



**THE HINDU EDITORIAL
VOCABULARY BOOSTER**
NOVEMBER 2020

**FOR ALL BANKING AND
GOVERNMENT EXAMS**

The Hindu Newspaper is treated as the Bible by the Exam Aspirants be it **Bank Exam Aspirants**, SSC Aspirants or UPSC Aspirants. Reading the Editorial section of the newspaper daily has two-fold benefits: (a) It gives the editor's views on the latest happenings in India and the World, (b) It helps enhance English Vocabulary. In this eBook of "The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster **November 2020**", we have come up with a list of difficult words taken from the Hindu Editorials of the **November Month**, with their **Meanings, Synonyms, Antonyms, and the Correct Usage** of those words. Read along to understand it better.

The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster – November 2020

Sr. No.	Words	Meanings & Synonyms	Antonym	Usage
1.	Abet	Encourage or assist (someone) to do something wrong, in particular, to commit a crime. Assist, Aid, Help, Support	Hinder	His accountant had aided and abetted him in the fraud.
2.	Abeyance	A state of temporary disuse or suspension. Suspension, Latency, Moratorium	Continuance, Continuation	Our weekend plans were held in abeyance until we could get a weather forecast.
3.	Abridge	To shorten in duration or extent. Diminish, Abbreviate, Curtail, Shorten	Elongate, Extend, Lengthen, Prolong, Protract	Tess wished to abridge her visit as much as possible
4.	Abysmal	Extremely bad; appalling. Dreadful, Awful, Terrible, Frightful, Atrocious	Superb	They were living in abysmal ignorance.
5.	Alliterative	Relating to or marked by alliteration.		She is a wonderful poet, and this is an awesomely alliterative book.
6.	Altar	A table or place which serves as a centre of worship or ritual —often used to refer to the act of getting married		She left him at the altar .
7.	Apprehensions	Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen. Anxiety, Angst, Alarm, Worry	Confidence	It is normal to feel a little apprehension before starting a new job.
8.	Articulate	Having or showing the ability to speak fluently and coherently.	Inarticulate, Hesitant, Unintelligible	She gave a witty, entertaining, and articulate speech.

		Eloquent, Fluent, Communicative, Effective, Persuasive		
9.	Astounding	Surprisingly impressive or notable. Amazing, Astonishing, Staggering, Shocking, Surprising	Unsurprising	He ate an astounding amount of food.
10.	Authoritarian	Favouring or enforcing strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom. Autocratic, Dictatorial, Totalitarian, Despotic	Democratic, Liberal, Lenient, Permissive	He is an authoritarian coach who runs football practice like its boot camp.
11.	Bonafide	Genuine, Real. Authentic, Actual	Fake, Bogus	Make sure you are dealing with a bona fide company.
12.	Bulwark	Strong support or protection. Cover, Guard, Forfend, Safeguard	Assail, Assault, Attack	The democratic principles that stand as a bulwark against tyranny.
13.	Communalism	Communalism is a term used in the world to denote attempts to construct religious or ethnic identity, incite strife between people identified as different communities, and to stimulate communal violence between those groups. It derives from history, differences in beliefs, and tensions between the communities.		When the American dream is framed as independence rather than communalism , the benefits of city life start to seem like detriments instead.
14.	Complacency	A feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements. Smugness, Self-satisfaction, Self-approval, Self-approration	Dissatisfaction	There is no room for complacency if we want to stay in this competition!
15.	Concurrently	At the same time. Coexistent, Contemporary	Asynchronous, Non-contemporary, Non-	Her two dramas are being shown concurrently by rival television stations.

			simultaneous, Non-synchronous	
16.	Condescending	Treating someone as if you are more important or more intelligent than them. Debase, Degrade, Discredit, Patronizing, Supercilious, Snobbish	Respectful	I hate the way he is so condescending to his staff!
17.	Conjure	Implore (someone) to do something. An appeal, Beg, Beseech, Besiege, Entreat		The students conjured a clever scheme to raise the money they needed.
18.	Defamatory	Of remarks, writing, etc. damaging the good reputation of someone; slanderous or libellous. Slanderous, Defaming, Calumnious	Complimentary	He claims the remarks were highly defamatory .
19.	Denouement	The outcome of a situation when something is decided or made clear. Outcome, Upshot, Consequence, Result, Epilogue	Origin	In the play's denouement , the two lovers kill themselves.
20.	Discomforting	Causing unease, worry, or embarrassment. Comfortless, Harsh, Uncomfortable	Comfortable, Easy, Soothing	You may feel a little discomfort for a few days after the operation.
21.	Discrepancy	An illogical or surprising lack of compatibility or similarity between two or more facts. Inconsistency, Difference, Disparity, Variance, Variation	Similarity, Correspondence	There is some discrepancy between the two accounts.
22.	Disparate	Consisting of people or things that are very different from each other in character or quality. Different, Dissimilar, Distant, Distinct	Alike, Identical, Indistinguishable, Kin, Kindred, Like, Parallel, Same, Similar	The two cultures were so utterly disparate that she found it hard to adapt from one to the other.

23.	Disregard	Pay no attention to; ignore. Indifference, Inattention	Heed, Attention	What amazes me is her complete disregard for anyone else's opinion.
24.	Disseminate	Spread (something, especially information) widely. Spread, Circulate, Distribute, Disperse, Diffuse	Obscure, Limit, Collect, Veil, Gather, Conceal	One of the organization's aims is to disseminate information about the disease.
25.	Doomsday	The last day of the world's existence. Judgment day, Last day, Last judgment		The book explores a doomsday scenario in which an asteroid hit the Earth.
26.	Edifice	A system that has been established for a long time.		It looks as if the whole political edifice of the country is about to collapse.
27.	Efficacious	Capable of having the desired result or effect; effective as a means, measure, remedy, etc. Effective, Effectual, Efficient, Fruitful, Potent	Fruitless, Ineffective, Ineffectual, Inefficient, Inoperative, Unfruitful, Unproductive, Useless	Similar approaches might be efficacious with respect to insect pests of agriculture.
28.	Efficacy	The ability to produce a desired or intended result. Effectiveness, Success	Inefficacy, Inefficiency	Vaccines exist, but their efficacy against aerosolized plague is unknown.
29.	Egalitarian	Believing in or based on the principle that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities.		The party's principles are basically egalitarian .
30.	Emphatically	In a forceful way. Without a doubt, Clearly	Non-assertive, Non-emphatic, Unemphatic	Johnson has emphatically denied the allegations against him.
31.	Epidemiological	Relating to the branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases.		Life is closer to normal in the Asia-Pacific region thanks to the basic lessons of epidemiology : clear communication, quarantines, border controls, aggressive testing and contact tracing, Tara John writes.
32.	Eschew	Deliberately avoid using; abstain from. Give up, Forgo, Forswear, Shun	Face, Meet, Embrace	The leaders of the organization eschewed the term "union," preferring "guild."

33.	Fabled	Famous, especially by reputation. Celebrated, Renowned, Famed, Famous, Well known	Unknown, Unsung, Derided	She served us some of her fabled cherry pie.
34.	Fraught	Causing or affected by anxiety or stress. Anxious, Worried, Upset, Distraught, Overwrought, Agitated	Calm	From beginning to end, the airlift was fraught with risks.
35.	Gamut	The complete range or scope of something. Range, Spectrum, Span, Diapason		She experienced the full gamut of human emotions.
36.	Garrulous	Excessively talkative, especially on trivial matters. Talkative, Loquacious, Voluble, Verbose, Chatty	Taciturn, Reticent, Concise	I had talked too much about myself and felt like a garrulous old fool.
37.	Gingerly	Very slowly and carefully so as not to cause harm, make a noise, etc.		Holding her painful back, she sat down gingerly on the bench.
38.	Gladiatorial	(of conflict or competition) intense, ruthless, and hard-fought.		With a bit of imagination, you can visualize the soldiers clashing in gladiatorial combat.
39.	Gridlock	A situation in which no progress can be made. Deadlock, Impasse	A way out	The Senator rejected arguments that his plan could produce legislative gridlock .
40.	Hamstring	To limit the amount of something that can be done or the ability or power of someone to do something. Cripple, Disable, Immobilize, Incapacitate		The company was hamstrung by traditional but inefficient ways of conducting business.
41.	Harmonise	Produce a pleasing visual combination. Coordinate, Match, Blend, Mix	Clash	The garden has been designed to harmonise with the natural landscape.
42.	High-handedness	Having or showing no regard for the rights, concerns, or feelings of others. Arbitrary, Overbearing,	Humble, Lowly, Modest, Unpretentious	He was a leader of some ignorance and high-handedness .

43.	Illusory	Based on illusion; not real. Delusory, Delusional, Delusive, Imagined, Imaginary	Real, Genuine	She knew the safety of her room was illusory .
44.	Incapacitate	Prevent from functioning in a normal way. Disabled, Debilitate, Indisposed, Unfit, Immobilized, Paralysed	Fit	The accident left me incapacitated for seven months.
45.	Incarcerated	To put somebody in prison or in another place from which he/she cannot escape. Apprehended, Arrested, Captive, Captured	Free	Thousands of dissidents have been interrogated or incarcerated .
46.	Incriminate	Make (someone) appear guilty of a crime or wrongdoing. Implicate, Involve, Blame, Accuse, Denounce	Absolve, Clear	He refused to say anything on the grounds that he might incriminate himself.
47.	Inimitable	Too good to be satisfactorily copied by anyone. Incomparable, Matchless, Nonparallel, Peerless	Ordinary, Mediocre	She appeared at the Oscars wearing one of Versace's inimitable creations.
48.	Intriguingly	In a manner that arouses one's curiosity or interest; fascinatingly. Absorbing, Arresting, Consuming, Engaging	Boring, Drab, Dry, Dull, Heavy, Monotonous, Tedious, Uninteresting	Intriguingly , people who live in the West are more likely to own a pet.
49.	Jostling	Struggle or compete forcefully for. Bore, Bull, Bulldoze, Crash, Jam		There was a lot of jostling among photographers for the perfect spot.
50.	Laudatory	Speech or writing expressing praise and commendation. Complimentary, Congratulatory, Praising, Extolling	Disparaging, Damning	Patients speak of Dr. Goertzen in laudatory terms.
51.	Lucrative	Allowing somebody to earn a lot of money. Gainful, Money-spinning	Unprofitable	The merger proved to be very lucrative for both companies.

