lady was looking askance at the interracial couple, clearly uncomfortable with it.
maladroit	clumsy, inefficient, inept	mal (bad) + adroit (skillful)	As a child, she was quite maladroit, but as an adult she became an adept dancer.
ignominious	bringing disgrace or shame (to conduct or character), humiliating	ig/in (not / bad) + nom (name / repute)	The politician's texting of revealing photographs was ignominious, bringing shame to him and the party.
mendacity	tendency of being untruthful, dishonesty	mendac (lying)	The most important quality I expect in my partner is veracity, I cannot tolerate mendacity in a relationship.
stringent	strict, exacting		Many of the students disliked the professor because of his stringent homework policies.
nonplussed	unsure how to act or respond, bewildered, perplexed	non (not) + plus (more) - a state where nothing can be said or done	When Monica and Ross lost control and began to reveal each other's secrets, Judy was left nonplussed.
maverick	independent-minded, nonconformist, free-spirited		Pete Mitchell was a maverick, rarely following protocols and always improvising; hence his airforce nickname.
pejorative	derogatory, denigratory, disparaging	pejorare (make worse)	Most psychologists object to the pejorative term "shrink", claiming that their work expands the mind rather than shrink it.
bolster	support and strengthen, boost, reinforce		The case for the suspect's innocence was bolstered by his very strong alibi.
timorous	timid by nature, nervous, lack of confidence	timor (fear) <i>timid-orous</i>	Since it was her first time debating on stage, she had a quivery and timorous voice.
rebuke	criticise severely, censure, reprimand,		The police chief rebuked the two officers whose irresponsible decisions led to the child's murder.
polemic	strong verbal attack (noun)	polemos (war) <i>use mic as a pole, attack verbally</i>	The professor launched into a polemic, claiming that Fritz Haber receiving a Nobel Prize was a dark stain on the award.
nuance	subtle differences, detail		Because of the nuances in this case, I hired an outside consultant to advise and help us.
truncate	reduce the length of something		The cricket game was truncated when the rain began to fall.
flux	state of uncertainty as to what should be done (especially after some imp. event)		Ever since our head of marketing has left us, our sales strategy has been in a state of flux.
elicit	call forth (emotions, feelings, responses) evoke, obtain, draw out from someone		Just smiling, even if you are depressed, can elicit feelings of pleasure and happiness.
deleterious	harmful, damaging, detrimental	<i>its harmful, delete it</i>	Constant fighting and shouting between the parents is said to have deleterious effects on the children.
craven	pathetically cowardly		The action hero who routinely defeats villains in the movies crouched cravenly in a corner when he heard a gunshot.
opulence	great wealth, luxuriousness	<i>appu lends (lends loans = rich af)</i>	Ancient kings were known for their opulence, living in fancy palaces and dining on the most exotic foods.
furtive	attempting to avoid notice or attention (typically because discovery will mean f)		While at work, the boss and his secretary felt the need to be as furtive as possible about their romantic relationship.
sullen	sulky, bad-tempered		Monica was very competitive and was often left sullen when she lost at a board game.
abeyance	state of temporary suspension or disuse	<i>a buoyance - suspension</i>	All further activities will be held in abeyance until the issue is fixed.
abstemious	indulging very moderately, especially in food and drink	<i>eat only steam - very light eater</i>	Gujaratis are very abstemious people because of the liquor ban in their state, especially when compared with Keralites who are heavy drinkers.
alacrity	cheerful promptness, eagerness	alacer (lively, eager)	She was really looking forward to the farewell party, and accepted the invitation with alacrity.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
anarchy	absence of governing body, state of disorder	an (without) + arkhos (ruler)	The use of the atomic bomb almost forced the nation to descend into a state of anarchy.
apprise	inform, notify		I thought it appropriate to apprise him of his father's death.
approbation	approval		A murmur of approbation and satisfaction ran through the crowd when he spoke.
artless	guileless, honest		The Joker turned an artless, naive psychologist into the deceptive and crazy Harley Quinn.
assiduous	meticulous, diligent, careful	assidere (to be engaged in doing)	She was assiduous in pointing out every feature in her presentation that the panel was impressed.
beneficent	generous, doing good, benevolent, altruistic		The beneficent billionaire donates 1% of his income to charity every year.
boorish	rude and rough, impolite	<i>boo if you're a rude person</i>	Rachel's new boyfriend's boorish and rude behaviour soon drove all her friends away
burnish	polish by rubbing (especially metal)		After some drying, the sculptures were covered with slip and burnished to produce a smooth surface. His time at prison burnished his character and taught him about life.
buttress	support, prop up, bolster		Her faith in god were buttressed by her own experiences with the divine.
coagulate	clot, thicken		Blood has coagulated under my toe nail to form a dark, scary-looking patch.
compendium	brief but comprehensive summary	<i>comprehensive, but ends quickly</i>	The encyclopedia is truly a compendium of knowledge. The compendium of "related material" at the end of the book was priceless piece of information.
complaisant	trying to please, obliging to everything, obsequious		The complaisant new employee made sure to agree with everything her boss said to gain favour.
connoisseur	an expert judge in matters of taste		Steve Vai is a connoisseur of music, and to have him judge our talent show is amazing.
coda	summarizes or concludes, concluding event		December's earthquake was but a coda to a terrible year for a small island nation recently wracked by civil strife and devastating tropical storms.
disconsolate	unhappy, unable to be comforted, sad	dis (not) + consolari (to console)	Though he did his best to cheer her, his pep talk left her just as disconsolate as before.
halcyon	prosperous, happy, peaceful		The current economic crisis has people nostalgic for the halcyon days of the mid 1980's when profits were soaring.
asperity	harshness in tone or manner		The asperity in the behaviour of her teacher shocked the kid who had, till then just experienced pampering by her parents.
coddled	pampered, treat overprotectively		Children who have been overly coddled by their parents usually are unable to survive the harshness of the real world.
hedonistic	engaged in the pursuit of pleasure		Teens are unable to resist the hedonistic beckonings of booze, drugs, parties and sex.
default	failure to fulfill an obligation, especially to repay a loan or appear in court		Banks keep collateral when giving out loans as a security measure in case the customer defaults.
deterrent	something that discourages, hindrance	derived from deter (discourage)	CCTV cameras are a major deterrent to crimes as criminals are know they will get caught.
dichotomy	splitting into two parts (esp. contradictory ones), basically two opposite groups		There is a dichotomy between the academic world and the industrial world.
discordant	not harmonious, conflicting	derived from discord	Discordance between husband and wife should be solved as peacefully as possible. The singers continued their discordant chants which gave everyone a headache.
disparage	belittle, denigrate		He never missed an opportunity to disparage his opponents.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
distend	swell, bloat, bulge		Because she was pregnant, her stomach began to distend as the baby grew.