52.	Macabre	Disturbing because concerned with or causing fear of death. Gruesome, Grisly, Grim, Gore, Morbid, Ghastly	Assuaging	The macabre dance included a procession of skeletons.
53.	Marginalisation	Treatment of a person, group, or concept as insignificant or peripheral.		The marginalisation of certain groups within the community may lead to social unrest.
54.	Morbidity	The condition of suffering from a disease or medical condition. Dolefulness, Dejection	Joyfulness, Gladness	There must have been some strange morbidity in his nature which made him take a grim pleasure in self-torture.
55.	Obnoxious	Extremely unpleasant. Unpleasant, Disagreeable, Nasty, Distasteful, Offensive	Delightful, Pleasant, Charming	Some of his colleagues say that he is loud and obnoxious .
56.	Ominous	Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threateningly inauspicious. Threatening, Menacing, Baleful, Forbidding, Sinister, Doomy	Promising, Auspicious, Propitious	The engine had been making an ominous sound all the way from my parents' house.
57.	Opacity	The quality of lacking transparency or translucence. The quality of being obscure in meaning	Clarity	He believes the opacity of traditional property reporting has put off investors.
58.	Ostensible	Stated or appearing to be true, but not necessarily so. Apparent, Seeming, Outward, Surface, Superficial	Real, Genuine	Their ostensible goal was to clean up government corruption, but their real aim was to unseat the government.
59.	Overboard	To do something too much, or to be too excited or eager about something. Delirious, Fanatical	Apathetic, Indifferent	I do not think there will be more than six people eating, so I would not go overboard with the food.
60.	Paradox	A situation or statement that seems impossible or is difficult to understand because it contains two opposite facts or characteristics.		It is a curious paradox that drinking a lot of water can often make you feel thirsty.

		Contradiction, Dichotomy, Incongruity		
61.	Pluralism	A condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc., coexist. Multiculturalism	Totalitarianism	They are committed to human rights and pluralism .
62.	Precarious	Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. Uncertain, Insecure, Unreliable, Unsure, Unpredictable	Safe, Secure	He made a precarious living as a painter.
63.	Precarity	The state of being precarious or uncertain. A state of persistent insecurity with regard to employment or income.	Certainty	This results in greater poverty and economic precarity that affects the majority of the population in both countries.
64.	Predicament	A difficult, unpleasant, or embarrassing situation. Mess, Difficulty		She is hoping to get a loan from her bank to help her out of her financial predicament .
65.	Prejudicial	Harmful to someone or something; detrimental. Detrimental, Damaging, Injurious, Harmful, Disadvantageously	Beneficial, Advantageous	The judge decided that allowing the video as evidence would be prejudicial to the outcome of the trial.
66.	Primacy	The fact of being pre-eminent or most important. Priority, Precedence, Pre-eminence	Insignificance, Inferiority, Mediocrity, Obscurity	The government insists on the primacy of citizens' rights.
67.	Prognosis	A forecast of the likely outcome of a situation. Forecast, Prediction, Projection, Prognostication, Prophecy		Right now, doctors say his prognosis is good.
68.	Proscribe	Forbid, especially by law. Forbid, Prohibit, Ban, Disallow	Allow, Permit	Strikes remained proscribed in the armed forces.

69.	Purge	Rid (someone or something) of an unwanted quality, condition, or feeling. Expulsion, Exclusion	Rehabilitate	Party leaders have undertaken to purge the party of extremists.
70.	Queered	Spoil or ruin an agreement, event, or situation. Spoil, Damage, Impair, Harm		I had a queer feeling that something bad was about to happen.
71.	Rationale	A set of reasons or a logical basis for a course of action or belief. Reasoning, Thinking, Logic		I do not understand the rationale for these restrictions.
72.	Reap	To receive a return for the effort. Acquire, Attain, Bag, Capture, Gain	Forfeit, Lose, Accord	If you continue to work hard at musicianship, you will reap the rewards of being a concert pianist.
73.	Reckon	To think; to have an opinion about something. To calculate something approximately. Estimate, Compute, Count	Miscompute, Miscalculate, Misestimate, Misreckon	The inflation rate is now reckoned to be 10 percent.
74.	Reiterate	Say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity. Repeat, Restate, Retell, Recapitulate		The government has reiterated its refusal to compromise with terrorists.
75.	Resilience	The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness. Flexibility, Pliability, Plasticity	Rigidity, Fragility, Vulnerability, Weakness	Plant fibre has incredible strength and resilience .
76.	Resolutely	In an admirably purposeful, determined, and unwavering manner. Decisive, Determined	Faltering, Hesitant, Indecisive, Irresolute, Undetermined, Unresolved, Vacillating, Wavering, Weak-Kneed	She resolutely refused to learn about computers.

77.	Retrospectively	With consideration of past events or situations. Backward-looking, Nostalgic, Introspective	Future, Likely, Prospective, Potential.	Retrospectively , I can see where we went wrong.
78.	Rudderless	Lacking a clear sense of one's aims or principles.		We are left rudderless , suddenly unable to believe, yet repelled by the spectacle in front of us.
79.	Rudimentary	Involving or limited to basic principles. Introductory. Relating to an immature, undeveloped, or basic form. Primitive, Crude, Simple, Unsophisticated, Rough	Advanced, Sophisticated, Developed	Her knowledge is still only rudimentary .
80.	Semblance	The outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different. Appearance, Approximation, Disguise		Now Beijing wants to destroy any semblance of the island's autonomy.
81.	Shambles	A state of complete disorder or confusion. Disorganization, Mess-up	Organized, Orderly	Our economy is in shambles .
82.	Slender	Thin and delicate, often in a way that is attractive. Small in amount or degree	Broad, Fat, Wide	The chances of settling this dispute through talks seem increasingly slender .
83.	Slump	Undergo a sudden severe or prolonged fall in price, value, or amount. Plummet, Plunge, Tumble, Drop	Rise, Soar	Car sales have slumped dramatically over the past year.
84.	Snub	To treat somebody rudely, for example by refusing to look at or speak to him/her. Cold-shoulder, High-hat, Slight, Stiff-arm	Open arms	Lawrence attempted to draw me into the conversation, but I snubbed him and went to another part of the room.
85.	Sovereignty	The power that a country has to control its own government.	Dependence, Heteronomy,	Talks are being held about who should have sovereignty over the island.

		Autonomy, Self-Governance	Subjection, Unfreedom	
86.	Spur	Something that encourages you to do something or that makes something happen more quickly. Stimulus, Boost, Encouragement, Goad, Impetus	Counterincentive, Disincentive	Rising consumer sales have the effect of spurring the economy to faster growth.
87.	Staggered	Walk or move unsteadily, as if about to fall. Astonish, Amaze, Nonplus, Startle, Astound, Surprise		A hard slap on the back staggered him.
88.	Standoff	A deadlock between two equally matched opponents in a dispute or conflict. Deadlock, Stalemate, Impasse, Standstill, Dead-end	Cordial, friendly, Sociable, Social, Warm	The two governments are currently in a standoff over who has rights to the land.
89.	Stipulation	A statement that says exactly what something must be or how something must be done. Condition, Contingency, Provision	Retract, Decline, Refuse, Withdraw, Revoke, Disagree, Deprecate, Protest, Recant.	The only stipulation is that you have to register.
90.	Strident	Loud and harsh; grating. Harsh, Raucous, Rough, Grating, Rasping, Jarring, Loud	Soft, Dulcet	People are put off by his strident voice.
91.	Surveillance	Close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal. Observation, Scrutiny, Watch, View, Inspection, Monitoring	Neglect	The bank robbery was recorded by surveillance video cameras.
92.	Synagogue	Place of assembly.		During the past few years, I have been giving workshops on the psychology of prayer at temples, synagogues , and Jewish book fairs nationwide.
93.	Tailspin	Become increasingly chaotic and out of control. Breakdown, Crack-up	Aplomb, Calmness, Composure, Coolness, Imperturbability, Placidity	The team went into a tailspin and lost six straight games.

94.	Tangible	That can be clearly seen to exist. Palpable, Touchable	Impalpable, Intangible	We need tangible evidence if we are going to take legal action.
95.	Testimony	A formal written or spoken statement, especially one given in a court of law. Evidence, Attestation, Affidavit, Statement	Disproof	Some doubts have been expressed about his testimony .
96.	Tokenism	The practice of making only a perfunctory or symbolic effort to do a particular thing, especially by recruiting a small number of people from under-represented groups in order to give the appearance of sexual or racial equality within a workforce.		Of course, we should revise our recruitment policies, but we should guard against tokenism .
97.	Trajectory	A path, progression, or line of development resembling a physical trajectory.		With the pandemic on an alarming national trajectory , this is no time to run from this battle.
98.	Uncivil	Discourteous; Impolite. Rude, Disrespectful, Unmannerly	Civil, Polite	He was most uncivil to your father – called him an old fool.
99.	Unconventional	Not based on or conforming to what is generally done or believed. Unusual, Irregular, Unorthodox, Unfamiliar, Uncommon	Conventional, Orthodox, Ordinary	He has an unconventional attitude toward work.
100.	Underpin	Support, justify, or form the basis for. Promote, Nurture, Encourage, Stimulate, Foster	Hinder	He presented data to underpin his argument.
101.	Underwhelming	Fail to impress or make a positive impact on (someone); disappoint.	Overwhelm	The food was good but unfortunately, we found the rest of the experience distinctly underwhelming .
102.	Unequivocal	Leaving no doubt; unambiguous.	Equivocal, Ambiguous, Vague	The prime minister, he said, had the party's unequivocal support.

		Unmistakable, Indisputable, Incontrovertible		
103.	Unmistakable	That cannot be confused with anything else; easy to recognize. Apparent, Barefaced, Clear, Crystal clear	Ambiguous, Clouded, Cryptic, Dark, Enigmatic	There was an unmistakable smell of incense in the air.
104.	Unsubstantiated	Not supported or proven by evidence. Unconfirmed, Unsupported, Uncorroborated	Well-founded, Undeniable	Companies can be punished for making unsubstantiated claims about their products.
105.	Upbeat	Cheerful; Optimistic. Cheery. Positive, Confident, Hopeful	Pessimistic, Negative, Cynical	He was upbeat about the company's future.
106.	Vendetta	A prolonged bitter quarrel with or campaign against someone. Feud, Argument, Falling-out, Wrangle	Agreement, Forgiveness, Calm, Harmony, Peace	He saw himself as the victim of a personal vendetta being waged by his political enemies.
107.	Veritable	Used for emphasis, often to qualify a metaphor. Authentic, Classic, Genuine, Real	Doubtful, Dubious, Equivocal, Qualified, Questionable, Restricted, Uncertain	My garden had become a veritable jungle by the time I came back from holiday.
108.	Washout	To fail to meet requirements or measure up to a standard. Bomb, Bummer, Bust, Clunker	Blockbuster, Hit, Smash, Success, Winner	He was a washout as a professional golfer.
109.	Whataboutery	The technique or practice of responding to an accusation or difficult question by making a counteraccusation or raising a different issue.		He is the kind of person who responds to an attempt to protect women from domestic violence with whataboutery : "What about male victims of domestic violence?"
110.	Wrangle	A dispute or argument, typically one that is long and complicated. Disagreement, Quarrel, Row, Fight	Agreement	They were wrangling over money.

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OCTOBER 2020

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The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster – October 2020

Sr. No.	Words	Meanings & Synonyms	Antonym	Usage
1.	Accommodative	Willing to fit in with someone's wishes or needs. Friendly, Indulgent, Obliging	Unaccommodating, Unobliging	Monetary policy has been accommodative to get the economy going again.
2.	Adversary	One's opponent in a contest, conflict, or dispute. Opponent, Rival, Enemy, Foe, Nemesis	Ally, Supporter	He saw her as his main adversary within the company.
3.	Affirmative	Agreeing with or consenting to a statement or request. Yea, Yes	Negative, no	She asked the question expecting an affirmative .
4.	Aficionados	A person who is very knowledgeable and enthusiastic about an activity, subject, or pastime. Connoisseur, Expert, Authority, Specialist, Pundit, Buff		The quality varies with the individual authors, but both history buffs and aficionados of literary criticism will find food for thought here.
5.	Aggrieved	Upset or angry at being treated unfairly. Discontent, Disgruntled, Displeased, Dissatisfied, Malcontent	Content, Contented, Gratified, Pleased, Satisfied	He felt aggrieved at not being chosen for the team.

6.	Albeit	Though, although		It was an enjoyable, albeit expensive , vacation.
7.	Alienate	Make (someone) feel isolated or estranged. Estrange, turn away, Isolate, Detach	Unite	All these changes to the newspaper have alienated its traditional readers.
8.	Amphibious	Relating to, living in, or suited for both land and water. A military operation involving forces landed from the sea.		She had to ask for assistance from the army who used an amphibious vehicle to rescue us.
9.	Antiquated	Old-fashioned or outdated. Outdated, Outmoded	Current, Modern	It will take many years to modernize these antiquated industries.
10.	Anxious	Feeling or showing worry, nervousness, or unease about something with an uncertain outcome. Worried, Concerned, Apprehensive, Fearful	Carefree, Unconcerned	My mother always gets a bit anxious if we do not arrive when we say we will.
11.	Astute	Having or showing an ability to accurately assess situations or people and turn this to one's advantage. Shrewd, Sharp, Acute	Stupid	He was politically astute and was soon appointed to a number of powerful committees in Congress.
12.	Authoritarian	Favouring or enforcing strict obedience to authority at the expense of personal freedom. Autocratic, Dictatorial, Totalitarian	Democratic, Liberal, Lenient, Permissive	His manner is extremely authoritarian .
13.	Beleaguered	Lay siege to. Besieged, Blockaded, Surrounded, Encircled	Soothe, Please, Help	His beleaguered wife – who was diagnosed with cancer – and four young children remain in hiding.

		Suffering or being subjected to constant or repeatable trouble or harassment		
14.	Bewitching	Enchanting or delightful. Alluring, Appealing, Attractive, Captivating, Charming	Repelling, Repugnant, Repulsive, Revolting, Unalluring	I gazed deeply into the most bewitching blue eyes
15.	Bleak	Charmless and inhospitable; dreary. Bare, Exposed, Desolate	Warm, Balmy	The house stands on a bleak , windswept hilltop.
16.	Bottleneck	Someone or something that retards or halts free movement and progress. Impasse	Aid, Assistance, Help	Bridge construction has created a bottleneck on the southern part of Main Street.
17.	Breakthrough	A sudden, dramatic, and important discovery or development. Advance, Development	Setback	Scientists are hoping for a breakthrough in the search for a cure for cancer.
18.	Brutality	Savage physical violence; great cruelty. Savagery, Cruelty	Gentleness, Kindness	Seeing so much brutality towards prisoners had not hardened them to it.
19.	Burnish	Polish (something, especially metal) by rubbing. Shine, Brighten	Dull	The company is currently trying to burnish its socially responsible image.
20.	Ceasefire	A temporary suspension of fighting; a truce. Armistice, Truce, Peace	Conflict, Hostilities	Neither party ever broke the ceasefire .
21.	Chafing	Irritate, Vex, Fret		The noise of the children playing chafed her.
22.	Complacency	A feeling of smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements.	Dissatisfaction	There is no room for complacency if we want to stay in this competition!

		Smugness, Self-satisfaction, Self-approval, Self-approration		
23.	Conducive	Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible. Facilitative	Unfavourable	The harsh lights and cameras were hardly conducive to a relaxed atmosphere.
24.	Conflict	A serious disagreement or argument, typically a protracted one. Dispute, Quarrel, Squabble, Disagreement	Agreement	His outspoken views would frequently bring him into conflict with the president.
25.	Congregation	A gathering or collection of people, animals, or things. Assembly, Flock, Swarm		The priest asked the congregation to kneel.
26.	Conjure	Implore (someone) to do something. Appeal, Beg, Beseech, Entreat	Deprecate, Protest, Remonstrate, Expostulate	The students conjured a clever scheme to raise the money they needed.
27.	Conjure	Implore (someone) to do something. Appeal, Beg, Beseech, Besiege	Deprecate, Protest, Remonstrate, Expostulate.	The students conjured a clever scheme to raise the money they needed.
28.	Conspicuous	Clearly visible. Catchy, Commanding, Dramatic	Inconspicuous , Unemphatic, Unflamboyant , Unnoticeable, Unobtrusive, Unremarkable , Unshowy	Its most conspicuous feature was knee breeches, which showed off his well-turned legs and feet.
29.	Conspiracy	A secret plan by a group to do something unlawful or harmful. Plot, Scheme, Plan, Machination, Cabal		They were accused of conspiracy to commit murder.

30.	Contentious	Causing or likely to cause an argument; controversial. Disputable, Debatable,	Uncontroversial	The director had a contentious relationship with the eccentric actor.
31.	Conundrum	A confusing and difficult problem or question. Problem, Difficulty, Quandary, Dilemma, Puzzle, Enigma	Answer, Axiom, Explanation, Proposition, Solution	Arranging childcare over the school holidays can be a real conundrum for working parents.
32.	Craftiness	Shrewdness as demonstrated by being skilled in deception. Cunning, Foxiness, Guile, Slyness, Wiliness, Craft. Astuteness, Perspicacious, Perspicacity, Shrewdness	Artlessness, Forthrightness, Good faith, Guilelessness, Ingenuities, Sincerity	She was delighted at her own craftiness at bringing them together.
33.	Credence	Belief in or acceptance of something as true. Acceptance, Belief, Faith, Confidence, Reliance	Distrust, Mistrust	I am afraid I do not put much credence in common gossip.
34.	Crisis	A time of intense difficulty or danger. Catastrophe, Calamity, Cataclysm, Emergency		The country's leadership is in crisis .
35.	Criticism	The expression of disapproval of someone or something on the basis of perceived faults or mistakes. Censure, Reproval, Condemnation, Denunciation, Disapproval	Applause, Approbation, Approval, Commendation, Encomium, Eulogy, Panegyric, Praise	The designs for the new mosque have attracted widespread criticism .

		Evaluation, Assessment, Examination, Appreciation		
36.	Critique	Detailed analysis and assessment of something, especially a literary, philosophical, or political theory. Analysis, Evaluation, Assessment, Appraisal		She wrote a radical critique of the philosopher's early essays.
37.	Deadlock	A situation, typically one involving opposing parties, in which no progress can be made. Halt, Logjam, Impasse		Once again, the talks have ended in deadlock .
38.	Defamatory	Remarks, writing, etc. damaging the good reputation of someone; slanderous or libellous. Slanderous, Defaming, Calumnious	Complimentary	The article was full of lies and defamations .
39.	Deluge	A severe flood. Torrent, Spate		This little stream can become a deluge when it rains heavily.
40.	Demolition	The action or process of demolishing or being demolished. Destruction, Flattening	Construction, Confirmation	The monument was saved from demolition .
41.	Denouement	The outcome of a situation when something is decided or made clear. Outcome, Upshot, Consequence, Result, Epilogue	Origin	In the play's denouement , the two lovers kill themselves.
42.	Derision	Contemptuous ridicule or mockery. Mockery, Ridicule, Jeering, Sneers	Respect, Praise	My stories were greeted with derision and disbelief.