divest	deprive, strip, get rid of, dispose of a company selling off portion of its assets		She divested herself of any responsibility regarding that matter. The company is divesting 8 of its 20 stores.
effrontery	audacity, impertinence, sheer nerve	ex (out) + frons (forehead) - meaning barefaced or shameless	The lawyer had the effrontery to call the judge an old fool, deservingly being fined for his impertinence.
endemic	disease or condition regularly found among people in certain region		Monkey pox is still in the endemic stage as of now. Complacency is endemic in the industry today.
equanimity	calmness, composure	equi (equal) + animus (mind)	The ability to deal with stressful situations with equanimity guarantees a long life.
equivocate	use ambiguous language to mislead, conceal	equivocal - ambiguous	Arnav Goswami being his loud self does not allow any politician to equivocate on his show.
facetious	inappropriate humour at serious times	facetus (witty)	Trying to talk to him about serious financial issues is difficult because of his facetious personality.
fatuous	silly, pointless, stupid	fatuus (foolish)	The teacher was repeatedly interrupted by fatuous questions and was thoroughly annoyed.
felicitous	well-chosen, appropriate, fitting, pleasing, fortunate		His arguments were felicitous, and his choice of language was the theme of constant admiration. The view was the only felicitous feature of an otherwise disgusting and smelly room.
flout	openly disregard, defy		Both teams were severely reprimanded for the sheer number of rules flouted in the match.
goad	provoke, urge on, spur		The onlookers were trying to goad the two girls to fight for their entertainment.
grandiloquent	bombastic, pompous	grandis (grand) + loqui (speak)	Her speech was full of grandiloquent language, but it contained no new ideas.
idolatry	worship of idols excessive admiration, idolize, lionize		No matter what form religion may take, idolatry is the foundation of its worship. The sheer number of women that express idolatry toward BTS is insane.
impassive	lack of emotion, inexpressive, stolid		The movie had such a brilliant twist at the end that even his usually impassive face contorted in shock.
impede	hinder, obstruct, block		The soldiers could not impede the enemy's advance.
indigence	extreme poverty, destitution	<i>huge number of india gents (males) are poor</i>	Ivan the Terrible's rule put the entire state into a state of indigence and hunger.
indolent	lazy, idle		His indolent lifestyle combined with his stress eating resulted in him gaining 10 kgs in the span of a few months.
insularity	narrow-minded, parochial, lack of interest in new experiences	<i>insular to new experiences</i>	The outright refusal to even try to learn Kannada when living in Karnataka is a typical example of insularity displayed by people.
inured	accustomed, used to something (esp. something unpleasant), toughen		Having served so many years in the army, he was inured to extreme conditions and tasteless food.
invective	abuse, insults (noun)	invectivus (attacking)	Having contained himself for so long, he finally lost control and let out a stream of invective.
irresolute	hesitancy, uncertain	in (not) + resolution	She stood irresolutely at the door, unsure of whether to let him in or not.
lassitude	weariness, tired, languor, enervation	lassus (tired) <i>lazy attitude - because of tiredness</i>	After a stressful day, she was overcome by lassitude and retired early to bed.
latent	existing but not yet developed hidden, concealed		If she is anything like her mother, she will show a latent skill for singing in her teens. She asked me to check the room for any latent fingerprints.
levity	frivolity, lack of seriousness, carefree	<i>meh leave it-ty</i>	The tensions in the room were rising so fast, a little of bit levity would be priceless.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
levee	embankment built to prevent the overflow of river		Construction of levees and embankments prevents the floodplain from performing this function.
morose	sulky, bad tempered, gloomy		She was morose and silent when she got home, something must have happened at school.
neophyte	beginner, novice, newcomer	neos (new) + phyte (plant)	This 4-day cooking masterclass can be taken by both neophytes and experienced cooks.
officious	interfering, meddlesome, intrusive		She was a highly officious neighbour, always wanting to interfere in our private matters.
partisan	biased, one-sided, prejudiced committed to a party	<i>party's son will support only that party</i>	He is clearly too partisan to be a referee. The perpetually squabbling leaders have failed to put national security above partisan politics.
paucity	scarcity, sparsity, shortage	paucus (few)	The paucus of clarity regarding the events that occurred made this a very difficult case to solve.
penchant	inclination toward, liking		He has always had a penchant toward marketing, having been very social and good with words from the beginning.
penury	extreme poverty, indigence	penuria (need) <i>penny only - no money</i>	During the economic crisis, his family was thrown into a state of penury that they never really managed to recover from.
perennial	long-lasting, perpetual, unending		The film 'Home Alone' is a perennial Christmas classic.
pervasive	spread through	derived from pervade (spread through)	The pungent smell of the ammonia cartridges was pervasive through the air.
phlegmatic	calm, composed, stolid, cool-headed		Though normally phlegmatic, she was beginning to get alarmed.
piety	being religious, devout, reverent		She was a pious woman and lived her life in service of the church.
presumptuous	arrogant, taking liberties, overstepping bounds	praesumere (to take for granted) <i>presume that they have liberties</i>	I hope I won't be considered presumptuous if I offer some advice.
pristine	unspoiled, original condition		The books I am selling are in pristine condition and there are no marks or writings on them.
probity	quality of having strong moral principles, integrity, incorruptability	probus (good) <i>probe me, you'll find nothing</i>	The person who returned the stolen necklace to the police showed a great deal of probity.
propensity	natural inclination		Psychopaths usually have deep-rooted propensity for violence that is developed right from their childhood.
proscribe	forbid, condemn, ostracize	<i>prOscribe - forbid (nO)</i> <i>prEscribe - recommend (yEs)</i>	In most religions, same sex marriage is proscribed.
quibble	a minor objection or complaint about a trivial matter (noun, verb)		Apart from that minor quibble, everything else is satisfactory. Let's not quibble over the minor details and focus on the big picture.
recalcitrant	obstinately stubborn toward authority, intractable, refractory, uncooperative		Despite being offered treats by his parents, the little boy was still recalcitrant about doing his homework.
recant	say that one no longer holds an opinion or belief (esp. one considered heretical)	re (again) + cant (chant) - revoke and tell properly again	Those were dark times when heretics were burned at the stake if they did not recant their beliefs.
recluse	a person who lives a solitary life, loner		Even though he is a millionaire, he has no friends and lives his life as a virtual recluse.
relegate	assign an inferior rank or position to	relegat (sent away)	The aim of that feminist organisation is to prevent women from being relegated to secondary positions.
reprobate	unprincipled person, rascal, scoundrel	reprobat (disapproved)	He spent his teenage years among gangs and became a hardened reprobate and a juvenile delinquent.
salubrious	healthy, beneficial	salus (health) <i>eat salads and broccoli</i>	Once he went on a diet, he had to supplant his usual fast food visits with salubrious eating establishments.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
secrete	hide away, conceal	<i>secrete ~ secret</i>	All his assets have already been secreted into Swiss bank accounts.