43.	Disavowals	The denial of any responsibility or support for something; repudiation. Denial, Disowning, Disclaimer, Rejection	Concession, Confession, Affirmation, Assertion, Declaration	Despite his repeated disavowals , he seems ambitious for power.
44.	Discord	Lack of concord or harmony between persons or things. Disagreement, Strife, Dispute, War	Accord, Agreement, Concord, Concordance, Harmony, Peace	A note of discord has crept into relations between the two countries.
45.	Discourse	Written or spoken communication or debate. Conversation, Colloquy, Dialogue		We are having a discourse on/upon the nature of life after death.
46.	Disgraceful	Shockingly unacceptable. Shameful, Shocking, Scandalous, Deplorable, Despicable	Admirable, Honourable	She thought that their attitude was absolutely disgraceful .
47.	Disgust	A feeling of revulsion or strong disapproval aroused by something unpleasant or offensive. Revulsion, Repugnance, Aversion, Distaste, Abhorrence	Relish	She walked out in disgust .
48.	Disproportionately	Having or showing a difference that is not fair, reasonable, or expected; too large or too small in relation to something. Divergent, Unequal, Different, Disparate	Equal, Self-same, Equivalent, Tantamount	A disproportionate number of the students are poor.
49.	Disquiet	A feeling of worry or unease. Unease, Worry, Anxiety	Calm	World leaders are surely disquieted by the prospect of a global economic meltdown.

50.	Disregard	Pay no attention to; ignore. Indifference, Inattention	Heed, Attention	What amazes me is her complete disregard for anyone else's opinion.
51.	Durability	The ability to withstand wear, pressure, or damage. Permanence, Longevity	Fragility	This bike is still our first choice for racers, especially with its long track record for durability .
52.	Eagerness	Enthusiasm to do or to have something, keenness. Avidity, Fervour, Ardour, Zest, Zeal	Apathy, Indifference	The book describes her eagerness for new experiences.
53.	Edifice	A complex system of beliefs.		It looks as if the whole political edifice of the country is about to collapse.
54.	Efficacy	The ability to produce a desired or intended result. Effectiveness, Success	Inefficacy, Inefficiency	Vaccines exist, but their efficacy against aerosolized plague is unknown.
55.	Egregious	Outstandingly bad; shocking. Appalling, Horrific, Terrible	Marvellous	It was an egregious error for a statesman to show such ignorance.
56.	Encroach	Intrude on (a person's territory, rights, personal life, etc.) Trespass, Impinge, Butt in, Obtrude		The suburbs encroach further into the rural areas each year.
57.	Endeavour	Try hard to do or achieve something. Attempt, Venture		Engineers are endeavouring to locate the source of the problem.
58.	Entrench	Establish (an attitude, habit, or belief) so firmly that change is very difficult or unlikely.	Dislodge, Superficial	The government's main task was to prevent inflation from entrenching itself.

		Establish, Settle, Ensnore		
59.	Envisage	Contemplate or conceive of as a possibility or a desirable future event. Foresee, Predict, Forecast, Foretell, Anticipate	Disregard, Ignore	He knew what he liked but had difficulty envisaging it.
60.	Ephemeral	Lasting for a very short time. Transitory, Transient, Fleeting, Passing	Long-lived, Permanent	Fame in the world of rock and pop is largely ephemeral .
61.	Epidemiological	Relating to the branch of medicine which deals with the incidence, distribution, and control of diseases.		Life is closer to normal in the Asia-Pacific region thanks to the basic lessons of epidemiology : clear communication, quarantines, border controls, aggressive testing and contact tracing, Tara John writes.
62.	Epitomise	Be a perfect example of. Embody, Incorporate, Typify, Exemplify	Elaborate	With little equipment and unsuitable footwear, she epitomises the inexperienced and unprepared mountain walker.
63.	Epoch	A particular period of time in history or a person's life. Era, Age, Period, Aeon		The president said that his country was moving into a new epoch , which would be one of lasting peace.
64.	Espouse	Adopt or support (a cause, belief, or way of life). Embrace, Take-up	Reject, Oppose	The new theory has been espoused by many leading physicists.
65.	Exacerbate	Make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse. Aggravate, Worsen, Inflammate, Compound, Intensify	Calm, Reduce	The exorbitant cost of land in urban areas only exacerbated the problem.

66.	Exoneration	The action of officially absolving someone from blame; vindication. Vindication, Absolution, Acquittal, Discharge	Conviction, Blaming, Liability	The report exonerated the crew from all responsibility for the collision.
67.	Expediency	The quality or state of being suited to the end in view Suitability, Fitness Haste, Dispatch	Imprudence, Inadvisability, Inexpedience, Inexpediency, Injudiciousness, Unwisdom	Accordingly, his current unbridled political expediency cannot be excused.
68.	Expedite	Make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly. Speed up, Accelerate, Hurry, Hasten	Delay, Hinder	He promised to expedite economic reforms.
69.	Fester	A negative feeling or a problem become worse or more intense, especially through long-term neglect or indifference. Putrefy, Rot	Indolent, Painless, Curative, Healing, Helping, Remedial	His wounds festered for days before he got medical attention.
70.	Foment	Instigate or stir up (an undesirable or violent sentiment or course of action). Incite, Provoke, Agitate, Excite	Allay, Extinguish, Discourage, Extirpate, Quench	The leader was accused of fomenting a riot.
71.	Formidable	Inspiring fear or respect through being impressively large, powerful, intense, or capable. Intimidating, Forbidding, Redoubtable, Daunting, Alarming	Comforting, Easy, Weak	He worked in the property business for a number of years, acquiring a reputation as a formidable wheeler-dealer.

72.	Fragile	Easily destroyed or threatened. Tenuous, Weak, Delicate	Strong	The assassination could do serious damage to the fragile peace agreement that was signed last month.
73.	Fraternity	Friendship and mutual support within a group. A group of people sharing a common profession		He described sport as a symbol of peace and a means of promoting fraternity between nations.
74.	Fraudulent	Obtained, done by, or involving deception, especially criminal deception. Dishonest, Cheating, Swindling, Corrupt	Honest, Above-board	A worrying trend for insurers has been a rise in fraudulent claims.
75.	Hamper	To prevent someone doing something easily. Obstruct, Impede	Aid, Assist, Facilitate, Help	Fierce storms have been hampering rescue efforts and there is now little chance of finding more survivors.
76.	Horde	A large group of people. In very great numbers	Few	Hordes of students on bikes made crossing the road difficult.
77.	Humane	Having or showing compassion or benevolence. Compassionate, Kind, Considerate	Cruel, Inhumane	She felt it was more humane to kill the injured animal quickly than to let it suffer.
78.	Imperative	Of vital importance; crucial. Peremptory, Commanding, Imperious, Authoritative	Submissive	The president said it was imperative that the release of all hostages be secured.
79.	Imperiousness	The trait of being imperious and overbearing. Domineeringness, Overbearingness. Arrogance,	Humility, Carefulness, Meekness, Timidity	He is an imperious little boy who liked to tell the other scouts what to do.

		Haughtiness, Hauteur, High-handedness, Lordliness		
80.	Incessant	Something regarded as unpleasant continuing without pause or interruption. Ceaseless, Unceasing, Constant, Continual, Unabating	Intermittent, Occasional	The region endured weeks of incessant rain.
81.	Inconsequential	Not important or significant. Insignificant, Unimportant	Significant, Important	Most of what she said was pretty inconsequential .
82.	Indifference	Lack of interest, concern, or sympathy. Insouciance, Detachment, Distance, Coldness, Coolness	Heed, Care	She watched them with cool indifference .
83.	Inequities	Lack of fairness or justice. Unfairness, Injustice, Partisanship	Equity, Fairness, Justice	We are working to reduce the inequities in school funding.
84.	Inexplicably	In a way that cannot be explained or accounted for. Unaccountable, Unexplainable	Accountable, Explainable, Explicable	For some inexplicable reason, he is decided to cancel the project.
85.	Infamy	The state of being well known for some bad quality or deed. Notoriety, Disrepute	Honour, Anonymity, Virtue	The president described the attack as “a day that will live in infamy ”.
86.	Inhibit	Hinder, restrain, or prevent (an action or process). Impede, Hinder, Hamper	Assist, Encourage, Allow	They felt inhibited by the presence of healthcare professionals.
87.	Insensitive	Showing or feeling no concern for others' feelings.	Sensitive, Compassionate	The police have been criticized for being insensitive to

		Heartless, Unfeeling, Inconsiderate, Thoughtless		complaints from the public.
88.	Intemperate	Having or showing a lack of self-control; immoderate. Excessive, Undue, Inordinate, Unreasonable	Moderate	The governor said he would not be provoked into intemperate action.
89.	Interim	The intervening time. Meantime, Meanwhile, Interval	Permanent	An interim government was set up for the period before the country's first free election.
90.	Interlocutor	A person who takes part in a dialogue or conversation.		Abraham was able to act as interpreter and interlocutor for our group.
91.	Interoperability	The degree to which two products, programs, etc. can be used together, or the quality of being able to be used together.		This product offers direct interoperability with the major word processing packages.
92.	Laudable	An action, idea, or aim) deserving praise and commendation. Praiseworthy, Commendable, Admirable, Meritorious, Worthy	Blameworthy, Shameful	The recycling programme is laudable , but does it save much money?
93.	Mammoth	Huge, Enormous, Gigantic, Giant, Colossal, Massive, Vast	Tiny	Cleaning up the city-wide mess is going to be a mammoth task.
94.	Mandarins	A person who has a very important job in the government, and who is sometimes considered to be too powerful.		It often seems that true power lies with the Civil Service mandarins , rather than MPs and cabinet ministers.
95.	Maroon	Leave (someone) trapped and alone in an inaccessible place, especially an island.	Accompanied	What would you miss most if you found yourself marooned on a desert island?