solicitous	worried, concerned, caring, considerate	<i>sounds like 'she's always with us'</i>	She was always solicitous about the welfare of her students and thats why she was their favourite teacher.
stigma	a mark of disgrace, shame, dishonour, stain		Even though I was innocent and acquitted, the stigma of being accused of rape will always be with me.
striated	marked with long, thin parallel streaks		She wore this beautiful striated dress that had alternating blue and pink stripes.
subpoena	a writ ordering a person to attend court		A subpoena may be issued to compel their attendance to the court.
supposition	hypothesis, assumption	suppose-ition	They were working on the supposition that his death wasn't suicide, but in fact murder.
tenuous	weak, slight		My grasp on quantum mechanics is tenuous at best.
transgression	violation of law		The horrifying crime has fomented mass unrest and may lead to further transgressions being committed.
truculence	aggressiveness, belligerent, bellicose	truc (fierce)	The most savage and truculent of the tribes are those who live in those forest regions.
vituperative	abusive, censure, castigate		Tarun told Vishnu, "We cannot be friends if you continue to attack me with vituperative words."
welter	confusing clutter, bewildering jumble		Data Science is all about finding valuable information in a welter of random data.
fecund	highly fertile, high-yielding	fecundus (fruitful)	The fecund queen ant continuously produces enough progeny to populate the the colony.
telling	indicative, revealing		Her beautiful dress was very telling of her profound sense of fashion.
dupe	to trick, fool, swindle someone who is easily tricked, swindled		He attempted to dupe me into sending him 15000 but luckily I realised it was a scam. He mistook the crowd to be a bunch of dupes but the crowd was smart and caught on to him quickly.
indignant	anger or annoyance over what is perceived as unfair treatment		I was indignant because I felt that I had been punished unfairly by the teacher.
macabre	concerned with or causing a fear of death, gruesome		The entire town was shook by the macabre series of murders.
diabolical	extremely wicked, devil-like	diablo (devil)	Hitler hatched a diabolical plan to rid Germany off all its jews.
thoroughgoing	very thorough, complete		The horrific rape shook the nation and intitiated a thoroughgoing reform of all the anti-rape laws.
stipend	regular allowance, salary		He recieved a stipend of 25000 every month.
tender	offer up something formally	tendere (hold forth)	After the widespread condemnation he recieved, he tendered his resignation as the CEO.
affluent	wealthy		The wealthy and affluent sections of the society naturally hold the most power as well.
affable	likeable, easy to talk to, friendly, warm	ad (to) + fari (speak)	Inspite of what he might look like, he has a very affable personality and is liked by everyone.
pinnacle	highest point, peak		At its pinnacle, the Roman empire extended over most of Eurasia.
zenith	highest point, pinnacle		At the zenith of his artistic career, Elvis was outselling any other artist on the charts.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
thrifty	spending money wisely, frugal	<i>thrifty people buy at thrift stores</i>	He displayed prudence by adopting a thrifty lifestyle for the first few years to pay off his loans.
insolvent	unable to pay debts owed, bankrupt		Having not made sufficient profits at all, the company soon became insolvent and declared bankruptcy.
pine	to yearn		Standing forlornly by the window, she pined for her lost love.
err	to make a mistake		He erred in thinking that Java and Javascript were the same language.
bleak	having a depressed or gloomy outlook		The chances of him passing the exam look bleak at best.
censor	to remove objectionable material someone who censors material		Protests began to censor the movie and remove all the scenes showing Hindus as abusive. The censor insisted that every reference to drugs should be removed from the movie.
demean	humiliate, shaming		I do not want to demean you by forcing you out of the house, so please come with us voluntarily.
embroiled	involved in an argument or conflict		These days, before you know it there is news of another politician embroiled in a scandal.
voracious	wanting or devouring lot of food engaging in activity with eagerness		He is a voracious reader, sometimes finishing two novels in the same day.
spendthrift	spending money extravagantly, profligate, prodigal	weirdly enough 'thrift' means using money wisely	Taking weekly trips to Vegas, she was a spendthrift whose expenses eventually caught up to her.
candid	straightforward, honest		Even with a stranger, he was always candid and would hold nothing back.
summit	peak or highest point meet of high-level leaders		The Kedarkantha summit is located at a height of 3810 metres. The main topic in the upcoming summit on climate change will be the melting snowcaps of Antarctica
screed	abusive rant (often tedious)		Her criticism appeared in the form of screeds in a local film magazine.
retiring	withdraw to or from a particular place	<i>retire from company</i>	He was always the first to leave the party, he preferred to retire and enjoy his solitude.
demure	reserved, modest, and shy		She was a demure young lady who would quietly do her work and leave home.
amiable	friendly, likeable, affable, pleasant	amiable ~ amicable ~ friendly	Amy's name was very apt, she was so amiable that she was voted class president twice.
underwrite	to support financially, sponsor		They were willing to underwrite, in some part, the construction of the ship.
inflammatory	extremely controversial, provocative		It has become a trend to put up extremely inflammatory posts in order to gain negative publicity, but publicity nonetheless.
peruse	read or refer something very carefully		He has spent countless hours in libraries perusing art history books and catalogues.
dogged	pursued relentlessly, hounded by		Throughout his life, he was dogged by insecurities that inhibited personal growth.
unnerved	make someone lose courage, confidence, demoralize, discourage		The extremely difficult Physics problems did nothing but unnerve her and she switched to Chemistry in order to feel better.
profuse	plentiful, in abundance, copious		He was sweating so profusely after the gym session that he stood under the fan for 10 minutes.
indigenous	belonging or local to a certain area		Kangaroos are indigenous to Australia.
telltale	revealing, indicating	<i>signs that tell the entire tale</i>	The telltale signs of chronic smoking are yellow teeth and a persistent, hacking cough.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
slapdash	done too hurriedly and carelessly	dashing ~ careless, offhand	The building was built in a slapdash manner so it wasn't surprising when it started becoming unstable after a few years.
acme	highest point, peak, pinnacle, zenith		The Vijayanagara empire reached its acme under the rule of Krishna Deva Raya.
remiss	to be negligent in one's duty		Remiss in her duty to keep the school functioning efficiently, the principal was relieved of her position in just three months.
indict	formal charge or accusation of a crime		The bankrobber was indicted on several major charges, including possession of a firearm.
vindictive	to have strong desire for revenge	vindicta (vengeance)	Though the other girl barely poked fun at her, she was so vindictive that she waited an entire semester to get the perfect revenge.
serendipity	making of accidental, fortunate discovery	<i>The Three Princes of Serendip - a novel where the 3 princes kept making accidental discoveries.</i>	By pure serendipity, Newton discovered gravity when the apple fell on his head.
start	a sudden movement of surprise or alarm		The sudden loud noise awoke her with a start.
unconscionable	lack of conscience, immoral unreasonably excessive	un (not) + conscience + able	The murder was so brutal that the killer could only be termed as an unconscionable psychopath. The family members of the victim have had to wait for an unconscionable amount of time for justice.
cardinal	of primary importance, fundamental		Most cultures consider gambling a cardinal sin and have outlawed its practice.
vicarious	felt as if one were taking part in the experience or feelings of another		Celebrity vlogs allow laymen to experience the vicarious pleasure of living a day as a celebrity.
becoming	appropriate, matches nicely		Her dress was becoming and made her look even more beautiful.
replete	filled or well-supplied with something	opp. of depleted	The first season of Game of Thrones is replete with nudity and gore.
amok	in chaos, frenzied or uncontrolled state		When Harry Styles went on the street, his female fans ran amok, all hoping for a glance of his face.
animosity	hostility, antipathy, enmity		His animosity toward his ex-wife only inflamed when he heard that she was vilifying him everywhere she went.
imponderable	impossible to estimate or figure out	im (not) + ponder (think) + able	According to experts, given the number of variables in the process, the outcome was imponderable.
checkered	marked by disreputable or unfortunate happenings		Even though he is a changed man, he is unable to get over his checkered and dark past.
sanguine	hopeful, cheerful, optimistic (esp. in difficult times)		With the prospect of having to learn 1000 words over a course of 2 months, I was anything but sanguine.
corroborate	to lend help, support		Her claims in the paper, though outlandish, were corroborated by meticulous and thorough research.
pittance	a small, inadequate amount (of money)	<i>pity you for getting so less money</i>	Even though the primary purpose of internships is to learn, it is unfortunate that interns are offered nothing more than a pittance.
heyday	the pinnacle of a time period or career	<i>heyday = joy (when you're at the peak of your career)</i>	The paper has lost millions of readers since its heyday in 1964.
virago	an ill-tempered or violent woman	<i>basically a karen</i>	That virago created a ruckus in the supermarket and spewed invective over anyone in the vicinity.
exhort	to strongly urge, encourage		Indian parents exhort their children to become a doctor or an engineer.
scintillating	brilliant, sparkling, shining brightly		Richard Feynman was renowned for his scintillating lectures that could easily elucidate the most abstruse topics of quantum physics.
flush	to be in abundance		GRE Reading Comprehensions are flush with difficult words and esoteric phrases.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
desecrate	violate or destroy a sacred place		Tutenkhamen's tomb has been desecrated multiple times by grave robbers.
errant	to be wandering around, not stick to a circumscribed path		I tend to take errant walks through the neighbourhood when I am on a call with someone.
bellicose	inclined to quarrel, belligerent	bellum (war)	Known for their bellicose ways, the Spartans were ones the most feared people.
cadaverous	very pale, thin, or bony	cadaver (corpse)	Christian Bale had to undergo a complete body transformation from his cadaverous self in 'The Machinist' to a ripped physique for 'Batman'.
pugnacious	eager to fight or argue, verbally combative, belligerent, bellicose	<i>pugs are violent and ready to fight</i>	He was a dogmatic and pugnacious old man and didn't have too many friends.
moment	significance, importance		Despite the hullabaloo over Micheal Jordan entering baseball, that time was of little moment in his illustrious life.
sanctimonious	making a show of being morally superior to others	sanctus (holy)	All the sanctimonious talk of putting his family first was nowhere to be seen when the time came.
ferret	to search for something persistently		In order to memorise so many words, I need to ferret out their etymology and a good mnemonic for each of them.
junta	forceful seizure of power by a group (usually military)		As dangerous of a threat North Korea is, analysts believe that a junta would make the leadership even more unpredictable and dangerous than now.
raft	large number of something		Despite a raft of new traffic rules, the number of traffic violations did not reduce.
beatific	blissfully happy, joyful, ecstatic	beatus (blessed) <i>beautiful and happy</i>	On being apprised that she had won the scholarship, she wore the most beatific smile for the rest of the day.
extenuating	making less guilty or more forgivable		Considering the extenuating circumstances, I am sure his mistakes can be forgiven.
melee	wild confusing fight or struggle		A melee erupted outside the stadium between the opposing groups of fans and a lot of people were hurt.
wax	gradually increase in size or intensity	<i>waxing increases pain</i>	The popularity of the show only waxed as new episodes were released every week.
fleece	to deceive, swindle, fraud	<i>satyrs used be decieved by a cyclops in the search of the golden fleece</i>	Many people have been fleeced by internet scams and have never gotten their money back.
aboveboard	open and honest		We all felt that the decision taken by the council was aboveboard and fair.
clandestine	kept secret or done secretly	clam (secretly)	We had to arrange for a clandestine meeting to avoid attention from the media and the press.
abhor	to utterly hate, despise	ab (away from) + horrere (shudder)	She abhorred all forms of sexism and misogyny.
abjure	to renounce	ab (away from) + jurare (swear)	When he was arrested, he was forced to abjure his professorship.
abortive	unsuccessful, failing to produce the intended result	<i>its unsuccessful, abort it</i>	The rebel officers who led the abortive coup were shot dead.
accost	approach and address aggressively		The moment he stepped out, reporters accosted him on the street and he was forced to go back.
aegis	protection, shielding	<i>Thalia's shield aegis</i>	The negotiations between the 2 nations were conducted under the aegis of the UN.
allay	reduce, soothe, assuage, alleviate	allay = alleviate	The reporter attempted to start a talk show addressing the topic to educate the public and allay people's fears.
amorous	full of love, sexual desire	amor (love) -ous <i>mi amour = my love</i>	She rejected his amorous advances with contempt.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
anathema	vehement dislike, hatred, repugnance	<i>an (against) the theme - hate</i>	The idea of racial hatred and differentiation was anathema to her.
annal	a record of the events of one year	<i>annual ~ annal</i>	The annals of 1302 were looked into to gauge the prosperity during the peak of his rule.
appellation	name or title	<i>je m'appelle Claude -> appelle = name</i>	Bangalore, with so many lush and beautiful gardens, totally justifies its appellation "The City of Gardens".
artifice	trickery, deceit	art + facere (to make) <i>artless is opp. of artifice</i>	The whole story was just an artifice to win our sympathy.
asinine	extremely stupid, foolish	asinus (ass)	Andrew Tate makes rather asinine remarks everyday in order to gain negative publicity.
atrophy	waste away	a (without) + trophe (food)	The doctor is concerned about possible atrophy of the shoulder muscles.
bagatelle	trivial, unimportant		We needn't disturb the headmaster over such bagatelle concerns.
balk	to be unwilling, resist, eschew		Even biology undergraduates may balk at animal experiments.
bedlam	uproar, confusion, pandemonium	<i>Bethlehem - was an institution for the insane</i>	His controversial statements caused a bedlam in the courtroom.