		Strand, Castaway, Abandon		
96.	Meagre	of something provided or available lacking in quantity or quality. Inadequate, Scanty, Paltry	Abundant	The prisoners existed on a meagre diet.
97.	Minuscule	Extremely small; tiny. Minute, Microscopic, Little	Vast, Huge	Public health officials have claimed that the chemical is harmless in such minuscule amounts.
98.	Mobilise	To organize or prepare something, such as a group of people, for a purpose. Demobilise, Inactivate	Summon, Circularise, Disseminate, Pass around	Representatives for all the main candidates are trying to mobilise voter support.
99.	Nimble-footed	Agile and fast on one's feet. Speedy, Rapid, Expeditious	Slow, Sluggish, Clumsy	The changes will bring greater volatility, however, and require far more nimble- footed policymaking.
100.	Ominous	Giving the worrying impression that something bad is going to happen; threateningly inauspicious. Threatening, Menacing, Baleful, Forbidding, Sinister	Promising, Auspicious, Propitious	The engine had been making an ominous sound all the way from my parents' house.
101.	Onslaught	A fierce or destructive attack. Assault, Attack, Offensive, Aggression		It is unlikely that his forces could withstand an enemy onslaught for very long.
102.	Ostensibly	As appears or is stated to be true, though not necessarily so; apparently. Apparently, Seemingly, On the face of it	Genuinely, Really, Truly	Their ostensible goal was to clean up government corruption, but their real aim was to unseat the government.

103.	Outcry	An exclamation or shout. Cry, yell, Howl, Whoop	Indifference	The release from prison of two of the terrorists has provoked a public outcry .
104.	Overhaul	Take apart (a piece of machinery or equipment) in order to examine it and repair it if necessary. Service, Maintain, Repair, Mend, Redesign, Revamp		They had to overhaul their original plans.
105.	Override	To use your authority to reject somebody's decision, order, etc. Trample, Override, Annul	Allow, Accept	The president used his veto to override the committee's decision.
106.	Patent	A patent is the granting of a property right by a sovereign authority to an inventor. This grant provides the inventor exclusive rights to the patented process, design, or invention for a designated period in exchange for a comprehensive disclosure of the invention.		They were sued for patent infringement.
107.	Persuasive	Good at persuading someone to do or believe something through reasoning or the use of temptation. Convincing, Effective, Cogent, Compelling	Unconvincing, Weak	Your arguments are very persuasive .
108.	Pioneered	Develop or be the first to use or apply (a new method, area of knowledge, or activity).	Abolished, Annihilated, Annulled, Nullified	It was universities that pioneered these new industries.

		Introduce, Evolve, Start, Begin, Launch, Instigate		
109.	Plebiscite	The direct vote of all the members of an electorate on an important public question such as a change in the constitution. Vote, Referendum, Ballot, Poll		They are going to hold a plebiscite on the question of national independence.
110.	Plummet	Fall or drop straight down at high speed. Plunge, Hurtle, Nosedive	Arise, Ascend, Lift	The car plummeted to the bottom of the canyon.
111.	Precarious	Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. Uncertain, Insecure, Unreliable, Unsure, Unpredictability	Safe, Secure	The lorry was lodged in a very precarious way, with its front wheels hanging over the cliff.
112.	Precise	Marked by exactness and accuracy of expression or detail. Exact, Accurate, Correct, Error-free	Imprecise, Inaccurate	The bunker's precise location is a closely guarded secret.
113.	Prominent	Important; famous. Leading, Eminent	Unimportant, Obscure, Unknown	She was a prominent member of the city council.
114.	Purported	Appearing or stated to be true, though not necessarily so; alleged. Reputed, Alleged	Statement, Assertion, Declaration, Proposition	They purport to represent the wishes of the majority of parents at the school.
115.	Purportedly	as appears or is stated to be true, though not necessarily so; allegedly. Ostensibly	Implausibly, Impossibly, Improbably, Incredibly.	The study purportedly found that men married to smart women live longer.

116.	Putative	Generally considered or reputed to be. Supposed, Assumed, Presumed, Acknowledged, Accepted	Real, Authenticated, Veritable, Established	This has always been a nation willing to sell out its past for putative progress.
117.	Quiver	Tremble or shake with a slight rapid motion. Tremble, Shake, Shiver	Dullness, Quiet, Stillness	Her lips quivered when she heard the bad news.
118.	Reasonable	Having sound judgement; fair and sensible. Rational, Logical As much as is appropriate or fair, moderate	Unreasonable, Illogical	They have had a reasonable time to reply to the notice.
119.	Recalcitrant	Having an obstinately uncooperative attitude towards authority or discipline. Uncooperative, Intractable, Unmanageable	Amenable, Docile, Compliant	Tenants petitioned their recalcitrant landlord to finish repairs to their building.
120.	Recalibrate	To make small changes to an instrument so that it measures accurately. To change the way, you do or think about something.		You need to recalibrate your expectations.
121.	Reiterate	Say something again or a number of times, typically for emphasis or clarity. Repeat, Restate, Retell, Recapitulate		The government has reiterated its refusal to compromise with terrorists.
122.	Reluctance	Unwillingness or disinclination to do something.	Willingness, Eagerness	I accepted his resignation with great reluctance .

		Unwillingness, Disinclination, Hesitation		
123.	Resonate	To relate harmoniously: strike a chord.		The damage from such a move could resonate for years, undermining public trust in vaccines and medical authorities.
124.	Retaliatory	An action characterized by a desire for revenge. Avenge, Redress, Requite	Rehabilitative	The ruling stands, which would mean the WTO could authorize China to retaliate .
125.	Retractable	Able to be drawn back or back in. Abjure, Abnegate, Forswear, Recant, Renege	Acknowledge, Admit, Affirm, Assert	The house has a swimming pool with a retractable roof.
126.	Retrospect	A survey or review of a past course of events or period of time. Reconsideration, Re-examination		I am sure my university days seem happier in retrospect than they really were.
127.	Rhetoric	The art of effective or persuasive speaking or writing, especially the exploitation of figures of speech and other compositional techniques. Oratory, Eloquence	Inarticulate	I was swayed by her rhetoric into donating all my savings to the charity.
128.	Scrupulous	A person or process careful, thorough, and extremely attentive to details. Careful, Meticulous, Painstaking, Assiduous, Sedulous	Careless, Slapdash	The research has been carried out with scrupulous attention to detail.
129.	Singularity	The state, fact, quality, or condition of being singular.	Conformity, Sameness,	People could not understand

		Uniqueness, Distinctiveness, Difference	Usualness, Normalcy	the singularity of his imagination.
130.	Sovereignty	Supreme power or authority. Jurisdiction, Supremacy, Dominion, Power, Autonomy, Independence	Subservience, Subjection	Talks are being held about who should have sovereignty over the island.
131.	Specificity	The quality or condition of being specific. Explicitness, Particularity	Generality	There was a dramatic lack of specificity in his answer.
132.	Spectacle	A visually striking performance or display. Display, Performance, Exhibition, Scene		It was a strange spectacle to see the two former enemies shaking hands and slapping each other on the back.
133.	Speculation	The forming of a theory or conjecture without firm evidence. Conjecture, Theorizing, Supposition, Guesswork	Sure thing	It is not about the future or a bunch of speculation .
134.	Spur	Give an incentive or encouragement to (someone). Stimulate, Boost, Encourage, Impetus	Counterincentive, Disincentive	Rising consumer sales have the effect of spurring the economy to faster growth.
135.	Spur	To encourage an activity or development or make it happen faster. Impulse, Incentive, Inducement	Counterincentive, Disincentive	Rising consumer sales have the effect of spurring the economy to faster growth.
136.	Steadily	In a cautious and surreptitious manner, so as not to be seen or heard.	Publicly, Openly	I woke up and stealthily crept downstairs

		Furtive, Shady, Clandestine		
137.	Stigmatise	Describe or regard as worthy of disgrace or great disapproval. Condemn, Denounce, Brand, Label	Eulogize	People should not be stigmatised on the basis of race.
138.	Strategic	Relating to the identification of long-term or overall aims and interests and the means of achieving them. Planned, Calculated, Deliberate, Tactical, Politic	Random	Strategic planning for the organization is the responsibility of top management.
139.	Stringent	Regulations, requirements, or conditions strict, precise, and exacting. Strict, Firm, Rigid, Rigorous	Lenient, Flexible	The most stringent laws in the world are useless unless there is the will to enforce them.
140.	Stunting	Stunting is the impaired growth and development that children experience from poor nutrition, repeated infection, and inadequate psychosocial stimulation		Drought has stunted the growth of this year's cereal crop.
141.	Stutter	Talk with continued involuntary repetition of sounds, especially initial consonants. Stammer, Stumble, Falter A tendency to stutter while speaking		She stutters a little, so be patient and let her finish what she is saying.

142.	Stymie	Prevent or hinder the progress of. Impede, Hamper, Hinder, Obstruct, Inhibit	Assist, Help	In our search for evidence, we were stymied by the absence of any recent documents.
143.	Subvert	Undermine the power and authority of (an established system or institution). Destabilise, Unsettle, Overthrow, Overturn, Bring down	Elevate, Ennoble, Uplift	They conspired to subvert the government.
144.	Suffice	Be enough or adequate. Cloy, Content, Fill, Glut	Check, deny, Disappoint, Refuse, Restrain, Restrict	The problems were of global importance, and only an international effort would suffice to deal with them.
145.	Suo Motu	Relating to an action taken by a court of its own accord, without any request by the parties involved.		The Supreme Court had taken suo motu notice of the case.
146.	Surveillance	Close observation, especially of a suspected spy or criminal. Observation, Scrutiny, Watch, View, Inspection, Monitoring	Neglect	The bank robbery was recorded by surveillance video cameras.
147.	Susceptible	Likely or liable to be influenced or harmed by a particular thing. Capable or admitting of. Allowing, Permitting	Immune, Resistant	She is not very susceptible to flattery.
148.	Sustainable	Able to be maintained at a certain rate or level. Defendable, Defensible, Justifiable, Supportable	Indefensible, Insupportable, Unjustifiable, Unsustainable, Untenable	That sort of extreme diet is not sustainable over a long period.