bigot	prejudiced, antagonistic against other groups of people, partisan, dogmatist		Chandler was called a bigot because of his constant racist jokes and hatred toward black people.
blasé	unimpressed with, indifferent to	<i>Blaise Pascal was blase about difficult math after a while</i>	After going on eight cruises, I am blasé about the whole cruising experience.
brigand	bandit, robber (esp. in countryside)		He was a brigand who ambushed and robbed innocent villagers who passed by the old tree.
bristle	have one's hair stand up (due to anger or fear)		The hair on the back of his neck bristled when confronted by the gang.
bulwark	protection, defence	<i>work against bully</i>	Vaccines act as a bulwark against many childhood diseases.
cache	secret hiding place		The police discovered a cache of weapons in the room.
cajole	persuade someone by use of kindly tones, constant flattery	<i>Kajol is cajoled to give interviews by complimenting her on her popularity</i>	I used to cajole my roommate into making dinner by constantly calling her an amazing chef.
callow	inexperienced, immature, youthful	<i>calls are low because still inexperienced</i>	I want to make the journey from a callow undergraduate to an experienced team leader.
canard	made up sensational story		I honestly find it very hard to believe this wild canard of a foreign invasion.
capitulate	yield, surrender, give in		After 30 days of intense protests, the government finally had to capitulate to the public's demands.
celerity	speed, swiftness	celer (swift) <i>celebrities are approached w celerity</i>	I knew she must be a popular celebrity by the celerity with which the media approached her.
cessation	stop, end, termination	cessare (cease) <i>cease-ation</i>	The treaty between the two nations caused the cessation of all hostilities.
chagrin	disappointment		To my chagrin, I gained 5 kgs over the last 3 months.
charlatan	fraud, pretender		I lost thousands of dollars because I followed that charlatan!
chimerical	imaginary, quixotic, illusory	<i>chimerical - the business</i>	Global world peace is a chimerical dream.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
clique	small, exclusive group of people		The Hellfire Club is made up of a clique of young students who are passionate about DnD.
clemency	mercy, leniency		The innocent messenger begged the king for clemency but was brutally killed.
cognizant	aware, apprised	<i>Cognizant makes you cognizant about engineering</i>	Cognizant of how exhaustingly everyone had worked over the past week, he gave this day off.
comely	attractive, good-looking		Rashmika Mandanna is very comely, with gorgeous eyes and a glowing smile.
commodious	spacious, roomy	commodus (convenient)	After the birth of their 3 children, they moved into a more commodious apartment.
complicity	accomplice in wrongdoing	<i>accomplice-ity</i>	There's no proof of her complicity in the murder, as of now he's the only culprit.
concomitant	naturally accompanying	con (together) + comitari (companion)	Eventual diabetes is a concomitant side-effect of a love for sweets.
congenial	agreeable, compatible		She found the field of arts more congenial to her likings and abilities.
congenital	beginning from birth itself	con (together) + genesis (birth)	Born with a congenital defect, he had to undergo open heart surgery before he reached six months. He was a congenital liar, we could not remember a time he was truthful.
conjugal	relating to marriage	conjug (spouse)	The inmate received weekly conjugal visits from his wife.
connubial	relating to marriage, conjugal		The bride and groom were looking forward to connubial bliss for the rest of their lives.
consummate	highly skilled, perfect	summus (summit, highest point)	He was a consummate liar, no one could differentiate between his truth and lies.
corpulent	fat, obese, overweight	corpus (body)	He went from being a stout, corpulent man to buff and muscular.
coterie	clique		She consulted her coterie of friends and family over what decision to make.
countenance	approve		The school will not countenance any hostile or negative behaviour.
cupidity	greed, avarice	cupidus (desirous)	Beni's cupidity to steal more treasure was what got him killed when Hamunaptra collapsed.
curry	seek favour with flattery, ingratiate oneself, be obsequious	<i>to curry favour with ~ to ingratiate oneself ~ to be obsequious</i>	His desperate attempts to curry favour with the new bosses were cut short when he shortly received his termination letter.
cursory	preliminary, hasty, not thorough		After a cursory reading of the paper, I can say that it does hold promise but I need to read it thoroughly to be sure.
curtail	cut short, impose restriction on, reduce	<i>cut tail - reduce its length</i>	School activities are being curtailed due to a lack of funds. After she got caught drinking, her curfew timings were further curtailed by her parents.
debilitate	weaken	debilis (weak)	She was already severely debilitated by the cancer when she got infected by COVID as well.
declaim	speak loudly, deliver words passionately	clamare (to shout)	The actress declaimed her lines with passion.
decrepit	worn out, ruined from use	<i>decayed and creepy</i>	The horror film had been shot entirely in the night in that decrepit old house.
deplorable	deserving strong condemnation, completely unacceptable		The roads are in a deplorable conditions with potholes every few metres.
deprecate	to express disapproval of	<i>that software is deprecated because it was disapproved by everyone</i>	We strongly deprecate his frivolous and disrespectful behaviour in court and demand he be penalised.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
desist	to cease, abstain, stop from doing	sistere (stop)	Immediately cease and desist all acts of rulebreaking or the consequences shall be severe.
discreet	careful, cautious		Hoping to avoid attention, the wanted man walked discreetly through the market.
docile	passive, submissive		The timid and docile seeming kids are the ones that secretly have the craziest personality.
domicile	house, residence	domus (home)	I have hired a builder to renovate my domicile and am currently living in my brother's house.
dregs	most worthless part, worst part		Our final visit was to a particularly dingy part of the dregs of the city.
drudgery	unpleasant, hard, dull work		Pair programming can make the debugging tasks seem less like drudgery.
dubious	hesitant, uncertain	dubius (doubtful)	I was quite dubious about this whole thing from the beginning, but I am outright reluctant after hearing the plan.
dulcet	sweet, soothing		She gently stroked my hair and spoke in dulcet tones to reduce my stress.
edifice	large building		The Townhall is the only edifice still surviving from the 15th century.
effigy	a model or representation of a person (usually meant for symbolic punishment)		Every Diwali, a gigantic effigy of Ravan is set on fire to celebrate the day good won over evil.
encomium	speech or writing in praise of someone, eulogy	ex (out) + komos (revel) <i>n number of compliments</i>	The teacher was brought to tears hearing the encomiums that his students had to say about him.
evanescent	fleeting, momentary	evanesce (disappear)	The evanescent post-war economic boom was quickly followed by a deep recession.
evince	reveal the presence of, show		In all the years I have known my dad, he has never evinced any material desire.
excoriate	criticise severely		The principal severely excoriated the school therapist for not helping the depressed student.
expatriate	exiled	<i>patriot after being expatriated becomes ex-patriot.</i>	Ram was expatriated from the kingdom along with his wife and brother.