149.	Trajectory	A path, progression, or line of development resembling a physical trajectory.		With the pandemic on an alarming national trajectory , this is no time to run from this battle.
150.	Transient	Lasting only for a short time; impermanent. Transitory, Temporary, Short-lived, Ephemeral	Permanent, Perpetual, Constant	A glass of whisky has only a transient warming effect.
151.	Turmoil	A state of great disturbance, confusion, or uncertainty. Confusion, Turbulence, Tumult, Disorder	Calm, Peace	The whole region is in turmoil .
152.	Unanimously	Without opposition, with the agreement of all people involved. With one accord, Agreeable, Amicable, Congenial	Disagreeable, Discordant, Disharmonious, Disunited	The judges made a unanimous ruling.
153.	Unconscionable	Not right or reasonable. Unethical, Amoral, Immoral, Indefensible	Ethical, Acceptable	This unconscionable policy will cause great suffering.
154.	Underscore	To make evident. Emphasize, Stress	De-emphasize	These failures underscore the difficulty of what we are attempting to do.
155.	Unequivocal	In a way that leaves no doubt. Clear, Unambiguous, Unquestionable	Ambiguous, Clouded, Cryptic, Dark, Enigmatic	We unequivocally condemn any violence in the protest.
156.	Unexceptionally	Not out of the ordinary; usual. Ordinary, Average, Typical, Common	Exceptional, Noteworthy	He was a hard-working, if unexceptional , student.
157.	Unfetter	Release from restraint or inhibition.	Bind, Confine, Enchain, Fetter, Restrain	Authorities eventually unfettered the menagerie of wild animals

		Discharge, Emancipate, Enfranchise, Enlarge		that had been kept illegally as pets.
158.	Unlearn	Discard (something learned, especially a bad habit or false or outdated information) from one's memory. Disremember, Forget	Flash back	Teachers are being asked to unlearn rigid rules for labelling and placing children.
159.	Unrelenting	Not yielding in strength, severity, or determination. Implacable, Inflexible, Uncompromising, Unyielding, Unbending	Intermittent, Spasmodic	She will be remembered as an unrelenting opponent of racial discrimination.
160.	Unsettling	Causing anxiety or uneasiness; disturbing. Discomforting, Discomposing, Disquieting, Distressing, Nagging	Reassuring	She had the unsettling task of picking out a coffin and making the other funeral arrangements for his father.
161.	Unsurprising	Not unexpected and so not causing surprise. Predictable, Foreseeable	Surprising, Unpredictable	It is unsurprising that many people do not support the tax increase.
162.	Untangle	Free from a tangled or twisted state. Disentangle, Unravel, Unsnarl	Tangle, Jumble	It took years to untangle the legal complexities of the case.
163.	Usurp	To take or make use of without right. Appropriate, Arrogate, Commandeer	Receive, Inherit, Accept.	Some people have accused city council members of trying to usurp the mayor's power
164.	Vandal	A person who intentionally damages property belonging to other people. Demolisher, Desecrater	Conserver, Preserver, Protector, Saver	Vandals smashed windows and overturned cars in the downtown shopping district.
165.	Versatile	Able to adapt or be adapted to many	Inflexible, Limited	He is a very versatile young actor who's as happy in

		different functions or activities. Adaptable, Flexible, All-round, Multifaceted, Multitalented		highbrow dramas as he is in TV comedies.
166.	Wanton	A cruel or violent action deliberate and unprovoked. Wilful, Malicious, Malevolent	Justifiable	He displayed a wanton disregard for the facts.
167.	Warped	Of a person's mind, attitudes, etc, perverse, strange, aberrant, or deviant. Distorted, twisted out of shape	Straighten	I should not really laugh about the accident – it is my warped sense of humour!
168.	Wrangle	A dispute or argument, typically one that is long and complicated. Disagreement, Quarrel, Row, Fight	Agreement	They were wrangling over money.
169.	Wrath	Extreme anger. Anger, Rage, Fury	Happiness, Good humour	The people feared the wrath of God.

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THE HINDU

THE HINDU EDITORIAL VOCABULARY BOOSTER

SEPTEMBER 2020

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The **Hindu Newspaper** is treated as the Bible by the Exam Aspirants be it Bank Exam Aspirants, SSC Aspirants or UPSC Aspirants. Reading the Editorial section of the newspaper daily has twofold benefits: (a) It gives the editor's views on the latest happenings in India and the World, (b) It helps enhance English Vocabulary. In this eBook of "The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster September 2020", we have come up with a list of difficult words taken from the Hindu Editorials of the September Month, with their **Meanings, Synonyms, Antonyms, and the Correct Usage of those words**. Read along to understand it better.

The Hindu Editorial Vocabulary Booster – September 2020

Sr. No.	Words	Meanings & Synonyms	Antonym	Usage
1.	Abjure	Solemnly renounce (a belief, cause, or claim. Renounce, Relinquish, Reject, Forgo	Adhere to	She abjured her old beliefs.
2.	Abridge	To shorten in duration or extent. Diminish, Condense	Elongate, Extend, Lengthen, Prolong, Protract	The library's hours have been drastically abridged to cut costs.
3.	Absolve	Declare (someone) free from guilt, obligation, or punishment. Exonerate, Discharge, Acquit, Exculpate	Blame, Condemn, Punish	The pardon absolved them of any crimes.
4.	Accountable	Required or expected to justify actions or decisions; responsible. Responsible, Liable, Answerable	Unaccountable	She is accountable only to the managing director.
5.	Affordability	Ability to be afforded, inexpensiveness. Low-cost, Low priced	Expensive	Automobile affordability fell slightly in the second quarter of the year.
6.	Aggrandizement	An increase in power or importance. Enlarge, Elevate	Abase, Degrade, Demean, Humble, Humiliate	He gives a lot of money to charity, but personal aggrandizement/s self-aggrandizement is his motive.

7.	Alacrity	Brisk and cheerful readiness. Eagerness, Willingness, Readiness, Enthusiasm, Ardour	Apathy	She accepted the money with alacrity .
8.	Albeit	Though, Although Notwithstanding		He was making progress, albeit rather slowly.
9.	Alleviate	Make (suffering, deficiency, or a problem) less severe. Reduce, Ease, Relieve	Aggravate	He could not prevent her pain, only alleviate it.
10.	Alliance	A union or association formed for mutual benefit, especially between countries or organizations. Association, Union, Treaty, Association	Separation	Some of us feel that the union is in alliance with management against us.
11.	Anachronism	An error in chronology. Misplacement	Fresh, New	For some people, marriage is an anachronism from the days when women needed to be protected.
12.	Anguish	Severe mental or physical pain or suffering. Agony, Pain, Torment, Torture, Suffering, Distress, Angst	Happiness, Contentment	She shut her eyes in anguish .
13.	Anticipation	The action of anticipating something; expectation or prediction. Expectation, Prediction, Forecast		The postponement of the film's sequel has held cinemagoers in eager anticipation for several months.
14.	Apposite	Apt in the circumstances or in relation to something. Appropriate, Suitable, Fitting	Inappropriate	The film starts in a graveyard, an apposite image for the decaying society which is the theme of the film.

15.	Apprehension	Anxiety or fear that something bad or unpleasant will happen. Angst, Worry, Uneasiness, Unease	Confidence	It is normal to feel a little apprehension before starting a new job.
16.	Approbation	Approval or praise. Acceptance, Assent, Endorsement, Encouragement	Criticism	The council has finally indicated its approbation of the plans.
17.	Aspersions	An attack on the reputation or integrity of someone or something. Vilification, Denigration, Defamation	Adulation, Commendation, Flattery	Aspersions were cast on their assimilation, patriotism, and loyalty, suddenly causing them to feel alien in their own milieu.
18.	Astronomical	Extremely large. Huge, Enormous, Prodigious	Insignificant, Small	The cost of the office building was astronomical .
19.	Attenuation	The reduction of the force, effect, or value of something. Depreciate, Devalue, Downgrade	Appreciate, Enhance, Mark up, Upgrade	Sound can travel thousands of kilometres in this planar acoustic waveguide with little attenuation .
20.	Avert	Prevent or ward off an undesirable occurrence. Stop, Avoid	Abet, Aid, Assist	The diplomatic talks narrowly averted a war.
21.	Benevolence	The quality of being well-meaning; kindness. Goodness, Goodwill	Spite, Miserliness	The company has a record of benevolence to good causes.
22.	Brazenness	Behaviour in which someone does something in an obvious way, without trying to hide it. Cockiness, Discourteousness	Bashfulness, Diffidence, Faintheartedness, Hesitancy, Modesty, Shyness,	The brazenness of the theft shocked museum officials.
23.	Censorship	The suppression or prohibition of any parts of books, films, news, etc. that are considered	Approval, Encouragement	They oppose government censorship .

		obscene, politically unacceptable, or a threat to security. Restriction, Suppression		
24.	Comprehensive	Including or dealing with all or nearly all elements or aspects of something. Inclusive, All-embracing	Narrow, Restricted, Shallow, Exclusive, Adversative, Exceptive	We offer you comprehensive training in all aspects of the business.
25.	Conciliation	The action of stopping someone being angry; placation. Appeasement, Peace-making, Propitiation	Provocation	He held his hands up in a gesture of conciliation .
26.	Conducive	Making a certain situation or outcome likely or possible. Facilitative	Unfavourable	Such a noisy environment was not conducive to a good night's sleep.
27.	Contempt	The feeling that a person or a thing is worthless or beneath consideration. Scorn, Disdain, Disrespect	Respect	This action displays an arrogant contempt for the wishes of the majority.
28.	Contention	Heated disagreement. Dispute, Argument, Variance	Agreement	He has taken himself out of contention for the directorship.
29.	Contravene	Offend against the prohibition or order of (a law, treaty, or code of conduct). Break, Breach, Violate, Infringe	Comply (with), Conform (to), Follow, Mind, Obey, Observe, Uphold	The overcrowded dance club contravened safety regulations.
30.	Crux	The most important or serious part of a matter, problem, or argument. Bottom line, Bull's eye, Centrepiece		The crux of the country's economic problems is its foreign debt.
31.	Dampen	Make less strong or intense.	Heighten	I did not want to dampen his spirits.