expedient	advisable, suitable, appropriate	<i>I'll explain, you be obedient and take my advice</i>	They found it expedient to negotiate with the hijackers in order to safeguard the lives of the passengers.
expedite	speed up process, accelerate, make faster		The new government promised to expedite economic reforms and bring rapid changes to the economy.
expunge	erase or remove completely	<i>ex (out) + sponge to remove dirt</i>	Sometimes I wish I had a tool that could help me expunge all traumatic and embarrassing memories.
extol	praise highly		The pilot was welcomed back as a national hero and extolled highly for his bravery.
exult	rejoice greatly	exultare (leap from joy)	People thronged the streets and exulted on hearing the news that the world war had been won.
facile	easily accomplished, easy to achieve	facilis (easy) facere (do, make) + -ile (capable)	Getting a 170 in the Quant section is relatively facile when compared to the ominous Verbal section.
factitious	artificially made, fake, bogus	facticus (made by art) <i>fake-ticious</i>	In the movie 2012, the President's daughter replaces the Mona Lisa with a factitious copy.
ferment	agitation, uproar	<i>agitation fermenting like dosa batter - slowly rising</i>	The destruction of the Babri masjid gave way to a period of political unrest and religious ferment.
fetter	to hamper, restrain		He felt fettered by a nine-to-five office existence.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
forthwith	immediately		All three of the accused employees shall be fired forthwith.
fracas	noisy fight, quarrel	fracassere (make an uproar)	The sudden fracas was broken up by the security and they were sent their separate ways.
fractious	quarrelsome, fighting	<i>fracas-itious</i>	The two brothers fight and quarrel like fractious children.
fraught	filled with, full of, rife with		This ill-planned and hazardous enterprise was fraught with the elements of inevitable failure. The paper they published was fraught with inaccuracies and mistakes.
fulsome	extreme flattery to the point of excess	<i>full-some</i>	Actors are so used to fulsome compliments and praise that occasionally they just need someone to be real with them.
gamut	complete range or scope of something	<i>colour gamut has full range of colours</i>	She was such a good actress that we could see the whole gamut of human emotions on her face in those few seconds.
glib	smooth talker in a suspicious manner, slick, fast-talking (neg. connotation)		It was clear that the jury were unsure and suspicious about the glib witness' statements.
gaunt	thin, emaciated, cadaverous	<i>gone - all weight</i>	The computer scientist had a gaunt and emaciated frame with thick glasses and a Flash t-shirt.
hapless	unlucky, unfortunate		The entire country came together with donations to help the hapless victims of the disaster.
harbinger	sign that foretells the coming of something else		The thick black clouds and petrichor in the air is the harbinger of heavy rain.
heresy	lack of faith, unbelief, nonconformity	hairesis (choice)	In earlier times, people accused of heresy were searched for signs of witchcraft and then burned.
hirsute	hairy	<i>~ look like hairy suit</i>	Anil Kapoor and Akshay Kumar have frighteningly hirsute chests. Hirsute legs or arms on girls are a sign of lack of grooming.
histrionic	melodramatic behaviour, excessively dramatic	hysteria(exaggerated emotion) + -onic	She put on a histrionic display of grief at her ex-husband's funeral.
idyllic	peaceful, simple, happy	<i>ideal-ic</i>	We celebrated our honeymoon at an attractive resort located in an idyllic setting. On our drive, we encountered a picturesque lake and dam located in an idyllic setting.
ilk	type, sort (in a neg. way)		I know all about you and people of your ilk who care about nothing but themselves.
imperative	of vital importance, crucial		They have made their actions very clear, and it is imperative that we take action immediately.
impious	irreverent, lack of respect toward god and religion	im (not) + pious	His lack of protocol in the church caused him to gain a reputation for being impious.
implore	beg someone earnestly or desperately		Her father implored her to change her mind but she would not listen.
importune	to press or urge with troublesome persistence	<i>important + urgent</i>	Desperate for help, he stood on the road and importuned passerbys for money for his mother's operation.
impresario	organiser and financier of concerts, operas, plays	impresa (undertake)	The famous impresario changed his name to further promote his concert company.
impunity	exemption from consequences of an action	<i>impunity ~ immunity</i>	Today the Internet is a lawless society; hackers can break into computers with relative impunity. The impunity enjoyed by military officers implicated in civilian killings.
inadvertent	due to an oversight, negligence		An inadvertent error resulted in one employee being paid a stipend of 2 million instead of 20 thousand.
incipient	begin to happen or develop, just start		I just met him today but I have an incipient dislike and distrust of him. The project is still in its incipient stages.
inclement	unpleasantly cold or wet, stormy, harsh	in (not) + clement (mercy) - <i>weather has no mercy</i>	The local weather channel informed the citizens of the nearby cyclone and that they should be ready for inclement weather.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
incumbent	necessary as a duty or responsibility		It is incumbent on the eldest son to carry out the last rites of the parent.
indiscriminate	done at random or without careful judgement	<i>done without discrimination</i>	They participated in the indiscriminate slaughter of countless innocent victims. She has never been overly selective but quite indiscriminate when it came to choosing her friends.
indoctrinate	teach someone (to believe something blindly), brainwash		Jihadis are usually indoctrinated with ideas of violence and slaughter in terrorist camps. The professor indoctrinated them in psychology and linguistics. (here, it just means to teach)
inebriated	drunk, intoxicated	ebrius (drunk), inebriare (to intoxicate)	I had to take the wheel because I was the only sober one left, everyone else was thoroughly inebriated.
infallible	incapable of making mistakes or being wrong		Doctors are not infallible, sometimes even they make the wrong prognosis.
infraction	violation, infringement, breach		He was severely punished and put in jail for his infraction of the law.
iniquity	injustice, unfair	in (not) + aequus (equal)	The writer reflects on human injustice and iniquity.
inordinate	unusually large, excessive	in (not) + ordinare (ordinary)	The case had already taken up an inordinate amount of time and tensions were rising.
interloper	intruder, encroacher, person who gets involved in places where not wanted	inter (amid) + loper (vagabond)	Security was unable to prevent an interloper from entering into the stadium to embrace the famous cricketer.
internecine	involving conflict in a group	inter (within) + necare (to kill)	Bihar and Jharkhand are wrought with unfortunate internecine brutality within their community.
inveigh	verbal attack		The entire purpose of the article was to inveigh on the government regarding the topic of gun control.
irate	great anger, furious, enraged	ira (angry)	The owner was so irate he almost threw me out of the place.
jettison	throw overboard, discard	jactare (throw)	The captain was forced to jettison the cargo to lighten the load on the plane. Keep the good memories in your heart and jettison the bad ones.
jocose	merry, humorous	<i>joke-ous</i>	He is well known for his jocose personality, always makes everyone around him laugh.
jostle	push, elbow or bump against someone roughly		He got jostled by the passengers rushing for the gates.
laceration	deep cut or tear to skin or flesh	lacerare (tear to pieces)	He survived the accident but suffered lacerations to his head and face.
lampoon	mock, ridicule, make fun of (written)		The actor said such ridiculous things that he was often the target of lampoons in the press.
legerdemain	sleight of hand, skilful use of one's hands when performing conjuring tricks	léger de main (dexterous, light of hand)	The magician uses legerdemain to hide the coin inside his shirt sleeve and act like it disappeared.
libel	a false and typically malicious statement, defamatory statement		The editor came under heavy slander and was fired for reportedly publishing libels about the minister.
loath	unwilling, reluctant		I was loath to leave my ancestral home but the circumstances left me with no choice.
loathe	despise		The two of them loathe each other; making them work together is next to impossible.
lucrative	high profit, profitable	lucrat- (gained)	He secured a lucrative deal with Amazon and is making a lot of money now.
lugubrious	very sad, dismal	lugere (mourn)	Richard Parker held a lugubrious expression on his face as he looked at Pi before parting ways with him.
lurid	sensational, shocking, dramatic		The show Delhi Crime exposes even the most horrifying and lurid details of the incident.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
maladjusted	failing to cope with the demands of a normal social environment	mal (wrong) + adjusted to society	The maladjusted teen suffers from depression and has a hard time socializing with his classmates. The residential school is for the disturbed and maladjusted children who have suffered trauma.
malign	slander, abuse		Hagrid would not tolerate anyone maligning Dumbledore in his presence.
manifest	obvious, clear, apparent	<i>so obvious that it is manifested in front of us</i>	Her love for him was manifest and obvious to everyone but him.
martinet	strict disciplinarian	<i>French military officer Jean Martinet was a strict disciplinarian</i>	The hostel warden was a rigid martinet and didn't allow entry even a minute past the curfew.
masticate	to chew		Children have the bad habit of eating hastily and gulping down food without masticating.
matron	older married woman (usually in charge of high position)		His wife was appointed matron of the royal infirmary.
maudlin	sentimental, emotional, mawkish	<i>derived from portrait of mary magdalene weeping</i>	Don't ruin everyone's mood by getting all maudlin on this happy outing.
megalomania	abnormal desire for power		Alexander the Great was known for being a megalomaniac and for his obsession with conquering the world.
mercenary	concerned with making money at the expense of ethics		He is so mercenary that he'd turn in his own mother for the reward money.
milieu	setting, background, person's social environment	mi (mid) + lieu (place)	She came from a very privileged and opulent milieu and couldn't interact with the lesser fortunate. Having been born and brought up in a musical milieu, notes and chords ran through her veins.
moribund	at the point of death, dying	mori (to die) (like mortuary)	He has lost a lot of blood and is moribund. He probably won't make it through the night. The actress is trying to revive her moribund career by grabbing any role she gets.
nadir	the lowest or most unsuccessful point		He fell from the zenith to the nadir of his career within those 3 days; such is life.
nascent	coming to existence, beginning to develop, budding	nasci (being born)	Google was still in its nascent stages when Dean and Ghemawat joined the company.
nebulous	vague, ill-defined	<i>nebulous cloud - hazy cloud -> hazy concept -> vague</i>	She has a few nebulous ideas about what she might like to do in the future, but nothing definite.
nettle	irritate, annoy, irritate		Her brother would often nettle her by repeating everything she said.
noisome	foul smelling	<i>noisy but in terms of smell</i>	The xerox shop reeked of the noisome smell of ammonia and I could hardly breathe.
obloquy	disgrace from public condemnation, dishonour, shame		Nambi Narayan endured years of public condemnation and obloquy before he was proved innocent.
obsolescence	process of becoming obsolete		The train has been running since the past 50 years and has neared obsolescence.
octogenarian	person between 80 and 89	octoginta (80) <i>octo generation - all 80+ people</i>	Rumors were rampant that the octogenarian president was senile and in poor health.
omnipotent	unlimited power, extremely powerful		During his reign, Hitler was essentially omnipotent and had all of Germany in his grasp.
overt	done openly, plainly apparent, unconcealed	<i>opp. of covert</i>	In some states, racial prejudice is done overtly and is not even subtle or concealed.
pall	become less appealing, cease to please		A 30 day cruise seemed exciting at first but lately it has begun to pall and I am just homesick.
palliate	make less severe without removing the cause	pallium (cloak) - cloak the disease	The symptoms of AIDS can only be palliated and kept in check but AIDS itself can't be cured.
panacea	cure-all, universal cure	pan (all) + akos (remedy)	Spending time with my family is the panacea to all my worries and stress.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
parable	a simple story used to illustrate a moral or spiritual lesson		I spent my childhood reading the parables in Tinkle and Amar Chitra Katha.
pariah	social outcast		When the child molester was released from prison, he was treated like a pariah in his community.
passé	out of fashion, out of date	passé (gone by) <i>that fashion has passé</i>	She always wear passé outfits that went out of style 2 years ago. After a while I began to find her novels rather outdated and passé.
pecuniary	financial, monetary	pecunia (money)	Because of the young woman's pecuniary needs, she is determined to marry a wealthy man. When the stock market crashed, the millionaire's pecuniary status fell dramatically.
pensive	reflective, thoughtful		He became so pensive when he was solving the puzzle that she didn't like to break into his thought.
peregrination	long journey, voyage	peregrine (foreign) + nation - travel to all foreign nations	Because Peter wanted to explore the world, he chose a life of peregrination and never slept in one city for longer than three days.
pique	irritation, resentment		He was utterly lambasted in the meeting and left in a fit of pique.
potent	having great power, influence, or effect		Advertising is a potent force in showing smoking as a socially unacceptable habit.
potentate	monarch, ruler	<i>someone who is potent</i>	Valdemar was now, after the king of England, the most powerful potentate in the north of Europe.
potpourri	mixture, melody	<i>potpourri - a mixture of flowers, herbs, and spices that is usually kept in a jar</i>	The band described its musical style as a polymorphous potpourri of rock, blues and grunge.
prerogative	exclusive power or right		In some countries, higher education is predominantly the prerogative of the rich.
privation	lack of basic necessities	<i>de-privation</i>	Although she was born into poverty, Samantha vowed that she would work hard to escape the life of privation she had suffered in her childhood.
proffer	hold or put forward for someone to accept		I was proffered a full time opportunity from the company which I readily accepted.
prognosticate	foretell the future, prescience		I prognosticated at its genesis that it would fail, and it did.
promulgate	promote or make widely known	pro (out) + mulgere (come forth)	His wildly inappropriate ideas have been widely promulgated on the Internet.
propinquity	being close to someone or something, proximity, closeness, nearness	prope (near to)	He kept his distance in the relationship, he believed that propinquity might open him up to getting hurt again.