		Lessen, Diminish, Reduce		
32.	Daunting	Seeming difficult to deal with in prospect, Intimidating, Formidable, Disconcerting	Intimidating, formidable, Disconcerting , Unnerving, Unsettling	She was not at all daunted by the size of the problem.
33.	Defiant	Showing defiance. Intransigent, Resistant, Obstinate, Uncooperative, Non-compliant	Apologetic, Cooperative	The protesters blocking the entrance to the offices remained defiant this morning.
34.	Deliberate	Done consciously and intentionally. Intentional, Calculated. Conscious, Intended	Accidental, Unintentional	We made a deliberate decision to live apart for a while.
35.	Deliberation	Long and careful consideration or discussion. Thought, Thinking, Reflection, Contemplation	Haste	After much deliberation , we arrived at a compromise.
36.	Deliberative	Relating to or intended for consideration or discussion. Consideration, Debate	Short shrift	Deliberative democracy is a thinking democracy.
37.	Deterring	Discourage (someone) from doing something by instilling doubt or fear of the consequences. Dissuade	Encourage	Only a health problem would deter him from seeking re-election.
38.	Detriment	The state of being harmed or damaged. Harm, Damage, Injury, Impairment, Loss	Benefit, Good	Are you sure that I can follow this diet without detriment to my health?
39.	Discontent	Dissatisfaction with one's circumstances; lack of contentment. Disaffection	Contentment , Satisfaction	Voters voiced discontent with both parties.

40.	Discordant	Disagreeing or incongruous. Differing	Harmonious, Compatible	The singers continued their discordant chanting.
41.	Discretionary	Available for use at the discretion of the user. Optional, Non-compulsory, Voluntary	Compulsory, Obligatory	Once your kids have discretionary the money of their own, they can pay for their own DVDs.
42.	Discretionary	Available for use at the discretion of the user. Optional, Non-compulsory, Voluntary	Compulsory, Obligatory	Judges have great discretionary powers.
43.	Disinformation	False information, which is intended to mislead, especially propaganda issued by a government organization to a rival power or the media.		They claimed there was an official disinformation campaign by the government.
44.	Disingenuous	Not candid or sincere, typically by pretending that one knows less about something than one really does. Dishonest, Deceitful, Underhand	Ingenuous, Frank	This journalist was being somewhat disingenuous as well as cynical.
45.	Dismal	Causing a mood of gloom or depression. Dingy, Dim, Gloomy, Mournful	Cheerful	He shuddered as he watched his team's dismal performance.
46.	Dissent	The holding or expression of opinions at variance with those commonly or officially held. Disagreement, Argument	Agreement, Acceptance	Two members dissented from the majority.
47.	Distort	Give a misleading or false account or impression of. Misrepresent, Twist, Falsify	Accurate	Many factors can distort the results.

48.	Efficacious	Something inanimate or abstract) successful in producing a desired or intended result; effective. Effective, Successful, Effectual, Productive	Inefficacious	Similar approaches might be efficacious with respect to insect pests of agriculture.
49.	Equitable	Fair and impartial. Fair, Just	Inequitable, Unfair	She charged that women are being denied equitable pay.
50.	Euphemism	A mild or indirect word or expression substituted for one considered to be too harsh or blunt when referring to something unpleasant or embarrassing. Substitute, Understatement	Dysphemism	The jargon has given us 'downsizing' as a euphemism for cuts.
51.	Exacerbate	Make (a problem, bad situation, or negative feeling) worse. Aggravate, Worsen, Inflammate, Compound	Calm, Reduce	This attack will exacerbate the already tense relations between the two communities.
52.	Exemplar	A person or thing serving as a typical example or appropriate model. Epitome, Model, Paragon, Ideal		He is an exemplar of this new breed of politician.
53.	Existential	Relating to existence. Empirical, Experiential, Experimental, Objective	Non-empirical, theoretical (also theoretic), Unempirical	child psychologist Bruno Bettelheim believed that fairy tales help children cope with their existential anxieties and dilemmas.
54.	Expedite	Make (an action or process) happen sooner or be accomplished more quickly. Speed up, Accelerate, Hurry, Hasten	Delay, Hinder	Something needs to be done to expedite the process.

55.	Exuberance	The quality of being full of energy, excitement, and cheerfulness; ebullience. Buoyancy, Cheerfulness	Gloom, Meagreness	One thing that stands out is her exuberance and zest for life.
56.	Facade	A deceptive outward appearance. Front, Frontage, Face	Back, Rear, Rearward, Reverse	He kept his hostility hidden behind a friendly façade .
57.	Fervour	Intense and passionate feeling. Passion, Ardour, Intensity, Zeal	Apathy	The country was swept by patriotic fervour .
58.	Flimsy	Insubstantial and easily damaged. Slight, Fragile, Breakable	Sturdy	You will not be warm enough in that flimsy dress.
59.	Forebode	A situation or occurrence acting as an advance warning of something bad. Presage, Augur, Portend, Prognosticate, Foreshadow		The illustrations of these ecological tragedies are foreboding but oddly serene, and the message is simple: do not litter, recycle plant trees.
60.	Fraught	A situation or course of action) filled with or likely to result in (something undesirable). Laden, Anxious, Worried, Upset, Distraught	Calm	The paper was poorly researched and is fraught with errors.
61.	Frivolous	Not having any serious purpose or value. Flippant, Glib, Waggish, Joking	Serious, Practical, Important	I feel like doing something completely frivolous today.
62.	Genocide	The deliberate killing of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or ethnic group. Massacre		Among those, more than 70% knew that Adolf Hitler was responsible for the genocide and 86% knew that the Jews were its primary victims.

63.	Gestation	The development of something over a period. Development, Origination, Drafting, Formation, Evolution		The project had a very long gestation period.
64.	Glimmer	Shine faintly with a wavering light. Gleam, Flicker, Shimmer	Blackness, Dark, Darkness, Dimness, Dusk, Gloom	Candles glimmered in the windows of the inn.
65.	Grave	Seriously bad. A grave situation	Trivial, Carefree, Cheerful	It was the gravest political crisis of his career.
66.	Hapless	Unfortunate, Unlucky, Ill-fated	Lucky	She plays the hapless heroine who is unlucky in love.
67.	Hostile	Showing or feeling opposition or dislike; unfriendly. Antagonistic, Aggressive, Confrontational, Belligerent	Friendly, Mild	The company has managed to fight off a hostile takeover bid.
68.	Huddle	Crowd together; nestle closely. Gather, Throng, Flock, Herd	Disperse	It was so cold that we huddled together for warmth.
69.	Imminent	About to happen. Impending, at hand, Close, Near, Approaching	Remote	They were in imminent danger of being swept away by the storm.
70.	Impasse	A situation in which no progress is possible, especially because of disagreement; a deadlock. Deadlock, Stalemate, Standstill	Solution, Breakthrough	The impasse over Covid-19 legislation is a policy failure with constitutional implications.
71.	Imperative	Of vital importance; crucial. Vital, Crucial, Peremptory, Commanding, Imperious	Submissive	The president said it was imperative that the release of all hostages be secured.

72.	Inadvertent	Not resulting from or achieved through deliberate planning. Unintentional, Unintended, Accidental, Unpremeditated	Deliberate, Intentional	An inadvertent administrative error occurred that resulted in an over-payment.
73.	Incendiary	Tending to stir up conflict. Inflammatory, Provocative, Agitational, Seditious	Conciliatory	He gave an incendiary speech at last night's rally.
74.	Incessant	Something regarded as unpleasant continuing without pause or interruption. Ceaseless, Unceasing, Constant, Continual, Unabating	Intermittent, Occasional	The region endured weeks of incessant rain.
75.	Indomitable	Impossible to subdue or defeat. Invincible, Unconquerable, Unbeatable, Unassailable	Submissive, Weak	An indomitable spirit was needed to endure the rigours of pioneer life.
76.	Inevitable	Certain to happen; unavoidable. Inescapable	Avoidable, Uncertain	The factory closure is seemingly inevitable .
77.	Inflammatory	Arousing or intended to arouse angry or violent feelings. Provocative, Provoking, Inflaming, Incendiary	Uncontroversial	The men were using inflammatory language/making inflammatory remarks about the other team's supporters.
78.	Innocuous	Not harmful or offensive. Harmless, Safe, Non-toxic, Non-dangerous	Harmful, Obnoxious	Some mushrooms look innocuous but are in fact poisonous.
79.	Insinuations	An unpleasant hint or suggestion of something bad.		What are you insinuating , Daniel?

		Implication, Inference, Suggestion, Hint, Innuendo		
80.	Laudable	An action, idea, or aim deserving praise and commendation. Praiseworthy, Commendable, Admirable, Meritorious	Blameworthy, Shameful	The recycling programme is laudable , but does it save much money?
81.	Magnanimity	The fact or condition of being magnanimous; generosity. Charity, Benevolence	Meanness, Selfishness	Both sides will have to show magnanimity .
82.	Majesty	If something has majesty, it causes admiration and respect for its beauty. Grandeur	Inelegance, Kitsch, Vulgar, Subservience	The photograph captures the sunset in all its majesty .
83.	Malefic	Causing harm or destruction, especially by supernatural means. Baleful, Malicious	Beneficent.	She was hypnotized by the spider's malefic eyes.
84.	Marketable	Able or fit to be sold or marketed. Saleable, Merchantable	Nonsalable, Unmarketable, Unsalable, Unsellable	I realized that the birdhouses he enjoyed making were marketable and began selling them at craft fairs.
85.	Minuscule	Extremely small; tiny, Minute, Microscopic	Vast, Huge	All she gave him to eat was two minuscule pieces of toast.
86.	Modalities	A particular way of doing or experiencing something. Method, Process, Style, Procedure		A variety of modalities of communication can be used to transmit health warnings to the public.
87.	Nuanced	Characterized by subtle shades of meaning or expression. A subtle distinction or variation.	Incautious, Obvious, Indifferent. Apparent, Clear	This is not a movie built of nuance .