puissant	powerful, influential	<i>pussy-ain't - not a pussy, v powerful</i>	Because the dictator was puissant, he could do anything he wanted without seeking permission. The puissant superintendent has the authority to close schools in the event of inclement weather.
qualm	uneasy feeling of doubt, guilt about ones own conduct		The scientists had no qualms about conducting unethical experiments on humans for 'the greater good'.
quandary	dilemma, state of uncertainty in a difficult situation		I'm in a state of quandary over if I should buy a new phone or just keep using my old one.
raconteur	person who tells anecdotes, stories in a skillful way	<i>recount-er</i>	My father made my mother laugh so much - he was a great raconteur and told the funniest stories.
redolent	fragrant	olere (to smell)	The strong redolence of his earthly cologne hit her strongly when he hugged her.
revile	criticise in an abusive, insulting manner	<i>re-vile - be vile again</i>	He is now being reviled by the same people who were his supporters when he was in form.
ruminate	ponder on, reflect upon		Students should just choose the major they love rather than ruminating too much on the decision.
sagacious	wise, good judgement, prudent	<i>sage-icious (sage = wise)</i>	He took the sagacious decision to complete all his requisite courses before his internship started.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
salient	most important, prominent		The presentation succinctly covered the client's more salient concerns; apart from a few minor quibbles, we are good to go.
schism	split, rift between opposing parties		The schism between my two best friends put me in an awkward position. There is a very real schism within the basketball community over who the GOAT is - LeBron or MJ.
scion	descendant		He is a scion of a wealth family and has lived an opulent life from birth.
scurrilous	using vulgar, abusive language		His ex-wife made a scurrilous attack at him and his new girlfriend in the supermarket.
sinecure	job that pays money but requires minimal work	sine cura (without care)	Because he was the brother of the CEO, he was offered a sinecure in the company: he showed up each day and collected a paycheck, but others actually did his work.
slovenly	carelessly, disorderly, slapdash (adj.)		She had to hurry home so she packed her bag in a slovenly manner and rushed out.
sojourn	temporary stay, stop over	SOJourn - Stop Over in Journey	Our sojourn at Delhi was eventful as we feasted on delicious street food.
solicit	ask for something, try to obtain		He called a meeting with the board of directors to solicit their views on what action to take.
sophistry	clever use of specious arguments in order to deceive, equivocate		The lawyer subtly hinting at the idea that I may have set my own shop on fire to claim the insurance money is pure sophistry.
sordid	ignoble, dishonourable, immoral filthy, dirty		If people learn of the politician's sordid past, they will not vote for him. There are a lot of sordid apartments in the poorer areas but they are of very low living quality.
spate	large number of things coming in quick succession		A spate of McDonalds have popped up all around the city in the past few months.
stentorian	loud, booming, thunderous	Sténtor - a greek warrior who fought at Troy	The lion let out a stentorian roar that scared the crap out of all of us.
strident	harsh and grating sound	strix (screech owl)	After hours of screaming at the concert, his voice had become hoarse and strident.
strife	conflict, discord, friction		The setting free of the controversial leader had fomented political strife within the communities.
stymie	hinder		My rival did everything she could to stymie my efforts to become homecoming queen.
subjugation	bring under control by domination or conquest	make your subjects	When the settlers first landed on the continent, they tried to subjugate the natives and turn them into slaves.
subterfuge	deceit, trickery		Pinocchio's lies and subterfuge caused his nose to grow longer and longer.
surfeit	excessive amount of something, abundance, oversupply	surf excel removes excessive amount of dirt	Her mom greeted us with a surfeit of food and drinks when we went to her house.
surreptitious	accomplished by secret, done in secret, clandestine	sub (secretly) + rapere (seize)	He surreptitiously recorded the entire incident from a hidden camera in his jacket.
torment or tease	torment or tease by offering something exciting, but fail to deliver		She was tantalized by the possibility of earning so much money so quickly. The team came tantalizingly close to winning the championship but missed it by a bucket.
temerity	audacity, foolish boldness, effrontery, gall, nerve		None of the juniors had the temerity to question or object against the seniors' decisions in the team.
tenable	defendable, justifiable		He knew his claim of innocence was no longer tenable when the DNA results linked him to the crime.
turpitude	wickedness, immoral	turpis (disgraceful)	The criminal was sentenced to life in prison for the acts of turpitude he committed.
tyro	novice, beginner, neophyte	tyro (recruit)	She is still a tyro in piano, but her enthusiasm to learn is inspiring.

Word	Meaning	Etymology / Mnemonic	Example Sentence
umbrage	take offense, be offended		She took umbrage at his remarks that made her seem like a D-list actress.
unctuous	excessive flattery, obsequious, ingratiating, sycophantic		He spoke in unctuous tones when he wanted a pay raise, which didn't fool anyone.
utopia	place of perfection		His goal wasn't to build a faultless utopia, but to ameliorate the existing conditions of the town.
vapid	dull, bland, uninteresting, insipid	<i>very insipid</i>	To me, golf is a vapid sport that quickly puts me to sleep.
virulent	harmful, malevolent, deleterious	<i>virus is harmful af</i>	The disease center does not know how to stop the spread of the virulent virus that has killed thousands in Europe.
vitriolic	filled with bitter criticism or malice, acrimonious	vitriol - sulphuric acid	The actor broke down after reading the spate of vitriolic criticisms of his film.
vivacious	lively, attractive, high-spirited		She has a vivacious personality and is easily the life of the party wherever she goes.
voluptuous	curvaceous and sexually attractive		Alexandra Daddario is a gorgeous, voluptuous woman who is every man's dream.
whet	excite, stimulate, arouse		Here is a bite of the custard - just to whet your appetite.
pellucidity	quality of being clear, lucid, free from obscurity, easy to understand	<i>pel-lucidity</i>	The contract was pellucid and left no confusion about each party's responsibilities.
discomfiting	make uncomfortable, discomfort	<i>discomfited ~ discomfited</i>	He was noticeably discomfited by her tone but followed her orders nevertheless.
tepid	slightly warm, lukewarm showing little enthusiasm		The first thing to do when you have frostbite is to soak your fingers in tepid, lukewarm water. The magician's first act drew half-hearted, tepid applause that didn't indicate any real enjoyment.
aversion	strong dislike or disinclination		My dad has a strong aversion to lizards so much so that he walks out of the room when he spots one.
hortatory	to encourage, exhort	hortari (exhort)	The vice chancellor's hortatory speech encouraged the students to focus on their careers first.
hidebound	unwilling or unable to change because of tradition or convention, orthodox	<i>have a thick hide, don't change</i>	Feminists have been working to change the inherently patriarchal and hidebound society.
shrewd	sharp, astute, intelligent		She was shrewd enough to guess the motive behind his gesture.
quixotic	extremely ideallistic, unrealistic, too good to be true		It was an admittedly quixotic endeavour that was bound to fail.