		Nicety. Made or done with extreme care & accuracy		
88.	Omnibus	Of, relating to, or providing for many things at once. All-embracing, All-inclusive	Incomprehensive, Noncomprehensive	This is an omnibus edition of his more popular stories.
89.	Ostensibly	As appears or is stated to be true, though not necessarily so; apparently. Apparently, Seemingly	Genuinely, Really, Truly	The party secretary resigned, ostensibly from ill-health.
90.	Paucity	The presence of something in only small or insufficient quantities or amounts. Scarcity, Dearth, Shortage, Rarity	Abundance	There is a paucity of information on the ingredients of many cosmetics.
91.	Persistent	Continuing firmly or obstinately in an opinion or course of action despite difficulty or opposition. Tenacious, Persevering, Determined, Resolute	Irresolute	Symptoms of the illness include a high temperature and a persistent dry cough.
92.	Petulant	A person or their manner childishly sulky or bad-tempered. Peevish, Bad-tempered, Pettish, Impatient	Good-humoured, Easy-going, Affable	He plays the part of a petulant young man in the film.
93.	Polarisation	Division into two sharply contrasting groups or sets of opinions or beliefs.	Unification, Union, Assemblage	The polarization of society into rich and poor can clearly be seen in urban areas.
94.	Populous	Having a large population; densely populated. Crowded, Congested, Packed, Jammed	Uninhabited, Deserted	China is the world's most populous country.

95.	Precarious	Not securely held or in position; dangerously likely to fall or collapse. Uncertain, Insecure, Unreliable, Unsure	Safe, Secure	The lorry was lodged in a very precarious way, with its front wheels hanging over the cliff.
96.	Prejudice	Preconceived opinion that is not based on reason or actual experience. Preconception, Bias	Impartiality, Neutrality, Objectivity, Open-mindedness, Unbiasedness	Laws against racial prejudice must be strictly enforced.
97.	Propensity	An inclination or natural tendency to behave in a particular way. Tendency, Inclination, Predisposition	Antipathy, Aversion, Detestation, Disgust	He is well-known for his natural propensity for indiscretion.
98.	Propriety	Conformity to conventionally accepted standards of behaviour or morals. Decorum, Respectability, Decency, Correctness	Impropriety, Indecorum	He always behaved with the utmost propriety .
99.	Protracted	Lasting for a long time or longer than expected or usual. Prolonged, Extended	Abbreviate, Abridge, Curtail, Shorten	Their protracted legal battle may soon be resolved.
100.	Provocation	Action or speech that makes someone angry, especially deliberately. Goading, Prodding, Incitement		He can turn violent at the least provocation .
101.	Quash	Reject as invalid, especially by legal procedure. Cancel, Reverse, Rescind, Repeal	Validate,	His conviction was quashed in March 1986 after his counsel argued that the police evidence was all lies.
102.	Reconciliation	The restoration of friendly relations.	Estrangement, Alienation, Feud,	It took hours of negotiations to bring about a reconciliation between the two sides.

		Reuniting, Reunion, Conciliation	Incompatibility	
103.	Reluctant	Unwilling and hesitant; disinclined. Resistant	Willing, Eager, Ready	Today, many ordinary people are still reluctant to talk about politics.
104.	Reticence	The quality of being reticent; reserve. Introversion, Inhibition, Diffidence, Shyness, Reluctance	Inclination, Willingness	Most of the students were reticent about answering questions.
105.	Retrenchment	The reduction of costs or spending in response to economic difficulty. Reduction, Curtailment	Enlargement, Expansion, Extension	Experts see a major retrenchment coming from consumers.
106.	Sacrosanct	Especially of a principle, place, or routine regarded as too important or valuable to be interfered with. Sacred, Hallowed, Respected, Inviolable		The tradition is regarded as sacrosanct .
107.	Sagacious	Having or showing keen mental discernment and good judgement; wise or shrewd. Wise, Clever, Intelligent	Stupid, Foolish	They were sagacious enough to avoid any outright confrontation.
108.	Scathing	Witheringly scornful; severely critical. Devastating, Withering, Blistering	Mild, Gentle, Complimentary	She launched a scathing attack on the Prime Minister.
109.	Scrupulously	A person or process careful, thorough, and extremely attentive to details. Careful, Meticulous, Painstaking	Careless, Slapdash	The research has been carried out with scrupulous attention to detail.
110.	Scrutinise	Examine or inspect closely and thoroughly.	Glance at	Customers were warned to scrutinise the small print.

		Inspect, Survey, Scan, Study, Look over		
111.	Semblance	The outward appearance or apparent form of something, especially when the reality is different. Appearance, Approximation, Show, Air	Difference, Concrete, Dissimilarity, Unlikeness	He was executed without even the semblance of a fair trial.
112.	Sequestered	A place isolated and hidden away. Secluded, Cloistered, Concealed	Busy, Central, Public	A growing forest sequesters carbon and gives off oxygen.
113.	Skulduggery	Underhand, unscrupulous, or dishonest behaviour or activities. Trickery, Swindling, Double-dealing	Artlessness, Forthrightness, Guilelessness, Ingenuities, Sincerity	The company's apparently healthy bottom line was merely an illusion, the result of years of accounting skulduggery .
114.	Sledgehammer	Used to describe a way of behaving that is too forceful.		They accused the prime minister of using sledgehammer tactics.
115.	Solace	Comfort or consolation in a time of great distress or sadness. Cheer, Support, Relief, Allay, Soothe	Distress, Torment, Torture, Trouble	When his wife left him, he found solace in the bottle.
116.	Solitary	Done or existing alone. Lonely, Unaccompanied	Sociable	I live a solitary life.
117.	Specious	Superficially plausible, but wrong. Misleading, Deceptive, False, Sophistic	Above-board, Forthright, Non-deceptive, Straightforward	His whole argument is specious .
118.	Stalemate	a situation in which neither group involved in an argument can win or get an advantage and no action can be taken.	A way out	Despite long discussions, the workers and the management remain locked in a stalemate .

		Deadlock		
119.	Standstill	A situation or condition in which there is no movement or activity at all. Halt, Stop, Stand	Motion, Movement	The accident brought traffic to a standstill .
120.	Strenuous	Requiring or using great effort or exertion. Arduous, Difficult, Hard, Taxing	Easy, Effortless, Feeble	The government made strenuous efforts to upgrade the quality of the teaching profession.
121.	Stubborn	Having or showing dogged determination not to change one's attitude or position on something, especially despite good arguments or reasons to do so. Obstinate, Mulish, Headstrong, Wilful	Compliant, Docile	He was famed for his stubborn resistance and his refusal to accept defeat.
122.	Surmise	Suppose that something is true without having evidence to confirm it. Guess, Conjecture, Suspect, Deduce, Infer	Know for sure	The police surmise (that) the robbers have fled the country.
123.	Sustenance	The maintaining of someone or something in life or existence. Support, Maintenance	Starvation, Inanition, Nonsubstance, Innutrition	Tree bark provides deer with sustenance in periods of drought.
124.	Sword of Damocles	Impending disaster		The likelihood of layoffs has been a sword of Damocles over the department for months.
125.	Tantalising	Torment or tease (someone) with the sight or promise of something that is unobtainable. Tease, Torment, Torture	Gratify, Satisfy	Such ambitious questions have long tantalised the world's best thinkers"
126.	Tenuous	Very weak or slight. Insubstantial, Flimsy, Negligible, Weak	Convincing, Substantial, Strong	The police have only found a tenuous connection between the two robberies.

127.	Transgressions	an act that goes against a law, rule, or code of conduct, an offence. Offence, Crime, Wrong, Misdemeanour	Obedience	Adolescence is a period marked by a fascination with the transgression of rules.
128.	Unambiguous	Not open to more than one interpretation. Clear, Precise	Ambiguous, Clouded, Cryptic, Dark, Enigmatic	She gave a clear, unambiguous answer .
129.	Unbridled	Uncontrolled; Unconstrained. Uninhibited	Restrained, Controlled	The crowd was swept with unbridled enthusiasm.
130.	Undershoot	To fail to achieve a particular result. Botch, Fall short	Achieve	City Manager Jim Thompson stressed the importance of not undershooting revenue projections.
131.	Unenviable	Difficult, undesirable, or unpleasant. Disagreeable, Unpleasant, Undesirable, Difficult	Enviably, Desirable	I had the unenviable task of cleaning up after the party.
132.	Unpalatable	Difficult to put up with or accept. Disagreeable, Unpleasant, Displeasing, Unattractive	Palatable	Put this way, the idea of continuity residing in some irreducible core is unpalatable as well as implausible.
133.	Unprecedented	Never done or known before. Unparalleled, Unrivalled	Normal, Common	The government took the unprecedented step of releasing confidential correspondence.
134.	Unravelling	To disengage or separate the threads of. Disentangle	Entangle, Snarl, Tangle	It seems to speak of a fatal flaw in the system of punishment that unravelling the whole.
135.	Unsavory	Disagreeable and unpleasant because morally disreputable. Nasty, Mean, Rough	Reputable	Her rocky marriage to now ex-husband R&B star Bobby Brown further fuelled unsavory media attention.
136.	Unwarranted	Not justified or authorized.	Justified, Permitted, Legal	I am sure your fears are unwarranted .

		Unjustified, Unjustifiable		
137.	Validate	Check or prove the validity or accuracy of. Ratify, Endorse, Confirm	Invalidate, Reject, Revoke	A judge still needs to validate the election.
138.	Veneer	Something that hides something unpleasant or unwanted. Exterior, Face, Skin, Surface	Inside, Interior	His ethics are pure veneer .
139.	Vigilant	Keeping careful watch for possible danger or difficulties. Watchful, Observant, Sharp-eyed	Negligent, Inattentive	Following the bomb scare at the airport, the staff have been warned to be extra vigilant .
140.	Vilification	Abusively disparaging speech or writing. Condemnation, Criticism, Censure	Praise	Migrants are especially vulnerable to vilification .
141.	Vulnerable	Exposed to the possibility of being attacked or harmed, either physically or emotionally. At risk, Endangered, Unsafe	Invulnerable, Resilient	The scheme will help charities working with vulnerable adults and young people.
142.	Wade	Intervene in (something) or attack (someone) vigorously or forcefully. Attack, set upon, Assault	Persuade	Even when she knows nothing about it, she wades in with her opinion.
143.	Warmongering	Encouragement or advocacy of aggression towards other countries or groups. Hawk, Jingo, Jingoist	Dove, Pacifist, Peacenik	Much of the world is still engaged in senseless warmongering .

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